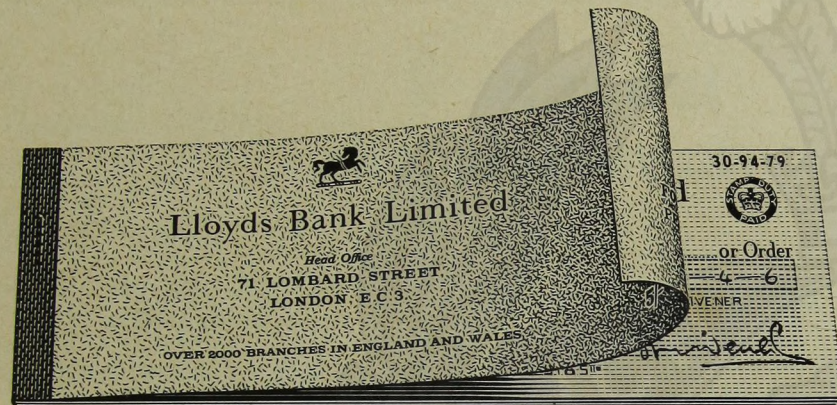


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THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



HALF YEARLY : APRIL AND OCTOBER  
VOL. XVI No. 1 APRIL 1965 PRICE 2/6

### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN) (57th and 77th)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.

"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02," "World War I—46 Battalions—" Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courlette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume, 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumanj," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordon," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19," "World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943": "Francofonte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carreceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguebus Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venraij," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen," "Korea, 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "Chuam-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Colonel of the Regiment Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

#### Regimental Headquarters

Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.  
R.O.II: Col. F. Walden, D.L.  
R.O.III: Major E. L. Heywood.  
Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

#### Regular and Territorial Battalions

1st Battalion  
O.C.: Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.  
Location: South Barracks, Gibraltar

5th Battalion (T.A.)  
O.C.: Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.

#### Locations

Battalion H.Q. } T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware,  
"H.Q." Company } Middlesex.  
"A" Company T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.  
"B" Company T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.  
"C" Company T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield,  
Middlesex.  
"D" Company T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow,  
Middlesex.

#### County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force

Headquarters: 456 Uxbridge Road, London, W.12.  
Commandant: Lt.-Col. P. L. Cooper, T.D.  
Cadet Executive Officer: Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D.

#### Affiliated Cadet Units

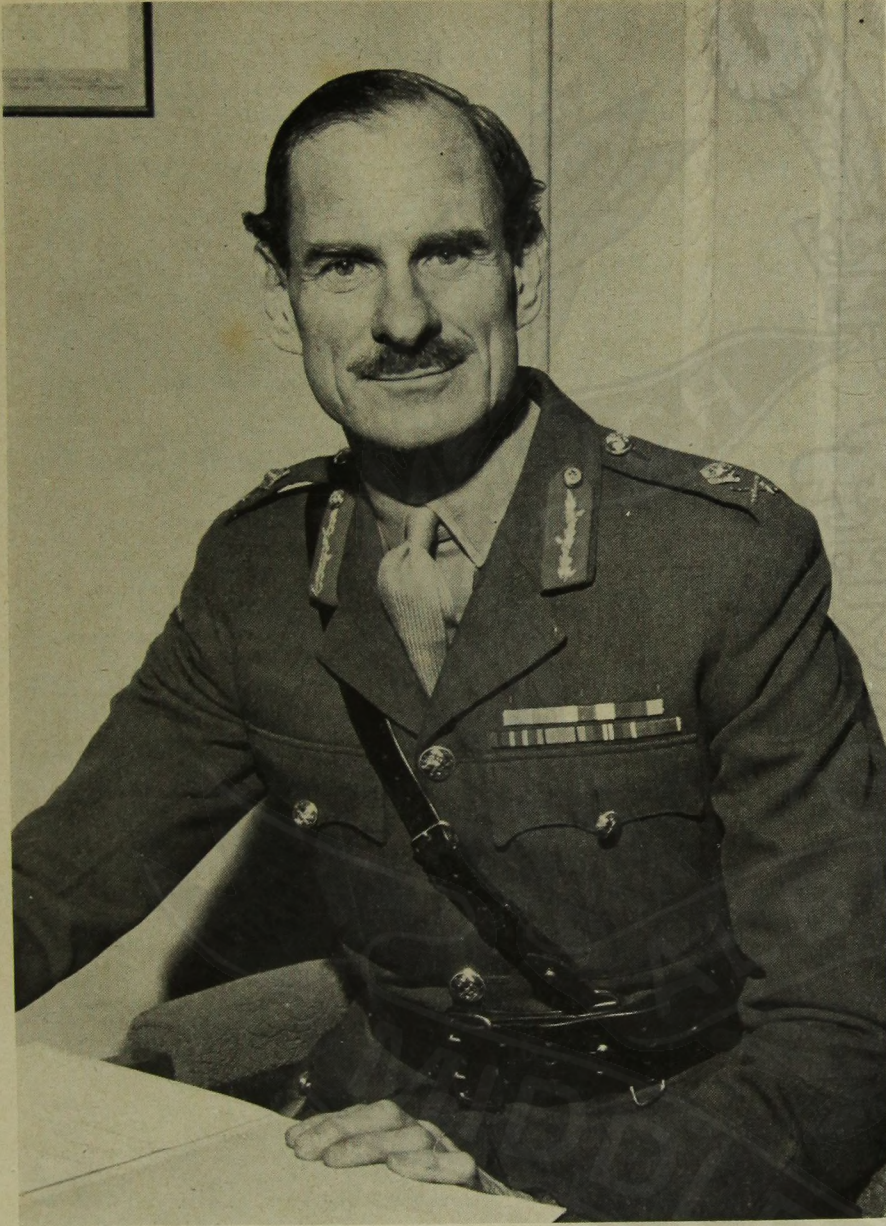
16th (Hornsey) Cadet Company  
32nd (Edgware) Cadet Company.  
72nd (Hounslow) Cadet Company.  
75th (Staines) Cadet Company.  
77th (Feltham) Cadet Company.

#### Allied Units

CANADA  
7th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Sarnia, Ontario.  
50th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (The Prince of Wales Rangers), Peterborough, Ontario.  
102nd (Wentworth) Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, Dundas, Ontario.  
The Royal Rifles of Canada, Quebec.  
AUSTRALIA  
University of New South Wales Regt.  
NEW ZEALAND  
5th Bn. (Wellington West Coast Taranaki) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt.  
HONG KONG  
The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

#### Home Counties Brigade Depot

H.Q.: Howe Barracks, Canterbury.  
Brigade Colonel: Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.  
D.A.A.G.: Major M. P. St. F. Dracopoli, Queen's Own Buffs.



MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. M. MAN, O.B.E., M.C.  
COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

## Colonelcy of the Regiment

### Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

**M**AJ.-GEN. CHRISTOPHER MARK MORRICE MAN, who is 50, is a younger brother of Col. Andrew Man, who also served with distinction in the Regiment.

Educated at Eastbourne College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he was commissioned into the Regiment as a University Candidate in 1936, joining the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth in July of that year.

He was posted in 1937 to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, where later he was to become a prisoner of war of the Japanese, and was torpedoed on the *Lisbon Maru* on the way to Japan in October 1942.

After attending the Staff College in 1947 he served at the War Office before being seconded to the Parachute Regiment in 1950, with whom he went to the Middle East as Second-in-Command of the 3rd Battalion in 1951. He returned to this country in 1953 as Commandant of the Army Airtransport Training and Development Centre before going to the War Office as GSOI (Co-ord) to the Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff. He was appointed to command the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion in 1957, and became Commander 125 (West Lancs) Infantry Brigade T.A. in 1959.

In September, 1962, he was appointed Head of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission and Military Attache, Korea. He assumed his present appointment as General Officer Commanding 49th (West Riding and North Midlands) Division/District on February 1, 1964.

He was married in Hong Kong in October, 1940, and his wife, after serving as an auxiliary nurse in the battle of Hong Kong, during which time she nursed many of the wounded from the 1st Battalion, was interned by the Japanese in Stanley Camp.

## Officers Location Statement

### REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E.	G.O.C. designate MELF
Major-General	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	G.O.C. 49 Div. (T.A.)/W. Riding and North Midland District
Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	Colonel A/Q, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Col.	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel G.S., D.I. (M.I.) 13, Ministry of Defence
Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	Colonel G.S. H.Q. Southern Command
Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	Army Liaison Officer, B.D.L.S., Australia
Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	SACEUR's Rep. to Standing Group Rep., S.H.A.P.E.
Col.	I. H. Batty, M.B.E., B.A.	Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade
Lt.-Col. (L/Col.)	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	Commandant, Sennelager Training Centre, B.A.O.R.
Lt.-Col.	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Eastern Command
Lt.-Col.	C. N. Clayden	Deputy Comd., H.C. Brigade and Commander H.C. Brigade Depot
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax	T.S.O. 1, Ministry of Defence (A.E.P. 2a)
Lt.-Col.	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	1st Battalion
Major	G. C. Dawson	14 Signal Regiment, Gloucester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	D.A.A.G., A.G. 2, Ministry of Defence
Major	P. W. Galvin	D.A.Q.M.G., Q(A.E.) 2, Ministry of Defence
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	D.A.A.G., A.S.D. 3, Ministry of Defence
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	G.S.O. 2 (Trg.), H.Q. 53 (Welsh) Division (T.A.)/Wales District
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	D.A.A.G., A.P.S. 4, Ministry of Defence
Major	K. J. Carter	2I.C., 1st Battalion
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	British Military Delegation, Paris
Major	H. J. A. Moore	1st Battalion
Major	G. G. Norton	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Major	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Staff Captain Q6 (A), Ministry of Defence
Major	B. K. Clayden	B.M., 127 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	A.C.C. Depot and Training Battalion
Major	B. H. Marciandi	1st Battalion
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	1st Battalion
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	Home Counties Brigade Depot (HS)
Major	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Battalion
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich
Capt.	A. E. McManus	Technical Staff Course, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	G.S.O. 3, H.Q. Cyrenaica District
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	1st Battalion
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers)
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	G.S.O. 3, H.Q. FARELF
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. D. Legg	Defence Nuclear Biological and Chemical School
Capt.	P. V. Cheesman	All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau
Capt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps attd. Royal Malaysian Air Force
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt.	G. Bulloch	The Jamaica Regiment
Capt.	G. Goring	1st Battalion
Capt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	Trucial Oman Scouts
Lt. (T/Capt.)	J. G. Lofting	A.D.C. to G.O.C. designate M.E.L.F.
Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	B. K. Finch	Malaysian Rangers

Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	P. F. Packham	No. 42 Army Youth Team (Finchley)
Lt.	F. K. Gladden	1st Battalion
Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion
Lt.	B. A. Carlston	H.Q. Forces, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland
Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	D. M. Falcke	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	M. W. Deakin	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	A. G. D. Lowrie	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	R. H. Graham	1st Battalion
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	5th Battalion (T.A.)
Major (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	4th Battalion, The Buffs (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion

### Short Service Officers

Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	1st Battalion
Lt.	N. J. Bryant	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	S. C. D. Searle	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. G. Truman	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	S. J. Yates	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)

### Extended-Service Officers

Major	A. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot R.E.
-------	---------------	----------------------------------

### 5th BATTALION (T.A.)

#### Honorary Colonel

Major-General	B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E.
---------------	----------------------------

#### T.A. Officers

Lt.-Col.	P. J. Hall, T.D.	Battalion Commander
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	2IC
Major	E. J. Naish	O.C. "C" Company
Capt.	M. J. Beaumont	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Capt.	K. D. Murray	O.C. "D" Company
Capt.	S. L. J. Henshaw	O.C. "B" Company
Capt.	G. J. Young	2IC, "C" Company
Capt.	H. E. Couch	O.C. "A" Company
Capt.	J. S. Richards	2IC "B" Company
Capt.	M. J. S. Doran	2IC "D" Company
Capt.	D. W. Hogg	
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Support Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. C. Parkinson	I.O.
Lt.	R. G. Tett	R.S.O.
Lt.	D. J. Margand	Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. J. Smith	Platoon Commander
Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. S. Walker	Platoon Commander
Lt.	D. S. Smith	Platoon Commander
Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. M. Brown	Platoon Commander
Lt.	J. McMaster	
2/Lt.	M. L. Muirhead	Platoon Commander

#### Attached Officers

Major	R. L. MacQueen, (R.A.M.C.)	Medical Officer
Capt.	B. A. Hennah, (R.A.P.C.)	Unit Paymaster
Rev.	R. Brown, R.A.CH.D.	Chaplain

## Permanent Staff Officers

Major	G. G. Norton	.. .. .	.. .. .	Training Officer
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	.. .. .	.. .. .	Adjutant
Major	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	.. .. .	.. .. .	Quartermaster

## E.R.E.

Bt. Col.	I. D. Brotherton, T.D., D.L.	.. .. .	.. .. .	A.D. Mov. (T.A.) 54 East Anglian Div./Dist.
Major	D. L. James, T.D.	.. .. .	.. .. .	D.A.Q.M.G. Mov. (T.A.) 54 East Anglian Div./Dist.
Capt.	S. J. Carter	.. .. .	.. .. .	O.C. "H.Q." Company, 56 (London) Inf. Bde. (T.A.)

## Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s Location Statement

(corrected to March 18, 1965)

## REGULAR W.O.s AND SENIOR N.C.O.s

Bde.	Rank or	Name	Unit	Bde.	Rank or	Name	Unit
Pos.	Appt.			Pos.	Appt.		
<b>WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I</b>							
1	R.S.M.	T. McMillan	Sennelager Trg. Centre	24	Sgt.	C. Shinn	1 Mx.
7	R.S.M.	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.	29	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	R.M.A. Sandhurst
<b>WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II</b>							
7	R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	A.A. J.L.R.	47	Sgt.	B. Tarry	1 Mx.
15	A/W.O.1	K. Beale	1 Mx.	54	Sgt.	S. Speakman	1 Mx.
19	C.S.M.	A. DaCosta	1 Mx.	57	Sgt.	W. Argent	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
26	C.S.M.	S. Michel	5 Mx.	58	Sgt.	L. Plumb	1 Mx.
28	R.Q.M.S.	M. Eastap	H.Q. 99 Gurkha Inf. Bde.	69	Sgt.	J. Williamson	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
31	C.S.M.	G. Simmons	1 Mx.	71	Sgt.	B. Edey	1 Mx.
36	C.S.M.	E. Steward	H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps	88	Sgt.	B. Pritchard	1 Mx.
43	C.S.M.	D. Walters	5 Buffs (T.A.)	91	Sgt.	A. Briggs	1 Mx.
56	C.S.M.	R. Power	1 Mx.	93	Sgt.	J. Redmond	1 Mx.
<b>COLOUR SERGEANTS</b>							
2	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.	94	Sgt.	D. Miles	1 Mx.
4	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.	95	Sgt.	J. Young	Inf. J.L. Bn.
20	C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	4 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.	98	Sgt.	J. Kerr	1 Royal Sussex
21	C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.	100	Sgt.	G. Overton	1 Mx.
25	A/W.O.2	B. Warner	1 Mx.	112	Sgt.	J. Leat	1 Mx.
26	C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.	116	Sgt.	F. O'Rawe	42 A.Y.T.
31	C/Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.	125	Sgt.	J. Barr	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
NK	C/Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.	130	Sgt.	M. Quinn	1 Mx.
37	C/Sgt.	D. Lagden	1 Mx.	131	Sgt.	R. Shave	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
44	C/Sgt.	M. Elston	1 Mx.	135	Sgt.	R. DaCosta	1 Mx.
<b>SERGEANTS</b>							
4	Sgt.	M. Butler	P.S. Staff	136	Sgt.	M. Weston	1 Mx.
6	Sgt.	R. Davies	Defence N.B.C. School	139	Sgt.	R. Scott	1 Mx.
13	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.	140	Sgt.	R. Dickens	1 Mx.
20	Sgt.	H. Horder	1 Mx.	142	Sgt.	D. Burke	1 Mx.
23	Sgt.	R. Ford	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	144	Sgt.	J. Meacock	1 Mx.
				148	Sgt.	J. Whittle	Sch. of Inf.
				149	A/W.O.2	E. Nash	H.Q. 6Z. Rifles
				151	Sgt.	W. Kerr	1 Mx.
				155	Sgt.	C. Barnes	5 Mx.
				164	Sgt.	R. Potts	1 Queen's Own Buffs
				165	Sgt.	J. Reynolds	1 Mx.
				NK	Sgt.	P. McFadyen	1 Mx.
				NK	Sgt.	L. Fisher	1 Mx.
				NK	Sgt.	A. Brumwell	1 Mx.
				NK	Sgt.	F. Willis	1 Mx.
				NK	Sgt.	J. Redrup	1 Mx.

Bde.	Rank or	Name	Unit
Pos.	Appt.		
NK	Sgt.	A. Stevens	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
NK	Sgt.	A. O'Gorman	Bde. Depot (P.S.)

## BANDMASTER

4	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
---	------	------------	-------

## ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

4	O.R.Q.M.S. G.	Cripps	1 Mx.
7	C/Sgt.	A. Gibbs	1 Queen's Surreys

## DRUM MAJOR

2	D.M.	J. Lewis	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
---	------	----------	-------------------

## SERGEANTS IN THE BAND

1	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
---	------	------------	-------

## 5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Rank	Name	Company
<b>Warrant Officers, Class II</b>		
W.O.2	R. G. Vaisey	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. G. Roberts	"B" Company
W.O.2	W. Payne	"C" Company
W.O.2	J. Vasey	"D" Company
W.O.2	A. Carnie	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Company
W.O.2	R. Elliott	"A" Company
<b>Colour Sergeants</b>		
C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Company
C/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company (Signals)
C/Sgt.	E. James	"A" Company
C/Sgt.	J. Elderfield	"C" Company
C/Sgt.	A. E. Howe, M.B.E.	Battalion H.Q.
C/Sgt.	K. Mortimer	"H.Q." Company
C/Sgt.	A. Green	"H.Q." Company
C/Sgt.	F. W. Hawes	"B" Company
<b>Sergeants</b>		
Sgt.	C. Holford, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	E. R. Oakley	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	A. Sills	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	D. F. Gainsbury	"B" Company
Sgt.	C. B. Wagner	"B" Company
Sgt.	M. Ward	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. Young	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. R. Brown	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. Ashcroft	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	K. G. Anderson	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	C. J. Purchase	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	G. M. Stunt	"H.Q." Company
Sgt.	H. C. Large	"D" Company
Sgt.	N. K. Gasson	"D" Company
Sgt.	A. C. Foster	"B" Company
Sgt.	R. Stone	"A" Company
Sgt.	J. W. H. Morgan	"D" Company
Sgt.	G. Graham	"A" Company
Sgt.	D. Harwood	"C" Company
P/Sgt.	D. Godleman	"H.Q." Company
P/Sgt.	R. E. Aldridge	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	B. G. Smith	"A" Company

Rank	Name	Company
<b>Permanent Staff</b>		
W.O.1	H. Boseley (R.S.M.)	Battalion H.Q.
W.O.2	S. Michel (C.S.M.)	"A" Company
W.O.2	D. W. Adkins (C.S.M.)	"B" Company
C/Sgt.	J. W. Eldridge	"D" Company
Sgt.	E. Langford	"C" Company
Sgt.	C. H. Barnes	"H.Q." Company

## The Federation of Malaya Active Service Medal

The following was published in Defence Council Instructions (Army) on October 28, 1964:

1. Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to grant permission for the acceptance and wearing of the above-mentioned medal (not instituted by The Sovereign but awarded by the Federation of Malaysia) by:

(a) United Kingdom Army personnel who were engaged in the operations in Malaya between August 31, 1957, and July 31, 1960 (inclusive), while seconded to the Federation of Malaya Armed Forces.

(b) United Kingdom Army personnel, seconded to the Malayan Armed Forces, in recognition of service in operations against communist terrorists on the Malaya-Thailand border between August 1, 1960, and September 15, 1963 (inclusive).

2. The Federation of Malaya Active Service Medal is circular in shape. It bears on the obverse the Arms of the Federation of Malaya and on the reverse an outline relief map of the Malayan Peninsula surrounded by palm fronds and is suspended from a special mount consisting of two crossed palm leaves.

3. The medal is to be worn on the left breast suspended by a ribbon, one and a quarter inches in width, with a yellow central panel flanked by green panels in which is a vertical blue stripe.

4. The medal and/or ribbon will be worn after all United Kingdom awards and Commonwealth awards instituted by The Sovereign and will take precedence among other Commonwealth awards not instituted by the Sovereign, according to its date of award.

5. Nominal rolls of eligible United Kingdom Army personnel have been compiled by the Malaysian authorities and the medals will be issued in the near future.

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## Editor's Comments

### The Colonel of the Regiment

The change in the Colonelcy of the Regiment is a major event in its history. By the time this issue of the Regimental Journal is published Maj.-Gen. Christopher Man will have succeeded Maj.-Gen. John Willoughby as the 9th Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment and the 21st since Col. John Arabin.

To Maj.-Gen. Willoughby, who has been Colonel of the Regiment since August 1, 1959, we say farewell and offer him our deep appreciation and gratitude for the way in which he has so wisely guided the affairs of the Regiment through a difficult period in our history. He is the first serving officer within living memory to be appointed Colonel of the Regiment but, in spite of his full time commitments as a T.A. Divisional Commander, this has made no difference whatever to the deep interest in our affairs which he has maintained throughout. The Regiment has been lucky indeed to have had such a wise, foreseeing Colonel, and we wish him God-speed and good fortune in the new and important appointment which he takes up in May.

To Maj.-Gen. Christopher Man we offer our congratulations and best wishes. He is in every way qualified to succeed to this high office. He has the welfare of the Regiment very much at heart and he can be assured of the support of all ranks, past and present, in his efforts on our behalf during the difficult times which undoubtedly still lie ahead.

## Personalalia

It has only just been brought to our notice that Myles Abbott, who was serving with the 1st Battalion at the fall of Hong Kong and is now Chief Justice of Bermuda, was knighted on July 22, last. Though belated we send our heartiest congratulations to Sir Myles.

Those who served with the 2/7th Battalion in Italy in the last war, and later in Palestine, will be interested to know that the present Commanding Officer of the 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., is Lt.-Col. Kenneth Adcock. After attending an O.C.T.U. in the Middle East, he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and was posted to the 2/7th in Italy. He remained with the Battalion until he was posted home in October 1945.

He states that his sole claim to fame with the 2/7th was that he represented the Battalion at football, cricket and hockey when they were stationed in Palestine.

He would welcome seeing any of his old friends from the 2/7th, particularly "B" Company, at 190 Hammer-smith Road.

### The County

On March 31, 1965 the ancient County of Middlesex ceased to be a separate administrative area and, with the County of London, was merged into a new Greater London area.

The reasons for this drastic change are well set forth in an excellent article entitled "Middlesex County Council, 1889/1965" on page 13, which was written specially for us in February by Mr. Kenneth Goodacre, the last Clerk of the County Council of Middlesex and for some years a very good and helpful friend of the Regiment.

In view of what Mr. Goodacre has told us in this article any further comments from your Editor would be superfluous.

### Alliances

In June 1963, the Colonel of the Regiment was approached in regard to establishing an alliance between the Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment, and wholeheartedly agreed to support the proposal.

The alliance has now received the Queen's approval and will shortly be published in Army Orders.

We look forward with much pleasure to meeting our new friends and hope that any from the University Regiment who come to this country will be sure to let us know and to pay Regimental Headquarters a visit.

One of the newest members to join the Regimental Association is Tom Barnett (6202165), who served with the 2nd Battalion in 1935 and 1936, and with the 1st Battalion from 1939 to 1941. On returning to the U.K. from Hong Kong he did a short spell with the Kensingtons before being drafted to the 1/7th Battalion. He served with the latter battalion in North Africa, Sicily, France and Germany until the war ended. He was finally discharged in May 1949.

We were very pleased indeed that R.Q.M.S. K. Beale was able to call and see us at R.H.Q. on March 1, before flying out to Gibraltar to join the 1st Battalion as R.S.M. in succession to R.S.M. Dodkins.

Major Peter Bellers was an usher in St. Paul's Cathedral for Sir Winston Churchill's State Funeral on Saturday, January 30, 1965.

Older members of the Regiment who remember him will be sorry to hear that Capt. Francis (Bingo)



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Bostock has been seriously ill in hospital at Haywards Heath for the past four months or so as the result of an accident in which he broke his hip.

A welcome addition to the steadily growing list of new Journal readers is Major Ronald Brodie, who was serving with the 1st Battalion in France in the early days of the 1914-18 War.

A description of some very interesting German relics etc., which he presented to the Regimental Museum, appeared in the October 1964 issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Congratulations to Col. Ian Brotherton on his appointment as from last September as a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex.

We hear that Col. Ian Burrows, whose tour of duty at SHAPE finishes this summer, has been earmarked to take over a Staff Intelligence appointment in his present rank at the Ministry of Defence in late August or early September next.

Lt.-Col. Stanley Caulfield-Kerney returned some months ago from East Africa and is now Head of Organisation and Methods Department of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company.

Capt. Peter Cheesman, on completion of his tour of duty at the All Army Junior Leaders Regiment at Tonfanau next August, is earmarked for posting to the 1st Battalion.

Those who served with the 9th Battalion during the 1930's will learn with regret of the death quite recently of the Rev. F. Chesnutt-Chesney, who was the Battalion's Chaplain for some years.

It was good to hear earlier this year from Mr. T. G. Christman, one of our old 2nd Battalion members, who served in Ahmednagar and Madras some 38 years ago.

After he left the service he spent 25 years in the postal service—the last eight of them in a supervisory capacity.

We congratulate Major O. F. C. Cook on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and to command of our affiliated Canadian Unit, 50th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (the Prince of Wales Rangers).

As 2IC Lt.-Col. Cook came over here last July when we were delighted to be able to entertain him at lunch at Regimental Headquarters. On that occasion he very kindly presented to us a lovely mounted timber wolf's head from the Officers of his Regiment.

Col. and Mrs. Mervyn Crawford have just returned from a cruise to South Africa. They saw and, we believe, stayed with Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hervey del Court who live in Cape Province.

Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court had a serious operation on his leg some time ago, and is only now recovering from it.

At the end of last summer Lt.-Col. "Tom" Cubitt departed with his family to the U.S.A., but up to date we have been unable to get his new address.

Ex-Cpl. Jack Damon (PS/963) wrote recently from Tasmania.

He enlisted in the 1914-18 War in the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion and was a member of the Pipe Band of the Battalion.

Major Patrick Fishbourne wrote recently to say that he had become a master at a preparatory school near Woking.

We heartily congratulate Mr. G. Franklin (TF/40505) and his wife, who now live at Neasden, on celebrating their golden wedding on January 30 last.

Before joining the 4th Battalion at Arras in April 1917 he served in the 1/9th, 2/9th and 3/9th Battalions, having started off with the 1/9th Battalion in 1911.

We also send our heartiest congratulations to Oscar Geary (6194534) who has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for the excellent service he has given to the G.P.O. for the past 29 years.

Those who were serving with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus during the emergency will be very pleased to hear that ex-Sgt. Paul Gillies, who was then employed in the Orderly Room and, after leaving the service, joined the Rhodesia Police Force, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for his bravery in breaking up a frenzied armed mob of "prophets" Alice Lenshina's followers when they invaded a small township in Northern Rhodesia last year. Our heartiest congratulations, Paul!

Officers and other Ranks who were serving in our T.A. Battalions in the late 1920's and early 1930's will learn with regret that Brigadier-General G. Hyde Harrison, their popular and very efficient Brigade Commander, died at Guildford quite recently at the age of 87.

Lt.-Col. Adrian Howell, who served in the 2nd Battalion in the early 1920's before transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps, was installed as Sheriff of Chester in May last year. He has now been nominated as Mayor of the City as from May 26, this year. As Mayor he will also assume the title of Admiral of the Dee—very appropriate especially as he was an oarsman of no mean repute who rowed for the famous Thames Rowing Club at Henley in 1920.

The following notice appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* on December 12, 1964:—

"On December 9, 1964, passed peacefully away at 3 Penrose Road, Ferndown, Dorset, Capt. Thomas Archibald Inglis, aged 74 years, the dearly loved husband of Rosa Septiema Inglis, the great-grandson of Maj.-Gen. Sir William Inglis, Middlesex Regiment (The Die-Hards)."

Capt. Paddy Kenrick, who will be remembered by many when he was R.S.M. at the Depot, has now been transferred from the General List to the Royal Corps of Signals, and posted to 257 Signal Squadron B.F.P.O. 20.

We hope that he will continue to keep in touch with us, and that we shall see him at the Annual and other Reunions.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Chris Lawrence on the birth of a son on October 28, 1964, and also to Major and Mrs. Geoff Norton on the occasion of a similar happy event on February 7, 1965.

We hear that Lt.-Col. Francis Morgan, on completion of his tour in command of the 1st Battalion, is to go to the Ministry of Defence in July as a G.S.O.1 in the Army Staff Duties Branch.

Major Percy Newman, now living at Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, writes to say that, since Christmas, he has been actively engaged with the British Legion. He is now officially the Standard Bearer, Poppy Day organiser, and a serving member of the Services (Benevolent) Committee of the Gorleston-on-Sea Branch. As the official Standard Bearer he expects to go to Ely Cathedral on May 23 for the dedication of the new County Standard and later in the year to the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

Lt.-Col. Clinton Nolda, on completion of his tour of duty as A.A.G., H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong, has been appointed Commandant Sennelager Training Centre, B.A.O.R. with the local rank of Colonel.

Last September Col. Jimmy Reid's horse Biscayne, which he bred himself, won the Irish St. Leger. Though not so important as the British St. Leger it is a very big and valuable classic race, and this must surely be the first time in the history of the Regiment that we have had an owner whose horse has won any of the big Classics. Our heartiest congratulations on this unique achievement!

Major Ken Scott-Simpson, who is now in the teaching profession, was elected a Councillor of the new London Borough of Lambeth last year.

Pte. Mervyn Smith (23961431), who was recently posted to the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar, was born in the Regiment whilst his father, Major Dick Smith, was still serving. His grandfather, whom he shares with L/Cpl. "Larry" Lambourne, also of the 1st Battalion, gave 42 years service to the Regiment, and saw active service in the Boer War. His great-grandfather did his active service in the Crimea at Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol, whilst his great-great-grandfather served with the 57th in the Peninsular War. A fine family record of service to the Regiment!

Readers will be very sorry to hear that Col. Archie Stewart, our oldest surviving Commanding Officer of

the 57th, and one of the Regiment's few survivors of the Battle of Spion Kop, has had trouble with his eyes, which has necessitated operations at the Moorfields Eye Hospital.

We all earnestly wish him a complete recovery.

Members of the 1/9th Battalion who served in India during the 1914-18 War will learn with regret of the death of their Chaplain, the Rev. Harold Spooner, on December 17 last, in his 85th year.

After leaving the 1/9th he was Chaplain to the Forces at the Siege of Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, in 1916. He also wrote an official history of the Siege.

It was in the *Personalia* column of the last issue of *The Die-Hards* that mention was made of Padre Spooner's part in the B.B.C. Television film, "The Great War Series."

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Miss Robin Willoughby, daughter of Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. John Willoughby, on her marriage to Mr. Andrew Sage Ferry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Ferry, of Millicent, South Australia, at Codford St. Peter, Wilts, on Saturday, March 20 last, and wish them many years of happiness together.

Major Pat Wollocombe has now returned to this country from a tour of duty with the Kenya Army and is awaiting a staff appointment.

#### BRERETON SCHOLARSHIP AT CRANLEIGH SCHOOL

(a) One Brereton scholarship for the son of a regular officer on the Active or Retired List of the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force, or the son of a deceased officer, is available for award on the results of the Cranleigh School entrance scholarship examination which takes place on February 8, 9 and 10, 1965 (or May 31, June 1 and 2, if the scholarship is not awarded in February). The annual value of the scholarship is up to £150.

(b) Candidates must be under 14 years of age on April 30, 1965 (or September 30, for the May/June examination). They will be examined in Latin, French, Mathematics, English, History and Geography. They may also be examined in one or more optional subjects from a prescribed list.

(c) Applications should be made to the Headmaster, Cranleigh School, Cranleigh, Surrey, from whom further details may also be obtained. The closing date for applications is February 1, 1965 (or May 24 for the May/June examination).

#### YES, BUT WHAT KIND?

In a corridor of a Bedfordshire factory are three doors. Between those marked "Ladies" and "Gentlemen" is one marked "Experimental."

(With acknowledgements to Peterborough, "The Daily Telegraph.")

## Our new Commanding Officers



Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.

Lt.-Col. John Shipster took over command of the 1st Battalion from Lt.-Col. Francis Morgan on March 26, 1965.

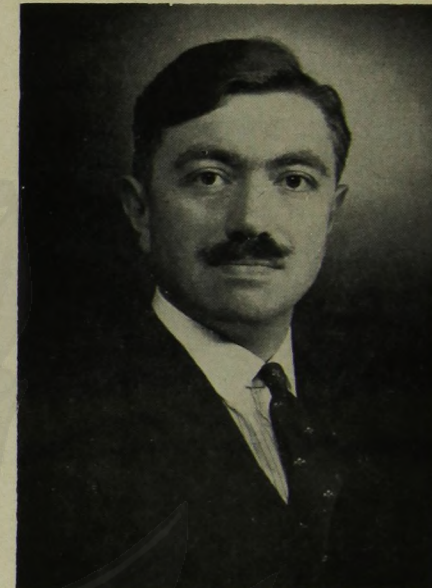
He is a son of the late Col. G. C. Shipster, who as a senior instructor during the early days of the M.M.G. School at Seaford, was an expert on Vickers machine gunnery.

He was educated at Marlborough College and was commissioned into the Indian Army (7th/2nd Punjab Regiment) in September 1941 at the age of 18½.

From September 1943 to February 1944 he saw active service in the Arakan, where he won the D.S.O. and was wounded twice. He later took part in the advance from India to Rangoon, during which he was wounded a third time and evacuated to India. At the end of the war he was one of the first officers to fly into Siam.

After the war he transferred to the Regiment from the Indian Army and joined the 1st Battalion, then in B.A.O.R., in 1947. He served with the Battalion for the remainder of its tour in Germany, then in London whilst it was doing public duties, and afterwards in Hong Kong and Korea. During the Korean war he was a Company Commander.

He left the Battalion in Korea in February 1951 on



Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.

posting to the School of Infantry, Warminster, as an instructor.

He graduated at the Staff College in 1953 and subsequently held staff appointments as a G.S.O.2 and D.A.Q.M.G. On completion of his tour of duty in the latter appointment at Headquarters, Allied Forces, Central Europe, he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Hameln, B.A.O.R., in 1960 as a Company Commander.

In 1962 he was appointed Brigade Major of 125th Infantry Brigade (T.A.). Since completing his tour of duty in this appointment last September he has been assisting at Headquarters, Home Counties Brigade, pending his posting to the 1st Battalion.

Lt.-Col. Shipster is married and has three children.

Lt.-Col. Peter Hall took over command of the 5th Battalion (T.A.) on April 1, 1965.

He was granted an emergency commission in the East Surrey Regiment on June 1, 1946, joined the Parachute Regiment and served with 6th Airborne Division in Palestine.



After returning to this country for release he applied for, and was given, a commission in the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (T.A.) (later redesignated 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment) in 1952. He served as the O.C. M.M.G. Platoon until 1954, when he was appointed to command the Support Company. He held this latter appointment until the reorganisation of the Territorial Army early in 1961. In April that year, after the formation of the 5th Battalion from the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, he formed "D" Company and commanded it until the following year, when he was appointed Second-in-Command.

In civilian life he is I.C.I.'s Publicity Accountant.

He lives in the village of Lane End, Bucks, and is married.

### Remembrance Day, 1964

Remembrance Day was kept on Sunday, November 8, in the same way as in previous years.

First a service was held in the gymnasium at Inglis Barracks attended by detachments from the Mill Hill and 9th Bn. Branches, No. 42 Army Youth Team from the 1st Bn. and "H.Q." Company, 5th Bn., and families from the Home Postal Depot R.E. as well as many families of the Regiment, both past and present.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Peter White, Chaplain to the 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards, who very kindly came all the way from Windsor to do so. Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Chairman of the Regimental Association, read the Lesson.

From the gymnasium the congregation moved to the Regimental Memorial where the parade formed three sides of a square. The Exhortation was read, followed by the Last Post, the Two Minutes Silence and the Reveille. Then wreaths were laid, after which the service ended with the Blessing.

The parade then formed up ready to march past. The Mill Hill Branch headed the parade followed by the 9th Bn. Branch with Association Standard carried by Major P. F. Newman and escorted by Messrs. Bratby (Mill Hill) and Todman (9th Bn.) between the two parties. The branches were followed by the uniformed personnel—No. 42 Army Youth Team and "H.Q." Company, 5th Bn.

The salute was taken by Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment, with ex-Sgt. R. E. Ryder, v.c., on the right of the saluting base and In-Pensioner W. R. Carvell in the scarlet uniform of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the left.

After the parade private motor cars and a coach supplied by the Regimental Association conveyed all who wished to the Regimental Headquarters at Edgware, where W.O.2 Banks had prepared an excellent buffet at the Association's expense. His preparations always call forth many compliments, which are thoroughly well earned, for he takes endless trouble to ensure that everyone is satisfied.

The party went on until late afternoon and there is no doubt that most of those who attended left full of good will and good cheer, and with the firm intention of being present at the Remembrance Day Service in 1965.

### Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, 1964

This annual ceremony at the County and Regimental Memorial in Guildhall, Westminster, followed by the planting of crosses in the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, took place on Saturday, November 7.

In Guildhall the service was conducted by the Rev. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, Vicar of St. Nicholas Church, Chiswick, and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn. O.C.A., after which a wreath was laid at the foot of the Memorial by the Colonel of the Regiment.



Photo: L. Gromm

In-Pensioner W. R. Carvell paying compliments after planting a cross at the Garden of Remembrance November 7, 1964

A procession was then formed and, led by the Chaplain, walked to the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance. The plot was marked by the Association Standard carried by Major P. F. Newman. After the usual words of introduction to the memory of the 14,102 whose names are on our Rolls of Honour, a cross was planted by the Colonel of the Regiment, who then invited Her Majesty's Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex (Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, c.B., m.c.) to plant a cross. These were followed by representatives of the Regular and Territorial Bns., the High Sheriff, Mayors of Boroughs and Chairmen of Urban District Councils, and finally by private individuals who had either served in, or had had relations in, the Regiment.

#### FREE JOURNALS

The Editor wishes to thank the following readers for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions for a year so that free copies of *The Die-Hards* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades: Major C. F. Carvell, Capt. W. H. Craydon and Capt. O. G. Johnson.

## Middlesex County Council 1889-1965

(By Kenneth Goodacre, Esq., T.D., D.L., Clerk of the County Council of Middlesex)

After 76 years of local government administration, the Middlesex County Council will go out of existence on March 31, 1965, and its duties and functions, as with those of the London County Council, will be taken over to a greater extent by the new Greater London Council but to a greater extent by 32 newly constituted London boroughs.

There will be certain changes in the area of present-day Middlesex; most of the constituent districts which are so well known today will be regrouped and, in many cases, re-named on April 1; these changes will be as follows:

Middlesex districts	Greater London districts
Acton	Borough of Ealing
Ealing	
Southall	
Willesden	Borough of Brent
Wembley	
Harrow	Borough of Harrow
Brentford & Chiswick	Borough of Hounslow
Heston & Isleworth	
Feltham	
Twickenham	
Uxbridge	Joins Richmond & Barnes in the new Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
Ruislip-Northwood	
Hayes & Harlington	
Yiewsley & W. Drayton	
Hendon	
Finchley	Joins the Barnet and E. Barnet districts of Herts. to become the new Borough of Barnet
Friern Barnet	
Enfield	Borough of Enfield
Southgate	
Edmonton	
Wood Green	Borough of Haringey
Hornsey	
Tottenham	
Potters Bar	
Staines	Transfers to Hertfordshire
Sunbury-on-Thames	
	Transfers to Surrey

To realise why our ancient County will cease to be a separate administrative area, it is helpful to take a bird's-eye view of its development through the centuries and of its natural link with the City of London, always the chief market for Middlesex labour and produce.

The story of Middlesex reaches back to Saxon times and the earliest record appears in a charter of A.D. 704 in the old Latin form of "Middleseaxan." It is open to question whether this *middle* province, lying between the Saxon Kingdoms of Essex, Mercia and Wessex, was even an independent territory but it was the territory of the Middle Saxon tribe. The first written account of Middlesex appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086,

showing the division of the County into the six Hundreds of Edmonton, Gore, Hounslow, Spelthorne (names still in use today) with Elthorne and Osselstone.

In the years up to 1889 the administration of the County was in the hands of the Justices of the Peace and its area reached from Staines in the west to the River Lea in the east, surrounding that part of the City of London which lies north of the Thames. In the days of the Plague all deaths occurring within the most thickly populated area in and around London had to be recorded under the Bills of Mortality and when in 1856 a Metropolitan Board of Works was set up to administer major public services for London City and its environs, the area to which the Bills of Mortality had applied became the area of that Board.

The Local Government Act of 1888 provided for the establishment of county councils to take over the administrative functions of the Justices from April 1, 1889, and this same area was once more chosen for that of a new administrative County of London, denuding Middlesex of the greater part of its rateable value and population. It is not generally realised that until that time St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Palace of St. James, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and many other national landmarks were in Middlesex. Despite this reduction in its area and resources Middlesex prospered and its growth from an area of small towns and villages to almost total urbanisation is a phenomenon unique in our times. This very growth, however, gradually eliminated all visible boundaries between London and Middlesex and will result in a few weeks' time in the merging of the two counties into a new Greater London area.

It was in the early 1920s that the rapid development of Middlesex began and the stately mansions, the pleasant countryside and the nursery gardens of the 19th century have now been almost entirely swallowed up by housing and factory development although Hampton Court Palace, Syon and Osterley are amongst notable relics of past glories, whilst the Green Belt and many public open spaces have preserved some of the more beautiful rural parts of the County.

The present Middlesex Guildhall is the third on this historic site in Parliament Square. Opened in 1808 as a new Sessions House for Westminster, where Middlesex Sessions were held twice yearly, the first Guildhall then stood in the heart of Middlesex and the newly created County Council and its staff shared this small building for several years with the Court of Quarter Sessions. Between 1891 and 1893 the building was extensively altered and enlarged and a reconstructed Guildhall of small architectural merit was in use by May 1893. Thirteen years later an adjacent site was acquired and the present Guildhall, an entirely new building deemed

to be "large enough for all time," was opened by H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught on December 19, 1913. This building has remained the headquarters of the Justices and of the County Council but by 1965 sufficed only for some 150 of the County staff of over 50,000, about 2,000 of whom have been housed in five other Westminster offices.

Although there has always been a link between the Middlesex Regiment and the Middlesex County Council, it was from the outbreak of the second World War that a practical and warm association rapidly developed and this was due in no small measure to the esteem and affection in which Colonel Maurice Browne was held and to his untiring efforts to bring the Regiment into close touch with the people of Middlesex. At his suggestion the Regimental flag has been flown at the Guildhall on Albuhera day for the last 23 years.

A County appeal, launched by the Lord Latham of Hendon, then Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County, gave very material help towards the erection of the War Memorial cottage homes and the County Council provided the site at Enfield at a purely nominal rental on a 99-year lease. The Lord Lieutenant's Comforts Fund Appeal in 1951 for men of the Regiment serving in Korea was warmly supported by members and staff of the County Council and by the District Councils and nearly £5,000 was raised by this means. The luncheon

given by the County Council to officers and men of the 1st Battalion on the occasion of the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving held in Westminster Abbey on December 19, 1952, upon their return from the Korean campaign, was another instance of the strong association with the County Council.

The Middlesex Regiment has had its own proud associations with the County in recent years in the appointment in 1961 of the late General Sir John Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who early in his career served in the Regiment, to be Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County. Upon General Crocker's death in 1963, Lt. General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., was appointed to succeed him in that office and is the last Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex. It is, however, reassuring to know that H.M. Lieutenant for Greater London, Earl Alexander of Tunis, intends to appoint four Assistant Lieutenants, one of whom will assist him with his duties in the Middlesex area of Greater London.

We also learn that for the purposes of administration of justice, the north-west area of Greater London is to be known as the Middlesex area and that the Middlesex County Cricket Club has decided to make no change in its designation. The passing of an epoch can indeed be summed up in the words of Dryden—

"all things are but altered; nothing dies".



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## County of Middlesex Service

### St. Margaret's Church, Westminster



Guard of Honour formed up outside St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, prior to the County of Middlesex service at Evensong, October 4, 1964, showing the Colour Parties of the 1st Battalion (left) and 5th Battalion (right). Colour Ensigns (from left to right): Lt. P. F. Packham, Lt. P. J. Hubert, Lt. D. J. Margand and 2/Lt. M. L. Muirhead

For some years it has been the practice for the Chairman of the County Council to arrange a County of Middlesex service at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. The mayors of boroughs and chairmen of district councils in the county are invited to attend in their robes and chains of office and, with other civic dignitaries, are led in procession from the Middlesex Guildhall to the church by Her Majesty's Lieutenant and the High Sheriff.

At the last of these services held on Sunday evening, October 4, 1964, a guard of honour was supplied by the 5th Battalion (T.A.), with Colours of both the 1st and 5th Battalions, and formed up outside St. Margaret's Church.

On his arrival at the head of the procession outside the church Her Majesty's Lieutenant (Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.), was received with a Royal salute. He then inspected the parade before entering the church.

#### HILDERSHAM HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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3. The School is officially recognised by the Department of Education.
4. The school's prospectus may be obtained on application to The Headmaster, Hildersham House, St. Peter's, Broadstairs, Kent.

#### FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Sporting Life,"

Tuesday, February 9, 1915

Lord Kinnaird, president of the Football Association, has sent a letter to professional players urging those who have not yet enlisted in the Footballers' Battalion (17th Middlesex) to do so without delay.

(Extract from "The Sporting Life," dated February 9, 1965, and republished by courtesy of the Editor.)

## GIBRALTAR, 1921

Some Reminiscences of LT.-COL. S. F. W. M. del COURT, M.C.

I have enjoyed all the stations I have been posted to, but none more than Gibraltar. I arrived there by P. and O. from London in December 1920.

The Battalion was commanded by Col. Delano-Osborne who had been accelerated to command us from the Royal Scots Fusiliers. His son was then an infant in arms, and I was delighted to see him, in 1944, at the head of his Battalion of Royal Scots Fusiliers, going on a route march through Cape Town on their way back to England from the Far East.

My great friend, Horace Savile, who was in France with me in 1917, was the Adjutant in Gibraltar and I had a room next to him in Buena Vista Barracks, on a terrace above the Mess. The R.S.M., Ward, was superb, and of all Battalions I served with during my service, this was certainly the most efficient.

The Governor—Sir Horace Smith Dorrien—under whom the Battalion took part in the retreat from Mons (and we had been the first infantry to be engaged in action in 1914) could not think more highly of the Battalion, and we were indeed *persona grata* at Government House where no party took place to which we were not invited in force.

The old Spanish-built Government House, called The Convent, was spacious; cool in the summer and with a large verandah above the main door. From here the Governor made a speech to the populace on New Year's Eve, when a ball would be in progress. The A.D.C.'s were Alan Inverclyde and Porchester, whose father was a keen Egyptologist and had just unearthed Tutankhamen's tomb. Sloane-Stanley was an extra A.D.C.

Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt was the Admiral at the Mount and I bought a barb pony from him on which I hunted with the Calpé Hounds through the cork forests. I also raced him. The race course was at North Front and there was a rifle range on it which we used for firing out to sea. We had a detachment of one company at North Front commanded by Major Oliver who had a very nice house there. The rest of the married officers had houses along the road from the Alameda to Buena Vista.

In the summer there was an open-air cinema on the Alameda. Very few cars were allowed in Gibraltar in those days—except for the C.O.'s tin Lizzy and cars from Government House.

Below Buena Vista, at Rossea Bay, there was a swimming club with diving-boards and water-shoots. Domenico Prat was in charge and kept your costumes, and after a swim he produced the most marvellous cocoa. He was an old "Scorp" (Gibraltarian) and this was not a derogatory term as it probably is now.

After the New Year the Atlantic Fleet came in and we were detailed by the P.M.C. to call on certain ships. The Regiment had bought a small sailing dinghy from

Commander Holt which had been the life-boat of a German submarine which he had captured. Horace, who was a good yachtsman, and myself set out to call on one of H.M.S. Ships when a Levanta was blowing. A sharp gust capsized us and we were fished out of "the drink" to make a rather undignified appearance on the quarter deck.

I recollect a wonderful fancy-dress ball in H.M.S. Repulse in which Admiral of the Fleet Fremantle, C. in C, flew his flag and his son—a Rear Admiral—was commanding the Cruiser Squadron. The Duke of Kent went as an Indian prince and wore a turban with a diamond egret on it presumably borrowed from Queen Mary. When the party ended, he discovered he had lost it, but luckily an honest Matelot found it in the scuttles of the ship. There was an excellent supper and one of the Commanders, with a beard, acted as maitre d'hotel, while the midshipmen went round with trays fastened over their shoulders calling out "Chocolates! Cigarettes!"

We played a team of Naval Officers about twice a month at billiards and snooker at the Mediterranean Club.

In addition to being in Major Wollocombe's Company, I was commandant of the prison and detention barracks which were about half-a-mile from Buena Vista barracks. I used to find slips on my table showing that the warders had gone their rounds during the night. They had to clock in at various points.

I remember once an inmate was charged with his utensils being dirty. They shone like silver which surprised me—so I sent for a clean set to compare them. The punishments we could give were no. 1 or no. 2 diets. The latter a restricted diet while no. 1 was bread and water and had to be entered in a book which was inspected once a month by the visiting prison authorities.

Beyond the detention barracks you arrived at Europa Point and here Savile and I fished for the wily grey mullet. You could see hundreds of them cruising about, but to catch them was very chancy. The Dean had written a treatise on them. We had a broom handle threaded on the line and a gut cast with about twelve hooks which you baited with bread—not paste. The wily mullet would knock them off with their tails and then guzzle them up. Savile once caught a ten pounder, which made it a red letter day.

This was before the days of Primo de Reviera and there were casinos on La Linea—Caprimonto (where there was a golf course) and Algeciras. You could walk across the frontier at La Linea and a tin Lizzie would go from the Bristol Hotel to Caprimonto. There was no charge, and after a game of golf, we had tea at the hotel and played roulette.

I went on a short range-finding course to Hythe and



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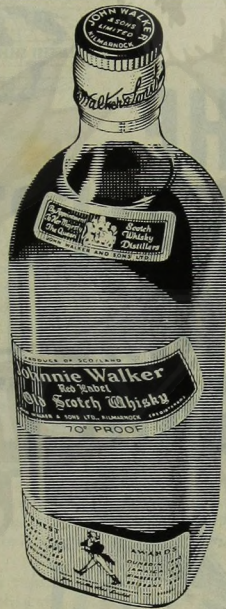


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the night before I sailed I looked in at the casino at La Linea to find Savile playing roulette. He asked me to lend him some money. This I could not do as I only had a couple of quid on me. He said: "I'll go back to the North Front and get some from the Mess Sergeant. Don't go away, and we'll go and have supper somewhere . . ."

About six o'clock he had not yet returned and I wanted a drink. I had a hunch that 3 would turn up but I only had about three pesetas left. I decided Horace could give me a drink when he returned and placed 1 peseta on the transversal 1, 2, 3, 1 on zero and 3 and 1 on 3.

The wheel spun and three turned up! So I got back a great many more chips than I had started with! I doubled up on all my stakes and three repeated! I doubled up again and three turned up for the third time. The only time this has ever happened to me. I had won about £150! I cashed in about £120 and gambled and lost the rest. When Savile returned we had a drink and left.

