"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 320. MAIDSTONE, JANUARY, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 1.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1ST BATTALION.

Appointed Lance-Corporal, No. 5603, Pte. G. Byatt; Promoted Corporal, No. 3412, Lce.-Corporal E. Loughton. 27th November, 1901.

LINE BATTALION.

Lieut. A. Lowry-Corry from the Kent Artillery to be 2nd-Lieut. vice F. C. Beamish. Dated 4th December, 1901.

Lieut. C. W. Case-Morris from the 3rd Battalion, to be Lieut. vice G. F. H. Keenlyside. Dated 4th December.

2nd-Lieut. J. H. Bennett, seconded for service with Indian Staff Corps. Dated 9th November.

3RD BATTALION.

Captain A. J. P. Annesley to be Captain, Imperial Yeomanry with temporary rank of Captain in the Army. Dated 4th December and is seconded.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned 2nd-Lieuts. to be Lieuts. : F. N. Garrad, H. H. Cohen, B. Crosbie-Hill, A. T. Smith, F. S. Francis. Dated 10th November.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned Captains resign their commissions: G. H. Valentine, and S. D. Duck. Dated 30th November.

EDITORIAL.

To our correspondents, at home and abroad, we desire to express our grateful thanks, but, like Oliver Twist, we ask for more, so that we may be enabled to issue regularly a good budget of news to our readers, to whom we look for financial support, which is as great a necessity as "copy," without it the paper could not exist. During the past two years several of our contemporaries have, for causes due to the war, ceased to appear, whereas our monthly number, though perhaps a little erratic as to date, has always made its appearance, on which we congratulate ourselves, and, with great hopes for the future, we wish all

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Very little of interest has been happening in the Aden world since my last letter. On November 30th an enjoyable afternoon was spent at Khormaksar, where the races were held this year. A new course has been made there, and is a great improvement on the old course at Maala, and the alteration was much appreciated by the jockeys and anxious owners.

The officers were "at home" on the course, where the band played during the afternoon, and the collection of colours represented by the ladies' dresses, and the Grand Stand, which was bedecked with flags, made a brighter scene than we have had since the Royal visit some months ago.

The racing was poor, the fields were small (with the exception of one race, which was won by Colonel Harrison's "Senekal"), and there were no exciting finishes. Three out of the five events fell to the Battalion, the hurdle race to Colonel Harrison's "Senekal," and two other races to Lieut. Bush's "Exchange."

The following extracts from a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, with reference to the Ad-dareja Expedition, has been published:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letters on the subject of the recent expedition to Ad-dareja, and connected events. The proceedings which were taken to expel Muhamed Nasir appear to have been ably conducted, and I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, an expression of the satisfaction of the Government of India may be conveyed to Brigadier-General Maitland, C.B., and to the officers who were employed under his orders."

In my last letter I gave you the number of N.C.O.'s and men who had up to date accepted the bounty and extended their service. The offer of bounty closed on 2nd December; the total number of the battalion who accepted it is 242 This is roughly four-fifths of those who were eligible to accept it. Having no other news worth chronicling, Mr. Editor, I will wish you a very Merry Christmas, and enclose you several pages of "copy."

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

FOOTBALL.

G Co. v. A B and BAND.

A match was played between the above teams on Monday, 25th November, on the Barrack square, a great number turning out to witness the game. Play for the first half was not very fast. Friends, Lang and Harris had their share of the work, and as usual did it well, also did Gore and Taylor. Resuming, G Co. played a very strong game, opponents having all their work cut out to act on the defensive, but there was a want of combination, and the game ended in a pointless draw.

G Co. v. C Co.

These met on the 26th November, and played a very fast and exciting game, both showing splendid form. C started off with a fine dash, and found G quite equal to the occasion, the play on both sides being very fast. Great praise is due to the forwards for the way they worked together, the passing being most excellent, and in distributing honours we must not forget our old centre half back, Corpl. Rose (late Deptford Wanderers,) his heading saving some dangerous shots. Before the ball had been in play very long, G Co., after a long run up the field, scored a goal, C Co. soon after equalizing.

During the second half C had to act mainly on the defensive, for the forwards of G were dangerous, and soon after starting G again scored, continuing to press till two more goals were got. The match ended in favour of G Co. by four to one.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last letter, life at Heilbron up till a week ago continued much the same, the peaceful monotony being occasionally disturbed by the appearance of some column. The last week things have been very different.

On the 19th we got an order to supply 200 men to go on trek with Wilson's Column, which entailed the relief of the many posts and blockhouses we were occupying. All arrangements made were, however, upset by the return from Pretoria at extremely short notice of the wing under Captain Moody's command, which arrived at Heilbron at 5.30 a.m. on the 22nd. D and F Companies were quickly made up to strength, and under command of Captain Buckle, joined Wilson's Column at noon that day. Shortly before their departure, orders were received for the whole of the rest of the Battalion at Heilbron to be in readiness to march the following day to renew our acquaintance with our old friend, Frankfort.

We marched at noon on the 23rd (strength, 7 officers and 425 rank and file), and halted for the night at Brakvlei, where the weather was anything but kind.

On the 24th we marched to Kromspruit, taking over blockhouses from No. 17 onwards. Captain Moody and 2nd-Lieut. Fiennes, with the headquarters of C Company, took over the post at this place.

On the 25th we marched here, taking over all the blockhouses *en route*, and the defences of this place in the afternoon from the 1st East Lancashire Regiment, the whole of which Battalion is collecting here, prior to constructing a further line of blockhouses.

We are now encamped on the opposite bank of the Wilge River, to our old quarters, and are quite a mile from the town, which is now an absolute ruin.

Rimmington and Damant's Columns are operating in the neighbourhood, and heavy firing was heard this morning to the south, the result of which has not yet been heard. After our many moves, things do not take long to settle down, but now that we are once more 30 miles from the railway, papers, mails, stores, etc., will not reach us quite so quickly, and owing to the dearth of transport and the present activity on this line of defence, it is quite possible that we shall have to keep Christmas later than the 25th, owing to the non-arrival of our Christmas dinner from the Field Force Canteen.

The wing with Garratt's Column was last heard of at Dundee. In our present scattered condition the chances of a move to India do not look rosy, though the news of four battalions coming from there makes one think it possible.

I must now conclude a hurried letter by wishing all connected with the Regiment the compliments of the approaching festive season.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

CHRISTMAS BOX

FOR THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT).

Mrs. Luard, of Ightham Knole, Sevenoaks, sends us for publication the following list of the things which have been sent off for the County Regiment in South Africa, also the list of those who have so kindly enabled this Christmas box to be sent.

960 half-pounds of plum pudding, in tins.
408 pounds of cake, in tins.
240 pounds of chocolate, in tins.
1,000 pairs of hand-knitted socks.
1,000 pairs of porpoise hide boot laces.
200 housewives.
250 pounds full-flavoured Navy Cut tobacco, in quarter-pound tins.
32,000 cigarettes in tins of 50 each.
*8 dozen good briar pipes, and a few knitted articles.
(* To complete a consignment of pipes recently sent).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

	£	s.	d.
Per Colonel Brock—			
Proceeds of a Concert held by the Inhabitants of Heilbron, O.R.C., divided between R.W.K. and Oxford L.I. ...	24	4	9
Per ditto—			
From Officers, Warrant, and N.C.O.'s and Men of the Depot at Maidstone ...	17	5	8
Per Captain Percy Umfreville—			
Colonel Henderson 3 3 0			
Tonbridge Ratepayers' Association 3 0 0			
Alfred Beeching, Esq. ... 2 2 0			
Colonel Williams 2 2 0			
Pupils, Eton House, Tonbridge 1 13 0			
R. Machonachie, Esq. ... 1 0 0			
J. Le Fleming, Esq. 1 0 0			
Miss Waddilove 0 5 0			
	14	5	0
Per Mrs. Elgood, from Sidcup	6	5	0
Major and Mrs. Dalison	5	5	0
The Lord Lieutenant and the Countess Stanhope	5	0	0
Sir Mark and Lady Collet	5	0	0
F. S. W. Cornwallis, Esq.	5	0	0
H. Bonham Carter, Esq.	5	0	0
P. Norman, Esq.	5	0	0
H. Thomas, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Johnston	5	0	0
Mrs. Ruck	5	0	0
Colonel Warde, M.P., and Mrs. Warde ...	4	0	0
Mrs. and Miss Moody	4	0	0
Leonard Brassey, Esq.	3	3	0
F. S. Bevan, Esq.	3	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. E. Norman and Mrs. Butler	2	10	0
Mrs. Gaskell	2	10	0
Sir Marcus Samuel	2	2	0
Maximilian Dalison, Esq., and Mrs. Dalison	2	2	0
Mrs. Blake	2	2	0
J. Graham Wigan, Esq., and Mrs. Graham Wigan	2	1	0
Miss Chad	2	0	0
E. Elgood, Esq.	2	0	0
Rev. Professor Church and Mrs. and the Misses Church	1	10	0
Mrs. Blackall and the Misses Blackall ...	1	6	0
The Vicountess Falmouth	1	1	0
The Lady Isabel Bligh	1	1	0
Colonel Bevington	1	1	0
Captain Pedley	1	1	0
Rev. Canon Joy	1	1	0
Per Mr. G. Anquetil (collected at supper of Ightham Allotment Gardeners)	1	1	0
Per Mr. W. Daniels (collected in Ightham)	1	0	0
Major-General Cumberland	1	0	0
G. W. Arnold, Esq.	1	0	0
Admiral Bosanquet	1	0	0
Horace Wilkinson, Esq., and Mrs. Wilkinson	1	0	0
Admiral Miller	1	0	0
Mrs. Hollams	1	0	0
Carried forward ...	154	17	5

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	154	17	5
W. W. Knocker, Esq., and Mrs. Knocker	1	0	0
G. Waring, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Goldsworthy	1	0	0
Mrs. Kleinwort	1	0	0
Mrs. Thompson	1	0	0
Per Mr. Buss, from Stilsted Farm		16	6
Per Miss Fanshawe, from Plaxtol		16	0
T. Hartley, Esq.		10	6
Rev. T. W. Carr		10	0
B. Hanbury Tracey, Esq.		10	0
Mrs. Julian Guise		10	0
Mrs. Sheppard		10	0
Sergeant-Major Brown		10	0
Mrs. A. Bevan		6	0
Lady Augusta Pratt...		5	0
William Hoare, Esq.		5	0
The Misses Lovett Cameron		5	0
Mrs. Cadby		5	0
Miss K. Clarke		4	0
Per Rev. G. Billing, from Platt Vicarage...		3	6
Miss Green		2	0
Total	£166	5	11

Knitted goods have also been received from Mrs. and the Misses Lewis, and Mrs. McDermott.

We publish the following letter to the "Kent Messenger," which we hope will meet with a response.

To the Editor of the "Kent Messenger."

SIR,—I have recently returned from South Africa, where I had the honour of commanding the 2nd Battalion the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and find to my regret that West Kent has started no county organization for raising money for the benefit of their County Regiment

I gather that nearly all the counties of the United Kingdom have made great efforts in this direction—for instance, Oxfordshire has raised £715; Norfolk is going to erect a memorial tablet in his parish to every man who has fallen in South Africa; East Kent is raising a fund for building cottages for soldiers of the "Buffs" disabled in the war.

It is true that by the exertions of private individuals a certain amount of money has been raised for comforts for the West Kent Regiment: General Fowler-Burton (Hon. Colonel of the Regiment) has been most liberal. Colonel Partridge, Colonel Brock, and Mrs. Luard (Ightham Knole) have also exerted themselves with considerable success.

All honour to them, and to all others who have contributed. I can assure you that it is difficult to express how the men at the front value such kindness.

But, sir, I would like to point out that no private individual can hope to meet with such a general response as if a County Fund was started by the Lord Lieutenant, and backed up by the M.P.'s, the County Council, the Mayors, and other influential men.

At present, however, no general or organized action has been taken, with the result that West Kent, at any rate, compared with other counties, seems either to be ignorant of the existence of its Regiment, or not to take much interest in it.

Yet, the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), with its glorious past, and with its long roll of battle honours, exceeded only by about a dozen regiments in the Army, is one of which any county might be proud.

Neither has the 2nd Battalion in South Africa failed to sustain the ancient renown of the Regiment.

I may instance their conduct at the lamentable fight at Biddulphsberg, O.R.C, in May, 1900, where the steadiness of the Battalion in covering the retirement of the Guards, and the gallantry of the men in rescuing under a hot rifle and shell fire wounded Guardsmen, who otherwise would have perished in a raging veldt fire, received deserved recognition from the General, and from the Guards themselves, who afterwards spontaneously turned out and cheered the West Kents.

No Battalion suffered greater hardships from shortness of food and clothing during the operations ending in Prinzloo's surrender, at which it was present.

So keen was it to be up in time—that marching night and day, 50 miles were covered in 48 hours. Many of the men had nothing but sacks tied round their waists, their trousers having fallen to pieces. Some men marched with putties round their feet, their boots having collapsed, yet would not give in

Again in October, 1900, near Frankfort, O.R.C., the 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, with the 33rd Co. Imperial Yeomanry (East Kent), after a long night march, completely surprised at dawn and captured a Boer laager. This success, which was mainly due to the admirable discipline and marching of the men, was specially noticed and appreciated by Lord Roberts

I hear that recently the bulk of the Battalion has again been having a very rough time after Botha. On one occasion they only had five biscuits per man to last four days. They made a fine night march of 38 miles in relief of the late Col. Benson's column.

I think I have said enough to show that the Regiment deserves well of the county, and I feel sure that this matter need only be put before the Men of Kent in a proper light to bring forth a willing response.

The two things wanted are leading and organization.

I would now suggest and urge that the Lord Lieutenant of the County should call a meeting; form a representative committee, and issue an appeal for raising a County Fund to provide for the present needs of the living, and for some lasting memorial to the dead of the Regiment (including the Volunteers), and of the Imperial Yeomanry of the County.

I should be glad to attend any such meeting, so as to give any personal help I could; and would also subscribe to the Fund.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

E. A. GROVE, Colonel.
Late commanding 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment in South Africa.

Sherwoods, Winchfield, Hants,
December 18th, 1901.

About 10 miles South of Ermelo,
Eastern Transvaal, South Africa.
Posted November 7th, 1901.

"G" Company, with Gen. Gilbert Hamilton's Force.

To the Editor, Queen's Own Gazette.

Still no news of a startling character such as amidst the thunder of artillery and the hoarse rattle of the Mausers, the Queen's Own was hurled to the attack, etc. Nothing of the sort to chronicle, nothing but hard and fast trekking after our elusive foe. But all in vain. Brother Boer only stands when he is perfectly sure he has a soft thing on, such as, for instance, a small column or a weakly protected post or convoy, he is then very much alert, as the events of the past few weeks in the Eastern area of operations have proved.

We left Vryheid en route for a small town called Utrecht, where we arrived two days later. This place is garrisoned by the old "Die Hards" of Peninsular fame, who have been lucky enough to stay here for nine months. Lucky dogs, indeed! We drew the necessary supplies and again moved off, the

objective being to scour the bush veldt of the Tambookiesbult in search of Gen. Botha's and other commandoes, supposed to be lying low there. We had a series of interesting events—too interesting indeed, to make much off, 1lb of biscuits for four days, wet through for ten consecutive days, etc., and so on, which indeed the whole of us do cheerfully when the object aimed at is accomplished. But sad to relate, if Botha was hiding there, he scooted again in the nick of time. On account of the dense mist which overhung the kopjes for days together our operations had to be postponed for two days, which forty-eight hours grace no doubt allowed the Boers to escape through the Nek we were ordered to hold. A start was made two days late, one blanket and one oil sheet per man being carried on mules' backs. This was also a very interesting part of the programme, having no tackle these had to be tied on with coat straps, and the fun was immense. However, we arrived at the Nek, having scoured the bush veldt, capturing a few horses already saddled, and burnt a small laager. We held the Nek for that night only and were ordered to retire, which we did with alacrity, the night being fearfully wet and cold, and then we heard the usual item—the Boers had broken through; with the Artillery the honour rested, they having sent three shells right in the centre of the laager fire, which evidently hurried Brother Boer's scoot.

We now received a telegram from the Headquarter Staff that the Tambookiesbult Campaign being successfully carried out, the various columns would retire to the line, Newcastle and Volksrust respectively. We retired on the latter, passing through Wakkerstroom, and arriving at Volksrust about 12 noon, 29th October, where we received orders to proceed to Charlestown, a distance of about four miles, under the shadow of Majuba Hill, and there to entrain for Standerton, which place we reached at 3.30 a.m., 30th, thinking we should get a few days' grace for refitting purposes. We remained one night and part of next day when a telegram arrived from General Clements saying we were to march at once in the direction of Ermelo, a distance of about 40 miles. Colonel Benson and his column were surrounded and were to be released, so off we trekked to the relief of our comrades in arms. We marched all night and day, and arrived at the scene of the conflict only to hear Colonel Benson and his second in command had succumbed to wounds, that two guns had been lost, and a terrible casualty list, although General Hamilton relieved the others in conjunction with Colonels Allenby and De Lisle's column, which news we received with great dismay. We did the forty miles march ready and eager to assist them, but, of course, the cavalry arrived on the scene first, so we had to forego our eagerness. To-morrow we start on our return to Standerton, certainly a great deal sadder men. When will the end arrive—Query.

Yours very truly,
F. G.

Mafeking, British Bechuanaland.
July 29th, 1901.

Once upon a time—I forget such negative items as dates—I wrote to your far-reaching paper a few items of news which you kindly gave space to concerning the regiment known as the 97th (Royal West Kent Highlanders). We were an "oat sack," "sugar bag clothes" battalion at that time, but having stretched over twelve months, we live now, by comparison, in the land of milk and honey. I am speaking of myself of course (not of the regiment), but being a native-born Folkestonian, whose ancestors were smugglers and eminently Folkestonian, of course I took upon myself another liberty, which I hope, sir, you wont consider a transgression. To-night is a red-letter night with us. Twelve months ago we captured a hill at the entrance to the Caledon Valley, the scene of Commandant Prinsloo's surrender, and I remember it perfectly. We, with the Leinsters and Guards, stormed the kopjes at midnight, which decided whose guns were to mount them by sunrise, and with "no shots to be fired" as a starting signal

WE CAPTURED THEM,

exhausted and dry, finding a stray cow, a few chicken, and some tobacco in a Kaffir kraal, but no Dutchmen. Perhaps your readers remember the incident. Certainly the most happy one in this wearying war for my battalion. We had tents, biscuits, extra blankets, and two "tots" of rum that night, and an early prospect of a pair of trousers each. Most of the men were wearing cut sacks for trousers, and a pair of sleeves and a "pull-through" for a coat, and the capture of the Boers who had led us such a dance through those weary months of semi-starvation seemed at first too good to be real. But as our record shows since that the regiment marched through from every town and over nearly every river and kopje in the Orange Free State, I cannot think of it without tears of gratitude, and to-night, the great 29th of July, I sat down again to recount a few more of our adventures, principally for the entertainment of those who are interested in the soldiers at the front, belonging to my dear old home. Looking at my address—at the historic town of Mafeking—you will wonder what takes us there. A detachment of our regiment is escorting No. 2

ARMOURED TRAIN, "THE DESIRABLE,"

and we have nearly broken the record for trekking. We escorted Lord Kitchener through the Colony (Free State) up to the Transvaal, and after superintending the repairing of the line at Janisbosch, where the Boers blew up the line with the intention of "elevating" our present Commander-in-Chief, but succeeded only in elevating our magnificent forage train for the Transvaal, we came straight away on a "through" journey from this country, and finally landed at Mafeking. Surely this is a record. The country is very different from the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, being bushy and fertile in trees and water, while the Free State, on the other hand, is bare and burnt. We relieved Kimberley once more, but not of an investment. This time we enjoyed to the full the privilege of a "pint" served over a bar, and you can at once perceive that we "relieved" Kimberley of as much beer as we could carry. I don't want to see the Diamond Fields any more, believe me. The controversy on our rolling fortress that night was "Trouble," but we got full steam up for Bulawayo, and eventually pulled up with a dash at Mafeking, where, I must say, the people showed anything but enterprise. I couldn't get anything but bare necessities, and curios were very, very expensive. Nothing in the town was stamped Mafeking, etc., but siege notes, which were enormously expensive. A soup ticket costs half a sovereign, and I was disappointed in the place, but then dissappointments are numerous now, and very common. We want to come home very much, out of it, but I can't see any way out of it for anything less than another year. I am writing you this about three feet away from a telephone on the railway, and the clerk is breaking his neck and his instruments to get through to some places south. He says the line must be cut somewhere. That introduces the subject of that awful and elastic complication

THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

The Volunteers know very well what guarding this means. Certainly it is the most trying part of the war now. We have fortunately missed a few mines, consisting of dynamite, cartridges, and other things, but I cannot help saying that we "hold on tight" going over culverts and bridges, and at the bottom of long gradients particularly at night. In the Orange River Colony the line is held by a system of blockhouses within rifle touch of each other by day, and by patrolling at night. I know, by experience, that the Boers who cut the line have allowed the patrols to pass them, and have not killed them out of sheer pity. In a few instances the line has been crossed, but not without contact, in some way

invariably with our troops, and not without our knowledge. The Guerilla Chief De la Rey is the cause of much of our trouble these days, not to speak of De Wet, who is everywhere but under the portholes of our armoured train. We travelled up and down in the Transvaal to stop his crossing (fire armoured trains), and the only thing we managed to stop crossing was a goat with very long horns. News just runs through that a post on this line has lost five men just now at Border, garrisoned by Colonials. I fully expect to hear that they have returned to camp minus everything but a hat. We heard about a Colonel who commanded a column, under whom I trekked a few hundred miles, and who has, since leaving my column, been captured by the naughty Boers, and sent back with everything minus but an eyeglass and a pair of putties. Think of their cheek. I suppose the Boers require more convincing Lyddite than ever, and we pick up our papers and read of such abstract events as Civil Administration and Peace. In forty years we may

UNDERSTAND THE BOERS,

but we neither underestimate their cheek, or want something more convincing than this new contingent of Yeomanry. I couldn't help saying it, but I cannot offer any apology for them. They are known to the pre-eminent Tommy at present as "De Wet's Supply Column." An untrained man, not experienced in the inevitable taxes upon human resource, is absolutely not wanted within a million miles of this country, and so far as I can see, sir, the only man wanted is the man who can be relied upon to triumph over any possible emergency, and the only individual in this wide world is Tommy, the ceaseless, the indifferent, lion-hearted, resourceful soldier, whom the British public delights to honour. "For God's sake give us horses." It is a prayer, and honestly true, that the men of the line battalions who have marched through the country and know it so perfectly, utter often and genuinely, and they stand by and see crowds of utterly undisciplined and untrained people coming out here to capture such eminent guerilla fighters as De Wet, Delarey, and Kritzinger. I could enumerate telling instances of the manner in which a "soft hand" is overcome by the Boers, who can spin out the English language like a cockney.

HERE'S AN ILLUSTRATION.

A patrol is sent from a blockhouse, on which is posted a dummy "Gentleman in khaki" in a conspicuous position, while the very much alive sentry is partly under cover, giving and receiving the time-honoured challenge, "Halt, who goes there?" While the intoxicating-looking effigy, propped up by a pick handle; grins his indifference, the patrol of three men crawl silently out of their maze of barbed wire entanglements, extend at a given signal, and become lost in the blackness, to maintain communication with the next post. It is done every night, almost by the very same men, who don't know the bliss of a "good night kip," and the inevitable contempt of danger gradually grows upon them, feeling, as they do, secure on the approach of anything human which they know by experience to be the patrol coming north or otherwise. Scrambling along with their hearts beating fast, and and a tight grip on the rifle, they are suddenly checked at the command

"HALT! WHO GOES THERE!"

"Friend!" "Stand, Friend; advance one and give the countersign." Not being out of speaking distance of their chums just back there in the little fort, the poor soldier in charge innocently walks up and says "Buller," but before the second syllable is uttered a hoarse whisper commands him to throw up his hands, with a superfluous promise of a lead plug if he hesitates one instant. "Well, strike me pink, if this ain't a case," he mutters, and the barrel of an ugly Martini urges him to silence, while the challenger drawls out in the most approved Scotch, "Advance patrol, all's weel" Next morning two naked Scotch Volunteers slide into their home of sand bags and barbed wire, calling upon the non-commissioned officer there to go and bring in Mac, who meanwhile has succumbed to a bitterly cold South African night, stripped of everything with a stitch in it. Up the line a little the 5th Royal Irish Rifles were similarly caught, but another patrol scented the danger, and opened a well directed fire upon the spot with such a will, that on being surrounded, and afterwards captured, they were told by the Commandant that he thought their Magazine Independant finger pumps was a party with maxims. He allowed this patrol to get back home minus two men killed and rifles and accoutrements.

Trouble commenced again "at the double." We were surrounded by camps. British columns, Dutchmen, kopjes, and exciting reports. The peaceful old Colony was alive with troops, guns, and cattle. We eagerly accepted our responsibility for the railways, and shared our patrolling duties with the other armoured trains, some of which bear the most fear-inspiring names. What effect this has upon the Boers I haven't heard, but the "Cock of the North" came in yesterday to have a shot with us (the "Disturber"), with little puncture marks all over the iron. "Got over again," they greeted us with, despairingly, and we knew how to sympathise too well. Then there i

THE "SPITFIRE" AND THE "PIONEER,"

but among many others, I was very shocked to read the words, "Blood, Horrible Blood," and "Revenge, Villains, Revenge," on the sides of some rail armoured trucks. Who wouldn't tremble at the "Holy Terror." It doesn't help to advance the Pro-Boer sympathy argument which we hear so much about in England. I'd give anything to put them on the trains which find the dynamite of the simple farmers. We retaliate by giving their refuge women and children every possible consideration, and I am speaking of very large camps which I have seen. But everybody is agreed that something is coming off soon. Clouds of dust are continually rising all over the place. They are just little clouds of dust to us, with an occasional pom-pom or dull boom of a field gun, and then we discuss what appears to be a race between the little clouds. Presently along come some sullen,

DIRTY-LOOKING PRISONERS,

between some equally campaign-worn Tommies, and we take out our cartriges and settle down to another quiet look-out. Then night comes along, and the whole concern is changed. Each mighty kopje is a suspect. Nobody trusts him. A blockhouse at Thebas opened fire on a party coming from behind one of these, and during a lull in the firing a figure rode up and demanded to know "What the devil they meant by firing on a column under Col. Scobell?" The corporal expressed his regret at his unfortunate accident, and the dark horseman rode off, hurling vitupurous epithets at thick-headed corporals, etc., and passed over the line with no more trouble. The officer did not leave his card. It was Kruitzinger. A 16th Lancer told me an amusing yarn yesterday at Richmond Road (Cape Town line). He had been detached from his column with his own squadron for two days, operating on their left flank. They were careering about yesterday, he said, when they came in came in contact with a party coming straight for them. On looking around they found themselves almost entirely surrounded, but

SUSPECTING THE ATTITUDE

of the other people, the helio was put on, and the suspicion justified. The 10th Hussars had approached them by a devious route through the dongas, and had a pom-pom sighted at 1,200 yards, full on, while a squadron had received orders to charge with drawn swords in extended order. He was delightfully un-enthusiastic about it, but one can see that it won't be their fault if the war doesn't collapse soon. Another ten minutes and my friend the Lancer pro. tem. mounted infantryman, was galloping away. We are just off again with General French. I am posting you this letter (which I began at Mafeking) at a

day's march from the sea, where Schweepers apgarently is going to bathe. We brought Lord Milner safely through to De Aar. We are now in between two long trains of guns and transport cattle. It is as dark as "the boys" who drive the mules.

From the Folkestone Herald.

ON TREK WITH COL. GARRATT'S COLUMN.

In the last days of August, while the various companies of the battalion were scattered along the railway line in the north of the Orange River Colony—the hearts of some filled with envy of those at home who were preparing for the "Glorious First"—orders were received for the concentration of a wing at Headquarters at Vereeniging to relieve the wing of the East Lancashires, who had for nearly three months been trekking with Col. Garratt's column in the Orange River Colony. Accordingly the following force assembled and prepared itself for the unknown eventualities of the trek under the command of Major Brock-Hollingshead.

A company—Lieut. Kitson (Acting Adjutant).

E company—2nd Lieut. Johnstone.

H company—Capt. Lowe and 2nd Lieut. Norman (Acting Quartermaster).

Volunteer company—Capt. Latter and Lieut. Holcroft.

Total strength 350.

Members of these companies who belonged to the Local M.I. were left with Headquarters, and also, of course, some who were unfit, or near the time of their discharge. The column which we were to join was now at Meyerton, about 10 miles north of Vereeniging, and on Monday, 2nd September, the East Lancs. having marched in and taken over our posts, the wing trained out thither, and bivouacked with our new friends. The column was composed of the 7th New Zealand M.R., 6th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, 4 guns, R.F.A., 1 pompom, and our wing, total about 1,200. Col. Garratt (of the Carabineers) had for some months been operating with much success in the Orange River Colony under the immediate orders of Lord Kitchener from Pretoria, and quite independent of the General officers on the lines of communication, and it was generally thought that his next move was to be eastwards to rout out a commando which had collected at the junction of the Vaal and Wilge rivers. However, events happened which changed this plan, and during the 3rd and 4th we sat still awaiting orders, while rumours came to us of Botha's intended raid into Natal, and this movement of the enemy apparently decided our destiny, for on the 5th we got orders to entrain for Paardekop, in the E. Transvaal, N.W. of Volksrust. Though we marched out of camp at 6 a.m. we could not get a train to take us till 5.30 p.m. At that hour we took our seats in our luxurious coal trucks, packed like sardines, the transport and officers' mess having to be sent by a different train. It was windy and cold, but the evening was enlivened by much music in each truck, and even thus early proof was given of the wonderful spirit which enables the British soldier to make light of all personal discomforts. We reached Paardekop on 6th September, in the dark, and during the 7th and 8th the remainder of the column collected there, the simultaneous movement of several columns rendering the process a slow one. Advantage was taken of this delay to play a polo match between Garratt's column and the Paardekop garrison, the column team, which included Capt. Lowe and Lieut. Kitson, turning out winners. I should mention that we started with three tents for the mess and officers, the men carrying two blankets and their British warms, besides great-coats and waterproof sheets. At last, on Monday, 9th September, we marched in a direction N.E. by E. in glorious weather, which continued till 11th, by which time we had reached very high country, where we were treated for days and nights together with cold rain, thick fogs, and high winds, making everything extremely unpleasant, especially, of course, for the outposts, half of which are found each night by our wing. It would be useless to give daily details of our trek, but certain small incidents fix themselves in the memory and might be chronicled, *e.g.*, the passage of the Assegai River on the 14th, which occupied six and a half hours, during which the wing rendered valuable assistance in making up the road at the drift, and, of course, in hauling at drag ropes, an incident of such constant occurrence in this terribly hilly country that a team selected from an Infantry wing just off trek should be hard to beat in a tug of war if practice means anything. The temporary loss of officers in the fog while visiting outposts has now become quite commonplace, and had any officer or man dared to contravene regulations by keeping dry, he would assuredly have been docked of his tot of rum but of that there was no fear. In difficulties and discomforts it would be hard to beat our trek during 15th, 16th, and 17th, on the borders of the Swazis' country. Drifts so bad that it took three hours for our wagon convoy to cross one, hills so steep and stony that it took over three hours to get it up one length of a quarter of a mile, while another hill at Castral's nek beat us altogether until each man carried his own kit up for about a mile. However, at this period full rations were available, and the tents were still with us, and the mess stores plentiful, and we jogged on, moving by a semi-circular route till we came within sight of Wakkerstroom on 17th. Hitherto we had seen little or nothing of the enemy, though we had captured two prisoners, and ascertained the whereabouts of a commando of some seven hundred Boers whom we were ordered not to attack. At Wakkerstroom we heard of Gough's reverse and we were hurried on to Volksrust, which we reached on 19th, and entrained the same day in awful weather for Newcastle, getting no view whatever of the interesting district of Laings Nek, Majuba, etc, as we went, because the fog prevented us from seeing more than 100 yards At Volksrust we had to leave in hospital some 25 men, and at Newcastle, much to the regret of all, Sergt.-Major Mitchell was seized with rheumatism so badly that he had to be carried to hospital. On the 21st, at 6 p.m., A and H Co. were ordered to start by night for Utrecht, and had a very bad time of it owing to bad roads, but the officers found some consolation in the form of one or two games of polo subsequently with that sporting battalion, the 2nd Middlesex. The two remaining Companies did not leave Newcastle till the 24th, reaching Utrecht on the afternoon of the 25th. Here we remained during the 26th, preparing for combined operations with other columns under General Walter Kitchener, and being ordered to march as light as possible, tents and men's great coats had to be left behind. The 2nd Middlesex Regiment, in garrison at Utrecht, were very kind and helpful, and in the evening the officers dined with us, and a great camp fire concert was held with success. From this point we lost our independence, acting in co-operation with various other columns, and actually marching for some days with Col. Campbell's force. The weather and the country had improved lately, but the march to Vryheid was again very hilly and rough over the Schurveberg, and on the 29th we covered between 20 and 25 miles. Leaving Vryheid on the 2nd at 4 a.m, we marched east, and camped some 2½ miles from the base of Pondwana Hill, which some of us will long remember. H and E Co. being ordered to hold a hill on the north of the camp, A Company and the Volunteers were sent at 4 30 p.m. to the big hill itself, which commanded a nek on which a considerable force of the enemy had been seen in the morning. This hill, with its almost conical, cloud-capped summit and sides, scored with deep nullahs and abounding in rocky precipices, seemed to frown on us from the moment of our arrival, an impenetrable fog with rain and wind setting in as we reached it. Major Hollinshead, pointing out the path for the Volunteers, went far towards the top before turning back, and then lost his way, and had a very dangerous and uncomfortable journey down again, only reaching his headquarters at the foot 3½ hours later after some narrow escapes from falling down precipices on the way. The dense fog absolutely prevented A

Co. from knowing whether it had actually reached a certain position assigned to it, and after a miserably wet night (the half company of Volunteers, under Lieut. Holcroft, on the extreme summit up in the clouds not having been able to get up food or kits), the mist being thinner, Lieut. Kitson proceeded in the morning to advance along the slopes, when he and his small advanced guard were suddenly confronted by a large body of the enemy at close range, who fired and cried "Hands up." One man, Pte. Dix, was wounded, Pte Harold's rifle jammed, and the little party were at the enemy's mercy entirely, when, to save slaughter, Lieut. Kitson, who had meantime emptied his revolver at them, complied with the summons to surrender, the rest, except Dix and Harold, managing to get away. They were taken to the Boer Commandant, and treated well on the whole, but of course, had to "present" them with some articles of equipment and personal belongings. It was not, however, till about 2 30 p.m. (when the Commando had moved off upon some of our guns opening fire on another party of Boers) that one ruffian returned, and with a rifle pointed at Mr. Kitson's head insisted upon his handing over his money, watch, and coat. Eventually an ambulance arrived and brought in Mr. Kitson and Pte. Dix about 6.30 p.m., Pte. Harold having been sent in earlier to march barefooted about three miles to fetch this ambulance. Meanwhile the mist had prevented any of this incident being seen from the top of the hill, and only in the afternoon could the Volunteers see anything of the stray Boers who seemed to be making off to join the Commando which had just left as above mentioned. The other half Co. of the Volunteers had meanwhile prepared for defence a farm house and building at the foot of the hill, where the O.C. had established his H.Q. We stayed in this position from the 2nd to 7th, H and E Cos. arriving there also and occuping half-way posts up the hill. Meanwhile the mounted troops of Garrett's and Campbell's columns had been clearing the hills to the north, and on the 7th we moved and rejoined them at Botha's own farm, Continuing N, on the 8th we came to a hill so bad that very few wagons got up that day and camped, escorted by A and E Cos., on the top The rest of the convoy with H and Vol. Co. camped part way up the hill, and though they started again at 6 a.m. on the 9th, it was after 8 p.m. when the last wagon reached the top! The weather at this period was again terrible, rain and fog being persistent. By the afternoon of the 11th we reached Paul Peter's Burg in drenching rain, and from that date till the 16th we were occupying a large hill overlooking, aud partly guarding, a plain where convoys were coming and going for the supply of other columns besides our own. The actual movements of the companies were varied during these days, but eventually, on the 17th, we all joined up again upon joining Col. Stewart's column, with which we marched to Luneberg, rations at this period being reduced by one third for many days. The Volunteer Co was detached to guard a Nek for two days, and before they returned the other three Cos. had, on the 20th, once more joined Col. Garratt and marched N.W. with him into unsurveyed country, where they had a little fighting. On the 21st a surprise was in store for us, we received orders suddenly to join Gen. Gilbert Hamilton's column, and as this included the other wing of our battalion, we found ourselves in the evening camped close to Capt. Moody and his command, and trying to wheedle some mess stores out of him, with partial success. The weather was now so bad again that operations were spasmodic, mist being a constant factor to be dealt with. Nothing could be done on 22nd, but on the 23rd, in wind and rain, we were sent bush-whacking in the kloofs and nullahs on the side of a big mountain, finding saddled horses, half-finished breakfasts, wagons and Cape carts, in places where, two years ago, no one would have dreamed that even a Boer could live, much less stow away such articles as these. On the 24th orders came to join yet another column under Col. Pulkney, with whom we returned to the Pongola bush country near Luneberg, where we had a still harder day of "bush-whacking," when Tommy was asked and somehow managed to perform feats worthy of experienced Alpine climbers. After two days' rest for us, while other troops continued this operation, we joined up again with Col. Garratt's column on 28th, having in the interval played a cricket match with the Victorian Mounted Rifles, whom we defeated. The wickets were pitched on a road, and the field was somewhat obstructed by rocks, so that good cricket was scarcely to be expected, but mention should be made of the good bowling in the first innings of Mus. Ball and Lance-Corpl. Kesby. At this period the column was gradually raking in prisoners, amongst others being Field-Cornet Potgieter, a local leader who had given much trouble, and our guard had to be considerably strengthened to look after the prisoners in camp and on the march, until on the 31st we got within touch of Utrecht again and handed them in there. Before this, however, on the 29th and 30th, we had experienced the roughest weather of the whole trek, a mixture of thunderstorms, rain, hurricane, fog, and cold, making things most unpleasant for all ranks. We were now marching back towards the line, and on the 31st were able to send in wagons to replenish our supply from the depot near Utrecht. Full rations again and a generous gift of tobacco from the Major raised the men's spirits high, and we proceeded over a road which we had traversed a month previously over the Schurveberg—still in company with Pulkney's column. The columns halted on the 5th whilst some of the mounted troops went out to clear a Poort, and meeting with more resistance than was expected, the Victorians of Pulkney's column lost one officer and two men killed and three men wounded, but they killed at least four Boers and took 17 prisoners in their day's work, besides 100 horses, 70 saddles, and 90 rifles, a good bag. On the 6th we at length reached Vryheid where we expected at least four mails and other luxuries; but found only two mails and "no canteen." As, however, we expect to stop here a few days, and another convoy is reported to be on its way hither, both these deficiencies may shortly be made good. Sergt.-Major Mitchell has rejoined the wing here, together with a few men who had been dropped in hospitals on the way out. We are hoping that before the King's birthday on the 9th his Majesty's uniform may be somewhat more fully and faithfully represented than it is at present on the persons of some of his lieges of the R.W.K. Regiment, and weather and wood-supply permitting, we mean to celebrate that festival by a camp fire and sing-song.

The column has marched at least 500 miles since we joined it up to this point, and when the weather and the difficulties of the country are considered the 'wastage' of the wing has not been excessive and bears favourable comparison with that of the Colonial Contingents who have shared our labours. Our relations with our Colonial brethren have been throughout most friendly and cordial, indeed, the same may be said of the relations existing between every unit and department in the column, the tone being taken from the popular commander himself. What is next in store for us no one knows, but the receipt of a wire from H.Q. on the 2nd inst, in which the word 'India' was mentioned has rendered speculation still more rife than it was before on the possibilities of a big move for the Regiment.

As the convoy leaves early to-morrow this rough and imperfect chronicle of our doings must be closed, the writer expressing a fervent hope (which will doubtless be shared by your readers) that the subsequent history of our trek may be written by one more competent for the task.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

P.S.—It may be interesting to add the official record of the results obtained by Col. Garratt's column alone (irrespective of the other columns with whom we have served) up the end of October:—10 Boers killed, 5 wounded and taken prisoners, 32 prisoners unwounded, 33 rifles, 3092 rounds S.A.A., 40 wagons, 18 carts, 159 horses, 1304 cattle, 2892 sheep, 49 tons of mealies destroyed, 60 refugees brought in, 4 mules.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

—o—

v. Loose Albions.—On the Barrack Ground. The Depot won the toss, and defended the entrance end. From the kick-off the Depot at once took up the pressure, and were soon swarming round the visitors, but the goalkeeper saved some marvellous shots, and the game was 25 minutes old ere Davis scored for the Depot with a good shot. Immediately afterwards Mr. Lister was injured through his coming into contact with one of the visitors' backs, and had to leave the field. He returned after a short rest, but could not stay, and had to be attended to by a medical officer. Half-time now arrived. In the second half the Depot, playing with ten men, more than held their own, and each side scoring once, the Depot were left the winners by two goals to one.

v. Wateringbury.—The Depot journeyed to Wateringbury and after waiting for three-quarters of an hour Wateringbury kicked off with only five men in the field. This completely upset the Depot, but after a time the remainder of the team turned up, but Davis had already lodged two goals in the net for the Depot. This was all the scoring that took place, and when the whistle blew quarter of an hour before time owing to darkness, the Depot were the winners of a very poor game by two goals to nil.

v. Church Institute.—Played on the Barrack Field before a good number of spectators, great iuterest being centred in this match. From the kick-off the Depot at once began to press, and the game was only about 10 minutes old when Mr. Lister opened the scoring for them. This put the visitors on their mettle, and they soon tested Spearing with two or three good shots, but he was on his best, and could not be beaten. The play was very fast considering the state of the ground, and half-time arrived with the Depot leading by one goal to nil. In the second half the Depot at once took up the running, the Institute scarcely having a look in beyond two or three breaks away. Mr. Lister added another point for the Depot, who were now playing for all they were worth, and Lister, Taylor, and Sayer added further goals. The then League leaders, Maidstone Church Institute were ousted from their position by the Depot team, and hopelessly beaten by five goals to nil. This was the first match lost by the 'Stute in the competition, and as the Depot has also lost a game, the struggle for the championship will now be all the keener.

v. Eccles.—The Depot visited Eccles on Saturday, the 28th, in a friendly encounter, and after a very poor game, owing to the state of the ground, the match ended in a draw of two goals each.

We have now got through about half of our matches for the season, with the following results :—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points— For.	Agst.
17	12	3	2	54	16

To the Editor Queen's Own Gazette.

Sir,—I acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the following contributions in answer to my appeal in your last number :—

	£	s.	d.
Major A. T. Simpson	3	3	0
Lieut.-Col. E. Satterthwaite	1	1	0

Will not some others help ?

Yours faithfully,

T. H. BROCK, Colonel.

TREKKING.

Now it ain't all honey ridin', and it ain't no cop at all,
To sit upon a joltin', bumpin waggin ;
But to do the marches walkin, well ! lor lumme, takes the 'call,'
For I tells yer, on these columns there's no draggin'.

It's a-trekkin' up the hills, an' it's trekkin' on the plain,
And it's bloomin' nearly time the job was over ;
But we're still a doin' trekkin', thro' the sunshine and the rain.
Oh ! I tells yer straight, it aint no blessed clover.

What with gettin' quarter rashuns, an' no time to cook yer meat,
And no tents to keep the rain from soakin' thro' yer ;
And yer boots is well nigh rottin' off yer tired blistered feet,
Well, yer don't call that no beano-time, now, do yer ?

Yes, it's trekkin, trekkin, trekkin, with yer dinners not 'arf cooked,
And yer biscuits sometimes good, but often rotten ;
There's blokes as only read of it, when someone has it 'booked,'
But it takes a bloke who's been thro' it to 'cotton.'

There's someone here, and someone there, and columns runnin' races,
An' we follows 'em until we're nearly dyin' ;
An' when we fetches up at last, in some dog-cussed places,
They say the bloomin' niggers was a-lyin'.

For we've tracked 'em up the hills, and we've tracked 'em on the plain,
And it's jolly nearly time we come acrost 'em—
And we're roasted up with sun, and a-wetted thro' with rain ;
Oh ! I tells yer straight, we cusses when we've lost 'em,

But thro' all the bloomin' hardships there's one thought to help us on,
That always cheers us up where-ere we roam,
That when the war is over, then for every mother's son,
There'll be good old English beer and English home.

Still we're trekkin' now, an' goodness knows how long we'll have to go,
But *some*-day, not too long we hope, we'll most of us be back,
But before we think of restin' we'll just shew the stupid foe—
That we're Kentish men a fightin' for the Union Jack.

F.B.

BIRTHS.

At Aden, 4th October, wife of No. 740, Color-Sergt. Eldred, of a daughter (Lilian May).

At Clarach Villa, Red Hill, Worcester, on November 10th, 1901, the wife of A. Martin, late Color-Sergeant Royal West Kent Regiment, of a daughter.

At Maidstone on 17th December, the wife of Bandmaster A. Ingham of a daughter.

At Maidstone on 16th December, the wife of Pte. H. Wells of a daughter.

At Maidstone on 22nd September, the wife of Color-Sergt. H. Wise, P.S., 3rd Battalion, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

November 19th, 1901, at Clarach Villa, Red Hill, Worcester, after a long and painful illness, Bertram Alexandria (Bertie), the second eldest son of A. Martin, in his 19th year.

At St. John's Hospital, on 5th November, 1901, of consumption, Mr. J. Mills, late Sergt.-Instr. 2nd Vol. Batt.

At Aden, 18th November, No. 3674 Pte. J. C. Lemmon, 1st Battalion.

At Aden, 24th November, No. 3153 Pte. F. Smith, 1st Battalion.

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 320. MAIDSTONE, FEBRUARY, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 2.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Lieut. P. S. Hall is seconded for service with the Army Service Corps, dated 1st August, 1901.

The promotion of 2nd.-Lieut. G. F. H. Keenlyside is antedated to 1st August, 1901.

Oswald Y. Hibbert, Gentleman Cadet from the R.M. College, to be 2nd.-Lieut. 18th January, 1902.

G. E. St Clair Stevenson, Gentleman Cadet from the R.M. College, to be 2nd.-Lieut. dated 18th January, 1902.

1ST BATTALION.

Promoted Col.-Sergt.—Sergt. H. Eldred, 3rd December.
Promoted Sergt.—Lce Sergt. W. Mendham, 3rd December.
Promoted Corpl.—Lce.-Corpl. P. Sanger, 3rd December.
Appointed Lce.-Corpl.—Private C. Lee, 7th December.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Sergts.—Lce. Sergts. F. Holden, Nov. 1st, 1901; M. Hamilton, Nov. 11th, 1901; J. Mills, Nov. 11th, 1901; G Guest, Nov. 14th, 1901; J. Smith, Dec. 7th, 1901; Corpl. A. Ackland, August 20th, 1901; Lce. Sergts. E. Gulliver, Sept. 27th, 1901; T. Connor, Oct. 24th, 1901; A. Chasteneuf, Oct. 27th, 1901.

Appointed Lce. Sergts.—Corpls. J. Smith, Nov. 11th, 1901; W. Newland, Nov. 11th, 1901; E. Harper, Nov. 14th, 1901; M. Marr, Dec. 11th, 1901; E. Richardson, Dec. 18th, 1901; J. Bowman, Dec. 18th, 1901; G. Smith, Dec. 18th, 1901; R. Barden, Dec. 20th, 1901; T. Brown, Dec. 20th, 1901.

Promoted Corpls.—Lce. Corpls. E. Humphries, Nov. 11th, 1901; W. Fellick, Nov. 14th, 1901; W. Burden, Nov. 14th, 1901; H. Smith, Dec. 7th, 1901; F. Wright, Dec. 9th, 1901; H. Digweed, August 20th, 1901; H. Kane, Sept. 27th, 1901; W. Broughton, Sept. 28th, 1901; J. Hedgecock, Oct. 27th, 1901.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls.—Ptes. O. Packham, Dec 23rd, 1901; J. Dewing, Dec. 21st, 1901; J. Hunt, Nov. 23rd, 1901.

DEPOT.

Appointed Sergt. Instructor in Musketry, Sergt. W J. Dark, Depot, 8th, January, 1902.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION

Captain and Hon. Major F. Pine resigns his commission with permission to retain his rank and wear the uniform of the Battalion on retirement, dated 11th January, 1902.

The undermentioned Captains are granted the hon. rank of Major:—

C. R. Smith and C. Tootell, 11th January, 1902.

Lieut. B. Crosbie-Hill resigns his commission, dated 11th January, 1902.

Obituary.

We regret having to record a long list of deaths in South Africa this month. Amongst those who have died of wounds received in action is Lieut. E. G. W. Morris. This officer died at Ermelo, from gunshot wounds in the spine on 28th January whilst serving with the West Kent Mounted Infantry, with which he went to South Africa in August last. He had previously seen service at the front, as he was attached to the Dorset Regiment when a subaltern in the 3rd Batt. Dorset Regiment, from which battalion he was gazetted to the Royal West Kent Regiment in April, 1900.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am going to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation with which we (the Members of the 1st. Battalion) read the monthly letters from your correspondents of the 2nd. Battalion. I think the interest with which we follow their doings can hardly be exaggerated, as there is hardly one among us who has not some old and well tried friend among their number, in whose interest our more public spirited feeling of "èsprit de corps" is intensified and perhaps tinged with sentiment. When you reflect how very little of the doings of Battalions and even of larger units, appears in newspapers, you will be easily able to understand how eagerly we follow the monthly statement of their doings which appear in your valued paper. I have no hesitation in saying that if affording pleasure to others is the motive which prompts the writers of those letters, to find time to lay aside the sword and take up the pen in order to record their doings, then their efforts have been most successful in their object, and they should feel well repaid for their trouble. May they not run short of pen and ink is our sincere wish.

There is not very much to chronicle this month, in fact we seem to be living on the verge of coming events and to have remained contemplating them in a state of restful inaction. By the time I take up my pen again to record the doings of the coming month, I should be in a position to tell you of the inter company tug of war, the football tournament, the annual manœuvres, and many other coming events which are now casting their shadows before them.

Of the few events worthy of record which have happened, I think perhaps the rifle meeting of December 19th, deserves mention, in spite of the fact that my valued assistant Grenadier has already alluded to it. The object of the meeting was to decide two points

(1) Who was the best all round shot among the Officers and Sergeants of the Battalion.
(2) Who was the best all round shot among the Officers.

The winner of the first competition to hold Lieut. Col. Harrison's challenge cup, and the winner of the second to hold

Major Rowe's challenge cup. As will be obvious to the reader, if an officer had won the first competition he would obviously have won the second, and would have become the proud holder of both cups, this however was not to be, as Lance Sergeant McAnnulty proved himself to be the best shot with a score of 50 out of a possible 64, while Lieut. Keenly-side secured Major Rowe's cup with a much inferior score i.e. 44. 21 rounds a man were fired, and they were expended as follows.

5 at 200 kneeling
6 at 500 sittlng
5 at 100 disappearing target as in practice No. 7 at the Annual Musketry Course
5 at 200 stationary target as in practice No. 10 of the Annual Musketry Course.

A very pleasant day was spent on the range by all, and the first meeting of the Officers' and Sergeants' Rifle Club can be pronounced an undoubted success. On Friday, Jan. 10th, the Rifle Range was placed at the disposal of the Corporals who fired a match between the two half battalions, 7 rounds at 200, and 7 at 500 in any military position, competitors unlimited, and the best 12 scores on each side only to count. The Corporals of the left half won a handsome victory by 3 points on the average, their average being 47 against the 44 of the right half. Both sides with their friends met at a smoker, in the theatre the same evening, where I am told a most enjoyable evening was spent. My letter must now come to an end, as I think our doings for the last month have now been fully recorded. I may add though, for general information, that Capt. Annesley and Lieuts. Robinson and Lynch-White have returned from leave in India, while Lieut. Annesley has just gone to Bombay for six weeks. We are expecting Capts. Hotham and O'Dowda, and Lieut. Hickson to rejoin shortly from sick leave in England.

1ST. BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

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SERGEANTS' MESS.

With the advent of the cool weather, Aden seems to have roused itself somewhat from that semi-somnolescent state induced by simoom winds, sand storms, and other pleasant? causes; and we entered upon a series of entertainments with, in some cases, a certain amount of anxiety as to whether this or that particular function would, or would not, go off with éclat. On the 3rd December we had to deplore the loss of two old members of the Mess, viz:—Col. Sergt. Tench and Sergt. Ailwood, the former proceeding to take up an appointment on the Volunteer Staff, and the latter home to recoup after the trying (and to him unlucky) experience of the Ad Darega expedition. No more shall we hear the old familiar "Selection on the Eight,'. but we wish them both the best of luck in their new sphere' The arrival of a very handsome silver challenge cup, very kindly presented by Col. Harrison, to be shot for by the members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Rifle Club, created a great flutter of excitement as to who would become its proud possessor for the year, and although it was considered an easy thing for some, it did not "pan out" quite as was expected, the winner turning up in the person of Lance-Sergt. McAnnulty, C company. It afforded two days' good sport, one to practice and the other to shoot off for it, which was done on the 19th December, and everyone returned home quite satisfied. The third Christmas in Aden passed very quietly, and on the 4th January, '02, a Smoker was held in the Mess, at which nearly all the members were present, when the Cup was duly christened and a most enjoyable evening spent. The event of the year, however, took place on the 9th January, when the Sergeants' Annual Dinner was held in the Mess, at which all the members who were not on duty were present. The room was very nicely arranged, and great credit is due to the committee who carried out their duties to everyone's entire satisfaction. The menu was good, there was enough and to spare, and the members responsible for both Smoker and Dinner were:—Col.-Sergt. Burge, Sergts. Allen, Murphy, O'Connel, Outred, Seaton, with Lance-Sergts. Seal and McAnnulty. There is now in progress a Billiard Handicap, the winner to receive a handsome cue in case, presented by an old member of the Mess, but as it is not yet completed I am unable to give final result.

GRENADIER.

———:o:———

B COMPANY.

Being one of the fortunate individuals who were eligible to "cop the bounty," and hoping to (perhaps) be reading this at home in England, I regret not being able to furnish you with my usual copy this time, but one or two questions have been discussed very freely lately, and what is required to be known by the company is:—Who was it that, after being on the staff for a considerable period, on taking over Orderly Sergeant, deputed his Orderly Corporal to call the roll at night by the light of the Aden moon?

Who was the Lance-Corporal who, in sending a telephone message to his chum at Point, worded it as follows:—"Shan't be in this evening till to-morrow?"

GIBBO.

———:o:———

G COMPANY.

Herewith a short account of a few Football Matches that have been played by the company recently, and our team are working extremely well, and will, I am sure, render a good account of themselves in the forthcoming tournament. The first match was against A company, resulting in some very fast play on both sides during the first half, and at half time the score stood:—G, one goal, A, nil. On resuming however, A company pressed very hard, and managed to score two goals in a very short space of time, after which nothing further was recorded, the game ending A, 2, G, 1. I might mention that all our regular team members were not playing. The next match was against Headquarters, on which occasion some really good play ensued, and as might have been expected from such strong opponents, very little scoring resulted. We unfortunately were without the services of Pte. Gore, who was in hospital, but Lce.-Cpl. Gillespie took his place and did very well. No points were gained by either side until just before the call of time, when Taylor managed to score, and the final result was, G, 1, Headquarters, nil. The company next journeyed out to Steamer Point and met a team of the Eastern Telegraph Company on their own ground, where a fine game was witnessed. The civilians however, had a very fine combination, and their passing was extremely good. The game was very fast, and although the company played well, it resulted in the following score:—

E.T.C. one goal, G Co. nil.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.,
31st December, 1901.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The past month has seen various changes in the positions of the regiment, and now it seems probable that we shall remain as we are for a considerable time, although at this period of the campaign as much as at any other we never know what the day may bring forth. On the 18th, Major Brock- Hollinshead with

the wing from Col. Garratt's column arrived at Heilbron from Natal, and the regiment is now disposed as follows along the Heilbron TafelKop block house line.

"A" and ½ Volunteer Company under Lieut. Kitson at Brakvlei about 11 miles east of Heilbron, C. & E. Companies under Major Hollinshead at Krom Spruit, about 9 miles east of Brakvlei; head quarters G and H Companies under Major Maunsell, at Frankfort. D and F Companies under Capt. Buckle are still with Col. Wilson's column operating in the Heilbron district. Judging by the number of wires and messages which passed through this place at one period of the month, Frankfort must have been one of the principal centres of attraction. This was owing to the opposition encountered by the force proceeding to Tafelkop which of necessity became weaker as each block house was erected. This force consisting of the 1st East Lancashire Regiment, and about 50 of the East Kent Yeomanry left here on November 30th, and on December 9th, were heavily sniped for some hours having half a dozen men hit, and a good many animals shot or stampeded, &c. This was a short way east of Groenplats or "Morder Spruit" as it now called by the Boers in memory of their mishap at our hands on October 11th, 1900. It was not till December 22nd that the helio began twinkling to us from Tafelkop 20 miles away, but it required the presence of Col. Rimington's and Col. Damant's columns to disperse the combination of Commandants Ross and Wessels, and before this was effected Col. Damant received a severe blow. Moving out of camp in conjunction with Col. Rimington before dawn on the 20th the two columns went round Tafelkop without encountering any opposition and became somewhat scattered in pursuit of small parties of Boers. While thus engaged Col. Damant seized a kopje accompanied by his two 15 pounders, one pompom and an escort of about 70 Yeomanry. This small force was almost immediately overwhelmed by several hundred Boers who charged the hill from the dead ground beyond and swamped resistance. The casualties among the gun detachments were particularly heavy, and it was only owing to the prompt removal of the teams and limbers that the Boers were unable to clear off with our guns as the trophies of a cleverly executed coup. As it was they contented themselves with overturning the pom-pom down the side of the kopje, but these guns are built on a principle which defies such treatment, so no harm was done.

Late in the afternoon of December 28th we heard heavy shell fire, and almost continuous rumbling of pom-poms about 10 miles to the south. We afterwards heard that DeWet had at last unmasked the guns which he has been figuratively hanging over our heads for some time past, and had treated General Elliott to 40 shells and 250 pom-pom shots. His artillery will have to improve their shooting considerably before they are able to reduce a blockhouse to a crumbling heap surmounted by a white flag, as the result of his expenditure on this occasion was two men wounded.

Christmas Day came and went without any particular excitement. I think it was easier for us this year to realise that it was Christmas than last year. Thanks to the Canteen Grant every man had his plum pudding and beer, and in the last few days gifts in the shape of pipes, tobacco, etc., have been coming in large quantities, and we hear that there are more on the way to us, all of which are most keenly appreciated by the men.

The 2nd battalion Essex Regiment came through Frankfort on December 30th on their way to Tafelkop, from which place they are destined to prolong the blockhouse line towards Vrede.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

TREKKING WITH COLONEL WILSON'S COLUMN.

HEILBRON, O.R.C.,
December 22nd, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.

On November 22nd D and F Companies, under the command of Captain Buckle, D.S.O., joined Colonel Wilson's column, and the same afternoon trekked to Vark Vlei, some eight miles on the Lindley Road. The column was a small one, being composed of the 2nd Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, a pompom, and two companies 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, the total force numbering about 800 men. The first night out was not passed in peace, as at dark an order was received for a hundred of our men to march soon after midnight to take up a position on a long ridge six miles from camp, where the Boers were expected to come at dawn. D Company not being strong enough for this work, it was reinforced by a section of F Company, and the whole party left camp at one a.m. and arrived at their respective positions just at dawn. I must here explain that the ridge to be occupied was three miles long, and at varying distances along it were three small rises covered with hugh boulders, and so the force was divided among them. The positions had scarcely been occupied and the men hidden behind walls and boulders before the first Boer scouts appeared and rode for the gap between the two right positions. Behind them came other scouts, who rode right between and behind the positions held by our men, and were often within ten or fifteen yards of them, but no man stirred, as the orders were to lie still and wait for the main body. Unluckily the main body, some forty in number, did not come along in a bunch, but in threes and fours, well opened out, so that when firing began they did not give a good target, and the result was one killed, two wounded, one severely, while one of the scouts had his horse shot under him and was captured The parties remained in their respective positions till after mid-day, as the main camp was to shift there, and during the morning the right post had far the best of it, as parties of Boers often rode within range, not knowing our men were there, and were heavily fired on, but as far as could be seen none were hit. The next day, Sunday, as information was received that De Wet, with a large commando, was going to try and wipe us out, we laboured all the afternoon and far into the night digging trenches and building sangaars, so that before we slept we felt ready to defeat any number of Boers. We remained entrenched at Spioen Krantz for the best part of a week, as it was known the enemy were in large numbers all round, and they could have given our small force a very bad time if they had attacked us on the march. No one objected to the rest at Spioen Krantz, and the detachment improved the occasion by playing the K.F.S. at football, winning by three goals to one. On Thursday Colonel Rimington's column had got touch with us, and we were to join him at a place called Jagers Rust by a night march. In order to deceive the Boers tents were left standing till after dusk and fires were lighted as usual, and when it was quite dark we started off very quietly, as the ox and mule drivers had been warned not to shout or crack their whips, and the wagons themselves made very little noise on the grass. We reached Jagers Rust at two a.m, after a sixteen-mile march, during part of which the men had been carried on wagons, and scarcely had everybody thankfully settled themselves down to sleep when the enemy opened fire at short range, and bullets were dropping into us. For a short time things were quite exciting, as a lot of horses stampeded and natives were running everywhere for cover, but the men were soon at their posts, and the Boers, after emptying their magazines into us, cleared off. The result of the enemy's fire was two horses killed and one of the K.F.S. and a horse wounded. All were soon asleep again, and at daybreak

Rimington's column joined us, and we spent the rest of the day getting what sleep we could. That evening, in company with Colonel Rimington, we again trekked after dark and marched all night, except for a halt of a hour and a half; luckily the men rode on wagons, so got a rest, though not much sleep owing to the jolting of the wagons. As day dawned we were still shoving on, and an unkempt lot we all looked after two nights without sleep. About eight o'clock mounted men appeared on the left rear of the convoy, Colonel Rimington being at that time six miles on ahead with his mounted men, and a heavy fire broke out from the Yeomanry rear guard. At this point was a small hill covering a drift, over which the wagons were then crossing, and a section of D Company and, a little later, a section of F Company were got off the wagons and occupied the hill, and only just in time, for as the first section reached the hill-top the Yeomanry were driven in, and the enemy came riding on confident of rushing the hill. But the fire of the section checked the Boers and gave the Yeomanry time to dismount and join the firing line. The enemy now commenced to work round the flanks, which were very weakly defended, and meanwhile the remainder of D and F Companies were either reinforcing the rear or guarding the left flank, where there was a gun; and everybody had to hold on where they were, for, as it was afterwards found, the Boers who were attacking were not a few odd snipers, but 800 men under De Wet, who were intent on capturing the gun and convoy. At this juncture a troop of the Inniskillings made a gallant but futile charge to clear a hill on the left flank, but were forced to retire with an officer killed and four men wounded. Colonel Rimington now came up, and his mounted men forced the enemy to retire, leaving behind three dead, including Commandant Opperman. While it lasted, and until reinforcements arrived, the two sections on the hill covering the drift had a pretty warm time, as they were completely enfiladed, as well as fired at from the front and right front, and how no one was hit was a mystery, as the enemy's bullets knocked up the dust all round. After the counter attack by Colonel Rimington the Boers held off for a time, but worried the rear guard all the way into camp. We had only just pitched camp when an awful rain and thunderstorm began, lasting for nearly two hours, at the end of which time the whole place was under water, and people were standing with the water over their boots, while various articles came floating gaily out of the tents. All the afternoon the Boers showed up in large numbers on the hills all round the camp, and the 15-pounders and pom-poms were kept busy keeping them from getting within sniping distance. At dusk D Company, with a section of F Company, were sent out to hold a picquet line and entrench it; so from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. they worked in the pitch dark and rain, with the only light the incessant and vivid lightning, and it is a night very few who were out in it will quickly forget. Just as the trenches were complete and the men lying down to sleep an order came to return to camp, where all were found packing as hard as they could, as the force was to retire. No one liked the idea of retiring, but it was recognised that there was some very good reason for it. And for the third consecutive night we marched without sleep, and so weary were the men that the moment they halted down they lay in the mud and wet wherever they were and slept soundly. We marched all that night, and soon after dawn crossed the Rhenoster River, where we took up a strong position and had breakfast. We then trekked on another ten miles to Pretoria Spruit and arrived at 2 p.m., having, since leaving Spioen Krantz three days before, done 65 miles in 65 hours, with only four hours sleep. Not a bad performance. That night the camp was again fired into and everybody stood to arms for some time and then the picquets were reinforced and the camp slept again. Prisoners since taken report that De Wet had intended to make a night attack at Pretoria Spruit, but was foiled owing to the vigilance of the picquets. Next day we marched on into Heilbron in pouring rain, which nobody minded, as the prospect of being near a town again and having a rest and a good sleep made up for the discomfort of getting wet. On our way to Heilbron the various farms near our road were searched as we passed and the result was very satisfactory, as twelve men were captured, so the total result of our operations were four Boers killed, nine wounded and 14 captured. For nearly a week our column remained at Heilbron, and on the morning of the 8th, in company with Colonel Rimington, we trekked towards Frankfort, halting one night at Brak Vlei. Next day we proceeded to Krom Spruit and D Company was left there, the remainder of the column going on to Frankfort. At Krom Spruit besides C company 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment, the ordinary garrison, there was a half battalion of the Black Watch, one company of which was to work with D Company, both being under Captain Buckle, for the purpose of strengthening the Frankfort Heilbron line of blockhouses. The general plan of operations was that three columns under Colonel Rimington and three under General Elliott were to work towards Lindley and Reitz, and then turning back were to drive westwards towards the main line of railway, having on the north the Heilbron Frankfort blockhouses and on the south the Lindley Kroonstad line. D Company remained a day and a half at Krom Spruit, and at 11.30 p.m. on the 10th marched to a flat topped hill called Jackal's Kop, six miles south from Krom Spruit, where they arrived at dawn and entrenched. Soon after sunrise the columns appeared coming over a ridge many miles to the S.E., and a few small parties of Boers rode away westwards. One of these parties, four men with seven or eight horses, rode on to a hill only 2000 yards away to observe the columns and apparently without noticing us, though a heliograph was working on our hill at the time. As the Boers offered a good target a sharp fire was opened on them which disconcerted them considerably and stampeded several of their horses. In the afternoon, when the columns had come parallel to Jackal's Kop, the men were placed on empty mule wagons and trotted off to the Klip river, distant 8 miles. On arrival at Klip river the Royal West Kents and Highlanders took a very extended picquet line at right angles to the blockhouses so as to join them to the columns camped seven miles away. Extra fires were lit along the picquet line between the picquets so as to give an idea of the line being strongly held, while in reality less than two companies held over five miles of river. Next morning the men again got on wagons and were trotted nearly all the way into Heilbron, doing 9 miles in 1½ hours. At Heilbron a convoy for Colonel Rimington's columns was waiting for us, and marching anothor seven miles the convoy joined Colonel Wilson's column where we rejoined F Company, who had been constantly on the move with Colonel Wilson since the companies parted at Krom Spruit. The column moved on to the Rhenoster River, where unfortunately there was considerable delay in getting the wagons over a bad drift. A few miles further, on topping a long rise, the country, as far as the main line, lay in full view, and three miles ahead of us were 700 Boers riding madly for a drift on the Rhenoster, by which they could escape round our flank, while to our left front was Rimington's column, in clouds of dust, pursuing the enemy. Our mounted men at once started off at full gallop, and after them followed the convoy, mule wagons, ambulances and water-carts as hard as they could go. It was a most exciting race down the long hill, the wagons going at a gallop, with things falling off every moment, but nobody troubling to stop for them, and everyone, mounted men, infantry on wagons, and natives, wild with excitement. Unfortunately, the Boers just crossed the drift in time, and, night coming on, they got clean away, losing, however, their convoy cattle and spare horses, besides 21 prisoners. During the next two days the columns trekked

quietly back to Heilbron, where we arrived on the 14th. At 1 a.m. on the morning of the 18th the column marched out 15 miles south of Heilbron to cover the retirement of a squadron that had gone out the previous evening to try and surprise a laager. Returning, the Boers followed the column to the number of 200, and the pompom and F Company, as well as the mounted men, were engaged, but the enemy kept well away and contented themselves with long-range sniping. We are at present making preparations for a merry Christmas, as it is now only a few days to that festive season.

ON TREK WITH COL. GARRATT'S COLUMN.

(Continued).

My last contribution contained a narrative of the "trek" of the wing under Major Brock-Hollinshead with Colonel Garratt's Column up to the 6th November, on which date we marched for the second time into Vryheid. I propose to send you a short account of our doings from that date until the wing was dispersed on arrival at Heilbron on the 18th December.

Our stay in Vryheid was destined to be longer than we had anticipated, chiefly because the re-mounts which the mounted troops had hoped to pick up from the Natal side were not forthcoming. Our camp was pitched rather more to the west of the town than previously, and the thoughts of all were for a time devoted to mails and canteen stores, of which, as may be remembered, we had received none for some time. Mails came along in profusion, but in no consecutive order, but the word went round that the canteen was empty until an expected convoy should arrive. General consternation prevailed at this awful news. However, on the following day the convoy arrived, and then Col. Pulteney's column had first turn at the canteen, and afterwards our column. I fancy the men got about as much as they wanted or could afford to pay for, and the officers mess was at once relieved of the pressure which had begun to make itself felt considerably. Sergeant-Major Mitchell was welcomed back on rejoining us fit for duty, and some others who had been sent in at various times to hospital rejoined their companies. Various small expeditions, starting at any hour between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m., were sent out to clear farms or hunt small groups of the enemy, our companies taking turns, as usual, in finding the gun escort or other requirements Our projected camp fire and concert on the King's birthday was somewhat rudely interfered with by the weather. No sooner had "The King" been drunk in the Mess (canteen champagne of the choicest brand) than a terrific thunderstorm burst over the camp, flooding it in a very short space of time and rendering an out-of-door function undesirable, if not impossible. As, however, the piano hired for the occasion was still standing in the Mess, the concert was carried on there, the performers and audience standing in three or four inches of water. Scarcely anybody got any sleep that night, as everything was soaked through or blown away. On Sunday, 10th November, there was a church parade, and in the evening we were treated to another storm, if anything rather worse than the night before, one of the garrison signallers being struck dead by lightning and nine others seriously injured. The delay at Vryheid was utilized for various inter-column sports, cricket matches, horse-racing, &c., in which I regret to say Col. Garratt's column did not come out with much success. Col. Pulteney's men beat us both at cricket and football, the Garrison officers won the bulk of the pony races, and the sports prizes were divided fairly evenly between the two columns and the Garrison. On the 13th Colonel Garratt moved his camp to the east side of the town, where the officers' mess found the shelter of a roofed house once more. An issue of clothing and necessaries considerably altered the appearance of the wing on parade, when on the 17th (Col. Pulteney's column having left in a northerly direction on the 15th) we marched at 4 a.m. to our old enemy, Pondwana Hill. The local Commandant Emmett was known to be somewhere N.E. of that place, and we had in the preceding week captured one of his subordinates, Field-Cornet Henderson, who was attempting to play tricks and get into Vryheid under a white flag. This was a useful capture, as Henderson had been for some time a thorn in the side of O.C. Vryheid. At Pondwana Hill, E Company was sent to the summit of the hill this time, H Company again occupied the western slopes, and the eastern hill post was taken by half the Volunteer Company, A Company and the other half of the Volunteers remaining below with Headquarters. At Pondwana the column remained from 17th to 27th, sending out expeditions nearly every night, especially to the south-east, where a certain number of the enemy had been located. All sorts of traps were attempted, but with no luck. An exciting incident occurred, however, on the 22nd, when a convoy which had left camp at dawn for Vryheid, escorted by some New Zealanders under Major Abbott, was attacked about six miles out by Boers, whose estimated number was 200. The prompt and excellent dispositions made by Major Abbott held the enemy off, and upon the remainder of the mounted troops and the guns turning out and making for the scene of conflict by a short cut across country the Boers fled precipitately into the hills pursued by our men, who killed one or two and wounded some few others, without suffering any casualties themselves. The weather was stormy most of the time we were at Pondwana, and as great heat or thick fog filled the intervals between the storms, the troops, especially those on the hills, had none too comfortable a time. Eventually, the re-mounted troops having at last rejoined us, the column marched on the 27th through the Nek, in a southerly direction, about eight miles, having to negotiate some very boggy drifts en route, and camped at Thaba N'chu, where we stayed for the next two days, trying each day to get into contact with Grobelaar's commando, who were reported to the S.E. A few Boers were met with and two captures made, but the "run-away" tactics of the enemy were, in this district, most consistently carried out. On the 30th we moved nearly west about fourteen miles, and on the next day continued in a similar direction. On this day a party of the Q.I.B. had a scrap with some of the enemy and captured a small laager, but directly afterwards some of them were in turn surprised and one officer and nine men captured. As usual they were returned to us later in the day, relieved of certain articles of apparel and equipment. On the 2nd December 150 of the wing escorted a convoy into Vryheid for supplies, returning on the morning of the 3rd. This short visit to Vryheid was saddened by the death there of Pte. McCoy, of A company from a self-inflicted shot, whether accidental or otherwise there was no evidence to show. At this camp we remained, shifting the site once, until the 7th, H campany and the Volunteers taking part in turn in some more of the early morning expeditions which still bore no fruit Verily it seemed as if there were traitors in the camp; as, in spite of all precautions to maintain secrecy, we never came across what was expected. One incident here is perhaps worth recording. An outpost sentry of the New Zealanders firing on a dark night, at a range subsequently measured to be 600 yards, killed with one shot, two horses under two scouts preceding the M.I., who were going out and had not heard his challenge. On the 6th we heard that a large number of Boers were waiting for us about 20 miles south, with the intention of wiping us out on Dingaan's day; but previous to this intelligence, orders had been received for the column to go direct into Newcastle, with what ulterior object no one then knew. Col. Garratt, I believe, wired for permission to attack our southern Boers before leaving, but was not allowed to do so. Accordingly on the 7th we marched over Scheeper's Nek, past the mouth of Blood River Poort, this being the scene of Major Gough's reverse in September last, and on the 8th continued the

trek (all the men riding for a change in empty ox wagons), to Utrecht, and then, still proceeding by the same more or less comfortable method on the 9th and 10th, we reached Newcastle on the latter date about 9 a.m. We had only that day to refit as far as possible, and we learned that we were to march for Botha's Pass, through the Drakensberg, and cover the force of Gen. Bullock, who were constructing the blockhouses of the line which runs from the Natal frontier through Vrede to Frankfort, Heilbron, and so on to the west. On the 11th therefore we marched to the foot of Botha's Pass, and had a glimpse of the difficulties which Gen. Buller had to encounter on his advance through this region. On the 12th we went over the Pass and camped some four miles west of it. Here we remained on the 13th, H company only having to escort the guns out in the early morning on another bootless errand. On the 14th the Volunteer company were up at 2 a.m. and laid another trap on the top of a hill for the enemy who came not, and at 6.30 the column marched a few miles further west before camping in a strong position under a ridge, which was held and fortified by A company and the Volunteer company. The M.I. by this time had again become very weak owing to horse sickness and the taking away of about 150 to patrol the Scheeper's Nek and Rooikop district on the Dundee road from Vryheid, and, as all that remained were required for a night expedition, our wing had, on this night, to find the whole of the outposts, and the work was anything but light during our short stay in this, our last camp, under Colonel Garratt. On Sunday, 15th December, orders arrived for the wing to entrain at Ingogo as soon as possible to proceed to Heilbron, and though nothing was said in the order as to our future destiny, we felt pretty sure that we were intended to join the rest of the Battalion in occupying blockhouses—an outlook which was regarded by some with dismay and regret, by others with a somewhat premature satisfaction. All however regretted the severance of our connection with a column to which we had felt proud to belong. The column commander, skilful as a leader, and ever ready to befriend and help his troops to obtain and enjoy the rights which their countrymen intended for them, but of which red tape would fain have deprived them, had naturally earned more than the confidence of all ranks; and the good feeling prevalent between all units of the column, upon which I remarked in my last letter, resulted in the formation of many a private friendship which we hope will contribute to the future happiness of the individuals concerned. I think we can safely assume, without undue arrogance or conceit, that the regrets were not all one-sided when at 5 a.m. on Monday the 16th. December, the wing of the "Queen's Own" finally marched out of Col. Garratt's Camp, and, mounted on empty ox wagons which were proceeding to Newcastle, passed once more over Botha's Pass into Natal on the way to Ingogo. The roads branching at Botha's Post, the wing after a long halt marched some six miles further into Ingogo, enjoying the luxury of a good bath in the Ingogo river as they passed it.

On the 17th all were entrained with the transport about 12 noon, the men packed somewhat closely as usual, in iron trucks, and in and upon the wagons, the officers revelling in a large covered guard's van—most luxurious accommodation for this country. At 12.45 the train began the very steep zigzag climb past Majuba over Laing's Nek, and as the weather was superb we had a very fine view on this journey of these places so intimately bound up with the histories of England and South Africa. The journey was uneventful. We reached Elandsfontein juncion in time for breakfast on the 18th, and leaving again at 10 a.m , arrived at Heilbron soon after 5 p.m., when we immediately detrained and marched into the detail camp where Capt. and Qr.-Mstr. Couch has a sort of base for supplying the blockhouses and garrisons formed by the battalion to the east. Once more we found ourselves in huts instead of bivouacs, drew out of store the spare kits we had left behind in September, and prepared ourselves for our new occupation. The orders awaiting us were for H Co. to march on the 20th for Frankfort itself, the other three Companies proceeding on the 21st to the intermediate posts named Brakvlei and Kromspruit and finding the garrisons for blockhouses nearly all the 32 miles from Heilbron to Frankfort. Thus after 3½ months the wing was dispersed, and another stage was reached in our individual and corporate history, the details of which will probably be written by an abler pen. I have not access to the official records, but I think if I say that out of the 350 who started the trek 280 marched into Heilbron Camp with the wing, these numbers will be found practically accurate. During this second part of the trek the weather, though very capricious, was not on the whole so bad as in the earlier weeks, the country and roads and drifts were not so difficult, the halts were longer, the marching less. On the other hand outpost duty was heavier, and the frequency of night expeditions caused the work as a whole to be nearly as hard as before; and if the visible results of our labours were not quite so great owing to the paucity and "discretion" of the enemy in the district we traversed, we console ourselves with the shadow of a hope that the presence of our column where it was may have been used by other columns to their tactical advantage and may have indirectly contributed towards the end which all have in view.

And so farewell to the free roving life of the trek—which with all its attendant hardships also contains a large element of freshness and charming variety so conspicuously absent from the parched, fly-bitten and monotonous blockhouse existence to which we are now doomed. However, we must, in accordance with our motto, imagine we are led to this change rather by "fas" or by "gloria," and we can each hold our private opinions as to which of these words is Latin for "Army Orders South Africa."

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

FRANKFORT AS IT WAS AND IS.

G Company, 2nd R.W.K. Regt.,
South African Field Force,
January 2nd, 1902.

To the Editor, Queen's Own Gazette.

SIR,—The 2nd Battalion "The Queen's Own" occupied Frankfort, Orange River Colony, for the first time early in October, 1900, as many readers of the "Gazette" will no doubt remember. Then the town rejoiced in the possession of a large Dutch Reformed Church, many shops in full swing, a large mill worked by steam power, a magazine, etc., but all is now changed, Church, mill, and all; things of the forgotton past, except, perhaps, in the memory of the townspeople now at Heilbron. On our second occupation, November, 1901, I the other day, moved by curiosity, crossed the bridge into the ruins of the town to see if the different earthworks and defensive forts erected by G Company during our occupation of the town itself had been demolished by the Boers during our eleven months' evacuation, and could scarcely believe what I saw, Church, mill, and shops all a mass of ruins, inside which the rank vegetation has sprung up almost as tall as a cactus. Not a single roof left standing, or even a lath to show they were once the habitations of a thriving townspeople. The grim realities of war has pressed his iron and relentless hand on the houses of rich and poor alike. The earthworks thrown up by my company at Devilliers Farm are still intact, so also is the loopholed stone walls that was once a Court House, and even to-day would form a formidable barrier to an enemy coming from without. Cattle now graze in the principal streets, no little children at play, or even to ask Tommy Atkins for biscuits, nothing to break the monotony, all silent

and deserted like Pompei. Truly Frankfort has fallen on evil days. I passed on to the ruins of the Church, where once the bells rang out and its organ pealed God's message of love to Briton and Boer alike, now both silent for ever. Alas, the dynamite fiend has done his task only too well. The Kentish Club came next, where on mail days the roof echoed with Kentish voices asking for letters, now a blackened mass of ruins, hospital, shops, and houses all the same; blackened walls look up to the sunlit African sky, and, perchance whose walls, could they but speak, would tell us of happy families and joyous gatherings long before the war, perhaps even asking of One above to forgive the exiled President who caused it all, Groglers Kloof, Beresford Hill, Poisley Ridges, Burnt Farm, familiar landmarks to us all, with memories of outposts and frequent scrimmages between Bro. Boer and ourselves. I next visited the cemetery, which has lately been completely renovated by ever-loving comrades. Small but neat crosses mark the graves of many brave fellows of Kent, some who fell in action or died of wounds for King and country, and some by that fatal malady enteric, some twenty all told of ours; the graves nicely moulded and the crosses bearing each man's name and company, looking perhaps all the better in their silent simplicity. I rode away in silence, feeling that everything had been done that could be done for fallen comrades, hoping that on this, our second occupation, the death roll of the "Queen's Own" would not be so heavy. And so I recrossed the bridge, leaving ruined Frankfort behind, and as my horse's hoofs clattered across its wooden spans they seemed to say—"*It's not for ever,*" "the longest lane has a turning, like the cloud its silver lining, Englishmen will soon rebuild its walls, and in the piping times of peace the Church will again ring out its merry peal and the mill again turn out its sacks of flour for the citizens; and once more its streets will echo with the happy laughter of children (but which cannot, alas, bring us back our dear dead departed)" But thus I leave Frankfort till better times to come. F.G.

A BRAVE ACT BY ONE OF THE 1st VOL. ACTIVE SERVICE CO., R.W.K. REGT.

Blackheath,
Jan. 20, 1902.

To the Editor "Queen's Own Gazette."

DEAR SIR,

In further continuation of facts related on pages 1664 and 1665 of your issue of June 1901 and page 1702 of November last, I have to-day heard from the Secretary of the Royal Humane Society that "A testimonial on vellum was awarded to Lance-Corporal A. J. Andrews and forwarded to the War Office on the 8th November last."

All your readers will I am sure join with me in congratulating Lance-Corporal Andrews on his gallant behaviour in South Africa having been thus recognised.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. MORPHEW.

The award of Medals for Distinguished Conduct to the undermentioned for service in South Africa is announced in "Army Orders" for January :—Col.-Sergts. E. J. A. Bullock, L. F. A. Redderson; Sergt. T. C. Dorrell; Lce.-Cpls. E. Humphreys, G. J. Huntley; and Pte. F. Jupp.

DEPOT NOTES.

Mrs. Whatman, the President of the Maidstone branch of the S.S.F.A., acknowledges with grateful thanks the receipt of the following sums:—From Officers 1st Batt. R.W. Kent Regt. £26 0s. 0d. From Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and men 1st Batt. R.W. Kent Regt £10 12s. 1d.; 2nd Batt. £35.

GAMES COMPETITION.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by the Corporals of the Depot, with the Corporals of the 1st Vol. Batt. on the 22nd inst., at the Nag's Head Inn. The 1st part of the evening was spent in games such as draughts, dominoes, cribbage, whist, &c., in which the Corporals of the Depot were successful in winning by the narrow margin of two points. The second part of the evening was spent in harmony, both the Corporals of the Depot and Vol. Battalion contributing with some very good sentimental and comic songs. The evening closed with the customary toasts, and the Depot Corporals retired for a comfortable night's rest on their well earned laurels.

FOOTBALL.

—o—

v. LOOSE.—At Loose, and as in the first meeting, the match proved very close. The Depot won the toss, and chose to defend the entrance end goal. From the kick off the Depot took up the running and at once began to press, but the game was just on a half-hour old before Sayer opened the scoring for them. This woke the home team up, and some good play was seen, and a good shot was sent in which struck the side of the net. Just before half time Loose had a penalty awarded, and from this they scored. The second half was evenly contested, each team trying its utmost to score, and at length the Depot were rewarded, as Sayer beat the home custodian with a beauty. This proved to be all the scoring, which was exactly the same as when the teams met on the Barrack Field, the Depot winning by 2 goals to 1.

v. MAIDSTONE CHURCH INSTITUTE.—The return match in the above competition was played at Postley Fields before a good number of spectators. The Depot won the toss, but could not make much headway, the backs having frequently to concede corners to save. At length, after about twenty minutes' play, the 'Stute opened the scoring with a good shot. To this they added shortly after, and crossed over leading by two goals to nil. The second half was but a few minutes old when the Depot scored through Davis, and this aroused the Depot, but the "Church" was playing a grand game, and scoring once more towards the finish, ran out the winners by three goals to one.

MAIDTONE LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	DN.	L.	GOALS F.	A.	PTS.
M.C.I. Wanderers	10	8	0	2	35	14	16
Depot	9	7	0	2	20	8	14

DEPOT RESERVES v. WATERINGBURY.—The Depot should have met Wateringbury on Saturday the 25th, in a Maidstone League fixture, but having to meet Hawkhurst in the Charity Cup Competition, the match was arranged to be played as a friendly at the Barracks. Wateringbury won the toss, but the play was very even, and when half-time was called neither side had scored, in the second half the visitors scored from a penalty, but the Depot scoring twice, were left the winners by two goals to one.

Referee—Col.-Sergt. Bourne.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHARITY CUP.

The Depot having entered the above competition were drawn to play Hawkhurst in the second round, having received a bye in the first round. The match was played at Hawkhurst on Saturday, the 25th, before a large number of spectators. The Depot won the toss and set the home club to kick with the sun in their eyes, from the kick off the Depot began to press, and the game was only about ten minutes old when Jones scored, this aroused the home team to greater exertions, but the Depot defence was sound, and the ball was returned to the home quarter, where Payne, getting possession, sent in a well-directed shot which found the net. Give and take play was the order for some time, until a miss-kick let the home side in, and they had no difficulty in scoring, and when the whistle blew the teams crossed over, the Depot leading by two goals to one. After the usual rest the game was restarted, and the home side at once attacked the visitors goal in earnest, and after a short time they equalised with a good shot. This added a great deal more interest to the game, each side trying its utmost for the winning point, both goals having some very narrow escapes, but about ten minutes before time Davis scored for the Depot with a grand shot. This was all the scoring, and when the whistle blew the Depot were returned the winners of a good game by three goals to two.

Colonel T. H. Brock desires to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional amounts towards the furnishing of the regimental institutes at the Depot:—Lieut.-Col. Churchill £2, Capt. Hotham £3, Capt Kennedy 10s., 2nd Lieut. Hudson £2 2s., Capt. O'Dowda £1.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 14th Nov., the wife of Sergt. H. Newbold, of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 15th Jan., the wife of Lce.-Cpl. G. Bance, Depot, of a son.

At Aden, on 16th Dec., the wife of Sergt. A. E. Allwright, 1st Batt., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

At Lee, S.E., on 18 Jan., Col.-Sergt. B. H. Grellier, Depot, to Miss Emily Mount.

At Ashford, on Dec. 25th, Pte. Finnis to Miss Edith Louisa Smith.

DEATHS.

At Aden, on 15th Dec. 3578 Pte. A. Jones, 1st Batt.

At Vryheid, on 2nd Dec., 2826 Pte. E. McCoy, 2nd Batt., accidentally shot.

At Leeuwspruit, on 4th Dec., 3763 Drummer R. Parry, 2nd Batt., accidentally drowned.

At Springfontein, on 25th Dec., 5428 Pte. J. Frisby, 2nd Batt., of dysentry.

At Kroonstaad, on 12 Dec., 7013 Pte. A. F. Lucock, Vol. Co., 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Elandsfontein, on 20th Dec., 5622 Pte. C. Murgatroyd, M.I., 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Johannesburg, on 28th Dec., 5919 Pte. T. Huggins, 2nd Batt. M.I., of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on 30th Dec., 4565 Lce.-Cpl. W. Lee, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 31st Dec., 5420 Pte, G. Nott, 2nd Batt., of gunshot wound.

At Pretoria, on 31st Dec., 5968 Pte. Whitebread, 2nd Batt. M.I., of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on 1st Jan., 5841 Pte. J. Littlefield, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 1st January, 5812 Pte. W. Jones, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 5th Jan., 5999 Pte. J. Stevenson, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Norvals Pont, on 8th Jan.. 5527 Lce.-Cpl. H. Manser, 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 21st Dec., 6976 Pte. W. Simmonds, Vol. Co. 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 15th Jan., 4137 Sergt. W. Parker, 2nd Batt., accidentally drowned.

At Norvals Pont, on 22nd Jan., 7053 Pte. G. McBride, Vol. Co., 2nd Batt., ofenteric.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d. per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

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Extra copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O's an Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (*Postage ½d extra*).

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 321. MAIDSTONE, MARCH, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 3.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Second Lieut. J. T. Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes to by Lieutenant, 21st August, 1901.

Captain and Bt.-Major F. C. Marsh, is seconded for service with Mounted Infantry in Egypt, dated 21st February.

1ST BATTALION.

Promoted Sergt.—Lce.-Sergt. R. Daykin, 28th Dec., 1901.

Promoted Corpls.—Lce.-Corpl. W. Collins, 21st Dec, 1901; Lce.-Corpl. J. Payne, 21st Dec., 1901; Lce.-Corpl. G. Harris, 28th Dec. 1901.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls.—Pte. J. Sheen, 8th Jan.; Pte. F. Smith, 8th Jan.; Pte. E. King, 10th Jan.; Pte. H. Kipps, 31st Jan; Pte. H. Johnson, 18th Jan.; Pte. F. Hutchings, 18th Jan.

2ND BATTALION.

Appointed Lce.-Corpl.—Pte. A. Farlie, 28th Dec, 1901

3RD BATTALION.

The undermentioned gentlemen to be Second Lieuts.—

Thomas P. Aldworth and Alexander J Bonsor, dated 5th March.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Clare F. Harris, Gent, to be Second Lieut, 5th March.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned gentlemen to be Second Lieuts.—

Edgar C. Russell and A. N. W. Clark, dated 5th March.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:—

S. H. Jones and A. H. Jennings, dated 25th January.

The undermentioned Second Lieuts. to be Lieutenants:—

J. G. Geddes, W. D. Geddes, W. E. Martin, and A. J. Murphy, 25th January.

4TH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut.-Col. C. James resigns his Commission, dated 25th January. Major F. A. Newington (Bt.-Lieut.-Col. late R.M.L.I.) to be Lieut.-Col. and to command, dated 1st Feb.

SOLDIERS' BALANCES UNCLAIMED.

The next-of-kin of the late Pte. Wm. Wakelin are entitled to the sum of £23 5s 4d.

THE LATE CAPTAIN MANN.

A memorial window, the gift of the people to the memory of Captain Mann, has been placed on the south side of the nave. On the two lights of the window are the figures of S. George, the Patron Saint of England, and S. Alban, the first English Martyr, from whom the cathedral city of this diocese takes its name. Both soldiers, both soldiers of Christ. The window was unveiled on Sunday, December 22nd, by Captain Mann's son, and dedicated with a service of prayer sanctioned by the Bishop. "Fight the good fight" was the hymn sung, and the special prayer was:—"Almighty God, who has called us out of darkness into Thy marvellous Light, mercifully accept our service, and graciously receive at our hands this window, which we offer and dedicate to beautify the place of Thy Sanctuary, in memory of Thy servant, Horace Mann, and in honour of Him, the Brightness of Thy Glory, Whom Thou hast given to be the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth world without end. Amen."

The window is the work of Messrs. Powell and Sons, Whitefriars Glass Works.—*From Theydon Bois Parish Magazine, Jan, 1902.*

Captain Pembroke 3rd Batt. has gone to Bulford Camp to be attached to the 3rd East Yorkshire Regiment, who are about to sail for South Africa. Captain Pembroke has been attached to the Depot in place of a Line Officer since May, 1900, and gained the respect of all ranks by his genial nature.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

We have no 1st Battalion intelligence this month from our Correspondent, who, no doubt, owing to the move of the Battalion from Aden, has found little time to gather notes. We learn that the Battalion arrived at Malta on 24th February, and glad to get away from Aden.

Certificates of education have been awarded as follows:—

1st Battalion—1st class, Pte. H. Parkinson. Passed in group 1, for first class, Lce.-Corpl. G. Harris. 2nd class, Corpl. J Smith, Lce.-Corpl. (Dr.) B. Baker, Lce.-Corpl. S. Eley, Lce. Corpl. H. Stevens, Lce.-Corpl. A. Pearson, Lce.-Corpl. A. Humphrey, Lce.-Corpl. W. Keleher, Pte. G. Brooker, Pte. G. Collier, Pte. R. Wood, Pte. H. Say, Pte. E. Davis, Dr. J. Highton.

SPECIMEN OF INDIAN LETTER WRITING.

To Surgeon Hashabi Regt, Aden.

SIR,

Please give me Rupees (2) two only, as I have some urgently required, and I want borrow, I will return on my pay.

Yours obediently servant,

(i.e.) YOUSAF.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.
30th January, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

January has not been an exciting month for us, perhaps because we are living more in the future than the present, and looking somewhat grudgingly at time still spent in this country, though at the same time, when the day does come for us to leave, we should like to feel that the war is completely over. Dickeson and Co., the contractors, who may be trusted to know all moves at least two months before they are thought of in the War Office, tell us we are going to Mhow, and according to their list we are 5th on the roster; so those who know best tell us we shall leave in March or April. I remember in September, 1900, we got every authentic information that we were for India, but we are still here, so perhaps 1904 will still see us here, happy in the knowledge that we are for India "next month."

We are by no means out of the world here; quite the reverse. Scarcely a day passes without some new column dropping in asking to be fed. During the last two weeks we have had Rimington's, Byng's, Rawlinson's, Garratt's, Wilson's, Dunlop's and Jarvis' columns circulating round us, and they all tell us the same tale, that the Boers still left in the field are all stout fighting men and "slimmer" than ever. We have seen something of the new Royal Artillery Mounted Rifles (don't call them M.I.), and though new to the work and largely mounted on their original battery "hairies," we are told they go hard and stop at nothing.

Other people of strange ranks and denominations unknown to the Orderly Room at home pass through—O.C. Steam Transport, S.O.T., Civilian Wheelwright Brown, Water Borer Jones, Civilian Fencer Robinson—we see them all here.

On the 16th Capt. Venables arrived at Heilbron and took over command of D and F Companies from Capt. Buckle, who is now on his way to the Staff College.

D and F Companies have now rejoined the regiment from Col. Wilson's column. They have taken part in two night marches during the last week, and no doubt their correspondent will furnish you with interesting details of their adventures.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor "Queen's Own Gazette."

No longer is the wing with Col. Garratt in existence. On December 15th orders were suddenly received that we were to proceed to Ingogo and entrain for Heilbron. We were then encamped and entrenched on the veldt some ten miles west of Botha's Pass, and about twenty-four miles from Ingogo. Luckily for us, Colonel Garratt had to send his empty ox-convoy into Newcastle for supplies, so on the morning of 16th December we started off at 4 a.m., riding on the wagons for about eighteen miles of the journey, and then branched off to Ingogo on foot. Very sorry we were to say good-bye to all our friends in the New Zealand and Bushmen contingents.

There was no novelty about our journey to Heilbron which took from about mid-day on the 17th to about 4 p.m. on the following day. The men packed like sardines in open trucks, and the officers in a very stuffy guard's-van.

Some few of us had raised hopes that we were being ordered to Heilbron to rejoin the regiment prior to going to India, but soon found our mistake, and were not surprised although disappointed.

After resting at Heilbron one day, H Company, under Captain Lowe and Lieutenant Norman, started off by march route to Frankfort, there to join headquarters and take over block houses.

On the following day the remainder of the late wing marched out to Brakolei and stayed the night there; E Company, under Major Brock Hollinshead and Lieutenant Johnstone, going on to Krom-Spruit, and half the Volunteer Company with Captain Latter going on to Frankfort. A Company, under Lieutenant Kitson, and the rest of the Volunteers, under Lieutenant Holcroft, remaining at Brakolie.

This finishes the account of the break up of the wing, and I will now endeavour to tell you about our life and doings at this post—Brakolie.

Brakolie was once a farm built near a dam, and now is a strong fortified post with stone walls studded with loopholes. One room of the old farm is still standing, and is used as the officers' mess. It is the headquarters of No. 1 sub-section of the Heilbron-Frankfort block house line. The sub-section consists of block houses Nos. 10 to 18, and a strong but small fort about a mile away off the line. Nos. 10, 11, and 12 are garrisoned by the Volunteers, and the remainder by A Company. Brakolie itself having the balance of A Company and Volunteer Company. Heilbron is about twelve miles away on our west, and Krom-Spruit eight miles on our east.

In addition to finding a sentry day and night, the garrisons of block houses have plenty of work to do. A trench, as an obstacle to wagons, is being dug between block houses, and every man does 3 hours work at this daily, then the wire entanglements have frequently to be repaired and strengthened, especially after rain and heavy storms which are prevalent at this time of year. The trench which runs round every block house, and in which the sentry patrols by night, often has inches, I may say feet, of water in it, and requires several hours work bailing out. All round and about the block house must be kept scrupulously clean, or the health of the garrison would soon suffer, and, finally, carcasses of animals, horses and oxen, which fall out daily from passing convoys and columns, and invariably select some spot close to a block house on which to expire, have to be dragged away and burnt or buried.

Brother Boer is frequently seen by day on distant sky lines and several times at night we have had the pleasure of his company a good deal closer. In fact during the nights when there was little or no moon, sniping more or less severe invariably took place.

On January 4th, blockhouses Nos. 10—13 were heavily engaged for over two hours with about 60 of the enemy, who were on both sides of the blockhouse line. Evidently a crossing of the line was intended, but owing to a Boer showing a lantern, presumably as a signal, the alarm was given to the sentry at No. 12 blockhouse, who opened fire on the light, and was greeted by an answering volley. Sergeant Spence and Corpl Muir, of the Volunteers, are in charge of Nos. 12 and 11 respectively, and they bore the brunt of the Boer's attack, and by the able defence they made prevented the Boers crossing, and although both blockhouses show numbers of places where they were hit, we had no casualties. It was a pitch-dark night and it is impossible to say if the Boers suffered, but there is every reason to think they did, because on two occasions they rushed close up to No. 12 and groans were heard on their retiring.

On the early morning of 8th January the Boers again annoyed the same blockhouses, and again were driven off.

Then on the night of 10th January other blockhouses, viz, Nos. 15, 16, and 17, had a dose of it. Firing was very brisk from 9.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m, and after that until 3 a.m, sniping went on. No. 16 blockhouse, in charge of Lance-Corpl. Davis, A Company, on this occasion bore the brunt of the firing, and is mainly responsible for the driving off of the enemy.

Since we have been here we have received a large consignment of most useful and acceptable gifts from England, and heartily thank all the donors. We also get our mails with a certain amount of regularity, which we were far from doing when on the trek. But blockhouse life is not all joy. One gets very tired of the monotony of it all. This post is a recognised halting place, and as columns are numerous about this district we daily have visitors from all branches of the service, and do hear a little of what is going on in other parts of the country.

BRAKOLIE CORRESPONDENT.

Brakolie, near Heilbron,
28th January, 1902.

WITH G COMPANY.—BLOCKADERS IN BLOCKHOUSES.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.,
1st February, 1902.

SIR,—G Company now hold the eastern line of the blockade line from Frankfort en route to Taffel Kop, commencing at No, 1 across the Wilge River to No. 10, and each is garrisoned by one N.C.O. and ten men. Perhaps a few words regarding the daily routine would be acceptable. An excellent scheme of sentry-go is in vogue, viz., each of the ten men doing two hours sentry in rotation, thus obtaining a clear 18 hours immunity from duty. The walls of the blockhouses are three feet thick from interior to exterior, the space being filled up with earth and stones, and a wire fence running from blockhouse to blockhouse. A cat could scarcely cross without alarming a sentry. A small water cistern, three boxes ammunition, a 40lb. tin of Spratt's dog biscuits, a 30lb. box preserved meat; an ugly blot on the veldt. Picture this to yourself gentle reader, and you have at once the 2nd Queen's Own to a nicety, now doing duty on the long and monotonous lines of communications. At half an hour before daybreak the sentry calls the garrison to arms, and all anxiously scan the surrounding skylines, for any Boers on the prowl, until the sun appears red in the eastern sky Then all, with a growl of dissatisfaction at no one to say good morning to with the ding-flop of the Mauser, creep back into their tenement, putting their rifles and equipment under each man's individual loophole. And then the interior morning greetings commence, generally as follows:—"Boers be 'd——d,' this is the 150th morning and no Boers. What are we, pies, eh?" Then the Corporal chimes in just to pour oils on troubled waters, "Well, they'll come one of these fine mornings." "Yes," reiterates the old "swat," "so will the end of the war when we are all grey-headed, etc." Then the routine of the long and blistering day commences. Perhaps No. 5 may be lucky enough to secure a sniping shot at something black moving about on No. 2 skyline about three miles away. Maybe Bro. Boer, but more likely an old trek oxen who has seen better days. But still, what don't kill may frighten. The silent hours of night are, of course, trying to the nerves, especially when there is no moon. These are the nights Bro. Boer often tries to face the blockade by cutting the wires between blockhouses. But he has to be as lively as the proverbial flea, because the blockaders have a nasty knack of aiming low, and a concentrated fire from the house right and left is apt to disconcert anyone being in a great hurry to catch up a stray commando. Three times per week each tenement receives their rations from headquarters, and the numbers of Boer ponies captured, and which are not included in the ration indent of each, I am afraid does not figure in the General Commanding in Chief's weekly report on captured cattle. Some readers may say, "What good are ponies to a blockhouse?" "Thereby hangs a tale." Mails and canteen stores arrive periodically from Heilbron, so occasionally also a barrel of beer, then ponies are urgently required to fetch perhaps a letter from a loved one, but some come in with a gallon jar slung each side of the saddle with a coat strap to fetch the cheering pint, like the Gilpin of old, a pint of beer being allowed per man to all who care to fetch it on payment. There is as yet not a telephone on our line, but if the barrel arrives here at 10 a.m., by 11 a.m. the ponies and jars arrive at the scratch, sweating, steaming at every pore. Talk of Marconi, he ain't in it with G Co.'s wireless telegraphy. And so, dear readers, the weary days pass in their regularity, till at last the order comes again, "trekk." Perhaps I may be excused for quoting Edgar Wallace's last words in his short biography of the regimental doings. "Whose only claim to the public notice is, there's none better in the wide, wide world."

F.G.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I hope you and your readers will excuse the reserve which has characterised the M.I. Company regarding the publication of its doings, to the West Kent world. As a matter of fact we are, on the whole, a bashful community, and not having taken part in any big bloody battles, have hung on for something to turn up, but without result. So with a rather awkward bow, feeling that we have come in late and that all eyes are on us, we beg you to make as much allowance as possible while we attempt to recapitulate our doings with Colonel Western's column.

The column, which was originally "Williams," has had our patronage now for 12 months, and under the command of Lieut. (now Captain) Bonham Carter we, the West Kent M.I., had some really lively times both in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal, but have been wonderfully lucky in respect of casualties. Pte. Pocock, who was wounded in March, 1901, being the only case until Corpl. (now Sergt.) Saunders met a pill in July, and Pte Binder in August. The latter, we regret to hear, had his arm amputated; the others were more fortunate, and as far as we can gather, are quite intact.

Captain Pack Beresford took command in July and under him we had a rather unique experience, viz.:—30 men attacked 300 Boers—don't laugh please, for this is what actually happened, although we may not have been quite aware of it at the time. The result was that nine of our men were captured (one being wounded and four of the others' horses being killed.) To balance this we returned to camp with three wagons with teams and five Cape carts, all laden with supplies and families, the latter were in the majority and the Boers seemed far more willing to lose them than the former. The "farmer chaps" had two killed and we believe a proportionate number of wounded.

Captain P. B. left us at the end of September, sick, with a promise to return in four months time and Mr. Grant then assumed command.

Since 10th of July last, up to date, (about 6 months) we have trekked 2384 miles. This is according to a reliable diary and a map which the I.D. informs us must not be considered as absolutely accurate. At any rate it will give an idea that we are something like the people on the armoured train—don't catch many Boers but see a lot of life.

Our latest acquaintance is a certain Colonel Rochfort—you may have heard of him, if not, you will very soon. He has charge of four columns and has lately elected to trek at intervals with us ; and doesn't he go ! The other day he took us 80 miles in 22 hours on 6lbs of corn per horse, our own food also in the nose bags—when this was consumed after the march we had to dine on green peaches and prickly pears, a favourite meal of the Boers I believe. It is surprising how well we all look. Everybody advocates vegetarianism, in preference to "bully" on the march.

We are now down on our knees in Coffyfontein, praying to the Lord K. to send us more horses by wire, that we may continue the chase after a certain small command from which we took about 40 saddles and three men the other day.

IKONA.

Westerns Column,
24-1-02.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

On February 25th the funeral took place at Maidstone Cemetery, with full military honours, of Lieut.-Colonel Brodie, medical officer at the Maidstone Barracks. Deceased, who resided at Buckland Hill, died on 21st February, from pneumonia, following influenza, and his death is much regretted by the officers and men at the Depot, by whom he was much respected. He had served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in India, Bermuda, and other foreign stations, and came to Maidstone about a year ago from Ireland.

Nearly 500 troops assembled in Buckland Road at half-past one, and crowds of people thronged the principal streets. The coffin, on which were the Union Jack and a number of beautiful wreaths, together with the deceased officer's helmet and sword, was conveyed on a gun carriage drawn by six horses from the 131st Battery, Chatham. Six representative officers acted as pall bearers—Colonel Brock, commanding 50th Regimental District ; Colonel G. D. Leake, P.M.O Thames District ; Major Eyre, Army Pay Department ; Capt. Hotham, R.W.K. ; Surg.-Lieut.-Colonel Boyce, 1st V.B., R.W.K. ; and Capt. Oliver, Maidstone Co. Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers).

As the procession started, the Volunteer band performed Harpman's Funeral March, and through the town Chopin's splendid "Funeral March" was rendered by the Depot band, who subsequently played with grand effect the Dead March in Saul. The Rev. Father Le Bosquet conducted the burial service according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. At the conclusion three volleys were fired over the grave, and the "Last Post" was sounded by the buglers.

The Sergeants of the Depot and the Sergeants of the Maidstone Companies 1st Volunteer Battalion met in friendly competition in games recently, with the result that the Depot won by 24 points to 18.

The series of winter dances have been held in the Gymnasium and have passed off successfully, the arrangements being carried out to the satisfaction of both hosts and guests.

Father Christmas made his annual visit to the children at the Depot on 8th January and delighted them immensely. To give a detailed report we must begin at the beginning. First an assembly was made at the Sergeants' mess, which meant a procession across the square behind the band. This march must have given the children an appetite for the next item—the tea—which was enjoyed thoroughly. To those who had the arranging of the tables, and the heavy work of cutting up of bread and cake does the honour belong—the work of distributing it and inducing those sitting down to "just one more" was undertaken by many willing hands. After tea Punchinello made his appearance and kept the children in a state of excitement and laughter until the appearance of twinkling stars denoted the presence of a monster Christmas tree, the lights rose higher and higher until at last, when Punch had had his say, the curtains were thrown back disclosing Father Christmas and his protege, a good fairy, who introduced the subject of why good Father Christmas came to visit the good children and to cheer the little ones The old man's words of advice might be, with advantage, taken by the parents as well as the youngsters. I think the expectation of presents interested the latter most at the time. Colonel and Mrs. Brock must have felt that their efforts had not been in vain to make the evening a most successful one, and on behalf of those who were entertained we take this opportunity of thanking them and also to thank all who had a hand in the arrangements. The band contributed in no little degree to the success of the evening, and all thoroughly enjoyed the romp which preceded the final scene of buns and oranges.

Mrs. Whatman, treasurer of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Maidstone Branch, desires to acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £9 from the Officers, 2nd Battalion.

Colonel T. H. Brock acknowledges with many thanks the sum of £1 for the furnishing of the Regimental Institute at the Depot, from Lieut. Isacke.

What was described as "A Grand Tivoli and Promenade Concert," was given in the Maidstone Corn Exchange on Monday evening in aid of the local Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. It goes without saying that the effort was an undeniable success, if one judges success by the size of the audience. It was a great gathering of all sorts and conditions of men—and women, and that they enjoyed themselves and the musical feast provided need not be discussed. To the promoters of the effort belong great credit. They were the Sergeants of the Depot and the Sergeants of the West Kent Volunteers, namely :—Sergt. Nicholls (chairman), Sergt.-Instr. Evans, Sergt. Upton, Sergt. Meades (all of the Volunteers), Col.-Sergt. Botting, Col.-Sergt. Pearson, Bandmaster Gee, Sergt. Blount (of the Depot), together with Bandmaster Hunt, who, as hon. sec., did excellent work. The programme was a long one, and it will be sufficient for our purpose if only a few of the numbers are referred to. The band of the 1st Vol Batt. R.W.K. Regiment commenced proceedings with a march from Wagner's "Tannhauser," and the band of the 2nd Batt. R.W.K. Regiment played a selection from "The Messenger Boy" in the course of the first part. Miss Angora Williams, although suffering from a cold, sang with great success that most florid and trying of songs, "Il Bacio," and Mr. F. Clements amused the audience with some comic effusions. Miss Bessie Jones did well in the song "Maisie," and later on joined Mr. Frank Watson in the duet, "The Toys." The Volunteer Band opened the second part with a waltz, Miss Bessie Jones following with the excerpt from "The Messenger Boy," "When the boys come home again." Then Mr. Frank Watson gave a humourous song, "The Bassoon." The other items included a selection from

"Maritana" by the 2nd Battalion Band, the song, "The honeysuckle and the bee," by Miss Bessie Jones, and the humorous song, "Can't you take my word?" by Mr. Fred Clements, etc. Balance sheet:—Income: Subscriptions, £4 9s. 6d.; advertisements, £1; paid for admission, £28 5s.; seats, £1 8s.; programmes sold, 15s. 4d.; Mr. Meades for catering, £1 1s.; total, £36 18s. 10d. Expenditure: Vocalists, £7 2s.; printing, £4 8s.; hire of Corn Exchange, etc., £1 15s.; refreshments for bands, £1; boys selling programmes, 2s. 7d.; secretary's expenses, 15s.; balance in hand, £21 16s 3d.; total, £36 18s. 10d

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Captain F. H. Hotham has joined the Depot for duty.

Sergt. Sharpe, Corpl. Denton, Lce.-Sergts. Minchin and Jarrad and 192 men proceeded on the 28th February to the Royal Albert Dock for embarkation for Malta, to join the 1st Battalion under charge of Captain O'Dowda.

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v. ECCLES.—This league fixture was played on the Depot ground on Saturday, 15th ult., before a good number of spectators, the largest that have been there this year. The committee had taken steps to have the ground cleared of snow, but the kick-off did not take place till quarter to four. The Depot won the toss, and were soon attacking, and after about a quarter of an hour's play the first goal fell to them. This aroused the visitors, and after a short time they managed to equalise. This was all the scoring in the first half. In the second half the visitors were the first to score, but very soon after the Depot equalised, each side trying hard for the winning goal, but when the whistle blew the result was a draw, two goals each.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHARITY CUP.

v. SOUTHBOROUGH.—This fixture was played on the Depot ground, before a good number of spectators, on Saturday, 27th ult. The Depot won the toss, and at once started to press, and after about a quarter of an hour's play the first goal fell to them from the foot of Mr. Lister. Give-and-take play was the order for some time, but just before half-time the visitors equalised with a good shot. The second half was very evenly contested, both teams trying their utmost to score, but try as they could, neither team succeeded in adding to the score, and the game was left drawn at one goal each. The teams should have played an extra half hour, but the Southborough captain refused to play, and the matter came before the Trustees on Tuesday evening at Tunbridge Wells, when it was decided that the match be replayed on the Depot ground on Saturday.

GAMES COMPETITION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.

Last month I sent you an account of a pleasant convivial evening which was spent by the Corporals of the Depot with their brother Corporals of the 1st Vol. Batt. I now forward you the result of our second meeting with them. The scene of the enconnter was at the "Rose" Inn, and as was the case last time, the first part of the evening was spent in contesting games, which this time did not result in a victory for the Depot Corporals, as the Volunteers managed to secure the one game necessary to win them the contest.

The second part of the evening was spent in harmony, and some very good sentimental and comic songs were sung, Lance-Corpls. P. Walker and H Smith, of the Depot, being deservedly encored for "All along the rails" and "Patsy Hooligan" respectively. Corpl. Harding, jun., of the Volunteers, ably rendered "Who will look after my children" in most praiseworthy style. Great praise is also due to Corpl. Hibbert (Depot), who ably presided at the piano. The evening closed with the customary toasts, and all retired thoroughly well satisfied and pleased with their night's entertainment.

A.L.B., LCE.-CPL.

OBITUARY.

Major Philip Limborch Tillbrook, who has died at Greylands, Ashburton, Devon, in his seventy-first year, served for a time in the 50th (Queen's Own) Regiment, taking part in the campaign in the Crimea, in the siege of Sebastopol, from August 22nd, 1855, till the fall of the fortress.

Major Robert Waters Coombs, commanding the Details, 2nd Battalion Northampton Regiment, and late of the Royal West Kent Regiment, who died at his post on the 6th January of pneumonia, was buried, in accordance with his wish expressed shortly before his death, not in the family vault at Hastings but in the quiet little cemetery half way down the Verne Hill. What fitter grave for an honest, God-fearing soldier than to be buried among the men he loved and by those whom he loved so well, and by whom he was so deeply respected and esteemed. Amongst all the men in the Garrison and those outside who knew him Major Coombs was known as one of the best. He was in the West Kent Regiment twenty years ago, and retired soon after his marriage. Owing to the scarcity of officers at present, he came up off the reserve of officers and took duty with the Northamptons.—*Southern Times.*

6998 Private J. Bodycomb, of the 2nd Volunteer (Active Service) Company Royal West Kent Regiment, writing from Frankfort, to his old schoolmaster, Mr. J. B. Groom, of St. Paul's, Maidstone, says:—"We are now having a rest, doing garrison duty in Frankfort, after three months' hard work on trek with Colonel Garratt's column. His column did some splendid work whilst we were on it. He says he was very sorry to part with the West Kent Regiment, for he said they were the best regiment of infantry he has ever had with him, and he has specially recommended us to Lord Kitchener. Yesterday (Sunday, December 29th, 1901) De Wet got a severe smash-up by Colonel Darlington, but the colonel did not succeed in taking any of his guns I hope you enjoyed yourself all right this Christmas, and I hope you will do the same the New Year. We had a very pleasant time this year, for we had a Christmas pudding given to us by Lord Kitchener, which was very nice indeed, for we had been having biscuits and bully beef for our meals. J. Plackett (another old St. Paul's boy) has been promoted to a lance-corporal out in Viljoen's Drift, and has turned out to be a very good non-com. I expect we shall soon be home again, as there is a rumour here that the regiment is to sail for India early next month, and if that is so we shall soon be leaving South Africa."

We have received some verses from Rodney "B," which we regret being unable to find room for.—EDITOR.

THE AD-DAREJA FIELD FORCE.

By One of the Pawns.

(Continued).

Owing to pressure on our space lately, we have been compelled to hold over the continuation of this narrative.

The force marched daily, and on 23rd July arrived at Musemir the headquarters of the Haushabi Sultan. Here a temporary base was formed, and Lieut. Annesley, who had since joined, was left in command, with 50 men

The following day's march brought us to Mileh, only 6 miles from the village of Ad-Dareja, and, on account of our close proximity to the enemy, stricter precautions for the safety of camp were put in force, and in the afternoon a reconnaissance of the enemy's position was carried out by all the staff and commanding officers, the enemy being discovered still in possession of the village and adjacent heights, and it was decided to drive him out on the following morning.

The night before the battle! What emotions this arouses in the breast of the British soldier, as, lying on his blanket under the starlit canopy of heaven, he thinks of the coming fray. It is a time when his past life opens before him like a book, and perhaps the review may not be altogether complimentary to himself; his every fault stands out clearly, and causes him pangs of regret, and as his thoughts carry him to the loved ones at home he somehow feels that he might have done better by them; it is a critical period in the soldier's existence, for, though he might feel no fear regarding his own safety, yet some strange presentiment seems to tell him that when to-morrow's fight is over, and the roll is called, some will fail to respond; perhaps some dear comrade of his, for whom he has a more than ordinary affection, and, amid such gloomy reflections, he woos the goddess of slumber in vain. Sleep is indeed a blessing on such occasions, for, as a rule, all emotions are dispelled when the eventful morning arrives, and each one is eager to try conclusions with his country's foes.

Such was the state of affairs on the morning of 26th July; everyone seemed light hearted as they trudged along cracking the usual dry jokes, and even wading the river twice did not appear to damp the humour of the habitual funny man.

The force arrived within a mile of the enemy's position soon after 8 a m., when a halt was called for breakfast, and also to enable Major Rowe to perfect his plans for the assault, a by no means easy task with so few troops at his disposal, as only about 500 fighting men were available for the purpose.

It was not until 11.30 a.m. that the plan of campaign was disclosep to us, when Lieut. Macnee, 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, who was in command of No. 3 Company, to which I belonged, explained how the assault was to be carried out. In order to give the reader a better idea of the action it will be necessary for me to give a brief description of the position occupied by the enemy.

The village of Ad-Darega was built on a ridge running from N.E. to S.W., height from 80 to 100 feet above the surrounding level. Adjoining this ridge and running in a northerly direction was a higher ridge, which completely overlooked, and consequently commanded, the village.

At the eastern or lower end of the high ridge the villagers had built a square stone tower for defensive purposes. The left or western face of the higher ridge was precipitous, and it was along this western edge that the enemy had fortified his position by a series of sangars. Below these defensive works the river Mileh meandered through cultivated tracts of land. The right bank of the river at this point is flanked by a long hog-backed ridge, crowned with a formidable looking sangar. Looking up the river bed from the village the bone of contention, *i.e.*, Mohammed's tower, *could* be plainly seen at a distance of about two miles.

Presuming that we had merely come for the purpose of demolishing the tower, and probably imagining that the force would march there direct, without paying heed to the village and its surroundings, the enemy had apparently laid his plans accordingly, and very admirable plans they were, as if we could only have been induced to take the course which the enemy no doubt thought we would, viz., advance by the river bed to the tower, the force would have been exposed to a terrible cross-fire from both sides of the river at a fixed sight range.

Happily we were more enlightened as to the enemy's whereabouts, and his elaborate preparations had been made in vain. But to return to the force whom we had left ministering to the wants of the inner man.

This was to be our plan of campaign as explained to us by Lieut. Macnee, and to most of us who were listening it appeared a most admirable one, except for the fact that No. 3 Company were to escort the guns, a most unthankful billet.

The battery were to open fire on the Ad-Darega tower, under cover of which Lieut. Hastings, with Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, would assault and, if possible, carry the extreme left of the enemy's position, the tower in question being his objective.

Major Beale, with the 5th Bombay Light Infantry detachment, was to attack the village from the left, swing round his left flank, and afterwards co-operate with Lieut. Hastings in assaulting the main position on the higher ridge. The Haushabi tribesmen were ordered to crown the heights to the east and thus secure our right flank, while the Aden troop and Abdali tribe, under Capt. Parsons, were to advance by the river bed to prevent a flanking movement on our left The Bombay Sappers and Miners were kept in reserve.

Punctually at 11.54 a.m. the battery opend fire on the tower, and the occupants could be seen by those fortunate enough to obtain a view to be hastily retiring up the ridge.

Shortly after this the infantry attack developed, and the appearance of the troops advancing across the open was met with a heavy fusillade from the enemy.

Owing to the inaccuracy of the enemy's fire it did not suffice to check the advance, and while this was in progress the battery advanced to its second position, just below the village, being escorted thither by No. 3 Company.

If we had previously thought that the enemy were going to be scared by a few 7-pounder shells we were quickly disabused of any such idea, for immediately on emerging into the open the battery and its escort were met by a hot though inaccurate rifle fire, and although our chances for distinction even then appeared very remote, the more bloodthirsty members were appeased by the mere fact of discovering that the enemy were not yet beaten, and though they might have no opportunities of distinguishing themselves there was some consolation in the fact that others in a more favourable position than escort to guns probably would.

By the time the battery came into action for the second time, the right attack under Lieut. Hastings had almost reached the tower, while Major Beale, with the 5th Bombay's, had driven the enemy from the western end of the village, and was rolling his right flank completely up.

Finding his position too exposed, the Artillery Major advanced his battery still further, this time pushing on to the crest of the ridge in the upper end of the village, which by this time had been cleared of the enemy.

The 5th Bombay, up to this, had sustained two casualties, one Sepoy killed and one wounded. In clearing the village they had been materially assisted by the Aden troop and Abdali Horse under Capt. Parsons, who, moving along the left flank by the river bed, detected and defeated an attempt made by the enemy to reinforce the village from the right bank of the river.

The heights overlooking the village were gained by 2 p.m., the sangars being carried at the bayonets' point in fine style by the Royal West Kent Regiment under Lieut. Hastings.

Sergt. Ailwood and Lce.-Cpl. Ward were severely, and Pte. Clarke slightly, wounded, during the final assault. Second Lieut. Hudson was struck on the shoulder by a spent bullet. The enemy retired to some fortified ridges to the north, from which they kept up a hot and accurate fire at ranges varying from 700 to 1,000 yards. Many had narrow escapes on the ridge, which was swept by the enemy's fire, and a converging fire was also brought to bear on us from the sangar across the river. One man had his rifle shattered in his hand, while a gunner had his gun sight smashed while wearing it in his waist belt, and Lieut. Hall, R.A.M.C., had a bullet pass right through his topi, carrying away the chin strap without himself receiving a scratch.

Finding that long-range rifle fire had no effect on the enemy, the Bombay Sappers and Miners and a few men of the Queen's Own were sent down from the main ridge to a conical hill due north, from whence they could get a strong fire to bear at about 800 yards.

Three guns were brought up from the village to assist in this operation, while the other three confined their attention to the enemy across the river.

At this juncture a terrific storm broke over, and for a time the opposing forces were completely hidden from each other by the intensity of the downpour, thus necessitating a temporary cessation of hostilities. For half an hour only the storm raged, during which time the troops were soaked to the skin, and I leave their feelings to the imagination of the reader.

As soon as the storm had blown over hostilities recommenced although on the enemy's part it was but half-hearted, due, no doubt, to the rain somewhat damping his military ardour. It was only after the breaking of the storm that we were made fully aware that our opponents were Turkish Regulars and not Arabs as we had supposed them to be ; several dead bodies testified to this, and if further proof was required, two prisoners also were in our hands.

By 5.30 p.m. the enemy had retired, leaving the entire field in our hands, and it must be acknowledged by even the most prejudiced that a very creditable victory could be claimed, for against some 800 Turkish troops, posted in a good defensive position, a force of 500 British and Native troops had succeeded in driving a stubborn and well-armed enemy with a loss of four killed and eight wounded True, we were backed by a battery of almost obsolete guns, but the moral effect of these weapons did not quite fulfil expectations.

All the surrounding heights were picqueted at night, but, strange to say, not a shot was fired, and the only break in the stillness of the night was the continual blasts of Turkish bugles calling their men together.

At daybreak our Political Officer (without at least one of which no respectable Field Force can hope to achieve success) sent a politely-worded clear-out-of-it sort of note to Mohammed, demanding the evacuation of the tower and precincts, failing which he could not hold himself responsible for any means which the military commander might employ to attain the desired end.