When I reached Hythe the railway strike was on, and the course was cancelled except for overseas students who lived and messed in the instructors mess. It was a very pleasant course at the end of which I returned to Gibraltar.

I saw one or two bull fights at La Linea. In one of them a well known star toreador was gored and killed by a bull, the bull refusing to be distracted by the toreadors and matadors who tried to draw him away from his victim.

In the summer at La Linea they used to have a marvellous fair with all sorts of side-shows. It was a colourful scene with the men in black tight trousers and black hats and the girls in Spanish combs and mantillas and bright coloured Spanish shawls.

This was before the days of air travel and V.I.P.s would go in the Blue Train to the Riviera and after a sojourn at Monte Carlo or Cannes, return by P. and O. from Marseilles to break their journey at Gibraltar and stay at Government House.

I remember Austen Chamberlain staying there and also Birkenhead, who was a first class bridge player. At the end of 1921 the Prince of Wales arrived in the Renown on the first leg of his tour to India. I commanded the guard of honour and Colam was the subaltern. We had innumerable rehearsals and I got extremely hoarse being coached daily by Ward, the R.S.M. in the words of command I had to give.

The Prince disembarked as an Admiral and came up to Buena Vista before luncheon in Welsh Guards uniform. He apologised for not wearing Middlesex uniform but he had only been appointed our Colonel-in-Chief two days previously.

We used to have breakfast on the terrace at the mess and you looked towards the Atlas mountains across the Straits. P. and O. and Orient ships coming in looked like models on the Serpentine.

We used to return to barracks in a ghyary which we hired from a livery stable run by Garcis, for he had two-horse victorias and the road was very steep.

Several married officers had their houses along this road, including Harold Glass, whose elder daughter

married Eric Hudson. These houses were charming and had very nice gardens. The front doors were on the top floor and you went downstairs to the dining-rooms and drawing-rooms. Harold Glass was a great character and most popular. When his company played football, the team got one egg per player for every goal they had scored.

We had a very good concert party. Butterfield was the pianist and several of the men had very good voices. One of the best was Hedgecoe. Savile produced a W. W. Jacobs sketch—the Ghost of Jerry Bundler.

The cast consisted of six officers. The scenery was made by Sgt. Woollard and Ptes. Bannock and Caine. The sketch took part in a country pub and a pike in glass case over the fireplace was most realistic

The Renown sailed at ten o'clock, the Rock was picked out with electric lights and there was a firework display over the bay which was a fine sight.

The racing at North Front was good fun. Some of the owners I recollect were J. Borge, Hernandez, Jarrett, Inverclyde, Jones, Lt.-Col. Pollak-Morris and myself.

Some of the sights in those days were the Moorish Tower of Homage, the Wall of Emperor Charles V. It was quite a time after I arrived before I saw any Barbary apes.

We dealt with Saccone and Speed for our wines and spirits. They were the oldest firm in the colony. In 1942 I reminded them that I had been P.M.C. in 1921 and they sold me 500 bottles of Dutch gin when I was in the Princess Irene Brigade at Wolverhampton, where Dutch gin was unobtainable.

We were relieved by the South Staffords. Gibraltar was to be a two-battalion garrison the following year and the Rifle Brigade arrived and moved into Lower Barracks. We put them up.

When I arrived in Gibraltar I had to call on all the married officers. Imagine my surprise and embarrassment when I called on the 2IC, Major Bicknell, to find his wife had been a V.A.D. at Lady Evelyn Mason's Hospital, 16 Bruton Street. I had overstayed my pass returning from a theatre by about half-an-hour and on the way to my ward had to go through the Nurse's Ante-room. She was fast asleep and woke up with a jump when I kissed her!

She said she would report me and I told her that she could be shot for sleeping on duty—but I would compromise if she gave me a pair of gloves!

Someone was enquiring in one of the daily papers recently about the first time that an English boxer fought a coloured boxer, and the answer was when Tom Cribb fought the ex-slave, Tom Molineux, in 1810.

Not known generally is the fact that poor Molineux later fell on hard times and suffered ill health and became dependent on the charity of two coloured bandmen of the 77th when the Regiment was stationed in Galway. They looked after him until he died—in their bandroom—in August 1818.

## SOUVENIR OF THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA

A relic of the war in the Crimea was recently bought by the Regiment. The relic consists of a pair of horns engraved with some historical details of the 77th during the years 1854 to 1856. They are silver mounted and in excellent condition, each of the larger horns having a small horn—or tip of another horn—joined to it at the point, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph.

These horns were originally seen in the window of an antique shop in Sully-sur-Loire by an officer of a W.R.A.C. (T.A.) unit serving in Major-General Wilmoughby's command when she was touring the Loire Valley with her husband last September. On her return she passed on the information to the General through his A.D.C. The General, in his capacity as Colonel of the Regiment, immediately got in touch with Col. Ian Burrows, now serving on the staff at S.H.A.P.E., who, as a result, made the trip from Paris to Sully-sur-Loire on October 17, went to the shop and acquired this most interesting relic for the Regiment.



The details engraved on the horns shown in the photograph are:

*Left horn*  
77th East Middlesex Regt  
Landed on the Crimea 14 Sept 54  
Number of officers and men  
Lost during the campaign  
Lost 15 Officers 876 men  
Names of Officers who died  
Lieut Col Graham Egerton  
Capt Dilke—Capt Crofton

Capt Lempriere—Capt Parker  
Capt Gilby—Capt Pechill  
Capt Nicholson—Lieut Walmsley  
Lieut Knight—Lieut Maine  
Lieut Alder—Lieut Browne  
Ensign Massey—Surgeon Macartney

Seringapatam, Ciudad Rodrigo  
Badajoz Peninsula El Bodon  
Alma Inkerman Sebastopol

*Small horn attached*  
Landed in England  
26 June 1856

*Right horn*  
The Allied Army landed on  
The Crimea 14 Sept 1854  
Battle of Alma 20 Sept 1854

Balaklava taken 26 Sept 54.  
Siege commenced 17 Oct 54  
Charge of Balaklava 25 Oct 54  
Battle of Inkerman 5 Nov 54  
Gale of wind 14 Nov 54  
Emperor of Russia died 22 March 55  
Rifle Pits taken 19 April 55  
Mamelon taken 7 June 55  
Lord Raglan died 28 June 55

Sebastopol captured 8 Sept 1855

G. Rudling 77th Regt  
J. Rushby 77th Regt

*Small horn attached*  
Peace Proclaimed  
30 March 1856

During the war in the Crimea the soldiers of the 77th collected the horns from the cattle killed as rations and from Crimean mountain goats, turning them into ink-horns and other useful articles as well as ornaments. They were often engraved with the Regimental badge and any incident or date interesting to the man carving, very much the same as 60 years later another generation of the Regiment made brass ornaments from shell cases and other debris of the battlefields in France and Flanders.

After the 77th returned to the U.K. in 1856 the Regiment was for 10 months stationed in Dublin, and it was here that a number of soldiers had the horns they had brought home with them engraved by their more gifted comrades. These horns engraved after the war are very similar in wording and a number have the same characteristic in the lettering, indicating that the same man did the work.

The pair of horns illustrated appear to be of those engraved after the return of the 77th, as it gives, in the smaller horns, the date of peace and the return to England.

It will be noticed that, although the honours authorised for the battles in the Crimea are included, that of "Mysore," the first honour won by the Middlesex Regiment, is not shown. This is due to the fact that the battle honour was not authorised until March 1, 1889.  
R.W.J.S.

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## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Since the publication of the last *Die-Hards* the following items have been added:

Two flags of Gen. Sir George Willis, G.C.B.  
British Crimea Medal of Capt. William Parker.  
Drum Major's Mace, 77th Regiment.

#### Two flags of Gen. Sir George Willis, G.C.B.

These two interesting flags have been obtained for the museum through the offices of Major F. A. L. Lawrence, a well known and respected long-serving officer of the Regiment. Major Lawrence is a Church Warden at Sopley Parish Church, where Gen. Willis is buried. In the past, Major Lawrence has written interesting accounts of the church and of Gen. Willis, one referring to these flags being published in the *Journal* of April 1956.

The two flags are:

- Personal Standard of General Willis.
- Standard of Arabi Pasha.

The personal standard is the union flag with a circular laurel wreath in the centre around the cypher "VR." The cypher is on a blue background, the wreath being surmounted by the Imperial crown. The crown is irregular in shape and the cross of the Greek cross than the "cross Pattee." These irregularities are understandable when it is realised the complete flag is locally made and hand-stitched throughout. Similar stitching of uniform length can be found on numerous pieces of repaired equipment and clothing now to be seen in various museums. The measurement of the flag is 6ft. by 3 ft. and was flown by Sir George Harry Smith Willis when he commanded Southern District and was Governor of Portsmouth.

The standard of Arabi Pasha—Ahmed Arabi—is a swallow-tailed red flag 5 ft. 9 in. by 2 ft. 10 in. with a cut of 2 ft. 6 in. This flag was flown outside the tent of Arabi Pasha during the Egyptian War of 1882 and was captured when the camp was overrun by the troops of the 1st Division, which Gen. Willis commanded, during the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir on the morning of September 13, 1882. This standard became the possession of Gen. Willis and was always on view with his other trophies during the General's lifetime.

Both the above flags were handed over to Sopley Church after the death of the General and for many years flanked the wall monument. Later they were placed in the chancel. The Parochial Church Council have now let the Regiment have them on permanent loan to join the other relics of the General, which are his medals and decorations, two Russian side-drums captured at the Battle of Alma by the Grenadier Company of the 77th under the command of Capt. Willis, an album of paintings by Sir George of various places in the Crimea and three oil paintings of the General. These paintings show Gen. Willis as an Ensign, aged 16½ years, a Lieutenant-Colonel in undress, frogged coat, and in field service uniform as a General during the Egyptian campaign of 1882.

Sir George Harry Smith Willis had a distinguished career; at the time of his death being Colonel of the Regiment. He held this appointment from March 24, 1897 until November 29, 1900. In addition to this appointment, he also held that of Honorary Colonel, 2nd Hants Artillery Volunteers. Prior to his appointment of Colonel to his old regiment he was Colonel of the Devonshire Regiment from June 1890 to March 23, 1900.

The only son of George Willis of Sopley Park, where he was born on November 11, 1823, he was commissioned by purchase as an Ensign in the 77th Regiment



Photo: Brent Studios, Hendon

Portrait, medals and trophies of General Sir George Harry Smith Willis, G.C.B., Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, 1897-1900

on St. George's Day, 1841, serving in Malta, Corfu, Jamaica, Nova Scotia and Canada with his Regiment. He was promoted Lieutenant August 30, 1844, and Captain December 27, 1850, and on the introduction of the Minie rifled musket, attended a course of instruction at Woolwich to learn, and to be able to instruct on the loading and firing of this weapon. When the new fire-arm was issued to the 77th, he with two Colour-Sergeants, trained the unit in the use of this weapon that was to prove so efficient during the war in the Crimea.

On the outbreak of the war with Russia in 1854, he embarked on the new iron vessel, the "Kangaroo," in command of the Grenadier Company of the 77th. The embarkation state shows the strength of the Other Ranks as five Sergeants, four Drummers (including the Drum-Major) four Corporals, 101 Privates and four women. The Grenadier Company were in action on September 19, 1854, during the affair on the Bulganac and the day following fought at the Battle of the Alma with the remainder of the 77th who were part of the light division. During this action, two Russian side drums were captured and these were used in the Regiment for many years. They are now to be seen at Regimental Headquarters, in use as coffee tables.

Capt. Willis took part in the skirmish at Mackenzie's Farm and at the capture of Balaclava, where the Governor surrendered his sword to the Commanding Officer of the 77th. It was during "the Soldiers' Battle," at Inkerman on November 5, 1854, that the training given by Capt. Willis was fully appreciated. Here the fire from the Minie rifles tore the Russian column to pieces. It was also where Capt. Willis owed his life to the loyalty of his Grenadiers.

Throughout the remainder of the War in Crimea he continued to give distinguished service taking part in the assault of the Quarries, the abortive attack in the Redan on the anniversary of Waterloo, June 18, 1855, the Battle of Tchernaya, August 16, 1855, and the final assault on the Redan, September 8, 1855. He served for seven months in the trenches, including the repulse of several sorties. Quite a number of times he was in command of the advanced trenches, being slightly wounded on several occasions during his tours, which amounted to over 100. For his conduct during the war he was given the Brevets of Major and Lieutenant-Colonel. His decorations and medals for this campaign were the British Crimea Medal, with bars, Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol; Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour; Sardinian and Turkish Medals, and 5th Class of the Medjidie. At the end of the siege he became D.A.Q.M.G. at H.Q. Crimea and later A.Q.M.G. of the 4th Division until the evacuation of the Crimea.

Following his activities in the Crimea he went to French North Africa and in 1857 was given a Personal Award by the Bey of Tunis. This year he returned to England and formed the 2nd Battalion, 6th Foot (now the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers).

He had been promoted Colonel June 20, 1862, Major-General June 28, 1868, and during his appointment in Command of the Northern District 1878-81, was promoted Lieutenant-General May 8, 1880.

When Arabi Pasha set up fortifications at Alexandria with the intention of using them against the British Fleet, they were promptly bombarded by the Royal Navy and the British Army went into action. This was the Egyptian War of 1882. The General was given the command of the 1st Division and was present at the engagements of El Magfar, Tel-el-Mahuta, Kassasin and in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir where he was slightly wounded. He was five times mentioned in Despatches and received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament.

In addition to this recognition he was made a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and received the medal with clasp "Tel-el-Kebir," the 2nd Class of the Osmanieh and the Khedive's Star.

After his return from Egypt he commanded the Southern District and was Governor of Portsmouth from 1882 to 1889. Whilst holding this appointment he was promoted General May 11, 1887. At this period he presented the altar rails to the Garrison Church. In 1895 he was advanced in his order of Knighthood, receiving the Grand-Cross of the Order of the Bath.

When he retired, he had two residences, Streatham Manor, Cambs, and Seabank. It was at Seabank that he died on November 29, 1900, after a full life as a soldier and being a well-known lover of sports, a hunter, yachtsman, fisherman, cricketer and oarsman. He was duly buried at Sopley where his grandfather, the Reverend James Willis had been both vicar and squire. His large polished marble tomb is to be found on the south side of the churchyard by the S.W. wall of the church. He appended a codicil to his will in which he desired permission for the erection of this memorial and if this was obtained a sum of £300 be left to the Vicar and Churchwardens to be invested, the income to be used for charitable purposes upon conditions that the Vicar and Churchwardens from time to time maintain in proper repair the memorial tablets and monuments relating to the Willis family in Sopley Church. Now, 65 years later, one of these Churchwardens who also served in the General's Regiment, is carrying out his wishes.

#### British Crimea Medal of Capt. W. Parker, 77th Regiment

The medal, with clasp, "Sebastopol," is the same as that issued to all ranks who served in the Crimea with the British Forces during the war of 1854-56. The medal was fully described in the *Journal* published in October, 1962.

Capt. William Parker joined the 77th Regiment in the Crimea on August 10, 1855, when he brought a draft of one Sergeant, one Drummer and 37 rank and file from the Depot Company in Malta.

At that time the allies were preparing for the assault on the Redan and from the date of his arrival he was continuously in the trenches until the assault on September 8. During the attack he was close to the ditch when he was shot through the neck with a musket ball and killed. The casualties to the 77th on that date were, in killed, one Captain, two Colour Sergeants, three Sergeants, two Corporals and 16 Privates.

This was the last action of consequence of the war in the Crimea as not only was a successful foothold gained on the fortress of Sebastopol causing the Russians to evacuate the town, but a total of 108 sail, mounting 2,200 guns were destroyed.

Out of the total of 334 days in open trenches before Sebastopol by the British Army, Capt. Parker had only been able to show his mettle for 30, but in this short time he is described by his brother officers as an excellent and brave man as is recorded by his Commanding Officer at that time. He was the last officer of the 77th

to be killed in battle during the war where his Regiment had suffered greater casualties in action than any other in the British Army.

#### Purchased

#### A Drum-Major's Mace, 77th Regiment

A Drum-Major's Mace, circa 1817, of the 77th Regiment has recently been added to the musical trophies and instrument section of the Regimental Museum.

The mace is similar in pattern to the current design except that the fittings are of white metal. The head has the battle honour "Peninsula" engraved within a wreath of laurels, the regimental number "77" being above with the word "Foot" between the figures and "Peninsula."

At this date the 77th was one of the Regiments of the British Army which wore silver lace and white metal fittings on their uniform. It was not until May 18, 1832, that gold lace and gilt ornaments were adopted by certain line regiments, which had previously worn silver, this change being made by King William IV on succeeding to the throne. The honour "Peninsula" was the first granted to the 77th although not the first won. The earlier honours "Mysore" and "Serengapatam" were not authorised until 1789 and 1818 respectively. It appears that the mace was engraved even before December 1817 when the honours "Ciudad Rodrigo" and "Badajos" were granted to the Regiment.

The Drum-Major was originally the principal drummer of the unit and for years was shown on the

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strength of Drummers on the regimental rolls. From this position he gradually increased in importance and carried a staff to keep time and eventually a mace, as is common with regiments now. It appears that this mace was in use from 1817 until the issue of new Colours to the 77th on September 25, 1835, the anniversary of the Battle of El Boden, fought in 1811. On presentation of new Colours, it was the common practice to present new Colour belts, Drum-Major's Sash and the Drum-Major's Mace; the new mace on this occasion being ornamented with gilt metal fittings and chain.

As well as taking his place at the head of the regimental music when on the march, the Drum-Major had the much less savoury duty of being present whenever a soldier was punished with the lash.

Normally, the mace was carried upright, or if at the trail, with the head to the front. At funerals it was carried at the trail with the ferrule leading. This particular mace has a grim history in this respect. The 77th was stationed in Jamaica when a remittent fever of a malignant nature broke out in February 1825. By September 21, the Regiment had lost 12 Officers, 11 Sergeants, four Drummers and 226 Rank and File out of less than 600 of all ranks who had landed in Jamaica in March 1824. Not only had the mace been carried so many times on these morbid parades, it had also changed hands as the manuscript history of the Regiment at that date shows. It reads:

"Deaths, February 3, to May 1, 1825, 138 all ranks, ten women, 22 children. Staff Sergeants lost, Sgt.-Major S. Varley, Schoolmaster-Sgt. J. McCutcheon, A/Sgt. T. Cash and Drum-Major A. Frazer."

The travels of the mace from 1835 until discovered by Col. Man are unknown but I am sure the history of it makes far more pleasant reading than that of the years spent in the West Indies. As said in the first paragraph it now rests in the Regimental Museum with other relics of the Regiment's drummers and bandmen of bygone years.

Presented by Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.

## THE DIE-HARDS

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# 1st Battalion Notes

## EDITORIAL

Well, all the rumour mongers were wrong. As far as is known, nobody forecast that our next move would be to Northern Ireland! We are now under orders to relieve 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorsetshire Regiment at Holywood in October 1965, after some inter station leave, and will be leaving Gibraltar by air in August or September. Holywood sounds a first-class station with a comfortable modernised barracks, excellent amenities and married quarters in plenty. Our future Commanding Officer, Major John Shipster, has already made a visit there and has confirmed the good reports that we have had from other sources. Holywood still preserves some of its identity as a coastal village in County Down but it is now linked with the North Eastern side of Belfast on the shore of Belfast Lough on the road to Bangor. So much for the future.

By far the most important event to us in Gibraltar in the past six months has been the decision of Franco's Spanish Government to impose restrictions on vehicle movement across the frontier between Gibraltar and La Linea. As those readers who know Gibraltar will appreciate, such restrictions affect the whole of the life on the Rock and change it from a convenient Spanish-European bridgehead into a claustrophobic "island" of constant rumours and rising prices.

Of course our British calm is still unruffled as this has happened before. For Spain has never officially recognised Gibraltar as a British Colony, and no doubt it will happen again but it does dwindle one's horizons. It is still possible to walk across the Frontier as the customs delays, at the moment, are only imposed upon vehicles (anything from three to six hours and in some cases longer) and it is also possible to take the passenger ferry to Algeciras across the bay from Gibraltar. The unfortunate Spanish work people and traders who come into Gibraltar daily are also being restricted in their movements and this has a further effect upon the daily life of the Rock.

We are now beginning to look at Tangier and Morocco with renewed interest for the summer as the "Mons Calpe," the vehicle ferry, is now back in service again after a refit in Scotland. The air ferry service is also convenient and reasonable in price.

In spite of all this the military life of the Battalion in Gibraltar and Tobruk is continuing unchanged along the lines reported in previous editions.

Gibraltar is very much a station of routine duties and routine ceremonial and there are no major events to report. The same applies to Tobruk where "B" Company is currently carrying out a further tour of internal security duty and desert training.

The strength of the Battalion is still remaining steady but it is not yet great enough to end our constant manpower problems. We need many more young soldiers and rely very much on all present and past members of the Regiment in U.K. to do everything in their power to encourage long service recruitment into the Home Counties Brigade and consequently to the 1st Battalion. There is no doubt that this current lack of soldiers is our greatest, almost only, problem and although it is easy to paint a rosy picture all will not be well in the 1st Battalion until we are well up to strength as the strong fighting unit that we have been in the past and will be in the future. In the meantime we are lucky to have so many devoted men in the Battalion that we are still able to find the rewards and pleasures of service and comradeship with the Die-Hards that all our readers know so well.

Perhaps the article, which follows later in these notes from a professional pen, will record a picture of our life here in Gibraltar before we leave.

#### 2/Lt. C. A. de S. Clayton

It is with deep regret that we record the accidental death of 2/Lt. Charles Clayton in Gibraltar on September 27, 1964. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family, relatives and friends. An obituary appears later in this edition of *The Die-Hards*.

#### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

The most notable event since our last notes was the departure of Sgt. "Fanny" Gibbs, the Orderly Room Clerk for the last five years, to 1 Queen's Surreys in Germany. "Fanny" had served with the Battalion continuously for over 15 years, surely a post-war record, and saw service in Hong Kong, Korea, Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Lydd and Gibraltar. We will miss his humorous vocabulary and the sound of his outsize "plates of meat" thundering through the corridors of Battalion Headquarters. We wish him and his family the best of good fortune in their new surroundings and heartily congratulate "Fanny" on his well deserved promotion to Orderly Room Colour Sergeant.

The empty chair of Sgt. Gibbs was speedily occupied by Cpl. Flynn, followed even more speedily by his promotion to Sgt. and the promotion of L/Cpl. Fordham to Cpl., thus completing the chain reaction. Congratulations to both.

A wind of change has been blowing through the office of the 2IC since September (apologies are offered to a well-known figure). Major Jeffcoat left us for the Ministry of Defence, London, quickly followed by the departure of Major Pielow in November for an appointment (quite unpronounceable or spellable by

the writer) in Paris. Major Carter is now firmly installed as 2IC and is obviously intending to stay with us for some time. Battalion Headquarters has taken on a "new look" since his arrival; the corridor now fully "coirpoted" from end to end and the walls hung with a few master-pieces of strange origin. Some pressure exerted by him on the M.P.B.W. and assistance from the Q.M.'s department has resulted in a fully equipped dark-room being completed from which we are producing all our own recruiting photographs within Battalion Headquarters.

New arrivals to the staff include Pte. Perrott from the Regimental Band, a native of Belfast, and Pte. Bailes after training in "C" Company. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one. Pte. Perrott came to us fully armed with his 1st Class A.C.E., including Military Calculations and Accounting; it is possible that he should have gone to the Pay Office!

We again held a very successful drinks and eats party before the Christmas break and exhausted the funds from our notorious coffee swindle. An excellent buffet was prepared by Mrs. O.R.Q.M.S. and the quality of the sausage rolls was much admired by the Company Commander, Capt. Fisher, who hovered over the plate until he had consumed most of them. Unfortunately Ptes. Perrott and Bailes were for Guard that evening and were not permitted to partake of the goodies (alcoholic type). However, Pte. Bailes collapsed on Guard Mounting and it was difficult for him to convince the Orderly Officer that he had been barred from the party!

L/Cpl. Walsh has returned to us after an extended tour in Tobruk and some U.K. leave, and his place in the desert has been taken by Pte. Doran. "Pedals" prised himself away for leave in U.K. over Christmas, and returned a short while ago, still without a tan, bu sporting a smart fur coat to convince us it really is cold back home.

The news of our move this year to Northern Ireland was received with much enthusiasm, particularly by the O.R.Q.M.S. because of the fishing possibilities, and by Sgt. Flynn, Ptes. Doran and Perrott, for whom it will be like home from home. Whilst our Gibraltar tour 'as been a happy one, we all look forward to a change of air in a new role.

#### P.R.I. and Messing

The P.R.I. Department never seems to have done anything exciting or unusual when the time comes to write of the past few months. Perhaps this is just as well as any really noteworthy happening would probably be some form of disaster, financial or otherwise. The period covered by these notes included Christmas, probably the busiest time of the year for the P.R.I. and his staff. As usual W.O.2 Hynson and his team of cooks produced really excellent meals on Christmas Day and we would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the cooks for their efforts over the Christmas period. This included not only Christmas meals in the Dining Hall but Teas and Buffets for the Children's Parties and Dances as well.

Cpl. Stopp and Pte. Flanagan are still with the P.R.I.

Department but Pte. Webb has left us, after attending a driving cadre, for the Signal Platoon. He can still be seen in or near North Pavilion, however, putting up or taking down cables. One can never be sure with the Signallers, none of the cables seem to go anywhere anyway.

One outstanding feature of the last few months has been the intensive sporting activities of all the P.R.I. staff. Cpl. Stopp has been living up to his name playing very well in goal for the Company, Battalion, Army and Combined Services Hockey sides. Pte. Flanagan, who improves with every game, is now a regular member of the Army Hockey side which won the Inter-Services League undefeated. Capt. Lloyd not to be outdone decided that if he could not get into the Company Hockey team regularly he would take up Umpiring. This he has done, successfully completing a course, and is now a qualified Umpire. The P.R.I. is also kept busy under, or rather, inside, the Rock. As a Guide for the Lower St. Michael's Cave he usually disappears once or twice a week with a party from a visiting ship or something and returns talking unintel-



The C.O. stirs the Christmas pudding assisted by the Messing Officer, Capt. I. M. E. Lloyd, and W.O.II Hynson, A.C.C.

ligibly about Stalagmites, Stalagmites, Rim-stone, Flow-stone and the rest.