What atrocities our commander may have had in view to bring about the surrender of the famous tower must be left to the imagination ; suffice it to say that the messenger returned with the ultimatum unopened, and reported the valley quite clear of the enemy. Lucky Mohammed.

This messenger returned soon after 7 a.m. on the morning of the 27th, and orders were at once issued for the force to advance and demolish the tower, and at about 1 p.m. the source of the annoyance was despatched skywards in a beautiful cloud of dust and smoke. Thus the object of the expedition was gained, and the troops returned to camp in the village without having seen a sign of the enemy or having a single shot fired at them, which convinced us that Brother Turk had discovered that he had more important business to transact elsewhere. Several more Turks surrendered during the course of the day, some of whom were severely wounded.

They were a deplorable looking lot, these Turks, being dressed in a very shoddy kind of uniform, and from the number of patches it was somewhat difficult to recognise which was the original garment. They were shod in a very primitive fashion with raw hide arrangements, which could hardly be termed boots.

Through an interpreter these prisoners informed us that Mohammed had led the Turkish commander at Taiz to believe that the British were attacking him in Turkish territory, and he at length placed a considerable force at the disposal of the smooth-tongued old infidel. Altogether we were opposed by 800 Turkish Regulars, the whole of Mohammed's force of 800 Zaidies, and about 400 of the Al Hamari tribe. The prisoners also said that the Turks were bringing up some field guns from their reserve, when the thunderstorm broke over and stopped them.

Later in the day a party of Arab traders arrived at Ad-Dareja from Mavia, and they reported that the Turks were very angry with Mohammed for having misled them and caused such heavy loss, 100 of their people being unaccounted for.

The Al Hamaris are reported to have bolted at the first shot, which probably accounted for the fact that the only dead bodies we saw were those of Turks.

The force was halted at Ad-Darega for nine days, during which time the surrounding country was patrolled daily, and as no signs of further hostilities were apparent, Major Rowe decided to commence the return journey. As the first march was to commence at an early hour, it was left to the discretion of the troops whether they struck their tents overnight or in the morning, and the majority struck and packed theirs overnight. Some of the more prudent, however, with a vivid recollection of the fickleness of the weather in this district, preferred to leave their canvas up till morning, and there was much wisdom in this procedure.

The author cannot claim to be possessed of so much forethought as these individuals, probably because he could lay claim to accommodation in no particular tent, so had to depend upon the favours of others, and on the particular night in question, after trying in vain to slumber on the "veldt" below the "kopje," and, spying a threatening cloud o'erhead, decided to seek shelter from the impending storm. In his perambulations he discovered a tent, struck and laying open upon the ground, between the folds of which three individuals were reclining, and they, noticing his forlorn condition, invited him to share their abode, an offer that was at once accepted. Frequent boasts were made that it could rain cats and dogs without their being affected by it, but all who know how porous canvas is rendered by being touched will foresee the fate of these clever individuals when the rain did finally arrive. It was at about one a.m., and the victims were sound asleep, when the first drops descended, and it gradually increased in volume until the occupants of this particular berth were at length aroused. They still continued to defy the elements and laughed them to scorn, until at length a faint dripping of water was perceptible beneath the canvas, but it was not until the rain descended in sheets and literally washed them out that they attempted to seek shelter beneath the wigwam of wiser men, when, like drowned rats, the four of them made a simultaneous dive into the nearest tent standing, abandoning all their belongings, which we left to the anger of the elements.

The author being the victim of this vile plot, retains vivid recollections of the incident, and is waiting an opportunity to redeem the debt in full. We finally managed to get away at two p.m. on the 4th August, amid another terrific downpoor.

At Musemir we were joined by Capt. Martyn, who had come up to take command of the detachment, and Major Rowe left us at this place to make a rapid move back to Aden in order to catch the homeward bound steamer, he having been granted 90 days' privilege leave.

The return march across the desert was not so severe as the outward one, and in due course of time the column arrived at Sheikh Othman, where they were met by General Maitland and complimented on their appearance and the successful termination of the operations. On the following morning (12th) the various units marched into Aden independently, and after an absence of only 28 days everyone was glad to get a well-earned rest, and to once again continue to wait, with hope deferred, until such time as some benevolent spirit sees fit to transport us to some more salubrious spot in His Majesty's dominions.

THE END.

Maidstonians in particular will regret to hear of the death of Bandmaster Berry, which took place on 1st March. Although he had had an attack of bronchitis, the end came very unexpectedly, as he had had a bath only a short time before Since leaving Maidstone in 1899 this popular veteran had been living at Holloway. His remains were laid to rest at Highgate Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, March 5th, and as he was born on March 5th, 1824, he was therefore buried on the 78th anniversary of his birthday. Although the funeral was a very quiet one, there were numerous old friends at the graveside.

The son of a soldier who fought under Wellington in the Peninsular War, the deceased bandmaster, in August, 1836, enlisted at Chatham in the 4th King's Own. In June, 1838, having become a drummer and fifer, he embarked at Gravesend to join his regiment at Madras. The officers of the regiment were at this time very much interested in their band, which was generally acknowledged to be one of the finest in India. The bandmaster, whose name waa Coleman, came from the Royal Artillery Band, and being pleased with the remarkable progress which young Berry had made as a fife player, he speedily promoted him to a permanency in the band. Bandsman Berry returned to England in 1848, having a year or two previously been promoted to Lance-Corporal, and was stationed at Chatham for a time. Later on the regiment was shifted to Edinburgh, where George Berry, who was then the principal clarionet player in the band, regularly played in the fine orchestra of the Adelphi Theatre. In 1853 he married, and in the following year the regiment embarked for the Crimea. He had meanwhile been made Sergeant, and assumed entire charge of the band, owing to the bandmaster, a civilian, not being required to go on active service. At the battle of Alma, Berry, like the other bandsmen, was employed as a stretcher-bearer, and a letter which he sent to his sister, giving a graphic account of that terrible fight, was one of the first of the soldiers' letters to appear in the "Times." In the spring of 1855 reinforcements came from England, and amongst those sent to the 4th King's Own were a number of young, weakly-looking lads. When the commandant of the regiment had inspected them, he said to Sergt. Berry, "Look here, it would be cruelty to take these children into the trenches, swelling the sick roll of the regiment, I will give them over to you, and see if you can make bandsmen of them." Therefore during the siege of Sebastopol, in an excavated hut, with shot and shell dropping continuonsly about, Sergt. Berry, assisted by four surviving bandmen of the regiment, was employed teaching these youths music. At the close of this protracted war, Sergt. Berry once more returned to his native land, and continued to serve as band-sergeant of the 4th King's Own until the early part of 1861, when he left the service with a pension. Towards the end of the same year he was appointed bandmaster of the West Kent Militia, a position which he held for fifteen years, and about twenty-two years ago he was selected bandmaster of the 1st Vol. Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment. On resigning in 1899, owing to failing health, he was, at the annual inspection of the battalion, and in the presence of a muster of 668, presented by Colonel Brock with a handsome carriage clock on behalf of the sergeants of the various companies, the Colonel complimenting him on his 59 years' connection with military bands.

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For the 5th time has the Volunteer Battalions been called on to furnish contingents for South Africa, and though little difficulty was experienced in raising No. 1 Company from two Volunteer Battalions it has been found difficult to raise No. 3 Company from four Battalions, and the last body instead of being a Company of 116 was only a reinforcing draft of 57. The draft was under command of Lieut. Sawers of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, and Sergt.-Instructor McRedmond proceeds as pay sergeant.

The Editor begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions to 31st December, 1902.—

Captain Moore, Secretary, Recreation Room, Beckenham; E. F. Elgood, Esq., Pte. Stoneham, Capt. Roche, Col. Churchill, Col. Bellers, Mr. Osman, Col. Isacke, Mrs. Moody, Col. Vandermeulen, Mr. Kelley, Col. Belgrave, Col. Wilson, Sergt.-Major Turner, Mr. Hoare, Mr. Redmond, Mrs. Maunsell, Mr. Rhoods, Col. Henderson, Mr. Barrow, Sergt.-Major Maynard, Mr. Geddes, Mrs. Nevard, Miss Blannin, Mrs. Coulter, Col. Clarke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Uings, Col. King, Major Jones, Col. Kitson, Mr. Hurrell, Officers 2nd Battalion to 31st Dec., 1901.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 16th Feb. the wife of Cr.-Sergt. S. Chiswell, Per. Staff, 3rd Batt., of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 31st Jan., the wife of Cr.-Sergt. C. Osborne, Depot, of a son.

At Aden, on 22nd Dec., the wife of Sergt.-Major Willis, 1st Batt., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

1st BATTALION.

At Aden, on 30th Jan., 3643 Pte. F. Neal.

2nd BATTALION.

Near Frankfort, on 29th January, 5318 Pte. J. Tucker, killed in action.

At Norvals Pont, on 30th January, 5912 Pte. H. Brown, of enteric.

At Springfontein, on 2nd Feb., 2775 Pte. J. Caplin, of enteric.

At Springfontein, on 5th Feb., 5142 Pte. W. Collison, of enteric.

At Heilbron, on 7th Feb., 4498 Sergt. J. Lewis, gunshot wound

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS :

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

Copies will be sold at 1d. per Number to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men serving with the Colours. If sent by post 1s. 6d. per year.

Extra Copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O's and Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (Postage ½d extra).

The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to "THE EDITOR, *The Queen's Own Gazette*, the Barracks, Maidstone."

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 322. MAIDSTONE, APRIL, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 4.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

LINE BATTALIONS.

Captain M. P. Buckle, D.S.O., is seconded whilst a student at the Staff College, dated 13th February, 1902.

Lieut. T. H. C. Nunn is seconded for service in South Africa, dated 25th October, 1901

Lieut. C. V. Molony to be Captain, vice Brevet-Major F. C. Marsh, seconded, dated 21st February, 1902.

Lieut. T. P. C. Smith is seconded for service in the Army Ordnance Department, dated 1st February, 1902.

Second Lieut. P. S. Hall to be Lieutenaut, vice T. P. C. Smith, dated 5th February.

Lieut. H. Isacke to be Adjutant, dated 16th November, 1901.

Lieut. J. Sawers, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, is granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant in the Army whilst serving with the Volunteer Service Company in South Africa, dated 26th March, 1902.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Clr-Sergt., Sergt. F. Croucher, 27th September, 1901.

Promoted Sergts.: Corpl. P. Kevan, 21st December, 1901; Corpl. G. West, 15th January, 1902; Lance-Sergt. W. Newland, 16th January, 1902; Lance-Sergt. E. Harper, 11th February, 1902.

Promoted Corporals: Lance-Corpls. F. Wells, 21st December, 1901; H. Smith, 23rd December, 1901; W. Roots, 27th December, 1901; T. Kevan, 3rd January, 1902; J. Beelen, 15th January, 1902; G. Stockwell, 16th January, 1902: A. Clackett, 11th February, 1902.

Appointed Lance-Sergts: Corpls. H. Bristow, 26th February, 1902; A. Jones, 26th February, 1902; E. Kirby, 26th February, 1902.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Second Lieut. L. F. Schooling to be Lieutenant, dated 19th March, 1902.

REGIMENTAL DINNER.

The ANNUAL REGIMENTAL DINNER of the LINE BATTALIONS has been fixed to take place at THE GRAND HOTEL, Trafalgar Square, London, at 8 p.m., on TUESDAY, the 17th JUNE, 1902.

Officers who intend to dine are asked to communicate without delay with Mr. H. A. Bernau, care of Messrs. Cox and Co., 16, Charing Cross, London.

As the Regimental Dinner has not taken place for three years it is hoped that all officers on leave as well as many old officers of the regiment will be present at this year's dinner.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

We should be glad to receive a continuation of Company and other notes from the 1st Battalion which ended so abruptly in February, owing to the change of station.

No. 2604 Private J. Howard has been transferred to the Lincoln Regiment.

Drummer J. Highton attains the age of 18 years.

No. 4494 Private H. Parkinson has been successful in obtaining a first class certificate of education and No. 4170 Lance-Corpl. G. Harris passed in Group I.

A 2nd class certificate of education have been awarded to Corporals J. Smith and W. Keleher, Drummers B. Baker and J. Highton, Lance-Corporals S. Ely, H. Stevens, A. Pearson, A. Humphrey, Privates G. Brooker, G. Collins, R. Wood, H. Say, and E. Davis.

Sergeant G Seaton has re-engaged for the Royal West Kent Regiment to complete 21 years' service with the colors.

Privates J. Hopkins and R. Laws have been transferred to the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment.

Sergeant D. O'Connell has re-engaged for the Royal West Kent Regiment to complete 21 years' service with the colors.

Sergeant V. Whittard has been transferred to the Home establishment: sent to England accompanying his sick wife invalided to England, and posted to the Details at Shorncliffe for duty.

Color-Sergeant J. E. Holland, Sergeant G. Ashby, and A. Outred have proceeded home to join the Auxiliary Forces; Clr.-Sergt. Holland to join the 4th Volunteer Battalion at Chatham, and Sergts. Ashby and Outred to join the 3rd Batt. at Maidstone.

A draft of 196 N.C.O.'s and men have joined from England, and brings up the effective strength of the Battalion to 777. This is 205 short of establishment, another draft may be expected from England in May.

6, JOHNSON STREET,

MILLWALL, LONDON, E,

April 13th, 1902.

DEAR SIR,

As the old chum of Arnold Jagger (late 1st Batt.), I should be very grateful if you will convey to his various friends the fact of his demise. He died peacefully on Easter Monday, March 31st, at Liverpool, of dropsy, and was cremated (by his own wish) on April 3rd. He did good service for the Regiment, as an exceptionally good telegraphist, both in Malta and India, and was respected both by his own regiment and the different corps to which he had been attached.

No person regrets his death more than does his old chum,

ALFRED BOWDEN

(late 1st Battalion).

The Editor, Queen's Own Gazette.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.,

7th March, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

February has not been a very memorable month for us, though at times our spirits have been enlivened by the approach of enormous driving lines, and the expectation of seeing the Boers forced to cross our blockhouse line in broad daylight. All through the latter part of January we knew that there were many columns moving about between ours and the Harrismith-Kroonstad line, and at the beginning of March we realized that a big combined movement was taking place right across the north-eastern portion of the O.R.C. from Harrismith to Heilbron. Our first success was on the morning of the 3rd, when Garratt captured what must be almost the last of the Boer Artillery, one 15lb. and two pom-poms. Almost mid-day on the 5th the driving line came into sight, extending for miles along the high ground on the right bank of the Liebenbergs Vlei, and a few Boers dodging about in front of it. We could see one small party of about ten Boers break back eastward through a gap in the line to which we made an unsuccessful attempt to helio. That night the line camped along the Liebenbergs Vlei, with its right on Frankfort, and the left fifty miles away somewhere near Lindley, and we heard that Steyn and De Wet were still in the net. Early on the morning of the 6th the line passed out of sight westwards, and during the day the Boers must have realised that they were in a tight place. The night of the 6th saw many attempts to break through the outpost line, and De Wet was successful in getting through the Kroonstad-Lindley blockhouse line. The 7th was an exciting day for the columns, as they were continually in touch with the Boers, many of whom were at length forced to surrender, but these in many cases had concealed their arms and ammunition in the grass, and some had shot their horses, being determined that their capture should benefit us as little as possible. On the night of the 7th the line rested with its right on Heilbron, and left on the main line, 300 men to the mile. Shortly after dark the Boers started drawing our fire with a view to locating the position of the picquets, and in this they succeeded admirably, as a tremendous fire was opened from field guns, pom-poms, musketry, and at intervals the "cow-gun" from the fort at Heilbron joined in. On the 8th, a good many Boers were secured who were hiding in the broken ground of the valley of the Rhenoster, but no doubt many were passed by. Perhaps by the end of the campaign we shall be supplied with some breed of keen-scented hound trained to drag Boers from their lurking-places. Something of the sort is essential to find an enemy who, when cornered crawls down an ant-bear hole or goes to the nearest pool, immerges himself under the weeds, and sits placidly on the bottom breathing through a long reed. At least this is what they tell us. We were also told that the total bag for this drive was Steyn and 1,800 Boers. This was correct if we take away Steyn and divide the remainder by 5. After a few days' rest the columns got into line again and passed eastwards, moving with their right on the north of our blockhouse line, and then wheeling to the right and sweeping the country on to the Van Reenan-Harrismith line. While moving towards Harrismith south of the Frankfort-Vrede line about the night of the 23rd, a determined body of the Boers led by the same men who bore the brunt of the fight at Tweefontein smashed through the outposts, inflicting severe loss on Garratt's New Zealanders, and once more De Wet was out of immediate danger of capture. We hardly expected this drive to be productive of great results, so it came as a pleasant surprise to hear that on the last two days when the net was drawn tight it was found to contain about 800 Boers and a very large amount of cattle and sheep. We were afraid that after this it would be necessary for the columns to take a rest after their previous exertions which would of course give the Boers equally a chance of recovering from their hustling, but in a few days we heard that the line was on the move, and once more our blockhouse line was reinforced by intermediate posts of the Leinsters between each blockhouse. The driving line came up to us yesterday without bringing any Boers in front of it, but we have just heard that the Canadian Scouts under Ross made a fine haul in a cave near Tafelkop, which must have been the local Boer arsenal. A quantity of Krupp ammunition and fuzes, and 300,000 rounds of S.A.A., largely Martini-Henry. A few more weeks of this sort of work and the columns will find their occupation gone as far as their part of the country is concerned; but the theatre of war is a big place, and there is plenty of room for the last two or three thousand Boers to cause no small trouble before they are finally brought to bay. India seems as far off as ever from us. March was the month which we expected would see us well on our way there, but by this time we ought to have learnt the maxim that in war it is always the unexpected that happens.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

"NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE."

Lord Kitchener, in his Tweebosch despatch, tells of the heroic death of Lieut. Nesham, 38th Battery R.F.A., who, the last man left standing of his gun section, was called upon to surrender, and, refusing, died. By a singular coincidence, we are in the position to tell the story of the death of a private of the Royal West Kent Regiment,* unnamed by the officer who sends the account, which forms an exact parallel:—

"We lost a man killed near Frankfort two days ago (January 30). Fifty of our men went out with a column They had a stiff fight, and this man was wounded in the leg. He made tracks for the ambulance, but before he could get to it, forty or fifty Boers came over a ridge close to him. They shouted to him to put up his hands, but he refused, and, taking cover behind an adjacent rock, held the whole lot off until his ammunition was exhausted They rode up to him and again called upon him to surrender. He again refused, and standing up, received their volley, falling with ten bullets through his body. One more instance in this war of the many who, though wounded, and without chance of escape, have preferred death to surrender."

These incidents ought to be written in letters of gold at this time of facile surrender. Will anyone say that such as Lieut. Nesham and this unnamed hero have thrown away their lives uselessly? It will be a bad day for the nation when such an opinion comes to be held.

* The death of No. 5318 Pte. J. Tucker was reported as having taken place at Frankport, on 29th Jan., 1902. Probable he is the man referred to.—*(Ed. Q.O.G.)*

2ND BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

Pte. J. Kelly and Sergt. A. E. Wood have been permitted to re-engage for the Royal West Kent Regiment to complete 21 years service with the colours.

Colour-Sergt. F. Croucher has been permitted to extend his service to complete 12 years with the colours.

Sergt. G. Holden has been re-transferred to the Army Reserve in South Africa.

Lance-Corporal A. Moss has passed in Group I. for a first class certificate of Education.

EXTRACT FROM A PRIVATE LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE FRONT.

———: o :———

"These men are wearing down to the hardened and practiced level which was the chief factor in the calculations of Wellington."

They just watch and wait, wait and watch, patiently noting the different methods of the New Zealanders and the cavalrymen (equally brave, but somewhat different in organisation and elasticity), and again the raw "towney" from London, with mystic shoulder numerals, who rides along with apparent unconcern, feeling secure, surrounded by the Tommies and the tough looking veterans from every corner of the Empire, and having annexed, with or without permission, from the columns such articles of usefulness as they may require later on in the blockhouse, they wait on patiently for any Free Staters who may come along to dispute their right there.

Each blockhouse is just a little wired-in, isolated fort out on the veldt, connected only by a strand or two of wire, with another just like it about a mile away. Each little isolated fort forages for its own fuel and draws its own water, two necessaries of life which cannot be got home easily. Then here is your soldier if you want to see him. Fuel and water being necessary to the fort's existence, so equally necessary or important became its transportation. Not a bit "held up," these eagle-eyed, large-hearted, tramp-looking khaki men sail in, together with much good-humoured (both useful and useless) advice to the blockhouse mechanic, and in a day or two a light-hearted Tommy, with open shirt and sleeves rolled up, wearing his helmet "about face," no boots on, jumps up and drags out for inspection a creaking-wheeled, ricketty vehicle of wire wood and sheet-iron, a perfect monument of resource and necessity—a water-cart. Here is a treat now for the Coronation parade.

If the Strand could only be the scene of this procession as they challenge each other to a chariot race, coming in to headquarters on Frankfort Kopje on a "stores-in" day, nine miles away from "home," for Quaker Oats, tinned mysteries, and "fags," I'll go bail the ladies would scream and laugh hysterically, while the sterner sex would remove their pipes and cigars, cheer like the dickens, and say "Well, I'm ———, or words to that effect. We're pretty used to the spectacle now, but the improvements! Each time I notice any, only help to make the original funnier still, and I'm sure the guard tent cat laughs.

A certain N.C.O. (call him "Pat" for short) collected from a square radius of about twelve miles, wheels, axles, wood, wire, and odds and ends enough to build a Cape cart. The shaft was made of two joined field telegraph-poles. The blockhouse thoroughly deserves the right to advertise itself as "Coach-builders, Wheelwrights, &c." Painted green, the cart looked a triumph. Pat also hunted out from some place two sets of harness, which he repaired and made trekkable with barbed wire, string, and home-made rivets. Having got thus far, the next important thing to consider was horseflesh, a difficulty overcome with the desire utmost.

Having recently returned, I thought I'd like to see my Company "at home," so I ventured to suggest that the Cape cart would be the means of transport, as the total journey would be about 17 miles.

Up came "Pat" and the green Cape cart at the appointed hour to carry me off. I had certain misgivings of my own when I first looked upon the steeds. I am not capable of judging an animal's good or well defined points, but I most certainly could count them.

However, I was happy enough to have a seat behind them, and off we went, Pat, meanwhile, between the puffs of his "Queen's pipe," extolling the "excellince of thim," tumbling over rocks and ant-hills with a gay laugh, both of us in high spirits.

We first visited "Gibraltar," Pat's exceedingly well fortified blockhouse, visiting the chicken run, the dogs' home, and last, but not by any means least, the pantry and cooking range. I had previously but indiscreetly boasted of having a cooking range on our armoured train, but Pat replied with withering sarcasm, "Hang on, you, half a mo' till ye see moine," and when I saw the cook watching his camp kettle of wholesome stew, and the jam tart browning up in the oven, I dropped back a few pegs

and meekly took my seat in the cart and started off to blockhouse No. 2.

This No. 2 was the home of "ten more sons of the veldt." Some were stiffening up the tension wire, and tightening the "uncuttable strands" (which is it, one or two t's?") So on all along the line, each garrison turning out with his pipes and fags on, looking anything but unhappy, but most decidedly unpicturesque enough for a trooping colours parade.

Before I had gone far I became convinced that the penalty for cutting or tampering with their wires at night is "death, or less punishment."

By this time I was getting sore. I can't forget that bump-jerk and tumble-over ride in Pat's green Cape cart. I sat on him unexpectedly so many times that he asked with a large grin "what was wrong with me, dancing around the deck like a ping-pong ball." But I could only breathlessly answer "Go on, I'll die game," settling back with a bang in my own seat at the bottom of the next ant-hill.

Having collected and transported to No 7 blockhouse some picks and hammers for obvious purposes, we commenced the return journey, being pulled up a hill by a mule wagon team, which fortunately came along when our stallions jibbed—their just protest against trekking at full speed on an "oatless" stomach. They, however, get plenty of oats of the "long" kind, but even horses, with points! will jib.

I finally decided ere we reached Head-Quarters again that I would get a gee-gee for myself, and after this "Icona Cape carts," and I had a preliminary venture on a borrowed one from a blockhouse (each blockhouse having two or more). I succeeded in getting one from some niggers, near the camp, saddle and all complete. With my little pony carrying a saddle about eight sizes too large, and turned up at each end, I triumphantly rode up to the sergeants' mess (a construction of broken telegraph poles and sail cloth), and one certain member, after a careful scrutiny, offered me 5d. for the lot complete. As everybody was enjoying the laugh at my expense, I took another look and decided that it certainly was rather Quixotic. We called it "Piccannin," but he stood there meekly taking it all in, while I tried to raise the starting price, Piccannin looked as if the huge saddle were going to break him in two.

I place on record my first ride on a South African charger, which was accomplished in fine style, without breaking anything but the charger's heart, although I think it might have felt more pleased, in fact quite giddy, with the number of erratic and spontaneous hugs I gave it as we wended our way.

Anyway, I lived on to tell the tale alright, and am going to borrow another horse presently, which they assure me is "like a lamb." I shall probably find it more like a springbok.

In this country the horse is guided simply and effectually by laying the rein on the left neck if you desire to go to the right, but somehow or other I got mixed, either in intention or in the manipulation of the reins, and brought down nearly the whole of a "dining-room" outside a blockhouse, whereupon the "Qneen's Own" Royal West Kent Blockhouse M.I. uttered uncomplimentary things concerning rocking-horses and mokes and other unkind things, setting the ugly-looking strong-lunged lurcher at us as we cantered away, the wretched thing barking at our heels. Knowing the bull-terrier's value at night I refrained from dismounting for a timely brick. Getting into a stride, I "froze on" to the fore part of the saddle with one hand and lifted my helmet with the other, nearly falling off and damaging something in doing so.

I now, therefore, begin to pride myself as a cavalryman, but I don't count in these parts. My accomplishments are "nil," as *everybody* can ride like a steeplechaser, and the hungry Dutchmen who prowl about for a new suit know it.

"Want a Scotch cart!" somebody said, and I replied in the affirmative, of course. I was then directed to a farm not a yard less than seven miles away, receiving the particulars of the exact spot in which it could be found (a river bed), with more information also of 26 pigs and an orchard of ripe peaches.

They generally locate some Boers on their escapades, and the Royal West Kent Blockhouse M.I. can tell stories of how they stalk the Dutchman who won't be stalked (although they did bag one), retiring again with the possible "game" dinner of the Boers, under the capable leadership of No. 500000 Pte. Atkins, T., G.C., Badges-nil. More about horses next time.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.

The great practical interest which Mr and Mrs. E. J. Elgood, of the Manor House, Sidcup, and Miss Elgood have manifested on behalf of our soldiers and sufferers by the war was again evinced this week by the entertainment organized in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association at the Public Hall. The Hon. Mrs. Robert Marsham-Townshend and Mrs. Elgood, vice-presidents of the Sidcup and Foots Cray branch of the Bromley Division of the Association, and Captain R. A. Vansittart, J.P. (late hon. secretary to the Association for West Kent), and Mrs. Vansittart, and the Ladies Augusta and Eleanor Pratt were among the many representatives of leading families in the neighbourhood who gave their patronage to the occasion; and among others present on either of the two nights were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Kekewich (Lamorbey Park), Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Layton, and the Misses Layton, Mr. and Mrs. Liebenrood, Mrs. Shirley Woolmer, Mrs. Lee-Warner, Miss Dorothy Woolmer, Mr. Shirley Woolmer, Rev. H. J. Palmer and Mrs. Palmer, Rev. J. Foster Lepine (Vicar of Lamorbey), and Mrs Lepine, Dr. and Mrs. Sutton, Dr. Davis, Dr. and Mrs. Crombie, Miss Spreckley and Mr. Claud Spreckley, Mr. B. Tolhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, The Rev. Maurice Murray, and many others. Mrs. Coles Child (Bromley), Lady Whitehead (Wilmington), and Mrs. Ronald Keep (Woollet Hall, North Cray), although unable to be present, kindly sent contributions to the fund, and the Sidcup Amateur Dramatic Club also sent a donation of £2.

The programme, arranged by Miss Elgood, was one full of interest and variety. Some most excellent tableaux formed a prominent feature, and the charming manner in which they were produced thoroughly deserved the enthusiastic applause of the audience. The Dialogue, "A Breezy Morning," by Eden Phillpots, as given by Major and Mrs. Barter, of Eltham, was one of the greatest successes of the evening, and was greatly enjoyed. It is seldom one sees amateurs to such advantage. Their acting was as near to perfection as the most exacting need desire, the great charm of it being the naturalness. Miss Vansittart and Miss H. Vansittart also gave their laughable duologue, "The Brown Paper Parcel," for which they were deservedly well applauded when the curtain fell. Welcome and interesting variety was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Powell,

who, in Chinese costumes, and styling themselves Chinese magicians, gave a series of clever illusions. In the vocal portion of the programme Mdlle. Lucie Jeanneret kindly assisted, and gave great pleasure by the charm of her singing. She first gave H. Bembery's "Nymphes et Sylvains," but it was in Garton Lemaire's "Vous Dansez, Marquise," with its graceful, minuet-like rhythm, that the audience were most delighted. In response to an enthusiastic encore Mdlle. Jeanneret gave a quaint English song, "The Sweetest Flower that Grows," following later in the evening with Lord Henry Somerset's pretty song, "Sleep, Darling, Sleep," which she rendered most tastefully. Miss Elgood herself contributed two songs. Her light and pleasing soprano voice was heard in "The Night has a Thousand Eyes" (a short and pretty song by Frank Lambert, with rather an abrupt ending) and Moszkowski's "Serenade," both of which were warmly applauded. Mr. J. Curling, of the Royal Horse Artillery, gave several songs, including C. Villiers Stanford's rollicking "Boot, Saddle, to Horse, and away"; and a graceful scarf dance was executed during the evening by the Misses Evelyn Kekewich, Evelyn Clarke and Dorothy Bauer.

This notice would be incomplete without recognising the valuable aid rendered by Mr. Tyson Crawford, who, assisted by Mr. Dewey, provided and managed the lime-light; the kindness of Mr. W. Green in lending the many beautiful plants for the floral decorations; and the excellent way in which Mr. Arthur Martin, with his assistants, managed the scene-shifting, everything being done without the slightest hitch or noise. Nor should omission be made of the presence, with Colonel Satterthwaite's hearty approval, of members of the Chislehurst section of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment as stewards and programme-sellers. The netting of over £30 was the result of the entertainment.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

2nd Class Certificates of Education have been awarded to Corporal W. Davidson, Lance-Corporals J. Lawrence and F. James, Privates W. Rush, F. Green, and W. Gale.

3rd Class Certificates of Education have been awarded to Lance-Corporals W. McCrossen, O. Pagden, O. Bristow, G. Smith, Privates A. Gallant, A. Catt, H. Bishop, A. Bristow, J. O'Shea, E. Phillips, F. Floyd,

No. 6471 Pte. D. Ball has been transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment Details from the Royal Artillery.

No. 6081 O. Pagden has been transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Field Officers' Quarters at the Depot have recently been re-appropriated as Warrant Officers' Quarters, and prove a welcome change to the rooms hitherto occupied by the Depot Sergeant-Major.

Colonel T. H. Brock recently presented the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct awarded to Musician P. O'Hara, and in well chosen words held his conduct up as an example to follow.

Lieut. G. D. Lister—who since his return, invalided from South Africa, has been doing duty at the Depot—has been ordered to South Africa, having become fit again. He will be much missed as he has been the life and soul of the Depot Football Club during the season now closing; he has had some nasty knocks at this game, but nothing deterred him from giving his assistance whenever it was possible for him to do so. Lieut. Hickson, 1st Batt., is expected to join for duty, and will, under ordinary circumstances, remain for two years.

Second.-Lieut. H. Faudel Phillips, 3rd Batt., has been gazetted to the 5th Lancers. He was nominated for the Line Commission offered to the 3rd Battalion.

We find that notice of the discharge of a faithful servant has been overlooked in these columns, we refer to Sergt. G. Paine, who was discharged to pension after serving over 21 years in the Regiment, and who for a number of years was Officers' Mess Sergeant at the Depot, having succeeded Sergt. Hart in that capacity about 1891. No one more than George knew how to stand up for the dignity of his position and that of the Regiment, and to study the interests of those whom he served. He has obtained the catership of the Sergeants Mess, 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Woolwich, and is doing well. We hear he will have the catering for the King's Coronation Dinner to the Poor, for the Woolwich District.

Sergt. Paine was the recipient of a gold watch from the Officers of the Regiment, and the Sergeants of the Depot propose to offer him a token of their esteem.

Bandmaster A. E. Ingham, having obtained an appointment at Kneller Hall, took his discharge, after 25 years' service, on the 28th February. Bandmaster Ingham enlisted in October, 1876, for the 36th Brigade, as a boy; also served in the King's Royal Rifles, Rifle Brigade, Somerset Light Infantry, and Royal Irish Fusiliers before joining the Royal West Kent Regiment, and was on the unattached list whilst with the Viceroy of India's band. His name has been noted for appointment as a Tower Warder, which we hope he will succeed in getting early. He is succeeded by Bandmaster T. McKelvey, who is transferred from the Welsh Regiment, a native of Tyrone, who has seen service with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Grenadier Guards. He was Sergeant Drummer of the Welsh Regiment for six years.

The last of the series of Winter Dances by the Sergeants of the Depot, which was originally fixed for St. Patrick's Day, but which had unavoidably to be postponed on account of a death in the Regiment, was held in the Gymnasium, decorated in the usual manner for the occasion by willing hands. Dancing was kept up with vigour until two in the morning when all dispersed. These dances give an opportunity of social intercourse with their civilian friends, by whom they are much appreciated by both hosts and guests. The Gymnasium being none too large for dances of this description, the invitation list is a matter for consideration. Sergt. Dr. Gee was entrusted with the musical part of the programme, and gave satisfaction, dancers being particularly touchy, we believe, as to correct time.

The catering was under Col.-Sergt. Pearson, and the inner man well provided for by him and his assistants.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

MAIDSTONE LEAGUE.

DEPOT v. WATERINGBURY.—This return fixture was played at the Barracks on Saturday. The Depot won the toss, and from the kick off at once went away with a rush, and were soon swarming round the visitors' goal, but the game was nearly a quarter of an hour old before the first goal fell to the home side. This put a little more go in the play, and the Depot managed to add two more goals before half-time. The second half was a repetition of the first, the Depot scoring three and Wateringbury one. The Depot were thus left the winners by six goals to one. Referee, Mr. Blunden. Result:—

Maidstone Depot	6 goals
Wateringbury	1 goal

DEPOT v. MAIDSTONE ROVERS.—This fixture was played on the Athletic Ground on Saturday, owing to a bereavement in the barracks. The Depot won the toss and chose to kick with the wind behind them. From the start the play was mostly confined to the visitors' half, but bad shooting stopped the Depot from scoring. At length the Rovers broke away, and keeping the ball well in hand scored the first goal of the match, and half-time arrived with them leading by one goal to nil. The second half was more evenly contested, the Depot having, if anything, the most of the play, and at length Davis equalised. This was all the scoring, and the result was a draw of one goal each. Referee, Mr. Blunden.

Maidstone Depot	1 goal
Maidstone Rovers	1 goal

TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHARITY CUP.

MAIDSTONE DEPOT v. SOUTHBOROUGH.—This match was played on the Depot ground on Saturday before a large number of spectators, and great interest was attracted owing to the teams having met the previous Saturday and played a drawn game. The Depot won the toss and elected to defend the entrance end goal. From the kick off the Depot had rather the best of the game, but it could be seen that the teams were evenly matched, each side in turn attacking and trying its utmost to score, but the defence of both teams was sound. When the whistle blew at half-time neither had scored. The second half was a repetition of the first, each side in turn attacking, till about ten minutes before time, when Southborough managed to score the one goal of the match, and thus secured the victory by one goal to nil. Mr. Povey made a most efficient referee. As a result of the two matches, £6 2s 1d. has been handed to the trustees for the benefit of charity. Result:—

Southborough	1 goal.
Maidstone Depot	nil.

Mr. J. G. Povey, chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Charity Football Competition, has written a letter of thanks to Sergt.-Instr. Hurley, the secretary of the Depot F.C., for the splendid arrangements made for the matches at the Barracks in the competition, and for the help given the charity (over £6), by the matches.

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	DN.	L.	Goals. F.	A.	P.
Eccles Star	15	11	3	1	34	12	25
M.C.I. Wanderers	14	11	0	3	53	19	22
Depot	14	10	2	2	36	12	22
Invicta	13	7	1	5	21	17	15
Maidstone Rovers	15	6	2	7	28	32	14
East Malling	14	4	2	8	20	27	10
Loose Albion	15	4	2	9	24	32	10
Wateringbury	13	2	1	10	11	41	5
Aylesford	15	2	1	12	16	51	5

MAIDSTONE LEAGUE.

EAST MALLING v. DEPOT.—This match was played at Malling before a good crowd on Saturday. The Depot won the toss for choice of ends, and elected to play with the slight wind. From the kick-off the play was pretty fast and even, and it was not till the play had been in progress about half an hour that the Depot scored the first goal. Malling now made a big effort to equalise, but the Depot defence was not to be beaten, and half time arrived with the score one—nil in the Depot's favour. In the second half the visitors seem to have matters pretty much their own way, and scoring four more goals, they were left easy winners by five goals to nil. Result:—

Maidstone Depot	5 goals.
East Malling	nil.

The Depot has joined the "Kent Messenger" Cricket League, Season, 1902, and below is a list of fixtures.

April 26th.	v.	Turkey Mill.	Barrack Field.
May 3rd.	v.	Eiffel Tower.	,,
May 10th.	v.	Eccles.	,,
May 24th.	v.	Dobney Institute	,,
June 7th.	v.	East Malling	,,
June 14th.	v.	Eiffel Tower	Away.
July 12th.	v.	East Malling	,,
July 19th.	v	Eccles	,,
July 26th.	v.	Turkey Mill	,,
Sep. 26th.	v.	Dobney Institute	,,

MILITIA NOTES.

Color-Sergt. F. Wise has been transferred to the Military Prison Staff Corps, with effect from 14th January. He is succeeded by Sergt. C. Wilson, who is promoted Color-Sergt.

The Militia Brigades to be employed in connection with the Coronation ceremonies are to be placed under canvas at Shorncliffe, Colchester, Bisley, Aldershot, and Salisbury Plain. Forty-five Battalions in all are to be called up, and they will be divided into ten brigades, four of which will camp on Salisbury Plain. The trainings will last from the 4th and 9th June to 5th July.

Colonel T. H. Brock desires thankfully to acknowledge the receipt of £1 from Lieut. G. D Lister and £1 1s. from Colonel Williams, 1st Vol. Batt., towards the furnishing of the Regimental Institute at the Depot. The response to the appeal of Colonel Brock has resulted in the Institute being made most comfortable and is fully appreciated by the men.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

On 6th March, Major-General Sir T. Frazer, Commanding Thames District, inspected the Volunteer Service Detachment at Maidstone, and before dismissing the men made a few commendatory remarks concerning the good work of previous companies and the Regiment generally.

On 8th March the detachment left Maidstone for the front. There were fifty-six non-commissioned officers and men under the command of Lieutenant Sawers, the company being made up from four Volunteer Battalions as under:—1st Battalion, 17; 2nd Battalion, 23 and officer; 3rd Battalion, 11; and 4th Battalion, 5. Assembling on the parade ground at the barracks, they were addressed by Colonel Brock (Officer Commanding 50th Regimental District), who gave them a few cheery words of encouragement, wishing them good luck and good health, and saying that he knew that they would uphold the honour of the regiment. Among the officers on parade were Majors Dalison and Martyn, and Lieutenants Philips and Lister. Accompanied by Major Martyn, Lieutenant Philips, and the Band of the Depot, the company proceeded through the town to Maidstone West Station, and entrained shortly before seven for Southampton, where they embarked on the s.s. "Arundel Castle" during the same day for South Africa.

VOLUNTEER NOTES.

The Volunteer Battalions of the Territorial Regiment have been formed into a Brigade and designated the West Kent Volunteer Brigade.

Colonel T. H. Brock has been appointed to the Command of the Brigade, and the staff is being selected. Major A. T. Simpson, 1st Vol. Batt. is spoken of as Brigade Major, and Surgeon Lt.-Col. C. Boyce has been appointed Senior Medical Officer.

The Brigade will go into camp on the 2nd August, Bank Holiday, at Shorncliffe, and break up on the 9th August.

A proposal for the purchase of Government cycles by Cyclist members of Volunteer Corps does not find favour, the chief reason being the idiosincrasie of individuals, few young men who form the majority of Cyclist Companies would prefer a cycle weighing over 40 pounds complete to a machine of their own choosing scaling about 30 pounds. Volunteering, as well as cycling, is taken chiefly for pleasure.

The increase of the Maidstone Detachment of Volunteers to four Companies necessitates very heavy work, and an additional Sergeant Instructor was asked for to assist Sergeant Evans, who has all his work cut out to keep abreast of the times and Volunteers up to the proper standard of efficiency, owing to the estimates for the year having been closed the proposal was not sanctioned, but it is hoped that the matter will eventually be satisfactorily arranged.

The Cyclist Company of the 2nd Vol. Batt. The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) held its second annual smoking concert at the Portland Hotel, Greenwich, on April 5th. I learn that this company, formed but two years ago, has 15 of its members serving in South Africa out of a total strength of 89. Now that cyclist soldiers, with their great mobility, are being recognized by the Authorities as an important factor in the home defence scheme it is the duty of cyclists to swell the ranks of the cyclist companies attached to Volunteer Battalions

The Sergeants of the 3rd Vol. Batt. The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) gave their annual ball at the Drill Hall, Beresford Street, Woolwich, on Friday evening, 21st March, the company numbering upwards of a thousand. The spacious building was very tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens, and flags of all nations, special attention having been paid to the band-stand, which was erected in the centre of the hall. During the evening the Mayor (Councillor J. J. Messent, J.P.), and Mayoress of Woolwich were received on behalf of the sergeants by Staff-Sergeant L. Pratley, and Colour-Sergeant Mitchell (president of the mess) introduced the officers present, including Colonel E. J. Moore (commanding the battalion), Majors Murphy and Swiss, Captains C. Forsdyke, Christmas, Dodd, and Jones, Lieutenants Martin, Jennings, and Murphy. Colour-Sergeant Mitchell subsequently presented the staff-sergeants and sergeants and several of the civilian guests to the Mayor and Mayoress.—His Worship expressed great admiration of the decorations, and before leaving said it had given the Mayoress and himself great pleasure to be present. As his Worship and the Mayoress left the sergeants formed up in two lines and gave them a hearty cheer as they drove away. Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock to the strains of an excellent band under the direction of Band-Sergeant Scudder. Sergeant J. Sutherland, Sergeant-Instructor M. Audsley, and Sergeant B. Davis made efficient M.C.'s, and Sergeant Webb was in charge of the arrangements for the supper, which was served in a marquee at the rear of the sergeants' mess. The decorations were entrusted to Colour-Sergeant Davies and Sergeants Seabright and Beer. Colour-Sergeant Aston superintended the refreshment department, and the other sergeants all worked with a will to make the ball the great success it proved to be. There was a good muster of sergeants from the regiments in the garrison, including the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Army Pay Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, the Rifle Brigade and Middlesex Regiment, while of local volunteer corps there were representatives of the 2nd and 3rd Kent Artillery, 2nd West Kent Regiment and Royal Army Medical Corps. Volunteers from a distance were represented by members of the 3rd Surrey (The Queen's) Royal Fusiliers, 15th Middlesex, 3rd Essex, Tower Hamlets Electrical Engineers, and the 21st Middlesex. A good programme of dances was gone through, and it was a little after four o'clock on Saturday morning when the band played the National Anthem, which brought to a close the most successful of balls yet held in the Drill Hall. The sergeants are to be congratulated on being able to carry out such a gigantic undertaking without a hitch.

The members of the Battalion did not go into camp at Easter, this being the first time they have missed for many years. The Battalion will be brigaded with the West Kent Volunteer Brigade at Shorncliffe from 2nd to 9th August. — *Kentish Mercury.*

THE POEM THAT FAILED.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, you 'ave bin and broke my 'eart
By the nonsense that you 'ave bin and wrote, and thort so bloomin' smart;
I've read your verses, Kipper—I've got the bloomin' lot,
And relished ev'ry word you wrote until you wrote this rot.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, what made you sit and write
Of "flannelled fools" and "muddied oafs"—now was you bloomin' tight?
If so, own up, man, most of us 'ave bin like that before,
And 'ope to be again, please Gawd, when we 'ave done the war.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, you 'ave seen us on the veldt,
And know 'ow sweet our baccy tastes, and 'ow our dinners smelt;
But you seem to 'ave forgotton 'ow we loved to pitch the stumps,
And 'ave a bit of practice, and 'od rot the bloomin' bumps.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, was our good old chief a fool
'Cos 'e bossed the regimental team, and batted powerful cool,
Whenever there seemed danger that a lickin' we would get?
No, Kipper, he were just our sort, and took us right, you bet.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, do yer see that corpril there?
With mud enough upon 'is shirt, but near the ball, I'll swear;
You wouldn't go to call 'im "oaf" if 'is tunic you could see,
For it bears the blood-red badge of pluck, the coveted V.C.

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, when you lay 'twixt life and death,
When we opened up the paper so's you couldn't hear a breath
In all the sweatin' barrik-room to see if Him as rules
'Ad taken you to glory, was we blarsted "oafs" and "fools."

Oh, Kipper, Ruddy Kipper, you can call us what you like;
We forgive you, strite; it isn't that; offence we'd never taike;
But it's your own reputation that you've bin and damned to-day,
And so brought lastin' sorrer on your good old friend T. A.

Krugersdorp, Jan. 10th, 1902.

—*Truth.*

OBITUARY.

The news of the death of Lieut. and Quartermaster Stanley Barton, 1st Battalion, was received with feelings of deep regret. He had been home on sick leave, which was extended owing to continued illness that resulted in his death on the 16th March, at the London School of Tropical Medicine, aged 39. He served in the ranks 14 years and 160 days, passing through the various ranks. Warrant Officer five years and 32 days, and was promoted Quartermaster in the Royal West Kent Regiment in June, 1898. He served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, was present at the battle of Kassassin, served with the Nile Expedition of 1884 (receiving the clasp granted for such), and in the operations of 1885, including the action of Ginnis. He served in the campaign on the North-West Frontier of India, under Sir William Lockhart in 1897-98, with the Malakand and Buner Field Forces, and was present in the engagement at Landakai, the attack on Agrah and Gat, and the capture of the Tanga Pass, receiving the India medal with clasp, "Punjab Frontier, 1897-98." He was always liked and respected. It was expected that he would succeed Captain Brown at the Depot, but fate ruled otherwise.

Captain W. V. Hopegood, of Mount Craig, Ross, Hereford, late 97th Regiment, son of the late Francis Vere Hopegood, of Harley Hurst, 70th Regiment, died on the 25th March at the Keppels Head Hotel, Portsmouth. He entered the service in 1873, was promoted Captain in 1881, and was placed on the retired list in 1882. He served in the Boer War of 1881 with the Natal Field Force.

The death has occurred at Cheltenham of MAJOR-GENERAL EDWARD DOUGLASS HARVEST in his 78th year. At the age of 17 he joined the 97th Foot, of which his father, Colonel Hector Harvest, was colonel, and himself reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in that regiment in 1875. From 1872 to 1880 he was commander of the forces in Western Australia and member of H.M. Executive Council. He retired from the Army with the honorary rank of major-general in 1881.—*The Times*, December 27th, 1901.

DEATHS.

At Heilbron, on 20th March, No. 5799, Pte. A. Green 2nd Batt., of enteric.

At Shorncliffe, on 7th March, No. 3007, Pte. G. Hollands (Details), Depot.

At Maidstone, 14th March, No. 4366, Pte. J. Avis (Details) Depot.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 323. MAIDSTONE, MAY, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 5.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Capt. R. Woulfe Flanagan is seconded for service in South Africa, dated 5th June, 1901.

The promotion of Lieut. C. V. Molony to Captain is anti-dated to 5th June, 1901.

Lieutenant Tom Smith to be Captain, dated 13th February, 1902.

Promotions anti-dated:—G. F. H. Keenlyside to 5th June, J. T. Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes to 1st August, 1901.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captain:—
Lieut. H. Isacke, dated 13th February, 1902; Lieut. H. S. Bush, dated 13th February, 1902; Lieut. C. E. Kitson, dated 21st February, 1902; Lieut. P. Robinson, dated 13th February.

Quarter-Master & Honorary Captain E. W. Brown retires on retired pay, dated 23rd April, 1902.

Quarter-Master & Honorary Lieutenant James Forrest, from the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, to be Quarter-Master, dated 23rd April, 1902.

Sergeant-Major J. W. Willis to be Quarter-Master, with the Honorary rank of Lieutenant, dated 23rd April.

The undermentioned Second Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:—
K. D. M. Henderson, dated 21st August; J. H. Bennett, 21st August, 1901; T. E. Hulbert, dated 25th October, 1901; A. K. Grant, dated 25th October; G.W. Morris (since deceased), dated 16th November, 1901; E. H. Norman, dated 29th January, 1902.

1ST BATTALION.

Promoted Color-Sergt., Sergt. W. Murphy, 14th February, 1902.

Promoted Sergeants:—Lance-Sergt. A. Keen, 14th February, 1902; Lance-Sergt. J. Suffield, 26th February, 1902; Lance-Sergts. C. Seal, J. McAnulty, C. Naylor, 24th April, 1902.

Appointed Lance-Sergts.:—Corpl. J. Andrews, 11th April, 1902; Corpls. G. Lang, A. Brown, 26th April, 1902.

Promoted Corpls.:—Lance-Corpl. A. Allen, 14th February, 1902; Lance-Corpls. C. James, E. West, 26th February, 1902; Lance-Corpls. W. O'Connor, C. Cramp, W. Wood, 24th April, 1902.

Appointed Lance-Corpl.:—Pte. W. James, 21st April, 1902.

2ND BATTALION.

Qr.-Master Sergt. Wood has relinquished the appointment of Orderly Room Sergeant, and succeeds Quarter-Master Sergt. Barnes as Battalion Quarter-Master Sergt. 20th February, 1902.

Appointed Orderly Room Sergt. and Promoted Quarter-Master Sergt.—Sergt H. Sheppard, 20th February, 1902.

Promoted Color-Sergt.:—Sergt. A. E. Wood, 29th Feb, 1902.

Appointed Lance-Corpl.:—Pte. W. Austin, 9th Feb., 1902.

3RD BATTALION.

Lieutenant C. M. Allfrey is seconded for service in South Africa, dated 19th March, 1902.

Supernumerary Lieutenant R. Whitehead to be Captain, and to remain seconded, dated 16th April.

Lieutenant C. D. Barrow to be Captain, dated 16th April.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieutenant F. B. Carlisle to be Lieutenant from 1st V.B. Gloucester Regiment, dated 30th April, 1902.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Second Lieutenant L. de Lisle Barnet to be Lieutenant, dated 5th April.

Lieutenant J Sawers to be supernumerary whilst serving in South Africa.

Lieutenant E. A. Belcher resigns his commission, dated 23rd April, 1902.

CADET CORPS.

Captain C. Marsh resigns his commission, dated 30th April.

4TH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Captain A. B. Rogers resigns his commission, dated 12th April.
Second-Lieut G. E Leavey to be Lieutenant, dated 30th April.
Henry F. Cobb, Gent., to be Second-Lieut., dated 30th April.

REGIMENTAL DINNER.

The ANNUAL REGIMENTAL DINNER of the LINE BATTALIONS has been fixed to take place at THE GRAND HOTEL, Trafalgar Square, London, at 8 p.m., on TUESDAY, the 17th JUNE, 1902.

Officers who intend to dine are asked to communicate without delay with Mr. H. A. Bernau, care of Messrs. Cox and Co., 16, Charing Cross, London.

As the Regimental Dinner has not taken place for three years it is hoped that all officers on leave as well as many old officers of the regiment will be present at this year's dinner.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.,

April 3rd, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

At the time of my last letter the driving line, which has now been sweeping backwards and forwards between the Drakensburg and the main line for over two months, was passing this place to the south, moving westwards. As happened at the beginning of February, the "bump" did not come against our blockhouse line, but against the line guarding the branch railway from Heilbron to Wolvehoek, which, it may be mentioned, was held by detachments of ours in the earliest days of the blockhouse system, the days of little posts in loop-holed trenches, two or three miles apart. Though this line has been considerably strengthened since the days when we held it, and, though there were numerous intermediate posts between the blockhouses, the fact remains that about 400 Boers succeeded in breaking through with inappreciable loss.

After this things settled down again to the steady routine of blockhouse life, the result being that the end of March finds our section of the line a much harder job to tackle for the Boer who wishes to cross than it was at the beginning, owing to the erection of a considerable number of supplementary blockhouses. The space between the blockhouses is weekly rendered more formidable as the evolution of the original plain cattle fence of four strands of barbed wire takes place. The barbed wire is now twisted into a triple cable, and further embellishments are added in the shape of an alarm wire, which supports at either end a collection of old iron, or biscuit tin full of stones, which hangs over another tin, and so gives an effective alarm to the sentry when the wire is cut. The N.C.O. in charge does not sleep with this weight suspended over his head, which, we understand, was the original intention of the distinguished officer who invented this particular "tip." There is also the "No. 3 wire." For the benefit of those readers who are not acquainted with the mysterious symbols of the scientific corps it may be as well to explain that No. 3 wire is about one third of an inch thick, and can't be cut. It might be simpler to call it "uncutable" wire, but in view of the heated controversy which has raged as to the orthography of the word between the factions of those who support "uncutable" against "uncuttable," we now usually call it "No. 3." Curiously enough none of the dictionaries in Frankfort help us,

The "batteries" with which our blockhouses are now equipped should also form a very real thorn in the side of our brother Boer. This does not mean that we have taken over the former weapons of the Royal Artillery Mounted Rifles, but is the term given to the substantial rests made to accommodate three rifles, and so erected as to place shot after shot down the length of the wire fence with unfailing accuracy on the darkest night. Some mention might be made of the "apron," but it is doubtful if the Editor would be prepared to produce a special number with illustrations in lines of red and blue, and green without which it is not easy to arrive at a true conception of this bellicose garment. There are also the "droppers"; we have been told what to do with them, but the question of what a "dropper" is, is at present passing from department to department, and, so far, remains an inscrutable mystery.

When the columns are not in our immediate neighbourhood we always seem to have our full ration of Boers, and during last month our fifteen-pounder had a few opportunities of showing what it was capable of, with the usual result—accurate shooting and no damage, unless it was moral and intellectual. At various times during the month our blockhouses fought small battles on their own, and either the Boers crossed or they didn't, but if he really intends getting the other side, Boer takes a very great deal of stopping. He undoubtedly got a great deal more than he relished on the night of the 29th of March, when about 150 of Mentjes' men tried to cross between No. 8 and No. 9 blockhouses, held by the Volunteer company, who, with the assistance of an intermediate post of Worcester M.I. smote them with such a warm fire that those few who did run the gauntlet did not stop to remove all their casualties, one dead and one dying Boer being picked up the following morning. If I were a professional war correspondent of course I could write you a far more detailed account than those who were on the spot, but as it is I will leave the description of such stirring events to the various correspondents of the companies concerned, who will be able to do them the justice they deserve.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

M.I. Co WITH COL. WESTERN'S COLUMN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

My last letter from Koffyfontein had a rather narrow escape from being censored by Boer officials. The mail was sent out in a Scotch cart, under an escort of thirteen of our company, to be forwarded to Jacobsdal, and after proceeding about ten miles met with a sudden check. Corpl. Summerhayes, who was in charge of the party, was in front, and after looking over a small kop was returning to the road when he was confronted by four Boers, who had concealed themselves. They said, "Hands up, you ——!" The last word was Dutch I believe, and in less time than it takes to relate we were one horse, saddle, rifle, etc., deficient.

The remainder of our men, who were extended on both flanks, soon realised the position, and gave the enemy (between 20 and 30 strong) a warm time until the Scotch cart, with mails, were safely on their return journey to camp. Corpl. Summerhayes was only detained a few minutes, and was rather impressed by the adroitness of our friends. The only other casualty was one horse wounded and abandoned, which, by the way, reported itself in camp on the following morning at feeding time. Our Colonel commended the party on return to camp for its opportune action without its leader.

The column trekked northward during February, passing Kimberley with regret. About the beginning of March we entered the Hoopstad district, where we had the pleasure of meeting more Boers than we had seen during the last six months. Our summary from 2nd to 10th March was:—Boers killed 3, prisoners 13, rifles 10, horses 150, cattle 500 head destroyed, 11,800 sheep, 12 waggons, 28 carts and waggonettes, 90 sacks mealies.

On reaching Hoopstad our services were requisitioned to relieve a party of S.A.C., which had met with a reverse. The column is now operating near the Vaal, and I hope to be able to give account of its doings in my next.

IKONA

Hoopstad, 18th March, 1902.

A farewell Concert was given on the 4th April, 1902, by the Corporals of the Depot in honour of Corporal Hibbert, who is leaving for the Front, he having volunteered for service in South Africa. The evening opened with a piano solo by Corporal Guest, which was well rendered and deservedly encored, and who, later in the evening, gave a concertina solo entitled, "Alice, where art thou?" Songs were the order of the evening, and were ably rendered by the following, viz: Mr. Stoddart (a civilian friend), Corpls. Smith, Davis, Walker, Igglesden. and others to numerous to mention. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close, with a few well chosen words by the Chairman (Corpl. Franklin). who did, I am sure, only echo the thoughts of those present. We much regret the loss of our comrade. who was the mainstay of our social evenings, and all we can wish him is, good luck and a safe return to us, and to his wife and children, who will miss him far more than we.

A.L.B., Lance-Corporal.

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

MAIDSTONE LEAGUE.

MAIDSTONE ROVERS v. DEPOT.—This match was played on the Heath on Saturday in rather wet and windy weather. The Depot won the toss, and played with the wind behind them, and from the kick-off they at once took the ball to the home half. The game was about ten minutes old when the Depot drew first blood. This seemed to arouse the Rovers, but they could not make much headway against the wind. The Depot again getting possession, Davis beat the home backs and had no difficulty in placing the Depot two up From the kick-off the home team, by some good passing, took the ball around the visiting goal, and from a shot which Spearing saved, but allowed to roll over his arms into the net, started their scoring. After the interval the Depot team settled down to work, and added four more goals to their score, so that when the whistle blew for time they were the winners by six goals to one. Referee, Mr. Barton. Result:—

Maidstone Depot ..... 6 goals
Maidstone Rovers ..... 1 goal

AYLESFORD v. DEPOT.—This postponed fixture took place at Aylesford on Saturday, and, being the last match the Depot had to play in the above competition, great interest was taken in it. There was a good number of spectators present, Eccles being well represented. The Depot were not playing at full strength, but from the kick-off they more than held their own. The game was nearly half-an-hour old before the first goal fell to them, from a well-placed corner by Eastgate, Sayer heading into the net. Give and take play was the order of the game until the whistle blew for half-time. In the second half the home team made strenuous efforts to equalise, but the Depot defence was not to be beaten. At length the home team forced a corner, which was well-placed, but Cozens cleared in grand style, and play was transferred to the other end, and Sayer, sending in a good shot, which the goalkeeper only partially cleared, Edwards pounced on the ball and landed it in the net. Time was now drawing to a close, and no more scoring taking place, the visitors were left the winners by two goals to nil, and now have to meet Eccles on the 19th and Church Institute on the 26th, for the right to hold the League Cup, each club having finished with 26 points. Result:—

Depot ..... 2 goals
Aylesford..... nil.

The Maidstone Depot team brought their season to a close on Saturday. On the whole they have had a most successful season, as the following shows:

Payed.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against.
32	21	6	5	90	31

The following have represented the Depot in nearly all their engagements:—Corpl. Spearing, Sergt. Edwards, Drummer Fenny, Pte. Russell, Sergt. McGregor, Corpl. Franklin, Corpl. Eastgate, Pte. Taylor, Lieut. Lister, Corpl. Davis, Pte. Payne, Pte. Jones, and Corpl. Sayer.

By beating Aylesford on Saturday by 2 goals to nil, the Depot place themselves at the top of the Maidstone League.

MAIDSTONE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

					Goals.		
	P.	W.	DN.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Depot	16	12	2	2	44	13	26
Eccles Star	16	11	4	1	35	13	26
M.C.I. Wanderers	16	13	0	3	57	19	26
Invicta.....	16	8	3	5	32	19	17
Maidstone Rovers	16	6	2	8	29	38	14
Loose Albion	16	4	2	10	24	34	10
East Malling	16	4	2	10	20	32	10
Wateringbury	16	3	2	11	15	51	8
Aylesford.....	16	2	1	13	16	53	5

TEST MATCHES.

M.C.I. Wanderers	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Eccles Star	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Depot	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

It is no good now stating that Eccles might have won easily but for the deliberate mistake of one man in their last League fixture with the Invicta, for that error let in the Depot and Church Institute to equal honours. These three clubs were ordered to play inter-matches for the lead. First of all the Depot lost to Eccles, 1—0; and then the Church Institute beat Eccles, 3—1. The match between the Depot and the Institute, on Saturday, therefore, took the nature of a final, and the interest centered in the result was great. The struggle between the Church and Army was keen as could be wished, and, judging by the shouting, both sides had many supporters. The soldiers were the first to score, at which there was much jubilation in some quarters. Later the Institute drew level, and the other half of the crowd shouted. There were no more goals, and a comparatively even game was drawn. The Church Institute therefore won the cup with three points, Eccles having two, and the Depot one out of the extra matches. I understand that the cup and medals were presented at the Church Institute in the evening, but of this interesting event I had no official intimation. I am also told that the medals that were due to old champions were also handed over, the League funds now being in a flourishing condition owing to the gates of the test matches.

NOTICE.

The Thames District Rifle Meeting will take place on Milton Ranges, Gravesend, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 10th, 11th and 12th July, 1902.

Men, of Details, Royal West Kent Regiment, transferred to Depot for demobilization on the 30th April, 1902:—

2878 Pte. Knight, C; 2768 Pte. Barnes, A; 3058 Pte. Rose, C; 3048 Pte. Clark, J; 3296 Pte. Amos, F; 3144 Pte. Upton, W; 3064 Pte. Ticehurst, W; 2954 Pte. Riddle, E; 3571 Pte. Pierpoint, A; 2794 Pte. Budden, G; 1955 Pte. Underhill, C; 3055 Pte. Baines, J; 2817 Pte. Chapman, W; 2861 Pte. Tyrrell, G; 3186 Pte. Duffy, J; 3360 Pte Lynds, W; 1482 P e. Milton, H; 3740 Pte. Sands, S; 2921 Pte. Hucks, W; 3133 Pte. Wood, G; 2682 Pte. Wells, H; 3105 Pte. Bingham, C; 2228 Pte Payne, H; 5131 Pte. King J; 2896 Pte. Selves, H; 2859 Pte. Simmons, F; 1406 Pte. Tapp, W; 3059 Pte. Shrubb, J; 3492 Pte. Paine, E; 1657 Pte. Elliott. G; 3330 Pte. West, A; 3414 Pte. Allen, J; 4023 Pte. Carter, R; 2947 Pte. Baker, E; 3009 Pte. Jirrell, G; 2764 Pte. Valder, H; 3464 Pte. Finnigan, D.

DEPOT CRICKET CLUB.—FIXTURES 1902.

April 26, Turkey Mill, Home, L.
May 3, Eiffel Tower, Home, L.
May 7, Brown's XI., Home, F.
May 10, Eccles, Home, L.
May 14, Chatham Tradesmen, Away, F.
May 17, Prison Warder (Sergeants), Home, F.
May 21, Liberal Club, Home, F.
May 24, Dobney Institute, Home, L.
May 26, Wilkie and Soames, Home, F.
May 28, Filmer's XI, Home, F.
May 31, Brunswick House School Home, F.
June 4, Maidstone Grammar School, Home, F.
June 7, East Malling, Home, L.
June 11, Brunswick House School, Home, F.
June 14, Eiffel Tower, Away, L.
June 18,
June 21, West Borough W.M.C., Home, F.
June 25, Maidstone Grammar School, Away, F.
June 28, Fremlin's XI., Home, F.
July 2, St. Philip's, Away, F.
July 5, East Farleigh, Home, F.
July 9, Maidstone Liberal Club, Away, F.
July 12, East Malling, Away, L.
July 16, Filmer's XI., Home, F.
July 19, Eccles, Away, L.
July 23, St. Philip's, Home, F.
July 26, Turkey Mill, Away, L.
July 30,
August 2, Prison Warder (Sergeants), Home, F.
August, 4,
August 6, Brown's XI., Home, F.
August 9, Fremlin's XI. Home, F.
August 13, Chatham Tradesmen, Home, F.
August 16, East Farleigh, Away, F.
August 20,
August 23, West Borough W.M.C., Away, F.
August 27,
August 30, Larkfield, Home, F.
September 3,
September 6, Dobney Institute, Away, L.
September 10,
September 13, Larkfield, Away, F.
September 17,
September 20,

L. League Matches. F. Friendly.

OBITUARY.

We regret to have to announce that Lieut. Charles Waldo Lionel Churchill, 3rd Batt. the Hampshire Regiment, died at Klerksdorp, South Africa, from wounds received in action at Boschbult on the 31st March. He belonged to one of the oldest families of Dorsetshire, was educated at Mr. Rogers' school at Branksome Park, and Wellington College, obtained his commission in June, 1900, served with his battalion at Aldershot till it was disembodied, shortly afterwards volunteered for active service in South Africa, and at the time of his death was in the 28th company of Mounted Infantry. Lieut. Churchill was only in his 19th year, and perhaps one of the youngest of the many who have laid down their lives for their King and country during the present war. Although a native of Dorsetshire, we may venture to add his name to our list of Hampshire heroes; for having a commission in our county regiment, he belonged to us as well as to Dorsetshire. He was the only son of Lieut.-Col. C. M. Churchill, of Holmwood Park, Wimborne, who served with our 1st Battalion for a period of 23 years, and was also adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, and recruiting officer 50th Regimental District.

Extract from Regimental Orders, dated 12 April, 1902.

No. 2. Deceased.

It is with deep regret that the Commanding Officer has to inform all ranks of the death of 2nd Lieut. C. W. L. Churchill, at Klerksdorp, South Africa, on the 2nd inst. from wounds received on the 31st ultimo, and while expressing the deep sympathy of his brother officers, and of all ranks of the Battalion, would hold up the example of this young officer as a constant source of pride to the Battalion to which he belonged

Signed F. Faith, Capt.,

Adjutant, 3rd. Batt. Hampshire Regt.

W. H. Barker, late 50th Q.O. Regiment, died at his residence, Chetwood, Wokingham, Berks, on the 13th April. He joined the 50th on 26th February, 1856, embarked with it for Ceylon in 1858, went with it thence to New Zealand during the war, 1863-68; then accompanied the headquarters to Sydney, returning to England with the Battalion in 1869, never having been away from it during the whole of its foreign tour. He then served in various English and Irish stations. He married Isobel, daughter of Alexander Campbell, on 8th December, 1876, and retired in February, 1878. During his service he was adjutant to the Battalion for nine years, and subsequently adjutant of the Militia Battalion. No one was ever more popular, either in the army or out of it. He was a staunch friend and good soldier, a keen sportsmau, both with hounds and gun. He also ran horses both in New Zealand and New South Wales (for pure sport, for he never bet), and he won the Military and Civil Cup, 50 guineas, at Randwick, two miles, with Chumphing, ridden by (now) Col. C. M. Churchill.

When he was adjutant it is said he would call out any man from the ranks by name, in fact his memory for people and amusing stories were remarkable. Every one who knew the 50th in his day knew Barker, for wherever he went and whoever he met he made friends, and retained them. One who knew him well for 40 years says he never knew him make an enemy. He was laid at rest in Wokingham churchyard, and beside members of the family and friends, the following were present to pay their tribute of respect to their old friend and companion-in-arms :— Major-General E. Leach, C.B., Col. O. Richmond, Col. C. R. King, Col. W. H. Wilson, and Brigade-Surgeon Owen Owen. In opening the country between the Patea and Taranaki District, New Zealand, he acted as Assist. Quartermaster-General to a force of all arms, under command of Col. H. E. Wean, C.B., effecting the passage of 11 rivers and 13 swamps in the middle of winter, without tents. He was specially thanked for this service by Sir Duncan Cameron, K.C.B., commanding the forces, 30th June, 1863. He was present at the following actions :—Rangiawkia, Nukumaru, and Kakaramea.

Major Barker, whose death is recorded in these pages, sent us the following shortly before his death :

10, York Place,

Clifton, Bristol.

SIR,

I send you some notes on the country passed over by a Flying Column in New Zealand during the war of '65. The troops consisted of the 50th Regiment and three Companies of the 57th Regiment, the whole under command of Col. H. E. Weare, C.B. Though this is now becoming an old story, it may interest the young soldiers of the regiment to read of the sort of work their predecessors did during the campaign; willingly and well, ever in the front, and ready to work, march, or fight, as the circumstances required.

I have no doubt but what the present generation of the R.W.K. will worthily follow in maintaining the honor, and adding to the glorious record of the regiment the name of South Africa.

Yours,

X 50th.

Report on the country passed over by the Mobile Column under Col. Weare, supported en route to meet Col. Warr's force from Taranaki, by J M.B.

On the 8th June the Movable Column marched from Waingangaro at 7 a.m. and arrived at the Waimate River at 8.12 a.m. The ford and the road down the left bank was in good order. The river was not apparently affected by the rain which had fallen the previous day, as the water barely reached to the men's knees. A fatigue party of thirty men made the road on the right bank so far practicable that the guns were enabled to be dragged up by man ropes. The force crossed over in forty-eight minutes, and marched on at 9 o'clock.

Our track lay along the coast, at about a quarter mile distant from it, over a flat plain covered with grass and thin fern and small isolated patches of flax for about one and a half miles, when the general level of the land falls a little and it becomes covered with high flax and fern. A deep and rapid river runs down through the centre of this to the sea. The force had no difficulty in crossing over this, as the banks at the crossing are low and sloping, and the bottom hard and level. This stream is about eight yards wide, and the water as high as the men's waists. Arrived at this river at 9.30 a.m.

About three hundred yards on the other side of the river, the path ascends towards the higher plain, and bears away towards the sea through patches of high flax and grass, and runs close to the coast for about a quarter of a mile, where there is a river about six yards wide and three deep with sloping banks; there is a good crossing for horses as the bottom is hard and level. Arrived at this river at 9.45.

From this river our track diverged to the right, inland, for about three quarters of a mile and then continued parallel to the coast, nearly a mile from it. The country at this part is rather swampy, and for a considerable distance was covered with surface water, about six inches deep, lying on grass and rushes. About a mile from this river, there is another river about five yards wide with steep banks, water up to men's knees. Where the track crosses it is not practicable for pack horses without having a good deal of the banks cut away on either side. To avoid this the guns and pack-horses crossed about two hundred yards more inland where the banks were worn down by cattle, but soft and boggy. Arrived at this river at 10.15.

From this the country is covered with grass and low fern with occasional patches of flax for about half a mile, where there is a river about eight yards wide with very low swampy banks. The crossing at this place is very bad for both horses and men, the banks on either side being boggy and the bottom soft. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the pack-horses and guns over, the latter being taken over by drag ropes. Arrived at this river at 10.30.

For a short distance the country is covered with grass and low thin fern, but then becomes very flat, swampy, and covered with very high flax, and in the next five miles of country the Column crossed seven deep wet swamps, over most of which a temporary crossing had to be made by laying down bundles of flax The last one is broad and very wet, the water from it forming a rapid, narrow stream, at the outlet into the sea, not more than four feet wide, over which the troops crossed close to the edge of the cliff; this gradually widens inland, and the place where the horses and guns crossed is about fifteen yards wide, with hard bottom and sloping banks which are boggy and soft.

The track then runs over a beautiful level grass plain (on which several herds of cattle and a few horses were scattered) for about three miles, when we arrived at the river Kanpokomu. This river is serpentine with almost perpendicular banks with several wooded gullies on either side at right angles to the stream, which is about forty-five yards wide. On the left bank, and about five hundred yards from the mouth, there is a low plateau down which the path runs. This path, in its present state, is not practicable for anything but horses, but nearer the mouth a good road could be made for carts, but would require a great deal of labour and cutting (one hundred men two days); the guns were let down by ropes. Column arrived at this river at 1.30 p.m.

The bed of the river is very rough and covered with large boulders, and the ford deep and dangerous. The bed of the river is considerably higher than the level of the sea, and is in consequence but slightly affected by the tides. The river can also be crossed at very low water at the sands. The guns were let down the left bank by ropes. After crossing the river, the path leads along the beach for about six hundred yards, the last two

of which is covered with large loose rocks and gravel. Here one of the Armstrong guns became disabled by the axle-tree of the limber breaking. The other gun and Ambulance cart passed over safely.

Here the river Kumupina empties itself into the sea. This river is like the Kanpokomu serpentine, with high perpendicular banks near the mouth and a rocky bed, but shallow at the mouth at low water, about half-way up to a man's knees.

On the right bank there is low sandy ledge, on which there was a native fishing village containing five good wharries and three large canoes (these were all destroyed for firewood on the return of the Column.

The path at this place leaves the beach and leads through the village up a steep and high sandy bank on to the main land.

On arriving at the top of this cliff it was found that a line of rifle pits, extending along the top of the cliff, capable of containing about 200 men, had been made by the natives, evidently intended to oppose the advance of General Cameron when the troops were at Waimate in April last, as their works completely covered the crossing at the mouth of the river, and the path leading up the cliff.

This village has the appearance of being deserted some time, and there were no signs of natives either about it or the rifle pits. At 3.40 the force had all crossed and re-commenced the march. The path leads along the coast, about 300 yards from it, through very high and close flax and fern for about one mile where there is a small river about four yards wide, with steep and slippery banks, and the water about two feet deep. The horses had difficulty in getting over this, as the bottom is soft and boggy. Arrived at this river at 3.10 p.m. The country here is very close and intersected by a great many gullies and swamps, and covered with high flax, toi grass and fern, and the forest comes down within one mile of the coast.

About half-a-mile further on there is a small stream of much the same nature as the last one, but a road had to be cut for the pack horses up the right bank, which is steep and slippery.

While the force was crossing this stream, at 3.45 p.m., a large fire was observed about one mile in advance, and considering it was made by Col. Weare's force from Te Namu, we answered it by lighting another.

The cavalry under Capt. Witchell were ordered to proceed on and reconnoitre. The force then advanced a short distance, when Col. Weare came up, and we halted. Col. Weare ordered the column to fall back and occupy the heights on the right bank of the Kumupia, which it did, and encamped there for the night.

On the morning of the 9th a fatigue party was ordered, and all the rifle pits were levelled and filled in, and the road on both sides of the river was repaired.

In the event of this position being again occupied by the natives it could be turned in by infantry going up the neck of land between the two rivers and crossing over the Kumupina about half a mile further up the river.

On the left bank there is a sand-hill about the same height which commands the position, lately entrenched at about 1,000 yards distant.

At 2 p.m. on the 9th inst. the force retired across the two rivers and encamped on the left bank of the Kanpakonur.

On the morning of the 10th the force marched to Waingangaro at 9 a.m., considerable difficulty and delay being experienced on the way in getting the broken gun and the ambulance cart, which was also broken, over the rivers and swamps. During a halt at the Waimate river, the road on the right bank was repaired. The force arrived at Waingangaro at 2.30 p.m, and encamped on the left bank of the river about 4 p.m.

On the 11th inst., at 9 a.m., the force marched to Manawapou, and arrived on the left bank of Ingahopo at 2 p.m., where it encamped for the night.

On the 12th, at 9 a.m., the force marched to Patea, and arrived there at 2.30 p.m.

We are pleased to record that the War Office has granted to Mrs. Barton, widow of the late Mr. Barton, Quarter-Master 1st Battalion, a pension of £40 a year, and a compassionate allowance of £10 a year for each of her children.

Corporal Chantler, 3rd Battalion, has been selected for a course of instruction in ambulance drill, and has gone to Aldershot for the purpose.

The restriction as to enlistment into the Royal Garrison Regiment has been removed so far as concerned Royal Reservists, and now any old soldier not over 40 years of age, of good character, and whose first attestation is within 20 years of application to re-enlist may now do so. It should be understood that although enlistment is for two years at a time, the engagement is to remain till 21 years' service has been completed, if not with the Royal Garrison Regiment, then with the Militia. Ignorance of this recently led to a case of self-destruction. The terms of pension are also complicated and need to be thoroughly grasped to be understood. Only half the ordinary amount of pension is awarded on completing the requisite service, this amount being increased on attaining the age of 65. Thus, a Private would receive 6d. a day until he was 65, when it would be increased to 1s. 6d. Non-commissioned officers would be dealt with in proportion

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A party of one Lance-Corporal and seven Bandsmen proceed on the 3rd May to Shorncliffe, where they will be attached to the Details for a Recruit's course of musketry.

Color-Sergeant Grellier received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the South African Medal, with two clasps, from the hands of Major-General Sir T. Fraser, commanding Thames District, at Chatham on 12th April, where a muster of the troops in garrison took place, and he was congratulated by the G.O.C. on receiving so distinguished a reward.

A proposal to amalgamate the married roll of the Home Battalion and Depot has been made, and is likely to be adopted. Its immediate effect would be to increase the number on the strength and would give a better chance to men at the Depot, as the establishment has only allowed two married men hitherto.

Machine guns are to be manned by Infantry—news to the 3rd Battalion who possesses one of these instruments of destruction. A nice little accommodating corner is being found for it in the Drill Shed at Maidstone.

Captain P. Umfreville has been selected for the position of Governor of a Military Prison, and will proceed to Pietermaritzberg, South Africa, to take up his duties; in the meantime he has gone to Aldershot, pending embarkation. The 1st Volunteer Battalion will, we are sure, feel his loss as he is very popular.

Major Warner, of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, will perform the duties of Adjutant as a temporary measure.

No. 4247 Pte. C. Town has been transferred to the Army Reserve, he having joined the South African Constabulary.

Sergt. F Ailwood, late 1st Battalion, who was invalided from Aden wounded in the late expedition, has joined the School of Cookery, Aldershot, with a view to his qualifying for the appointment of master cook, his leg rendering him unfit for the active duties of a soldier and attendant marching.

In place of the late Lieut.-Col Brodie, R.A.M.C., Major P. Connolly, R.A.M.C., has joined at Maidstone and assumed medical charge.

Mr. Forrest, Shropshire Light Infantry, selected to succeed Captain E. W. Brown, has taken over the duties of Quarter-Master of the 3rd Battalion, having been transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment.

Lance-Corporal Presley, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, selected for the appointment of Master Tailor to the 1st Battalion, has been transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment, and posted to the details pending embarkation for Malta.

The draft which sails for Malta on 12th May will muster about 130. The sending of these men will deplete the ranks of three companies at Shorncliffe and will reduce the number to about 130. No doubt it will afford a little respite to the staff of the companies to have so few when they have been nearly a couple of hundred strong for the greater part of the last two years.

As soon as another battalion of the Royal Garrison Regiment is formed, and dispatched to Malta, the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment will be brought home, and will, it is expected, be located at Chatham. It is expected that the Corps will be relieved at Malta in the autumn, but it will depend upon circumstances, so it is said. [Who said so? Ed.]

Sergt. B. Pond, of the Royal West Kent Regiment, has been awarded the medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of the guard of No. 2 Armoured Train, who was being swept away while bathing in the Zand River, South Africa, on March 6th.

We offer our congratulations to Colonel E. A. W. S. Grove, C.B., who a few months ago returned home from South Africa on giving up command of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, and has been appointed assistant adjutant-general of the Scottish District atEdinburgh.

1st VOLUNTEER ACTIVE SERVICE CO.

Information has been received that Private H. E. Mortlock, till lately at Bethulie, O.R.C., in I.M.R. Police, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and is now in charge at Middleburg, Transvaal.

April 22nd, 1902.

Sir,

We have a good clean copy of "The Adventures of Captain John Patterson," with notices of the Officers, etc, of the 50th, the Queen's Own Regiment, from 1807 to 1821.

Published London, 1837, price, 4s. 6d. We shall be pleased to reserve it, awaiting your reply,

Yours respectfully,

WINTER & SON,

Bridge Street and Wood Street, Taunton.

Perhaps one of our readers would be glad to get hold of this.—Ed., Q.O.G.

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216 KENT Militia.—FAGE (E., Adjutant) A regular form of discipline for the Militia, as it is performed by the West Kent Regiment, Commanded by the Rt. Hon. Lord Romney, 8vo, calf, 10s. 6d., 1759. Can be got from E. Menkin, 50, Gt. Russell Street, W.C.

To the enthusiastic book collector the two-penny box is frequently a mine of literary treasures. Sometimes one does pick up an interesting work, one of the latest which I found in the Charing Cross Road being entitled "General Regulations and Orders for His Majesty's Forces," under date 1786. Its first possessor was a sergeant-major in the 50th Regiment, whose remarks in the margin of some of the regulations are extremely amusing. A later owner of the book says:—"This is the first drill book ever published," (vide "Story of the British Army"; 1891, page 157). In these days of Mausers and quick-firing guns it is amusing to read instructions as to recruits having to bite well into the cartridge so that they get the powder into their mouths, and also the regulations as to the wearing of hair by the privates and N.C.Os. I note that the first line of the National Anthem in those days was "God Save Great George, Our King."

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Now and then up-to-date methods in matters military manifest themselves in different parts of slowing-moving England. At Droitwich, for instance, a volunteer "non-com.," having had some experience of Boer methods in South Africa, is improving the occasion for the benefit of his comrades. With a small party of nine followers he undertook to make his way from a point outside the town to the headquarters in face of the opposition of the whole detachment. As might be expected the affair created great interest. The defenders organised a line of no fewer than 36 outposts, which to the minds of their commanders made the task impossible. The enterprising sergeant managed in less than an hour to turn up at the place appointed, being found actually in possession of the Armoury, whilst its gallant defenders were congratulating themselves on keeping him outside their line of defence.

PREFERRED THE OLD WAY.

The village hero had returned from the war, and was "down" to play in a football match at Huddersfield. He was surrounded by a crowd of yokels, listening to his account of the battles he had taken part in. "Yes," said the warrior, "I've had enough of warfare. It's awful." Then he took his position in the field. Ten minutes later he retired from the field limping badly. His left eye was closed, three front teeth and a thumb-nail were missing, and a black and blue bruise adorned his right cheek. "Where's ta goin', Bill?" inquired a friend, as the wounded one approached. "Back to the front," replied William, "as soon as I can get."

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt, with many thanks, of the following subscriptions:—

To 31st December, 1901: Mrs. Henry Pullman (with donation), Companies of 2nd Battalion.

To 31st March, 1902: Details and 1st Provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe.

To 31st December, 1902: W. Fleming (per C. S. Bullock), Major W. Barker, Vice-Admiral Buckle, Captain Morphew, Mrs. Lowe.

Col. Brock desires to acknowledge, with thanks, a donation from Capt. Buckle, D.S.O., of 20s. towards furnishing the Regimental Institute at the Depot.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, 3rd May, the wife of Color-Sergt. Palmer, Permanent-Staff of a daughter.

At Maidstone, 1st April, 1902, the wife of Drummer F. Edmunds, Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At the Parish Church, Watford, 31st March, Pte. C. Valder to Sarah Rushby.

At Maidstone, 29th March, 1902, Sergt. J. McGregor to Miss Emily Gertrude Philpott.

At Maidstone, 7th April, 1902, Sergt. H. Moon, Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion, to Miss Minnie Ellen Chapman.

DEATHS.

At Heilbron, 1st April, No. 7050, Pte. E. A. White, 2nd. Vol Company, enteric.

At Pretoria, 2nd April, No. 7042, Pte. T. King, 2nd Vol. Company, enteric.

At Pretoria, 8th April, No. 5859, Pte. A. Tauner, 2nd Batt. enteric.

At Standerton, April 10th, No. 3855, Pte. A. Sansom, 2nd Batt., enteric.

At Bloemhof, 22nd April, No. 4818, Pte. C. Conway, 2nd Batt., gunshot wound.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

Copies will be sold at 1d. per Number to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men serving with the Colours. If sent by post 1s. 6d. per year.

Extra Copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O's and Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (Postage ½d extra).

The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to "THE EDITOR, *The Queen's Own Gazette*, the Barracks, Maidstone."

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 324. MAIDSTONE, JUNE, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 6.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

The undermentioned Second Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, dated 21st February, 1902—J. C. Parker, H. D. Belgrave.

Second Lieutenant W. C. O. Phillips from 3rd Battalion to be Second Lieutenant, dated 7th May, 1902.

Second Lientenant H. A. Waring from 3rd Battalion to be Second Lieutenant, dated 7th May, 1902.

The undermentioned officers of the Volunteer Companies for service in South Africa are, on having relinquished their temporary commissions, granted honorary rank in the Army as follows, with permission to wear the uniform of their Companies—to be Honorary Captain, Captain G. Morphew, dated 30th May, 1901; to be Honorary Lieutenants. Lieutenant C. N. Watney, dated 30th May, 1901, Lieutenant W. G. Morris, dated 25th June, 1901, Lieutenant C. S. Marchant, dated 30th May, 1901.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant, Lce.-Sergt. W. Marr, March 18th, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Sergeant, Corpl T. Colyer, March 5th, 1902,

Promoted Corporals, Lce.-Corpls. J. Argent and J. Warner, April 4th, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Corporals, Pte. J. Redmond, 2nd April, 1902; Pte. A. Hamlet, 6th April, 1902; Pte. H. Bostock, 23rd April, 1902.

1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Captain C. V. Fawcus resigns his commission, dated 7th May, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

There are many of us serving in the 1st Battalion, who, when they have received the latest number of the Q.O.G., have discovered with regret that very little of the doings of the 1st Battalion have been chronicled in the pages of the Regimental Paper. "Copy" is a thing which, I believe, as Editor, you often require. As one who has occasionally sent you notes, I propose to send you a few now, though I am afraid they will be notes of weeks, if not months ago I always think that in time to come it cannot but be of interest to ourselves, or to those who come after us, to look up in the pages of the Q.O.G. records of the past.

The Battalion in February last left Aden for Malta, but many circumstances connected with this event have apparently been left unchronicled.

The reason why the 1st Battalion Correspondent at that period and for some time afterwards failed to send you any notes, I cannot tell. I know one who often sent you notes has been ill for a long time. I suppose others have been too much engrossed in the pleasures and duties of Malta to have found time in which to sit down and write to you. To hark back a bit, as a matter of history, towards the end of January last, the welcome order was received that the Battalion would move from Aden. It was fully time that it did move. As most of your readers will be aware, Aden is a one-year station, and just as the first year was completed the Battalion received orders to move to Malta. These orders were not carried out, and after a few months we were officially informed that they were "suspended." This, of course, was in consequence of the state of affairs in S. Africa. Those who, like the writer, were at Aden during 1901, cannot but be fully aware how trying a second hot weather at Aden must be for all ranks; and during that hot weather the Battalion had been called upon to make a very unusual effort when it took part in the Addareja Expedition. The fact that companies of the R.A. had been kept in Aden long over the usual time, made us realise how highly probable it was that we should put in a third hot weather in Aden. I believe I speak in the name of everyone when I say we are duly thankful that such was not the case.

As bad luck would have it, General Maitland, who commands the Aden District, had been ill for some little time previous to our leaving Aden, and had therefore been unable to make the Annual Inspection of the Battalion that he otherwise would have done. Being on the sick list at the time the Regiment left, viz:—13th February, 1902, he could not come and see us off, but he published a farewell order on that day, which I will now reproduce, for I am sure it will be read with interest by many. "In bidding farewell to the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, the General Officer Commanding the District desires to record his appreciation of the good conduct of the Battalion since it has been under his command. The health of all ranks has doubtless suffered from the climate of Aden, but otherwise the Battalion is in a high state of discipline and efficiency, and is animated by an excellent spirit. The Brigadier-General Commanding wishes Lieut.-Col. Harrison, Officers, Warrant and N.C.O.'s and men of the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, a pleasant voyage and every success in the future."

The H. T. "Sicilia," which brought the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from South Africa to Aden, brought us to Malta. As the numbers embarking were under 600, there was no lack of accommodation. The voyage took somewhat longer than usual because the electric light was not taken on board at Suez, so that Quarantine might not be broken. We were tied up two nights in the Canal, and between Port Said and Malta we came in for an extra-strong "Gregale." The vessel being light, rolled no doubt more than she otherwise would have done, and I expect everybody was glad when we came to anchor at Malta. The Battalion is quartered at Fort Manoel, where it was quartered just before it went to India. Manoel, at all events, has this advantage, that the Battalion is together. Probably, compared with most other places where Battalions are quartered, at Malta the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, though the latter are by no means few. Just before leaving Aden, when three-fourths of the Battalion were under canvas at Steamer Point, the

opportunity was taken of holding the competition for the Batt. Challenge Shield and also the Challenge Cup. H Company won the Inter-Company Challenge Shield. For the Challenge Cup the competition was to be decided under somewhat novel conditions. The teams consisted of 6 men per Company, under a N.C.O. They started about 500 yards from the target, halting and firing a shot when ordered by the superintending officer. The target consisted of 6 chatties filled with water, placed in front of the stop-butt opposite the competing teams.

The team on the right fired at the chatties on their left front, and vice versa, and if a chatty was broken the man in the opposing team, who, for instance, was number 3 from the right, ceased to fire if the chatty which was number 3 from the right was broken. In the final competition D and F Coys. continued firing extra ammunition under equal conditions to decide who should be the winner. Finally it was decided by the section commanders, Sergts. Kill and Mason, firing at about 200 yards, shot for shot. Sergt. Mason first succeeded in breaking a chatty, and D Coy. became the winners of the Challenge Cup.

Since the Battalion has been at Malta, the Football Challenge Shield has been won by B Coy. If I am to believe what I have heard, an account of this has been sent you by a football correspondent. It is an awful disadvantage that football matches cannot take place at Manoel.

Towards the end of April, Major-General Lane, C.B., made what is generally known as the annual inspection of the Battalion, the first day in barracks, the second day on the Marsa. A short time previous to this H.E. the Governor, General Sir Francis Grenfell, inspected the Battalion. In both cases we are delighted to feel they were well satisfied with what they saw. We received your April number after the 1st of May. I am afraid this is probably due to the fact that correspondence from the 2nd Battalion must be received at very uncertain intervals, and that hardly any notes at all have been received by you during the last two or three months from Malta. During May the Battalion takes part in manœuvres and this should at all events furnish some copy for your regular correspondent next month.

I am sending you a copy* of what was officially said of Sergts. Kill and Wren when specially employed on the Addareja Expedition. I quite agree with the remark I heard passed at the time that things like this ought to be recorded in the pages of the "Q.O.G." I am sure, in this instance, what was officially written will be read with interest by a great many.

AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

* A copy of these will be sent you as soon as possible.—1st. Batt. Corrspnt.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

The fact of our move will atone, I hope, in some measure for the non-appearance of our usual monthly contribution, and before I enter into the details of several interesting events that have taken place, I need hardly say how pleased we were to receive first the rumour, and next the order that we were at last to get a change to a more congenial climate. At first we were inclined to doubt the rumour, but the increased activity on the part of our Officer Clerks, and the worried appearance of all the Pay Sergeants, showed that something was about to happen, and when the order for Malta was given, it would have startled you to hear the shout that went up. No more sandstorms, no more prickly heat, but off to civilization once more. No more gymkhanas, nor picnics to Sheikh Othman, but stern reality in the shape of Valletta Main Guard looming in the near future. Amid all this bustle there were several sporting events to be settled, and the energetic Sports Committee at once commenced operations. The first event they took up was the Inter Company Tug-of-War competition for the Shield. The pulls were drawn and read as follows :—

C *v.* G A *v.* B D. *v.* F. E. *v.* H.

The first heat was pulled off on the 15th January with the following result :—

C beat G B beat A F beat D H beat E

The next round was pulled off next day, when H beat C and B beat F, leaving H and B in the final. H proved the winners in the final. Owing to the competition this year not being a catchweight one as hitherto, the result was not quite such a forgone conclusion as it had been formerly, and excitement ran very high at times. The heats were decided by a single pull of 15 feet, and the final by the best of 3. The winning team worked very well under the supervision of their coach, Private Leech, and fully deserved the cheers that greeted their well-earned victory. Next came the Inter-Company Football Tournament, which was to be decided after much discussion by drawing lots as usual, but each team was to play the best of three matches with the team against which they were drawn. The first round was drawn as follows :—

1.—Band *v.* B 2.—A *v.* F

and the remainder were byes.

The draw of the second round was:—

Winners of 1 *v.* G Winner of 2 *v.* C
" E *v.* H Winner of D *v.* Drums

Thus eliminating all byes after the first round. In the first match between B and Band, B won by one goal to love, the second was a draw, and the third match was awarded to B as the Band did not turn up. A Company was the winner of the second tie, beating F Company by one goal to love in the first match, and by two goals to love in the second.

Next came the Inter-Company Challenge Shield to decide which was the best shooting company, and the Inter-Company Challenge Cup, also for shooting. Teams of ten picked shots were turned out to fight for the shield, and the competition was 7 rounds at 200, 7 at 500, and 7 at 600, with one sighting shot (compulsory) at 500 and 600. H Company was the winner of this trophy. For the Challenge Cup the following competition was arranged :—Teams of six men per company under a N.C.O. were drawn up 500 yards from a row of small earthenware chatties, and one round was fired at that distance; then the teams advanced towards the chatties, halting and firing when directed by the superintending officer, and whichever team broke the most chatties was to carry off the cup. D and F Companies were left in for the final and tied five times, till it was decided that section commanders should compete and Sergt. Mason won the cup for the D Company with his third shot.

Next comes our move from Aden to Malta. When the orders came, six companies with the band and drums moved to Steamer Point, under the command of Major Morse, and were put under canvas in Sappers' Bay, D and H Companies remaining at the Crater. On the 11th February the P. and O. H. T. Sicilia came into harbour, with the Dublins on board. They disembarked next day, and in the afternoon the Crater Companies and married families embarked, the Steamer Point Companies embarking on the morning of the 13th. We left harbour about 3 p.m., amidst the cheers of many kind friends, and as we stood out to sea, I think there was no one on board sorry to leave Adan. Our journey to Suez was rather uneventful, but we enjoyed it, as only

the regiment was on board, and we had plenty of room, the rations and accommodation being good and plentiful. On the 15th and 18th we had concerts, and you will see by the programmes that the old favourites were well to the fore. The band, under Mr. Davis, and the drums, under Sgt. Dr. Budd, made our evenings very cheerful. Major Morse, with the assistance of Cr.-Sergt. Callaghan, Sergt. Mason, and Lance-Corpl. Keleher provided amusement for those who like to be considered exponents of boxing. Among the numerous competitions the exhibition between Lance-Corpl. Keleher and Private Crisp was well worth watching. The boat did not call at Suez on account of quarantine regulations, the consequences being that we were moored in the Canal for two nights as the boat had no search light.

The following programme was given on H.M.T. Sicilia on February 15th:—Overture, "Patience," band; song, "There's a girl in the world for us all," Corpl. Fordham; song, "Kathleen Mavourneen," Sergt. McNaulty; song, "Oh, what a wicked, world we live in," Pte. Brooker; song, "I'll look after you,' Sergt.-Dr. Dudd; song, "I'm a looking at yer," Corpl. McEnuff; song, "The mother tongue," Dr. McCarthy; song, "The coster's faithless wife," Pte. Aslett; song, "Three women to every man," Corpl. Rose; song, "Laughing," Bds. Harris; song, "I didn't know what to say," Pte. Brooker; song, "The Boers have got my daddy," Corpl. Fordham; song, "While you're sleeping," Corpl. McEnuff.

The following programme was given on H.M.T. Sicilia on February 18th:—Valse, "Belle of New York," band; song, "Mona," Corpl. Mills; song, "Oh, that chicken," Mr. Kaul; song, "Old Virginia," Sergt. Osborne; song, "Take me there," Sergt. Allen; ventriloquism, Mr. Gardner; song, "Have a game," Pte. Brooker; song, "A jovial Monk," Mr. L. White; song, "My old Dutch," Mr. Pouchée; stump speech, Pte. Klein; song, "Queen of the earth," Sergt. Seaton; song, "Lu-Lu," Dr. McCarthy; song, "Buying a house," Corpl. McEnuff; song, "The golden dustman," Mr. Pouchée.

It took some time to get at all settled down in our old barracks at Fort Manoel, and a fortnight after our arrival Captain O'Dowda appeared with a draft of 200 N.C.O's and men from the Provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe.

We have played two cricket matches since our arrival at Malta, both got up in a great hurry, against No. 87 Co. R.G.A. In the first match we were very successful, beating the Gunners by an innings and 50 runs, but in the second match we were defeated by 100 runs.

The Malta Horse Show took place on the 8th and 9th of April, on the "Marsa," which is also the Racecourse and general playground of the Malta Garrison. A great many of the Classes in the Show were competitions for Maltese only, and right well did they respond to the appeal; they turn their animals out well, and it is quite the exception to see an ill-fed or badly turned out cab horse in Malta, such a pleasure after our Aden experience.

The Regiment showed two horses, Colonel Harrison's "Senekal," and Mr. Bush's "Exchange," in the Class for Arabs under 14.2. Though the Judges appeared to take a fancy to the Colonel's horse at first, they did not appreciate his action when moving, so he was counted out, and the 1st Prize of the Class was carried off by Mr. Bush's "Exchange," which was quite the pick of a group of about 30 competitors.

The Inter-Company Football Tournament was now continued, but only one game was played between the teams as the "Marsa" is such a long way from Fort Manoel, and the football ground is only available for the Regiment one or two days in the week. In this, the 2nd round, the result of the games was:—

B beat G by 2 goals to love.
A beat C by 2 ,,
E beat H by 1 ,,
Drums beat D by 4 ,,

In the semi-finals A suffered a defeat from B by 1 goal to love, while the Drums beat E by 1 goal to love.

THE FINAL, B v. DRUMS.

Although these teams were very level in their play, and the match was closely contested from start to finish, the game was very disappointing, both teams lacking combination and failing badly in front of goal. I think excess of zeal was the chief cause of want of combination, as every man seemed to think that it was his duty to kick the ball as hard as he could whenever it came near him, there being but few exceptions to this style of play. There was no lack of indivdual effort, and there was a good deal of really fine individual play, so with really good coaching the Company teams might be greatly improved for next year's tournament. At the call of time neither team had scored, so it was decided to play another ten minutes each way; in the second ten minutes the Drums scored a goal, but this put B Coy. on their mettle, and just before time was called they managed to score. After a short rest they again started for twenty minutes extra, and B Coy. soon scored their second goal, and the Drums failed to equalize, losing a hard fought game and the Inter-Company Shield by 2 goals to 1.

Names of B Company Football Team, winners of the Challenge Shield.

Goal: Pvt. McEnuff.
Backs: Privates Thorpe and Smith.
Half-backs: Privates McCarthy, Brill and Benge.
Forwards: Right wing: Lance-Corpl. McIntosh, Pte. Harden; Centre: Pte. Brandon; Left wing: Ptes. Sellings and Lawrence.

MALTA RIFLE MEETING.

This meeting took place between the 11th and 17th April, and appeared to be a great success. The number of competitors was very great, and there was the usual hard struggle between the Navy and Army, the former carrying off the majority of the prizes. We had several N.C.O's. and men firing, but beyond a few small money prizes, I regret to say, we carried off no prize of importance. Our men were out of practice, no doubt, on account of our move; they were on a new and very tricky range, and against them were arrayed the picked shots of the Mediterranean Fleet and the large garrison of Malta, nearly all of whom seemed up to Bisley form.

OFFICERS' BOAT RACE FOR H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S CUP.

This is a mile race, rowed in six-oared inrigged boats, about 40 feet long, with fixed seats. Although we had very little time, we managed to get a boat 12 days before the race, and worked hard to get fit. The following officers formed the crew:—

Cox, Captain Molony.	3, Lieut. Hastings.
Stroke, Capt. O'Dowda.	2, 2nd-Lieut. Lynch White.
5, Lieut. Dunlop.	Bow, Lieut. Keenlyside.
4, Capt. Martyn.	

The race took place on April 30th, and five boats entered. The day was fine, but there was a very strong head wind blowing, which made the water very choppy and rowing most difficult. I regret to say our boat's crew got into difficulties at once, and

did not steady down till nearly half the course was rowed, and then we found that all the other boats were ahead. However, we managed to pull up to third place, the R.A. winning easily, and the R E. being second. The officers were "At Home" at Fort Manoel, where H.E. The Governor presented the cup to the winning team. In the evening the boats' crews were all the guests of the R.A. and R.E. at the Castille and a very merry evening they had. The following Regiments entered for the race:

Royal Artillery. Royal Engineers.
The Lancashire Fusiliers. The Royal Warwickshire Regt.
and ourselves.

MALTA GARRISON ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Garrison Sports were held on the 1st and 2nd May, while the Fleet was away manœuvring. We had two teams in for the Tugs of War, one a catch weight, the other a light weight team (11 stone). The latter was very easily pulled over by a team of the Malta Regt. who won it last year, but I am glad to say our heavy team won the Infantry Tug. They drew a bye the first round, and had to pull against the 4th Royal Garrison Regt. in the semi-final, and the 1st Royal Garrison Regt. in the final. The names of the winning team were:

Col.-Sergt. Seager, Lce.-Corpl. Keleher, Pvt. Peckham, Pvt. Crisp, Pte. Stewart, Pvt. Scott, Pvt. Price, Pvt. Smith, Pvt. Sullivan, Pvt. Collins. Coach :—Pvt. Leech.

The team was distinctly good, and with plenty of good coaching and training, ought to make a good match against any team that could be got together in Malta. On the second day of the sports this team was beaten by the winners of the Royal Garrison Artillery Tug-of-war team, a very fine set of men averaging about 14 stone in weight.

Drummer Churchill was second in the obstacle race open to the garrison, and, though several others competed in the various events, I am unable to record any other prizes being carried off.

It was with very deep regret that all ranks of the Regiment heard of the sad death of Lieut. S. J. Barton, and great sympathy is felt for his widow and children. I am afraid he did not soon enough take the doctor into his confidence, but stuck to his work very pluckily, but too long.

We are just about to go into camp at a place called Ghain Tuffieha, 12 miles from Valletta, for a week's manœuvres under active service conditions, but I must wait till next month to give you an account of our experiences out there. I forgot to mention that we have a section of mounted infantry under training, Lieut. Hastings being in command, and they are to take part in the manœuvres, although they have only been training for about ten days.

1st Batt. Correspondent.

Dear Mr. Editor,

It may be generally known that Aden is not typical of Covent Garden Market, vegetables being as distinct from Aden as cleanliness is from Tommy's Oriental cook. As a consequence, our mutton fed contingent were eagerly looking forward to something which during their sojourn in Aden was, even in their waking dreams of avarice, not apparent. I allude to that English delight—that unromantic "poem"—a cabbage.

All seemed imbued with one ideal dream—Port Said and a cabbage.

Alas for our hopes! Alas for quarantine exigencies! Port Said was left astern (aforesaid exigencies not permitting our calling in), with "nary" a cabbage, not even a festive carrot being slung aboard, and the scurvy-ridden, unfortunate Arabian contingent sailed on.

Oh shades of even ye vegetable marrow!

After leaving Port Said, the weather, which had hitherto been in poet's lore, "painted ship and sea business," assumed dimensions decidedly choppy, dimensions so choppy that even the business-like "penny a fizzer man" took shelter below deck. When a "fizzer" man with his 200 per cent. return business finds conditions of weather too rough to ply his trade, it can be concluded that his thirsty advocates are of a corresponding turn of mind. The weather was indeed so stormy that a farewell concert which had been arranged to be put before the troops on the 22nd February, did not take place, for it was difficult for one to maintain one's equilibrium, so fearful was the tossing of the ship, and for 36 hours the condition below deck was appalling, everything not stationary was overturned, and anyone acquainted with the paraphernalia of a troopship's messing gear can imagine what a din was created, for it consists almost entirely of tin. So alarming became the pitching and tossing of the ship that several of the more timid expected to be launched into eternity. Some of the more hardy, however, were not so affected, and were heard at intervals roaring that highly elevating ballad "Go on, 'ave a game, why don't you try and 'ave a game?" which must be heard first for one to conceive how appropriate it was to the then existing circumstances. This sort of weather continued almost till Malta was reached, so that Church Parade service was entirely out of the question, and a general feeling of satisfaction prevailed among the mal-de-merites when on the early morning of Monday, 24th February, 1902, Malta was seen on the horizon.

Until this time no one seemed certain which of the several barracks at Malta we were to occupy, consequently when the time of disembarkation arrived—the afternoon of the 24th—and we learnt that we were to occupy Fort Manoel, the information was not altogether appreciated by those of the Regiment who were stationed in Malta with the Regiment about ten years previous, for, by a coincidence, it was the same barracks which they occupied then. Without doubt it is the most undesirable and inconvenient barracks on the island. But even Fort Manoel (with cabbage) did more than console us all to the inconvenience of the position, and the accommodation which the barracks afford.

Malta certainty presents a degree of civilisation which conduces in a measure to happiness and comfort to a man who has spent years "farther east," and again is certainly a desirable change from India, Burmah, and Aden, but even so something is lacking, and something that the brilliant services of the fine old battalion abroad renders it deserving of. That something is a speedy move, and a move which we all anticipate to take place shortly, to dear old England. That the prediction that we are bound for England in the ensuing early autumn may be consummated, is, I feel confident, the foremost wish of all. Until that period the battalion will do its duty, and endeavour to excel all with whom it may be brought in contact, as it has done in the past.

A Well-wisher to the *Q.O.G.*

EDITORIAL.

We have for disposal at a guinea each a few bound volumes of the *Q.O. Gazette* for the period June, 1893, to Dec., 1901. They are practically complete, and are handsomely bound. Applications will be dealt with in the order in which received.

The account of the reception of the 2nd Volunteer Service Company will appear next month.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANKFORT, O.R.C.,
2nd May, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The beginning of May finds us still here without our dispositions having undergone any great change. On the 7th April C and H companies, which were at Krom Spruit, Frankfort, countermarched, and on the 21st the 2nd Volunteer Company left Heilbron for England after a year's varied experience of soldiering in South Africa. I am sure none of them will forget the time they spent on Col. Garratt's column, where they met with a very high standard of discomfort. At the beginning of the month, our local commando of Kaffir scouts under Spearman, a most redoutable warrior, had a remarkable run of success, since when the Boer "Spions" have considered the neighbourhood of Frankfort so unhealthy that they have been conspicuous by their absence. On the 5th of April these scouts went out about fifteen miles to the south, and surprised a small party of Boers, killing one and capturing another. As an instance of their wonderful indifference to pain on this occasion one of the "boys" had his leg shattered below the knee by a bullet, but rode gaily in with the rest and will be walking about again before an ordinary mortal would think of having the splints off.

On the 6th they brought in an aged Boer from a few miles to the south, and on the night of the 8th laid a trap for the "Spions" who had been frequenting Paisley Ridge, two miles to the north, with great regularity for some days past. Those who know the ground may remember a small farm in the valley beyond the ridge. One party hid here while a second laid up in Paisley Kraals, and a third behind the western end of the ridge. Soon after daylight the two Boers rode past within seventy yards of the farm, which was too tempting for the Kaffirs, who mounted and went for them, capturing both after a short and exciting course. On the 12th they went out again and laid up on the low range of hills east of Liebenberg's Vlei, about six miles away. About 10 o'clock we saw them ride over the ridge and down the other side. Before long they returned in triumph with one Boer, two horses and rifles. This Boer was in no luck, as he was on a two days' pass from his commando and had only been at home for an hour when he received his invitation to visit Frankfort, en route for Ceylon or elsewhere. On the 19th they went out to a place some miles north of Krom Spruit, to which a Boer patrol was in the habit of coming, and, after some hours of waiting, they saw two Boers miles away, who rode straight up to where they were lying, the "boys" mounting and charging straight at them when a short distance away, capturing the pair, who were typical ruffianly-looking Boers. These Boers were also unfortunate, as that very morning orders arrived that all offensive operations were to cease for a few days to enable Boers to attend a meeting south of here. There has been more talk of peace during the last three weeks than at any previous period of the war. The balance of opinion seems to point to peace at an early date, though nothing will be settled definitely till after the big meeting of representatives of the different commandoes in the middle of this month. Col. Allenby's column has been stationary near Villiersdorp for some time past and drawing supplies from here, so many old friends of the Regiment in the 13th Hussars have come in on escort duty to his convoys. Col. Barker's four columns have also been in this neighbourhood lately, and three nights ago did a night march to Bezuidenhout's Drift on the Wilge River, where they captured Manie Botha, an enterprising young Boer leader, who, though he has read his obituary notice in the papers, and has been wounded six times, will doubtless live to do good service to his country in more peaceful times.

Polo has been in steady progress three days a week during the past month on a very good ground for once, which is almost as nature left it, and when the columns are in we have quite good games. Football also has been played, though when stretched along forty miles of blockhouses line it is not possible to get teams together for matches, but the garrison and the regiment have a match which promises to become a weekly institution, as neither is able to claim any decided advantage over one another. A most excellent concert was held in the supply yard here on the 24th inst., both stage and stalls being composed of biscuit boxes. Besides some excellent songs the native "boys" employed during the day in loading wagons and stacking sacks of oats, gave a most diverting turn in the shape of their national war dances, in which display the Zulus were points ahead of their Basuto brethren. The Ikonamatograph, a clever manipulation of shadow figures, was a novel feature and a great success. I enclose a programme of this festive evening; may we have many more.

2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

"BISCUIT AND BULLY" CONCERT

Held at Frankfort, Orange River Colony, on the 24th April, 1902. Programme:—

Piano solo, Capt. Cracroft, R.I.F.; song, "Love's old sweet song," Clr.-Sergt. Bullock, R.W.K.; song (sentimental), "A little bit further down," Lce.-Corpl. Urquhart, R.W.K.; song, "Smoke, smoke, smoke," Pte. Larcombe, R.W.K.; song (naval), "What ho she bumps," Dr. Blackford, R.F.A.; song, "Just as the sun went down," Gnr. Blewden, R.F.A.; song (military), "Khaki night and day," Pte. Stillman, R.W.K.; Penny whistle solo, Clr.-Sergt. Croucher, R.W.K.; song (intoxicating), "All Scotch," Pte. West, R.W.K.; song, (touching), 2nd-Lieut. Stevenson, R.W.K.; song (ancient), "The good old annual," Sergt. Lewis, R.F.A. Zulu war dance. Imported savages. XXX Intermezzo. Basuto war dance. Exported savages. Song (selected), Pte. Webber, R.A.M.C.; song, "The old mud cabin," Gnr. Allen, R.F.A.; song (dramatic), "Gallery and boxes," Pte. Stillman, R.W.K.; song (selected), Capt. Cracroft, R.I.F.; song, "The streets of London town," Lce.-Corpl. Bucklow, R.W.K.; Ikonamatograph, Lce.-Crpl. English, R.W.K.; song, "One of the jays," Gnr. Yetton, R.F.A.; song, "She was a stranger in London," Pte. Paine, R.W.K.; song (sentimental), "Let 'em all go," Lce.-Corpl. Urquhart, R.W.K.; song, "Myself and Mistress Malone," Pte. Stoakley, R.W.K.; song, "We want another like him," Lce.-Corpl. Bucklow, R.W.K.; "God save the King." Referee, Lieut. and Adjutant H. Isacke, 2nd. Royal West Kent. Dresses by Captain and Qr.-Master Couch, 2nd Royal West Kent (supplied gratuitously). Biscuit boxes kindly lent by the representatives of the A.S.C.

KENT AND THE WAR.

A county meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon in the Town Hall, Maidstone, available through the kindness of the Mayor, with the patriotic object of inaugurating a second fund for the provision of comforts for the Kentish soldiers in South Africa and of memorials to those who have fallen. Earl Stanhope, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, presided over a large and extremely representative and influential gathering, which included:—The Mayor of Maidstone (Alderman W. Brownscombe), the High Sheriff of Kent (Mr. E. L. Tomlin), the Earl of Darnley, Lord Medway, the Right Hon. J. G. Talbot, M.P., Sir Francis Evans, K.C.M.G., M.P., Mr. Laurence Hardy, M.P., Col. C. E. Warde, M.P., Major F. S. W. Cornwallis, the Mayor of Gravesend (Alderman J. H. Cooper), Sir D. Salomons, the Hon. E. V. Bligh, Major-Gen. C. Cumberland, C.B., Col. T. Brock, Col. E. T. Luck, Col. T. H. Pitt, Col. A. Grubb, Col. Pennefather, Col. Hill, Major Best, Messrs. G. Marsham, C. Whitehead, P. H. Dyke, A. T. Waring, O. E. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, R. Norton, G. Appleyard, G. Tomlinson, S. Lee Smith, K. McAlpine, G. M. Style, J. A. G. Wigan, H. W. Smith, J. F. Wheeler, E. J. Elgood, C. T. Smith, W. H. Burch-Rosher, Herbert Leney, T. Powell, W. B. Tylden-Pattenson, R. Grant, R. G. E. Locke, H. Neve, H. F. Plumtre, Warwick Stunt, T. Jordan, E. W. Brightman, S. Faudel-Phillips, D. Reid, W. Baldwin, J. C. Pillman, J. J. Hewitt, Bryce Grant, E. B. Evelyn, H. Evans Gordon, E. Packe, A. H. Baker, and C. Turner (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. Whatman, Miss Elgood, etc.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. C. Turner announced that the following noblemen and gentlemen had desired their names to be placed on the General Committee:—The Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Marquis Camden, the Earl of Cranbrook, G.C.S.I., Earl Amherst, Earl Radnor, Earl Guilford, Earl Darnley, Earl Sondes, Viscount Hardinge, Viscount Falmouth, Colonel Lord Harris, G.C.S.I., Lord Avebury, Lord Teynham, Lord Sackville, K.C.M.G., Lord Medway, Lord Arthur Butler, the Right Hon. G. Wyndham, M.P., the Hon. E. V. Bligh, the Hon. R. P. Nevill, Sir Francis H. Evans, K.C.M.G., M.P., Sir David L. Salomons, Bart., Sir Edward Sassoon, Bart., M.P., Sir A. M. Watkin, Bart., Sir Mark Collet, Bart., Sir Richard Wyatt, Sir H. D. Davies, K.C.M.G., M.P., Sir John Honywood, Sir Marcus Samuel, Sir William Crundall, Mr. Gilbert Parker, M.P., Mr. B. L. Cohen, M.P., Mr. Laurence Hardy, M.P., Mr. A. G. Boscawen, M.P., Major John Howard, M.P., Mr. T. R. Dewar, M.P., the Mayors of Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, Dover, Gravesend, New Romney, Lydd, Sandwich, and Chatham, Major F. S. W. Cornwallis, Colonel Holland, C.B., Mr. W. J. Thompson, Mr. H. Wilkinson, Lieut.-Colonel Copeland, Major J. Middleton Rogers, D.S.O., Colonel T. H. Pitt, Mr. P. Battiscombe, Mr. O. H. Smith, Mr. J. F. Carnell, Mr. Norman Watney, Mr. R. Wingate, Mr. F. G. Gibson, Mr. C. Whitehead, General C. E. Luard, Mr. Coles Child, Mr. C. Sofer Whitburn, Mr. E. Packe, Mr. W. S. McClelland, Mr. J. J. Hewitt, Major-General Kemball, Mr. D. Reid, Major M. G. Best, Mr. H. G. Mildmay, Mr. A. Swanzy, Mr. A. T. Bevan, Mr. R. K. Hodgson, Admiral Miller, the Chairmen of the Sheerness, Bromley, Southborough, Herne Bay and Wrotham Urban District Councils, Mr. G. H. Whitehead, Mr. S. Lee Smith, Mr. A. T. Waring, Colonel Hill, Mr. J. Watson, Mr. W. Burch-Rosher, Mr. W. Leach Lewis, Mr. J. C. Pillman, Major-General Cumberland, C.B., Colonel A. Grubb, Mr. R. A. H. Seymour, Mr. G. Tomlinson, Mr. F. E. East, Mr. T. Horrell, Major Neve, Mr. R. Mercer, Colonel E. T. Luck, Colonel Bailey, Colonel Penfold, Mr. T. Jordan, Mr. R. Grant, Mr. A. W. Howe, Mr. Bryce Grant, Mr. W. T. Hinds, Captain L. W. Vaile, Mr. A. S. Jones, Mr. W. E. Long, Mr. J. H. Monins, Mr. L. J. W. Fletcher, Mr. K. McAlpine, Colonel Pennefather, Mr. J. A. Anderson, Mr. R. F. Brain, Mr. E. C. Warren, Mr. A. H. Baker, Mr. A. Matthews, Dr. G. Wilks, Mr. Norton, Mr. G. I. Swoffer, Mr. H. W. Smith, Colonel Grove, Mr. J. R. Daniels, Mr. H. F. Plumtre, Mr. R. G. E. Locke, Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Mr. S. A. Peto, Mr. A. Collard, Mr. G. M. Style, Mr. S. Faudel-Phillips, Mr. W. L. Wigan, General Dawson Scott, Mr. W. S. Crosbie-Hill, Mr. E. B. Evelyn, Mr. W. J. Hughes, Mr. M. E. Collet, the Rev. J. E. Campbell-Colquhoun, Mr. F. B. Cobb, Mr. A. Laurie, Major J. Beard, Mr. A. Gurney Smith, Mr. G. Ashley Dodd, Mr. W. Ball, Colonel E. W. Hussey, Mr. H. Payne, Mr. A. C. Norman, Major the Hon. E. Mills, and Mr. E. J. Elgood.

The noble Chairman said the object of the meeting was one which would commend itself to every man and woman in the county. It was to express their warm admiration and their gratitude to the gallant County Regiments which had distinguished themselves so much in South Africa, and which had on behalf of the county defended the cause of the King and the country (hear, hear, and applause). He thought it might be said, as Lord Roberts said at Bloemfontein—and it might be applied to the County Regiments—that they marched well, they fought well, and they behaved themselves well. He was sure that might be said of every man that went out from the county of Kent (applause). They might many of them feel that the Royal West Kent Regiment would be the first to command their interest, but it would be impossible to leave out the other side of the county, viz., the Buffs, and the Imperial Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, and presently resolutions would be submitted to them embracing all the County Regiments as deserving of their practical sympathy. There were at that moment, according to a return he had obtained from the War Office, as many as 3,203 Kentish men in South Africa, and the Royal West Kent Regiment had 1,640 out of that number. The 3rd Battalion the Buffs was now at St. Helena, so the county still had a large force at the front. They had lately heard a good deal about peace, and he hoped and trusted the announcement of peace was only deferred for a few days (applause). Since the war began they had to grieve the loss of 278 men of the County Regiments, not counting the Cavalry or Yeomanry, who had lost a good many more. Of that number only 54 were killed, and the remainder died of disease and accident. He had seen it stated, and he could not let it pass by without notice, that the county of Kent had not been forward in promoting the interests of its soldiers. He thought he could prove to them that that was an assertion which would not stand criticism at all (hear, hear) He really had looked into the figures and the subscriptions raised by other counties, and he was quite sure that the county of Kent would compare most favourably with any county of England. Some of them knew very well how much the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association had done for the wives and children of their soldiers at the front. He had been connected with the Association from the beginning, and he thought the county was better organised in that respect than any other county, and as the Treasurer of the Association for 12 or 13 years he could say they had expended large sums of money, chiefly collected in the county. In 1900 the Association expended £21,858 in relieving 2,552 wives and 4,152 children; last year they expended £9,954 in assisting 1,334 wives and 2,382 children. It might be within their recollection that at the time the Yeomanry were sent out they raised a large sum of money through county agencies towards the equipment, comforts and necessaries, and that sum of which he had the honour of being Treasurer, amounted to £8,680. He had also heard it mentioned that they did not do all they could for the employment of reserve soldiers and men who had come back from the war, but during the past year the employment depôts—one at Maidstone, one at Canterbury, and one at Woolwich—had found permanent employment for 37 men. The other day they had a preliminary meeting there, which was attended, amongst others, by Col. Hickson, Commanding the 3rd Regiment Depôt at Canterbury, and Major Tylden-Pattenson, which showed that East Kent was well represented. That meeting was on April 22nd, and they went into the whole question. It was considered that it would be injudicious and ill-advised to provide any pension fund, since by the War Office regulations permanently disabled soldiers were already provided for with 10s. 6d. a week. Those temporarily incapacitated had already two funds—Lloyd's Patriotic and the Soldiers' Help Society. Anyone who was concerned in helping any cases, military or civil, was anxious that charities should not overlap. It was a great mistake when money was frittered away by overlapping charities [hear, hear]. These two charities were not absolutely county charities, but he would remind them that many of them subscribed to the Lord Mayor's War Fund, which was divided into various divisions; one was for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, one for the Soldiers' Help Society, and one for the Lloyd's Patriotic. As regards the Soldiers' Help Society the Rev. Canon and Mrs. Nisbet, of Ickham, had assisted through its means 37 men, five being sent to convalescent homes; there were now two cottage homes in East Kent. The committee, or preliminary meeting, after considering these matters, came to the resolution that the best means of helping their soldiers would be to raise a fund first of all to send out comforts, etc., not only warm clothing for the coming winter, but also for certain cases of relief after very strict inquiry. The money so raised would be given to Col. Brock and Col. Hickson, and at the end of the war they would spend some of the money towards erecting memorials to those who had fallen. Then it was suggested that any balance that remained should be invested, and the interest paid out for the benefit of all the County Regiments. He had a letter from Lord Harris regretting his inability to be present and enclosing the handsome donation of a hundred guineas [applause]. The letter had a very good ring about it; his Lordship wrote that he had "the most cordial sympathy with the movement." We should appeal to every man of Kent and Kentish man, for all must be proud of what our men had done and must welcome the opportunity of helping those who are still fighting and honouring those who have met a soldier's death [applause]. He (Earl Stanhope) trusted that by decentralisation each Mayor in the county would collect funds for this object, and also that the Chairmen of the Urban and Rural District Councils would do the same. They would get, he had no doubt, a large fund in time, even though it was the year of the Coronation, and there were bonfires and feeding and all kinds of rejoicing [laughter and applause].

The Mayor of Maidstone moved the following resolution:—"This meeting desires to express its warm sympathy and gratitude to the County Regiments who have so gallantly served and are still serving their country in South Africa." He said he did it with three-fold pleasure. First of all he was in hearty accord with it himself, then he knew it was a resolution which would meet with their cordial support, and it was to be seconded and supported by gentlemen who would do justice to it. Whatever might be their feelings on war in general and this war in particular, they could not but be in hearty accord with the resolution. They all admired the gallant men who at the call of their country were ready to go and sacrifice themselves and their comforts and to do their duty as true Englishmen. They in the county of Kent might justly feel proud of the men who had gone forth and of the work they had done (applause). He might quote the poet and say "Their's not to make reply, their's not to reason why, their's but to do and die," (applause). We had followed them as they had gone in that wonderful campaign. Sometimes they had met with reverses, sometimes they had been smitten down by fever, and, as we had followed them up and down that wide tract of country, our hearts had gone with them. When they had been in sorrow we had felt sad; when they had met with victory and had rejoiced our spirits had gone up, and we had rejoiced with them. They in the county of Kent felt it was their duty to send to them some little comfort, the comforts they were naturally deprived of. They must not overlook the great claims these brave fellows had upon them, and their brave wives and their children. Many of the wives had had to suffer a great deal, and whilst the husbands were away fighting for their country they should have the common necessities and a little of the luxuries of life (applause).

The Right Hon. J. G Talbot, M.P., seconded the resolution. He remarked that they had all had private reasons for sympathising with such movements as that, but even if they had not they had public reasons.