On the messing side all still goes smoothly under the guidance of W.O.2 Hynson. Several new faces are to be seen in the kitchen these days. We extend a welcome to Cpl. Revera, Pte. Ballard, A.C.C., and Pte. Charlton (Butcher) and Pte. Jones who are Regimental Cooks. We also congratulate Pte. Hendley on his successful transfer to A.C.C. and hope he stays on our team for some time to come. On the debit side we have lost L/Cpl. Bassett who had to be sent home to a job in U.K. because of his wife's health. We wish him well in his new job.

Another new arrival, just before Christmas, was a second daughter born to Mrs. Flanagan at the Royal Naval Hospital. A sad note now, as it is necessary to

record here the impending departure of Cpl. Stopp to "A" Company for a spell of soldiering. It is impossible to summarise what Cpl. Stopp has done for the P.R.I. since he arrived three years ago. He will tackle any job and, with his vast experience of organising dances, draws and parties of all kinds, he will be sadly missed by this P.R.I. and we suspect many more to come. He is not being replaced at the moment owing to the shortage of N.C.O.'s in the Battalion so an extra burden will fall upon the shoulders of Pte. Flanagan and Sgt. Horder who will have to help out when not wrestling with 1/3 ozs. of tea and 1/2 eggs to balance the Messing Books.

#### THE CAMBRIDGE CLUB

Our last notes ended when we were preparing a Barbecue at the Nuffield Pool. This was a tremendous success although not very well attended. Those of us who were there had a wonderful time bathing and eating; so much so that the Sergeants' Mess held one a fortnight later. Soon after that Autumn came to Gibraltar but we kept up our regular meetings twice a month. In December we had so many other activities that we did not hold an evening meeting. Once again there were two Christmas parties for the Children—one for the smaller ones and one for the school children. A little committee of wives packed 240 parcels in record time one morning. Our grateful thanks also go to Capt. Lloyd, W.O.2 Hynson, Cpl. Stopp and others. At the Schoolchildren's party we were entertained by a versatile Petty Officer from H.M.S. Rooke, who did a lot of tricks with blazing torches. We have not heard of any children trying it at home! Now that nearly everybody lives out at Europa, we have started a monthly Tombola afternoon and in February we are planning to hold a "Bring and Buy" sale in aid of the R.S.P.C.A. and our Europa Wolf Cub Pack. We also have one of our popular Games Evenings scheduled, with some entirely new games to confound our members.

Our Cub Pack has been running for three months now and has a total of 18 Cubs. All this is due to Mrs. Tarry and Mrs. Thomas (R.A.D.C.). However, since they are beginners, Mrs. Williams—wife of the Chief Clerk of Fortress Headquarters—has kindly been running the pack as Akela. Mrs. Tarry of course will carry on when the Battalion moves to Ireland but we hope that we have got two Sergeants interested and that they will take over in due course. All the Cubs are most keen, and the mothers are very grateful to Akela and the others.

The Quiz season is in full swing. Mrs. Waite was selected to represent the Battalion in the Army team for "What Do You Know" on local Television. As well as this, she is Captain of our Wives Club Team, who have so far survived on "Top of the Rock," a programme on the Forces Network. We reached the semi-finals last year. The other members of the team this year are: Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Dodkins and Mrs. Benson, with Mrs. Watson as reserve.

In the last few months the Club has lost some very good members and three Committee members. Mrs. Eastap, Mrs. Steward and Mrs. Davies were all very

keen and helpful on the Committee and other good members who have left are Mrs. Day and Christine, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Blackwell, Mrs. Shinn and Mrs. Ward. In their place we welcome back to the Club: Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. (W.O.2) Da Costa.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

##### Training

The members of "H.Q." Company Office always have a slight glow of pride when they manage to produce any soldiers for training—the job of prising men out of "employed" posts is an unenviable one. The honours must go to the C.S.M. for the period under review, however, as he managed by proclamation, persuasion and profanity, to turn out the whole Company twice—once to form the large part of a very impressive Guard of Honour for HE The Governor on the occasion of the opening of the Legislative Council and the other, on consecutive Saturdays, for the Annual P.E. Tests. The Guard of Honour rehearsals were instructive to say the least and to start off the sound of soldiers assembling sounded like a Regimental Reunion—some obviously had not met for months.

The P.E. Tests caused mild amusement at the expense of the O.C. and the C.S.M. On the occasion when both accompanied a large squad on the nine mile "bash"—they were pounding along the Upper Rock—they found, somewhat to their consternation, that all the rock apes had turned out to watch them go past to an accompaniment of cheers (jeers?) and other ape-like noises.

##### Sport

We have cause for congratulation for the enormous amount of work put in to all sports by members of the Company during 1964. The final results were worth all the effort, and our greatest achievement must surely be that we were the only sub-unit out of 11 to compete in every sport contested on the Rock. We are now well in to the second half of the Winter Season and are lying in first place in Hockey, second in Badminton and fifth in Soccer; last season we undertook these sports mainly for the benefit of the exercise involved, so it is obvious that the lessons learned then are bearing fruit. In road running we have also had a steady supply of enthusiasts and at the time of going to press we are preparing for the boxing. The details of these sports appear elsewhere but we must give special mention to C.S.M.I. Meadows without whose unflinching keenness, many sports—and individuals—would have flagged, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps for his unstinted interest as cox of the whaler rowing crew and of course his crew members, C.S.M. Garraty for his ability to persuade anyone capable of standing that he is fit to run round the Rock, and all the other "reps."

##### Personalities

Major N. G. Pepperall

Once again a change of O.C. as Major Pepperall was unexpectedly rushed away to Newcastle as Brigade Major of a T.A. Brigade. Capt. Fisher took over the



Company on September 10—we are told this is his birthday. He has not said how he liked his present! Meanwhile we wish Major Pepperal and his family a pleasant stay in the far North.

#### Capt. A. B. Cowing

Welcome to our new R.S.O.—fresh from his job as A.D.C. to the Colonel of the Regiment. More news in the Signal Platoon notes.

#### C.S.M. M. Eastap

We wish every good fortune to C.S.M. Eastap on his appointment as R.Q.M.S. with the Gurkha Rifles in Sarawak and welcome C.S.M. Garraty who already knew all the Company hideouts.

#### Signal Platoon

This last quarter has been an extremely busy one for the Platoon. Sgt. Pritchard has handed the chair over to Capt. Cowing who has returned as R.S.O. We welcome him back, but wonder for how long, as R.S.O.'s seem to leave us as quickly as they arrive.

Our ties with the Royal Navy were renewed when eight members of the Platoon were given a lift to Lisbon in H.M.S. Maidstone and told to make their own way back to the Rock. The ship left Gibraltar on a Wednesday, arriving at Lisbon on Friday; from there, the lads were split up into pairs and set off on their return journey. First to arrive back were Ptes. Paul Walsh and Mouse Galloway who reached the frontier gates in La Linea early Monday morning. By late Tuesday evening all had arrived back. A very good time had been had by all.

Next on the list was a refresher cadre which lasted for five weeks. This managed to run without any interruptions; they say miracles do happen. All the old hands attended and also a few new members, Ptes. John Hamill, Albert Hayes 79, who has a brother in the Company Stores, Alan Page and Bob Webb from the P.R.I. Two exercises were carried out with our full range of equipment for the first time since our arrival. Three nights were spent on the top of the Rock and most of the Platoon will now know their way round from one side to the other. Pte. Alan Page certainly won't forget in a hurry!

Congratulations go to Pte John Hamill who gained first place with 87% in the final tests. Hamill who came to us from Boy's service at Oswestry in September has certainly made his name and place in the Platoon. Well done.

In our last notes we mentioned that Pte. Snowy Phillips was engaged; he is now married and we offer our good wishes to him and Mrs. Phillips. Congratulations also to the Slaters on the birth of their daughter Tina.

Pte. Jim Hannaford once again is a Lance-Corporal, and has now taken over as I.C. Despatch Riders from Cpl. Dave Stephenson who has left us for the Gymnasium prior to a posting to Oswestry as a P.T. Instructor.

Arrivals to the fold since our last notes are Ptes. Hamill, Hayes 79 and Page from "C" Company;

Ptes. Higgins, Hardy and King from "B" Company; Ptes. Brown, Williams and Ryan from "A" Company; Pte. Webb from P.R.I. and Ptes. Reddings, Scott, Hutton and Stones, our latest arrivals from the last draft out of "C" Company. We wish them well and hope that they will settle down and enjoy life in the Platoon.

On the sports field we have L/Cpls. Brian Morley and Larry Lambourne in the Army Team (football), Ptes. Bert Hayes and Mick Gilham road running. Pte. Terry Theobald is playing for the Company at football and Capt. Cowing is now running the Battalion hockey as well as playing squash for the Army "A" and (he hopes) badminton as well. L/Cpl. Jim Hannaford plays football regularly for Fortress H.Q.



Training on the Rock—L/Cpl. Stewart (right) and Pte. Hayes

The Platoon were suddenly surprised to find themselves at the Gymnasium recently playing an exhausting hour's three-a-side Shinty tournament. It was great fun and we look forward to more Platoon sport.

Capt. Cowing paid a fleeting visit to Tobruk to visit the Signal detachment and to check how things were done in the desert; we think he met the school-teachers. The Signal notes for Tobruk appear with "A" Company's notes; please read them.

At present a 12-week Signal cadre is in progress. The results of this will be published in the next issue. We shall also be starting the Reconnaissance Platoon on their Signal Training soon.

Sgt. Weston has rejoined us after an absence of three years at the School of Signals where he made the grade as Q.M.S.I., now he is back to B.O.S.

Last, but not least, we hear that ex-Cpl. Tim O'Riordan is a policeman in Surrey, so watch out when you pass through Guildford.

#### M.T. Platoon

On October 19, 1964 we saw the start of the fourth Cadre in the series of Standard One Class Drivers. Those taking part in the instruction were Ptes. Eddie Elliott, Ginger Hill, Frank Saunders, Bob Wright, Brian Murray and Jeff Tydemann who joined the others in the second week. They all passed except one; no names, no pack drill!

Also on the 19th, L/Cpl. Tony Harding and Pte. Del Halfhide began an N.C.O.'s Cadre. L/Cpl. Harding came second in the final result. Congratulations to him. He was heard to say "I have never worked so hard and so long on my boots before." (Shades of "Boots" Barnes a driver with similar inclinations).

With Christmas looming ahead it was decided that the Platoon would have a Dinner and Christmas Draw, to be for "members only." The Dinner was held on December 18, at the Ascot Bar, which served us very well. The Draw was held after the Dinner and Pte. Tony Casey won the first prize of an electric razor. The evening was a tremendous success, thanks mainly to the organisers, Cpl. Ken Baxter, L/Cpl. Eddie Pearson, L/Cpl. John Stewart and Ptes. Dave Fletcher and Robin "Blossom" Flowerdew. Many thanks to you all.

Many changes have occurred since the last issue of "Wilds West Transport Ltd." C/Sgt. John Martin, M.M. has taken over as Foreman from Uncle Tom (W.O.2 Steward) and Cpl. Ken Baxter from Sgt. Danny Burke. Uncle Tom's Cash Box (the coke machine) is still turning out the lolly but now Ken has his eagle eye on it. Cpl. George Whitt has been deposed as Details Clerk and has handed over to the able handed Cpl. Ray Cleasby.

We wish to take this opportunity to welcome those who have joined the Platoon. There is plenty of work for you to carry out. Also to those who have left us, cheerio, good health and we wish you the very best in the future.

Ptes. Alex Boyd and Ken Toohey are at the moment on an N.C.O.'s Cadre and are trying hard to become members of the Corporals Mess. Congratulations to Cpl. Cleasby on his promotion; the current opinion is that they are giving them away.

Pte. Ken Toohey attended and passed a Driving Instructors' Course at A.M.T.S. Bordon and was graded "B." Well done Ken. Pte. Bob Wright was suddenly whisked away to the U.K. in a matter of days to attend a Driving Instructors Course. We await both Bob and the result. Also in U.K. attending an M.T. Sergeants Course is Cpl. Dick Croskell.

#### The Gibraltar Security Police

This is the most sought after job on the M.T. There are three drivers who work for the G.S.P. and they change regularly except for one, L/Cpl. Harry Creaser.

Harry, as far as the M.T.O. is concerned, is a member of the G.S.P.

He is only seen on Pay Parade and when he has to fill his vehicle up with the necessary fuel and oil; after that we are lucky to smell him, never mind see him.

The job is in three shifts of eight hours during which they change over the Duty Policeman with the next for duty, and do security patrols with a member of the police as a passenger.

Those working with Harry Creaser at the present are Ptes. Eddie Elliott and Brian Wiles. Eddie Elliott has been posted to the Gibraltar Apes Held Strength just recently because he has spent so long chasing them.

Well this is the last edition whilst we are stationed on "the Rock." So as we say goodbye to the Rock we look forward to our next station in Northern Ireland.

#### QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The department's employment and duties have continued with a major effort directed towards the provision of better living conditions. Space heating, redecoration of accommodation and the provision of more comfortable bedding for the underprivileged section of our community have all helped towards this end. P.E. Tests, Battalion Duties and a shortage of staff have necessarily interrupted the even tenor of our life at times, but morale continues high.

Cpl. Jamieson, Ptes. Carpenter and O'Connor continue to be fully employed in the Regimental Pioneer Shop, whilst the latest addition to the staff, Pte. Russell, has provided some very fine signs and murals for the Battalion. Cpls. French, Stubbings and Tuvey have now solved most of the difficulties concerning Navy supplies and a continuously fluctuating Battalion population. Pte. Beall has replaced Pte. Pollard as the Q.M.'s Batman and his cheerful disposition and energy made him a welcome addition to the staff. Ptes. Chalmers and Amor continue to cope with the tremendously involved Naval Vouchering procedure as well as the normal documentation. At one time, when L/Cpl. Caton and Pte. Ayliffe had left us on completing their engagements and Pte. Amor was in hospital with a slight internal injury, Pte. Chalmers did the work of four men! He worked unceasingly and uncomplainingly for four weeks and throughout displayed the resourcefulness and initiative required of the Infantry Clerk.

Throughout the last few months various attempts have been made to remove us from our pleasant accommodation at Rosia, in order to make way for other military departments outside the Battalion which have cast envious eyes on our little Empire with its pleasant and interesting surroundings and wonderful views. These attempts, however, were slightly premature, as there is no suitable alternative accommodation available at present and will not be until the Europa Barracks are completed. It appears therefore that we shall remain here for the remainder of our tour.

Everyone in the department has his own particular sport and the list is pretty extensive—Bowls, Fishing, Squash, Football, Badminton, Road Running and

Judo. Our outstanding sportsman is, however, Cpl. Tuvey, who has regularly represented the Battalion in Road Running and Football and who has recently been selected for an Army Team Trial (Gibraltar,) and Cfn. Houghton (R.E.M.E.) who has recently returned from a seven months tour in Tobruk where he was a member of the winning Army Team in the Tobruk—El Adem Road Race. He is now training for the Gibraltar A.A. Road Races and hopes to become a permanent member of the Battalion Team. His place in Tobruk has been taken by L/Cpl. Meller (R.E.M.E.) who, recently married, enjoyed Christmas leave with his wife in U.K., before joining "B" Company for the move.

S/Sgt. Girling who is the senior member of the R.E.M.E. stationed on the "Rock" finds himself more and more involved in policy decisions, and therefore has been dubbed "the A/C.R.E.M.E." He has recently carried out the Annual Weapons Inspection for the various military departments on the "Rock" and was heard to retort to a humorous overture for a good report, that if all these individuals got the award they wanted (an oblique reference to the New Year's Honours List) he would have to earn a disciplinary award for himself, or words to that effect.

The various Christmas festivities will no doubt be reported fully elsewhere. We shall, therefore, only observe that all members of the staff enjoyed themselves to the utmost, especially the R.Q.M.S. who has always maintained that he has never been fortunate where raffles or draws are concerned, but managed to win a valuable prize in every draw that he entered (with the exception of the Gibraltar Government Lottery).

As we forward these notes for editing we are busy preparing for Boards of Officers, Stocktaking, Annual Administrative Inspection and the move to Northern Ireland, but besides work and duties we also know that the warmer weather will soon be here and the delights of the sea, sun and sand can once more be enjoyed, for, after all, everyone has their own way of relaxing and it is not all work.

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—Yes indeed!).

#### BAND

During the last few months of 1964 the Band was kept quite busy doing the usual Dinner nights, "Divisions," Convent Guards and Ceremonies of the Keys. We were fortunate enough to have the Royal Marine Band from H.M.S. Surprise to give the marching display on the last Keys ceremony. Mind you we had to march the Keys to the Casemates and back.

We welcome newcomers to the Band: Bdsms. Victor Peterson and Alfred Tubb, Trombone and French Horn respectively. We also welcome back Bdsms. Victor Johnson, Oboe, Michael Roberts, Bb Cornet and Anthony Nash, Percussion, hoping that they have enjoyed their stay at Kneller Hall.

The Band said farewell to Sgt. Roy Day who now has a permanent posting to the Junior Bandsmen's Wing at Canterbury. We also said "au revoir" to L/Cpl. Barry Eldred who went to Canterbury Junior Wing as an instructor.

We congratulate the following: L/Cpls. Dennis Binns, Bernard Yates, Anthony Reide, Patrick Kerrigan and Cpls. Clive French and Ronald Cooper on their promotions, and to L/Cpl. Dennis Binns and his wife Kay on the birth of a son David Paul. We have also just heard that Mrs. Shirley McShane has had a son, Timothy. Mrs. Margaret Clark and Mrs. Karla Crompton are also expecting new arrivals in the New Year.

The Band Darts Team are competing against the Prince of Wales—a local civilian club—for the Dallas Groceries Cup. Both teams have a game each to their credit. The third and final match is to be played in June. Two Cups have been donated to the Band, namely the Red Barrel Trophy presented by Lewis Stagnetto for an individual "501," and won by Bdsms. Bryan Crompton, the runner-up being Bdsms. Kenneth Clark, and the Darts Cricket Cup presented by L/Cpl. Michael O'Brien, Regimental Police. This was also won by Bdsms. B. Crompton, this time the runner-up being Cpl. Clive French. These two competitions are to be played for every six months.

On Monday, December 21, we held a Christmas Draw and Dance which was quite a success. Most of the prizes were won by our guests, and 5 per cent of the profit was sent to the Cheshire Homes in Tangier. Music was supplied by a Band of wandering Beatniks, a good group of folk singers who called themselves "The Young Californians." Christmas was enjoyed by all, except the Bandmaster and Cpl. Ronald Cooper, who were both unfortunately unwell, but we hope it did not upset the Christmas spirit too much!

Once again the married members of the Band invited those of us who were not in that fortunate position to be at home for a Christmas Dinner and the necessary drink! One of the few times when the Band Bar was empty.

Members of the Band have appeared and taken part in the local television programme, "Spell a Song" contest. The winner in one of these programmes was a Band wife Mrs. Kay Binns. Not to be out-done members are also representing the Battalion on the radio in a quiz called "Top of the Rock." So far the Band team have beaten the Wrens.

We are doing quite well in the sporting world—as usual! We have representatives in nearly all Company and Battalion teams. Sgt. Alec Torrie and Cpl. Clive French have played Hockey and Basketball, Sgt. Colin McGowan and Cpl. Ronald Cooper, L/Cpl. Anthony Reide in Badminton, while Bdsms. Victor Johnson kept the side going in Football. We have just started playing various games with the Corps of Drums on Thursday morning. One of the opposition was heard to comment "We can beat these old men." However we have given them a very good run for their money! So far we have beaten them at Football 4—2, Hockey 2—1, and drawn 13—all at Softball.

Now that we know that we are being posted to Northern Ireland, we hope that L/Cpl. Bernard Yates will start giving up the Paso Doble and concentrate on the Irish Jig.

Our first social function this year has been a "Smok-



1. Pte. Chalmers, one of the Q.M.'s clerks. 2. Cpl. French already preparing for the move to Northern Ireland. 3. C/Sgt. Lagden watching the ships go by. 4. R.Q.M.S. Waite at the entrance to Q.M.'s office, Rosia. 5. Capt. P. Donovan—"Greenfingers"

ing Concert" which was held on January 23. The Officers, Sergeants and Corporals Messes were invited and a good time was had by all. On February 19, the Band are having their quarterly Dinner and a varied selection of guests have been invited.

#### CORPS OF DRUMS

##### Morocco

On the last day in August we embarked on the Mons Calpe and sailed for Morocco. It was a gusty day and the crossing was not very comfortable. Tom Terry found it not only uncomfortable but embarrassing as, while on the way from the Bar with a pint in hand he lost his balance and fell in the lap of a sleeping passenger, spilling the beer over both of them.

On arrival in Tangier Dave Dawson as navigator saw that we got to Casablanca without too many detours. We found this place fascinating, a mixture of the very modern and the very old and not at all as we imagined it would be. From Casablanca we drove north in a leisurely fashion to Rabat. The capital of Morocco, this city (unlike Casablanca) is all very old—and malodorous.

Weighed down by our many purchases we eventually returned to Tangier where we spent our last few days of freedom in a very choice bar run by a wonderful French couple.

##### A.T.T.s and D.E.T.s

Robert Marsh married Miss Margaret Cheeswright and Noddy Davidson married Miss Regas Banagar, we wish them the best of luck in the future. L/Cpl. Butler returns to us from Hythe just as L/Cpl. Terry leaves us for the same place. We welcome to the Drums two new men from the Depot, namely, Drms. Clare and Horrocks.

##### Casualties

Cpl. Holman having recovered from a fractured foot is again in the Royal Naval Hospital with an infection in his spine. He seems to have been smitten with bad luck in Gibraltar, we wish him all the best and hope he recovers soon.

#### NEWS FROM THE GYMNASIUM

The gymnasium continues to prosper being used extensively by "C" Company and Rifle Company with the Band now beginning to appear every Thursday. The Drums, however, are the top P.T. fanatics using the gymnasium every day with the accent on Shinty, owing to the fact that the Drum Major is unable to resist anything involving violence and a hockey stick.

The P.T. Staff consists of the same old faces and L/Cpls. Jacklin, Clements and Ptes. Carty and Temple have been spending their moments of relaxation gathered in the A.I.'s room eagerly demanding yet more stories of Liverpool and the Beatles from the long suffering C.S.M.I.

Best wishes from all the staff and PEPE go to Pte. Les Temple and family who have left us for as cushy posting to U.K. Thanks for the Christmas Card Les, it was nice to hear from you again.

L/Cpl. Clements is up to his eyes in Football, Badminton and do we hear wedding bells...? We could have had a double wedding had L/Cpl. Jacklin, "H.Q." Company Whaler, been fast enough to catch up with the (unfortunately) much faster Yola of the W.R.A.F.—Ring Fortress 55 for voluntary P.T.

#### LIFE WITH THE "DIE-HARDS"

##### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT STANDS FIRM IN GIBRALTAR

(BY DONALD LESLIE, M.B.E.)

On the great Rock of Gibraltar, nearly twelve hundred miles from Middlesex, the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), a name famous in Army history, continues to stand guard.

It has stood guard, in fact, these past 18 months, just as other British troops have stood guard on the Rock since its capture by us in 1704.

Middlesex, personified by its county regiment, has an honoured link with Gibraltar stretching over 200 years. Col. John Arabin, who in 1755 raised the 57th Regiment of Foot, from which the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment is directly descended, brought it to Gibraltar on its first overseas posting. He died there in 1757.

From time to time throughout the years Middlesex soldiers have returned to Gibraltar, again to share in its garrison duties.

I was thinking of this on a recent visit to the Battalion as the R.A.F. Transport Command Comet, which brought me from Lyneham (Wilts.) in little over three-an-a-half-hours, swept in from the sea at dusk and swooped in final descent to the brightly lit runway.

I was thinking, too, of the saving of time in the new regular air conveyance of troops—and of their resultant convenience and comfort—compared with the old troopship days and whatever other forms of sea transport or troops there existed before then.

I like to imagine that Col. Arabin and the rest of his gallant 57th had a calm, if leisurely, passage to Gibraltar in the age of sail—but, if so, certainly it was not the experience of the 1st Battalion when it went there from U.K. some 140 years later in the age of steam.

Writing his recollections of his service with the Regiment in the Regimental magazine, *The Die-Hards*, an old soldier described the voyage thus:—

"In December of 1893 we were transferred with other drafts by troopship to Gibraltar. The weather was heavy, and we were battered down most of the way. We slept in hammocks, and our food was Army biscuits. Drinking water was rationed, as was fresh water to wash in. Other things of the same standard." He also had this to say:—

"Gibraltar was a pleasant place to soldier in—a delightful climate with little rain and only occasional storms."

—But as to whether it is still a pleasant place for soldiering, on this there are mixed views.

The last time—the only other time I had visited Gibraltar—was in October, 1945, when on a flight from West Africa to London we put down at Rabat

(Morocco) before continuing to Gibraltar for an overnight stay.

Gibraltar, the end of World War II a recent event, was then, as I recall it, still largely on a war-time footing. The Rock teemed with Service activity. The grey warships, the ceaseless bustle on the airfield, the swarm of soldiers, sailors and airmen in the streets—these and a general air of grimness were my main memories of Gibraltar. How different it all is now!

On this occasion when I landed it was already lit up, the bright lights of the airfield merging into a gay pattern of light that covered the town and thinned away high up the Rock. More lights twinkled from neighbouring La Linea and across the water from other towns and villages in adjoining Spain. My first Winter's night in Gibraltar reminded me of a late Spring night back home. The sky was full of stars, the air mild and still.

Major "Nick" Carter, the Battalion 2IC, and Capt. Ronnie Fisher, of "H.Q." Company, were there to meet me and take me to the Fortress Mess.

The January dawn comes slightly later to Gibraltar than it does to Middlesex, and at 8.15 next morning it was still breaking daylight as I looked out over the sea to the Spanish mainland and the white buildings of Algeciras town that skirt Algeciras Bay. Misty cloud wreaths hid the mountain tops, for it was not yet sun-up, but there was prospect of a lovely day. And so indeed it proved to be.