They had all been proud of what had been done by their fellow-countrymen, and especially by members of their own county, during the last three years. They had longed for this war to come to an end, but this fund would be necessary, because it referred not merely to the carrying on of war but to those things which were the necessary accompaniments of war, viz:—the loss of comforts and of life itself. The three heads under which this appeal seemed to divide itself were the comforts they were about to send out to those who were still engaged in warfare or even after warfare had ceased, because the mere cessation of war could not mean the return at once of all who were in the field; they ought to see that they had not only ordinary pay but some compensation for the loss of the many comforts which home provided. Then there was a matter which he thought would commend itself to all present, and that was the question of erecting memorials to those who had fallen. That was a rather more difficult and delicate question, and he had no doubt it would be carefully considered, but he was sure the feeling of the county would be that, whether they were local memorials or a county memorial in such places as Maidstone and Canterbury, some such memorial of those who had gone out from Kent and sustained the honour of Kent in a distant land should not be forgotten [applause] The third head was perhaps the most difficult, and yet he thought they would agree with him that it was a matter which they ought not to pass by altogether. The Chairman had referred to the great danger of overlapping, and however warm their feelings might be they must not forget that it was quite possible to do harm under the name of charity; if they did not take care to separate the good from the bad they might be, in attempting to relieve those who were destitute, encouraging those who were dissolute [hear, hear]. Presuming that the committee used discrimination, then there always would remain cases of real distress which it was the duty of the community to relieve, and so he hoped there would be a balance from this fund out of which donations might be made to such cases which could not be met out of the general funds [hear, hear]. He told a story of a case of real distress so relieved and, proceeding, asked to be allowed to bear his testimony to the wonderful temper and patience which the Army and nation of England had exhibited under this great crisis [applause]. He thought there had been few greater trials which this nation had sustained, We had been engaged in longer wars than this, but he ventured to think there were few wars which had tried and tested the temper of this nation more completely, and out of that trial he thought the nation had emerged with an even brighter character than it possessed before [applause]. The Right Hon. gentleman concluded by quoting Mr. Chamberlain's testimony at Birmingham recently to the temper and patience of the Empire and the noble work of our soldiers in South Africa.

Sir Francis Evans, M.P., in supporting the resolution, said the question of transport came very closely home to him. When the war broke out transport on a large scale was not well known in this country; there were very few officers who had had experience of it. But he had had a great deal to do in his early life with the moving of troops, and he thought it his duty to assist the Government. He believed he was present at every shipload of troops in the first four or five months of the war. They sent nearly 60,000 troops in the first six months in their own ships, and they had constantly sent them from time to time. That had brought him closely into contact with the officers and men of the various Regiments that had gone to the front, and in that way he had made the acquaintances of large numbers. He had had a great deal to do with sending comforts to the troops at the front, and he had seen and had to remonstrate a good deal with the Generals in command on the want of foresight and the want of selection in these comforts. They had arrived in South Africa, and many of them were now piled high on the beach, never to reach the men for whom they were intended. They could not comprehend the enormous loads that were put on shore where ordinary merchandise could not find room. He was glad to find that all Kent was represented on the General Committee. It was well that the distribution of these funds should be from local organisations. They must be very careful, make the comforts as few as they could, select them rightly, and when they had got them ready the committee had better come to see him about sending them off [laughter]. When they once got them into the right train they saw that they reached their right destination; it might save them a little money too. After the Civil War in America enormous pension funds were raised, but the want of local organisation was the cause of great trouble and misapplication of funds. Here they had a committee big enough to look after everybody. He was sure the people of Kent would subscribe, and feeling that care would be taken in the selection of the comforts, he felt very happy in supporting the resolution [applause].

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Major F. S. W. Cornwallis moved "That subscriptions be invited towards providing comforts, &c., for all the county military forces now at the front, and also for erecting, after the war, memorials to the soldiers from the county who have fallen, any balance remaining to be invested for the benefit of the County Regiments." He said the Mayor and Mr. Talbot sounded the reveille, and he was going to sound the "Fall in." They might perhaps reasonably say that now the railways were in our hands food and clothing were more easily conveyed to the front, and that there was not the same call for luxuries as there was formerly, but any consideration of that sort was entirely overshadowed by the fact that the longer our troops were away the greater was their appreciation of any help from home [applause]. As regards the memorials, it would be unwise on his part to suggest what form they should take, but that they should erect some memorial he was sure would commend itself to the mind of everybody in that room and in the county [hear, hear]. With regard to the permanent fund, the territorial system was with us to stay, and they would be doing a good service not only to the county, but to the Regiments if they identified themselves as closely as they could as a county with them. They knew it was the duty of the Government to make fair and reasonable provision for those who were wounded and for the wives of those who fell in the war, but there were, and always must be, cases outside that provision, for which a little ready help would be of the greatest possible assistance and probably salvation. He did not think anybody could realise what was the feeling of our soldiers at the front when they got a little remembrance from home. He knew of four Yeomen from one parish who were stripped of everthing at Tweefontein and were in consequence very miserable, when they received a small packet of tobacco from home, which greatly restored their spirits. In conclusion, Mr. Cornwallis said that if they could establish a permanent local interest between the citizens and the soldiers they would have done a very good afternoon's work (hear, hear).

The High Sheriff seconded the resolution. He humourously likened the movement to a Company being floated. They had heard, he said, a long list of good names, but they were not only on the outside of the prospectus, not sugar outside, and rhubarb within (laughter). They hoped the subscriptions would be unlimited, and they could promise the subscribers a big dividend, the dividend of a good consciousness of duty done. When the capital had been subscribed it would be divided, either in comforts or memorials for fighting for the greatest company the world had ever seen, John Bull & Co. (laughter and applause). Imperial patriotism was a fine thing, but local patriotism must be its feeder, and he hoped Kentish men would set a good example and by subscribing liberally to the fund not only stimulate local patriotism but add to the prestige of the local regiments (applause).

Mr. S. Faudel-Phillips asked how the money was proposed to be sent He mentioned that memorials were quite sure to be erected by the two Regiments; Colonel Brock and the officers of the Regiment would do everything they ought to do in that respect. He ventured to suggest that as a very large fund was sure to be forthcoming the best way of using it would be to assist the disabled men and the widows and fatherless.

The resolution was put and carried.

Earl Darnley proposed that an Executive Committee, consisting of Earl Stanhope, Lord Harris, Mr. G. Marsham, Colonel Sir Wollaston Knocker, and Colonel Grubb, should be appointed, with Mr. F. S. W. Cornwallis as Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Charles Turner as Hon. Secretary, and also that a Kent Soldiers' War Fund should be opened at the Maidstone and Canterbury Banks. His Lordship said he felt it a great honour and a great pleasure to be able to take part in any movement which had for its object the recognition of the services of the gallant Kent soldiers (applause).

In seconding the motion, Mr. Laurence Hardy, M.P., suggested that the committee should have power to add to their number. He said that the Buffs were not technically in the field at the present time, but they had earned the attention of any Executive Committee which might be appointed by guarding the Boer camp at St. Helena. It was an unpleasant duty, and he was afraid it was being carried on at this moment with one very great danger, viz., the scourge of enteric, which was always lingering near those great concentration camps of men in small spaces. He had had to have correspondence with the War Office on this very question, and he thought there was no doubt there was a considerable amount of sickness amongst the East Kent Regiment. He was sorry to state that owing to the enormous strain on the resources of the War Office there was a difficulty in ensuring that the men there had the comforts which were essential to them when they were in the phase of convalescence from enteric, and if the committee could at once give their attention to this matter he was sure they would earn their gratitude (hear, hear),

The Chairman explained that the Executive Committee was merely for the purpose of receiving the money in the first instance, and then the investigation as to the amount of comforts and their destination came from either Colonel Brock or Colonel Hickson. They would not forget the reference made to the 3rd Battalion the Buffs in St. Helena.

This resolution was also carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Lord Lieutenant for presiding, on the motion of the Right Hon. J. G. Talbot, seconded by Sir Francis Evans.—From the *South Eastern Gazette.*

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

"C," DARTFORD COMPANY.

By the kind permission of Colonel E Satterthwaite, commanding, an "Assault-at-Arms" and Band Concert were given by the non-commissioned officers and men of "C," Dartford company, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 7th and 8th, at the Conservative Hall, Dartford. As this was quite a new venture on the part of the company, all the more credit is due to those who were entrusted with the arrangements, the long and varied programme being got through without a hitch, to the great appreciation of the enthusiastic audiences. The numerous exercises were smartly carried out by the several squads, and reflected great credit on the N.C.O's. of the company, who evidently had taken great trouble to bring the men up to the high standard of efficiency which was shown. The Hall was suitably decorated with flags and mottoes, and the seating arrangements were well carried out by members of the company under the directorship of Quarter-master-Sergt. A. Perry and Quarter-master-Sergt. G. C. Baker. The company is indebted to the several friends who kindly assisted in the vocal and instrumental portions of the programme.

The Concert was opened by the band of the company rendering Meyerbeer's Coronation March "Le Prophete," under the leadership of Band-Sergt. L. T. Exeter, in capital style. Item No. 2 was Leg Exercises and Gymnastic Marching by a squad of "C" company, which were smartly and correctly performed, after which Mr. R. Cross gave an excellent rendering of the song entitled "Only an Outpost." The next event, "Bayonet Fighting," was a novel sight for the people of Dartford, and some clever guarding and pointing was shown by the combatants. Lce.-Corpl. W. Dalton beat Lce.-Corpl. Quant by 3 points to 1, and Pte. C. Knight beat Lce.- Corpl. Jarvis by the same margin. After the Westgate House Orchestral Band had very creditably performed the Allegro Marzaile "La Ritirata Italiana" (C. W. Dreseler), another squad of "C" company gave a splendid exhibition of Club swinging. The changes were well timed, and the men worked together in a style which thoroughly deserved the hearty appreciation shown by the audience. Then followed another squad of the company, who gave an exhibition of Maxim Gun drill, and the surprising manner in which they dismantled their gun and then brought it into action was worthy of any section of Regulars or the Naval Brigade. A pleasant diversity was made by the introduction of Mr. Maurice Cowan singing a comic song entitled "I'm so pleased to see you again," which was loudly applauded, and a similar compliment was paid to a squad of the Queen's Own West Kent Imperial Yeomanry, who, under the command of Sergt.-Major Neal, gave a very creditable display of sword exercise. The Dartford School Boys' Battalion, under the guidance of their Instructor, were warmly complimented for their figure marching, the difficult movements being gone through in a clever fashion. The first part of the programme was brought to a close by the singing of "The Flight of Ages," by Mr. Blackburn Bolt, who was heard to advantage. During the interval Cyclists Hammond and White, arrayed as clowns, caused much merriment by their funny speeches and amusing antics.

The second part was as the first, opened by the Band rendering "Gems of Sullivan" in equally good style, and the squad of "C" company which followed performed the various movements in the Dumb Bell Exercises with great accuracy. Another comic song entitled "Does it hurt you very much?" sung by Mr. Cowan, was much appreciated, and this gentleman, on his recall, obliegd by giving a capital rendering of the song "Its the funny little way he's got of showing it." The next item was the Bayonet exercise by a squad of "C" company, under the command of Sergt. Walker, and, as before, the men worked wonderfully well together, the points with the lunge being especially smart and workmanlike. This led to another performance by the Orchestral Band after which a display of boxing was given by Ptes. Motterham and Hanaford. The former had an immense advantage in respect to weight and strength, but Hanaford stuck pluckily to his work, and some good bouts were witnessed. Physical drill with arms was next gone through by a squad of "C" company, the men again working well together, which testified to their careful preparation. The song "The Deathless Army" was forcibly rendered by Mr. R. Cross, and the proceedings were terminated by members of the company performing Mulligan Guards (in character), which caused great amusement, the various costumes of the men forming a strange contrast with the uniform of to-day. One or two items had to be omitted owing to the lateness of the hour, but, on the whole, the venture was a decided success, and much credit is due to all members of the company who took part in the proceedings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

Colonel Brock wishes to thank Colonel E. A. Grove, C.B., for a donation of £2 for Depôt Regimental Institute.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th inst., at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, by the Rev. J. F. Kitto, assisted by the Rev. J. Bridges Nunn, T. H. Clayton Nunn, the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, only son of the Rev. J. Bridges Nunn, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, to Aileen Sybil, daughter of the late Major John Tatham, R.H.A., and Mrs. Tatham, of St. Leonarda-on-Sea.

DEATHS.

At Heilbron, 29th April, No. 7058 Pte. W. Auty, 2nd. Vol. Active Service Company, of enteric.

At Heilbron, 9th May, No 7003 Pte. H. E. Creasey, 2nd Vol. Active Service Company, of dysentry.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 325. MAIDSTONE, JULY, 1902. [Vol. XX. No. 7.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

3rd BATTALION.

Lieut. A. C. Beeman to be Captain, dated 31st May.

Supernumerary Lieut. C. M. Allfrey to be Captain, and to remain seconded, dated 31st May.

R. J. Grewing, gent., to be Captain, dated 31st May.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

W. N. Hogben, gent., to be Quartermaster, dated 18th June.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. W. G. Morris resigns his commission, dated June 11th

Major W. K. Lemon is granted the honorary rank of Lieut.-Colonel, dated 25th June.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. and Hon. Capt. H. J. Norman to be Captain, dated June 11th.

Second-Lieut. E. B. Halbert to be Lieutenant, dated June 11th

4th VOLUNTEER BATTALLION.

Lieut. H. J. Driver to be Instructor of Musketry, dated June 11th.

REGIMENTAL DINNER.

As announced the Regimental Dinner took place at the Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, on Tuesday, 17th June, the following officers being present:—Major-General E. Leach, C.B.; Colonels H. D. Armstrong, W H. Bayly, D. T. Belgrave, T. H. Brock, M. A. Clarke, C. R. Crosse, E. A. Grove, C.B., F. F. Johnson, C. R. King, R. Richmond, J. Waldo-Sibthorp, W. Wilson, F. Wintour, Majors O. J. Daniell, A. T. Morse, and J. G. Smith; Captains Bonham-Carter, H. C. Beeching, M. P. Buckle, D.S.O., F. W. Burbury, H. S. Bush, F. H. Hotham, J. Kennedy, C. V. Molony, C. G. Pack-Beresford, S. H. Pedley, and O. B. Simpson; Lieuts. L. H. Hickson, L. Muspratt, W. C. Phillips, H. Snow, W. Tugwell, and H. A. Waring.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

On Sunday, 11th May, after Church Parade, Lieut.-Col. Harrison had the pleasure of presenting to Col.-Sergt. Eldred a medal for "Long Service and Good Conduct" He spoke of the great value of such a medal, which pointed to so many years of excellent service, and added that he knew none who was more deserving of the honour. He wished Col.-Sergt. Eldred a long life in which to wear his decoration, a wish that was echoed by all who listened to his words.

The winning team of the Inter-Company Football (B Co.), was then called forward to receive the Shield they had fought so hard for. We congratulate the team, and hope another company will manage to carry it off next year.

When I last wrote the Battalion was on the point of starting out for a week's manœuvres, and now that they are over I can say with all assurance that a great deal of useful work was done, and much valuable instruction received by all who took part in the operations.

The following was the "General Idea" of the operations:—"War has been declared. The Fleet is away. The Garrison of Malta has been mobilized, and moved out under Section Commanders. The hostile Fleet are about the North-West end of Malta. Gozo has been captured by the Enemy."

The Programme of Operations was:—

Monday, May 12th.—Mobilize and Move.
Tuesday, May 13th.
Wednesday, May 14th.
Thursday, May 15th
Friday, May 16th.
} Practices in Defence Operations under Schemes to be issued
Saturday, May 17th, Demobilize.

Major Morse and Capt. Annesley acted as Assistant Umpires, and Capt. O'Dowda was Brigade Signalling Officer.

The Battalion marched out strong, leaving behind about 50 to perform the necessary Guard duties, etc., at Manoel.

The Brigade, of which the Battalion formed part, was ordered to rendezvous at a village called Musta, about six miles from Valletta, at 10.30 a.m., on the 12th May, and proceed thence to to our camp at Ghain Tuffieha under active service conditions. We were joned at Musta by the King's Own Lancaster and the 3rd Batt Rioyal Warwick Regiments, and arrived at our camping ground at 3 p m., Lieut.-Col. Harrison being in command of the Brigade.

The Brigade pitched Camp on the Mounted Infantry Parade Ground, and a very dusty spot we found it, our tents being filled with dust whenever a breath of wind came.

A case of anthrax occuring among the horses of the M.I. caused a great scare among those who had brought their horses, but by keeping the horses clear of the camp, and by frequent disinfection, I am glad to say we brought them all back safe and sound. On account of this infection the M.I. could not take part in the operations, so the Cyclist Section, 40 strong, undertook their duties, and found the hilly roads anything but pleasant to work over. Still, they did very well, considering the short time they had been under training as scouts. Next morning the manœuvres commenced, and we were all in position at 9 a.m, the Special Idea of the G.O.C. Red Force (of which we formed part), being to hold the Mellieha ridges and oppose the enemy's advance, as they had already landed at the North-West corner of Malta under cover of the fire of the hostile fleet The Royal Warwicks and a half Batt. of the Lancasters lined the ridge, the other half Batt. of the Lancasters and ourselves being in Reserve.

A skeleton enemy, in the shape of the Lancashire Fusiliers advanced to the attack, and the fighting soon became fast and furious, the enemy attacking all along the line. Then, when the enemy were fully engaged, we were ordered to a flank to make a counterstroke, but the enemy were wide-awake, and the Umpires ordered us back. We were then ordered to get to the opposite end of the ridge and support the Warwicks, but the Umpires again decided that the Red Force was getting the worst of it, so the Brigade retired to a position in rear, another of those bare ridges for which Malta is famous. It was now 3 p.m, and the enemy's second attack on our new position failing, the "Cease Fire" sounded, and we trudged back to camp very hungry.

I will not give you a description of our other engagements, but our Brigade alternately defended and attacked the various defensive positions of Malta, which, I believe, proved to be satisfactory in every way.

On the last two days of the manœuvres we were joined by the 1st and 3rd Batts. Royal Garrison Regiments, the 2nd Batt. Derbyshire Regiment, the 1st and 2nd Batts. R Malta Regts. and a detachment of the 2nd Batt. Cameron Highlanders, so we had two full Brigades. Lieut.-Col. Harrison commanded one of them during these two days' manœuvres.

Our last day, Friday, was a very heavy one; we packed our transport early before leaving camp at 8 a.m., and made our attack from Mellieha towards a hill which will be well-known to many of the readers of the Q.O.G. I mean Fort Binjemma. We got over some of the roughest ground in Malta (and it is terribly rough in some parts); by the time we reached Manoel at 5 p.m. we had covered close on 20 miles, most of it over Malta rocks and boulders

I am sorry to have to say that Lieut. and Qr.-Mstr. Willis was very ill when the good news of his promotion arrived, and the Medical Officers decided that he must go home to England for a change. He left on the 21st May, in the P. & O. Troop Freightship "Carthage," and we all hope he will return quite fit after his four months' leave, and he has our best wishes for a pleasant time at home. Major Morse and Capt. Molony left Malta on the 20th May, for England, on two and-a-half months' leave.

The first of the two annual cricket matches between the Navy and Army took place on the Marsa on the 23rd and 24th May, the Navy winning easily by ten wickets. The scores were:—Navy, 333 and 20 for no wickets; Army, 130 and 221. Captains O'Dowda and Robinson played for the Army, the former making 9 and 29 and taking 5 wickets, the latter making 39 and 4. Captain Robinson was unlucky, as he was run out in his second innings. Had the fielding of the Army been at all good, I should have been able to record a much closer finish.

Cricket is engrossing our attention, as we have entered a team for the Governor's Cup, open to Regimental and Departmental teams. The draws are as follows:—First round, R.A. Central v. 4th R. Garrison Regt; R.A. West v. 1st R.W. Kent Regt.; Lancashire Fusiliers v. R.A East; Royal Warwickshire Regt. v. 4th King's Own. Second Round—3rd R. Garrison Regt. v. R.A.M.C.; R.E. v. 1st R. Garrison Regt. The first round to be played by June 29th, second round by July 20th, third round by August 1st, and the final at a date which cannot yet be fixed.

We are very busy at the nets four days in the week, and several of the men promise well in the bowling line, and we hope to give a good account of ourselves. We shall miss Captain Bush more than I can express, and can only wish him every success with the Surrey eleven.

The welcome news of the conclusion of the war in South Africa was received with the greatest satisfaction in Malta on the 1st of June. On Monday, the 2nd, at noon, salutes were fired from all saluting batteries and ships. The whole fleet "dressed ships," and the town and harbours were gaily decorated. His Excellency the Governor announced that the terms of peace had been concluded in South Africa, and the massed bands played, and "Trooping the Colour" took place on the Palace Square. We are all beginning to discuss and wonder what effect the conclusion of the war will have on our movements, whether we are destined to get home this autumn, a move that would satisfy, I believe, without exception, everyone in the Battalion, or be kept on at Malta for an additional twelve months

Lieuts. Snow and Lynch-White have just gone home on leave, and Major Rowe follows them next week, and when they return the 2nd leave contingent will be off, so that we shall not reach our full strength again till next November.

At the two days' Race Meeting held on the Marsa on the 24th and 27th of May, two of the Regimental ponies, Lieut.-Col. Harrison's "Senekal," and Capt. Bush's "Exchange" ran, but neither of the ponies were acclimatized to Malta, and the training proving too severe for them, their failure was a foregone conclusion. The Marsa was as usual a cloud of dust, which pervaded the grand stand and enclosures, and made it most unpleasant for those who were looking on.

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*Extract from a report dated 14th August, 1901, from the C.C.O. Ad-Dareja Field Force.

Establishments.

* * * *

Sergeant Wren, Royal West Kent Regiment, was attached to the Commissariat from 19th July. He arrived at Musemir on the 24th July with a convoy. He worked extremely hard, and was of good service to me.

I would like to bring to your notice the good services rendered by Sergt. Kill, Royal West Kent Regiment, who supervised and was in charge of the condensed water supply. His work was very hard and he carried it out in the most satisfactory way.

(*The above is what "An Occasional Correspondent" promised to send you as soon as possible.—1st Batt. Correspondent).

BOXING IN MALTA.

Owing to the many applicants to meet the heavy weight champion of the Mediterranean, Pvt. Butt, of the R. Marines, a competition was arranged, and the winner of the final was to fight Pvt. Butt for the Championship at a later date.

The Battalion was represented in this Competition by Lce.-Corpl. Keleher, who was naturally very much handicapped by his long spell of service abroad, and particularly after a climate like Aden. Lce.-Corpl. Keleher won his first heat rather easily, his opponent being quickly disposed of. In the semi-final he met a man rather more than a match for him, viz:—A. B. Neary, a bluejacket just out from home, in the pink of condition, of splendid physique, and turning the scales at 15st. Though beaten, Lce.-Corpl. Keleher proved himself a fine boxer, with any amount of endurance and pluck, but his condition was poor, which gave A. B. Neary a much easier task. The following is a short account of the fight:—

1st Round.—Both men appeared confident Lce.-Corpl. Kelcher attacked, dodging his opponent's blows with wonderfu activity, and landed several heavy blows in Neary's face. The latter, however, towards the end of the round, forced Lce.-Corpl. Keleher on to the ropes by sheer weight. The round ended slightly in favour of A. B. Neary.

2nd Round.—Lce.- Corpl Keleher again attacked, but was unable to make much impression on Neary; still the round ended in Lce.-Corpl. Keleher's favour. In this round Lce.-Corpl. Keleher received a nasty facer in a clinch, and Neary was severely cautioned by the referee for a foul.

3rd Round.—Weight and training now began to tell, Lce.-Corpl. Keleher being repeatedly rushed to the ropes; however, he extricated himself with much skill, and till the pace began to tell, he received no severe punishment. Now it was only his pluck and endurance that kept him going, and at the call of time he had been knocked down twice.

4th Round.—Although after punishment he had received in the last round it was apparent to all that it was now only of matter of time. Lce.-Corpl. Keleher came up showing plenty of fight. His opponent, after rushing him to the ropes, got in some very severe blows, and Lce.-Corpl Keleher succumbed after as plucky a fight as it would be possible to witness.

The German steamer "Stamboul" is leaving here to-day, June 8th, for Dover, with the idea, I believe, chiefly of taking people home in time for the Coronation. A few men of the regiment, whose names I have written below, and who are not entitled by regulations to a passage at Government expense, are availing themselves of this opportunity of thus reaching Dover.

Lance-Corporal Eley, A Company
Private West, B Company.
Drummer Harris, C Company.
Private Sullivan, C Company.
Private Ranger, D Company.
Private Bradford, E Company.
Private Kill, F Company.
Private Robins, F Company.
Lance-Corporal Collins, G Company.
Private Fordham, Band.
Private Parkinson, Band.
Private Temple, Band.

1st Battalion Correspondent.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Frankfort, O.R.C.,
June 5th, 1902.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Peace! We've got it at last after weeks of patient waiting. No one seemed to care very much which way the fiat went. I suppose everyone had got so used to war that they could not understand anything else; anyway, when the message came from the Chief last Sunday morning, saying, with all brevity, "Peace signed last night," there was no very uproarious demonstration of joy, just one shout in the Officers' Mess, and three or four brooms thrown skyward in the fort—that was all, then back again to the ordinary daily routine. The only question now is "what is going to happen to us, and how long are we going to stay here?" Of course the men are on the tiptoe of expectation, and the wildest rumours fly about, some of them so very original that one wonders where they spring from. Many of the rumours arise from the fact that one Officer, two Non-commissioned Officers, and seven men of each battalion left for home almost immediately on the receipt of the news, to represent the Field Force at the Coronation. Major Brock-Hollinshead was the lucky officer. We hear that on the receipt of the news at Kronispruit that he was to sail, he distributed his spare kit, had the rest stowed on a Cape Cart, and was off within the hour. He did not mean to miss the "Bavarian," and consequently the Coronation! Our men had only a 30 mile dash to Heilbron, but the representatives of the E. Lancashires and the Essexs had some way to go and very little time to do it in; the E. Lancashires came through at night and were heavily fired on by their own blockhouses, with the result that one mule was killed. It would have been a bit rough to be shot by your own men on your way home.

Since Colonel Barker's and Colonel Garratt's columns came in here on May 11th we have had quite a gay time. Football, polo, race meetings, and gymkhanas; hardly a day without something to do. We have got quite a good football team, though, of course, some of the best men are not available, as they are stuck out in distant blockhouses. At first the only matches we could get were the Regiment against the rest of the Garrison; this match was played four times, with the result that the Regiment won twice, and the other two matches were drawn. After the columns came in here we had four matches in one week. We drew twice with the Yeomanry, 1 to 1 each time, and beat them 1 to nil the third time. The other match was against Colonel Barker's Artillery, and this we also won by 1 goal to nil, so I think I can fairly say that the Regiment is keeping up its football reputation, as we have not yet been beaten. Corpl. Humphreys and Corpl. Carter have been the mainstays of our team, but have not always been available, as Corpl. Carter's signalling duties have kept him very busy, and Corpl. Humphreys has had bronchitis. The moving spirits of the football, so far as getting up matches and raising teams, have been Col.-Sergt. Bullock and Sergt. Leaver, and the thanks of the players are due to them.

Polo flourishes vigourously, and we have got one of the best grounds in the country, the result of the untiring energy of our supply officer, Captain Cracroft. When we came here the ground was covered with stones and ant-hills, but it is now smooth and very fast, though, as goes without saying at this time of the year, terribly dusty. We had a very good match the other day against Col. Simpson's Yeomanry Column. They had some first class players though perhaps our ponies were better, and the result of

an even, fast game was a tie of one goal each. Our team was: Captain Moody and Lieuts. Lister, Luard, and Elgood. Unfortunately Captain Isacke was too busy to play.

There are race meetings every day in some column or other, but as far as we are concerned the opposition is rather too strong and we have not taken many races; in fact, Capt. Moody's "Peter" is the only pony that has done anything; he has placed one race and a match to his credit. We are holding a gymkhana on Monday, when we hope to take a race or two with some newly discovered "flyers."

"Golf on the veldt" sounds a bit wierd, but truth to tell, it has taken quite a hold here. There are at present only two complete sets of clubs, and they seem to be gradually diminishing, which perhaps is hardly to be wondered at considering the somewhat severe usage they are at times subjected to! We have got a very fair course of nine holes, including some sporting natural bunkers such as spruits and dongas; there is one bunker however that we hope will soon be buried—a row of nine dead oxen is neither very savoury nor easy to play out of.

There is very little else to tell you, though perhaps it might interest a few to know that the Derby "Sweep" was a great success, the honours went chiefly to Headquarters, for the Commanding Officer drew the winner and the Adjutant the second horse—quite "a big thing" in fact.

I meant to say when I was writing about football, how sorry we were that the Depot was beaten in the final of the Maidstone Cup, and to congratulate the team on the splendid fight they made. Lieut. Lister, who has just come out again, always speaks of the Depot team in the most glowing terms.

THE 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

M. I. Co. WITH COL. WESTERN'S COLUMN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last letter from Hoopstad we have been taking part in various drives, which seems a far more effective method than the old style of independent trekking.

2nd-Lieut. Beamish has joined the Company from the S.A.C.

Towards the end of March we left Hoopstad and proceeded to Commando Drift, on the Vaal, where we joined in a drive against De la Rey—here we were practically twenty-three hours in the saddle. The result of this movement was not so good as it might have been, owing, I believe, to defective connections of various columns, and we had to content ourselves with a few prisoners. On this march we did seventy-six miles in twenty hours, and on the following day fifteen miles to Klerksdorp, returning next day to Commando Drift, a distance of fifty-five miles.

On April 15th, Col. Rochfort's force, with which we are still serving, made a night march from Bloemhof to Scheweizer Reneke, leaving at 7 p m. and arriving at daybreak, having covered forty-six miles. We rushed the town and captured seventy-five prisoners, amongst whom were the Landdrosts of Potchefstroom and Scheweizer Reneke, and one of De Wet's adjutants.

On April 21st, the Company received a rather heavy blow. At 5.15 a.m. we sent a party of seven to take up position on a kop about three miles from Bloemhof, to act as "Cossack Post"; about half an hour later some shots were heard, and shortly afterwards a messenger arrived with news that our post had been surprised. Lance-Corporal Hunt was in charge of the party, and gave an account of the mishap. On nearing the kop the party was extended, having a frontage of one thousand yards, the flank men went partially round the hill while Ptes. Conway and Ball made for the front. All was quiet until the two centre men were within twenty yards of the top, and were making for a sangar which had been built there, when from twenty to thirty Boers jumped from behind the rocks, shouting "hands up," and firing at the same time. Both Conway and Ball were wounded and captured. Corpl. Hunt at this time met with a similar surprise farther to the left, but although some shots were fired "point blank" he was not hit. Conway was wounded in the stomach and Ball slightly on the knee, but notwithstanding their condition, both these men were totally stripped and left on the veldt Conway succumbed to his wounds and died on the following day, the loss being deeply regretted by the Company, for at this time we had just heard rumours of peace. Ball is none the worse for his wound and is still doing duty.

On April 22nd, we went out for a four day's patrol without wagons, carrying our forage and rations on the horses; after covering one hundred and forty miles south of Hoopstad we returned with twenty-five prisoners. After one day's interval we had another "stroll round," which made the sixth night out of eight "out of bed." (Is the last sentence quite clear, please?)

We are hearing many tales of peace proceedings and I hope by the time this appears in print that something definite in that direction will have been reached.

Yours faithfully,

IKONA.

Bloemhof,
30th April, 1902.

ST. PAUL'S BOYS' SCHOOL

On Friday afternoon, June 13th, the annual drill inspection of the boys attending St. Paul's School took place on the Maidstone Barracks square by Colonel Brock, commanding the 50th Regimental District. The parents and friends attended in large numbers, but the unfavourable weather was responsible for the absence of many of the visitors

The boys, numbering 250, were under the command of Mr. J. B. Groom, headmaster, and the four companies were under Messrs. H. G. Terry, G. Goodfellow, J. P. Wilkinson, and W. Biggs, with Sergt.-Instructor Evans as drill instructor. The boys presented a smart appearance, all wearing caps of the same design, with yellow drill sticks. They went through a number of drills, and were most successful in the physical exercises, together with the gymnastic slow and quick marches, which were intelligently executed, these being accompanied by music, provided by the band of the Royal West Kent Regiment, under the direction of Bandmaster T. McKelvey. The various movements were heartily applauded, and the inspection concluded with the singing of a "Coronation Anthem," with full band accompaniment, under Mr. McKelvey's efficient conductorship.

Mrs. Brock presented gilt medals to the boys who had never been absent or late at school during the whole year.

Addressing the boys, Colonel Brock said he was pleased to have that, the third opportunity, of inspecting St. Paul's School, because he never failed to notice improvements each

year. They all made mistakes sometimes, and should endeavour to rectify them, but the man who never made mistakes never made anything else (laughter). The physical drill and new marching were specially creditable, and much praise was due to the headmaster and other instructors who had brought them to such a high state of perfection (applause). Colonel Brock also complimented the lads on their turn out, their smartness and cleanliness, and the excellent way they had been "groomed" (laughter and applause).

The Rev. W. H. Denovan thanked Colonel and Mrs. Brock on behalf of the managers.—Mr. Groom acknowledged the loyal services of Sergt.-Instructor Evans and the assistant masters, and mentioned that none of the 100 old St. Paul's boys who had been fighting in South Africa had lost their lives. —Cheers were also given for the Mayor, and the singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

THE POSTPONED CORONATION.

To the greatest regret of all ranks, the Coronation of His Majesty the King has been postponed owing to serious illness. The part to be played by the several portions of the Royal West Kent Regiment might well be enumerated. The chief part amongst many allotted to the Regiment was assigned to the Militia. They were to take a part on both days, first lining the streets in The Mall, and next day at London Bridge. A composite battalion had been made up of the Militia Brigade at Colchester, and had almost arrived at its camping ground in Regent's Park, N.W., only to return disappointed. Next Major Brock-Hollinds-head and his 10 men, who were specially sent home on the Bavarian—doing the passage in 18 days—were to have joined in, being the first to salute His Majesty on emerging from West-minster Abbey.

Each Volunteer Battalion was to have sent its quota on the second day to line the streets, and a party from the Details was detailed for the same purpose in Kennington Road.

"Man proposes, God disposes"—so all arrangements came to grief. However, so far as Maidstone was concerned, and the Depot, part of the programme was carried out.

The Depot attended an intercessory service—not very strong, for liberal passes to London had been given—and the children attended with their schools the children's treat in Mote Park. A few commemoration medals, 7,000 of which were presented by the Borough Member, found their way into barracks—proud children—and next day sports were held in the Athletic Ground. Admission being free, the townspeople flocked in their thousands. The 2nd Battalion band played alternately with the band of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, and "massed" gave selections, and Percy Godfrey's prize march, "Coronation." Sergt. Merrick carried off the Sack Race, and at Tilting the Bucket he, with Pte. Malt, was first, followed by Ptes. Barrett and Long. In the Tug-of-war the Depot team beat Maidstone Wanderers, and in turn were beaten by Medway Brewery. Col.-Sergt. Outten was one of the judges.

Colonel T. H. Brock, commanding 50th Regt. District, desires to thank the undernamed for donations towards furnishing the Regimental Institute at the Depot:—

Brigadier-General E. A. H. Alderson, C.B., A.D.C. ...	£5
Lieutenant.-Colonel. H. D. Armstrong...	£2
Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Harrison	£1

The Depot is also indebted to Major Dalison for stocking the flower beds in barracks.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DETAILS, SHORNCLIFFE.

News of the Details? Let me hunt up the chronicles. They are almost blank! Happy the Details that have no history, and thrice blest are we. Little occurs to break the peaceful monotony now reigning o'er the remnant of West Kent's left at Shorncliffe. But the change from the bustle and pressure incident to companies averaging nigh on 200 is most welcome. The sense of peacefulness was little disturbed by the news of peace, received one Sunday night, and any tendency in the camp to riotous enthusiasm was damped by a steady downpour of rain. Bonfires, however, did break out vicariously. There were even rumours of sentry boxes and stable doors being converted to base uses, and consumed, not, be it noted quickly, by any deed of the Queen's Own, nor of any member of this most orderly Provisional Battalion (*we* only go in for self back-patting). The night previous there had been a fire alarm—a celebration somewhat premature. Some late home-returning wight, laden with "intelligent anticipation," and perchance with other good things, incidentally, for a guarantee of good faith, set fire to a straw-heap in the cavalry lines, and inaugurated a quite respectable blaze, thereby extracting the fire alarm from the bugles, and the camp from its cots. All went off decently and in due order. Officials hastily appeared, fire brigades and appliances, picquets and human etceteras paraded. There was scarcely an absentee, save perhaps a key or so to the fire apparatus, and one functionary equally important. As many as were there being reported present and correct, the fire was allowed to proceed. At length honour was satisfied, and embers alone remained. The sole note-worthy result was that an officer, who, too exuberantly displayed his form to the blaze, sustained a scorch, but gained the cure of a sciatica of several years standing—not unlike Panurge, when roasted on the spit by rascally Turks. *Et vive la Rotisserie!*

So that by the time of the reception of the news of peace we were in train for bonfires. The morning after the news arrived Church bells rang out, flags waved in the sun (where is that sunshine now?) the very air hummed with exultation. And lo! Cæsar's Camp became a centre of observation. Many, fearing a volcanic eruption therefrom, awaited in trepidation the outpouring of streams of lava. But it turned out to be merely an explosive manifestation of joy on the part of Cæsar or the "present occupant" of that camp.

Now I come to a real note of sadness which marred the complete joy and harmony of that day. A note of good omen for Maidstone, but ill for us at Shorncliffe. This eventful Monday was to witness the departure of our esteemed chief, Major Daniell—that pattern of minute and scrupulous attention to Details. When it was thoroughly understood that he was about to leave us, regrets were many, and deep, and widespread. He and Mrs. Daniell, on departing, received from Buffs, Lancs., as well as Queen's Own, an ovation as they drove through the lines. Indeed—let it be whispered—their horse was surreptitiously removed from the shafts, and the parting guests were sped by hand as far as the orderly room. There, as farewells were being exchanged with the Colonel and others, the surrounding host cheered and chorussed, and achieved a notable send-off. We were quite relieved to learn later that the railway station had been safely reached by the Major and his wife.

Good luck to them both!

There is little else to chronicle. A little cricket—not much has been possible in this vilest of weathers. In one game a combined team of L. N. Lancs. and West Kent's was defeated by a strong XI. of the Buffs, the chief R.W.K. performer being Pte R. Burford, with 13 runs and 4 wickets. In a regimental

match against the local Gunners, our detachment contributed but two individuals to the effective strength—the Skipper and an Umpire. However, both proved useful, the former made a few runs, the latter—a perfect tower of strength—very ingeniously secured two wickets. The gunners were defeated. Yes, Mr. Editor, when in these parts we sally forth to play the noble game, we intend to win (*aut vi aut fraude*), and we sometimes do. Your correspondent now begs to subscribe himself at

DE TAIL.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

THE WEST KENT ACTIVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS.

In connection with the 1st Volunteer Battalion, there was a large muster on 22nd June in Tonbridge Castle Grounds to witness the presentation of medals by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Earl Stanhope, to the Second Active Service Company of West Kent Volunteers. The Volunteers, who were in review order, presented arms as the Lord Lieutenant and those who had met him left the railway station in carriages, in the presence of a large gathering of people. The citizen soldiers, who included the Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, and Orpington Companies, as well as the Tonbridge School Cadet Corps, followed to the Castle Grounds, where Earl Stanhope and Mr. C. Fitch-Kemp (who were in uniform), Colonel Brock and the other officers, several Councillors, Lord Charles Pratt, the Rev. Dr. Tancock, etc., took up a position on the terrace, while the rank and file were formed into lines on the lawn below, the Active Service men in khaki, with foreign service caps, standing in front

The Lord Lieutenant, addressing the Battalion, expressed his pleasure at being present, and especially greeted the Active Service men. These, he felt, had a distinction to be conferred upon them which should not be done in any hole and corner way, but be handed to them by a representative of the county; he, therefore, was glad to have the privilege of calling them up to receive their medals on behalf of the King, especially as the occasion was so close to the Coronation of his Majesty. He had a son in South Africa, who he hoped would come home deserving of a medal. He could not help expressing his admiration of the splendid appearance of the Cadet Corps, and he also wished to congratulate Colonel Henderson upon the soldierly appearance of his Battalion, which was second to none. It had provided a large number of Active Service men during the war, and he could hardly say how glad the residents of the whole county were to see them back again after having undergone many hardships.

The presentation over, Colonel Henderson remarked that they could not say how gratified they were that Earl Stanhope had consented to come to Tonbridge to present those medals, and he had to thank his lordship for the great service he had rendered the Battalion that afternoon, as well as the Urban Council for having granted the use of such lovely grounds.

Earl Stanhope replied, and Mr. Race acknowledged the reference to the Council. Three cheers were given, and the National Anthem played, after which the gathering dispersed.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

A thanksgiving and memorial service on the return of the second Active Service Company from South Africa was held at Bromley Parish Church on Sunday evening, 23rd June. The Battalion were taken by special train from New Cross. There was an excellent muster, 32 officers, 65 sergeants, and 530 of other ranks being shown on the parade state. The residents of the district turned out in thousands, and, several deep, lined the streets—which were effectively decorated—and gave the Active Service Company hearty greeting. The offertory was for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. After the service the Battalion formed up in the grounds of the Church House adjoining, proceeding thence to the Recreation Ground, where Colonel Satterthwaite, V.D., commanding the Battalion, distributed medals to the officers and men from the front. Captain Latter, who commanded the Company there, made a suitable reply to the Colonel's address—which was heard by a few only, owing to the enormous crowd which had gathered. The sight looking up the hill from the lower ground was exceedingly picturesque, thousands of people overlooking the Volunteers, the ladies in their summer attire adding to the colour most effectively. The corps, after a short interval at the headquarters of the Bromley detachment, left for New Cross by special train about nine o'clock.

Pte. F. A. Hesman, who remained behind in South Africa with the Imperial Military Railway Police, has been promoted Sergeant, and placed in charge at Braamfontein, Transvaal.

The eight Beckenham Volunteers who have lately returned from the front have been presented with suitably inscribed silver tobacco boxes as a memento of their services. The men were entertained at a smoking concert at the Railway Hotel, Beckenham, when Captain A. C. Moore presided over a large company.

3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

At the conclusion of the church parade at Woolwich on 23rd June, Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.B., presented medals to the members of the Active Service Contingent of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). The Mayor of Woolwich was amongst those at the presentation.

2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

"C" DARTFORD COMPANY.—THE MAFEKING CUP COMPETITION.

The above competition took place on Saturday, June 7th, and proved to be the most close and exciting one since the Cup was presented to the Company by the tradespeople of Dartford in commemoration of the relief of Mafeking.

The following were the conditions:—Dress, marching order (field caps), water bottles filled. March from Dartford to Milton Range. Three hours are allowed to reach the 500 yards

range mound. Seven rounds independent at 500 yards at Sectional Target. Two minutes will be allowed from the command "Commence." Rate of fire to be changed once by Section Commander. Any position and any natural rests allowed. Points will be given for attendance and turn out at Dartford; for marching and discipline on the way; and for physical condition and shooting on the range

The sections, having drawn for the order of starting prior to the date of the competition, paraded at an interval of a quarter of an hour between each. No. 1 paraded at 2.30 p.m., and after being inspected, was started on its journey. No. 3 followed, and then No. 2 and No. 4 at the stated interval Judges were placed at seven different points on the route, and they reported as to the marching and discipline. All four sections marched well up to time, and the shooting results on the whole were satisfactory.

The competition resulted in a win for No. 1 section under Sergt. Walker. No. 4 section, Sergt. Ancrum, being second; No. 2 section, Sergt. Chessman, third; and No. 3 section, Corpl. Lambert, fourth. The difference in points was exceedingly small and showed that the competition had been keenly fought.

The following were the judges:—Lieut.-Col. C. N. Kidd, Capt. Whitehead, Surgeon-Lieut. J. Hamilton, Mr. G. A. Ridley, Sergt.-Major W. J. Light, Q.M.S. Andrews, R.M.L.I., Q.M.S. Wynne, Sergt. Kenny, R.M.L.I., Referee, Capt G. Morphew.

The N.C.O. in charge of the winning section receives a silver badge, and the remainder bronze badges.

INFANTRY "SCORCHING."

(Appropos New Infantry Training).

—o—

Who is not familiar with the expression "To the slow martia step, etc.," characteristic of poems which describe such episode as Bill Scraggs, the Volunteer, marching with his unit fo annual training, past a jam factory and waving a fond and tearful farewell to Liza Johnson, and other such incidents military.

Under the old order of locomotion it was possible for Bill to embrace Liza as he marched, and his old "muvver" could keep pace with Bill, and it was even possible for Bill to snatch and drink sundry half-pints of "Four 'arf," which his admiring friends might offer him en route, and then could keep dressed in his section of "fours."

I weep for you, my festive William! No more will you and your martial pals be able to indulge in your erstwhile innocent military inconsistencies An order has been promulgated which will tend to make you fly.

Yes, William, on the march now you will have to "sprint,' even as unto the redoutable Bacon in the "mile." Your poor old "muvver" will be a speck in the distance before you have covered the distance which intervenes between your Barrack and the "Jug and Hambone." Some of the "Men who know" have decreed that we have got to "grease" from 3 miles, 720 yards to four miles per hour, which means, Willie, that for every time we open our old pace sticks, we have got to stretch another three inches.

This is not all, old "pal"; as well as coming the ballet girl on us we have also got to shove another eight splits to a minute, making in all 128 splits of 33 inches.

Oh, Billy! it is too bad!

The "blokes" who brought about this "sprinting" must have soliloquized thusly, my old "stick-in-the-mud:"

Those deuced Boers! What marvels of mobility. Our Tommies can't touch them. It strikes me forcibly that our boys with their 3·408 miles per hour must be hustled up

I presume to think, Billy, that this sleuth-hound thereupon took to experimenting. Methinks I see him of an early morning in white flannels, taking a sprint round Battersea Park.

Oh! might have said the sleuth-hound, I have covered 4½ miles in the hour. I see no reason to think that our "bipeds' should'nt do four miles. Why, bless my soul, I have just done 4½ miles myself.

Oh, Willie, did this "bloke," in his 4½ miles' constitutional, encounter narrow streets? Roads which had never seen a traction engine? Did he try 20 miles on a burning day with a temperature somewhere between 80 and 90 degrees, and lastly, but foremost, did he ever march in No. 8 company of a battalion in column of route?

I don't think he ever did.

It was my unfortunate experience to do about 4 miles the other day, on the new regime—and I shan't forget it in a hurry.

Just try and imagine a pace stick which has been fixed at the old regulation 30 inches and had become rusty at the hinge. To increase the length of pace 3 inches, the stick must be forced open, the result being a creaking at the hinge.

Yes, Bill, I calculated the distance I covered at about 4 miles, and seven thousand, six hundred and eighty times I experienced creaks.

It is, I know, recognised by those who are authorities on the matter, that the new pace will calculate at first to try the machinery powers of our troops, but that, with time and practice, we shall fall in with the increased pace, as naturally and easily as your Liza fixes up her "tanner's" worth of stewed eels and quart of porter on Saturday nights, but take my tip, they wont get it from this generation or the next, unless we degenerate into camels or ostriches. You can't, unlest you yourself march at the new rate, grasp the magnitude of the change or how it will, if successful, revolutionize our status in mobility.

You know that mathematics and statistics are my hobby. With the aid of the former, I am able to give you an illustration from which you cannot fail to grasp the vastness of the change.

For instance, try and imagine your Corps—the Shoreditch Irregular Volunteers—returning from a march and halted for refreshments at Mrs. Tiddler's fried fish shop in the Barking Road. You know the shop I mean, where you get good "pennorths."

This shop is just four miles from Barracks. I have measured 1,040 yards, Shoreditch way, halting exactly outside the "Pig and Fly Paper," at Poplar.

For the sake of illustration, imagine the new company of Poplar Imperial Volunteer Guards also halted at the "pub" for refreshments.

The Imperial Volunteer Guards have got to reach their drill ground, which you know is an improvised arrangement in the wood yard opposite your barracks.

Each Corps having refreshed themselves, move off at 7 p.m. The Shoreditch contingent 1,040 yards in rear, marching the new regulation pace, have got to arrive at the rendezvous simultaneously with the arrival of the Popular contingent at 8 p.m who are marching at the old rate.

I daresay your "mob" would do it somehow, but it would not be at all surprising if your rear company were left straggling behind at Poplar, No. 7 at Limehouse, No. 6 at Stepney, No. 5 at Whitechapel, and so on.

I don't suppose, however, it would effect your prestage in the ideas of the inhabitants en route; those who had some small idea of matters military would probably set you down as a battalion practising rear guard to a force in hasty retreat.

All this reform tends to one idea—to increase our power of mobility.

To do 16 miles in four hours at a pace that kills certainly increases our power of mobility pro. tem., but decidedly decreases our effectiveness, for I'll bet that there is at least 8 per cent of casuals left behind in the "carriage and pair," and the remaining percentage are winded.

No, Bill, before the "people who know" attack the question of mobility, let them first "freeze" on to the transport problem.

Harness a donkey with a double load, will he trot?

Harness a brigade with pianos, bedsteads, etc., and can it "hook" the wily Boer Commando? Of course it can't.

Why, old "bugwhisker" Boer can trek, shooting and playing his musical instrument (if he carries one it would be nothing bulkier than a Jew's harp) as he trekked.

I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the supposition, it certainly looks suspicious however. I allude to the increased amount of work required from us consequent upon the increase of our pay.

If such is the case I tremble for the advent of April, 1904, when our pay is increased still more, i.e., if the work required is advanced pro rata.

Oh, Bill, do they forget the Kandahar and Cabul achievement? We can do it again if required, but it is indeed harrowing to witness the little rosy cheeked boys who enlist nowadays endeavouring to emulate the stride of a giant.

Referring to giants it would indeed be interesting to know the height of the aforementioned experimenting sleuthhound.

Speaking with Dagshai Tim the other evening over a "half can" he stated from, as he said, good authority that the "bloke" who invented the pace stood 6 feet 6 inches. It is obviously impossible for a man 5 feet 2 inches to maintain pace for any length of time with a man 6 feet in height.

Advantage might be taken of this suggestion: Form battalions of men of one standard, height say 5 feet 10 inches, which might be known as the "Lancashire Sleuths," "Middlesex Scorchers," etc., and let them alone adopt the new pace, keeping them as distinct from the "Kent Lilliputians" as the Household Guards are from the Duke of York's Cadets.

I have by no means entirely expended my views on the subject, but talking on such a matter as scorching along dusty roads, must conduce to a thirst, which having in mind the inimitable Mr. Micawber's views on the subject of impecuniosity, it is inadvisable to assuage as fully as I should like, for the exchequer only amounts to "two and a tanner," and yet wants three days to pay day.

Then if our "skipper" does the decent and pays me "half a thick un," I will literally bubble over on the subject of a process which is also now to be adopted called "stepping out."

Ye Gods, Bill. another 3 inches over the 33 inches.

Oh Shades of the great Gulliver, one yard.

W. O'C.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 326. MAIDSTONE, AUGUST, 1902. [Vol. XX. No. 8.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Major O. J. Daniell retires on retired pay, 16th July.

Captain W. R N. Annesley, D.S.O., to be Major, vice O. J. Daniell, 16th July.

2nd-Lieut. E. J. Hudson resigns his commission, 16th July.

1st BATTALION.

Promoted Sergt.-Major: Clr.-Sergt. H. G. Rogers, 23rd April, 1902.

Promoted Clr.-Sergt: Sergt. S. Kill, 23rd April, 1902.

Promoted Sergeants: Lce.-Sergt. C. Seal, 23rd April, 1902; Lce.-Sergt. E. Mills, 4th April, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Sergts.: Crpl. T. Pressley, 16th July, 1902; Corpl. G. Lang, 24th April, 1902.

Promoted Corpls.: Lce.-Corpl. W. O'Connor, 23rd April, 1902; Lce.-Corpl. L. Moir, 24th April, 1902; Lce.-Corpl. F. Howard, 24th April, 1902, Lce.-Corpl. T. Pressley, 14th July, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls: Pte. J. Haley, 18th July, 1902; Pte. F. Ransome, 12th May, 1902; Pte. W. Gale, 11th July, 1902; Pte. J. W. Jeffreys, 31st May, 1902; Pte. J. Moreton, 2nd June, 1902; Pte. F. Piper, 25th June, 1902; Pte. F. Davey, 2nd July, 1902; Pte. T. Fletcher, 8th July, 1902.

2nd BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeants: Lce.-Sergt. A. Jones, 14th April, 1902; Crpl. W. Wood, 10th April, 1902; Pte. A. Balchin, 1st May, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Sergt: Corpl. F. Crossley, 16th May, 1902.

Promoted Corpls.: Lce.-Corpl. E. Burley, 10th April, 1902; Lce.-Corpl. J. Lynch, 14th April, 1902; Pte. A. Milner, 21st May, 1901; Pte. F. King, 20th May, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls.: Pte. J. Carroll, 15th March, 1902; Pte. G. Coe, 24th May, 1902; Pte. J. Seer, 24th May, 1902; Pte. C. Tops, 24th May, 1902; Pte. G. Lane, 17th June, 1902; Pte. J. Wallace, 11th August, 1901; Pte. H. Jefferys, 15th March, 1902; Pte. H. Gazzard, 19th May, 1902; Pte. G. Camplin, 19th May, 1902; Pte. E. Newbrook, 10th October, 1901; Pte. A. Frost, 28th June, 1902; Pte. C. Haddaway, 28th June, 1902; Pte. W. Carpenter, 9th June, 1902; Pte. C. Stringer, 28th June, 1902; Pte. R. Booker, 23rd May, 1902; Pte. A. Gould, 8th May, 1902.

3rd BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeant: Corpl. J. Batchelor, 11th April (in South Africa).

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

L. V. Neave, gent., to be 2nd-Lieut., 26th July.

2nd-Lieut. A. W. Smythe (Cadet Corps), to be Captain, 26th July.

3rd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

B. W. Lacey, gent., to be 2nd-Lieut., 26th July.

4th VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

I. F. Walter, Earl of Darnley, is appointed to the Honorary Colonelcy of the Battalion, 16th July.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

The second cricket match of the season between the Navy and Army ended in a much more satisfactory manner from our point of view. On June 13th the match commenced, and the Army winning the toss, sent in Captains Farmar and Robinson. The former was dismissed after making 31, but when Lieut, Bostock, R.A.M.C., came in, he and Capt. Robinson carried the total to 360 before they were separated. Capt. Robinson played a splendid innings of 198, only wanting 2 to complete his second

century. Finally, the Army, with 5 wickets down and 443 runs to their credit, declared the innings closed, leaving the Navy one hour to bat. They scored quickly till they had made 60, when a sudden collapse came, and at the end of the hour's play the Navy had lost 5 wickets for 100 runs The next day, the Navy, continuing their innings, brought their score up to 265 before the last man was got rid of. Following on, they made 210 in their second innings, leaving us 34 runs to make to win. This was done quickly, with the loss of one wicket, and the Army won the second match by nine wickets. The feature of the match was Capt. Robinson's innings of 198, which he compiled in 2¾ hours He and Capt. O'Dowda were the only two of the Regiment playing for the Army. Capt. O'Dowda did not bat, but managed to take 7 wickets in the two innings.

On Monday, June 16th, we played the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers on the Marsa, and suffered a bad defeat by eight wickets. The first innings was very level, the Lancashire Fusiliers being 11 runs ahead, but we collapsed altogether in the second innings, and could only bring our total to 39. The Lancashire Fusiliers easily got the necessary runs with the loss of 2 wickets.

1st CUP TIE MATCH—v. R.A. WEST.

This match was played on the Marsa, on the 23rd and 24th June, and, after both teams had completed their first innings, it appeared as if the match would result in a close finish, but we completely outplayed them in the second innings, and won easily by 311 runs. The R.A. had a swift underhand bowler, who was altogether too much for us in the first innings, but we made light of him in the second, and he did not do so much execution. Pte. Pinder of the band bowled very well indeed for us, and Capt. Robinson made the record score of the season, 287 not out. He scored all through the match at an enormous pace, and gave only one or two chances. The R.A. only made 79 in their second innings.

The following day, the 25th, we had a game with the R.A.M.C. who are hot favourites for the Cup, and we were beaten by 7 wickets Capt. Robinson made his usual century, and the whole of our team only registered 172, out of which Capt. Robinson contributed 106. The R.A.M.C. have a very strong batting side, and we only managed to secure three of their wickets.

In the midst of our preparations for the celebration of the Coronation came the appalling news of His Majesty's sudden illness. Very anxious and trying were the days that followed this announcement until the telegrams began to give us hope, and since the news has arrived that His Majesty has been pronounced out of danger, the rejoicings and thanksgivings have been universal. The decorations were complete, fireworks had been fixed up, and a torchlight tattoo had been rehearsed frequently. All these were at a standstill till a message was received from England that all festivities were to proceed. Wednesday, the 2nd July, was the day for seeing Malta at its gayest. The streets were beautifully decorated and illuminated, especially the Palace Square and Strada Reale, and the Maltese entered into their "Festa" with all their hearts.

The Torchlight Tattoo was excellent. 150 men from each of the following Battalions took part in it:—

1st Batt. The King's Own Regiment.
1st Batt. The Lancashire Fusiliers.
3rd Batt. Royal Warwick Regiment.
1st Batt. Royal West Kent Regiment.

Seven bands were massed, and all the arrangements were made under the superintendance of Capt. Oakshott, 1st L. Fusiliers, who has the thanks of all who witnessed the success of his efforts.

After the Tattoo came the fireworks, which were witnessed by your Correspondent from the roof of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers at Florian. They were very good indeed, and I am sure the whole evening's amusement was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The following N.C.O.'s left Malta on June 18th in the s.s. "Orestes" for London, taking advantage of their privilege of 90 days' furlough after 6 years continuous service abroad:—Sergt. A. Pye, G Co., Corpl. W. Wood, G Co., Corpl. W. Moir, F Co The next to leave was Sergt. Murphy, H. Co., on the 21st June.

CRICKET, v. 3rd R. WARWICKS.

This match was played at Pembroke on July 1st, and ended in a win for us by 96 runs. Major Vaughan, the Warwick's best bat, was disabled in the second over, a nasty bumping ball hitting him on the elbow. Lieut. Dunlop and Ptes. Ford and Wheeler made the runs for us, and Capt. O'Dowda and Pte. Pinder secured the wickets.

The men of the Battolion undergoing a course of Mounted Infantry Training, under Lieut. Hastings, at Ghain Tuffieha, will not return to headquarters till the end of this month.

The following are some of the reports as written by the M.I. on manœuvres:

From 2nd-Lieut X——

"Am up here, am pushing on.—(Signed) X, 2nd-Lieut."

From Lance-Corporal Y——

"Have come up by this road. Enemy are working round by that one."

(In this case the messenger did not know where he had come from, nor where he had got to).

From Corporal Z——

"No sign of the enemy this morning. Have seen an old man with a donkey and some tin cans. Excellent cover for cavalry. Also a boy with a basket.—(Signed Z——, Corporal."

On July 5th, the following men proceeded to England on 90 days' furlough, by the Moss liner, s.s. Menes: No. 3197 Pte. J. Gasson, B Company; No. 3849 Pte. E. Osborne, B Company.

The welcome news that three battalions are leaving South Africa for Malta in the autumn has brightened our chances of seeing England again before Christmas, and the change will really be most necessary. I regret to have to record a sudden increase in sickness among the men, fever being the chief complaint. It is difficult to say what the cause of it is, but the sun and staying too long in the water while bathing may have a great deal to say to it. A change to England would, I am sure, set this quite right

Nor have the officers escaped. Captain Martyn has been very ill with Mediterranean fever, but he is now almost convalescent, and will shortly be sent home on leave. Several other officers have had occasional attacks of fever, but I am glad to say none of them were serious.

2ND ROUND OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S CRICKET CUP.—v. R.A. CENTRAL.

I am sorry to have to record that the second round of the competition for the above cup proved a task beyond our powers. We were fortunate in dismissing the R.A. so cheaply in their first innings, as they have a strong batting team. When our first innings was over, and we found that we were 43 runs ahead, we had every hope of winning. In their second innings the R.A. kept us out nearly the whole day in a very hot sun, and with nine wickets down and 233 runs ahead closed their innings, putting us in for threequarters of an hour at the end of the day, and we lost three wickets (Captains Robinson and O'Dowda and Corpl. Allen being out) for 23 runs. The next day no stand whatever was made against the R.A. bowling, Pte. Pinder being the only one who played with any confidence, and our second innings closed for 49, a wretched score, the R A. winning by 184 runs.

We had a very jolly open-air concert on Tuesday, the 8th July, the stage being rigged up in Manoel Camp, near the beach, and decked with flags and various coloured lights. The programme lost a little of its attraction on account of one of our best performers (Lce.-Corpl. McEnuff) being too ill with fever to take his share; however, Pte. Brooker came to the rescue The programme was arranged by Captain Style and Bandmaster Davis, and I hope we shall often have these thoroughly appreciated performances to help us to wile away the hot evenings at Fort Manoel. Programme:—Lancers, "Christmas Zamber," Band; club swinging, Corpl. Knight; song (sentimental), "Once we were sweethearts," Lance-Corpl. James; song (serio), "The Cockney's Serenade," Bds. Roberts; song (comic), "All the latest improvements," Bds. Harris; song and dance, "Honeysuckle and Bee," Dmr. McCarty; mandoline solo, Lance-Corp. Kipps, Ptes. Vile and Mansford; song (comic), "When is it my turn?" Pte. Brooker; burlesque, Col-Sergt. Burge; song (comic), "Don't stick it out like that," Lance-Corpl. McEnuff." God save the King.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

We regret being unable to find space for cricket scores.—ED.

M.I. CORRESPONDENT.

A short account of the doings of the M.I. detachment, Royal West Kent Regt, will be interesting to some of our readers. Our course started in May. A good many of the men have been through before, and owing to the rapid progress of the Company, we were warned for the annual manœuvres within a fortnight of commencing the course. Unfortunately for us, anthrax broke out among the horses, and we were at once put in quarantine for ten days, making things very lively. However, only one death occured, and we were again free. Peace had then been declared in Malta. Our camp reminds one very much of Aden, being eleven miles from the main Town, and surrounded by hills, the sea forming a boundary. On the 21st, by kind permission of our C.O., a concert was arranged. Several of the Regimental Professionals singing; it was very much appreciated As we are on Cavalry rate of pay, the order to complete a three months course has come very acceptable, especially on account of the new drill.