At Battalion H.Q. at South Barracks I met Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan, M.C., who commands 1st Middlesex, and afterwards joined a small party of his men to make the acquaintance of the famous Barbary apes that live on the higher slopes of the Rock. I found the apes most friendly—friendly thieves, and cunning. We were advised to remove our caps, to close car doors, and to tighten our grip on anything carried. The advice was sound. Our driver, Pte. Tony Casey, of 47 Nestles Avenue, Hayes, offered an ape a biscuit which it took with outstretched paw, then, quick as a flash, whipped the packet from his other hand.

Back at South Barracks final preparations were being made for the departure of "B" Company to Tobruk, where they alternate with "A" Company in training spells of from three to four months.

Gibraltar, two-and-a-half miles long, its widest point just under a mile, has a population of 25,000 and is obviously totally unsuited for modern infantry training, which has been switched by Battalion arrangement to the great outdoors of the North African desert instead.

I talked with at least a dozen "B" Company members—from Major Chris Lawrence, M.C., the Company Commander, to 20 year old Pte. Raymond Barnard, of 7B Alma Road, South Harrow. What really impressed me was their keenness to get there.

"But why Tobruk?" I asked them. "Why prefer the desert to Gibraltar?"

The main reason lies in the soldier's love of travel and adventure, of action and change, in the unique comradeship of life in the field. All of which emerged in the course of their replies. All of which the 1st

Battalion The Middlesex Regiment is well fitted to provide.

There is, however, for some, at least, an added reason.

Gibraltar? Yes, still "a pleasant place to soldier in"—but not so pleasant as it was. No lack of sunshine, mind. A fair climate, a noble setting, and, if you want them, cheap drinks and tobacco (English cigarettes 1s. 10d. for 20), cheap jewellery and perfume. British-type "Bobbies" besides. Nevertheless, the little world of Gibraltar has become smaller. The new notorious hold-up of cars by the Spanish authorities at the nearby frontier affects the British soldier and his family, too. No longer can they enter Spain as easily as they used to enter—at any rate on wheels. It is very difficult, very tedious indeed, trying to get out of



L/Cpls. Bassett and Wittig with friend

Gibraltar by road. The Gibraltarians are not the only ones to suffer. They are not the only ones to feel cooped up and frustrated. The attitude of the Spanish authorities—ordinary Spaniards are quite friendly—is strongly resented.

I was at the airfield next morning when "B" Company left on the five hours' flight to Tobruk. With them went a "H.Q." Company detachment consisting of drivers, signals and cooks. The 100 officers and men climbed into the waiting Britannia, and we onlookers waved as we watched them down the runway. The big plane lifted seawards, wheeled and turned east. They return to Gibraltar in late April.

"A" Company, their Tobruk tour ended, flew into Gibraltar the same night. They looked fit, tanned and cheerful. They looked right on top.

Major H. J. A. Moore, the Company Commander, described to me the scope of their desert training, which includes the live firing of all Company weapons. When not at the R.A.F. Barracks, Tobruk, the troops camp



Naval Liaison—Sgt. Plumb on board H.M. Frigate, *Chichester*

in the open and live tough and rough. They practise map-reading and fieldcraft, engage in exercises, and, among other activities, do patrols, ambushes, and the manning of road blocks.

"They're dead keen," the Major commented. "The training is hard, but they love it. You ask them."

I asked. They confirmed what the Major said.

In the R.A.F. Tobruk-El Adem Christmas road relay race "A" Company entered three teams, and by finishing 1st, 2nd, and 4th, won the R.A.F. Cup.

I heard, too, of the Company's trip to Giarabub, an ancient Arab town 200 miles south of Tobruk, famous for its mosque. Of the visit, at the same time, to a former battlefield in the area, and to a petrified forest. Of the discovery of two mysterious lagoons, and how they swam in them. The party left Tobruk by trucks on December 28, and returned on January 2, having camped out at nights and celebrated New Year's Eve in the desert with "a bit of a jolly."

On one Saturday morning in Gibraltar I was invited to the Sergeants' Mess. R.S.M. Ray Dodkins and his Sergeants were very hospitable.

Later, I saw something of the Naafi facilities for the troops, and concluded that Naafi are doing a good job.

And then, on the Sunday evening, I walked down town to attend evensong at King's Chapel, the Garrison Church—a lovely old building in which, like their forebears, "Die-Hards" of past generations who served on the Rock, men of the Middlesex Regiment worship today.

After the service Capt. Andrew Cowing, of Harvard Road, Isleworth, who accompanied me, drew my

attention to one of the many memorial tablets on the chapel walls. It reads:—

"That here lie the remains of  
Colonel John Arabin  
of His Majesty's LVII Regiment of Foot  
and that he died on the  
16th day of February 1757  
in Gibraltar  
aged 56 years."

With memories of its glorious past, the Regiment raised by the Colonel over 200 years ago marches proudly into the future.

At the weekly ceremonial guard mounting outside the Governor's residence, Convent House, I joined the usual crowd of spectators, most of them Gibraltarians, who regularly assemble there to watch this traditional event. The music of the Battalion Band and Drums, the marching and counter-marching, the crisp drill movements of the new guard and the old guard—these and the impeccable turn-out of the Middlesex troops on parade made a picture in Main Street, Gibraltar, I shall always remember.

From the balcony above the entrance to Convent House, Lady Ward, wife of the Governor (Gen. Sir Dudley Ward), looked on throughout.

Then what of the Gibraltarians themselves, Her Majesty's exceedingly loyal subjects? How do they feel about the presence among them of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment?

I put the question to a cross-section of townspeople, and the answer in all cases was the same. They like and admire the Middlesex. The reputation of the Regiment stands high.

For my part, I am not surprised. I saw a good deal



The Convent Guard Command (Sgt. Lloyd, "A" Coy.) and Gibraltar police inspector after the weekly guard mounting ceremony at the General's residence

of the Battalion on my visit, and, an old infantryman myself, was much impressed by their spirit, comradely relationship and smart turn-out. I came to regard them in soldier parlance as "a good mob." Their present role may not be spectacular, but emphatically it is important. They are among Gibraltar's main custodians. They represent Middlesex—and stand for Britain. High up the Rock a new barracks is being



Colonel John Arabin's wall plaque in King's Chapel, Gibraltar

built to replace the old South Barracks. You must put your own construction on that.

The attractive lay-out of a new block of married quarters for Army families also impressed me.

On the morning I left by air for U.K. the "Levante," a whitish cloud peculiar to Gibraltar, hung over the Rock, denying me a farewell view of the summit, at its loftiest point just under 1,400 ft. high. In Gibraltar, however, the sun is never far away.

I arrived back at Lyneham a few hours later in half-a-gale and a driving snowstorm.

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### CAVALCADE OF THE THREE KINGS

Twelfth Night in Gibraltar is an occasion for great festivity. It starts with a calvalcade through the streets of the old fortress led by the Three Kings. Normally mounted on camels especially-imported from Tangier, the Kings lead the procession and then visit all the local hospitals distributing presents to the children's wards.

The honour of supplying the Kings this year fell to "H.Q." Company. Unfortunately no camels were available and so the Kings were mounted on horseback. The Kings were Cpl. Hilton, Pte. Alf Morrison and Pte. Dennis Clarke whom we borrowed from "B" Company and who added an unusual touch of realism to the procession as his colour brought him in line with the ancient legend.

After being interviewed for Gibraltar Radio and Television they led the procession of some ten floats provided by local firms and associations through the streets to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, where they were blessed by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar and then on to the dispersal point at the other end of the city. With some relief they then reverted to Infantry from Cavalry and went round all the hospitals.

The Company also supplied a float in the procession. The motif was the Crib showing the Arrival and Adoration of the Kings. Mounted on a three-ton vehicle a most realistic Crib was built by Cpl. William Jamieson and Pte. Tony Russell. The lighting effects were arranged by L/Cpl. Dave Lambourne. The Kings on the float looked even more "true to life" than those on the horses as the soldiers playing the parts were L/Cpl. Ray Latouche from Trinidad, again borrowed from "B" Company, Pte. Johnny Lim from Singapore and Cpl. Don Stopp. C.S.M. Garraty deserves all credit for organising and arranging the float and making a most realistic Joseph. Mary was played charmingly by Miss Janet Harrison, the daughter of S/Sgt. Harrison.

Unfortunately we did not win a prize but the float received many admiring comments from the huge crowd which turned out on a clear, cold night to watch.

### The Three Kings—By One of Them

We began to prepare for the Ceremony on January 4, by packing toys that had been donated by local residents and organisations; we finished in the early hours of the next morning.

On the evening of January 5, we reported to the Gibraltar United F.C. where we were dressed and prepared to take our parts in the procession. We then walked from the Club to Waterport Wharf (causing quite a stir in town) to meet our sturdy mounts that were to carry us all the way to "Bethlehem" (really "Scud Hill") via the centre of town. We met our dancing, prancing steeds at this moment; we almost, but only almost, had second thoughts about going through with it. As not one kind person provided us with any Dutch courage we did it on our own. Not that we could have escaped; we had been filmed by the Gibraltar Television unit and interviewed on Radio

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so we would have been the most wanted men on the Rock if we had disappeared.

After much waiting around the procession got under way, being led by the local Bugle Band and of course the star that we were to follow. For some reason we halted every hundred yards or so, probably to let the horses rest, but we eventually made it to John Macintosh Square where we waited for the Floats to be judged. We again moved on to the Cathedral to be met by the Bishop of Gibraltar who took us into the Cathedral and read the verses from the Bible which deal with the coming of the Kings to Herod. He then thanked us for appearing as the Kings and hoped that the New Year would bring peace to the world. After this we again went out into Main Street where we remounted our horses and rode on down to Scud Hill. From there we joined a group of singing Spanish Gypsies who took us to the local hospitals to distribute presents to the sick children of Gibraltar.

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### "A" COMPANY

Once again the Company has just returned from a three-and-a-half month tour of duty in Tobruk—the third since the Battalion was posted to Gibraltar.

Prior to leaving Gibraltar the Company ran a very successful Children's Swimming Gala in early August. Some 130 spectators attended and enjoyed a varied programme, including underwater races and a gruelling rubber ring race for nine-year-olds. Sgt. Lloyd proved an expert commentator and Mrs. Boulter very kindly presented the prizes. This was Major Pielow's final fling with "A" Company, as on August 13 we welcomed Major Moore from "C" Company, Major Pielow disappearing on leave prior to a short spell as Battalion 2IC before his departure for two years hard work in Paris—at least he was saved a third tour in Tobruk. A fortnight later Major Pollard escaped from B.A.O.R. at last and arrived as Company 2IC—a galaxy of Majors for Tobruk.

On September 16, the advance party left for Tobruk—as usual via Lyneham and London—leaving the Company to follow on a date that was still then "fluid." About this time too Lt. Hubert took an expedition to the High Atlas Mountains and Lt. Daniell disappeared for a week's so-called duty in Marrakesh. Sgt. Lloyd helped the Battalion Whaler team to second place in the race across the Harbour—their best performance of the season.

After much order and counter-order the Company flew to Tobruk on October 7, officers and senior N.C.O.'s having been suitably briefed beforehand by a very good lecture on Tobruk's part in the last war by Lt. Hubert. We occupied 103 seats on the British Eagle Britannia, the spare being for a Royal Naval Officer who wanted to go to Malta. However he was absent at time of take-off and so the flight was made direct to El Adem—our apologies to those friends in Malta who must have seen us fly overhead. "B" Company had quite a scramble to get to the airport at the revised time but appeared in good heart—there were the usual "once-every-three-and-a-half-month" reunions between old friends/enemies. We arrived in the barracks at Tobruk intact, no one having decided to make an immediate return trip with "B" Company. The advance party assisted by the few stalwarts left behind for a second tour had done a good job and settling in was easy. Even the officers managed to find at least one key to their rooms.

The next day we were threatened with our first visitor, the A.O.C-in-C. Near East Air Force, but fortunately his programme was altered and our blocks escaped. However, this was only a start and visitors abounded throughout our tour. The officers were quickly thrown into the social whirl with dinner the next night at El Adem—Ptes. Hayward, Nutt, Maguir, Manning, Kelty 04 and Williams, the Batman's Union, had strong views on this. However, the whole Company had a busy first weekend, with the "Across the Bay swim" and two games of soccer adding to the burden. The swim, over a mile course in Tobruk Bay, was a great event with some 84 competitors including families, and our team did well to take second place.

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## UNIVERSAL SUPPLIERS

177 MAIN STREET

Lt. Hubert was second home and might well have won but for the difficulty of seeing the finishing jetty from the start. He was ably supported by Sgt. Scott, Ptes. Williams and Solomon. We lost both games of soccer, being beaten by the R.A.F. and Muktar—a local club. Pte. Morgan conducted both games nobly from his goal and picked the best teams available but more acclimatisation was obviously needed.

All platoons spent the first full week in barracks on weapon training and I.S. The A.D.M.S. Malta and Libya, Col. Richards, paid us a visit to discuss hygiene and went away happy—he was lucky enough not to meet the Officers' Mess cockroaches, a pleasure reserved for an R.A.F. expert some weeks later. This first week was also S.S.A.F.A. week and everyone was most impressed, even if a little impoverished, by the all-out effort made by all ranks of the R.A.F. We entered a team at very short notice in the swimming gala, coming a creditable fourth out of eight teams. Our Across the Bay swimmers again did well. Pte. Ziekenopasser came second to the N.E.A.F. champion in the diving and we won the medley relay easily. Cpl. Fleet and L/Cpl. Brett put in some hard work in the breast stroke events. A fishing booth and dart stall were our contributions to the Fete on the final Saturday of the week; 2/Lt. Falcke, Cpls. Ward and Fisher and L/Cpl. Jones worked hard. The Officers' Mess El Adem held a horse racing evening, providing a horse called "Die-Hard" in the fifth race. This had to be ours but a so-called friend in the R.A.O.C. took bidding up to £6 and then in spite of selecting a school mistress suitably adorned in red and yellow as jockey, the horse did not get a place. However, over £400 was collected in the week so all losses were in a good cause.

No. 4 (Support) Platoon were the first into the bondu, setting up a reasonably comfortable camp near the sea in Area "D"—N.E. of Umm Ere Zum to those who know; No. 2 Platoon enjoyed caving at Pilastrino. The Signals, ably controlled by Cpl. Stewart, found the 80-odd miles to Area "D" by H.F. easy and the two-and-a-half miles to Pilastrino on V.H.F. impossible; no doubt Pte. West remembers. No. 4 Platoon also tried some duck shooting, though their request for L.M.G. ammunition was thought unporting. The week's tally was two small sand grouse and an even smaller duck, but at least the M.T. wanted to stay on for another week to join No. 1 Platoon and Lt. Daniell. Their shooting was even worse.

The first of some peculiarly ill-fated games nights with the R.A.F. was held at El Adem on October 25, but at least they are now a regular Sunday evening event—we hope! The W.V.S. organiser, Miss Hopcroft, very kindly organised many such evenings in the face of considerable "bad luck"—teams waiting at both Tobruk and El Adem thinking they were at "home," refreshments ordered but never produced, etc.! This week also produced the first C.S.E. show—a practically monthly event, El Adem/Tobruk being considered in need of such visits. Very few attended in the cinema, though the subsequent appearances in the Officers and W.O.'s/Sgts. Messes went quite well. "The fabulous Fleerekkers" were obviously "resting" but the "Teresa Duffy Show" just before Christmas

was good. We left "B" Company to cope with January's all male show.

On October 29, the Deputy Commander Malta and Libya, Brigadier the Lord Grimthorpe, accompanied by Col. C. A. Morris, Commander Cyrenaica Area, visited the Company and lunched in the Mess. They were followed next day by Major Gilmour, the new D.A.A. and A.M.G. from Benghazi, who went away with a very full mill-board.

A depleted hockey team took the field on October 31, the officers being busily engaged in preparing the Mess for the Halloween Ball. However a two-all draw was forced at El Adem and from the waiters reports the officers afternoon efforts were not wasted. Towards the end of the evening Pte. Charman was tempted to join in but found the pace too hot. Some of the fancy dress was unusual to say the least.

On November 2, the first half of the Company based on Nos. 2 and 4 Platoons set off for Derna Ranges to classify. An excellent camp had been set up by Lt. Gladden and a hard working advance party from No. 2 Platoon, and useful local contacts made. One of these was Miss Britton, a legendary figure who has been the Kings of Libya's bee-keeper for some 12 years and lives at Raz El Hilal, some distance along the coast. In return for our collecting various Naafi orders for her on the administrative run to Tobruk she kept the camp well supplied with grapefruit and oranges. On the Thursday the Company 2IC made his customary weekly visit with pay, mail, newspapers, bread and news from the "echelon"—this time he even slept out. The O.C. meanwhile met the Commanding Officer who arrived at El Adem via Medair on a five day visit.

The Company provided detachments at both Tobruk and Knightsbridge cemeteries on Remembrance Day. Services were staggered so that the Chaplain and Pte. Kendall, our bugler, could officiate at both. The Commanding Officer laid a wreath at Tobruk and was accompanied by the Company Commander. The detachment was mainly from No. 1 Platoon and commanded by Lt. Daniell. At Knightsbridge the Company 2IC laid a wreath and the detachment was commanded by Lt. Hubert. Other units training or stationed in Libya also sent detachments, including "C" Company 1 Para, "A" Company 1 Green Howards and the advance party of 2 Grenadier Guards. Pte. Kendall's playing was excellent. During the previous week he had played at the German War Memorial during the visit of 176 German Pilgrims on "S.S. Pegasus."

The Commanding Officer accompanied the second half of the Company to Derna next morning and stayed the night. Shooting continued throughout the week and in spite of the poor state of the L.M.G.'s some good results were achieved. Pte Clifford retained his marksman on the L.M.G. A busy weekend followed as the Company was due to act as enemy to 2 Grenadier Guards, out from England for training, the following Tuesday on Exercise Pin High. Sunday was spent on a long and exciting recon of the area from Timini S.W. to Mekili which all officers and C/Sgt. Warner

attended. Some pretty speedy driving over "uncharted" desert ensued and the two Land-Rovers in echelon recalled memories of "Alfa Squadron" in Germany. The exercise proper proved a great success in spite of practically the only bad weather during the tour. The Company consisting of a H.Q. element and No. 1 and 2 Platoons fought bravely and the pre-planned quick withdrawals as the Grenadiers assaulted our various positions went well—a tribute to map readers and M.T. The C/Sgt. heaved a sigh of relief when his 20-mile-plus move was successful. All the M.T., less one Land-Rover, was committed and the signal detachment did a great job in installing C12/A41 stations in GS Land-Rovers by "improvisation." It worked anyway. Thus they recovered their laurels lost at Derna when in a fortnight practically all the signal stores left Tobruk in an effort to get Derna "on the air"—attempts to get communication from the 300 yd. firing point to the butts were no more successful.

The Company arrived back with their tails well up, the final assault on the Grenadiers position having given them a taste of success. Lt. Daniell handed over No. 1 Platoon to Lt. Gladden and joined Support Platoon for some pre-course instruction, which took him out for the next fortnight to Area 19 to fire 3-in mortar and Mobat. No. 2 Platoon joined them for the first week doing one attack supported by mortar fire and No. 1 Platoon followed the next week. A 41's proved a trouble in this area—it was easier to shout or wave—ask Cpl. Harmer or Pte. Bain.

On December 5, the D.C.G.S., Lt.-Gen. Hackett, visited the Company and was especially impressed with L/Cpl. Robinson's conduct of a bayonet lesson. As a result of his visit travel on Medair is now far easier—liaison visits from the Battalion will no doubt increase.

After Pin High a Company exercise was in danger of being an anti-climax so a change to I.S. was decided on and No. 1 and 2 Platoons controlled by the Company Commander were sent into Area 19 to find the rebel leader Hubert and a handful of "badmen" from No. 4 Platoon—Exercise Winkle Out. Armed with wanted men booklets—neatly produced by Sgt. Lloyd—the Platoons set up road blocks and ambushes, carried out exhaustive patrols and for their pains were visited in turn by Sheikh Rattle n' Roll, the local ruler who demanded an escort through the area. No. 1 Platoon provided a guard of honour on the main Derna road, much to the astonishment of the odd passer by, and instructed the Sheikh to drive on with his escort if ambushed—all went well. No. 2 Platoon—now with Lt. Daniell, 2/Lt. Falcke having succumbed to the dreaded jaundice—provided a bugler as well and a far less kind escort; on being ambushed L/Cpl. Blackburn dragged the Sheikh from his Land-Rover and laid him on the ground using his ample figure as cover! All was forgiven, however, and the 2IC requested a record for us all on Boxing Day—"Lawrence of Arabia." His "binty" retaliated assisted by the other "Arabs"—Cpls. Walsh and Cousins and Pte. Nutt (the photographer).

The Company returned early on Friday in preparation for Saturday's big event—the Tobruk to El Adem road race. We had entered two teams and all ranks were to be deployed at strategic points along the 18-mile course. However, the R.A.F. proved short of teams and so our six reserves joined the 12 gladiators already entered—each runner to cover about three miles. Seven teams lined up at the start and at the first handover we were 2nd, 4th and 5th. At the second point the gap between 1st and 2nd had narrowed and near the French Cemetery Pte. Kelty 04 went into the lead. He ran superbly and handed over to Cpl. Foley (R.A.P.C.) well ahead of his R.A.F. rival. Cpl. Foley is a great enthusiast and superbly fit, having trained for this race since October; he further increased the lead, as did the next runner, Pte. Murphy, leaving Lt. Hubert to run in unchallenged in a time just four minutes outside the record. Meanwhile our fifth runner in the second team, Pte. Braddick, had pulled up to second and handed over to Pte. Graham some 100 yds. in front. The last R.A.F. runner was a known "threat" and it was a great pity that in trying to catch Graham on the final hill into El Adem he collapsed and was unable to finish, giving us an unchallenged second place. Our third team were far from disgraced coming in a close fourth—none of them had trained for a week. Special mention must be made of Sgt. Lloyd in this team who on the third lap made up some 800 yds. on his nearest opponent only to all but collapse some distance from the handover point. However he kept going and though wandering from side to side of the road and at times only able to walk he made it—much to our spectators' joy!

This was really the start of Christmas and it is difficult for some to say where it ended—perhaps January 14, when we flew back to the Rock? On the Sunday the R.A.F. held their Donkey Derby using local "mokes" hired for the occasion. The weather was unfriendly and again the Company Commander's red and yellow colours were unlucky. Our own Christmas programme started on Wednesday afternoon with a so called hockey match against primarily the school mistresses and some of the masters with the odd F.B.S. executive and R.A.F. officer adding tone. All sorts of St. Trinian specials appeared but we initially fielded an immaculately dressed side, filling our goal with Cpl. Cousins and his Arabs. After some 15 minutes play short blasts on C.S.M. Dacosta's whistle produced a frontal assault by the Arabs suitably equipped with smoke grenades and thunderflashes. This proved far less dangerous than Pte. Daly playing serious hockey. In no way outdone the opposition reappeared through the smoke in new green and white shirts and all set for more serious hockey. Our Arabs having withdrawn to the bar (Foley's Flying Folly—1 ton mounted) our goal looked exposed so the match was quickly finished. Champagne was drunk from an appropriate "pot" (plastic unfortunately).

In the evening a Company smoker was held in No. 1 Platoon barrack room. Cpl. Anderson produced excellent hot dogs, "bangers" and cheese straws. Cpl. Ward and L/Cpl. Blackburn making excellent



1. Exercise "Winkle Out" Major Pollard (left) and C.S.M. Simmons. 2. Tobruk to El Adem Road Race. Group Captain J. W. Frost, D.F.C., The Station Commander, presents the cup to Cpl. Foley, Captain of "A" team. 3. Exercise "Winkle Out"—The Sheikh and 2 Platoon. 4. Tobruk to El Adem Road Race (left to right) Cpl. Foley, Cfn. Houghton, Ptes. Kelty (04), Ryan, Murphy, Lt. Hubert. 5. 2 Platoon mascot. (left to right) L/Cpl. Blackburn, Ptes. Pethurst, Braddick, Cpl. Fisher, Ptes. Costello, Herridge, Crookston, Barlow. 6. 2 Platoon and "Friends" (left to right) Ptes. Cullen, McGaffigan, 2/Lt. Falcke, Ptes. Kendall, Williams.

waiters. The Company Commander was in fine form at the piano and the 2IC in good voice at the Raffle—won in some mysterious way by Pte. Kendall, who took the camera. Other prizes were won by Cfn. Houghton and Cpl. Cousins.

Christmas Eve produced the inter platoon football knock-out won by Company H.Q. in spite of their handicaps—the right back for instance. In the evening a quiz run in No. 2 Platoon barrack room produced all the officers, most of the four men teams but few spectators. Those present said they enjoyed it. Christmas Day was celebrated in traditional manner, though it started unusually early for the officers—spurred on by Pte. Kendall's reveille they went swimming! At 11 o'clock the W.O.'s and Sergeants visited the Officers' Mess where a log fire was much admired and then the officers visited the Sergeants where the new bar proved popular. At 12.30 p.m. both parties appeared in the Dining Hall to serve our lunch which they achieved with minimum accidents. Wing/Cdr. Haggar (on behalf of the Group Captain) wished all ranks a Happy Christmas as did Major Moore—the C.S.M.'s wishes were slightly different from those normally associated with Christmas. The 2IC sang—again! An afternoon trip to El Adem for the free cinema was well attended, Pte. Blackman 94 killing a sheep on his return journey—with his vehicle of course. The Games Night (indoor) was very poorly attended, Lt. Daniell being in danger of becoming darts and table tennis champion—no opposition! Boxing Day saw the 2IC, Cpl. Anderson, L/Cpl. Walsh and Ptes. Bainbridge, Kely 00 and Blackman 94 up with the lark (well, nine-ish) to start the Barbecue at the Beach Club. This proved eventually a great success, some 100 "Die-Hards" and R.A.F. families attending. Steaks, chicken, bangers, rolls and mince pies were on the menu and Naafi ran an excellent bar.

The weather was reasonably kind too. Tombola in the evening produced only seven takers much to C.S.M. Simmonds relief—he managed to get to the pictures after all! Sunday proved a real day of rest—hardly anyone surfaced.

The rest of our stay was spent in an unforgettable visit to Giarabub (covered in a separate article) and two weeks preparation for the handover to "B" Company. Anyone who was lucky enough to make the Giarabub trip is unlikely ever to forget the sand sea and the inland salt water lagoon as well as the long drive down on a very good road through desert that really was devoid of any vegetation. Ptes. Maguire, Kely 00 and the 2IC may have other memories—Maguir crashed his 1 ton on the way down and the 2IC towed it all the way back to El Adem with his landrover, Pte. Kely doing an excellent job steering and braking in the 1 ton. Fortunately the M.T.O. and R.S.O. did not arrive until the next day. The former did an excellent job sorting out some of our "accumulated" M.T. problems and the R.S.O. put in some hard work—this is supported by his mess bill. However the floodlighting of the regimental flag on top of the R.A.F. Mess for the officers' farewell party on January 8, was excellent. So was the party if the

waiters are to be believed—Ptes. Walsh, Crookston, Herridge and Brown 39 enjoyed themselves, as did Ptes. Frost and Hayward in the car park; they also finished up Cpl. Anderson's excellent cocktail 'eats'.

The return trip was uneventful, though once again it was a rush to get to the airport—the plane was early having missed Malta. Gibraltar hasn't changed much and Four Corners night reinforcement guard hit us as soon as Saturday. In fact duties seem even more plentiful than usual though this is largely due to the comprehensive list of cadres now in progress—no one is really in the clear. We try to do our best at sport but rarely field our No. 1 side—however our 1-5 hockey defeat by "H.Q." Company had them worried until half time when it was nil all!

For once we left few behind in Tobruk—Lt. Hubert (Sp. Platoon) and C.S.M. Dacosta (R.Q.M.S.). Capt. Goring has joined us now to form the Recce Platoon and Lt. Daniell is away on a support weapons course. Lt. Gladden and 2/Lt. Falcke are off to U.K. on courses next month when 2/Lt. Truman is joining the Company.

We are all looking forward already to our final tour in Tobruk starting towards the end of April and finishing in mid-August when we hand over to 1 Worc R.



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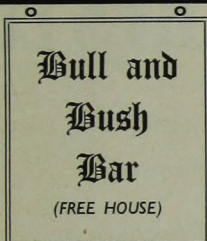
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
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### "B" COMPANY

We left "B" Company in the last notes ruefully examining its feet in Tobruk having had all its transport taken off the road after the C.I.V. inspection. This state of affairs fortunately did not last for long with some sterling work put in by Company fitters Cpl. McIntosh and Cfn. Tomlinson under the Motor Transport N.C.O., Cpl. Baxter's, watchful eyes. During this period the platoons exercised themselves on the local training area and made themselves proficient in the handling of their weapons. H.M.S. Surprise, the C in C's Mediterranean Yacht, paid Tobruk a final visit on her way home. Capt. Hewson, the Company 2IC, left us on his way to his next posting 300 miles due west at H.Q. Cyrenaica Area at Benghazi, collecting his car at Gibraltar and driving it along the North African coast from Morocco to Libya; doubtless a story on its own. His posting to our superior H.Q. means we have someone with a personal interest in our welfare. Capt. Goring temporarily took over from him as 2IC until the arrival of Capt. Mallalieu, who arrived with 2/Lt. Gladden to swell the rather depleted officer strength of the Company.

No. 6 Platoon was the first platoon to go out to Training Area 19 for field firing, where Pte. Davy distinguished himself by having suspected appendicitis. The R.A.F. Rescue Flight at El Adem came to our assistance and provided a helicopter to "casevac" him to Benghazi, the first of several helpful acts by this flight. Pte. Owen got himself stung by a scorpion, but contrary to popular expectations did not change colour and pass away; it did however lead to many exchanges over the radio as to what action to take. After having his arm in a sling for three days Owen recovered.

No. 5 Platoon then arrived to join No. 6 Platoon followed by the Company Commander, Major Lawrence, who brought the wind of change with him; some present referred to it as a fair sized Ghibli. The camp was re-erected, poles on the outside went inside etc. No. 5 Platoon managed to shoot a horse which cost the Claims Commission £14, and then went on to do a heroic flanking attack against No. 6 Platoon which, we are informed, was more in the nature of a long distance march. The R.A.F. again came to our assistance when Pte. Anderson was evacuated having cut his knee during a night exercise. Lest readers are under the impression that shooting horses, accidents, etc. were the order of the day it must be made clear that all this time successful training was going on.

No. 5 Platoon having returned to camp, No. 8 Platoon, the support platoon, arrived out under Capt. Goring with Sgts. Plumb and Redmond, and commenced the digging and blowing of gun and mortar pits and for the mortars a Part I shoot whilst the Anti Tank guns zeroed. Pte. McVeigh of the Mortar section nearly had an unfortunate moment when the mortar barrel of his mortar slipped out during bedding in and went between his legs. Sgt. Plumb went "fishing" and provided the camp with a fish supper, whilst Sgt. Redmond and Cpl. Fisher could be seen playing endless games of crib.

On August 27, Nos. 6 and 8 Platoons put on a demonstration of a platoon attack supported by mortars and a mobat for the Area Commander, Col. Morris, which earned his commendation, the mobat getting a very good first hit with a H.E.S.H. round.

Other happenings around this time were the elevation of Cpl. Brumwell to Master Baker, having after some failures managed to produce the most delicious bread and rolls. Cpl. Murphy, our cook, made a large dish of eggs for scrambling, turned his back and on hearing a loud slurping noise found a donkey licking the dish clean. All future users of Area 19 beware of one particularly virile beast!

On August 31, No. 8 Platoon moved to Derna ranges and were joined by elements of Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons for annual classification. From the ranges visits were made to the old Greco-Roman cities of Cyrene and Apollonia to add a spot of culture to our existence. Cyrene is one of the best preserved ruins one can see and is situated in a cleft in the escarpment



The affluent society!

and must have been a most beautiful city. Relics literally abound in this area. The 2IC and Sgt. Davies the C.Q.M.S. were also out at this time; it is reported that they were even seen for ten minutes on Area 19.

The finale to our tour in Tobruk was an exercise "Wild Fowl," with 14-20 Hussars, to practise them in guarding an L of C and in reconnaissance. The exercise lasted six days and covered a vast area of desert, being the first time the Company used their sun compasses. Even with these aids 2/Lt. Searle found it necessary to flag down a passing aircraft to ask where he was, and the Company Commander resorted to a native guide. Pte. Beadle discovered an alternative means of towing a water trailer. The vehicles as a whole took a beating, especially tyres. However it proved a most enjoyable exercise.

Having handed over to "A" Company on October 7, the Company returned to Gibraltar, starting the

endless round of guards and duties on the 9th, two days after our return. Nine days saw us on parade in front of the Legislative Assembly with C.S.M. Benson and 60 members of the Company in the Guard of Honour. On October 22, we took part in the annual perambulation, the symbolic closing of all W.D. roads in Gibraltar. Everything during these days took top priority—M.T. Cadres, N.C.O. Cadres, Support Weapon Cadres, Guards; it was difficult to decide which was top of top.

We welcomed two new Officers 2/Lt. Lowrie and 2/Lt. Deakin and said farewell to 2/Lt. Gladden who remained in Tobruk, and 2/Lt. Searle who left us to go to "C" Company.

On November 8, the Company took part in the ceremony at the Cross of Sacrifice and on the 10th we supplied the Outpost Platoon with 2/Lt. Deakin as Platoon Commander and Sgts. Willis and McFayden as escorts to the keys in the Ceremony of the Keys.

Promotions during this period included the promotion to Sergeant of Cpls. Brumwell and Fisher. Our congratulations to them.

The Christmas festivities were soon upon us and the Company, relieved of part of its guard commitment, settled down to enjoy itself in traditional style.

Christmas lunch served by the Officers and Sergeants brought forward the usual hilarities, Ptes. Lovegrove and Allen both being in good form particularly when Lovegrove's Christmas pudding turned out an unusual surprise that was not made of silver. The end of the holiday eventually came and with it some jaded faces appeared back on parade, Pte. Wall having had a particularly expensive night out with Queen Victoria and Pte. Monaghan being refused a night's accommodation in the "hotel" opposite the bank.

On January 11, three days before the return of the Company to Tobruk a Guard of Honour was provided for the Admiral Commanding the U.S. Sixth Fleet, Capt. Goring was in command, with 2/Lt. Lowrie carrying the Colour.

During the period of these notes L/Cpls. Bassett and Hayes, Ptes. Charlton, Seatory and King have got married, and Major Lawrence, L/Cpl. La Touche, and Pte. Ball have all been presented with sons. Congratulations to them all!

Our notes, as they began, close with the Company in Tobruk—our last tour out here and may it be the most successful.

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### "C" COMPANY

Although our activities have followed a familiar pattern, life has been varied by the kaleidoscopic changes in the personnel of the Company. Since the last notes were written, we have had yet another change of C.S.M. (the 4th in 1964), three changes of C.Q.M.S. and many other comings and goings.

To particularise, Capt. Fisher had hardly arrived as 2IC when he was whisked away to take command of "H.Q." Company a task comparable to a juggler trying to keep ten balls in the air at once. Of the subaltern officers who have flashed across the scene the

arrivals have been Sgt. Reynolds and Sgt. Briggs after their successful attendances on courses at Hythe and Pirbright. Cpls. Rogers and Clarke have soldiered on, though the latter is about to leave for the Brigade Depot. Cpls. Phillips and Aylward have joined as instructors. L/Cpls. Butler and Terry from the Drums came to the Company prior to attending weapons courses at Hythe, and we are hoping they will be allowed to stay with us as instructors.

Pte. Keemer, after some two-and-a-half years in the arms store, finally decided he would like a change and has gone to England as driver with a special recruit-



"C" Company Permanent (?) Staff

Back row: Ptes. Burns, Jeffries, Harper, Perks, Williams. Middle row: Sgt. Redrup, Cpls. Aylward, Phillips, Clark, Shearing, Rogers, Sgt. Reynolds. Front row: Sgt. Briggs (and Rusty), C/Sgt. Smith, 2/Lt. Searle, C.S.M. Cakebread, Major Marciandi, 2/Lt. Truman, C/Sgt. Elston, Sgt. Williamson

two who have stuck are 2/Lt. Searle, who runs the various N.C.O. Cadres and regularly submits applications to become an Army pilot, and 2/Lt. Truman, who runs the Continuation Training Platoons and a bright red sports car.

C.S.M. Garraty left to become chief assistant juggler in "H.Q." Company and W.O.2 Cakebread replaced him as C.S.M. and Weapon Training Warrant Officer. C.Q.M.S. Warner left for "A" Company in September, and was replaced by C.Q.M.S. Clements, himself replaced by C.Q.M.S. Smith with C/Sgt. Elston holding the fort for five weeks between them. Sgt. Redrup left to become Sergeants' Mess Caterer. New

ing team. He was replaced by Pte. Glover. Pte. Constant has gone to the Officers' Mess and Pte. O'Reilly transferred to "H.Q." Company with Capt. Fisher, as his batman.

Anyone who has ploughed through all this will by now have no idea who is actually in the Company, so we are showing (Editor permitting) a photograph of the present permanent staff (Police Gazette please copy).

All who have left us we thank for their services and wish good fortune in their new jobs. All new arrivals we welcome and wish a happy and successful tour of duty with the Company.

**Training**

We have trained three more intakes of recruits, all small but containing some very promising material. We have posted nine to "A" Company, 19 to "B" Company and five to "H.Q." Company (one to the Orderly Room and four to be trained as signallers). There have been two potential N.C.O.s' Cadres, attended by 19 aspirants, of whom nine earned promotion. Two short N.C.O. Cadres were run, mainly as refreshers for N.C.O.s who had been in employed duties. There has also been the usual pre-course training for those about to go to Hythe (so far no one has failed the passing in tests).

Other commitments have included weapon training for officers and N.C.O.s of Fortress Headquarters and visits by detachments from Ghanaian Naval ships.

By now the Officers and N.C.O.s of the Company know the training areas on the Rock all too well. They are so limited that a good deal of ingenuity and imagination is required to make training interesting and varied. The most useful piece of ground is Windmill Hill Flats, one of the few "flat" spaces in Gibraltar. Even this is being steadily encroached upon by masses of rubble from the new barracks under construction. We used to be able to borrow landing craft from the Royal Navy for exercises, but unfortunately there are

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now none available. For a recent N.C.O. Cadre exercise 2/Lt. Searle borrowed a police launch instead for a landing at Sandy Bay. This could not get in quite as close to the beach as was hoped and the exercise began with everyone, umpires included, up to their necks in water. Scrambling over the Rock soon dried them out.

We have made full use of the opportunities offered to visit the R.A.F. and the Royal Navy. Most of the Company have had a training flight in a Shackleton, and have been to sea on submarine exercises. Pte. Constant was allowed to steer H.M.S. Otter when submerged for a long period, without loss to the Fleet.

**Sport**

The small numbers of the Company limit our activities. We are linked with the Resident Rifle Company in the minor unit leagues and provide players for their soccer and hockey teams. We still hold a leading place in the .22 shooting with Ptes. Harper and Glover making some excellent scores. We also feature in the squash, polo and potholing worlds.

**Congratulations to . . .**

C/Sgt. Elston and Sgt. Redrup on their promotions, L/Cpl. Terry on passing out top of his potential N.C.O. Cadre with an "above average" grading, L/Cpl. Butler on the birth of a son and Pte. Burns on his marriage.

**Personalia**

Pte. George Burns has been our Company Storeman since November 1962 and has weathered the storm of the wind of change in the Company Office very well these past two years. He was born in Southern Ireland but has spent so much of his life in England and now lives in Fulham, that he calls himself a member of the London Irish. He comes from a large family and has three brothers and four sisters all married, and as we go to press, he himself has been caught up in the matrimonial net at last. He plays a fair game of football and has occasionally played at inside left for the Battalion Soccer team. He plays a good game of "arrows" and is a prominent member of the local top of the league Darts club. Apart from being the Storeman and General Factotum in the Company he is a qualified projectionist and fills in on occasions to operate the training films in the Company cinema. Much to the C.S.M.'s pleasure he makes or produces, apparently from thin air, the hottest and sweetest tea in the business. He is looking forward to going to the Emerald Isle and for those who have never travelled to those shores he keeps all the travel brochures available for inspection in the Company Stores.

We all wish him luck on his marriage and hope that he will remain with us for some time to come. It is said that the R.Q.M.S. called Pte. Burns "the best and most crafty of all storemen in the Battalion"—but that is another story . . . !

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### OFFICERS' MESS

The pattern of our activities has altered little in recent months. The end of the bathing and bullfighting seasons and the restrictions on crossing the Spanish frontier have meant less travelling into Spain, and a few more faces in the Mess in the evenings and at week-ends. The popularity of the Sunday Curry lunches has increased so much that it is very difficult to accommodate all who wish to come. They continue to be held once a month, with an extra one on January 31, to entertain Naval, Marine and Artillery Officers from H.M.S. Albion.

At Regimental Guest Nights the principal guests have been the new Deputy Fortress Commander, Brigadier S. C. Chambers, C.B.E., the new Flag Officer, Rear Admiral T. W. Best, the Chief Justice and the Attorney General. A Guest Night in combination with the Officers of the Fortress was held on August 12, to bid farewell to Brigadier H. E. Boulter, D.S.O., the retiring Deputy Fortress Commander. We also entertained Brigadier and Mrs. Boulter to lunch time drinks before their departure.

A large Fortress Cocktail Party was held on November 27, "Sortie Day," attended by nearly 300. Although crowded it was a great success.

The Christmas Party this year on December 23 was another combined Regimental and Fortress affair. Over 90 attended and danced well into Christmas Eve. This was the opening night of the new night club. George Goring and a band of helpers worked hard for weeks in re-designing and decorating the cellar, and achieved outstanding results.

Visitors have included Col. Ian Battye, who lunched in the Mess on September 25, and Paul Dubbery. Both Jim Hawkins and Peter Monypenny spent several

days with us over Christmas period. Two welcome visitors from the Press world were Roy Marshall of the *Evening News* who stayed with us for several days in November and Mr. Leslie the Chief PRO of Eastern Command who spent a week with us in January.

The calls of the staff have been heavy and we record with regret the departure of Jeff Jeffcoat to the War Office (sorry, Ministry of Defence), Tony Pielow to the French Staff College in Paris, Noel Pepperall to the Territorial Army and Malcolm Gilham to Singapore. We were particularly sorry to see Major Jeffcoat go, because though we hope to see him on many other occasions, he is unlikely to serve with the Battalion again. The general opinion is that Tony Pielow will be well placed in Paris when the great Gibraltar to Northern Ireland trek begins, and Maison Pielow will be in a state of siege.

We were glad to welcome the arrival of Malcolm Deakin, Tony Lowrie and Charles Clayton from Sandhurst, Paul Truman from Mons, Richard Graham as a university entry, and the return of Capt. Andrew Cowing from his tour of duty as A.D.C. to the Colonel of the Regiment. After several months of Regimental Duty Andy's shadow is perceptibly less. Major Carter arrived in November as the new 2IC, and we welcome him and Mrs. Carter, and our first view of "Nick" Mark II.

There have been changes in the Mess Staff too—Pte. Moreton bought his discharge prior to his entry into big business, and Pte. Osborne returned to "A" Company. New arrivals are Ptes. Reid (Silverman), Constant and Rayment. C/Sgt. Willis has continued to achieve outstandingly high standards in his sympathetic running of the whole Mess. He will be a great loss when he takes a well earned change in a month or two.

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

To say that things have been a trifle unsettled in the Sergeants' Mess in the past six months would be understating the case. A quick count has just shown the following score:— nine promotions, four posted in, 13 posted out, six on a total of nine courses, three births, one marriage and one courting strongly! We've got through four P.M.C.'s and four Mess Treasurers. This in addition to inter-Company postings, changes of employment and trips to and from Tobruk. Musical chairs has nothing on the R.S.M.'s duty roster these days. As the period contained the magic time of Christmas, a lot of people went on leave, both locally and to the U.K. This resulted in even more changes of jobs and a lot of acting obliques. At the present rate of progress, by the time that we leave the Rock, there will be only a few old faithfuls like C/Sgt. Potter and S/Sgt. Girling left in situ, wearing the same badges of rank as they started with, out here in Gibraltar.

For all the changes, it has been a very pleasant time, socially, with some good Mess events. We were able

to entertain the Brigade Colonel, Col. Battye, on September 25, 1964. He had travelled out on the same plane as W.O.2 Da Costa and family, and in spite of a lot of pumping, he claimed that he did not know of our next move. It was not until about a month later that the news of Northern Ireland reached us. By that time, so many people seemed to be under orders for postings out, that the residue could not find anyone to grumble or complain to. R.Q.M.S. Dick Waite found himself to be the centre of discussions every coffee break, as he was the authority on the next station and knows the barracks well.

Apart from normal service and inter-service visitors, we were able to entertain Mr. John Marshall of the *Evening News* in November and he certainly did not let the old city down. The Army, the Services, the Country and the World were put right by various members at the bar. There were one or two worried customers afterwards, who, on sober reflection, wished that perhaps they had not been quite so vocal. However,

it all came to naught, and luckily for us there were no quotes of a "Military Spokesman in Gibraltar" type featured in the subsequent few days.

Sports-wise, the Mess accepted a challenge from the Garrison Sergeants' Mess in October for a soccer match. This challenge was then taken over by us as a "home" fixture and after a hard match, brilliantly refereed by O.R.Q.M.S. (newly qualified) Cripps in immaculate blacks, we celebrated our victory by inviting the defeated team and all supporters and families to a buffet lunch. The Garrison said that they did not mind being beaten—after all it was a Middlesex referee—but they did think that they had been floored by the magnificent buffet that W.O.2 Hynson had put on for us all. They made enquiries and asked if the chief cook was on the transfer list, but we think that he is too valuable a man to be allowed to go into the opposition's team.

Inspired by this win, a certain Mess member challenged one of the C.P.O.'s Messes aboard H.M.S. Maidstone. This brave deed was done in the full knowledge of the fact that the Mess concerned only had a strength of 12 C.P.O.s. The Chiefs took it all in good part and afterwards our 12th man put on another first class spread in the Mess.

Since late August almost every Saturday lunchtime has seen a get-together over drinks and "Tappers," whilst the Mess drank the health of yet another departing member. Sgt. Fanny Gibbs went to 1 Queen's Surreys, to take up the post of Orderly Room Colour Sergeant in September. Those who saw him move from Hameln to Lydd, and then out here, will be pleased to note that he got even more kit aboard the car for the journey back to Germany. Late September Sgt. Whittle went to the School of Infantry, Warminster, to carry out Pioneer Sergeant duties. Early in October Sgts. Bill Kerr and Cliff Shinn took off into the recruiting racket. W.O.2 Eastap volunteered for service in Brunei—he has gone as R.Q.M.S.—the things some people will do for excitement! Johnny Moysie and family were towed out by the Mess members early one morning. He had managed to get to Canterbury for his last three or four months in the Army. Some members of the Band are reputed to have asked R.A.F. movements if the planes could be allowed to take off later in future, when the sun is up and the Rock properly aired.

Early in November C/Sgt. John Eldridge, with his wife and son Kevin, left us to go to 5 Middlesex and Sgt. Roy Davies and his family left to go to Winterbourne Gunner on the permanent staff of the School. Just before Christmas Roy Day of the Band was promoted to Band Sergeant and sent off to the Depot Band; and then soon after Christmas that lovable old character W.O.2 Tom Steward quietly packed his bags and sneaked off to 1 Corps H.Q. in Germany. Already in 1965 we have said farewell to Sgt. Ron Seager and Sgt. Charlie Barnes. Ron has gone to training at Home Counties Brigade Depot and Charlie to 5 Middlesex as P.S.I.

All these postings have resulted in a few movements the other way. Apart from W.O.2 John Da Costa, we have had Sgts. Edey and Weston posted in, and the

following promoted to Paid Acting or Substantive Sergeants—Sgt. Alec Torrie of the Band, Sgt. Jock Cowan, A.C.C., Sgts. Redrup, McFadyen, Flynn, Fisher, Brumwell and Willis. Sgt. Mick Elston was promoted Substantive C/Sgt. with effect from January 1, 1965. A Happy New Year for him.

It is a Happy New Year as well to W.O.2 George Simmons and Bandmaster John McShane. Mrs. Simmons presented a daughter Amanda on January 3, while George was still going the dizzy round of gay Tobruk farewell parties. This was timed so that George was not sitting at home chewing his finger nails after the Company change-over. Timothy McShane arrived, a little late, but very welcome, just before the Bandmaster led his merry men on yet another Monday Guard Change on January 25.

There has been the usual round of courses. Sgts. Jim Reynolds and Tony Briggs went on the Big Stamp; then Tony decided he liked courses and tried the Small Arms Wing at Hythe. C/Sgt. John Martin, M.M., went on a couple of "Black Gang" Courses at Borden, and Sgt. George Horder just to be different tried the Ration Course at Aldershot. Sgt. Bruce Tarry had a bash at another Mortar Course and currently Sgt. Danny Burke is on the Small Arms Course. They all acquitted themselves well; just as we expected in fact.

The Christmas season starts early in Gibraltar. December 12 saw the Sergeants' Mess members as guests of the Corporals' Mess at their Draw. As a reward for their hospitality, their two best prizes went to Sergeants' Mess members and their wives. Our own Draw was a great success, very ably run by the P.M.C., W.O.2 Roy Benson, the Treasurer, C/Sgt. John Potter, S/Sgt. Ted Girling, Sgts. Seager and Willis, etc., etc. A brainwave that stole the show was a lucky dip for those who were unsuccessful in the main draw. This was so popular that the barrel of sawdust in which the prizes were hidden was up-ended over the carpet. We never did find out who had passed the rumour that there was a £5 note at the bottom. The Corporals' Mess also invited all Sergeants' Mess members to their Christmas Dance held in South Barracks Hall. It was a very good evening and a chance for all those who object to being called "squares" to show their paces at the latest dances. The Corporals ran another raffle and R.Q.M.S. Waite won again. He was in luck this Christmas, scooping the cream of the prizes off every draw and raffle that he entered. He was in a carefree mood anyway, having just been told that he had been awarded his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The R.S.M. has been waiting for this, so that both of them can get their medals from His Excellency the Governor on the next Ceremony of the Keys. This ceremony is very old in origin, but 1st Middlesex can say with pride, that they re-wrote the complete parade last August and it met with His Excellency's approval without change.

Originally it was planned to have a Sergeants versus Officers hockey match on Boxing Day, but the ground was not fit to play on, so there were two games of "Shinty" in the Gymnasium instead. We were robbed; however some members got their own back in the Mess afterwards.



Saturday Lunch Time !!!

Left to right: S/Sgt. Girling, C/Sgt. Potter, Sgt. Edey, W.O.2 Warner, R.S.M. Dodkins, W.O.2 Potter, Sgt. Hoare, W.O.2 Garraty, C/Sgt. Lagden, O.R.Q.M.S. Cripps, Sgt. Flynn, Sgt. Weston, Sgt. Fisher, Sgt. Brumwell, Sgt. Reynolds, Sgt. Barnes, W.O.2 Simmons, C/Sgt. Elston

Readers may remember that in our last notes mention was made of a combined St. George's Ball with the Garrison Sergeants' Mess. This was by way of being a pilot scheme for the Grand New Year's Eve Ball run by the combined Sergeants' Messes. His Excellency Sir Dudley Ward and Lady Ward were invited together with Brigadier Chambers and all members of the Fortress Officers' Mess. It was a wonderful success and the majority of our members were wearing their new scarlet Mess Jackets for the first time. Our very sincere thanks to those members of both Messes who were on the special committee that did all the planning, preparation and clearing up afterwards.