Last Monday, the 6th July, the Company was inspected by Col. Farrant, C.S. Officer. As usual, we were given two or three days warning to prepare for the occasion, and good use did we make of it. At 3 a.m. on the morning of the 6th Reveille sounded, at 3.30 the horses were groomed, 4 a.m. breakfast was served, at 5 a.m. the Company filed out for the ride. No one would hardly credit they were mounted men of a two months training, so well did they look, but by the time the Company got from the Camp to the Marsa, a distance of eleven miles, their appearance was slightly altered, chiefly through sweat and dust. At 7.30 the Company was formed up for inspection under the Commandant, Captain Day, and after the C.S.O. had rode slowly round the line we went through a few Company movements, which, I believe, were very satisfactorily performed. Then a small scheme was done by sections, and so ended our General Inspection. The following day brought forth the usual holiday.

On the 9th July a football match was arranged between the detachments of Royal West Kent and Lancashire Fusiliers, ending in a win for the Kent's by 3 to 2. Play was not first class, but interesting enough to draw a large number of spectators Play from the first was fast and furious, and it looked as if the Northerners were going to beat us hollow. But we were not to be cornered so easily, for Pte. Barnes (late Bermondsey Rovers), anxious that the game should not be a draw, made a last determined effort and won the game for the Kents by a splendid drop kick, amid much shouting.

We were sorry Lieut. Hastings had to return to headquarters on the sick list. We wish him a speedy recovery, and trust that he may be with us again shortly.

M.I. CORRESPONDENT.

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

HEILBRON, O.R.C.,

July 19th, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last letter we have got thoroughly settled down into camp, and have made ourselves quite at home here. It is, however, a poor sort of place even now when there are a good many troops, but in ordinary times of "piping peace" it must be a very dead and alive hole. We are camped to the east of the town on high ground, and when we arrived here it was quite a good spot with a fair amount of grass, but now the grass is gone, and there is nothing but dust, which is rather poor fun in the prevailing high winds.

Heilbron has been quite gay—for Heilbron—since we arrived. There have been two or three very good dances and a concert, and on Wednesday and Thursday of this week a most excellent

Boxing Tournament was held in the Town Hall, in which two or three of our men showed up very well. On the first day the preliminary rounds were fought, and on the whole these rather surpassed the finals in interest. We had no representative in the catch weights, which turned out quite a fiasco, and utterly lacking in interest, as Corpl. Harris, of the Essex Regiment, was head and shoulders above anyone else. In the middle weights Sergt. Pond made an excellent fight with Lce.-Corpl. Andrews, of the Essex's, though weighing 10lbs. less. However, after a ding dong struggle, in which some very hard hitting took place, the heat was awarded to the Essex representative. Sergt. Pond showed the best boxing in the whole competition, but could not give the weight away, though it was perhaps a consolation that his victor ultimately won the event.

In the light weights we were represented by Pte. Cullender, who had his man on the ropes nearly the whole time, but dealt very gently with him, and let him off severe punishment time after time. It seemed that he could have won any time he liked, but the verdict, to everyone's surprise, was given against him. However, in a match on the next night against Pte. Hill, of the Essex, he did not make any mistake on the score of leniency, but forcing the pace from the start, knocked his man out in the second round.

In the feather weights we were strongly represented, and Lce.- Corpl. Kallend and Pte. Detmar both worked their way into the semi-finals, where, unfortunately, they met. They put up a very good fight, but Lce.-Corpl. Kallend was always the cleverer, and got into the final. In this his luck was out, as early in the second round he was cornered, and slipping, struck his head heavily against his opponent's knee, stunning himself for over half a minute, and of course was counted out, altogether it was a very good show, and well managed. Its popularity was immense, and the hall was packed. Nearly everyone in the Regiment wanted to go, but as the tickets were limited to so many for each Regiment and unit in Heilbron, they had to be raffled for.

We had a very fine and sporting show last week when eleven Subalterns of the Regiment played the I.Y. Officers at "Soccer." Of course many of the Officers on either side knew little or nothing about the game, but what they lacked in skill was made up for in vigour, and there was no question about the pace and determination of the game. We won by 1 goal, scored by Lieut. Lister in the first 5 minutes, to nil.

The Inter-Company League has been started, so regimental matches are rather out of the question. Four of these Company matches have taken place during the week, and resulted as follows:—A beat D by 1 goal to nil. C drew with E 1 goal to 1. F beat H by 2 goals to nil. G beat A by 2 goals to 1. All these matches have been very close indeed, and have afforded good games. In some quarters A were strong favourites, but after luckily beating D they went under to G. On the whole I think it odds on F repeating their previous successes in the League. The M.I. Company has been made into B Company, and will enter the Competition on Monday, when they play E. In the Company games the football has been surprisingly good, and in time we ought to have a very strong Regimental team.

Turning to other topics, there are frequent strong rumours that we go to Hong Kong. I believe that at present this has only come unofficially through agents and such like, but it seems to be very generally accepted as the truth. Though many hope it is true, it would be a bit rough on those who want leave. However, a considerable number of Officers who have been out here any length of time, are going on leave to England for 4 months very shortly; some may even arrive there before this is in print.

THE 2ND BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

M. I. Co. WITH COL. WESTERN'S COLUMN.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

We have had another little run across country since my last letter in the shape of a drive towards the Kimberley-Mafeking line. On the night of 7th May we left Bloemhof with Colonel Rochfort's force, and moved by a circuitous route to join General Kitchener's force, which was to move on our right. Col. Western commanded two columns—ours and Major Bulfins.

On the morning of the 10th we got touch with Gen. Kitchener and the line was complete, covering 70 miles. The view of the troops advancing in a general line, as far as the eye could penetrate, was one that could not easily be forgotton; and we felt convinced that this was the only way to catch Boers, although we could not see any. The men were almost shoulder to shoulder and the line was maintained wonderfully without anyone shouting "come up on the left"; but perhaps this was done quietly.

On the 11th we reached Vryburg and the drive (please excuse this inhuman term) was over, The bag (another inhuman one) was 356 Boers, with I believe 11,000 head of cattle—of the former we accounted for three; but you must not think that this was our fault, it was the misfortune of war. On these drives there are two classes who make big hauls. The first are the unaccountably lucky ones, and the second are those whose line is so rugged that it tempts the enemy to make a dash; but we were not of either class, and I heard that a Boer scout helioed back "avoid Western's—too good," but I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this report.

On the 15th we were returning and camped in the bush-veldt, about 15 miles from the railway; at about 6.30 p.m. we had a surprise in the form of rapid independent firing from a thickly wooded ridge about 600 yards away—this lasted for about two minutes, and then the visitors, who, we believe, numbered about twenty, departed in haste, having shot a great many horses, stampeded nearly all the remainder on our side of the camp, besides wounding one of the Black Watch Mounted Infantry, and a native. A few minutes after the first shots were fired the Royal Irish Rifles and West Kent's were out in re-inforcement of the outpost line, but our services were not required. Before daybreak on the following morning a patrol of fifteen men under a Sergeant went out to search the bush. Five of the party belonged to our Company. As the column was moving off, the patrol started to retire, our men being somewhat separated owing to to the thickness of the bush. Pte. W. Bond saw two men in Khaki and at once went off to ascertain who they might be, when a number of Boers in ordinary dress appeared and opened fire, with the result that Bond was hit. The remaining four also came in for a warm fire, and finding that they were almost surrounded, galloped to get through, when Pte. Vile's horse was killed, so he continued on foot. Pte. Ball's horse was also wounded, but on hearing a shout from Vile, he turned back, took Vile on his horse and galloped away, the horse

receiving two more wounds before they were out of range. It will be remembered that Pte. Ball was mentioned as having been wounded in my last letter, and it is very pleasing to know that one lucky escape did not deter him from risking his life for the benefit of a comrade. We are hoping to hear that some recognition has been made of his plucky deed. An ambulance was sent out to bring Bond in, but it was found that the bullet had pierced his heart, and he expired soon after. The loss was felt keenly by all of us, and the solemn party which stood round the little grave, while three volleys were fired in the air, testified as to the respect which all ranks held for a true soldier.

The remainder of our journey back to the Vaal was uneventful, and we are now anxiously waiting for the signal to "Advance" or "Retire."

Yours sincerely,

IKONA.

Bloemhof,
29th May, 1902.

P.S. Have just received telegram, "Peace signed." Consulted dictionary, and find it means "freedom from war or disturbance." So be it.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

FAREWELL CONCERT.

A very pleasant evening was spent on the night of the 26th June by the Corporals of the Depot, on the occasion of the departure of several well-known Non-Commissioned Officers from the Depot on transfer to the 1st class Army Reserve.

The evening opened with a piano solo, which was very well rendered, and which merited the applause it received.

The following programme was then proceeded with:—"The Honeysuckle and the Bee," Lance-Corpl. F. Davis; "The Miner's Dream," Corpl. H. Spearing; "At our 3d. hop," Lance-Corpl. P. Walker; "The medicine man," Lance-Corpl. A. Stoddart; recitation, "A ride to Bristol," Corpl. W. Igglesden; "Patsy Hooligan," Lance-Corpl. H. Smith; "Once we were sweethearts," Lance-Corpl. J. Cockle; "Love's dream," Corpl. F. Walker; "Smoke, smoke, smoke," Lance-Corpl. A. Bellion.

After the above programme had been gone through, the health of the departing guests was proposed by Lance-Corpl. G. Chawkley, who, in a concise and well worded speech, wished them all good luck and God speed.

Corpl. H. Spearing and Corpl. E. Parker ably responded for the parting Non-Commissioned Officers.

The evening closed with the singing of "God Save the King" and "Auld Lang Syne," and the members dispersed after a pleasant night's enjoyment.

A.L.B.

[The following letter has been received at Maidstone, accompanied by a draft which is held over to be used as the donor has desired. No such fund exists at present in connection with the Regiment exclusively.—ED.]

STANDARD BANK,

JOHANNESBURG,

August, 1902.

The Officer Commanding 50th (Royal West Kent) Regiment,

Maidstone, England.

DEAR SIR,

Enclosed please find draft per £1/1/0 in your favour. The amount represents my three days' pay as a Sergeant in the Rand Rifles. Will you kindly oblige me by devoting sum to the Widows and Orphans of men of your Regiment killed since the present war started? I have selected your Regiment as its headquarters are at Maidstone (my mother's birthplace). Although born in Africa, I am a full-blooded Englishman, as my father was a Londoner and my mother "a daughter of Kent." I am extremely proud of *English* regiments, and pray and hope that some day (when we have an *Imperial Federation*) the people of *England* will reward (and show their pride in) *English* regiments for meritorious services in the same *handsome* manner that the Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and Colonials do.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain, yours respectfully,

S. M. H. FLACK, 6274,

(*now* Private) Rand Rifles.

P.S.—It often appears that English soldiers and regiments do as nobly (if not more so) as Irish, Scotch, etc., etc., but because *their* nation does not publish their illustrous deeds, or proclaim itself as proud of their deeds, as Irish, etc., etc., do, they are forgotten or overlooked. The other British nations do not seem to remember that the very great majority of the British Army are Englishmen, and *they* have therefore to suffer most numerically in every big war. We (*English Colonials*) do not blow our *National Trumpets*!!! because we know we constitute the great majority of the "Sons of Greater Britain." The "Sleeping Partner in every *big* firm" is generally the most important man!!!

It has been decided that for the purposes of Soldiers' Widows' pensions active operations in South Africa is held to cease on 31st August, 1902, except when a soldier left South Africa before that date.

Gratuities earned up to date of decease of men dying in South Africa are now payable to next-of-kin.

In Memoriam.

There has been placed in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, a Tablet to the memory of those of the 1st Battalion, who fell in the Expedition known as the Ad-Dareja Expedition. A description of the Tablet is as follows:—

At the head: the Royal Crest (Lion and Crown), enclosed by a scroll, on which is inscribed the Regimental Motto, "Quo fas et gloria ducunt," then follows the inscription,

To the Glory of God

and In Memory of

Lce.-Corpl. F. Wood, Pte. G. Hoy, & Pte. C. Edwards,

The Queen's Own

Royal West Kent Regiment,

who lost their lives whilst serving with the Ad-Dareja Field Force, July, 1901.

This Tablet is erected by their comrades.

The Tablet was placed unostentatiously in the Church some time ago.

Sergt. E. Smith, P.S. 3rd battalion, joined the School of Musketry, Hythe, 29th July.

The G.O.C. Thames District, Major-General Sir T. Fraser Commanding, made his annual inspection of the Depot on 31st July. On the same day the Inspector of Gymnasia visited Maidstone, and saw squads of recruits at drill, and expressed himself pleased with the method of imparting instruction.

An appeal having been made for money to enable the West Kent Hospital to keep open 10 beds which otherwise would have to be closed, a subscription list was opened at the Depot in connection with the "Kent Messenger" Fund, and resulted in the sum of £18 2s. 2d. being handed over to the committee of management, and made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Officers at Depot	1	14	4
A Company...	2	17	0
B Company	2	16	2
C Company'...	2	9	0
D Company...	2	11	8
Sundry Contributions		16	6
Details, Shorncliffe	4	17	6
	£18	2	2

We hear that Sergt. W. Arnold has been nominated for a Bandmastership from Kneller Hall. We see the March he composed and called "Alastor" was played on 17th May at Kneller Hall, and the band was conducted by himself. We shall be glad to hear officially of his appointment.

AN "OLD BOYS'" BRIGADE AT WOOLWICH.

An "Old Boys'" Brigade, embodying old sailors, soldiers, &c., in a local corps with the object of assisting those who may at any time find themselves in want or difficulty, has been formed in the Borough of Woolwich. A meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Beresford-street, under the presidency of Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.B., the hon Colonel-in-Chief.

3rd BATT. ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

Dear Mr. Editor,

The Annual Training of the 3rd Battalion has already come and gone. There were many novelties about it which I think are of interest to record. The training was, for the first time, held at Colchester, and in Brigade, the Battalion being allotted to the 1st Militia Brigade, which consists of the 4th Suffolks, 3rd Bedfords, 5th King's Royal Rifles, and the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment, the whole being under the command of Colonel C. W. Hill, C.B., late Middlesex Regt., and of Spion Kop fame. In point of strength the Battalion, which numbered about 1,100 all ranks, was almost as strong as the whole of the remainder of the Brigade. On the 26th May, 500 recruits proceeded under Captain and Musketry Instructor Wilson, 3rd R.W.K.R., to Colchester, to carry out their recruits' musketry practice, and were quartered in Meanee Barracks, when the Battalion and the recruits on the 9th were united in Camp at Middlewick, about two miles from Colchester and practically on the range and manœuvre ground. The first week was given up to Ceremonial Drill, owing to the Brigade being under orders for the Royal Review at Aldershot, which came off in the most dreary and wet weather. The Battalion, which was one of the strongest on parade on that occasion, acquitted itself in a very creditable manner, which called forth many complimentary words from the Brigadier. Under the greatest difficulties all ranks vied in cleanliness of turn out and steadiness, and the result of 18 months embodied service at Malta was clearly visible.

After returning to Colchester the time was devoted entirely to the New Infantry Training and Musketry. It was astonishing to see how quickly the Militia Soldier adopted himself to the new and looser forms of drill. Lieut.-Col. E. Wyndham G. Bailey, commanding the Battalion, had the pleasure of presenting the Mediterranean Medals to those men who had served in Malta with the Battalion during the war, and by them every man received a small token of thanks of a grateful country for their valuable services.

All ranks were much pleased to see our old and esteemed friend Captain E. M. Brown, late Qr.-Mstr. of the Battalion, again doing duty with us, and like all loyal "Dugouts," returned for duty when his successor went sick, and so rendered very valuable service to his old Regiment.

The Battalion returned to Maidstone on the 5th July, and were paid up and sent to their homes, having spent an undoubtedly pleasant and improving annual training.

From a Novice.

The following may be of interest to home-coming Reservists.

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE,
31, BROADWAY,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.,
1st July, 1902.

SIR,

The Emigrants' Information Office has drawn up the paragraphs on the other side on the prospects of Emigration at the present time.

The Office will be obliged if you are able to insert them in your columns for the information of your readers, and will always be happy to send you the full Circulars on the subject, if desired.

I am, SIR,

Faithfully yours,

HENRY LAMBERT,

Chairman.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway. Westminster, S.W.—The July Circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office and the annual Editions of the penny Handbooks show the present prospects of emigration. The Notice Boards are now exhibited, and the Circulars may be obtained free of charge, at more than 900 Public Libraries, Urban District Councils, and Institutions throughout the country.

This is the best season of the year for emigrants to go to CANADA. There is a good demand for capable men and boys who understand farm work, looking after cattle, horses, sheep, milking cows, etc. Even inexperienced hands may get places, provided they are willing to learn and are strong; their wages at first will be nominal, but board and lodging will be supplied free. As a rule single men are preferred everywhere, but married men with wives competent to take charge of dairy or laundry, and families able to work, have no difficulty in obtaining employment. Female servants also are in great demand on farms and in towns. Speaking generally, mechanics and labourers are well employed at this time both in towns and in country districts, but the labour market is unsettled in many parts owing to numerous strikes for higher wages and shorter hours, and the increasing cost of living. The most serious of these strikes was that of the longshoremen at Halifax; this has now been settled, and wages have been fixed at 20 cents an hour, and 25 cents at night. In British Columbia there is exceptional activity in the logging, lumbering, and shingle industries, but at the important mining town of Rossland there are "plenty of labourers of all kinds at present," and at the large coal mines of Nanaimo, though the mines are working steadily, many men are idle, and prospects are very unsettled.

In NEW SOUTH WALES trade continues fairly busy both in building and construction work. Shipping has fallen off, and some wharf labourers have been thrown out of employment. Country districts are suffering most from the severe drought, and in some parts it is impossible to obtain employment owing to want of water, and of feed for cattle. Coal miners are generally well employed, but silver mining at Broken Hill is very slack and many hands are out of work. The labouring classes generally are complaining of the increased cost of living owing to the new federal tariff.

In VICTORIA there is no general demand for more labour. The drought continues to press heavily on large portions of the State, and seriously affects pastoral, agricultural and mining industries; in some country districts, however, good rains have fallen, and competent farm labourers and milking hands are very scarce.

In SOUTH AUSTRALIA and TASMANIA the local labour is sufficient.

There is a good demand for farm labourers in the South of QUEENSLAND and in WESTERN AUSTRALIA, but more miners are not wanted in either Colony.

In NEW ZEALAND the building trades have been busy throughout the Colony, except at Wellington and a few smaller places. Men in the engineering trades have been fairly well employed except at Wellington and Invercargill. The clothing trade has, generally speaking, been fairly brisk, especially at Dunedin. The boot trade has been moderately busy in many places. Flax millers have been busy, and coal miners at Westport. Competent general labourers find good employment, but more are not wanted during the present winter season.

CAPE COLONY.—There is a good demand for mechanics especially men in the building trades; but no one can land without first obtaining a permit from the Permit Office, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The General Manager of the Railways reports that a limited number of engine fitters, boilermakers, coach builders, coach painters, firemen, and waggon builders, and a few iron moulders, iron turners, coppersmiths, blacksmiths and trimmers would probably secure employment by applying at the Government workshops in Cape Colony; the contract would be at least for one year at 9s. to 11s. a day; applicants must pay their own passages. Railway clerks, shunters and porters also are wanted; the cost of their passages will be advanced, if necessary, and be recovered out of wages; clerks begin at £120 or £132 a year, according to qualifications; application must be made by letter only to the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 98, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Recruiting in this country for the Cape Mounted Rifles has re-commenced; apply to the Agent-General as above.

NATAL.—There is a good demand at the present time for skilled artizans, more especially for carpenters and those in the building trades, but they cannot land without permits, which may be obtained at the Permit Office, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The carpenters' strike is now settled, the men agreeing to accept an increase of 1s. a day (bringing their wages up to 15s. a day) instead of 2s. as at first demanded.

The following persons are wanted for the Government railways; free passages to Natal are provided; engagements are for three years; candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W., enclosing particulars as to age, height, whether married or single, with medical certificates and testimonials: good platelayers between 25 and 40 years of age, with five years' experience, wages £11 to £15 a month; carriage and waggon examiners, having three years' experience, wages 9s. a day; machinemen, with five years' experience in shaping, planing, and slotting machines, wages 10s. 6d. per day, first year,

afterwards 11s. 6d. per day; sawyers, or machinemen between 24 and 35 years of age, able to work circular band, or long saw, wages 11s. 6d., rising to 12s. 6d. per day; holders-up accustomed to locomotive boiler work, wages 9s. per day, rising to 10s. per day after 12 months' satisfactory service; fitters and erectors, turners, coppersmiths, brassfinishers, coachmakers, and wood machinemen able to do general joiner work, wages 12s., rising to 13s. per day after 12 months' satisfactory service; good waggon builders, 11s. 6d., rising to 12s. per day; sheet-iron workers, 11s., rising to 12s. per day; saw doctors to braize hammer saws and cut teeth, 12s. 6d. per day; signalmen having one year's experience, wages £10 per month. Signalmen must be under 30 years of age and over 5 feet 7 inches in height; cost of passage outwards will be advanced to be repaid by monthly deductions.

TRANSVAAL.—No one can land in South Africa without a permit (see Cape Colony above), and none but refugees, Government employees, and persons engaged in a service of a public nature, will be permitted to move up into the Transvaal. There is a good demand for mechanics, especially those in the building trades; wages are high, carpenters receiving 20s. to 22s. 6d. a day, but the cost of rent and food is at least twice as much as in England.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY.—Candidates for the South African Constabulary in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony should apply to the S.A.C. Recruiting Officer, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster, S.W. They must be good riders, good shots, single, strictly sober, and from 20 to 35 years of age; they will be given free passages to South Africa.

REGIMENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

FIRST BATTALION.

Second Class Certificates of Education have been granted to Corpl. W. Connor, Lance-Corpls. G. Smith, J. Haden, T. Lewis and O. Bristow, and boy W. Brown.

Third Class Certificates of Education have been awarded to Lance-Corpls. H. Kipps, G. Byatt, F. King, E. King, J. Little, and boys W. McNamee and J. Gilbert.

Pte. H. Wraight has joined on transfer from East Kent Regiment.

The wives of Lance-Corpl. T. Presley, Ptes. G. Julyan and W. Castle have been taken on the married establishment of the battalion.

Ptes. W. Gale and F. Green have passed Group 1 for First Class Certificates of Education.

Sergt. A. Pye has re-engaged to complete 21 years' service.

Pte. J. Baker has joined on transfer from the 3rd Royal Fusiliers.

Sergt. A. Keen, W. Osborne, and Pte. H. Say have re-engaged so complete 21 years' service.

2nd BATTALION.

No. 5680 Pte. H. Mayfield has been permitted to assume his correct name, Charles Warner.

Sergeant D. Leaver has re-engaged to complete 21 years' service.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED

We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of following subscriptions:—

Colonel R. H. Doran (5 years).

To 31st December, 1902—Brigade-Surgeon Owen Owen, Sergt.-Instructor Kiernan, Mrs. Rowe, Major Hewitt,

DEATHS.

At Vryburg, on 16th May, 1902, No. 4334 Pte. W. F. Bond, 2nd Battalion (killed).

At Heilbron, on 13th June, 1902, No. 2907 Pte. T. Harland 2nd Battalion (enteric).

At Elandsfontein, on 30th May, 1902, No. 5720 Pte. A. J. Smith, 2nd Battalion (dysentry).

At Heilbron, on 30th July, 1902, No. 5898 Pte. J. G. Orange, 2nd Battalion (pneumonia).

At Malta, on 24th May, 1902, No. 3503 Pte. P. Sullivan, 1st Battalion.

At Malta, on 4th June, 1902, Margaret, the wife of Sergt. A. Allwright, 1st Battalion.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

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Extra Copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O's and Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (Postage ½d extra).

The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to "THE EDITOR, *The Queen's Own Gazette*, The Barracks, Maidstone."

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 327. MAIDSTONE, SEPTEMBER, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 9.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

FIRST BATTALION.

Captain A. W. Martyn to be Major, dated 2nd August, 1902.
Lieut. Hastings to be Captain, dated 16th July, 1902.
Promoted Corporal: Lce.-Corpl. H. James, 2nd August, 1902.
Appointed Lce.-Corpl.: Pte. A. Boakes, 20th August, 1902.

SECOND BATTALION.

Major J. P. Dalison retires from the service receiving a gratuity, dated 2nd August, 1902.

Lieutenant H. C. Nunn to be Captain, dated 2nd August, 1902.

Second Lieutenant C. Beamish resigns his Commission, dated 23rd August, 1902.

Promoted Col.-Sergt.: Sergt. J. Spooner, 24th June, 1902
" Sergt.: Corpl. A. Wood, 1st May, 1902.
" " Corpl. A. Hassum, 28th June, 1902.
" Corporal: Lce.-Corpl. A. Judd, 7th June, 1902; F. Coomber, 24th June, 1902; H. Gaggard, 1st July, 1902; A. Plume, 14th July, 1902; A Conway, 15th July, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Corpl.: Ptes. A. Rowlands, 5th July, 1902; F. Adams, 8th July, 1902; F. Piper, 6th July, 1902; G. Miller, 6th July, 1902; E. Twine, J. Berry, C. Harden, A. Pepperell, H. Christie, and F. Kite, 15th July, 1902; H. French, R. Rossiter and C. Stevens, 17th July, 1902; W. Ladd and W. Gilbert, 21st July, 1902; D. Keen and J. Lee, 26th July, 1902.

THIRD BATTALION.

Major Dalison, Reserve of Officers, late Royal West Kent Regiment, to be Major, dated 2nd August, 1902.

FIRST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Captain and Honorary Major C. Tootell resigns his Commission, with permission to retain his rank and to wear the uniform of the Battalion on retirement, dated 16th August, 1902.

FOURTH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. H. Wyllie is granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant in the Army whilst serving with the Volunteer Company in South Africa, dated 15th March, 1902.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Despite the heat and glare that prevails in Malta I am glad to say cricket continues to flourish, but it is becoming less pleasant every day on the Marsa where the sun and glare combined make a game of cricket very trying. On Saturday, July 20th, we went off to Pembroke to play a match against the 3rd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. We had two new players in our team, 2nd Lieuts. Phillips and Waring who had arrived in Malta on the 19th July. The change in the light and heat from what they had lately been accustomed to accounts for their not being successful. Capt. Robinson was in his usual form and made 157 out of our total of 219. The match ended in a draw in favour of the Warwicks.

The members of our cricket eleven have a very grave fault, and that is each individual is much too anxious to score rapidly directly he reaches the wicket instead of playing steadily, and waiting for the runs to come. If I can persuade them that the main object of a batsman is to keep his wicket up and be patient I shall be more than satisfied, as it is we have to depend entirely on one, sometimes two members of the team to make the runs. Attached is a score of the match:

1ST ROYAL WEST KENT v. 3RD ROYAL WARWICK.

1st Royal West Kent Regiment.

Capt. Robinson, st. Brennan b Callander ...	157
Corpl. Allen, b Bell	12
Pinder, c Saunders, b Bell	9
Capt. O'Dowda, b Langridge	11
Lieut. Dunlop, st. Brennan, b Callander ...	5
Second-Lieut. Phillips, b Langridge	2
Second-Lieut. Waring, b Bell	5
Lieut. Keenlyside, c Langridge, b Bell	3
Corpl. Knight, c Callander, b Saunders	4
Turner, b Saunders	6
Burrows, not out	1
Extras	4
Total	219

3rd Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Major Vaughan, b O'Dowda.....	70
Burgess, c Allen, b Robinson	30
Robinson, c Keenlyside, b Pinder	14
Brennan, not out	22
Saunders, not out	5
Lieut. Davies, Lieut. Bell, Sergt. Langridge, Stevens, Col.-Sergt. Callander, and Lce.-Corpl. Wostenholm did not bat.	
Extras	9
Total	150

Bathing is a great pastime here, and at Fort Manoel we have special facilities for the men. In the first place the water is clean, a rare thing in a Malta Harbour, and being near the mouth of the Quarantine Harbour all the unpleasantness that one experiences up the creeks is avoided.

Boating is not indulged in very much, but that fascinating pastime of kicking and punting a football about the barrack squares is the men's favourite game. Punctually at 5.15 p.m. they crawl out from every corner, and for two hours they strain every nerve to see how many barrack room windows or flower pots (if anyone is rash enough to leave some outside) they can break, and the man who shoots a 'goal' is loudly cheered. On the hottest and most unpleasant day we have experienced this summer came some news that revived us all; a general order came out showing the reliefs that are to take place this Trooping Season. With real delight we saw 'Home' opposite the name of the Regiment, and now our minds are occupied with conjecturing how soon this great event may take place. October or November is the general opinion, but we all agree the sooner the better.

I am sorry to say we still have a large number of sick and it is with deep regret we have to announce the death of a man of G Company, Pte. C. Jones, from enteric fever. There are several more cases of enteric in hospital, but I am glad to say they are all going on well.

The s.s. "Rameses" which left Malta for England on the 11th August had the following invalids on board: Major A. W. Martyn, Second Lieut. G. H. Shaw.

Invalided unfit for further service: No. 1751, Lce.-Sergt. A. Ward, E. Co.; No. 4464, Pte. A. Collins, A Co.; No. 3338, Pte. J. Fuller, B. Co.; No. 3812, Pte. J. McCarthy, B. Co.; No. 3625. Pte. J P. Cormick, D Co.; No. 3513, Pte. G. Morris, D Co.; No. 4549, Pte. H. Callery, H Co.

Pte. Faulkner, D Co., and Pte. Rudd, F. Co., also went home in the "Rameses" to look after Major Martyn and Second Lieut. Shaw during the voyage, and they have been transferred to the Home Establishment. Lieut. Keenlyside, who was also very ill, left for home in the s.s. "City of Khios," as the s.s. "Rameses" was quite full. I am sure that all will agree with me in saying that it was quite time all these invalids were sent home from this trying climate.

Our next match was against the Eastern Telegraph Company, whom we played for the first time. The game was an even one and ended in a draw, the E. T. C. had 50 runs to get to win with five wickets to fall. Captains Robinson and O'Dowda made some runs but the remainder did not help much. Again one remarks on the blind way in which the men hit directly they go in, despite all cautions to try and play steadily. A score of the match is attached.

1st R. W. Kent Regt. *v.* Eastern Telegraph Co.

1st R. W. Kent Regt.

Capt. Robinson, b Organ	69
Somerville, c Yeoman, b Phillips	0
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Organ	7
Pinder, b Organ	4
Lieut. Waring, c Phillips, b Organ	9
Capt. O'Dowda, b Prosser	44
Corpl. Allen, b Organ	5
Wood, b Prosser	12
Sergt.-Dmr. Budd, b Prosser	0
Whitmore, not out	0
Barrow, b Prosser	5
Extras	7
Total	162

E. T. C.

F. Jones, b O'Dowda	0
G. Atkinson, c Budd, b O'Dowda	4
N. Prosser, b Whitmore	32
W. Organ, not out	38
C. Groves, c & b O'Dowda	6
A. E. Prosser, b Pinder	19
Extras	14
Total five wkts....	113

R. Phillips, A. W. Prosser, L. Yeoman, J. Kenman and R. Graham did not bat.

Great changes took place on the 4th September. Major Morse, Captain Molony, and Lieuts. Snow and Lynch White, returned from leave, while Major Annesley, Captains Style and Robinson left for England on the same day. We also said good-bye to Captain Hastings, who has left us to join the 2nd Batt

On September 8th our casuals and recruits went to Pembroke Camp to carry out their musketry, the party including Instructors and range duty men, numbering 169 N.C.O.'s and men; fifty of these were recruits. Captain Molony and 2nd-Lieuts. Ingram, Phillips, and Waring were the officers detailed for this duty. So far, I am sorry to say, the shooting of the casuals has been poor, that of the recruits good.

Our XI., competing for the Soldiers' Cricket Cup, made a very good score in a practice match against the R.G.A Tigré on the 11th September. The principal scores were Pinder, 73, Corpl. Allen, 59, Wood (band), 51, and Dr. Ford, 20. The side reached the total of 289, beating their opponents by 165 runs. They play their first match in the Soldiers' Cup Tie on the 15th and 16th, and we wish them all good luck.

1st Battalion Correspondent.

CRICKET.

SERGEANTS UNDER 12 *v.* OVER 12 YEARS' SERVICE.

This event took the place of the annual match Married *v* Single, owing to there being an insufficiency of married exponents of the game to raise a representative eleven. In delightful cricket weather the match was played on the Marsa on the 17th July, and fully representative elevens were available to do battle for their respective sides. The seniors winning the toss decided to put their opponents in first, and judging by the keenness of the struggle, and the narrow margin of the result, there was considerable wisdom in this proceeding as it gave the Veterans a good opportunity of gauging the task they would have to accomplish in order to win.

The young bloods compiled the respectable total of 82 to which the old boys responded with 65, Sonnenberg being the chief contributor with 23, though he had to thank the erratic fielding of the youngsters for not being dismissed on two separate occasions shortly after going in. Going in for their second venture the youngsters scored 73, which left their opponents to get 91 to win, a task in which they only just succeeded amid intense excitement and wild enthusiasm on the part of some of the old boys. Score:—

UNDER 12 YEARS' SERVICE.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Lce.-Sergt. Lang, b Murphy	11	b Sonnenberg	0
Sergt. Reeves, b Sonnenberg	5	b Sonnenberg	18
Sergt. Dr. Budd, b Murphy	7	c & b Sonnenberg	13
Sergt. Saunders, b Tapp	19	c Burge, b Son'berg	5
Sergt. Naylor, run out	3	b Sonnenberg	2
Lce.-Sergt. Brown, c Crouch b S'berg	4	b Tapp	4
Sergt. Mendham, b Tapp	10	b Tapp	9
Lce.-Sergt. Andrews, c Page b S'berg	1	b Sonnenberg	4
Sergt. Suffield, c Cover, b S'berg	8	b Sonnenberg	3
Sergt. Mackintosh not out	4	b Tapp	4
Lce.-Sergt. Jarrad, b Sonnenberg	0	not out	4
Sergt. Crockett, st. Crouch, b S'berg	7	c Allen, b S'berg	1
Extras	3		6
Total	82		73

OVER 12 YEARS' SERVICE.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Sergt. Seaton, b Mendham	0	c & b Saunders	0
Cr.-Sergt. Murphy, b Mendham	2	b Budd	2
Cr.-Sergt. Kill, b Mendham	3	b Budd	0
Cr.-Sergt. Eldred, b Budd	14	b Budd	12
Bd.-Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Mendham	23	b Budd	55
Sergt. Crouch, c Jarrad, b Budd	6	c & b Budd	0
Q. M. Sergt. Cover, b Reeves	7	b Mendham	9
Cr.-Sergt. Burge, run out	1	b Budd	1
Sergt. Tapp, c Budd, b Reeves	5	c Naylor, b Mendham	3
Sergt. Allen, not out	3	b Budd	1
Cr.-Sergt. Seager, c Budd, b Reeves	0	not out	0
Sergt. Page, c Andrews, b Reeves	1	b Budd	1
Extras	0		7
Total	65		91

After the conclusion of the match the members prepared to extract all the enjoyment from the remaining portion of the day, and various forms of sport were organized of which running and jumping predominated. Cr.-Sergt. Burge was greatly en evidence with his running feats, throwing down the gauntlet to any "youngster" present, and he beat them every time too. A very pleasant day was brought to a conclusion as the twilight came on, though the juniors were somewhat disappointed to have what appeared certain victory snatched from their grasp. Buck up youngsters, you may yet steal a march on the old boys on the cricket field.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

SOLDIERS' CUP XI., R. G. A.

Gr. Clayton, b Pinder	0
Gr. Colwell, b Pinder	22
Sergt.-Inst. G. Walton, c Ball, b Pinder	2
Gr. Gardiner, b Allen	10
Gr. McMahon, b Allen	27
Gr. Sutton, c Burrows, b Allen	10
Gr. Percy, b Budd	19
Br. Bowley, c Allen, b Allen	1
Gr. Ackery, run out	13
Gr. Charles, run out	1
Sergt.-Maj. Stokie, not out	9
Extras	10
Total	124

SOLDIERS' CUP XI., R. W. K. REGT.

Dr. Barrow, lbw, b Ackery	0
Corpl. Allen, c Walton, b Clayton	59
Pte Pinder, c Gardiner, b Clayton	73
Dr. Ford, b McMahon	20
Pte. Cridland, c Walton, b Clayton	0
Pte. Lee, c Percy, b Walton	15
Pte. Wood, c Percy, b Walton	51
Pte. Burrows, lbw, b Stokie	3
Sergt. Dmr. Budd, c McMahon, b Clayton	16
Corpl. Ball, not out	9
Corpl. Harris, b Walton	13
Extras	30
Total	289

The above Practice Match was played on the R. G. A. Ground at Fort Tigne, on Thursday 11th inst., and resulted in a win for the visitors by 165 runs. Corpl. Allen, Ptes. Pinder and Wood played a fine game and gave very few chances.

MALTA, W. B.
Sept. 12th, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Of course the principal event during the last month has, in most places where British troops are quartered, been the Coronation. Had the date not unfortunately been postponed, the Coronation would have been celebrated in Malta in a far more effective manner. As preparations on a big scale had been made for illuminations in Valetta, and for a Torchlight Tatto, these were carried out to a certain degree as soon as it was realised that the King was out of danger. Consequently the manner in which the Coronation was celebrated on August 9th, was shorn of much of its attractiveness. Of course a *feu de joie* had to be fired, and to those who know Malta, the manner in which this would he done, viz., from Fort Ricasoli all round the Grand Harbour and finishing at Lower St. Elmo, will be familiar. It was found that the Regiments which are really the nearest to the positions to be taken up, viz., the 1st and 3rd Royal Garrison Regiments, Royal Lancaster Regiment, and the Lancashire Fusiliers, were sufficient for the purpose. So the Regiments at Intarfa, Pembroke, and Fort Manoel (where we are), did not take part in the *feu de joie*, but the Regiment was represented by its officers at a levée held at the Palace by his Honour, the officer administering the Government, Major-Gen. O'Callaghan, R.A.

The Te Deum was specially sung at St. John's Cathedral, where Heads of Departments and Staffs attended. But that which I venture to think appealed to the Battalion more than anything else, was the effort made to give some special pleasure to the children and their parents who are on our married establishment. Tea was provided in the Boat House below the Camp, on the Sliema Creek side. A kind of organ which has an attraction for children, was there to provide the music, donkeys also on which to ride after tea (but unfortunately they had no saddles), and dghaises, in which those who cared to take a trip round to the Grand Harbour, might breathe fresher air than is obtainable at Manoel.

There were four who kindly came to the rescue, and in the familiar garb of clowns, policemen, etc., contributed considerably to the amusement of the children. To many it will be no matter for surprise when I say who they were: Ptes. Grover, Harris, and Roberts of the Band, and Dr. Churchill. The Governor, Lord Grenfell, had very kindly provided Coronation

Medals to be distributed to children attending school in commemoration of the day. Had the Coronation taken place on June 26th all the children were to have had tea at the San Antonio Palace, and there the medals were to have been presented to them by Major-General Lane in the absence of the Governor. Now, however, they had to be presented by Lieut.-Col. Harrison on his behalf As the tea seemed good of its kind, it was thought that it would bear repeating, so for those who became exhausted by riding donkeys, or trying their skill at throwing at a man who would never be hit, refreshments were ready before the break-up of the party.

We have good reason to believe that not only the children, but a good many others, enjoyed themselves on the afternoon and evening of August 9th.

AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

FROM OUR M.I. CORRESPONDENT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last report there has been very little to speak of regarding our M.I. Detachment, but the good news has just arrived that the Company breaks up on the 1st of August, and right glad we were to hear it. I am very glad to say our Section Officer, Lieut Hastings, has rejoined the Depot, and looks none the worse for his short illness, except that he will not be allowed to ride during the remainder of the course.

On July 23rd, a football match was arranged between the right and the left half Company. Five of the West Kents were chosen to play for the right half Company. Play from the commencement was slow and lacked combination. At half time no goal had been scored; on resuming the teams played much better, and the game was very even, both sides attacking strongly in turn, until the left half Company proved themselves the better team by scoring a goal and winning the match.

On July 24th, a cricket match was arranged between the M.I. Depot and the Staff at Citta Vecchia, resulting in a win for the Depot by 11 runs. I did not see the match, but from all accounts it was well contested, our opponents being an unbeaten team. Pte. Joyce, G Coy., distinguished himself by keeping wicket very well, and was chiefly responsible for our winning the match. Before the course was ended, some Athletic Sports were arranged, and I will try to give you a short account of the principal events.—Lloyd Lindsay.—Each sub-section had to start from a given point, gallop to a second one, dismount and fire two rounds, mount and gallop to a third point and fire two rounds; then double to a fourth point, fire two rounds, mount and gallop home. The time was taken from the moment the last horse passed the starting post. Marks were awarded as follows:

(a) Best turn-out. (b) Riding together. (c) Mounting and dismounting. (d) Handling of horses by No. 3. (e) Words of command and distances given by section leaders.

Lieut. Hastings was time keeper. The event was run off in heats, the 8 best sub-sections being left in for the final. The 1st and 2nd prizes were won by the sub-sections of the Lancashire Fusiliers, the 3rd prize by Lce.-Corpl. Smith's sub-section, which made 58½ points out of a possible 70. The next competition was for the best position in riding and jumping. So many turned out for this that the judges had their work cut out, but after cantering and trotting for some time they reduced the number to 20. These 20 were put over the jumps, and the first prize was won by the Lancashire Fusiliers, the second by the R. Warwicks, and the third by R.W. Kent (Private W. Blagrove.)

The next on the programme was throwing the cricket ball, but our best man only got fourth (Private Ford, H Coy.)

Then came the long jump. After a hard struggle, Lance-Corporal Edwards, E Coy., carried off the first prize.

Sack Race.—Four of our men started in this, but did not manage to win the prize. All the competitors had to lie down before starting, and our men were not used to this.

Best Turn-out.—This was a most difficult event to judge, and after deliberating for an hour and a half, the 1st prize was carried off by the Warwicks, the 2nd by the Lancashire Fusiliers, and 3rd by Lce.-Corpl. Smith, D Company.

4757 Pte. Humphrey, G Company, won the first prize in the 100 yards flat Race.

Next came "Throwing the shot." Several of our men entered but were not equal in form to the Coalheavers, who carried off first prize.

Tug-of-War.—The draws were as follows:—

Lancashire Fusiliers v. Royal Warwicks.
West Kents v. King's Own Regiment.

The Fusiliers pulled over the Warwicks twice in succession and won easily. The tug between ourselves and the King's Own was more even, the King's Own winning the first, and we winning the second pulls. The third tug was a long one, but eventually the weight of the King's Own team told, and we were pulled over.

Our team was:—Lce.-Corpl. Smith, D Company, Lce.-Corpl. Edwards (E), Ptes. Howard (E), Coles (G), Joyce (G), Day (H), Bellchambers (H), White (D), Humphrey (G), O'Connell (D).

Although we lost the Tug-of-War, we nevertheless managed to walk off with some other prizes. In the Half Mile (open), Lce.-Corpl. Cassidy, B Company, was first, and Pte. Humphrey, G Company, third. In the "Bucket Race," Pte. Davey, F Company, was first, and Pte. Murphy, A Company, second In the Obstacle Race, Pte. Murphy, A Company, got third prize. In the Three-legged Race, Lce.-Corpl. Cassidy and a man of the King's Own came in first. In the Consolation Race, Pte. Coles, G Company, came in second. I will not mention any further details, except that our men, when receiving their prizes, caused much amusement by the way they saluted.

At the last moment a return cricket match was arranged with the Citta Vecchia team, and they had their revenge by beating the Depot team by 24 runs, both sides scoring well.

In the evening a farewell "Smoker" was given at the Sergeants' Mess, and all the officers were present. I conclude by saying how glad we all are to rejoin our Regiments.

J. M.,
M. I. CORRESPONDENT.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

Pte. J. Chalk, Lancashire Fusiliers, has joined the Battalion on transfer.

Corpl. G. Barnes reverts to private at his own request.

The undermentioned have been transferred to other Corps, being on the unattached list—

Sergt. G. Leitch to South Wales Borderers. Lance-Corpl. C. O'Connor to East Lancashire Regt. Sergt. W. Richards to Northampton Regt. Q.M.-Sergt. E. Powers to Northampton Regiment. Sergt. A. Rogers to West Yorkshire Regt. Sergts. W. Lyttle, F. Powell, E. Towner, and A. Stratton to Royal West Surrey Regt. Sergt. E. Lyttle to Wiltshire Regt.

VOLUNTEER CAMP, 1902.

Under the Command of Colonel T. H. Brock, Commanding 50th Regimental District, the West Kent Volunteer Brigade, encamped at Risborough Camp, Shorncliffe, from the 2nd to the 9th of August.

It being the first time that four Volunteer Battalions of the Territorial Regiment were together, there was much fraternising amongst the several respective ranks of the Battalions. I think the Sergt. Instructors were the most at home together. There were over 2,500 in Camp, and the Battalions on parade looked fit and strong enough to go for anything. The ground around Hythe proved much too small for any extended manœuvres, and taxed the resources of the Brigadier and the Brigade Major to devise schemes suitable for the ground. Major A. T. Simpson, 1st Vol. Batt., acted as Brigade Major.

One of the chief items was the bivouac of the 2nd Vol. Batt., on which a Correspondent to the *Kentish Mercury* writes as follows:—

There was a Scotch mist when we looked out from our tents on Wednesday morning, and later, when the O.C. the baggage guard was superintending the loading up of the baggage, he alternated between hope that it would be fine and fear that it would be wet—or fear that it would be fine and hope that it would be wet! He was not sure which, for though he had played at soldiers for ten years he had never been on an expedition that had entailed bivouacking for the night. At seven o'clock things looked so dirty that the parade was cancelled. But those Scotch mists at Shorncliffe have a way of clearing quickly, and this one shortly vanished, whereupon the bugles rang out again and the battalion paraded in assembly formation. For, my masters, we have learned something from the Boer war, and "assembly formation" is the latest innovation. Moreover, we have learned to turn on our toes instead of our heels, and to dismiss without the right turn. More rain as the battalion marched out of camp, the destination being the ranges at Hythe. The O.C. the baggage being under the lee of a friendly wagon was the least wet man of that noble eight hundred by the time we reached the familiar shingle at Hythe. Here the rain relented, and the sun arrived to dry our coats. I said we had learned lessons from the war, and, seriously, the improvements in the conditions under which we shot at Hythe were very marked No longer are we squadded in front of a bull's eye and told the exact distance in yards. The battalion is now extended at what seems a great distance from some small black objects on the distant sky line, and some black blobs on the beach—these latter are naval guns landed by the enemy we are told. We blaze at these, and anon comes the order to advance. Some cavalry gallop across the shingle in the distance. "Independent, at the cavalry in front, eight hundred. Commence." Once more we drop, and the rifles crack out. Now a row of black heads and shoulders bob up unpleasantly close on your left, or some cyclists demand attention on the right. Again we advance over the everlasting shingle, encouraging the men to take cover and aim steadily. Orders come from the Colonel to tell off casualities, and ruthlessly we place whole sections *hors de combat*. If we don't the C.O. will do it, and he generally drops on your best section commander! Up come your reserves, slammed into the firing line wherever there are vacant places and on you go. Too hot to last long, and as the ammunition begins to dwindle you draw closer to the dangerous fire—a zone that too few would approach were the targets spitting back lead at us. And then comes the long shrill whistle to cease fire. In actual business, of course, the fun would now be getting fast and furious, but we have acted it far enough, and it is time to examine the targets. Eight is the per centage of hits to rounds fired, and we are told this is good. The Adjutant gave this verdict, but he naively added that there was nobody firing at us. We are marched up to the targets (more shingle) to see the results, and then—like the celebrated army of the King of France—marched back again. Grand exercise that march over six hundred yards of Hythe shingle, and it is futile to call on your men to lockup the fours—you simply crawl along. The officers' mess is established under the shade of a friendly tree, and for a hasty lunch we subsisted on cheese and ration biscuit, also some sausages—on service conditions! Here we learned a very important lesson, some of us. For (tell it not in Greenwich) there was whiskey, and those who had no water in their water-bottles, since they preferred to march light, had perforce to drink it neat. Moral—always fill your water-bottle before starting. Again that assembly formation. It is now about two in the afternoon, and we are told that orders have come for the battalion to march inland to Postling, apparently six miles off as the crow flies, but, alas, we are not crows. The Colonel informs us that this Postling is a model village, and there is no public-house there. He reminds us that if it is a model village his is a model corps, so that doubtless the corps and the village will agree well. This is his pleasant way of hinting to us that we are to be good boys. En avant! (one day when the French give us a fright this will be the English for "Quick march"). Up hill and down dale, we proceed through such pretty country as Kent alone can show. Those five baggage wagons lumbering behind with the beef and blankets, and more than once a serious trouble to the O.C. baggage, but they are not far behind when cheers from the front announce that we are in sight of the haven where we would rest. It is a weary cheery battalion that strides into the village. It is wonderful how men can pull themselves together at the end of a long march, and there is nothing like the regimental march to drive away footsoreness. There must have been at least a hundred inhabitants in Postling, and they turned our to welcome us in force. Never before had they been so overrun by visitors. And then to our bivouacs. The outposts were put on the hills beyond, having first had served out to them rations to take with them and cook. The more fortunate ones were marched into various out-houses and barns, most hospitably placed at the Colonel's disposal by the chief farmer of the village, Mr. Broadley, himself an old volunteer. Mr. Broadley was kind enough to place his kitchen at the disposal of the officers, and it is safe to say that thirty more hungry men never supped and breakfasted there before on service rations. The men were tired, but cheerful Rations were plentiful, and there is many a worse thing than bully beef when one is done up. The writer saw his men comfortably

posted in a barn. The "Hotel de Barn" they called it, and the legend was inscribed on the door in chalk—by the same man who could not find any chalk the same morning to write the numbers on the baggage waggons. He said he had found a piece of lime, but it looked like billiard chalk. Like Macbeth we retired to bed but not to sleep. Our bed was on the hard floor in Mr. Broadley's granary, and though matches are dangerous in a granary, we had occasionally to light up to frighten away the rats, who were inclined to dispute our possession of their domain. One fortunate man slept through it all on a table, and had to be vigorously shaken when the alarm went, as it did about 4.40 a.m. A cyclist had come in to say the outpost had been attacked. This was a little plot they had hatched for us in Shorncliffe. Thus early the Brigadier sent out his brigade cyclists to see that we were on the alert. And, thanks to the rats, we were. The outposts were reinforced, and we fought as pretty a little battle as men ever fought on an empty stomach. The brigade cyclists had the good sense to retire in time to allow us to take our breakfasts in peace, and at about seven o'clock we regaled ourselves on hard boiled eggs, bully beef, coffee, and ration jam. At eight came more orders from the Brigadier, and we paraded for what proved to be a long march back to our camp, the battalion taking part in a scheme drawn up with the object of securing for the commander of a home army at Ashford information concerning the doings of foreigners landing at Sandgate and Folkestone. It was about two o'clock when 800 weary men pulled themselves together for the last stretch of the march into camp, and so far from any of us being any the worse for our outing the men looked fit to go anywhere and do anything.

The time of the men was occupied throughout the day, but as soon as they were at liberty—after satisfying the inner man—the Brigade parade ground was occupied for the rest of the evening in sport of all kinds. We have no results which we can publish, but some interesting encounters between Battalions took place, and Regimental Sports held. If the Battalions are together next year. perhaps some master hand will organise inter-regimental sports and competitions; but the time at disposal may not be the same next year.

The following order was issued: The Brigadier Commanding West Kent Volunteer Brigade "desires to thank all ranks for their hearty co-operation in carrying out the general scheme of work throughont the week. He noticed with pleasure the desire shown by all to profit by the opportunity of gaining instruction and experience. The general conduct of the men in camp was satisfactory. Field firing was practised by two battalions with encouraging results. The bivouac of the 2nd V.B. was carried out successfully, and the hardships caused by the inclement weather were borne with cheerfulness."

In conjunction with the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions Royal West Kent Regiment, the above Battalion (forming the West Kent Brigade), held its Annual Camp at Shorncliffe during the first week in August. The camp was particularly well attended, a large per centage of men availing themselves of the opportunity of increasing their knowledge of field training.

"C" Company, whom we will follow throughout the week, was represented by two officers, and eighty N.C.O.'s and men, it being the strongest company in camp.

The Company paraded at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 2nd, and entrained at Dartford; Shorncliffe being reached soon after 11. As is usual, the first parade consisted of fatigue, at which bedding and blankets were drawn, and kits unloaded and claimed. After dinner there was a parade for about an hour, during which the Army Acts were read out and the new squad formation practised. The next day being Sunday, the whole Brigade attended Divine Service at 9.30 on the parade ground, which lasted for about an hour. The tents were afterwards inspected by the Brigadier, and men were then free for the rest of the day. Monday morning saw the commencement of the real training, and the order for the day, as for each succeeding day, was revielle at 5, breakfast at 6, and parade at 7. Monday's work consisted of Company training; drill in extended order with signals formed the chief feature, while the attacking of a position and reinforcing the firing line was also practised. On this occasion each squad leader was able to realise what his duty would consist of if really working on a field of action. Tuesday morning the Battalion marched to Saltwood, and again the Company was instructed in the use of signals, no words of command being given. This occupied nearly all the morning, when, after a rest, the Company was given the task of showing "How not to attack a position." This they did by exposing themselves in the open, although at the same time everyone who was able, sought to take advantage of what little cover he could find. However, after crossing open ground the Company got under cover, and was able to support other Companies in the main attack on a difficult position, which had been taken up by two Companies of the Battalion. This action brought the day's work to a close, and a long march brought us to camp at about 2 o'clock. Wednesday morning saw the men parade in marching order at 9 to go on "active service." Mid-day rations were issued on parade, and in the rain, which kept us close company during the week, the men started out for Hythe. Field firing exercise was practised by the Battalion on the Hythe Ranges; when, after a halt for dinner, a march was commenced to a place called Postling. "C" Company was detailed as advance guard, and soon the points and flankers were feeling their way through the country. Postling was reached without a check, and on the approach to the village half the Company were sent round it one way, and the other half through and round it the other way. Both half companies met some distance the other side of Postling where cross roads met, and in a short time outposts and sentries were placed at every point of advantage on the roads, near the woods, and on the hills surrounding the district. It was then that the men found that an active service meal was not very substantial, and as they were not being relieved till nightfall, they would have had to have gone hungry and thirsty to their watches if they had not been able to procure a little food from cottages through the kindness of their officer. At nightfall the men were relieved and marched back into Postling, where a meal was obtained and the night spent very comfortably in a barn. At 4 a.m. the next morning the alarm was sounded, and in the creditable time of five minutes "C" Company was marching to its original position to strengthen the outposts who had relieved them the previous evening, and who were being attacked by an enemy coming from the direction of Shorncliffe. As the attack was not pressed there wasn't much to be done except wait for breakfast, which everyone enjoyed when it did put in an appearance. Some men had the luxury of a wash in a rain water tub discovered in a farm yard, but many had to be content to wait till camp was reached. Breakfast being ended, "C" Company were detailed with others to try and get round the flank of the attacking force, and after a long morning's march this was partially effected. The fight practically started at 4 a.m., and it was nearly 1 o'clock before the "cease fire" sounded. The Battalion was soon formed into column of route, and marched

back to camp soon after 2 o'clock. More field operations were practised on Friday, but were not of long duration, as owing to the Coronation being fixed for the following day, the C. O. decided to strike camp on the Friday. After dinner the men paraded in full marching order and laid their equipments in lines. Then they proceeded to strike tents, which was no sooner done than a terrific storm burst over the ground, soaking everything, and all who were not fortunate enough to obtain shelter. Striking camp in 1902 will long be remembered by many. The parade for home was ordered at 5.45 and Dartford was reached about 9 p.m. All the men seem to have enjoyed their week's training, which although made somewhat uncomfortable from the climatic conditions, was very instructive and beneficial to all who attended.

It may be mentioned that the Company played a football match with "K" Company on the Tuesday evening, which was witnessed by quite a crowd of spectators, the result being 3 goals to 1 in favour of "C" Company.

DARTFORD DETACHMENT.

ANNUAL PRIZE MEETING.

The Annual Competition of the above Detachment took place at Milton Range, on Saturday, 13th September. A good percentage of the Detachment attended, and shooting was commenced at 9 a.m. The Detachment were fortunate in having a bright fine day, and, although the wind was found very tricky at the longer ranges, the conditions on the whole were most satisfactory. The Commanding Officer of the Detachment (Capt. G. Morphew) was present and took part in the shooting. The scores on the whole were good. The winner of the General Competition, seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards, was Pte. Barnett, with a score of 88 after his handicap of three points was deducted. Competition No. 2 consisted of seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards, open to efficient men who had attended 30 drills. Drills were added to score made. Sergt. E. J. Walker proved to be the winner with a total of 129, and was closely followed by Pte. Barnett 128, Sergt. Ancrum 123, Clr.-Sergt. Mitchell 119.

Pte. Springbett was returned winner of the Recruits' Competition, seven shots at 200 and 500 yards, with the good total of 57. The 4th Competition (Ladies' Prize—subscribed by Ladies of Dartford and neighbourhood) was snap shooting at 200 yards by teams of four at vanishing targets. Any military position, targets down four seconds, exposed four seconds, seven rounds, magazine, independent. Result: Sergt. Walker's team tied with Sergt Ancrum's team for first and second places, and Lce.-Corpl. Jarvis' team tied with Lce.-Corpl. Dutton's team for third and fourth places. While the Competitions were in progress, Pool Competitions were held at 200 and 500 yards, the bull being 4 inch at 200 yards and 12 inch at 500 yards. 2d. per shot. Bulls at 200 yards were obtained by Sergt.-Inst. Cook and Sergt. Ancrum, and at 500 yards by Capt. Morphew, Sergt. Ancrum, Sergt.-Inst. Cooke, Pte. Barnett and Lce.-Corpl. Jarvis. Besides the foregoing Competitions, the Hon. Members of the Company and also of the Dartford Rifle Club shot for their Challenge Cup. Seven shots at 200 and 500 yards. The winner was Mr. E. J. Clarke with a total of 57; Mr. C. Hind being second with 58.

The hands of the Editorial Staff have, in common with others, been very full recently, consequent on the return of the men from S. Africa for demobilisation, and consequently publication of the September number has been seriously delayed. We have endeavoured to make up for lost time, and got the October number out at the same time.—Ed.

"Cenyarth,"
7, Cambrian Road,
Leyton,
Essex,
Sept. 17th.

Sir,

Could you kindly inform me whether you know of anyone that has a set of the 50th Regimental Colours, either in wool or painted, for sale, as I should be pleased to obtain a set, and oblige,

Yours truly,
W. SNELL, late 50th.

OBITUARY.

CAPT. JOHN TURNER.

Capt. John Turner, a distinguished officer of the 50th (Queen's Own) Regiment, who had risen from the ranks, has died at his residence in Herbert-road, Shooter's Hill, in his 85th year. He served in the Gwalior campaign of 1843, when he took part in the battle of Punniar in December, and throughout the Sutlej campaign of 1845-6, being engaged in many of the sanguinary encounters of the memorable period, especially the battle of Sobraon, where, after the officers with the colours were disabled, he carried one of the colours up to the enemy's parapet. He served throughout the Eastern campaign of 1854-5, when he took part in the battles of the Alma and Inkerman, and the siege and fall of Sebastopol.

LIEUT.-COL TORRENS LYSTER.

The death occurred yesterday at his residence, Warren House, Dawlish, at a great age, and after a long illness, of Lieut.-Col. F. Torrons Lyster. The gallant officer, who served in the 50th Regt., and retired from the army December, 1870, had had a distinguished military career. Previous to entering the British Army he served in Portugal, in the Pedroite Army from 1833 to 1835, and was at the defence of Oporto, and in all the affairs from the raising of the siege to the termination of the war. He afterwards served in Spain under Sir De Lacy Evans as captain of infantry, and under Espartero as captain of cavalry, and was subsequently on the staff of General Don Diego Leon, whose escort he commanded from 1838 to 1841. He was twice decorated with the Order of St. Ferdinand for charges of cavalry at Allo and Berga, and with the medals for the siege and capture of Irun and Morlela, in which he was severely wounded. He was also present in the following actions and affairs in the country:—Reconnaissance on Fuenterabia, Ametzagana, San Marcos, Loyola, Aguirre, Oriamendi, Hernani, Urnutta, Siege of Irun, Lazarte, Usurbil, Andoin, Vera, Perdon, Reconnaissance on Otiera, Sesma, Belascoain, Aroniz, Reconnaissance on Santa Barbara, Velle de Berruera, Allo-y-dicastilla, Collander, Maniellary Pena Cortada, Genebrosa, Canadette, Agua Viva. Siege of Segura, Reconnaissance on and siege of Castleotte, Valle de Lladres, Siege of Morella and Berga and its twenty-two redoubts. He also charged with seven Lancers Bosque's Squadron, completely routing it, and killing seven and capturing five horses. He also held the bronze star for his services with the 50th Regt. in the battle of Punniar.

EMIGRANT'S INFORMATION OFFICE,

31, BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

The October circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office and the annual editions of the Penny Handbooks show the present prospects of emigration. The notice boards are now exhibited, and the circulars may be obtained free of charge, at more than 900 Public Libraries, Urban District Councils, and Institutions throughout the country.

In CANADA, work was plentiful during the summer both in the agricultural and manufacturing industries, but it is too late for emigrants to go there this year, unless they go to friends, or have means of their own.

In NEW SOUTH WALES, the building trade at Sydney continues busy, and there has been a demand for skilled plumbers, but all other trades are depressed. The ordinary emigrant without means of his own should not go to New South Wales at the present time.

In VICTORIA there is no general demand for more labour, and many men are out of work.

In SOUTH AUSTRALIA the chief industries are connected with mining, farming, and manufacturing, but there is no demand for more labour at the present time.

The last report of the Government Labour Bureau in WESTERN AUSTRALIA shows as follows:—There is an ample supply of men in the building and other trades at Freemantle, Coolgardie, Albany, and other towns, and on the goldfields many are out of work, but there is a demand for them in one or two small places, as Menzies and Northam; the supply of miners is quite sufficient except at Donnybrook (gold) and Greenbushes (tin); there is a good demand for agricultural labourers in many districts; the supply of general labourers is sufficient, except at Northam, Beverley, and one or two other places; there is a good demand for female servants.

In TASMANIA there is a moderate demand for skilled farm hands, and female servants, and on the West Coast for miners.

In NEW ZEALAND there is a good opening for farmers with capital, farm labourers, miners, female servants, and a limited number of mechanics, but not for general labourers; passages at reduced rates are given to persons possessing fixed incomes, or a little capital.

In CAPE COLONY there is no demand for more mechanics or miners, nor for general or farm labourers who are mainly coloured men; persons going to Cape Colony do not now require permits.

No one is allowed to land in NATAL without a permit. This must be applied for personally at the Permit Office, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W. The applicant must possess £100, or prove that he is in a position to maintain himself in South Africa. There is now no special demand for more artisans, a large number of carpenters and others in the building trades having lately arrived, but skilled men can find work. The following persons are wanted for the Government railways; engagements are for three years; candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W., enclosing particulars as to age, height, whether married or single, with medical certificates and testimonials; free passages are provided, and half-pay during the voyage:—Good platelayers between 25 and 40 years of age with five years' experience, wages £11 to £15 a month: Carriage and waggon examiners having five years' experience, wages 9s. a day. There is a good demand for female servants, but they should not go alone.

Permits (see above) are required by those going to the TRANSVAAL and the ORANGE RIVER COLONY. These will not be valid unless endorsed by the representatives of those Colonies at the port of disembarkation. Candidates for the new South African Constabulary in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony should apply to The Recruiting Officer, S.A.C. Recruiting Office, King's Court, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.; they must be good riders, good shots, single, strictly sober, and from 20 to 35 years of age; they will be given free passages to South Africa. A few farriers are also wanted for this Force. The Transvaal and Orange River Colony Enquiry Office has been opened at Cape Town for the purpose of providing information on those Colonies, and as to openings for obtaining land.

An energetic Acting Schoolmaster propounds the following:—Can any of our 1st Class Candidates solve the problem.

"Three servants are engaged in a house to do the work. £95 10s. is divided to pay their wages for a year. A works twice as hard as B, and B three-quarters of what C does. A burns her hand and rests for two days; B has the measles for a month, and during the month a boy is paid B's wages. Twice as much work falls to C as to the other two, but C only does half and the rest is left. Each has a fortnight's holiday, and A two extra days to see a friend, and B an evening to buy a new hat, and C spends an hour and 10 minutes each day talking to the gardener. How much wages does each have? How much does the boy get?

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

Copies will be sold at 1d. per Number to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men serving with the Colours. If sent by post 1s. 6d. per year.

Extra Copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

The price of back Numbers will be as follows: To N.C.O's and Men, 1d.; to all other Subscribers, 2½d. (Postage ½d extra).

The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to "THE EDITOR," *The Queen's Own Gazette*, The Barracks, Maidstone."

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 328. MAIDSTONE, OCTOBER, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 10.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

1st. BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. R. L. White to be Lieutenant vice T. H. C. Nunn promoted. Dated 2nd August, 1902.

Promoted Sergeant, Lance-Sergt. G. Holliday, 13th July.

Promoted Corpls, Lance-Corpls. W. Gillispie, 2nd Aug.; E. Gillispie, 15th August; C. Stere, 10th Sept; C. James, 15th July.

Appointed Lance-Sergts., Corpls. H. Cox, W. Ball, C. Ashton, R. Rose, H. Moore, G. Harris, 13th Sept.

Appointed Lance-Corpls., Ptes. F. Green, W. Elliott, W. Rush, 16th Sept. Ptes. J. Shields and C. Culmer, 17th Sept.

2nd BATTALION.

Capt. Thomas H. C. Nunn is seconded for service as Adjutant of Mounted Infantry in Egypt. Dated 27th August, 1902.

Supernumerary Lieut. Eustace L. H. James to be Lieut., vice T. H. C. Nunn, promoted. Dated 2nd August, 1902.

Lieut. Eustace L. H. James to be Captain, vice T. H. C. Nunn, seconded. Dated 27th Aug. 1902.

Appointed Lance-Corpls., Pioneer J. Murdock, 9th July; Ptes. G. Ingram, G. Best, 13th July; W. Neale, 14th July; E. Hickmott, 5th July.

3rd BATTALION.

Second-Lieut. A. C. K. S. Clarke resigns his commission. Dated 2nd September.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Lieut. T. L. Price. dated 3rd Sept.1902.

4th VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

4th Volunteer Battalion —Lieut. H. Wyllie to be Supernumerary whilst serving with the Volunteer Company in South Africa. Dated 12th March, 1902.

Charles H. Scowen, Esq., to be Captain. Dated 20th September.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

We had a very successful open air Concert on the beach of Manoel Camp, on the night of the 19th August. Perhaps the Concert was a shade too long drawn out, but that was chiefly due to the popularity and success of the performers, each of whom the audience insisted on encoring. The small stage was prettily decorated with flags and coloured lights by some of the band, under the superintendence of Sergt. Sonnenberg, and their efforts were duly appreciated by all.

The Programme was very good, and, as the night was quit perfect, everyone spent a very pleasant evening.

I attach a Programme of the Concert:

1	SELECTION	"Scotland's Pride" ..... BAND.
2	SENTIMENTAL SONG..	"The Blind Boy" ..... PTE. BENNETT.
3	COMIC SONG.....	"The Spoony Coon" ..... BDSM. HARRIS.
4	SENTIMENTAL SONG...	"Father and Son" ..... CORPL. JAMES.
5	COMIC SONG...	"We've all got something to show". PTE. BROOKER.
6	SENTIMENTAL SONG...	"Because I love you" ..... DR. MCCARTHY.
7	COMIC SONG..	"I have" ..... LCE.-CORPL. MCENUFF.
8	MANDOLINE SOLO.....	
9	TWO MACS'.....	"St. Patrick's Day" ..... LCE.-CORPL. CASSIDY & PTE. GROVER.
10	SENTIMENTAL SONG	"Gee, Gee, Gee" ..... CORPL. JAMES.
11	COMIC SONG.....	"Let go, Eliza" ..... PTE. BROOKER.
12	NEGRO SONG.....	"The Giggling Nigger" ..... BDSMN. HARRIS.
13	COMIC SONG..	"Don't stick it out like that". LCE.-CPL. MCENUFF.
14	SENTIMENTAL SONG.	"Play that Melody again". DMR. MCCARTHY.
		"God Save the King."

Lieut. Dunlop left Malta for England on the 21st August in the s.s. "Duc de Braganza." He will attend the next course at the School of Signalling, Aldershot, which commences on the 1st September.

The weather has improved so much lately that Cricket is once more a pleasure, and on the 21st we drove down to the Marsa, to play the Lancashire Fusiliers. Though none made a large score, we had a very pleasant day and we managed to win by 44 runs. The total scores were very small and the bowling very deadly, quite an unusual thing on a matting wicket. Capt. O'Dowda was most successful, taking 13 wickets for 31 runs in the two innings. Pinder made a very useful stand for us in the first innings, but owing to our not having played for more than a month, everyone else was very much out of form in batting.

1st R. W. Kent Regt. *v.* 1st Lancashire Fusiliers

West Kent—1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Capt. Robinson, b Rogers	7	c Page, b Sargent	14
Lieut. Phillips, lbw., b Rogers	0	b Sargent	0
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Sheppard	2	c Sheppard, b Rogers	12
Capt. O'Dowda, b Sheppard	0	b Sargent	0
Pinder, c Sheppard, b Sargent	39	b Sargent	6
Corpl. Allen, c & b Sheppard	4	b Rogers	12
Lieut. Ingram, b Sheppard	0	b Rogers	0
Wood, st. Salt, b Sargent	0	run out	4
Corpl. Knight, b Rogers	0	st. Salt, b Rogers	2
Burrows, not out	0	not out	12
Sgt.-Dr. Budd, c Page, b Rogers	4	b Rogers	1
Extras	11		5
Total...	67	Total...	68

1st Lanc. Fusiliers—1st Innings.		Second Innings.	
Major Page, c Budd, b O'Dowda	0	b O'Dowda	1
Corpl. Newman, b O'Dowda	4	b O'Dowda	8
Lieut. Blencowe, b O'Dowda	0	b Pinder	2
Sheppard, b O'Dowda	4	b O'Dowda	0
Lieut. Salt, b O'Dowda	2	b Pinder	8
O'Reilly, c Wood, b O'Dowda	1	run out	25
Major Hamilton, not out	3	b Pinder	3
Lieut. Hewlett, run out	3	c Sub., b Pinder	2
Lieut. Mansell, b O'Dowda	0	b O'Dowda	3
Lieut. Sargent, b O'Dowda	0	c Phillips, b O'Dowda	10
Bandmaster Rogers, b Pinder	0	not out	0
Extras	11		1
Total...	28	Total...	63

In a match against the 3rd Royal Warwicks on the 23rd July, we were badly beaten, and only just managed to save a single innings defeat by a couple of runs. Our scores were very poor as will be seen by the attached sheets:

3rd R. Warwick Regt. *v.* 1st R. W. Kent Regt.

3rd R. Warwick Regt.—1st Innings.	
Major Vaughan, c O'Dowda, b Pinder	7
Burgess, b O'Dowda	19
Saunders, c Barrow, b O'Dowda	10
Brennan, c Budd, b Wood	63
Robinson, c Barrow, b O'Dowda	15
Lieut. Davies, b Wood	3
Lieut. Filsell, b Wood	0
Lieut. Bell, b O'Dowda	4
Sergt. Hall, not out	14
Lieut. McDermott, run out	3
Lieut. Winthorp, b O'Dowda	0
Extras	2
Total	140

1st R. W. Kent Regt.—1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Capt. Robinson, c Hall, b Bell	17	c Davis, b Saunders	17
Lieut. Waring, b Bell	0	b Saunders	7
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Bell	14	c Davies, b Bell	0
Pinder, c Winthorpe, b Saunders	0	st. Brennan, b Bell	5
Somerville, c Burgess, b Bell	8	b Saunders	17
Wood, st. Brennan, b Bell	7	hit wkt., b Saunders	0
Corpl. Allen, c & b Saunders	0	not out	14
Capt. O'Dowda, not out	16	b Bell	4
Lieut. Phillips, b Bell	0	b Saunders	3
Barrow, c Vaughan, b Bell	0	c Davies, b Bell	1
Sergt.-Dmr. Budd, c & b Saunders	1	lbw., b Bell	8
		Extras	3
Total	63	Total	79

The arrival of the Indian contingent in the s.s. Harding, on their way to India from the Coronation, caused some little stir and excitement in Malta. They were here for the 25th and 26th July. On disembarking on the 25th, the contingent was inspected on the Palace Square by his Honor, the Officer administering the Government, and afterwards the European Officers were entertained at lunch at the Union Club. On the 26th there was a parade on the Floriana Square, and the Indian contingent marched past. Col. C. E. Harrison, who has been commanding the Infantry Brigade since the departure of Major-General Lane, was at this parade with Captain Style as his orderly officer. In the afternoon a Polo Match was arranged between our visitors and four picked from the Malta Garrison. After a close and exciting game our visitors were beaten by three goals to two. They were handicapped by having to ride strange ponies, and the Marsa ground which is terribly dusty and where the ball occasionally gets altogether lost wants some practising on.

We have entered a team for the "Soldiers' Cricket Cup," but at present our form does not show very clearly that we have much chance of carrying off the trophy; the men have plenty of opportunities for practice, and with sufficient keenness they ought to make a good fight for it.

MUSIC AT SLIEMA.

From the Malta Chronicle.

On Saturday evening the band of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment played at Ghar-id-dud. The moon was high in heavens: it was bright and nearly full. The day had been sultry, but the evening was fresh. One felt the desire to be out of doors. To sit on a comfortable seat, to be fanned with the breezes from the sea with the moonbeams glinted from its moving surface, to listen to the sweetest of all music, and to be just sensible that it was moving and soothing the senses at rest—that, and only that, is the *dolce far niente* which southern nations claim to be a privilege which they alone can enjoy.

Now military bands are all good, and a musical critic may be blamed for saying that one is better than another. But we have faith in the philosopher who says that there are not two things exactly alike in nature, nor, consequently, of equal worth. And we cannot but think that the band of the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment is one of the best of the military bands which the public have the pleasure and the privilege of hearing.

And indeed everyone speaks of the music talent of the 1st Royal West Kent band; and on Saturday last it was known that the clever musicians, trained to perfection by a gifted, painstaking and indefatigable bandmaster, were to execute an unusually attractive programme. The consequence was that there gathered at Ghar-id-dud an unusually large concourse of music-loving people. The stone and wooden benches were all occupied, the iron railings were lined with those who could get no seat, but sought something to lean against, and the open spaces between railings and the row of trees which strive to grow, were packed with a promenading throng of ladies and gentlemen, happy all in themselves, or happy at noting the signs of the contentment and happiness of others. Out on the road, everywhere, there were carriages and people standing in groups, walking and eager to hear. Such a multitude we have rarely seen assembled at Ghar-id-dud.

The band opened the evening with the march "General Sir Lyon Fremantle" by De Cesare. "Rigoletto" and "Bohéme" were upon the programme. With a band capable of executing the best music, classical, martial, and playful, in the best style, such a programme was bound to give satisfaction, growing to delight as it was executed. And each piece, as it was played, was acknowledged to be good by the pleased expression of the face of the listener, by the whispered word of approval and pleasure, by the applause which burst forth at times as if coming irresistibly from hundreds of gratified individuals.

We congratulate the bandmaster of the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment, and the clever regimental musicians directed by his baton, upon the marked success and the fresh honours which they secured on Saturday night last at the Sliema Club.

CRICKET.

The following match between the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment and the 1st Royal Garrison Regiment for the soldiers' cup, was played on the Marsa on Monday and Tuesday, the 15th and 16th inst. The result being a victory for the Kentish team.

ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

1st Innings.

Corpl. Allen, b Drennen	32
Dr. Ford, b Jones	7
Bds. Pinder, b Jones	0
Band Sergt. Sonnenberg, c Kerwin, b Jones	1
Bds. Wood, b Swain	0
Sergt. Saunders, c Vivian b Swain	2
Sergt. Ball, b Jones	0
Sergt. Harris, lbw, b Drennen	4
Sergt. Dr. Budd, not out	4
Pte. Burrows, b Drennen	4
Dmr. Barrow, b Swain	4
Extras	16
Total...	74

2nd Innings.

Sergt. Dmr. Budd, run out	0
Dr. Ford, c Jones, b Swain	16
Bds. Pinder, b Swain	30
Band Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Swain	16
Corpl. Allen, c & b Smith	82
Bds. Wood, run out	3
Sergt. Saunders, run out	15
Sergt, Harris, c Messenger, b Jones	0
Pte. Burrows, b Hyde	15
Dmr. Barrow, not out	28
Sergt. Ball, b Swain	4
Extras	17
Total...	226

1ST ROYAL GARRISON REGIMENT.

1st Innings.

Pte. Kerwin, run out	0
Pte. Wilson, b Pinder	9
Pte. Swain, c Burrows, b Pinder	0
Lce. Corpl. Hyde, b Allen	10
Pte. Jones, b Pinder	0
Sergt. Gardner, c Pinder, b Allen	2
Pte. Cahill, not out	14
Pte. Messenger, b Allen	5
Sergt. Smith, b Allen	0
Col. Sergt. Vivian, b Allen	3
Pte. Drennen, run out	5
Extras	11
1...	

2nd Innings.

Pte. Mulligan, c Burrows, b Pinder	33
Pte. Kerwin, b Allen	1
Pte. Cahill, b Allen	0
Pte. Swain, c Ball, b Pinder	5
Sergt. Gardner, c Burrows, b Pinder	8
Pte. Jones, c Budd, b Allen	2
Lce. Corpl. Hyde, c Pinder, b Budd	3
Pte. Wilson, b Pinder	11
Col. Sergt. Vivian, c & b Pinder	0
Pte. Messenger, c Ford, b Pinder	2
Pte. Smith, not out	0
Total...	65

2nd BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

HEILBRON, O.R.C.

August 21st, 1902.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Since my last letter we have heard many and varied rumours about our future destination, but now at last we have had official intimation that we are shortly to proceed to Ceylon. Nearly everyone seems to be disappointed that we are not going to Hong Kong, more so owing to the fact that in Ceylon the Battalion is split up into four detachments. We heard that we were to be ready to sail "shortly," but that was a week ago, and there has been no further news since. We are getting rather tired of this place, as there is now nothing to do. The shooting season ends almost at once, and we have sold all our polo ponies; but this outside idleness has given an excellent opportunity for us to bring off many events inside the Regiment.

In the first place, on August 6th, the Regimental Sports were held, and proved a very great success. A good track had been prepared near the transport lines of our camp, and the grass had been smoothed down for two days beforehand by mule waggons being continually drawn round the course, which was just $\frac{1}{4}$-mile round, with a straight 120 yards down the centre. The sports commenced in splendid weather at 11 a.m., with heats for the open 100 yards, and, with an interval of one hour for dinners, did not end until 5.30 p.m., when Major Maunsell distributed the prizes to the winners. The following were the events in order:

1.—100 Yards (open to the Battalion).—Final: 1 Pte. Peeke, 2 Dr. Thompson, 3 Lance-Cpl. Redmond. Won easily by 5 feet.

2.—High Jump.—1 Dr. F. Thompson, 2 Sergt. W. Wood.

3.—220 Yards for Band and Drums.—1 Dr. F. Thompson, 2 Pte. Duffin, 3 Corpl. Summerhayes. Won easily.

4.—120 Yards Handicap for Officers of the battalion (1 yard start for every completed year's service).—1 Second-Lieut. Hewitt, scratch; 2 Capt. Lees, 16 yds.; 3 Lieut. Lister, 6 yds. Won by 1 yard. Lieut. Lister beat Lieut. Joslin (8) by inches for third place. Seventeen officers ran, as many as eight being at scratch.

5.—220 Yards Handicap for Sergeants (same conditions as above).—1 Sergt. Garratt, scratch; 2 Sergt. W. Wood, scratch; 3 Sergt. Dorrell, scratch. Won by 5 yards.

6.—440 Yards for Corporals.—1 Lce-Corpl Redmond; 2 Corpl. Humphries; 3 Lce-Corpl Kallend. Won by 5 yards.

7.—Tug of War (Final heat).—"F" Coy. beat "D" Coy. by 2 to 0. This was considered a walk over for "F," who however, had all their work cut out to win the first pull, as "D," though not so well trained, had them to within a foot of the line at one time

8.—Long Jump.—1 Dr. F. Thompson; 2 Pte. F. Knight.

9.—Three Legged Race.—1 Sheppard and Martin; 2 Brooker and Newell.

10.—440 Yards (open to battalion).—1 Lce.-Corpl. Redmond; 2 Pte. Knight; 3 Pte. Lythall. Won by 4 yards.

11.—220 Yards for Draft proceeding home on August 9th.—1 Sergt. Garratt; 2 Pte. Duffin; 3 Lce.-Corpl. Booker.

12.—Half Mile (open to garrison).—1 Sergt. Green, Essex Regiment; 2 Pte. Goodwin, Worcester Regiment; 3 Pte. Scarborough, Essex Regiment.

13.—Obstacle Race.—1 Pte. Darby; 2 Pte. Roberts; 3 Sergt. Connor. Some very stiff obstacles had been prepared by Pioneer Corporal English, which proved too much for the majority of the competitors.

14.—120 yards (open to garrison). 1 Sergt. Green, Essex Regt., 2 Pte. Ruff, Essex Regt., 3 Pte. Peeke, Royal West Kent Regt.

The Affinity Race caused considerable amusement, and was won by Crosse and Blackwell, with Swallow and Aries second. There was also a race for Native boys, mounted on bare back mules. The course was round the outside of the sports course, about three furlongs. About 36 started, and there was much crossing and jostling. It was eventually won in a canter.

On August 9th the Coronation Celebrations were held in Heilbron, commencing with a Brigade Church Parade in the Town Square at 10 a.m. At 11.15 there was a football match on the Town Ground between the Worcesters and the Town, strengthened by two or three outside players. Lce.-Corpl. Frost assisted the Town in goal, and Corpl. Carter at half. The Town were just beaten. In the afternoon some sports were held on the Town Football Ground, and included a very varied list of events, amongst them being various races for girls, children, and Kaffirs. The latter race caused great amusement, every native in Heilbron seemed anxious to run, and the race ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile) was eventually started with the competitors drawn up in three ranks, one behind the other. They left their boots, etc., at the starting post, and ran till they nearly dropped. Eventually it was won hands down by a native who brandished the huge knobkerry the whole way round.

The chief event was the tug-of-war. In this there were five entries; two of our teams, a Burgher team from the Refugee Camp, and regimental teams from the Essex and Worcesters. The Worcesters, however, scratched.

In the first heat the West Kent Regiment team beat the Essex team by two pulls to none. We were much better together and won comfortably. Then the Burgher team pulled over our second team with the greatest ease. They were an enormous lot of men, the two at the tail of the rope being over 15 stone each.

In the final the West Kent first team beat the Burghers by two pulls to none. The Dutchmen invariably got first pull, and had us absolutely up to the line in the first pull, and to within six inches of it in the second. They went off with a rush that was hard to stem, but once stemmed superior staying power and good coaching enabled us to win fairly easily.

In the evening the celebrations wound up with a torch-light procession and fireworks.

In my next letter I shall be able to tell you about the result of the Football League. At present G Company are at the top with 11 points to their credit. They have finished their matches, and would have made a certainty of getting the shield if they could have beaten D Company in their last match, but as they drew (1—1), they have afforded F another. If F beat B and A, which they ought to do, they will tie with G, and the two teams will have to play again to arrive at a definite result. In my next letter, too, will be the results of the "Eccles" and the "Officers and Sergeants" Shooting Cups. In a match the other day between teams of 10, the Officers beat the Sergeants by seven points. The scoring was not good, however, as there was a variable gusty wind blowing across the range.

2nd Battalion Correspondent.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

On September 13th a garden party was held at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, for the benefit of the widow and four children of Sergt.-Instr. Mills. The proceedings commenced at half-past three, when the Battalion band, under the direction of Mr. J. B. Church, played an excellent selection. At five o'clock there was an open air concert, the programme being sustained by Miss Maggie Noble, Messrs. Sydney Jones, Harry Demay, Harold Delmar, Harry Dolman, Prescott and Smith. An amusing boxing contest was given by ex-private Clark (miller) and Bugle-Major H. Green (sweep). A most interesting item was the gymnastic display by Quarter-Master Sergeant Giles, Staff-Sergeants Parker and Palmer, and Sergeants Pritchard, Jackson, and Feetham, of the Royal Artillery, Woolwich. Their exercises included the parallel bars, bayonet v. bayonet, sabre v. sabre, and quarter-staff. Sergeant Parker was responsible for some very clever feats of swordsmanship. A concert followed in the Drill Hall. The contributors to the programme included the Misses Amy Pynn and Maggie Noble, Messrs. Sydney Jones, Frank Tyler, A. Prescott, Harry Leslie, George Cullum and T. Smith, and then there was dancing to the strains of the Winchester Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Albert Jackson. The grounds were very effectively illuminated at dusk. The arrangements were carried out under

the direction of a committee of whom ex-Staff-Sergt. Bird was chairman, Sergt. Jarratt vice-chairman, Sergts. H. D. Davis and W. Nicholls hon. secretaries, and Corporal Borrett hon. treasurer. Pvte. Frank Adamson had charge of the concerts, and Cyclist-Sergt. H. Fdnnell of the other entertainments. The members of the committee were :— Ex-Colour-Sergeant J. McLean, ex-Sergeant C. Trevillion, Sergeants H. F. Attree, G. Barnes, A. Kiloh, E. Congdon, and H. Fennell, Corporal F. Amer, Lance-Corporal H. Foster, Privates H. J. Smith and F. Adamson, and Bugler Taylor. About 800 paid for admission, and towards the fund Mr. F. Castle collected in the grounds 10s. 1½d., Mr. W. E. Johnson 7s. 3½d., and Private W. Maddox 7s. 0½d. It is anticipated that between £25 and £30 will be realised. A subscription list at the Sergeant's Mess, Depot, resulted in an addition of £3 19s. to the above.

ASSOCIATION OF MEN OF KENT AND KENTISH MEN.

A garden party and social meeting in connection with this Association was held on Saturday, by permission of Colonel Satterthwaite, at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, the head-quarters of the 2nd Vol. Batt. The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Favoured by fine weather, the company enjoyed themselves highly. In the afternoon a cricket match was played between Maids of Kent and Men of Kent, the latter being handicapped in the usual style by batting with broom-sticks, and, in fielding, by only being allowed to use the left hand. Victory, as was proper and gallant, rested with the ladies, who scored 49 against 42 made by the men, who were captained by Councillor Bingham. At the conclusion of the match the company adjourned to the large drill shed, where upwards of a hundred sat down to tea. In the course of the evening about 170 men of the county who had been engaged in the late war in South Africa, fighting in the ranks of the Imperial Yeomanry, the City Imperial Volunteers, the 2nd and 3rd West Kent, the Kent Volunteer Artillery, &c., received at the hands of the Mayoress of Greenwich, souvenirs in the shape of addresses, signed on behalf of the Association by Lord Harris, the president, Mr. W. Kemp, late Chairman of the Council, and Mr. W. T. Hearn, hon. secretary, convey-ing the Association's warm acknowledgment of their services, "which had worthily conduced to the honour of the throne and Empire, and the maintenance of the best traditions of our historic county." The address was surrounded by a border of hops, cherries, wheat and strawberries, enclosing views of places of historical interest in Kent, and of the former and the present warship's in the Navy bearing the county's name. Mr. James Bills, Chairman of the Council, presided, others present being, besides, of course, the Mayoress, Mrs. Bills, Miss Bean, Councillor Captain and Mrs. Owen, Mr. W. Brown, J.P. (chairman of the Lewisham Union Guardians), and the Misses Brown, Councillor F. C. Bingham, Mr. W. T. Hearn, Mr. and Mrs. John Hearn, Mr. W. E. Marsh, Councillor H. Nash, Mr. G. B. Bayley, Mr. T. Stanley Johnson, &c. The Chairman, having presented a bouquet to the Mayoress, delivered a short address, in the course of which he expressed, on behalf of the Association, pride in the conduct of those Kentish men who had gone to the front when their country needed them. The county of Kent had always been in the van, and was one of the first, he thought, to send Volunteers to the front. "Kentish fire" was then given for the men, and after they had been handed their souvenirs a concert programme was performed, those taking part in which included Miss Campbell, Miss Johnson, Armoury-Sergt. Russell, and Messrs. C. M. Rutter, Ambrose Skinner, Paxton, Gurney Russell, and Walter Taylor (at the piano).

Kentish Mercury.

"For Meritorious Service." Such are the words which accompany the medal presented recently by Lieut.-Col. Kidd to Sergeant-Major W. J. Light. The medal is a rare one, but the recipient, though also of rare qualities, requires no introduction to our readers. It was at Chatham that Sergt-Major Light first enlisted in the 32nd Regiment of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, the only Cornish regiment. Embarking at Gravesend as a private he set sail for India, where in the 50's there were troublous times indeed. Before he had been in that country long, in the year 1852 to be precise, he received the medal for the North-West Frontier. Five years later came the medal for the Indian Mutiny and the clasp for the part he had taken in the gallant defence of Lucknow, 1857. Following this came several other engagements, including Cawnpore. In 1866, he was appointed sergeant-major on the staff of the 8th Depot Battaiou at Colchester. After four years in that town he was removed to Gravesend, where he was dis-charged upon a pension in 1872, and was awarded the long service and good conduct medal. He then became sergt.-instructor to the 12th Kent Rifle Volunteer Corps, which afterwards became the 2nd Batallion of the West Kent Regiment. He retained this position until finally discharged in 1888. Upon relinquishing his connection with the local detachment of volunteers, Sergeant-Major Light became the recipient of several presentations :—From the Sergeants of the Battalion; from the Officers of the Battalion, consisting of a purse of money and a gold-mounted stick, and from the non-commissioned officers and men of the detachment. Lieut.-Colonel Kidd (then Major) upon his retiring from the command of the local detachment in 1884 also presented Sergeant-Major Light with a clock as a mark of appreciation of the efficient manner in which he had carried out the duties of Sergt.-Instructor for the previous 12 years. Sergeant-Major Light claims to be the first non-commissioned officer who was allowed the right to wear uniform upon discharge. Upon his final discharge in 1888, Sergt.-Major Light became licensee of the Bull's Head Hotel, where he now lives and enjoys the highest esteem of his fellow townsmen.—*Dartford Express.*

We have received from one of our valued correspondents an article entitled—"The Bone of Contention," This, were gret, is unsuitable for our columns owing to the subject matter being of too "high" class. It was a bone of contention between the editorial staff as to whether it should be published, but it was decided to do as the hero of the story should have done instead of swallowing it, and that is to decline it with thanks, to cast it to the dogs would be wrong, for even the dogs, unless they were of Egyptian breed, would refuse to approach it.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL FUND.

The wish expressed by those serving in the 2nd Battalion to subscribe towards a memorial to those of the Regiment who have laid down their lives in South Africa, has been also taken up by others connected with the Regiment, and amongst other subscriptions we have been requested to acknowledge the receipt of £1 18s. 6d. from L Co., 2nd Volunteer Battalion, and £5 4s. 8d. from various details of the 1st Volunteer Battalion. A detailed list will no doubt be given us for publication.

SUTLEJ CAMPAIGN

Extracts from Sir Harry Smith's account of the battle of Maharajpore, 1843.

"The old 50 had its share too, and the blockheads in the East who 'haver' over their wine of India's being in a state to require no British troops are wrong, for liberally contributing the full meed of praise to the, Sepoy Battalions, that praise is so rested on the British soldier's example, the want of that 'point d'appui would entail a dire want indeed, that of victory!"

Extracts from Sir Harry Smith's account of the battle of Moodkee, 1846.

"The first part of this action was on an open country with occasional large dense and thorny trees into which the enemy climbed and caused the 50th Regt. great loss. This Brigade (H.M.'s 50th, and the 42nd and 48th Regiments Native Infantry) was more engaged than any other part of the Army. Many officers and over 150 soldiers of the 50th were wounded. Brigadier Wheeler was wounded severely, Major-General Sale, Q.M.G. of H.M.'s Forces, who had attached himself to Sir Harry Smith, mortally. On this occasion Sir Harry Smith greatly distinguished himself on his celebrated black Arab 'Jem Crow,' by seizing one of the colours of H.M.'s 50th Regiment and planting it in the very teeth of a Sikh column, and gloriously did the Regiment rush on with bayonet, and fearful was the massacre which ensued. The left brigade of the 1st Division was engaged to the left of the line under Brigadier Bolton of H.M.'s 31st Regt. (who fell mortally wounded), while the Brigades of the 2nd Division under Major-General Gilbert and Major-General Sir John McCaskill occupied the centre. Sir John was shot through the heart."

"It is a curious circumstance in this battle that so obscured was all vision by the dust that it afterwards appeared that the bulk of the Sikh forces passed in column along the front of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division, and when repulsed by the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division and ( ) Brigade 2nd Division, were driven across the front of the 50th, the advance of which was pushed by Sir Harry Smith. After the troops were halted the dust dispelled and the moon was up and shining brightly. The 1st Brigade 1st Division then formed an obtuse angle with the rest of the army. This Brigade had gone right through the Sikh repulsed columns. The 1st Division this day took twelve of the seventeen guns captured from the enemy.

The Division lost at Moodkee—killed, 79; wounded, 339; missing, 19; total, 437.

Both Brigadiers were knocked down, and one died of his wounds.

After the action the troops returned to their camp, which they reached about half-past twelve."

Extfacts from Sir Harry Smith's account of the battle of Ferozeshah, 1845.

"I saw, however, that to resist this attack, which was evidently made to take advantage of our check, and penetrate cur line between Littler's right and Gilbert's left, I must bring up the right of my Brigade. I endeavoured to do so, and with H.M.'s 50th Regt. I succeeded under a storm of musketry and cannon which I have rarely, if ever, seen exceeded. My native troops staggered and some receded, while the gallant old 50th bore the brunt, opening a rapid fire.

"At this moment poor Major Arthur Somerset was struck down, a most accomplished soldier for his experience, and of a promise to emulate his great ancestor the Duke, had Almighty God been pleased to spare him to his country. I never saw a more cool, judicious, and gallant officer than my dear and lamented friend, Arthur Somerset. If the tears of a veteran could decorate the hero's tomb, every vein upon it would be full. Poor youth! *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

"The enemy was at this moment in his bearing noble and triumphant. So fast were officers and men falling, I saw there was nothing for it but a charge of bayonets to restore the waning fight. I, Colonel Petit, and Colonel Ryan put ourselves at the head of the 50th, and most gallantly did they charge into the enemy's trenches, where such a hand-to-hand conflict ensued as I had never before witnessed. The enemy were repulsed at this point, and his works and cannon carried, and he precipitately retreated, I pushed forward with the 50th in line until we reached the enemy's camp. All order was broken by the tents, but my orders and example were "Forward! Forward!! Forward!!!" I saw a village occupied by the enemy full in my front, about 400 yards away. By this time I was joined by many stragglers of regiments from my right, or Gilbert's division, but no one from my left, or Littler's. I was therefore apprehensive of my left flank, nor was I aware (from the obscurity created by dust) whether the four battalions of Avitable's were repulsed, or indeed were they were. I resolved, therefore, to carry the village, which I soon did in glorious style with H.M. 50th and a detachment of the Honourable Company's 1st European Light Infantry under Captain Seaton and

Lieutenant ————. The colours of H.M. 50th were gallantly borne forward by Brevett Captain Lovett and Lieutenant de Montmorency. I was the first Officer in the head-quarters village of the Sikh Army, Ferozeshuhur, and I planted one of the colours of H.M. 50th on the mud walls. A scene of awful slaughter here ensued, as the enemy would not lay down their arms. The village was full of richly caparisoned and magnificent horses, and there were camels around it innumerable.

"After about half an hour the dust cleared away on my left, and I saw that Avitable's battalion had been driven back by my charge, but Littler's Division had made no impression upon the enemy where he attacked. The victory appeared complete on my right ; crowds of advancing straggling officers and men came up, and I resolved again to push forward. The evening was fast closing, but before dark I carried the enemy's camp half a mile beyond the village, and endeavoured to collect and form the stragglers upon H.M. 50th—amounting, I conceive, to near 3,000 men. For the first hour so excited were the men I could make no formation, which I little regarded at the moment, expecting to hear every instant the victorious army on my right. Not doing so, on the contrary hearing the enemy in force close to my front and right (it was very dark), I saw at once I had pushed the victory far beyond the ground held by our army, and that my position was critical in the extreme. I therefore made a vigorous and determined exertion to establish a formation, and I got the 24th Regiment Native Infantry—one of my own Division—in line upon my right under Major Bird, and about 150 of the 1st European Light Infantry under Captain Seaton, and proceeded to form the whole in a semi-circle in front of the enemy's camp, my flank being well refused towards the village. Scarcely was the first formation effected, when the enemy made rather a sharp attack upon my right, and drove back the formed troops. The darkness prevented the enemy continuing his success, and the noise and clamour of my troops in the endeavour to form, indicated that I still held my ground. Thus I was compelled to re-occupy my right, and contract the circle of formation. In this arduous duty I (and the service still more so) was deeply indebted to Major Hull, of the 16th Grenadiers, who, after he received a wound, of which he died in a few hours, continued to do his duty and aid me beyond my expression under a murderous fire of musketry, grape, round shot, and grisaille.

I at length got all the stragglers, consisting of some of H.M.'s 9th Regiment under Major Barwell, the 19th Grenadiers Native Infantry, 24th Regiment Native Infantry, 28th Regt. Native Infantry, 73rd Regiment Native Infantry, and many others, upon the 50th which was well in hand."

Extract from Sir Harry Smith's letter to his sister describing the gallantry of H.M.'s 50th Regt., now the Royal West Kent Regt.

Left bank of the Sutlej, 28th Dec., 1845.

" My dearest Alice,

" Your old brother Harry has only a few minutes to say to you, and his dear friend, Sir James Kempt, he has at length, in India, had an opportunity of distinguishing himself as much as you both could wish, in the three most sanguinary conflicts with the Sikhs, and he, with his own hand, the first man in, planted the colour of H.M.'s 50th Regiment on the walls of the Head Quarter village from which the great battle was named, Ferozeshuhur. A bloody fight it has been, as you will see by the papers. I was with the old 50th hand to hand in the trenches when four battalions of Avitable's (so called from having been drilled by that officer) bore down in furious onslaught upon my Division which I now command—two Brigades, H.M.'s 31st and two Native Regiments in one, the 50th and two Native Regiments in the other."

" Harry."

Extract from Sir Harry Smith's account of the battle of Aliwal, 1846.

" While these operations were going on upon the right and the enemy's left flank was thus driven back I occasionally observed the Brigade under Brigadier Wheeler, an officer in whom I have the greatest confidence, charging and carrying guns and everything before it, again connecting his line, and moving on in a manner which ably displayed the coolness of the Brigadier, and the gallantry of his irresistible Brigade —Her Majesty's 50th Foot, the 48th Native Infantry, and the Sirmoor Battalion—although the loss was, I regret to say, severe in the 50th. Upon the left Brigadier Wilson with Her Majesty's 53rd and the 30th Native Infantry equalled in celerity and regularity their comrades on their right ; and this Brigade was opposed to the 'Aieen' troops, called Avitable's, when the fight was fiercely raging."

" I had with me three troops Horse Artillery, two 8-inch howitzers, the 16th Lancers, the 3rd and 5th Light Cavalry, one corps of the Irregular Horse, H.M.'s 31st, 50th, and 53rd Regiments, and 200 convalescents, and of Native Infantry the 47 Regiment, and the Sermoor and Musseeree Battalions. The rest of my Aliwal heroes remained with Wheeler."

" I never was in such a hand-to-hand fight ; my gallant 31st and 50th literally staggered under the war of cannon and musketry. Behind such formidable entrenchments, I could not get in where I was ordered to attack, but had to turn my right close to the river, where, if left alone, I should have commenced I carried the works by dint of English pluck, although the native corps stuck close to me, and when I got in, such hand-to-hand work I have never witnessed.

For twenty-five minutes we were at it against four times my numbers, some times receding (never turning round though), sometimes advancing. The old 31st and 50th laid on like devils. . . This last was a brutal bulldog fight, although of vast political and definite result; but my fight at Aliwal was a little sweeping second edition of Salamanca—a stand up gentlemanlike battle, a mixing of all arms and laying on, carrying everything before us by weight of attack and combination, all hands at work from one end of the field to the other."

The experiences of a Bearskin on Church Parade, told by itself, when attached for duty with the Helmets of the Royal West Kent Regiment at Maidstone.

A BEARSKIN AT THE DEPOT.

I was training at Colchester before joining the Depot at Maidstone. The people of Essex, unlike the men of Kent, are not easily moved, and so I was not accorded a reception until I was borne through Maidstone. At first I felt insulted by a small boy yelling to his pal, "I say, Bill, look at 'e." Bill looked, and, having recovered from a slight feeling of faintness, replied, "O, Lor', 'e carn't see!" The crowd then became rather oppressive, and my bristles were just beginning to settle down a little, when with a scream came the cry, "Where did yer get that 'at." The hackle, who was quite a raw recruit at the game, meekly asked if he might fall out and remonstrate with the little boy, but the grenade, who was lying well behind cover, and was, on account of his seniority, in command, sternly forbade anybody leaving the ranks. The crowd got denser and denser, until at the very gates I was greeted with "good lor, what's this." The grenade ordered the chain to be tightened to suppress a smile, and I then entered the Barracks. My owner having been dismissed, I was taken to the ante-room, thinking my troubles were over for the day, but no—"O, you've brought the Fuzzy, do let me have a look at it." I was then looked at, and shaken, and stroked, and (dare I say it) trod on! The hackle fairly jumped out of his socket, and the chain hung limply down, in spite of the remonstrances of the grenade. I was then taken away and put in my box, and did not appear again until the following Sunday at Church Parade. The hackle is completly broken, and now under the able tuition of the grenade, and puts on quite a scornful air under such remarks as "Golly, Jim, did you see 'im." I heard my master suggesting the other day he should have an escort in future to protect me, but the Adjutant replied that nothing could be done until the 1st Army Corps was formed. The grenade, who knows a lot about the British Army, says he thinks I may have some time to wait, and that meanwhile I must be as patient as possible. I am doing my best, but fancy a town within 35 miles of London being so ignorant.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

The fourth annual rifle match between teams of sergeants representing the 2nd Volunteer Battalion and the London Rifle Brigade took place at Milton Range under favourable conditions, the result being a win for West Kent by 17 points—their third victory in succession. After the match the Kentish men escorted their guests to Holly Hedge House, Blackheath, where a substantial meal awaited them. A smoking concert followed, general regret being expressed that the L.R.B. men, who mostly live in North London, had to leave early to catch their train. Pioneer-Sergt. Smith and Colour-Sergt. Tayton acted as captains of their respective sides.

SECOND V.B. WEST KENT.

Colour-Sergt. Mitchell	98
Sergt. Bryant	96
Sergt. Tebbutt	89
Lance-Sergt. Fawcett	88
Pioneer-Sergt. Smith	87
Sergt. Evans	86
Colour-Sergt. Sayer	84
Sergt. H. Smith	84
Sergt. Hall	83
Lance-Sergt. Freeman	79
Total	874

Average 87·40.

LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE.

Colour-Sergt. Tayton	98
Sergt. Puckle	96
Colour-Sergt Over	93
Sergt. Raftery	88
Lance-Sergt. Dicker	87
Colour-Sergt. Petty	85
Lance-Sergt. Tyser	84
Colour-Sergt. Prior	77
Sergt. Goloboff	76
Sergt. Ward	73
Total	857

Average 85·70

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 2nd August, the wife of Colour-Sergt. Evenden, Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion, of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 2nd June, 1902, the wife of Pte. G. Finnis, Depot, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

At Maidstone, on 8th October, 1902, Pte. L. Campbell, Depot, to Miss L. Misson.

DEATHS.

At Malta, of enteric fever, on 12th August, No. 6418, Pte. E. Jones, 1st Battalion.

At Maidstone, on 13th August, No. 2740, Pte. J. Hoye, 2nd Battalion, suddenly.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

Copies will be sold at 1d. per Number to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men serving with the Colours. If sent by post 1s. 6d. per year.

Extra Copies or back numbers can always be supplied.

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The latest date on which copy intended for insertion should reach the Editor is the 25th of the month previous to date of publication.

All Subscriptions payable in advance, and all Correspondence be addressed to "THE EDITOR," The Queen's Own Gazette, The Barracks, Maidstone."

ASSOCIATION OF SERGEANTS THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at Maidstone on the 15th June, 1904.

1.—Present: Sergt-Major Grellier, Acting-Sergt.-Major Audsley, 3rd Vol. Batt., Colour-Sergt. Purton, 2nd Vol. Batt., Colour-Sergt. Upton, 1st Vol. Batt., Qr.-Mstr-Sergt. Smith, 4th Vol. Batt. Pensioners Mr. W. Brown, Mr. W. Locks, Mr. W. Ball. Sergt.-Major J. Outten, Treasurer.

2.—The Hon. Treasurer having read the minutes of the previous meeting, it was proposed by Sergt.-Major Audsley, seconded by Mr. Locks, that the minutes of the previous Committee Meeting, as read by the Hon. Treasurer, be confirmed. Carried unanimously.

3.—It was proposed by Mr. W. Brown, and seconded by Mr. Locks, that Sergt.-Major H. B. Grellier, 3rd Batt., be appointed Hon. Secretary of the Sergeant's Association. Carried unanimously.

4.—Proposed by Sergt.-Major Outten, 50th Regimental District, seconded by Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. Smith, 4th Vol. Batt that Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. Gilburd. Depot Royal West Kent, be elected a member of the Committee. Carried unanimously.

5.—Proposed by Mr. W. Brown, seconded by Colour-Sergt. Upton, 1st Vol. Batt., that the balance of cash in hand be placed in the Post Office Savings' Bank in the names of the Treasurer and Secretary. Carried unanimously.

6.—The Auditor's report on the accounts having been read, it was proposed by Colour-Sergt. Purton, 2nd Vol. Batt, seconded by Sergt.-Major Audsley, 3rd Vol. Batt., that the Auditor's report be accepted, and that the accounts as read by the Hon. Treasurer be passed, and a balance-sheet of same be sent to every member through the "Queen's Own Gazette." Carried unanimously.

7.—Proposed by Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. Smith, 4th Vol. Batt., seconded by Mr. Locks, that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Sergt.-Major Outten, Hon. Treasurer, Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. Gilburd, Auditor, and to Sergt.-Major Grellier, and to all those upon whom the bulk of the work has fallen, in bringing the Association up to its present state. Carried unanimously.

PATRON—
Major-General E. LEACH, C.B.

PRESIDENT—
Colonel T. H. BROCK.

VICE-PRESIDENTS—

Colonel E. A. W. S. Grove, C.B.
" C. E. Harrison.
Lieut.-Colonel W. G. B. Western, C.B., 2nd Batt.
" " G. W. Maunsell, 1st Batt.
" " E. W. G. Bailey, 3rd Batt.
" " C. S. Williams, 1st Vol. Batt.
" " E. Satterthwaite, 2nd Vol. Batt.
" " E. Moore, 3rd Vol. Batt.
" " R. J. Passby, 4th Vol. Batt.

COMMITTEE—	Representing.
Sergt.-Major C. B. Mitchell,	2nd Batt.
" " H. G. Rogers,	1st Batt.
Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. W. Gilburd,	Depot.
Mr. W. Brown, ex-Sergt.-Major	Pensioners.
" W. Locks, " "	
" W. Ball, " "	
Colour-Sergt. J. Upton,	1st Vol. Batt.
" " W. J. Purton,	2nd Vol. Batt.
Sergt.-Major M. R. Audsley,	3rd Vol. Batt.
Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. F. Smith,	4th Vol. Batt.

Hon. Treasurer—Sergt.-Major J. H. Outten, 50th R.D.
Hon. Secretary—Sergt.-Major H. B. Grellier, 3rd Batt. R.W.K.

MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

1ST BATTALION.

43, Sergt.-Major H. G. Rogers; 45, Colour-Sergt. W. Colyer; 46, Colour-Sergt. H. Eldred; 47, Colour-Sergt. W. Murphy; 48, Colour-Sergt. J. Saunders; 49, Sergt. J. McIntosh; 50, Sergt. L. Pressly; 51, Sergt. W. Woolmer; 52, Sergt. G. Nicholson; 53, Sergt. W. Page; 54, Sergt. J. Wren; 55, Colour-Sergt. A. Davis; 56, Colour-Sergt. G. Button; 57, Sergt. F. Rogers; 58, Colour-Sergt. W. Osborne; 59, Sergt. W. Murphy; 60, Sergt. W. Renny; 61, Sergt. T. Crockett; 62, Sergt. W. Naylor; 63, Sergt. F. Mills; 64, Sergt. W. Ball; 65, Sergt. W. Kingham; 66, Sergt. G. Harris; 119, Sergt. W. M. Collins; 8, Sergt. P. Balcombe; 23, Colour-Sergt. W. McVicar; 29, Sergt. E. Rose; 131, Bandmaster G. Davis; 133, Sergt. J. Merrick; 134, Sergt. Smith; 135, Sergt. J. McGee; 136, Sergt. H. Moore; 188, Colour-sergt. S. Kill; 189, Sergt. G. Rigglesford; 190, Clr-Sergt.-Inst.-Musketry W. Dark; 191, Sergt. A. Firman; 192, Sergt. E. Sonnenberg; 193, Sergt. A. Keen; 194, Sergt. A. Brown; 195, Sergt. E. Ashton; 196, Sergt. W. Tranter; 197, Sergt. T. Legg; 198, Sergt. A. Allen; 199, Sergt. W. Asey Shaw; 200, Sergt. H. Sweatman.

2ND BATTALION.

249, Sergt.-Major C. B. Mitchell; 236, Colour-Sergt. J. Bullock; 237, Colour-Sergt. F. Grey; 238, Colour-Sergt. A. E. Wood; 239, Sergt. W. Ellis; 240, Sergt. A. Chesteneuf; 241, Sergt. E. Kallend; 242, Sergt. W. Harrison; 243, Sergt. H. Bristow; 245, Sergt. W. Mallon; 246, Sergt. W. Minall; 247, Sergt. R. Rickman; 250, Bandmaster T. McKelvey; 251, Sergt. T. Dorrell; 252, Colour-Sergt. R. Silver; 253, Sergt. G. Barden; 254, O.R.S. R. Thorne; 255, Colour-Sergt. H. Jury; 256, Sergt. J. Mills; 257, Sergt. A. Moss; 259, Sergt. A. Colyer; 261, Sergt. F. Howard.

DEPOT AND 3RD BATTALION.

1, Sergt.-Major J. Outten; 2, Sergt.-Major B. H. Grellier; 3, Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. W. Gilburd; 5, Qr.-Mstr.-Sergt. G. Bourne; 6, Colour-Sergt. G. Allen; 7, Colour-Sergt. F. Ailwood; 9, Colour-Sergt. W. E. Bass; 10, Sergt. J. Blount; 11, Sergt. T. Connor; 12, Colour-Sergt. H. Crouch; 13, Sergt. H. Davis; 14, Sergt. R. Daykin; 15, Sergt. W. Dugay; 16, Clr.-Sergt.-Inst.-Mus. W. T. Evenden; 17, Sergt. E. Harper; 18, Colour-Sergt. J. T. Hunt; 19, Sergt.-Dr. C. Gee; 20, Sergt. W. Jarrard; 21, Sergt. D. Leaver; 22, Sergt. J. McGregor; 24, Colour-

"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 329. MAIDSTONE, NOVEMBER, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 11.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Second Lieut. A. H. Pullman to be Lieutenant, dated 27th August.

The under-mentioned Gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military College to be Second Lieutenants, dated 22nd October, 1902 :—

Roy Gerard Corcor Brock, Richard Leonard Hoare, Rupert Alwyn Paget.

SECOND BATTALION.

Appointed Lce.-Sergts:—Corpls. F. Goulds, A. Summerhayes, W. Broughton, H. Davis, and H. Digweed, 12th September.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls. :—Ptes. F. J. Finch, C. Bayman, W. Montague and S. Mills, 24th September.

THIRD BATTALION.

The undermentioned Supernumerary Officers are absorbed into the establishment of the Battalion :—

Capt. C. M. Allfrey, dated 7th October.

Capt. A. S. T. Griffiths-Boscawen, dated 11th October.

Quartermaster and Honorary Lieut. J. Forrest is placed on temporary half-pay owing to ill-health, dated 15th October.

Appointed Sergt.-Inst. of Musketry Col.-Sergt. W. Evenden, 4th October, 1902.

FIRST VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captain :—Lieuts. W. E. Phillips and A. E. Phillips, 21st Oct. 1902.

SECOND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Major and Honorary Lieut.-Col. W. M. Lemon is borne as Supernumerary, whilst commanding the Army Service Corps Company of the West Kent Volunteer Infantry Brigade, dated 18th October, 1902.

Acting Chaplain the Rev. C. H. Grundy, M.A., resigns his appointment, 21st October, 1902.

FOURTH VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

J. C. Horham, Gent, to be Second Lieut., dated 11th October, 1902.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

—o—

Dear Mr. Editor,

Our cricketing season at Malta is almost at an end. Our chief interest during this last month was the competition for the Soldiers' Cup, open to Warrant Officers N.C. Officers and Men of the Corps and Departments in Malta. In the first tie we met the 1st Royal Garrison Regiment, and won easily by 176 runs. Our success was due in a great measure to Corporal Allen and Pte. Pinder, the former being most successful both in batting and bowling. His innings of 82 in the second innings was very good. In our second tie, the semi-final, we met our old opponents, the R.A. Central, and again suffered defeat at their hands, though not a bad one,

They beat us by three wickets after a somewhat exciting finish. At one time, when the R.A. had six wickets down and 40 runs to get, things looked bright for us, but their great hitter came in and quickly demoralized the bowling, and they got the remaining runs for the loss of one more wicket. The wicket was in a bad state on account of one or two thunderstorms we had experienced, and to this is due our utter collapse in the second innings. I am sending the scores if you have room for them.

The weather has improved very much since the thunderstorms cleared the air and laid the dust. In consequence we have been able to get out to Pembroke on several occasions for musketry. The Sergeants had a very successful rifle meeting on the 9th October, while "D" and "G" Companies held theirs on the 10th.

On the 10th we had the whole of the Pembroke ranges to ourselves, and learnt, I hope, many a useful lesson.

On the 10th we received orders to hold ourselves in readiness to embark for home in November, and also to furnish a draft of 250 men for the 2nd Battalion in Ceylon. This draft, together with the time-expired men and those for transfer to the Reserve, who probably leave us within the next 10 days, will bring our strength down to a little over 500, so it will be with sadly depleted ranks that the Battalion will see England once more. Our anxiety to get home after nine months of Malta is only second to our great delight last year at leaving Aden.

Our signallers had a great triumph at their annual inspection this year. They made a "possible," every

message being correct and finished within the time limits. It must have been a source of immense satisfaction to Sergeant Sweatman, who has worked so hard since the arrival of the Battalion in Malta to achieve this result It was a great performance, considering the test was quite different to that which the signallers have been accustomed to in India.

The following were the men who took part in the inspection :—

No. 4119 Corpl. C. Stace, regimental signaller.
No. 3891 Lce.-Corpl. A. Humphrey, „
No. 3816 Pte W. Miller, „
No. 3805 Pte W. Ellen, „
No 4413 Pte. H. Bellchambers, „
No. 4731 Pte. W. Boreham, „
No. 4560 Pte. C. Hill, supernumary.
No. 3859 Pte. H. Male, „

1st Battalion Correspondent.

SHOOTING.

D COMPANY.

On the 10th October D Company held their annual rifle club meeting, marching out with the Battalion to Pembroke at 6.30. They commenced firing at eight, and, but for a slight interval for breakfast, they continued until twelve.

A very strong wind was blowing across the ranges, so the scores were consequently rather bad, Sergt. Mendham, however, who we are sorry to say is shortly leaving for West Africa, made 22 out of 25, a good score considering the state of the weather.

The club was divided into three classes, and each class had three prizes for each distance.

The first practice was at 200 yards at a third class Bisley target.

The second practice was at 500 yards at a second class Bisley target. The following are the winners of the various classes :—

200 Yards. Possible 35	500 Yards Possible 25
Class I—Pte. Williams 27	Class I—Sergt. Mendham 22
„ II—Pte. Saunders 23	„ II—Pte. Hanson ... 20
„ III—Pte. Austin 23	„ III—Pte. Marshall ... —

D Company Correspondent.

G COMPANY.

Rifle Meeting held at the Pembroke Ranges on 10th October.

The above-named Company had a very pleasant and successful day on the meeting of its Rifle Club for the Annual Prize Shooting.

As usual the weather was good, but a strong wind blowing from the right militated against good shooting. In the first practice at a third class target at 200 yards very good results were obtained. In the second practice at vanishing heads and shoulders at 200 yards the result was fairly good, but we have a lot to learn before we can hope to come up to a satisfactory standard in snap-shooting.

Our third practice at 500 yards was fired practically in a gale of wind, which was the downfall of many a promising shot among the young soldiers, who showed lack of experience.

I may add that not only the younger but also a good number of the older soldiers fell victims to the strong wind which was blowing.

The Company marked for themselves and not unnaturally were very keen, but some suffered from want of knowledge; one set of markers working single targets without weights, which was rather a poor joke on the man who had to push the full weight of the frame up and hold it there until the target came down again.

Among the prize winners were no less than ten of the last two drafts, who, considering the wind, fired very well. Among the more experienced hands, Pte. Dinham is to be congratulated on his excellent score of 25 at 500 yards in such a gale of wind.

I will now close my few remarks by adding the names of the prize winners.

Sergt. Crouch	Pte. McGee	Pte. Evans
Pte. Cockle	„ Merroney	„ Paul
„ Smith	„ Wood	„ Tudenham
„ Klien	„ Morton	„ Simmons
„ Joyce	„ McCarthy	„ Allen
„ Carmody	„ Gorman	Lc.-Corpl. Green
„ Blagrove	„ Pullen	Pte. Murray
„ Dinham	„ Dadswell	„ Milligan
„ Peckham	„ Haill	„ Pink
„ Coles	„ Martin	„ Coombs
„ Maslin	„ Ellen	„ Pettitt
„ Medcalf	„ McFadden	„ Stewart
„ Charlesworth	„ Bowers	„ McNamara
Lc.-Corp. Haden	„ Bond	„ Grover
Pte. Lynes	„ Gore	„ Ellis

G Company Correspondent.

SERGEANTS.

On October 9th the Sergeants had a day's outing at Pembroke Range in connection with the Officers and Sergeants Rifle Club. It was the first of its kind we have had, and we were all anxious for its success; our minds were, however, set at ease when Qr. Mstr.-Sergt. Cover, assisted by Clr.-Sergt. Seager, Sergt. Saunders and Lce.-Sergt. Moore, consented to undertake the providing of lunch and the purchasing of prizes, of which there was one for each competitor. Col.-Sergt. Callaghan, Sergts. Crouch, O'Connell, and Brown undertook the musketry work, which was carried out to everyone's satisfaction. The following is

the Programme:—MATCH 1.—100 yards, 2 foot target, 4 inch bull. MATCH 2.—Moving target, 200 yards. MATCH 3.—Vanishing target, 250 yards. Prizes, best aggregate in above. Firing commenced at 10 a.m. at 100 yards. Col.-Sergt. Eldred and Sergt. Mendham being best with 32 points. A pool target was in use while the competition was going on. Pool bulls, however, realized only 5½d. each. We now moved to 200 and commenced practice at the moving target, and on the completion of their eight rounds a number of competitors rose from the prone position with a dazed look upon their faces, and crept silently away to the refreshment booth, seeking solace in Style and Winch's Maidstone Ale, and when asked by their comrades how they had got on, answered in a tone that did not admit of any further questioning, "rough" In this practice I think the Shikaris of Meerut and Delhi fame showed to advantage. At about 1.30 we adjourned to lunch, which was laid in Lipton's large marquee, the table being most tastefully laid with that which makes one smile when hungry. Thorough justice having been done to the good things put before us, and everyone being in a better humour with the world in general, we directed our attention to the disappearing targets, each man gripping his rifle, and walking up to the firing point as one of a forlorn hope, intending to pull up the points lost in the two previous practices. It was interesting to watch the expression on some of the faces. After the red and white flag had been displayed in rapid succession on their account, such weird and ghastly looks were directed at the inoffensive butts that made one almost tremble as to what would happen if there had been another practice of the same nature to be worked off, and the same people had as persistently missed the object aimed at.

Col.-Sergts. Eldred, Burge, Callaghan, and Tapp in this practice showed they were still able to handle the rifle with credit to themselves and to the confusion of their enemies, and came out in the aggregate in order of merit as above. Col. Harrison, Major Morse, Capt. O'Dowda, and several other officers had arrived, and after ascertaining how the competitors stood on the roll (it was not necessary, however, to ask this question, as the most successful could be picked out with ease by the smug expression on their face, and the prominent positions they took up on the firing points; the duds were equally distinguishable by their miserable and abject looks), turned their attention to the targets, and found out it is not so easy to hit a moving object with a rifle as a sporting gun. At the pool target all their shots were very close indeed. Second-Lieut. Ingram justifying his selection as musketry trainer of recruits by making the bell ring.

We concluded one of the most instructive and enjoyable days I have ever had at about 5 30, and everyone went home feeling that by the day's outing they had learned something to their advantage, each with the fixed intention that though the first day of its kind, it would not be the last, but one of a regular series by which we hope to improve ourselves, and by improving ourselves we shall improve others.

In connection with the above a very successful smoking concert was held in the Sergeants' Mess on the 11th inst. The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. C. E. C. B. Harrison, who had very kindly consented to present the prizes won by the members in the above competitions, arrived at 9 p.m., accompanied by Major Morse, Capt. O'Dowda (Acting Adjutant), and several other officers. After the officers were seated the chair was occupied by Sergt.-Major Rogers. During the evening the health of Col. Harrison and the Officers of the Regiment was drunk with musical honours. The Colonel responded by saying how pleased he was to be amongst us, and to see the harmony and good fellowship which existed among the members of the Mess, and finally remarking that while such good feeling remained among the Officers and the Sergeants the Regiment could always be sure of being as it always had been (one of the best).

The presentation of prizes by Col. Harrison caused roars of laughter. I think the C.O. must have come fully stocked with witty sayings; also some of the prize winners who appeared late on the list, had some rather novel excuses for their poor shooting—old age creeping on them, which was hardly the case with a good many, The presentation of prizes was brought to a close by the crowning of Band Master Davis with a tin hat (a wooded spoon not being available), he occupying that exalted position—the bottom of the list.

The C.O. and Officers left us after item No. 10 on the programme; all seemed to be unanimous, in their opinion, that it had been one of the most enjoyable evenings they had spent.

PROGRAMME.

1, Selection on Piano, Mr. D. Cope; 2, Comic, "Three Women to every Man," Lacne-Sergt. Rose; 3, Sentimental, "I'll look after You," Sergt.-Drummer Budd; 4, Comic, "It's very, very warm down there," Sergt. Osborne; 5, Comic, "Dandy Coloured Coon," Col.-Sergt. Eldred; 6, Sentimental, "The Song that reached my Heart," Sergt. Reeves; 7, Comic, "She was a stranger in London," Sergt. Crockett; 8, Sentimental, "Queen of the Earth," Sergt. Seaton; 9, Comic, "I'll be there, love, at half-past nine," Q.M.S. Hughes; 10, Horrible, "Mona," Sergt. Mills; 11, Sentimental, "On the Banks of the Nile," Sergt. Mendham; 12, Sentimental, "Father and Son," Lance-Sergt. Ball; 13, Comic, "A little bit off the top," Lance-Sergt. Jerrad; 14, Sentimental, "Norah," Col.-Sergt. Murphy; 15, Sentimental, "I'll steer my Barque to Erin's Isle," Sergt. McAnulty; 16, Sentimental (encore), "You'll remember Me," Sergt. McAnulty; 17, Comic, "A pair of patent Leather Shoes," Mr. D. Cope; 18, Comic, Mr. D. Cope; 19, Selection on Piano, Mr. D. Cope. "God Save the King."