Throughout the last five months of 1964 our happy relations with C.P.O.s' and P.O.s' Messes on board various ships of the Royal Navy continued. Plaques were exchanged, and visits and counter-visits made. At Christmas time it was with a great feeling of affection that we looked at cards from all over the world from ships crews that had visited the Mess. Now we find that those friends are returning, sometimes in different ships, sometimes in the same ship on a new commission, and it is always a happy evening when they call in. Apart from the Royal Navy types, whom we have only met socially, there have been many more from three Submarine Squadrons who have come to fire courses and train with the Battalion. All these Petty Officers have come into the Mess and have become

friends. Names like H.M.S. Lion, Owen, Eagle, Owen, Surprise, Aurora, Owen, Tiptoe, Messina, Owen, Onslaught, Carysfort, and Owen keep re-occurring (one more trip and we charge H.M.S. Owen Mess fees). Another ship that we seem to see a lot of is the "Heineken." The Dutch Navy mistakenly calls this vessel the "De Ruyter." There is no doubt about it at all, we are all going to miss the constant stream of cheerful Navy visitors who always invite a strong party from our Mess to visit them aboard their ships and then ply us with "Nelson's Blood" in sufficient quantities to float a fairsize warship.

It would not be right to close these notes without mention of our "attached" members. W.O.2 Stan "Beetle" Meadows A.P.T.C. is offering to take the R.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. on medal presentation drill. Sgt. Ray Hoare R.A.P.C. went out to Tobruk when "B" Company went on its July to October trip, and made so much money that he has gone into the movie business. S/Sgt. Ted Girling and Sgt. George Peacock heard what a wonderful place Tobruk was and nipped out there at the end of September. They got there just in time to join the frantic round of farewell parties which were being given by the poor misguided R.A.F. in celebration of "B" Company leaving them for the delights of Gibraltar. W.O.2 Frank Mellor and Sgt. "Killer" Clegg R.A.M.C. were both bitten by the motoring bug. Frank graduated and owns and drives

his own Mini. "Killer" just owns a Renault. W.O.2 Stan Hynson A.C.C. apart from being a genius at organising wonderful buffets, is also a wonder at juggling ration returns. We have never had it so good! He crept off and got married very quietly about the time the last Notes were written. He is backed up by those two satellites in white, Sgts. John Mills and Jock Cowan, both of whom have done us very proud at Mess Dinners and at the Barbecue in September at the Nuffield Pool. Last, but by no means least, our Bank Manager, S/Sgt. Gordon Harrison, R.A.P.C., who somehow manages his own job and sorts out our mess accounts as well. He had a terrible shock the other day when he volunteered as a blood donor. They not only refused the blood, but grounded him from his beloved hockey and ordered him to turn teetotal. Something to do with £.s.d. signs in the blood, we understand.

#### CORPORALS' MESS

September saw a new committee to look after things for the next three months. The old committee ended their term of office with a dance run by Sgt. (then Corporal) "Jock" McFadyen, which was a tremendous success.

The new committee, headed by Cpl. Henry Dowsett, consisted of Cpls. Don Stopp, Jack Rodgers, "Nobby" Clarke, Bill Lodge and L/Cpls. Frank Meehan and Jerry Leworthy. They opened their activities with a series of games of football against visiting ships. This proved a most popular way of spending the week-ends.

The first game was against the Dutch ship Van Eywyck. We lost the game 7-1 but we won the get-together in the Mess afterwards. The previous night we had entertained the Corporals from the Dutch flag ship De Ruyter in the Mess and they had invited us for a return match the following night, so, having entertained the Van Eywyck boys, we followed this up with a further tank-up on the De Ruyter. En route to the De Ruyter we were side-tracked on board the Van Eywyck for "one for the road." Few of us remember how the evening ended but we do remember being saluted by the Officer of the Watch, eating a meal of Dutch Curry, and sinking many noggins.

Two weeks later we went through the whole thing again, with H.M.S. Eagle but this time we won the football match 5-2.

Full of ourselves we challenged the ratings from H.M.S. Dreadnought who defeated us 5-1. After the usual celebrations several of us went on board and we arrived at Tot time. It is the custom on board Her Majesty's Ships to offer guests a "wet" from their tots, a very pleasant custom but overpowering when the odds are 50 to 1.

The Committee with the able assistance of Pte. Russell has now converted the Mess into a Night Club using bamboo screens and table lamps. The club, complete with floor show, opened on time and has become a regular Saturday function.

On the Thursday following the opening of the "Niteclub" we had an informal get-together; dress for the evening being "scruff order." A group of

Americans camping in Gibraltar were invited to come along and we were all entertained by these "Young Californians." A rendering of "Old Man River" followed by "Buddy can you spare a dime" by Nobby Clarke filled the Orphans Christmas Box.

The Christmas Draw was the next item on the calendar. We had a total of 74 prizes to be won and as usual the main one went out of the Mess. Sgt. Len Fisher won the fair hand of "Miss Thomasina Terry" (Tom Terry) for the evening. With Bds. Scarfe providing a varied selection of tunes for dancing the pace was fast and the festivities eventually wound up at 1.30 the following morning.

The Grand Christmas Dance held in South Barracks Hall on December 19, was the last engagement for 1964. The Mess ran its own bar, the work of satisfying the thirst of some 300 guests being undertaken by Bill Murphy, Froggy French and Jack Stewart.

Before handing over to "Beano" Rose and Jack Shearing the P.M.C. would like to thank the A.C.C. Corporals, particularly Bob Smith, for the series of really good buffets produced at such short notice.

During these four months there have been many changes in the Mess. We say goodbye to Cpl. Tony Brumwell now Provost Sergeant, Cpl. Mick Flynn now Orderly Room Sergeant, Cpl. John Redrup, Training Sergeant, and Cpls. Len Fisher and "Jock" McFadyen, Guard Commanders. We also say au revoir to Cpls. "Nobby" Clarke, Harry Ward and Terry Pryor who have gone to the Brigade Depot.

We welcome so many new arrivals that there is no room to mention them by name.

We offer our congratulations to "Duggie" Basset, Charles Murphy and Ginger Etherington on their recent marriages.

We also congratulate "Blanco" and more particularly Mrs. Fleet on the birth of their children, twin boys.

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## SPORTS

Gibraltar offers good facilities for a wide range of sports as can be seen by the various notes in this and the last issue of the Journal. It is with great regret that we have been unable to make full use of the Rock's Sporting attractions. Our object in Gibraltar is firstly to fulfil our public duties such as guards and ceremonies and secondly to do preparatory military training so that we can make the most of North Africa and arrive in Northern Ireland ready for anything. Since one Company is always away there is never much manpower to spare. We have entered into the sporting competitions purely for the love of the game; that our results have seldom been spectacular is no reflection on us. We have not put aside our best players for any particular sport, nor have we devoted time to the training which is vital for success in any field. Our aim has been to give every soldier an opportunity to enjoy outdoor and indoor exercise; at times this encouragement has been more than pressing.

### Football 1964-65

Unlike last season, when the "H.Q." Company team were very much the "under-dog" as far as Battalion football was concerned, this season they have made a remarkable recovery and are, at the moment, well above the Rifle Company team in the Gibraltar Minor Units League.

"H.Q." Company have been the first to realise, after many cuts and bruises and painful legacies of gravel rash, that football here must be played a little more delicately than in the United Kingdom. Heavy tackling and using the "big boot" only leads to injuries; it is the first-class ball control and short, accurate passing of the "Rock" players that wins games. Due mainly to the greater turnover of players, and the Company changeovers, the Rifle Company team have never disciplined themselves to this type of game.

Worthy of particular mention are Sgt. McFadyen, who rarely plays without scoring one goal; Sgt. Redmond, now in Tobruk, and Cpl. Shearing, who still turns out regularly as a real "Die-Hard" full back. Most of the really good "H.Q." Company players are also playing, along with Pte. Harper, the Rifle Company goalkeeper, for the Gibraltar Army team. C.S.M.I. Meadows captains the Army team. Drm. Davidson was, until his recent marriage, the regular goalkeeper. Sgt. Miles played as right half and L/Cpls. Morley, O'Brien and Clements rule the forward line if only by numbers.

The following comprised the team:— C.S.M.I. Stan Meadows, Sgt. Jimmy Redmond, Sgt. Pete McFayden, Sgt. Dave Miles, L/Cpl. Mick O'Brien, L/Cpl. Brian Morley, L/Cpl. Johnny Clements, Pte. Brian Harper, Drm. Noddy Davidson.

### Hockey

The long hockey season is still in progress; starting in October it is scheduled to end at the end of May, with 11 and six-a-side knock-out competitions.

The present positions in the Minor Units League show "H.Q." Company first and the Rifle Company last. With the return of "A" Company to the Rock, however, we hope that their position will improve, and indeed the side to be selected for their next match has a plentiful choice from the following:— Major Marciandi, Capt. Goring, Sgts. Quinn and Scott, all of whom are Battalion players, Major Pollard, 2/Lt. Graham, who represented his County as a schoolboy when they won the English County Championships, C/Sgt. Smith, Pte. Wilson, a fast ex "S" Company player, L/Cpl. Norman, Ptes. Daly and Marsh, and in goal Pte. Cullen, whose performance against "H.Q." Company was most impressive. Let us hope they can redeem the position handed to them by "B" Company.

"H.Q." Company is a very different tale, and indeed it is the base of the pyramid of all other competitive hockey on the Rock. "H.Q." Company team provides eight of the Battalion team and has been known to provide the full 11. Similarly the Battalion side provides eight of the Army side and in the Combined Services matches at least five are regular members.

Drum Major Howells, Major Marciandi and Cpl. Stopp join two old hands from the Battalion team which reached the Army finals in 1962, namely S/Sgt. Harrison and Sgt. Torrie, and these five have represented the Combined Services, Army, Battalion and Company teams throughout the season.

In the Army matches Cpl. French of the Band and two new hands at the game, Pte. Flanagan from the P.R.I. and Drm. Callaghan, joined the other five. It is a pity no other young players have come forward as the Battalion team is now very "Senior," though not quite "Senile," and could do with a new lease of life.

The Battalion side are those members of the Army side together with Major Carter and Capt. Cowing, both of whom rejoined the Battalion last year. Capt. Crumley has been a jack of all trades and played in every position less goalkeeper, but the season has not yet finished!

The Band have also played a major part in providing members of the Battalion team, namely, Sgt. McGowan, L/Cpl. Cooper and Bds. Johnson. The Rifle Company provided three players on occasions, Capt. Goring, Sgts. Quinn and Scott. We hope that they will produce a challenge to what otherwise will become an "H.Q." Company monopoly.

As was mentioned at the beginning we shall soon be entering for the Knock-out Competitions and it is sincerely hoped that by that time we shall have practised our drills and stick work and show some of the old sparkle which is at present lacking.

Perhaps before we reach Northern Ireland we may find some new talent and be able to start the season there, reorganised and ready for healthy competition.

Lastly, our thanks go to C.S.M. Stewart and Capt. Lloyd for their very sound umpiring throughout the

season so far; we shall miss S.M. Stewart now that he has left the Battalion.

### Road Racing

The first impression one gets of Gibraltar is that it is hardly possible to walk in any direction without going uphill, or downhill or via dozens of steps. The Gibraltar Amateur Athletic Association however are masters at organising courses of up to six and a half miles, as much on the flats as possible even if it means coming back along the same route.

The first race in the League was held on October 17, and a total of nine or ten races were planned. To date the Battalion have run an "A" and "B" team for each race and are fourth in the league. Let it be said that competition is extremely fierce. The local team, "Calpeans" are superb runners, although the first two individuals are from the Royal Engineers. The Royal Air Force also produce some excellent runners and are creeping higher up the table each week.

Although there is no shortage of runners in the Battalion there is the need for one or two "Gladiators" and because of the Tobruk commitment it seems impossible to get all the "Stars" on the Rock at the same time. During the first four or five races Pte. Hammill of the Signals Platoon improved his style so much that he moved right up among the Middlesex runners until he took the lead from Pte. Phipps of "B" Company. Pte. Graham, "H.Q." Company clerk, started running only to settle an argument and proved his point by persistently showing among the leading four Middlesex runners. Storemen too have been among the runners, and Pte. Cunningham of "H.Q." Company has run in every race to date despite very bad feet.

During December the two leading lights of the team went to Tobruk and we received back in their place several good runners, the best of them being Cpl. Foley, R.A.P.C., who captained the team in Tobruk and showed the R.A.F. the way home.

Since the return of "A" Company there has only been one race, a relay, which was an extremely hard and fast run at a cracking pace. The Battalion "A" team maintained the fourth position in the league. With only two or three races to go the team members are very keen and enthusiastic and odd bodies can be seen each evening battling up to Europa and steaming like racehorses.

### Badminton

This is a sport which continues to thrive beyond all expectation, the standard of play leaping to heights that would have been labelled sheer optimism within the Battalion 12 months ago. It is now hard to accept the fact that when the Die-Hards first arrived on the Rock, we were fully extended to produce our two league teams, with mostly absolute beginners to call upon. In those days we spent the first half of 1963-64 losing and learning, but determination was rewarded with four or five victories during the closing half of the league fixtures. We were indeed fortunate to have numerous youngsters keen to learn and although

ceaselessly on the "chopping" block for the stronger teams, our two teams emerged near the half-way mark of the table at the death. Undoubtedly our strength lay in the perseverance of the younger enthusiasts such as Cpls. French and Foley, L/Cpls. Jacklin, Clements and Reide, Ptes. Harper and Piper, Sgt. Flynn urged on by C.S.M.I. Meadows and Major Jones. Whilst several other teams found the competition too strong, and were forced to withdraw from the league, our policy of persevering resulted in lessons being learned against stronger opposition, which was to stand us in good stead this season. At the start of the season Rifle Company were short of players, but fortunately Sgt. Flynn took charge of the team and put up a good effort, although never being a serious challenge for league honours.

"H.Q." Company had a most satisfactory season being the first team to get through its league programme, and it appears at this stage that they have an excellent chance of finishing in the "first three," once the first league positions are officially published.

This season "H.Q." Company turned the tables on 1st Fortress Squadron R.E., Rifle Company, G.W.O., Gibraltar Regiment and one of the R.A.F. Wing teams, all of whom beat them last year. The "H.Q." team has been consistently picked from the following:—Major Jones, C.S.M.I. Meadows, Cpls. French, Routledge, L/Cpls. Jacklin, Clements and Reide. Special mention must be made of the remarkable improvements in the play of Cpl. French, L/Cpls. Jacklin and Clements who will probably be members of the Army team along with C.S.M.I. Meadows when the Inter-Services competition starts in the first week in February.

The individual championships start this month and some measure of the popularity of the game can be assessed from the following:—

Mens Singles: 1MX provides seven out of the 19 entries; Mens Doubles: 1MX provides four out of the 14 entries; Ladies Singles: 1MX Badminton Club for ladies provides six out of the nine entries; Ladies Doubles: 1MX Badminton Club for ladies provides five out of the six pairs; Mixed Doubles: 1MX provides eight out of the 13 pairs.

Although we have a lot of entries, it must be pointed out that, due to the high standard of play on the Rock, we do not expect to carry off any of the trophies and are entering hopefully but mainly for the spirit of competition.

### Ladies Club

It will be seen from the numbers that the ladies are even keener than the men and have never missed having a Thursday club night since the Battalion arrived in Gibraltar. We are blessed with a most enthusiastic Ladies Club who have never been deterred by rain or the hot summer. The one serious threat to the club's existence came from the Bandmaster, but we hope he will now keep in mind the interests of the club.

Unfortunately we have had to say good-bye to such good club members as Mrs. Bernice Young and Mrs. Anna Young who have left for England.

The main body of the club retain their 100 per cent. interest, the ever present being Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. French, Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. Meadows and Mrs. Mellor. We are hoping to welcome back Mrs. McShane as soon as possible after the birth of her bonny baby boy.

### Riding and Polo

There are no horses on the Rock but we make use of the excellent riding stables at Campomento, just the other side of La Linea.

The polo teams are made up usually from the Army and the Navy. We aim to play three times a week. Both Rifle Companies have produced their enthusiasts among the Officers and Pte. Hossack from the Officers' Mess comes when he can be spared. The delightful part of this game is that it is not taken very seriously, some of the players are good but to their credit they are outnumbered by the amateurs and take it in good heart watching their game abused. The ponies are even more long-suffering, perhaps thanks to their leather-like mouths.

The hacking is enormous fun too. There are miles of rolling open country unspoilt by the hand of man and beaches by way of a change. Having lived cramped up on the Rock for days on end there can be no better way of being unfettered than to gallop around in the open spaces past Spanish houses, olive and palm trees and, heaven forbid, prickly pears.

### Squash

For a British Colony, Gibraltar is remarkably short of squash courts. Each Service has one, and there is a fourth in the Convent which is only available on Wednesday afternoons. Correspondingly the standard of play is lower than in most stations. Our court is a reasonably good one with a gallery and adequate lighting. The floor is solid but rather uneven, which sometimes lends greater subtlety to shots than their execution deserves.

Except for a few devotees who played throughout the summer, the season began in October and will end in about April. The main competition has been a Command Squash League. The Battalion does not enter teams as such, but provides the majority of the Army teams taking part. Major Marciandi and Capt. Cowing have played regularly for the "A" team, Major Carter for "A" and "B" teams, Capt. Goring and Sgt. Miles for the "B" team and Capt. Fisher for the "C" team, with the Commanding Officer playing in several matches. At the time of writing the league has not quite finished. The Army "A" team with one match to play is equal top with the R.A.F. "A" team. The "B" and "C" teams should emerge at about the middle of the table of ten teams.

The only Battalion match so far has been against a civilian team, who proved too strong for us. Only two of the ties were fought to five games, and the final result was 0-5. We hope to do better in later matches.

The Command and Open Individual Championships begin soon. We hope to have some success to report in these, and in the Inter-Service matches due to be played in March.

### Judo Club

The club has been recently re-activated. We have been provided with all the facilities that we could wish for, a hut of our own, a dozen suits of practice dress and an 18-foot mat.

Unfortunately we have to meet the challenge of attracting participants away from the numerous other delights and entertainments available in this station. We have so far introduced 15 novices to the mysteries of this, one of the Army's latest officially recognised sports, but have not yet been able to form a Battalion team. We hope that by the time we return to the U.K. our members will be sufficiently experienced to be able to make best use of the training and coaching facilities available there.

### Caving and Climbing

Since the publication of the last issue of *The Die-Hards* the Battalion Cavers have been fairly active getting down caves new or well-known whenever opportunity and pressure of work allows.

Capt. Lloyd and Cpl. Fordham have added their names to the list of official guides to Lower Saint Michael's Cave, joining Sgt. Da Costa and Cpl. Dowsett on the list which was previously exclusively Royal Engineers.

Since then many parties have been shown the fascinations and beauties of the rock formations of the cave which is held to be unique in Europe for the variety of formations found there. Another name which we hope to add to the list of guides shortly is that of Sgt. Willis who has become a very enthusiastic caver under the guidance of Sgt. Da Costa.

The main caving expedition was an excursion into Spain on November 27, to visit the Cueva De La Pileta. This expedition is described elsewhere in the magazine.

Climbing unfortunately has taken second place to caving this year due to several factors. The major deterrent is the winter weather when it is more comfortable to go underground than to expose oneself on the southern extremities of the Rock. Sgt. Da Costa has done some climbing and Cpl. Dowsett spent a day with some American Officers from U.S.S. *Rushmore* during which they climbed and went into Lower St. Michael's Cave.

One Sunday in November a climbing "Meet" was held at the Climbing Hut near Governors' Cottage. On this occasion we were assisted by S.A.C. Chaplin from R.A.F. North Front who climbed a good deal with S.A.C. Marsden, the pioneer of most of the routes on the Rock. Second-Lt. Truman had his first taste of rock climbing on this occasion and is still as enthusiastic as he is over caving—another potential St. Michael's Guide of the not too distant future!

What of the future? Gibraltar still holds many unexplored (by 1MX) caves and there is endless scope for both the Cavers and the Climbers here. Also we hope to make a return visit to Pileta to investigate another cave in the neighbourhood—if we can get into Spain!



## NEW YEAR IN GIARABUB—LIBYA

By SGT. H. K. LLOYD

A tour in Libya is still something of an adventure. There are well preserved ancient Greek and Roman ruins, many historic battlefields from World War II with British, French and German Cemeteries and also beautiful small sandy coves for swimming. On my last two tours stationed at Tobruk I have been able to see all these sights, but the trip that I enjoyed most was "A" Company's visit to Giarabub, the religious centre of the Senussi sect of the Moslem religion. It is also the burial ground of the Kings of Libya.

The Company set off from Tobruk on December 29, 1964. So far in Libya all I had seen was either the lush greenery of Cyrenaica or the "Bondu" with its parched dusty ground covered in rocks with thyme and alfalfa growing in clumps. This was to be my first trip to the South and I was looking forward to seeing palm trees and sand dunes—my idea of desert.

We drove on a very good tarmac road that is not yet complete. It is said "when the road is finished King Idris I will die." The King, who was the leader of the Senussi before the war, led the fight against the Italians during their occupation of Libya. He fought with the British during the war and was put on the throne by the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, at the end of the North African Campaign.

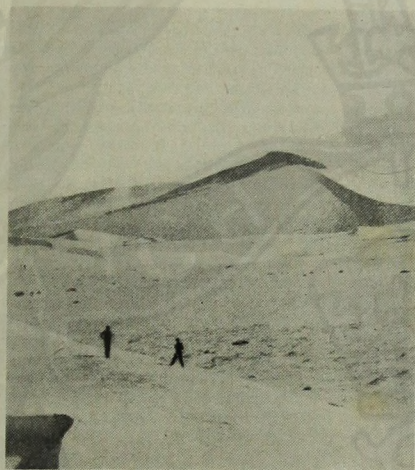
When we stopped by the road for lunch we could see for about 15 miles all round. At this point vegetation was scanty, and as we got further south disappeared altogether.

With 189 miles on the meter we camped at an old Italian airfield, within sight of Giarabub. It took very little time setting up camp and after dinner we were glad to get to bed. Next morning the Company was divided into two groups. One half, led by Lt. Hubert, went in search of the Petrified Forest. This is a freak of nature where trees have been turned to stone. Just how this happened no one could explain.

The second half, under Lt. Gladden, of which I was a member, set off for the "Desert Lake." We travelled in one three-ton truck and a Land-Rover. En route we encountered our first real sand, in places very soft and difficult to drive through. We soon learnt from watching the local Police Guide that the knack lay in driving over the small tufts of lang grass in not too low a gear, and of course using four-wheel drive. We also had with us sand tracks for use when the going got too soft.

The first impressive sight was the "Rock Landscape." Here were small flat-topped hills made up of soft sand stone with a hard top crust. They have all the weird shapes that a hard wind can cut into them. Some looked like large toadstools, others had a volcanic look about them. Was this the place the science fiction artists had got their ideas from? This was my idea of what the moon's surface must be like. There was no sand here at all.

As we drove on I was struck by the sudden change of scenery. We were now looking at "The Great Sand



The great sand sea near Giarabub

Sea." How aptly this is named! Great waves of sand with the patterns of light and dark that the sun and shadow cast upon it. We stayed here for 20 minutes to enjoy the panorama, and experienced the difficulty of climbing those soft sand hills. It was impossible to travel further south by vehicle.

We returned to the transport and headed east, driving over gentle slopes of finer sand, and were able to see the "Picture-book Desert"—sand dunes and small clusters of palm trees.

As we drove over yet another slope we saw the lake. A dark blue lagoon in its sand-coloured surroundings. No palm trees here. On getting to the lake we found a grey crystal-like rock with thousands of small fingers pointing towards the water. The rock easily broke off and crunched under foot. On investigation it was found to be salt. The lake was salt water, not the sort of thing a man lost in the desert would be pleased to find. The idea of a swim in the desert surroundings seemed the chance of a life-time. So some of us went in. The water though crystal clear was surprisingly cold. I do not know if there were any fish in the lake; we did not see any. I think it was probably too salt and too cold.

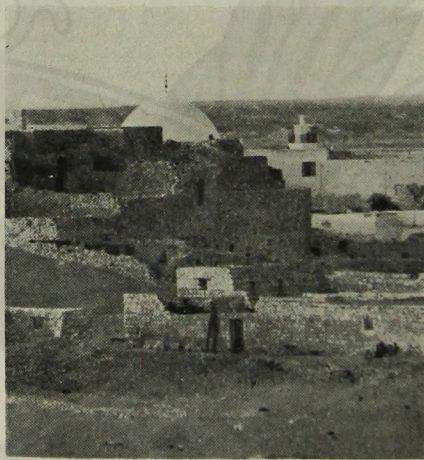
All this time out we had still not seen any of the Senussi. Many of these people live as nomads by choice. They are always friendly and we were pleased to see them. Each tribe has a small defined territory for grazing their sheep and goats. They live in large tents with their families and chickens. The tent floor

is of mud; the people are clean and hospitable. Guests are always offered food and the men are healthy and display more endurance than the average European. On exercises in the "Bondu" they would always turn up no matter where you were, usually with eggs to sell. The only signs of life on this trip were one crow and many footprints. At one stage we had followed the large pad prints of a camel.

Back at base we learnt that Lt. Hubert's party had been unable to get through to the Petrified Forest because of the soft sand. This was a disappointment to us as it was to be our turn in the morning.

On the 31st we had a look around the village of Giarabub. This was once an Italian fort built about 100 years ago. It makes an impressive setting for the large Mosque which was built by the order of King Idris I's grandfather. The local villagers were very friendly and seemed genuinely pleased to see us. The children had a wonderful game "hide from the camera;" they were too fast every time. I did not try too hard because they have a superstition about photographs. They say that if you have their image on paper you hold power over them. I had also come across this superstition in Morocco. The Chief in charge of the Mosque—a most distinguished looking man—held no fear of the camera and was willing to pose. He then showed us around the Mosque, first telling us to remove our boots and take all tobacco out of our pockets. The Mosque is an impressive building with a large dome. Inside the floor is covered with Persian carpets.