Many thanks are due to our visitor, Mr. David Cope, whose performance on the piano was greatly appreciated by all.

U. and I.

Fort Manoel, 14/10/02.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

We beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of the following subscriptions.—to 31st December, 1902, Mr. E. C. Coupland, Mr. Rogers; to 31st August, 1903, Q.-M.-Sergt. Newman; to 31st December, 1903, Mr. J. Judge, Mrs. Jury.

FAREWELL CONCERT.

On Wednesday, the 15th October, the Sergeants of the Battalion held a Smoking Concert in the Sergeants' Mess, Fort Manoel, for the purpose of entertaining and bidding farewell to Clr.-Sergt. Callaghan, who was leaving the Battallon to join the Volunteers, Sergt. Allwright for the Militia, and Sergeants O'Connell, Mendham, Francis, and Suffield who are leaving us for home prior to embarking for the West Coast of Africa.

The evening opened with a selection on the piano, which was very well rendered and merited the applause it received. After a few songs had been sung the Chairman, Sergt.-Major Rogers proposed the health of the Guests, and with a few well-chosen words wished them the best of luck and a pleasant voyage to England. Clr.-Sergt. Callaghan and Sergt. O'Connell in response thanked the members for the excellent manner they had been entertained; they hoped that the Regiment would have a pleasant voyage home, and that they would have the pleasure of meeting us in the future. The programme was then continued. Clr.-Sergt. Drew in his song caused roars of laughter, and so did Mr. Cope in his songs "Patent leather shoes" and "Down below." After the programme had been gone through the evening was brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God save the King." The members then dispersed after spending a most pleasant evening.

PROGRAMME.—Selection (Piano), Mr. Cope; song (comic), "They were very, very good to me," Lance-Sergt. Rose; song (sentimental), "A soldier and a man," Sergt. McAnulty; song (descriptive), "Drinking," C.P.O. Crabb; song (sentimental), "Carry me back to old Virginia," Sergt. Osborne; song (comic), "Down below," Mr. Cope; encore, "Patent leather shoes," Mr. Cope; song (sentimental), "Queen of the earth," Sergt. Seaton; song (comic), Col.-Sergt. Drew; song, "Norah," Sergt. Rogers (M.I. Staff); piano selections, "Annie Laurie" and "The Weald of Kent," Mr. Cope; song (comic), "All over the shop," Sergt. Allen; song (sentimental), "Say au revoir," Colour-Sergt. Murphy; song (comic), "Always help yourself," Sergt. Crockett; song (sentimental), "Star of my soul," C.P.O. Crabb; song (comic), "Gay Paris," Mr. Cope; song (descriptive), "Sons of the sea," Sergt. Reeves; song (comic), "A little bit off the top," Lance-Sergt. Jarrad; song (sentimental), "The last shot," Sergt.-Dmr. Budd; song (comic), "They are waiting there for me," Lance-Sergt. Moore; song (comic), "When Burke put up for Mayor," Sergt. Holliday; whistling solo, Lieut. Snow; songs (descriptive), "On the road to Mandalay," "A warrior bold," Lieut. R. L. White; song (by special request), "Drinking," C.P.O. Crabb. "Auld Lang Syne," "God save the King."

"ONE WHO WAS THERE."

The following Officer, N. C. Officers, and men embarked on the H. T. "Sardinia," on the 17th October, en route for England :—

Second Lieut. Knox, sick leave.

No. 1090 Col.-Sergt. Callaghan, to join the Volunteers.

No. 3287 Sergt. Allwright, to Militia Staff.

To join the West African Frontier Force :—
No. 2862 Sergt. O'Connell, No. 3914 Sergt. Mendham.
No. 4039 Sergt. Francis, No. 3701 Sergt. Suffield.

Invalided :—No. 6155 Pte. Weeks.

To accompany Second Lieut. Knox—No. 4656 Pte. Price.

The following N.C.O's and men embarked on the S.S. "Malta," for England, on the 18th October, for discharge: No. 2640 Pte. H. Dean, No. 2713 Pte. A. Andrews, No. 2733 Pte. G. Roberts, No. 3266 Pte. A. Sayer.

For Transfer to Army Reserve :—
No. 3120 Pte. R. Mills, No. 3150 Pte. A. Rock, No. 3167 Pte. R. Harvey, No. 3250 Pte. J. Leech, No. 3293 Pte. F. Corban, No. 3311 Pte. J. Smith, No. 3345 Pte. H. Say, No. 3443 Pte. J. Wells, No. 3463 Pte. R. Chipperfield, No. 3489 Pte. M. Rickman, No. 3520 Pte. J. Close, No. 3532 Pte. R. Haddaway, No. 3563 Pte. W. Smith, No. 3564 Pte. F. Howes, No. 3588 Pte. C. Miles, No. 3632 Pte. F. Thornton, No. 3639 Pte. W. Williams, No. 3646 Pte. W. Mansford, No. 3652 Pte. J. Hayward, No. 3698 Pte. G. Dannett, No. 3750 Pte. W. Bailey, No. 3758 Pte. A. Munn, No. 3848 Pte. F. Coles, No. 3859 Pte. H. Male, No. 3879 Pte. J. Mullins, No. 3892 Pte. T. Harris, No. 4017 Pte. G. Collier, No. 4029 Pte. W. Martin, No 4027 Sergt. G. Holliday, No. 4045 Corpl. J. Blanchard, No. 4073 Pte. W. Wells, No. 4099 Pte. A. Pearcey, No. 6522 Pte. T. Knox, No. 4258 Pte. J. Mitchell, No. 5337 Pte. T. Hodson, No. 4294 Pte. W. Gamblin, No. 4306 Pte. R. Cockle, No. 4325 Corpl. J. Harris, No. 4385 Pte. S. Pettit, No. 4384 Pte. E. Martin, No. 4426 Pte. W. Saunders, No. 4446 Pte. C. Humphrey, No. 4449 Corpl. W. O'Connor, No. 4450 Pte. W. Martin.

1ST BATTALION CORRESPONDENT.

CRICKET.

FIRST CUP TIE MATCH.

ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.

1st Innings.

Corpl. Allen, b Drennen	32
Dr. Ford, b Jones	7
Pte. Pinder, b Jones	0
Sergt. Sonnenberg, c Kerwin, b Jones	1
Pte. Wood, b Swain	0
Sergt. Saunders, c Vivian b Swain	2
Lce.-Sergt. Ball, b Jones	0
Lce.-Sergt. Harris, lbw, b Drennen	4
Sergt. Dr. Budd, not out	4
Pte. Burrows, b Drennen	4
Dmr. Barrow, b Swain	4
Extras	16
Total...	74

2nd Innings.

Sergt. Dmr. Budd, run out	0
Dr. Ford, c Jones, b Swain	16
Pte. Pinder, b Swain	30
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Swain	16
Corpl. Allen, c & b Smith	82
Pte. Wood, run out	3
Sergt. Saunders, run out	15
Sergt, Harris, c Messenger, b Jones	0
Pte. Burrows, b Hyde	15
Dmr. Barrow, not out	28
Lce.-Sergt. Ball, b Swain	4
Extras	17
Total...	226

1st Royal Garrison Regiment.

1st Innings.

Pte. Kerwin, run out	0
Pte. Wilson, b Pinder	9
Pte. Swain, c Burrows, b Pinder	0
Corpl. Hyde, b Allen	10
Pte. Jones, b Pinder	0
Sergt. Gardner, c Pinder, b Allen	2
Pte. Cahill, not out	14
Pte. Messenger, b Allen	5
Pte. Smith, b Allen	0
Col. Sergt. Vivian, b Allen	3
Pte. Drennen, run out	5
Extras	11
	59

2nd Innings.

Pte. Drenen, c Burrows, b Pinder	33
Pte. Kerwin, b Allen	1
Pte. Cahill, b Allen	0
Pte. Swain, c Ball, b Pinder	5
Sergt. Gardner, c Burrows, b Pinder	8
Pte. Jones, c Budd, b Allen	2
Corpl. Hyde, c Pinder, b Budd	3
Pte. Wilson, b Pinder	11
Col. Sergt. Vivian, c and b Pinder	0
Pte. Messenger, c Ford, b Pinder	2
Pte. Smith, not out	0
Total...	65

Second Cup Tie Match.

R. A. Central *v.* First R. W. Kent Regt.

R. W. Kent Regt.

1st Innings.

Barrow, b Lawrence	1
Ford, b ditto	19
Wood, run out	1
Corpl. Allen, b Smith	49
Pinder, b Lawrence	2
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b ditto	8
Burrows, b ditto	7
Sergt. Dr. Budd, not out	8
Lce.-Sergt. Harris, b Lawrence	0
Lce.-Sergt. Ball, c Brammer, b Lawrence	0
Whitmore, b Smith	5
Extras	9
Total	109

2nd Innings.

Ford, c Smith, b Greenwood	4
Sergt. Dr. Budd, c Brammer, b ditto	1
Whitmore, b Lawrence	0
Corpl. Allen, b Greenwood	0
Pinder, b ditto	0
Sergt. Sonnenberg, b Miller	4
Sergt. Ball, c Smith, b ditto	7
Barrow, st. King, b Greenwood	0
Wood, b Greenwood	2
Burrows, b Miller	0
Sergt. Harris, not out	0
Total	18

R. A. Central.

1st Innings.

Bowyer, c Ford, b Pinder	3
Sergt.-Inst. Walton, lbw, b ditto	5
King, b Pinder	0
Sergt. Miller, b ditto	12
Greenwood, b Allen	2
Corpl. Brammer, run out	5
Smith, c Pinder, b Allen	1
Wilkinson, run out	7
Lawrence, run out	13
Whitehouse, b Pinder	3
Taylor, b ditto	0
Extras	3
Total	54

2nd Innings.

Serg. Miller, b Allen	6
King, b Pinder	0
Lawrence, b Allen	10
Bowyer, b ditto	0
Greenwood, b ditto	2
Sergt.-Inst. Walton, c and b Allen	9
Corpl. Brammer, not out	27
Smith, b Pinder	0
Wilkinson, not out	17
Extras	3
Total	74

Whitehouse and Taylor did not bat.

From the "County Gentleman" of Oct. 18th. (Special Illustrated Hunting Number).

HOUNDS AT PRETORIA

The illustration of the pack of hounds at Pretoria in our hunting supplement this week brings home to our mind the truth of the assertion that, after all, there is a very close connection between "soldiering" and what Jorrocks was pleased to term "the himage of war." Almost everywhere where a regiment of the British Army is stationed, and hunting is at all practicable, you will find a pack of hounds of some sort or other. And it was not long after our flag was flying at the capital of the Transvaal that hounds made their appearance there. When the Royal Buckhounds were disbanded, it will be remembered, the King presented several couples to Lord Chesham, who was then serving at Johannesburg, and they were afterwards sent on to Pretoria, we believe. But in South Africa there is a very virulent kind of distemper, which attacks dogs of all ages, and in the hot weather the hounds from the Royal Kennels at Ascot Heath succumbed to the sickness. However, another pack of 15 couples has since been imported from England to replace the former one; and with that pack General Alderson has shown some excellent sport.

"PINK AND SCARLET."

The country surrounding Pretoria by no means resembles the cream of Leicestershire. It is mostly rough and hilly; and the rocks are a great trial to hounds and horses, to say nothing of the nerves of the riders. Scent, too, is very uncertain as a rule. It is generally good on the hills, but the low-lying ground and flats seldom carry it, even after rain. In spite of every difficulty, however, some enjoyable sport is obtained with buck and jack, and General Alderson is not the man to cave in under trying difficulties such as these. He is a keen soldier and thorough sportsman, and has a nerve of iron, which is essential in one who wishes to ride to hounds over such a wild and mountainous country. We need hardly remind our readers how firm a believer he is in hunting as a school for soldiering, for is he not the author of "Pink and Scarlet," in which he made out such a good case for the grand old sport of fox-hunting? And has he not shown that hunting is the best of all sports for a young cavalry officer to develop a quick and intelligent grasp of the right use of ground, to acquire self-reliance and decision of action, besides flexibility and adaptability to circumstances, and to inure himself to danger and fatigue? When our photograph of the Pretoria Hounds was taken, the Master was unfortunately suffering from the effects of a broken collar-bone, the result of a nasty fall while hunting, but in his absence from the field the horn was carried by Captain C. J. H. Spence, who had Captain W. E. L. Stewart and Major H. E. Vernon to turn hounds to him.

In the photo produced in this number of the "County Gentleman," there is a good picture of General Alderson with his pack.

OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Col. Clarke, late 50th (West Kent) Regiment, died at Nairn, on October 19th, after a brief illness. He had a distinguished military career, and served in the Crimean War. He was seriously wounded in the rifle pits before Sebastopol, and was present at Alma and Inkerman, for which engagements he held the medal and clasp. He also had the Sardinian and Turkish medals' and the Fifth Class of the Medjidie. The late Col. Clarke was present at the Regimental Dinner this year, and was a supporter of *The Queen's Own Gazette.*

The following is reprinted from *The Queen's Own Gazette,* dated 1st May, 1880:—

To the Editor of the Queen's Own Gazette.

SIR,

I take the liberty of giving your readers a short account of the services of Lieut.-Col. Clarke, who retired from the Regiment as Captain and Brevet-Major on the 28th March last. This distinguished officer who has now left us, is regretted by all ranks. He entered the service on the 18th February, 1853, and embarked for the Crimea on the 24th February, 1854, where he served until severely wounded in the head and taken prisoner in a sortie on the trenches, on the night of the 21st December, 1854; mentioned in dispatches for Crimean War, in the *London Gazette* of the 9th January, 1855. Lieut. Clarke was a prisoner of war in Russia until 19th September, 1855, when he was released and sent back to the Crimea, where he remained until the 10th July, 1856. He then served at home until the 28th June, 1857, when he embarked with the Regiment for Ceylon, where he soldiered until 21st May, 1862, having in the meantime obtained his rank of Captain on the 10th May, 1861. Capt. Clarke served at the Depot until November 6th, 1865, when he embarked for New Zealand, and saw more service in the New Zealand Campaign, until August 8th, 1867. The Regiment then proceeded to Australia, and he remained with it until it returned from foreign service on the 15th June, 1869. During the stay

of the Regiment in South Australia, he served as aide-de-camp to the Acting-Governor of South Australia (Colonel Hamley, then a Major in the "Queen's Own") from March 1st, 1868, until the 30th June, 1868, and as Private Secretary from 1st July, 1868, to 15th February, 1869. He was promoted to a Brevet-Majority on the 29th June, 1874, and has a total service of 27 years and 31 days when he retired with the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Lieut.-Colonel Clarke is in possession of the Crimean Medal with three clasps, for Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol, the Sardinian Medal, the Imperial Order of the Medjidie (fifth class), the Turkish Medal, and the New Zealand Medal. He also enjoys a pension of £70 a year for his wounds. It is, of course, hardly necessary for me to say anything as to Colonel Clarke's personal qualities, as he was so well known, both in and out of the Regiment, that the little I could say would convey no idea of his many sterling qualities. In saying, however, in conclusion, that Lieut.-Col. Clarke was among the first to whom his brother officers applied in difficulty, or when wanting any advice, I think I am showing how he was valued and appreciated by all with whom he came in contact.

B.H.T.

JOTTINGS.

Clr.-Sergt. A. Lee (Details), is the proud possessor of the King's Coronation Medal in Bronze.

The decoration is the personal gift of the Sovereign to certain individuals who took part in the Coronation festivities, and Clr.-Sergt. Lee, being the senior N.C.O. of the unit present with the Provisional Battalion lining the streets on the occasion of the actual Coronation ceremony, was selected to receive it.

Demobilization is still the word :—

So far as the 2nd Battalion is concerned, a clean sweep was made with time-expired men and Reservists in August and September, and now only small batches of eight and ten arrive at the Depot to be dealt with, and these are men who are in their fourth or eighth year of service, with a pensioner or two thrown in. These are dealt with immediately on arrival, and the men leave within twenty-four hours, fully settled with.

There has been much ado amongst Reservists and time-expired men in London according to reports in the daily papers. Owing to the demand on Regimental Depots during the out-pouring of the warriors into civil life, it was impossible at some places for each man to have his parchment prepared and be finally settled with immediately the men came home. Fancy 200 men arriving at the Barracks Gates unexpectedly, and this actually happened at one of the Depots in the North—a Paymaster, ready to pounce on a day's pay, if the men are granted a day's leave. The Orderly Room Staff becoming mentally deranged in their efforts to cope with the several piles of documents and vouchers, each trying to reach the ceiling first; Clr.-Sergeants of Companies doing their best to do the Temperance Orator and nigger driver at the same time, with visions of trouble on the 4th of the succeeding month with the Paymaster—can it be wondered that some were "'twixt the devil and the deep sea."

What was wanted was system, and with the system adopted at the Depot, which worked most satisfactorily, it is assumed that no West Kent man was present, except, may be, as a spectator, at the Hyde Park demonstrations, owing chiefly to the foresight of the Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, who had been good enough to send home beforehand the names of those expected to embark for home, thus enabling preparations to be made at Maidstone for the reception, settling up, and attention to other details too numerous to mention—of any and sundry individuals who happened to turn up—and every man who joined at Maidstone was able to leave within twenty-four hours, with his balance of pay, and his discharge certificates in his hand, and a final settlement was made a short time after.

Two hitches occurred—the first batch of 100 men that left the Battalion were passed on the way by the second party of 100 who reached Maidstone first. Some inkling that this was occurring reached the Depot, and consequently preparation made to meet the contingency, so that the difficulty was overcome.

The second hitch was in consequence of Mr. Fienne's party being reported as belonging to the Royal West Surrey Regiment, and at Guildford a public luncheon had been arranged—they were of course disappointed at Guildford, and blamed the authorities. By-the-bye the luncheon didn't reach Maidstone. Maidstone was prepared, however, for this party, and no detention of the men was necessary.

It should be remembered that no documents could be prepared by the Service Battalion, but the whole preparation fell on the Regimental Depot.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION FIRST ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The Dartford Detachment of the 2nd V.B.Q.O. Royal West Kent Regiment have every reason to be highly satisfied with the result of their first attempt to hold an Athletic Meeting. The event had been suggested some time since, but it was not until a few weeks ago that it was finally decided to launch out and hold a meeting. A hard working committee was speedily formed and in a very short time the many arrangements connected with such an undertaking took a practical shape and the sports were held on the Dartford Brent, on October 4th. Being so late in the season for such a gathering, the Company was fortunate to have had fine weather, though a very cold north-east wind made it uncomfortable for the spectators and competitors alike, and also materially affected the "Gate." Great credit is due to the Ground Committee, who, under the superintendence of Sergt. Inst. Cooke, had the track and all appliances prepared in perfect order for the various events. Colonel Satterthwaite (Commanding the Battalion) was present and watched the events with interest, as also did the Rev. Percy Smith (Chaplain to the Detachment) and other gentleman. Capt. G. Morphew (Commanding the Detach-

ment) was President of the Sports' Committee, and with Surgeon Lieut. Hamilton, the Vice-President, acted as judges throughout the meeting. The Company is also greatly indebted to Lieuts. G. A. Ridley and T. L. Price for their untiring efforts, and to Mr. A. H. Parry and Mr. W. Foreman who acted as Referee and Starter respectively. The latter also framed the handicaps.

The Band of the Dartford Detachment, under the conductorship of Band Sergt. L. T. Exeter, was present, and added greatly to the enjoyment of the proceedings with a long and varied programme of music.

To liven the proceedings, some capital fun was provided by some members of the Company dressed as clowns and a policeman, and these, by their antics in the mid field, were a source of much amusement. The old pastime of Baiting the Bear was also indulged in, and the wild hitting of the Bear was very funny. There was also a "Wild Beast Show" run by Pte. Bates and Corpl. Brookson which was a source of attraction; the beasts consisting of Ducks, Rabbits, Cats, a Donkey, &c., with an amusing inscription on each cage.

The whole proceedings were a decided success and had the weather been warmer it would of course have been all the more enjoyable.

The prizes were distributed at a Smoking Concert held in Dartford, under the Chairmanship of Captain Morphew, on Wednesday, the 29th. A most enjoyable evening was spent, a large company attending.

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

G.C. Pay as under has been granted:

Granted 2d.—Ptes. E. Yeatman, A. Lee, E. Pressland.

Granted 1d.—Ptes. W. Johnson, J. Corke, H. Dorce, W. Roberts.

Restored 2d.—Lce.-Corpl. A. McIntosh.

Restored 1d.—Ptes. C. Ford, H. Chant.

No. 6524 Pte. T. Heaton has been transferred from the Lancashire Fusiliers.

No. 4680 Corpl. W. Bailey reverts to Private at his own request.

No. 2749 Sergt. H. Mason has been transferred to the Military Prison Staff Corps.

The undermentioned N.C.O. and men have been permitted to re-engage for the Royal West Kent Regiment for such a term as shall complete a total of 21 years' service:

No. 2972 Lance-Sergt. A. Brown, No. 2851 Pte. J. Moser, No. 2910 Pte. W. Carden, No. 2797 Pte. F. Pearce, No. 2869 Pte. J. Thompson, No. 2651 Pte. J. Ralph.

No. 3755 Col.-Sergt. S. Kill has been permitted to continue in the service beyond 21 years.

No. 3952 Pte. H. Mason has been permitted to extend his service to complete 12 years with the colours.

No. 6309 Pte. H. Coxhead has been permitted to extend his service to complete 7 years with the colours.

Pte. E. Harden has been appointed drummer.

2nd. BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

No. 4629 Lce.-Corpl. C. Stringer and No. 4568 Lce.-Corpl. G. Ingram have been permitted to extend their service to complete 12 years with the Colours.

No. 6330 Pte. W. Meader has been transferred to the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment.

The under-mentioned men have been awarded certificates of proficiency as shoeing smiths:—No. 4957 Pte. H. Childs, No. 5724 Pte. J. Connolley.

The under-mentioned N.C.O.'s revert to Privates at their own request:—No. 5391 Lce.-Corpl. W. Austin, No. 4633 Lce.-Corpl. J. Barton, No. 5212 Lce.-Corpl. J. Rossiter, No. 4502 Lce.-Corpl. C. Argar.

No. 4596 Lce.-Sergt. F. Goulds has been permitted to extend his service to complete 8 years with the Colours.

No. 6701 Pte. Hurman has been transferred from the 2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment.

Good Conduct Pay as under has been granted:—

Granted 2d. — Privates E. Parfrey, R. Backman, Dr. F. Runnicles.

Granted 1d.—Privates J. Russell, J. Jones, A. Fouch, J. Laurel, W. Divers, R. Morris, W. Cole, W. Gibbons, G. Attwell, G. Spaul, H. Agambar, J. Wharton, G. Digby, A. Sarney, W. Severn.

Restored 2d.—Lce.-Corpl. R. Cairns, Pte. F. Colegate.

Restored 1d.—Dr. A. Perkins, Privates G. Terry, G. Hatton, W. Gulliver, E. Tolhurst.

The undermentioned have been appointed drummers:

Ptes. E. Newbrook, F. White, A. Perkins, J. T. Hurst, W. Newell, J. T. Condon.

BIRTHS.

At Malta, on 11th August, 1902, the wife of Sergt. J. Sharp, 1st. Battalion, of a daughter.

At Blackheath, on 10th October, the wife of Capt. Osmond B. Simpson, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

At Malta, on 30th August, 1902, Sergt. S. G. Reeves, 1st Battalion, to Miss J. Kelly.

DEATH.

At Maidstone, on 19th October, William Maslin (pensioner), late 1st Battalion.

THE TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Officers of both the Line Battalions and Depots, 6d. per month.

Other Subscribers, 3s. per year, including postage.

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"The Queen's Own Gazette."

A MONTHLY RECORD OF REGIMENTAL DOINGS

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN (ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT.)

No. 330. MAIDSTONE, DECEMBER, 1902. [Vol. XX, No. 12.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

LINE BATTALIONS.

Lieutenant Cyril Druce to be Captain, vice E. L. H. James, seconded for special service in South Africa. Dated 27th August, 1902.

The promotions to the rank of Lieutenant of the undermentioned Second-Lieutenants are antedated as follows:—R L. White to 16th July, 1902, vice P. Hastings, promoted; A H. Pullman to 2nd August, 1902, vice T. H. C. Nunn, seconded.

The restoration to the Establishment of Supernumary Lieutenant (now Captain) Eustace L. H. James, which was notified in the *Gazette* of 2nd September, 1902, is cancelled.

Sergeant-Major Thomas Sumner to Quartermaster, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, vice Honorary Lieutenant J. Forrest, placed on temporary half-pay. Dated 22nd November, 1902.

Second-Lieutenant W. P. B. Tugwell to be Lieutenant, vice C. Druce, promo ed. Dated 27th August, 1902.

Extracts from the *London Gazette*, dated 31-10-02.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (additional), and the Distinguished Service Order; for the following promotions in the Army; and for the grant of the Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field to the undermentioned Officers and soldiers, in recognition of their services during the operations in South Africa, the whole to bear date 22nd August, 1902, except where otherwise stated.

The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment):—

To be a Companion of the Order of the Bath:—Lieutenant-Colonel William George Balfour Western.

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order:—Cartain Thomas Henry Clayton Nunn.

To be Brevet-Major:—Captain H. Isacke.

To have the Distinguished Conduct Medal:—Colour-Sergeant F. Grey; Colour-Sergeant A. G. Wood.

1st BATTALION.

Promoted Colour-Sergeant, Sergeant H. Crouch. dated 18th October.

2ND BATTALION.

Promoted Sergeants:—Lce.-Sergts. H. Bristow, A. Colyer, H. Crossley, F. Goulds, W. Broughton, H. Davis, Corpls. A. Smith, T. Kevan, A. Judd, 19th September, 1902; Lce.-Sergts. W. Harrison, R. Cowing, 23rd September, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Corpls.:—Ptes. H. Kimber, J. Wright, 2nd October, 1902; J. Bolt, J. Brooks, 4th October, 1902; J. Ball, R. Rouse, 6th October, 1902; F. Emmerson, 9th October, 1902; H. Childs, J. Norfolk, G. Martin, E. Perkins, T. Gilbert, 24th October, 1902; G. Craddock, 25th October, 1902.

Promoted Corporals:—Lce.-Corpls. J. Ventham, 17th September, 1902; E. Kallend, J. Blackall, P. King, W. Chatfield, D. Urquhart, J. Hunt, F. Ansell, W. Austin, J. Watts, J. Redmond, A. Gould, C. Pope, G. Lane, D. Keen J. Lee, C. Stringer, 19th September, 1902; A. Frost, C Rowlands, F. Piper, 23rd September, 1902.

Appointed Lce.-Sergeants:—Corpls. W. Harrison, R. Cowing, 19th September, 1902.

3rd BATTALION.

The undermentioned Gentlemen to be Second-Lieutenants:—Edric Kerr Hume, John Standish Masterman, William Francis George Willes.

Captain A. B. Pembroke, resigns his commission.

Second-Lieutenant T. J. Carron-Roberts to be Lieutenant. Dated 8th November, 1902.

The undermentioned Officer of Militia is granted local rank in the Army as follows whilst serving with Regular Troops or Embodied Militia:—To be Local Captain—Captain G. Wilson, dated 15th October, 1901

Harry Sydney Hopton Hadley Hall, Gent., to be Second-Lieutenant. Dated 25th October, 1902.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants:—C. H Cripps, H. W. Knocker, C. F. Harriss.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains:—Lieutenant and Instructor of Musketry W. C. Lewis. Dated 5th November, 1902. Lieutenant A. E. Phillips. Dated 5th November, 1902.

2nd VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

Acting-Chaplain the Reverend C. H. Grundy, M.A., resigns his appointment. Dated 5th November, 1902.

THANKS OF HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO TROOPS EMPLOYED IN SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

The following resolutions were passed by the Houses of Parliament on 5th June, 1902, and are now published:—

That the thanks of this House be given to the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Imperial Yeomanry, and the Volunteers for the energy and gallantry with which they executed the services which they were called upon to perform during the prolonged campaign in South Africa.

That this House doth acknowledge, and highly approve, the gallantry, discipline, and good conduct displayed by the Petty Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men of the Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Imperial Yeomanry, and the Volunteers throughout the War.

That the thanks of this House be given to the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men of His Majesty's Colonial and Indian Forces for their co-operation with His Majesty's Imperial Forces, and for the energy and gallantry

with which they executed the services which they were called upon to perform during the prolonged campaign in South Africa.

That this House doth acknowledge, and highly approve, the gallantry, discipline, and good conduct displayed by His Majesty's Colonial and Indian Forces, and doth also acknowledge the cordial good feeling which animated all His Majesty's Forces

That the thanks of this House be given to the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men of the several Corps of Militia which have been embodied in Great Britain and Ireland during the course of the War, for the zealous and meritorious services which they have rendered at home and abroad.

That this House doth acknowledge, with admiration, the distinguished valour, devotion, and conduct of those Officers and men who have perished during the campaign in South Africa in the service of the Empire, and desire to express deep sympathy with their relatives and friends.

That the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Speaker do communicate the said resolutions to the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral and to the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief His Majesty's Forces, and to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, with the request that they will communicate the same to the Officers and men referred to therein.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIALS.

We regret an error in the October number, page 1792. The sum of £5 4s. 8d. mentioned was received from the "Details" serving at Shorncliffe.

The following subscription list to the Memorial proposed to be erected in memory of those who lost their lives during the late South African War has been handed to us for publication.

Subscribed by Depot Companies :

A Company, £4 10s. ; B Company, £2 16s. 6d. ; C Company, £5 13s. 9d. ; D Company, £4 7s.

By Details at Shorncliffe, £5 4s. 8d.

By men who have left the 2nd Battalion, £2 14s. 8d.

By Officers of the 3rd Battalion :

Col. Bailey, £3 3s. ; Capt. Pembroke, £1 ; Capt. Beeman, £1 ; Capt. Grewing, £2 2s. ; Lieut. Bonsor, 10s. ; Lieut. Carron-Roberts, £1 1s. ; Lieut. Cameron, £1 ; Lieut. Aldworth, 10s. ; Lieut. Hall, 10s. 6d.

By K Company 3rd Volunteer Battalion, £1 18s. 6d.

By 2nd Volunteer Active Service Company, £26 7s. 8d.

By Retired Officers :

Col. Bonhote, £1 1s. ; Major Dalison, £10 10s ; Capt. Kennedy, £5.

Total, £80 1s. 1d.

There has recently been placed in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, where the troops at the Depot worship, a memorial to the late Lieut. S. J. Barton, 1st Battalion. The following is the inscription which appears below the Regimental crest and motto :

"To the Glory of God and in memory of Stanley James Barton, Lieutenant and Quartermaster, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who died 16th March, 1902. Joining the Regiment in 1878 his ability and energy carried him through the various ranks until he became Sergt.-Major in 1893, and Quartermaster in 1898"

Erected by his brother officers as a mark of esteem.

1st BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I see E Company's Correspondent has at last solved for us the problem of our Regimental cricket team not being as successful as it might have been. It is a little bit late in the day perhaps to bring forward his suggestions, just when the cricket season is over, but I have no doubt that whoever runs the Regimental cricket team next year will give his advice due consideration.

Football has now commenced, and cricket for a time is relegated to the background. Our team has had one or two practice games, and two matches against the Royal Engineers. Unfortunately one or two of our best men could not play. A great difficulty here is to get a ground to play on, and on the rare occasions when a ground at the Marsa is allotted to us, it means a three mile drive ; however so far we have overcome the difficulties and enjoyed the games. In the first match the R.E. beat us by two goals to one, but in the second we managed to turn the tables and win by one goal to love. We have entered our team for the Army Cup and have drawn a bye in the first round. This gives us time to reach home and have some real hard and practical training before we are called on to meet our opponents in the second round. I hope Sergt. Sharp will come forward and teach us how football should be played and bring to bear the experience he obtained in the 2nd Battalion. We hope to get some good football, as well as other recruits, when we reach home, which, if all goes well, should be early in December. You must excuse a short budget this month, as we are now within a week of our move, if our boat arrives to time. Everyone is full of work, and beyond that there is very little to record, as all sports and games have come to an end in Malta as far as we are concerned.

I am very sorry to record the fact that Lieut.-Col. Harrison is very ill, and has been admitted to Cottoner Hospital. It is greatly feared that he may not be able to take the Battalion home, which will be a source of great regret to him as it is to all of us.

1st Battalion Correspondent.

2nd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

TO THE 2nd BATTALION.

Now that the 2nd Battalion has commenced its tour of foreign service, we beg to point out to the N.C.O.'s and men the desirability of subscribing annually to the *Q.O.G.* on behalf of their relatives, instead of waiting till the *Gazette* reaches them from England and then posting it back to their relatives in England. To avoid this, any N.C.O. or man can, by paying 1s. 6d. per year subscription, have the paper sent to such address as he may direct, and it will reach its destination at least two months earlier than it does by the method at present in vogue.

Colour-Sergeants of Companies can do much to assist in this matter. It entails additional labour to the Editorial Staff—but still, we like work, and also like assistance.—[Ed.]

Nominal Roll of the Band (2nd Battalion) which proceeded to Ceylon on the 18th November, 1902 :—

6472 Band Mstr. T. McKelvey, 3359 Corpls. A. Moss and 4989 W. Sayer, 2486 Lce.-Corpl. H. Chawkley, 5031 Ptes. T. Adams, 5033 W. Brown, 4070 L. Campbell, 5793 T. Cork, 5580 Dmr. L. Cozens, 4702 A. Day, 4912 T. Earl, 5410 F. Edwards, 5411 H. Holding, 5961 H. Lamb, 5091 E. Matthews, 6736 F. Moss, 5331 J. Moore, 5314 J. Murphy, 5972 H. Ogle, 5386 J. Postlethwaite, 5032 J. Rowland, 5656 F. Vickery, 5994 J. Young. Boys 6341 J. Amies, 5781 B. Brown, 6329 H. Elen, 6065 J. Falkner, 6178 R. Falkner, 5654 J. Ficking, 5782 J. Gabriel, 5959 J. Harvey, 5872 W. Hannan, 5817 J. Irvine, 6339 D. McFarlane, 6169 F. McKay, 5873 H. Norrington, 5653 E. Orchard, 6016 J. Sullivan, 5555 Dmr. C. Hurley.

SOUTH AFRICA—1900 to 1902.

Last night when wrapt up in my blanket,
I dreamt a most wonderful dream,
For I dreamt I had quitted the Army
And was floating away on a stream
Which was dotted with thousands of islands,
And it seemed just as clear as the day
That I knew very well every island,
And on each I had once made a stay.

First I came to the Island of Rations,
And as I stepped out on the sand,
I was met by an A.S.C. Sergeant
With a horrid green book in his hand.
He said "You can get beef and coffee,
"Two-thirds of an ounce for the day,
"But there's nothing but snuff for the horses,"
So in sorrow I sailed away.

Then I came to the Island of Transport,
Where I heard a most horrible noise,
For thousands of mules were engaging
The attention of thousands of boys.
Conductors came forward to greet me,
Demanding advances of pay.
So I gave each a new set of harness,
And in sorrow I sailed away.

Then I came to the Island of Wagons,
Where I dined on the best axle grease,
With a salmi of ox yoke to follow,
Which gave me of life a new lease.
I would gladly have stayed on that island,
But it marched on the dawning of day,
With no definite orders to follow,
So in sorrow I sailed away.

Then I came to the Island of Clothing,
I was met by a warrior bold,
Who said he was chief of the ordnance,
His manners were distant and cold.
He could give me pyjamas and pull-throughs,
But had no "British warms" in his store,
While De Wet had the shirts and camp kettles,
So I silently quitted his shore.

Then I came to the Island of Railways,
I found them most terribly slow,
For no man knew aught of his duties,
But referred to the next R.S.O.
I asked for a train to remove me,
But they said "There is no train to-day,
"For the line is blown up in three places,"
So in sorrow I sailed away.

Then I came to the Island of Camping,
The markers I could not descry,
But someone was fitfully wailing,
"Can you show me the 5th M.I.?"
I longed to repose on that island,
But the water was two miles away;
And they said they were marching at midnight,
So I saw I no longer could stay.

Then I came to the Island of Liars,
I found they were right on the spot;
They lied about pay and promotion,
About men that they liked or did not.
They were fearful and wonderful liars,
In fact, I had nothing to say,
But I knew they would never gain credence,
So I joyfully paddled away.

Then I came to the Island of Doctors,
The abode of the R.A.M.C.,
The whole of whose creed consists mainly,
In a doing the powers that be.
I went there for care and attention,
The pains of my wound to allay,
But they argued a case of precedence,
So in sorrow I sailed away.

Then I came to the Isle of Oblivion,
Where all the good generals meet,
Where rewards for brave deeds are forgotton,
And they wear heavy chains round their feet,
To keep them from doing their duty,
To keep them from moving aright,
But having no crowns on my shoulders,
I paddled away in the night.

Then I said "I will stop on no island,
"But will sail to the uttermost sea,
"To seek for the Island of Resting,
"If by chance such an island should be."
But a hand on my shoulder awoke me,
I returned to life's pleasures and pain,
My servant was rolling my blankets,
I was back to the Army again.

ONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE."
(Military Mail.)

The West Kent
On Fighting intent,
Readily went,
Whenever the scent
Of danger meant.
A compulsory Lent,
And a possible rent
In a leaky tent;
And a "private" gent
By a bullet spent,
But on mischief bent.

A CIVILIAN.

GENERAL RUNDLE AT DOVER.

The honorary freedom of Dover was conferred on Major-General Sir Leslie Rundle (commanding the South-Eastern Military District), who commanded the Eighth Division in South Africa, in recognition of his eminent war services. The Mayors of Hastings, New Romney, Rye, Sandwich, and other places in the district, assisted in doing honour to the gallant general. There were also present many of the leading officers of the district.

General Rundle, in accepting the illuminated certificate of freedom enclosed in a silver casket, declared that any success which attended his campaigning service in Egypt and South Africa was due to his staff, the brigadiers who held commands under him, and the officers and men. During his twenty-five years of soldiering the one thing which struck him most forcibly was the devotion of the British officer to his duty. He firmly believed that the reason the regiments had so distinguished themselves in the South African and other campaigns was that their officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers had done their duty and led them well. That, he considered, was what had made the British flag so glorious all over the world. In the South African War he had the command of a unique division. It was the last despatched to the front, and was composed of a happy mixture of English, Irish, and Scottish Regiments. Among these troops the West Kent Regiment on one occasion marched forty-five miles in forty-eight hours, and then joined in a successful engagement which ended in the surrender of Prinsloo and five thousand Boers. He hoped that the inhabitants of the county would be proud of that splendid achievement. He referred to the excellent work of those who had cared for the wives and children of men at the front, and then appended his name to the roll of freemen, following that of Earl Roberts, who recently accepted a similar honour. (Cheers).

DEPOT NOTES.

The married families of the 2nd Battalion have at last been sent to rejoin the Headquarters, after nearly 3 years separation. The "Dunera" sailed on the 18th November from Southampton with, 19 women and their babies, together with the Misses Holdstock and Hughes, who are matrimonially inclined, and the Band, numbering 38, under Bandmaster McKelvey. We hear that on arrival at Malta the ship took on board 250 of the 1st Battalion, and then proceeded on its journey to Ceylon.

Colonel T. H. Brock, commanding 50th Regimental District has very kindly provided for inter-Company Competition a football trophy in the shape of a shield, to be competed for by the Depot Companies, and on behalf of the Companies we offer our hearty thanks.

Depot football has played no small part in fostering *esprit-de-corp*, and has also been the means of drawing a number of recruits from the territorial district who might have gone elsewhere. This year, although there is no lack of players there appears a lack of cohesion—the team does not pull together—and if this Company Competition only learn those who take part the lesson that "Unity is strength," it will have served a useful purpose, for from the Company players will be selected the team to represent the Depot, and those who learn the lesson will worthily uphold the traditions of the Regiment.

The result of the competition to date is:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Points.
A Company	2	2	0	0	4
B Company	2	0	2	0	0
C Company.....	2	1	1	0	2
D Company	2	1	1	0	2

DEPOT FOOTBALL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I am afraid that, so far, our Football season has not been altogether successful. In the Maidstone and District League we have won 2, drawn 2, lost 3.

September 27th.—Our first match was against Maidstone Rovers on their ground. The result was two goals to nil, in our favour. Amongst the forwards Crpl. Davis and Pte. Taylor were conspicuous, and Sergts. McGregor and Edwards did good work defending.

October 4th.—Maidstone Invicta played us on their ground. Result, Depot 4 goals, Maidstone Invicta 5 goals. Corpl. Davis and Pte. Taylor played well for the forwards, and Clr.-Sergt. Bass and Sergt. McGregor were invaluable for the defence.

October 18th.—Our third venture was against Snodland on our ground. The result was a draw, both sides scoring one goal. It was an exciting game, both teams doing their utmost to win.

November 1st.—We next played Maidstone Church Institute Wanderers, last year's winners of the Cup, on our ground, and were beaten by three goals to one. In this match the forwards were weak, and Sergt. McGregor was palpably out of place among them. The defence was good, notably Clr.-Sergt. Bass.

November 8th.—We then played Tovil on our ground and we were beaten by three goals to one. This match was conspicuous by the fact that one of the team refused to play at the last minute, necessitating our playing a man short for some considerable time. Pte. Wright was given a trial and did well, as also did Pte. J. Davis.

November 15th.—Our home match against Eccles Star was well fought on both sides, resulting in a draw, three goals each. We were unfortunate in losing the services of Pte. Taylor for some time, his knee going wrong. The whole team played well and deserved to win.

November 22nd.—On this date we played Tovil on their ground. The result was two to nil in our favour. No goals were scored the first half, and it was not till late in the second half that Pte. Smith managed to put one through, closely followed by another from Pte. Davis. The excellent goal-keeping of Pte. Taylor saved many difficult situations, and Sergt. Merrick at half back was good.

The Depot Companies are now playing for a Challenge Shield very kindly presented by Col. Brock. It will be played for every year and should do much towards inspiring keenness among the recruits, and consequently making footballers for the Regiment where they are always welcome.

The first match was played on November 3rd between A Co. and B Co. The result was rather a walk over for A Co. who scored thirteen goals to nothing. The two Davis's were the principal scorers.

The next match was on November 6th, C Co. v. D Co. The result was rather unexpected, D Co. managing to win by four goals to nil. Lieut. Rickets scored three and Col.-Sergt. Neighbour one for the winners. Sergt. McGregor was, unfortunately, rather hurt during the game, leaving Clr.-Sergt. Bass and Pte. Fenney to bear the brunt of the attack.

November 10th saw A Co. and D. Company playing against each other. A Company managed to win this by six goals to four. For the winners Corpl. Davis scored five and Pte. Davis one, Lieut. Rickets scoring all four for the losers.

The last match played up to date was on November 13th between B Co and C. Co. C Co. managed to win by four goals to two. It looked at first as if B Co. would win, as they managed to put in two goals before C Co. scored any. For the winners Pte. Taylor scored two, the other two were helped through by the goal keeper, for the losers Pte. Collins scored both.

It may interest retired Officers to hear how Officers are now being provided for. How far they are materially assisted we leave them to judge.

After the 1st December next all Officers joining the Regular Army will be entitled to be supplied, at the public expense, with a field kit, to be maintained at their own expense, consisting of the following articles. 1 portable camp bedstead, 1 bag for same, 1 pillow, 1 waterproof sheet, 7ft. by 4ft. 6in, 1 tripod washstand with proofed basin, bath and bag, 1 folding chair, 1 proofed bucket, 1 valise or kit bag to hold above articles, with Officer's name and regiment painted upon it. Three new G.S. blankets will also be supplied as a free issue, to be obtained under regimental arrangements from Barrack Store.

Each Officer will purchase the field kit for himself. To assist Officers in doing this, a sample kit is kept in the pattern room at the War Office, where also information may be obtained as regards the names of firms prepared to supply and their prices.

Each Officer will be reimbursed the actual sum paid by him up to a maximum of £5 15s. on the certificate of his Commanding Officer that he is in possession of the necessary articles.

VOLUNTEER INTELLIGENCE.

On November 13th, at the Goldsmith's Institute, New Cross, the prizes won in connection with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) were distributed by Major-General C. S. Hutchinson, C.B., in the presence of a large company, the spacious Central Hall being filled to overflowing. Colonel E. Satterthwaite (commanding the battalion) presided, the majority of the officers also being present, as well as the Mayor and Mayoress of Deptford (Councillor and Mrs. Alexander Dickson). Colonel Satterthwaite welcomed back from South Africa the officers and men of the Active Service Company, and announced that Captain G. Morphew, who commanded the first contingent, would give as a prize next year a Mauser rifle taken at the surrender of Prinsloo. The Colonel proceeded to give figures showing the strength and efficiency of the battalion. Continuing, he said the camp, he hoped, would be held at the same time and under the same conditions as last year, and trusted that as hitherto all employers would give every facility possible to enable their employees to comply with the new regulations. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Governors of the Goldsmith's Institute for the use of the hall, and to Major-General Hutchinson.—The vote was heartily accorded and briefly acknowledged.—The musical programme was sustained by Drs. R. E. Scholefield and Frost, Captains W. R. J. McLean and B. H. Latter, the Misses G. Fegan and Le Contuer, and Mr. G. A. Soames.

At the Corn Exchange, Rochester, the Mayor of the City (Mr. C. Tuff, J.P.), the Mayor of Chatham (Mr. H. J. T. Brown), the High Constable of Gillingham (Mr. C. T. Smith, J.P.), and the Chairman of the Urban District Council of Gillingham (Mr. J. R. Featherby), gave a reception to a very large number of the leading residents of the district to meet Viscount Cranbourne, C.B., M.P. for Rochester, and Under Secretary of State for War; Sir Horatio D. Davies, K.C.M.G., M.P. for Chatham; Rear-Admiral Craigie, Superintendent of H.M. Dockyard; the Earl of Darnley (Hon. Colonel). Colonel F. A. Newington and officers of the 4th Vol. Batt. (Queen's Own) Royal West Kent Regiment, and other gentlemen interested in establishing permanent Headquarters and Drill Hall for the Battalion. The site had been granted by the War Department on the Chatham Recreation Ground, and the architects (Messrs. Nash and Boucher) have been instructed to prepare plans for a building at a cost not to exceed £6,500. It is proposed to borrow £5,000 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, the amount allowed by the Volunteer Regulations for eight headquarter companies, the repayment to be spread over 40 years. A sum of £2,000 over the amount borrowed will be needed to complete the building and the necessary fittings to the hall. During the reception it was reported that nearly £1,500 had been raised, of which the officers of the corps had themselves contributed more than £430.

The Sergeants of the 4th Volunteer Battalion held their third annual ball at the Garrison Gymnasium, Chatham. A strong committee had been formed, consisting of Clr.-Sergt. Instructor Hollands, Clr.-Sergts. Soames and Trueman, and Sergts. Hickmott, Holmes, Coulson, Wildish, Jessup, Court, and Neate. Sergt. A. E. Hornsby was the indefatigable hon. secretary. These gentlemen worked assiduously, with the gratifying result that representatives of our Army and Navy, with civilian friends, the whole numbering about 400, had a most pleasurable social evening. The floor was in excellent condition, and couches, settees, and easy lounges of every description were placed around the hall. Flags and bunting, interspersed with choice flowers and pot plants, gave the room a magnificent appearance. Dancing commenced about a quarter to nine, and a well arranged programme, under the direction of Clr.-Sergt.-Inst. Hollands and Sergt. T. E. Middleton, who performed the duties of M.C., occupied the guests for several hours. Many officers of the regiment were present, among them Col. Newington, who opened the ball, having for his partner Mrs. Elvin. The band of the regiment, under Bandmaster Garvey, supplied the music.

1st BATTALION FOOTBALL.

ARMY CUP TIE.

In the South-Eastern District the 1st Battalion meet the Royal Dragoons, the match to be completed on or before January 31st, 1903.

We wish our 1st Battalion team success, and hope it will emulate the 2nd Battalion team, who could hold their own with any that might be pitted against them.

E COMPANY—1ST BATTALION.

A cricket match took place on the 25th September on the Regimental cricket ground between E and F Coys., E Co. winning by 32 runs. For E Co. Porter, Smith, and Corpl. James shared the batting honours, while Corpl. James took 7 wickets for 49 runs. For F Co. Jones and Williams ran into double figures, while Turner was responsible for 5 wickets. Score :—

1st innings of E Company.

Corpl. James, c. and b. Warricker	17
Pte. Andrews, run out	10
Pte. Corke, c. and b. Turner	1
Pte. Edwards, b. Turner	2
Pte. Smith, run out	24
Sub, c. and b. Turner	5
Pte. Porter, not out	36
Pte. Carden, b. Turner	1
Pte. Kemp, c. and b. Patchin	2
Pte. Wilson, l.b.w., b. Williams	8
Pte. Falshaw, run out	0
Byes	13
Leg Byes	5
Total	124

1st innings of F Company.

Pte. Colvin, c. James b. Edwards	8
Pte. Turner, c. Porter b. James	8
Pte. Freeman, c. and b. James	5
Pte. Farmer, b James	0
Pte. Rickman, c. Carden b. James	11
Pte. Patchin, c. and b. Edwards	15
Pte. Warwicker, l.b.w., James	4
Pte. Jones, not out	17
Pte. Donohua, b. James	0
Pte. Williams, b. James	17
Pte. Smith, c. and b. Andrews	4
Byes	3
Total	92

As there seems very little interest taken in Company cricket in the Regiment, I suggest that it would be advisable to form a league and present a shield to the Company gaining the most points. This would go a great way towards procuring the best N.C.O.'s and men in the Regiment for places in the Regimental Team.

FOOTBALL.

E Company opened the season by journeying to Pembroke on October 3rd to play a friendly with E Company of the Warwicks. The Game:—The Warwicks were the first to commence the attack, but E Company soon countered and drove the Warwicks back, and a good deal of even play was then seen. The Warwicks again pressed, and, Aggersburg mis-kicking, gave a corner to the Warwicks, from which nothing was scored. On resuming the ball was taken up the field, and Iliffe had very bad luck in not scoring for the Kent's, his shot only missing by a few inches. Then the Warwick's chance came again, but only a corner resulted, and after a few minutes half-time sounded. No score.

In the second half the Warwick's had the best of it, and pressed us considerably, and at last Westley, for the Warwick's, notched the first and only goal of the match. The Kent's tried hard to equalize and very nearly succeeded, but the whistle sounded, leaving the Warwick's winners by one goal to love. For E, Iliffe, Corke, Aggersburg and Falshaw divide the honours.

A return match took place at Fort Figré, on the 8th October, and E Company turned the tables by beating the Warwick's by three goals to two. For the winners Corke, Melby, and Iliffe were the most prominent, but all worked hard.

On a recent route march when the Regiment was returning at a very quick pace, one of the "Honeysuckles" remarked, "We don't half go coming back."

A Pioneer was asked if he was going to the entertainment that was taking place that night. The entertainer, I must mention, had something made in the Pioneer's shop for his concert, the said Pioneer helping to make the article required. The Pioneer said, "No, I'm not going." The enquirer then told him that his foreman had had a complimentary ticket given to him by the man who ran the show. The Pioneer turned to him and said, "I reckon I deserve a *company-entry* ticket too."

E COMPANY CORRESPONDENT.

DEPOT INTELLIGENCE.

Corpl. W. Saunders (Details) has been permitted to extend his service to 12 years with the colors.

Sergt. R. Fleet (Details) has joined the Military Prison Staff Corps on probation.

Private H. Bromley (Datails) has rejoined from the Army Reserve.

Private B. Woodman (Details) has been transferred to the Royal Field Artillery.

The following letter has been handed to us for publication. The donors will doubtless feel glad that their expression of gratitude has been appreciated.

"My Dear———

"I saw by the papers a week or two ago that you were on your way home. I expect by now you have arrived safely, and are more than thankful to be quit of weary South Africa.

"I was invalided home about the beginning of July, and had an operation, a splinter of bone being removed from my thigh. I have just had an extension of three months' leave.

"I had an extrordinary letter just after I reached home from a Corporal of your Regiment, the spelling and grammar almost unintelligible, and the writing, in pencil, on a piece of paper that had evidently been carried about in the pocket, almost illegible. I managed to cypher it out to mean that he wished to thank me for curing him of some ailment, the name of which I could not recognise, also that several other men wished to thank me for what I had done medically for them, and ending up by saying that they were sending me a small present which they hoped I would accept. There was nothing enclosed, but, naturally, I felt very pleased that what I had done in the medical line was worth the expression of thanks in a letter, and thought no more about it. Consequently, I was very surprised a few days ago to receive a small box containing a plain gold ring (posted in London), with an inscription inside:—"Lieut. Simpson, The King's Regiment, in gratitude for medical services rendered from a few N.C.O.'s and men of R.W. Kent Regiment, Kromspruit, 31/5/02."

I was delighted with it, but felt that a great deal of the gratitude was due to you, and found an outlet to me in consequence of the delicacy of presenting the officer of one's own Regiment with a token of gratitude."

"Yours very sincerely,

"Herbert Simpson."

From the Kent Messenger, Nov. 15th, 1902.

The annual dinner of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men, which we reported last week, has again brought to the front the question: What is a Man of Kent and what is a Kentish Man? It would be of interest were the Association to hold a Conference and try to lay down a definite decision on the subject to which the county could appeal as authoritative, seeing that now the claim of a native of West Kent to be a Man of Kent is liable to be contradicted by a native of East Kent and vice-versa.

The legend most generally relied on in West Kent is that of William the Conqueror. William, encountering his first opposition at Swanscombe, where he met a large body of men holding oak boughs over their heads, saw the advantage of having an ally rather than an enemy thus early in the invasion, and made a treaty with the assembled host continuing to them their constitutional privileges; in commemoration whereof they called themselves the Men of Kent to distinguish themselves from the men of East Kent, who so far, it is alleged, had shown less spirit.

The men of East Kent, however, found a champion in the late Mr. Charles Sandys, F.S.A., of Canterbury, who appealed to the ancient Saxon name of Canterbury (Cantwarabvrig) as being literally the City of the Men of Kent, and attributed the two divisions of the county to the founding of the See of Rochester by St Augustine after he had fixed his Metropolitical See in the Royal City of Canterbury. Mr. Sandys conceived that the men of the East thereupon retained "their ancient name" of Men of Kent, and those of the West adopted that of Kentish Men There is a confirmation of this in the Saxon Chronicle, which refers to the "Men of Kent" in Thanet (which, of course, is in the eastern part of the county) fighting and making peace with the Danes, and to the "Kentish Forces" and "West Kentish Men" stoutly joining battle with the Danes at Rochester (which undeniably is in West Kent).

In spite of this indubitable history, there are, as we have said, differences of opinion on the subject. One writer who tried to make the matter clear a few days ago was apparently right in applying the respective designations, but mixed up his history as well as his grammar by saying that "A Man of Kent is one born east of the Medway. These men went out with green boughs to meet the Conqueror, and obtained in consequence a confirmation of their ancient priviledges from the new King. They, therefore, call themselves the 'Invicti'" Now that incident, as we have shown, is alleged to have taken place at Swanscombe, and is the very one upon which the inhabitants of West Kent rely for their description as Men of Kent.

Colonel Brock returns thanks to Lieut.-Col. Wyndham Bailey for the generous gift of £10 towards the Regimental Institute on behalf of the 3rd Royal West Kent Regiment.

In the House of Commons Sir E. Vincent asked the Secretary of State for War if he could state the approximate average annnal cost of an Infantry soldier of the line, a Cavalry soldier, a Militiaman, an Imperial Yeoman, and a Volunteer.—Mr Brodrick replied that the average annual cost of a private of each of the arm mentioned was approximately as follows: Infantry of the Line, £52 6s. 4d.; Cavalry of the Line, £58 16s 9d.; Militia (Infantry), £18 12s. 6d.; Imperial Yeomanry, £19 13s. 6d.; Volunteers, £6 The cost of Infantry and Cavalry respectfully after April 1st, 1904, when the increased pay takes effect, would be £59 16s. 1d and £65 16s. 6d.

Has it ever occurred to Tommy to think whether he earns a £1 a week, or does he consider himself under paid for his services?

1st BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

The following have been awarded 2nd Class Certificates of Education :—Corpl. E James, Lance-Corpls. G. Verrall, C. Lee, J. Sheen, H. Kipps, T. Cassidy, J. Beale, J. Brown, Pte. H. Russell. Awarded 3rd Class :—Lance-Corpls. J. Morton, T. Fletcher, C. Boakes, J. Hayley, W. Elliott, W. James, Privates C. Trevenna, W. Flinn, B. Sharp, W. White, E. Barnes, A. Hammond, G. Lewis, L. Mason, E. Stone, A. Holmes, H. Baker, J. Fisk, H. Paul, Boys H. Furness and T. O'Brien.

Sergt. McAnulty, Sergt. J. Wren, Pte. R. Liddle, and Dr. H. Palmer have re-engaged to complete 21 years' service.

Pte. F. Brookes has been permitted to extend his service to complete 12 years.

Lance-Corpl. A. Pearson has re-engaged for the Military Foot Police to complete 21 years' service.

Pte. J. Lightfoot has been transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps, and Pte. A. Dunning to the 3rd Batt, Royal Warwick Regiment.

The following have been discharged by purchase in South Africa :—Ptes. A. Martin, E. Heath, C. Watling, F. H. Reeves, G. Crole, J. Thompson.

2nd BATTALION INTELLIGENCE.

The following N.C.O'S. and men remained in South Africa on the departure of the 2nd Battalion for Ceylon, and were struck off the strength of the Battalion from 25th October, 1902 :—5666 Lance-Corpl. W. Cock, 4416 Ptes. F. Bird, 77 W. Ledger, 6489 E. Turner, 5489 A. Hudson, 4427 A. Akhurst, 6096 T. Wick, 6476 L. Crisford, 6436 W. Hannen, 4412 G. Atkins, 5373 S. Barnes, 4544 W. Brome, 4399 T. Butcher, 4451 H. Gaylor, 4536 W. Honey, 4422 W. King, 4586 W. Pickett, 6465 G. Reilly, 5643 J. Shelford, 6453 A. Wilkins, 6470 C. Baker, 6441 S. Barnes, 6446 F. Deer, 4523 A. Farley, 6458 H. Hilyard, 4394 G. King, 6479 S. Mortimer, 6432 D. Rapson, 6320 J. Roberts, 4582 A. Staines, 4561 Corpl. W. Carter, 4622 Corpl. A. Milner, 6048 Lance-Corpl. A. Cox, 4434 Ptes. H. Bilby, 4407 J. Brooks, 4548 T. Holman, 4405 J. Pell, 4551 H. Russell, 6129 F. Haliett, 6469 A. Dutfield, 6384 C. Johnson, 5708 A. White, 4594 J. Barwick, 4558 J. Cockburn, 4418 W. Harris, 4559 A. Hazelden, 4625 F. Sillman, 6177 W. Buxton, 6060 W. Doucett, 6088 J. Courage, 6464 J. Deacon, 5626 J. Grady, 4458 Corpls. H. Clackett, 4472 E. Humphries, 4415 Ptes J. Greenwood, 4630 F. Ware, 2864 F. Banham, 6103 A Coulter, 6157 E. Greig, 2252 Sergt. A. Firman, 6143 Ptes J. Leary, 4452 C. King, 6105 H. Knight, 4565 T. Patrick, 6168 W Jackman, 4608 J. May, 6079, W. Lord, 6065 F. Goodger, 4457 A. Broadhurst, 4632 J. Evans, 4502 C. Argar, 4390 H. Dannett, 4463 C. Harris, 4533 A. Simmons, 5647 T. Jones, 5486 H. Gallagher, 6039 W. Robinson, 5682 R. Welcher, 4584 W, Arnold, 4511 G. Evenden, 5173 C. Miller, 4499 G. Swaisland, 6172 E. Phillips, 6082 W. Bellingham, 6139 T. Brown, 6079 R. Darling, 6124 Lance-Corpls. S. Weeks, 6026 W. Carpenter, 5714 Ptes. P. Long, 6094 W. Pickering, 6051 G. Lythall, 6084, G. Drury, 6459 C. Cowdery, 6478 W. Crane, 5558 C. Monk, 5589, J. Morris, 6123 H. Flegg, 6114 J. Luckhurst, 6433 C. Butler, 6473 A. Banks, 6277 J. Christie, 4393 W. Burridge, 5704 E. Dance, 6112 E. Sutton, 6435 W. Collins, 6456 H. Dryden, 6450 C. Morgan, 6551 R. Potter, 6474 J. Rumbles, 4389 G. Candey, 5530 W. Harris, 4579 E. Horrocks, 4398 G. Weller, 6149 S. Elsey, 6482 R. Hudson, 6440 A. McKenzie, 6486 H. Pickering, 6457 L. Pratt, 6438 R. Shergold, 6475 W. Williams, 6468 G. Summerfield, 4448 J. Sealey, 5639 B. Morris, 4583 P. Beckenham, 5719 Indge, 5497 W. Newings, 4392 W. Tyrrell, 4603 P. Wood, 6098 H. Chapman, 4400 A. Morris, 4397 F. Rapley, 5709 W. Widdicks, 6104 H. Bennett, 6153 D. Sullivan, 6447 T. Young.

BIRTHS.

At Maidstone, on 9th November, the wife of Colour-Sergeant J. Outten, Depot, of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 13th November, the wife of Quartermaster-Sergeant Gilburd, Depot, of a daughter.

At Maidstone, on 14th November, the wife of Colour-Sergeant A. Pearson, Permanent Staff 3rd Battalion, of a daughter.

DEATH.

At Malta, on 21st October, Kitty, daughter of Colour-Sergeant T. Burge, 1st Battalion.

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