We were told by the local police that there was a very old cave that we should see. We decided to take a look. Once again the police driver led the way demonstrating his skill at driving over sand. On getting to



Giarabub. The white-domed mosque is within the walls of the one-time Italian fort

the cave it turned out to be a disappointment. But the setting was a beauty spot in its own right and thickly covered in palm trees. It was worth coming just to see this oasis. Many types of animal footprints could be seen in the damp sand. It proved that there is life in the desert if there is time to look for it. We headed back to base for lunch.

At the base camp we were told by the police about a smaller lake only half an hour's drive away; it seemed too good to miss. Two hours later when we arrived there, there was only time for a quick swim. We then returned to see the caves just outside Giarabub which were occupied by the Italians during the war. Many shells and bits of clothing were still to be found. In one cave a skull was found, a grim reminder that this cave had been the scene of some bitter fighting during World War II.

The last two days of 1964 had been full indeed. We were all glad to get to bed that night—the last night of 1964. Next morning we returned to Tobruk.

## CAVING EXPEDITION TO SPAIN

By CAPT. I. M. E. LLOYD

On Friday, November 27, 1964, "Sortie Day," the first expedition by members of the Battalion to a cave outside Gibraltar set off. The "Sortie" of 1781 left Gibraltar by night and caused considerable damage to the besieging forces. The Sortie of 1964 left at an early hour but were still fourth in the queue when the border gate opened at 8 a.m. We then had to wait patiently until allowed into Spain at 10.45 a.m. In order to keep costs down to a minimum the party, consisting of Capt. I. M. E. Lloyd, Cpl. "Sonny" Dowsett and Cpl. "Mitch" Fordham travelled in Cpl. Fordham's Volkswagen which made very good speed up into the mountains to Ronda where we stopped for lunch.

The aim of the expedition was to visit the "Cueva de la Pileta" at Benaolan near Ronda in the province of Andalusia. This cave or system of caves was discovered by Thomas Bullon Garcia in 1905 and is now controlled by his four sons, who have carried out extensive exploration and are still finding new unexplored parts. Thomas, one of the sons, has also discovered another separate system nearby, but is keeping the entrance a closely guarded secret at present. He has, however, promised to show it to us on our next visit.

The cave system was used by cave-dwellers, it is estimated about 6,000 years ago, and these people have left much evidence of their occupation behind them. A large amount of broken pottery has been found and numerous animal bones, flint arrowheads have also been found. The walls of the cave are adorned in several places with drawings of animals and curious black lines. The most important find, so far, however, has been two human skeletons deep down in a subsidiary system. Portions of these skeletons have been removed to Madrid Museum for examination.

The party arrived at the cave at about 2 p.m. where we met Thomas, one of the sons, who took us into the cave. Considerable work has been done in the "Tourist" parts of the cave in order to make the progress of high-heeled and suede shoes easier. In spite of this it is still very impressive, if only for its size and length. At the end of the main tunnel which is about 400 yards long there is a vertical shaft which descends over 200 feet. Thomas explained to us that this area had only been explored by his father, Thomas Senior, and he would not take responsibility for our descent in spite of our equipment.

On our return to Pileta we hope to persuade Thomas to allow a descent.

We did however persuade him to allow us into a branch of the main system which is not normally open to the public. This consists of a branch tunnel which leaves the main cave at right-angles and then descends steeply (at about 60-65 degrees) for about 150 to 200 feet. A sharp left turn then follows with a traverse through some round holes like "man-holes" and a further descent to about 200 feet. Here a large chamber some 100 feet long, 45 feet wide and from six to 15 feet high is entered. This chamber contains some really beautiful "young" formations, including curtains of pure white crystalline rock like ice and "flows" of the same white over earlier "flows" of pink rock.

At the end of the chamber, before a large rock of rather altar-like proportions and position is a raised platform of "flow-stone" on which is a reclining skeleton. The body was on its back with arms outstretched at shoulder level and the legs and feet together thus forming a cross. The skeleton is already fused into the "flow-stone" but its position and component bones are still clearly visible. It is believed, although there is little or no evidence to support it, that it is the skeleton of a child sacrificed to an age old god some four to five thousand years before Christ. Unfortunately the skull of this skeleton has already been removed to Madrid. A few yards away behind a screen of "stalactites" and "stalagmites" is a further skeleton or the remains of one. Unfortunately this was considerably disturbed when pieces were removed for research in Madrid and only a few pieces of bone and heaps of dust remain.

By a few small passages and tunnels a further chamber can be gained from the one containing the skeletons. Here again are many interesting and beautiful formations both young and old to fascinate the eye and for the mind to ponder on. One wonders at the sheer age of the things. This chamber was the end of this particular branch of the cave and we made our way up again to daylight after a photographic session around the skeleton.

It was 6 p.m. when we finally emerged from the cave into the warm sunshine and two things immediately confronted us. We were hungry and we had nowhere to stay for the night. On enquiring from Thomas the chances of finding a "pension" in the nearby village we were informed that nothing of the sort existed but that Thomas and his brothers would consider themselves insulted if we did not accept their hospitality. We

were looking down at the homestead in the bottom of the valley about a 100 feet below us and about 400 yards away. Here we witnessed a peculiar phenomenon which made us realise that we were quite high above sea level in these mountains (about 1,000 metres). When Thomas our guide spoke to his brother down at the farm, from the cave entrance, neither raised his voice above a normal speaking tone, yet they were perfectly clear and audible.

On our arrival at the house we met the other members of the family, Thomas's mother and three brothers and two friends, a married couple who were also staying the night. They were extremely hospitable and friendly and insisted on our joining them at their evening meal. After a quick "wash and brush up" we joined the family around the "cosy-table." This is an interesting piece of furniture—a large kitchen table with a long baize curtain hanging from the underside of the top, to the floor. We noted that as they sat down, the family put their legs under this curtain and tucked it around their thighs. Thomas's mother then arrived with a large iron pan full of hot charcoal which she placed under the table. The nights up in these mountains are cold and we certainly appreciated the cosy warmth on our legs and feet.

After several glasses of sherry with local olives the evening meal arrived in a large steaming pot and was dispensed with great care to ensure ten equal portions. This dish was "Pucheros" the staple food of rural Andalusia, consisting of a stew with a basis of dried chick peas and noodles, with beans, onions, garlic, and any other green vegetable thrown in. In this case locally shot partridge was added and we found it delicious. With these ingredients the dish was a high protein content, thus explaining how these people can live cheaply off the land and remain remarkably healthy and well fed. When we had finished our Pucheros which was accompanied by a delicious home-baked barley bread, we were offered "Churro" which is very similar to a doughnut, fried in olive oil and liberally covered in sugar or dark honey. Two huge bowls of these appeared on the table and no sooner had we eaten one than another was offered. The trouble was that we were afraid to refuse in case we offended our hosts.

It is most unfortunate that Cpl. Fordham is unable to eat Spanish food and in order not to offend our hosts we had to invent many maladies for him to suffer. The language barrier made this very confusing and at times hilarious. In the end we got over to them that Cpl. Fordham's stomach was "malo" (bad).

They are a very happy family and are continually laughing and pulling each other's legs. The husband of the visiting couple it appeared is a well known local singer and was persuaded by the brothers to give us a sample of "Cante Jondo" the haunting eastern type of singing in quarter tones which is common all over Andalusia. This he did, and although it is not everyone's type of music it was obviously performed with great sincerity and added another experience to a day already crowded with new experiences.

When we eventually went to bed we found that the family had had a full scale move-round in order to give

us a room and bed each. All three of us had a good night and when we awoke at about 8 a.m. were surprised that no one was astir. We had expected these country people to be up with the dawn. It occurred to us all that the family might be staying in their beds in order not to disturb us. This could have produced the ludicrous situation of both parties waiting for the other to move first but at 9 a.m. we decided it was time to make a move and we all tramped out to the well for a wash and shave. By the time our ablutions were over the family was up. Thomas and his mother insisted that we join them for breakfast, which we did and enjoyed another sustaining meal. This consisted of several slices of the excellent bread with butter or a dark brown paste which we were told came from the pig. More "Churro" were also produced and large glasses of coffee. This I believe was made from roasted barley which is common in the country district of Andalusia. This is known as "Cafe," real coffee being "Cafe-bueno." When we had eaten our fill, a large plate of fancy cakes made its appearance. I do not know if this was a normal breakfast for this family or if the extra "goodies" were produced for our benefit. The Lady of the House was still worried about Cpl. Fordham's stomach and tried many things to tempt him to eat, all to no avail until a fresh apple was brought in. His acceptance of this tit-bit was greeted by happy applause by the family.

The two visitors now prepared to leave and loaded a suitcase onto the farm donkey ready for the walk to the station in order to catch a train to Ronda. The mother was also preparing to go to Ronda for shopping so Cpl. Fordham offered to take them to the station in his car, which offer was accepted with profuse thanks.

While he was away Capt. Lloyd and Cpl. Dowsett decided to tackle some of the interesting rocks surrounding the valley. This area is a Rock Climbers' paradise with routes of all grades starting almost at the valley floor and rising several hundred feet. The chosen route lay over some good slabs at about 60 degrees and an enjoyable scramble was rewarded at the crest by a wonderful view of a succession of rocky ridges as far as one could see. On the top of a pinnacle of rock overlooking us we noticed an enormous bird which we decided was an eagle of some sort. It had a light-coloured head and neck and a reddish-brown body and wings. Soon its mate appeared over a rocky crest and our bird took off to meet it. The two birds then gave us a display of soaring and gliding, using the numerous up currents in this craggy country and showing off their wing span of seven or eight feet. Research on return to Gibraltar led us to believe these were Imperial Eagles.

On Cpl. Fordham's return we persuaded Thomas to let us enter a little-explored part of the cave. This part leads from the original cave entrance which the cave-dwellers must have used, as the entrance now used was only recently uncovered by a rock-fall. After an 'abseil' of about 40 feet, a steep scramble of about 150 feet led us down into some large chambers. These chambers show many signs of their primitive inhabitants. There are several animal drawings and a large number of the equivocal black lines which we had seen in the higher

levels. One of these chambers had obviously contained a large, deep lake many years ago and this is believed to have been the water supply of the inhabitants. The "rim-stone" showing the original level of the lake is one to two feet thick—evidence of the lake's existence for a very long period. All that remains now of this lake is a thin layer of black mud in the bottom of the 15 foot bowl which was once the lake. The present inhabitants of the cave, some hundreds of bats, are probably responsible for the mud, which is in fact guano. There



Oh, my finger! Cpl. Dowsett is in no danger; it will take hundreds of years to close that gap. A perfect stalactite, stalagmite formation

is not very much guano in the cave, however, so it would seem that the bats are very recent tenants.

Unfortunately it was necessary for both Cpl. Dowsett and Cpl. Fordham to be in Gibraltar for Saturday evening so we now had to pack our kit and clean up ready for our departure. While this was being done we were treated to an impressive demonstration of the local sling-shot. This consists of a plaited cord with a loop at one end. With this simple device the brothers are able to throw stones of up to egg size for several hundred yards with great velocity and accuracy.

After we had made our farewells and promised to return we started the mountainous journey to La

Linea, the Border and eventually Gibraltar. What had started as a short reconnaissance had become a really worth-while expedition both from the point of view of gaining experience and getting to know a little of the Spanish people. How different they were from the Guardia Civil and other petty officials who seem to delight in enforcing minor restrictions compared with the genuine hospitality and kindness of our hosts at Cueva de la Pileta.

## TROJAN AND STALWART

By C/Sgt. M. A. ELSTON

Two interesting vehicles to be introduced into the British Army soon are the "Trojan" and "Stalwart," and in this article I would like to introduce you to these vehicles and define the roles that each is liable to undertake within an infantry battalion.

Until recently, the infantry's only armoured personnel carrier (A.P.C.) was the Alvis "Saracen," capable of carrying an infantry section over difficult terrain. Following the "Saracen," came the "Saladin," mounting a 76-mm. gun. The main disadvantage of the "Saracen" was its inability to traverse water obstacles without temporary modification and special waterproofing.

What the Army required was an A.P.C. which could do all that the "Saracen" could and also swim, as opposed to wade from ship to shore, and cross deep, wide rivers with little or no preparation. The American Army had such a vehicle and it was from this that the "Trojan" or F.V. 432 was developed—a tracked A.P.C., powered by an eight-cylinder Rolls-Royce engine with transmission through an automatic gearbox. Crewed by two men it can carry ten infantrymen complete with weapons and equipment in its primary role as an A.P.C. Other roles can be undertaken within an infantry battalion, namely, those of load carrier, armoured command post, 3-inch or 81-mm. mortar carrier, wombat carrier or armoured ambulance.

The F.V. 432 can readily take to water, although some preparation is necessary. The power unit is situated in the left front of the vehicle, transmission in the centre, so due to all this weight being forward, the vehicle when floated, lists forward and to port. When stationary, about two inches of freeboard exists in front and six inches at the rear. A buoyancy tank, consisting of a rubber bag, is fitted externally to the front armour plating and is filled with air thus counteracting the forward tilt. Rubber side-screens prevent the ingress of water as the vehicle swims forward, but the driver is "blind" and must be controlled entirely by the commander. The vehicle is driven in the normal manner as if on the road. By pulling either the left or right tiller the driver locks his port or starboard track and the vehicle will turn in the required direction. The action of the tracks revolving is sufficient to produce a speed of four knots.

To sum up the F.V. 432 is a vehicle which may prove to be the answer to the infantry commander's prayer

in these days of mobile, fast, hard-hitting armies. It is, however, slower than the "Saracen" it replaces, and, from the driver's point of view, requires careful handling coupled with 100 per cent concentration.

Previously mentioned was the "Saladin" armoured car, from which the "Salamander" was developed for the R.A.F. as a fire crash tender. It was from this vehicle that Alvis produced the "Stalwart," a cross country amphibious load-carrier capable of carrying a five-ton payload over extreme terrain conditions and across water, whilst possessing a performance comparable with most tracked vehicles.

The "Stalwart" has a waterproof hull mounted on six independently sprung wheels and is powered by a Rolls-Royce B.81 engine and two Dowty water propulsion units. Steering in water is achieved by operating two tiller arms which control the two propulsion units.

The "Stalwart's" role in the infantry will be that of a load carrier, invaluable in supplying bulk quantities of fuel to forward areas. Within the Royal Corps of Transport and R.A.O.C. it will prove its worth ferrying supplies from ships to units inland and is more manoeuvrable than the old D.U.K.W.s of present day amphibious units. The R.A.C. will have a vehicle capable of moving forward to replenish tanks and thus eliminate the present necessity of withdrawing tanks from forward areas to refuel and stock up with ammunition. The "Stalwart" can also be used as a light recovery vehicle for tracked vehicles. At present recoverable tanks in forward areas are towed by armoured recovery vehicles back to harbour areas and base workshops, but now "Stalwart" can take over from the A.R.V.s where the terrain is reasonably firm and flat, leaving the A.R.V.s free to recover tank casualties in less accessible localities. As an ammunition carrier, the "Stalwart" will be an asset to the Royal Artillery too, and future developments may see it as a guided-weapons launcher.

Here then are some of the uses of these vehicles, together with their characteristics. The makers of "Trojan" and "Stalwart" have surely given the British Army two of the most interesting vehicles in its history, due to their amphibious qualities alone. Until the advent of these vehicles it was the job of the R.A.S.C. D.U.K.W. drivers solely to "cabby" in deep water, but now many drivers in all arms will have the experience as "Trojan" and "Stalwart" take their place as common-user vehicles.

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## SUPPORT OF BENEVOLENT FUNDS IN THE ARMY

The following Notice Board Information has been issued by The Army Board of the Defence Council and is republished for the information of all serving officers and soldiers:

1. Special D.C.I. (Army) Pts. I-V 47 of 1965 gives details of how corps, regimental and Army Benevolent Funds provide aid for you and your dependants in times of distress. Read it carefully, and you will realise how valuable such timely assistance can be and why it is so important that you should subscribe annually to your Corps or Regimental Association and through them, to the Army Benevolent Fund with whom they work in co-operation.

2. The combined resources of these Funds have, for some time, been inadequate to meet the required standard of financial grants to serving personnel, ex-soldiers and their dependants. The public subscribe generously to some of these funds but, if the level of grants in individual cases is to be raised to something comparable with the other two Services, it is essential that moneys raised from within the Army be increased by at least £200,000 a year above the amount raised from this source in the early 1960s.

3. This extra income can be obtained if every officer, adult soldier and member of the women's corps will subscribe one day's pay a year to his or her Corps or Regimental Benevolent Association. The Army Board of the Defence Council hope that all ranks realise their moral duty towards their comrades of all arms and services in this matter and have, therefore, expressed strongly the hope that, in keeping with the long tradition and comradeship in the Army, all ranks will subscribe WILLINGLY and VOLUNTARILY, as soon as possible. Only by so doing, can benefits to individuals and their dependants, in times of distress, be maintained and provided on a more adequate scale than has so far been possible.

4. As will be seen from para. 7 of the D.C.I., it is hoped that some more fortunately-placed corps and regiments will donate, annually, moneys surplus to their immediate requirements to the Army Benevolent Fund, so that the latter may be able to apply this money where the need is greatest at any time and for the benefit of the Army as a whole.

Corps and regiments which are in a position to make a donation annually to the Army Benevolent Fund will make clear to all ranks subscribing in response to any appeal resulting from the publication of this N.B.I., that surplus income of Corps or Regimental Funds over and above what is required for immediate working purposes in any year, will be paid to the Army Benevolent Fund.

5. Subscriptions from officers will continue to be collected by means of bankers' orders, preferably accompanied by deeds of covenant, and soldiers may subscribe in the same way if they so wish.

6. Alternatively, soldiers may authorise their subscriptions to be deducted from their pay by quarterly instalments in April, July, October and January each year, beginning on April 1, 1965. Those who wish to subscribe by this method should complete A.F. N 9308.

7. Further details and advice can be obtained from your Orderly Room or unit paymaster."

## 42 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

There are 78 youth teams operating in Great Britain. They are spread out in such a way as to enable them to operate in every county in the country. These teams have replaced Regimental Recruiting teams.

The aim of an Army Youth Team is to give as much help as is physically and practically possible to any youth organisation which wishes to avail itself of the team's services. By doing this the Army hopes to foster a closer relationship between the soldier and the civilian and to present itself in a more up-to-date light.

The 42 Army Youth Team (the Middlesex Regiment) operates in North London from a base in Hornsey. In fact it is housed in an office which is part of "A" Company 5th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment. At present the team comprises Lt. P. F. Packham, Sgt. F. O'Rawe, L/Cpls. R. Crook and D. Dent, and Pte. P. Paget. The team works unusual hours, most of its activities taking place in the evening or at week-ends. However, as we rarely work in the mornings nobody complains! We all live at home and work in civilian clothes parading only once a week in uniform in order to remind ourselves that we are still soldiers.

The Team carries out a number of activities with youth clubs including film shows, training boys for the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, weapon demonstrations, camping and outward bound week-ends, .22 shooting and visits to military establishments. During a recent visit to a youth club in Tottenham a gang of "Rockers" decided to abscond with the weapons we had brought. Fortunately, they were dissuaded by the youth leader to whom we will be ever grateful! This is an example of what can happen in a club but generally the 30 or so clubs we deal with are well behaved and we are well received. Particular progress has been made with tickets obtained by Lt. Packham from Independent Television for their beat programme "Ready, Steady, Go!". Distribution of these has been found to be an excellent way of initially overcoming anti-Army feeling where it is encountered.

We all agree that being a member of an Army Youth Team requires a substantial readjustment from life in the Battalion but we all have found so far that it has been a most enjoyable and beneficial experience.

# GREETINGS

to the Middlesex Regiment  
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continuing success of  
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## 5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES

The past six month period has been a busy one for the Battalion, some changes have taken place and we have been involved in a number of "outside" activities besides the usual spate of competitions that the winter months herald.

On October 4, we provided a Guard of Honour commanded by Major J. D. Gunnell, T.D., with the Band and Drums, for the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., at St. Margarets, Westminster, for the final annual service to be held by the County of Middlesex before its dissolution on March 31. The Colours of both the 1st and 5th Battalions were on parade, the former being sent home from Gibraltar especially for this occasion. The Guard received praise from many sources for their turnout and drill, but unfortunately the TV coverage of this event was disappointing. The Guard of Honour had previously paraded at Willesden Parish Church for the Lord Lieutenant in the morning when he attended the first service after renovations had been completed.

October also saw the Annual Middlesex T. and A.F. Association Tourney, previously called Tough Training Contest, in which all the County T.A. units participated. This was held at Stanford P.T.A. and a great deal of ground was covered. The newly constituted competition proved a great success, though we were "pipped" at the post unfortunately. "D" Company team under Lt. McMaster and Sgt. Large gained second place, only four points behind the winners, and Lt. Brown and Sgt. Stone with their team from "A" Company were placed 3rd, only 11 points behind.

Autumn Camp was again held in the latter part of October at Canterbury, with a great deal of help and assistance from the Brigade Depot to whom we extended our thanks. Some 50 members of the battalion attended, of whom 40 were recruits under training, and a great deal was accomplished.

There has been a re-shuffle (not without some heartburning!) in our organisation and our support weapon elements are now housed centrally at Hornsey under Lt. Thomas. This section will need building up again and we hope to achieve a strong group by camp in 1966. The re-shuffle included many changes in officer appointments and many old faces appear in new places. It is hoped that some confusion on who is what (and where) will quietly solve itself in time.

The P.S. were in attendance at the Ceremony of Remembrance at Westminster on Saturday, November 7, and Companies held parades and attended ceremonies as usual in each of their respective areas, "H.Q." Company and Bn. H.Q. representing the Battalion at the Regimental War Memorial at Inglis Barracks.

With the Dissolution of the County of Middlesex as an administrative entity, this may well have been the last time that the Companies will attend separate ceremonies. This year may see the Battalion complete at Mill Hill for the first time on this occasion.

Christmas over we were faced with the almost immediate prospect of the Annual Administrative Inspection. This was held on January 26, by Brigadier Sir Jeffrey Darell, Bt., M.C., our new Brigade Commander. Since Sir Jeffrey is a Guardsman this may have accounted for the fact that all immovable objects suddenly acquired fresh coats of paint! We are, however, not sure if this achieved the right results as the final report has not yet been received. However, we did try!

Officers and junior N.C.O.s Study weekends have been held and currently the Battalion is preparing to complete its Annual classification. It is, however, not true that the date for this has been published in the local Aldershot Press as an advanced warning to all civilians. After all, the records fail to show a single pheasant bagged so far.

We shall then be re-organising our thinking and training for annual camp this year which is to be at the Army Home Defence Centre at Devises on how to survive a "Nuclear Knockout." The suggestion that we are allocated as a mobilisation centre one of those non-economic pits the Minister of Fuel and Power appears to be offering to any takers seems to have not been well received in some quarters. However, we may learn the error of our ways at the Brigade Study "Indoctrination" weekend, to be held at the Grand Hotel, Folkestone, again in February.

By the time the next issue of *The Die-Hards* is made, Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Webber will have relinquished command of the Battalion to Major Peter Hall. We would like to take this opportunity therefore of wishing Col. Geoffrey every success in the future as, at last, a "fully fledged" civilian, and to thank him for all the time and effort he has spent on our behalf in the past three years and to hope that we will see a great deal of him at all our functions in the future.

Congratulations are due to:

"D" Company for winning the Inter-Coy Competition (BOTT Cup) for the second year in succession and to "B" Company for closing the points gap for second place to 13.4.

"D" Company for winning the Battalion Weapon Training Competition also for the third year in succession, and "H.Q." Company for a very good runners-up score.

L/Cpl. Davis of "A" Company for winning the Corby Cup (and to "A" Company for producing six volunteers in the first seven places).

**HONOURS and AWARDS**

The following Honours and Awards have been made to members of the Battalion:

**T.D.**

Major P. J. Hall.

**Efficiency Medal (Territorial Army)**

Sgt. D. S. Hogg  
Sgt. A. R. Kemp.  
Bandsman F. E. Lee

**1st Clasp to Efficiency Medal (Territorial Army)**

W.O.II R. G. Vaisey  
Sgt. K. G. R. Anderson.

**BATTALION HEADQUARTERS**

Following our return from camp, Battalion Headquarters settled down again to the more humdrum life at Edgware. Capt. Tony McManus who almost left the job as Adjutant at camp, continued to be seen around for some time mainly, we fancy, to tell us just how much preparation was required for R.M.C.S. Shrivenham.

His successor has worked his way through a Parade at Westminster, the Annual Administrative inspection and sundry other highlights. However, the period has been marked by the regrettable absence for some eight weeks of Major Geoff Norton, the Training Major. One minute he was trying to convince the Adjutant that the way to keep fit was on the Badminton Court, the next he was in hospital weighted and tensioned in the most alarming fashion, whilst an alleged slipped disc was slipping back into place.

Truth to tell, we fear that it was not the Badminton but the sudden increase in the weight of responsibility when he heard that he was to be a father once more, that crippled him. However, as we go to press, we hear that it's a second son. Every congratulation to both Geoff and Mrs. Norton. Congratulations also for that insurance policy!

Re-organisations in appointment throughout the Battalion have resulted in a series of new faces at Edgware. In Battalion Headquarters Major Gunnell moved 20 paces from the Drill Hall as Second-in-Command Designate (whatever exactly that means). In fact he has developed a distinctly legal air since trying to sort out who owns what, and is leaving us all behind when trying to explain the simplicity of it all.

Col. Webber, now regrettably almost on his last lap in command, has continued to execute an almost one-man recruiting campaign with the Press. Rumour has it that the local Press will give him a luncheon party when he leaves us.

Finally a word about the rarely mentioned staff in the Orderly Room. As civilians they maintain the highest standard day by day. However, if we lose the ladies when we go to war, at least the Chief Clerk should now get there in his new car (just who is he trying to impress?).

**"H.Q." COMPANY****Personalities**

This sub-heading has been put first into these notes as events in the past few months have been dominated by the "whirlwind" that hit us last November, when officer changes were made at the beginning of the training year rather than on April 1, when the Battalion Command changes. "H.Q." Company geographically and politically, is at the centre of the Battalion so here the wind was strongest, scattering people all around our empire. We were very sorry to see the following leave us, but congratulate them on their appointments. Major Gunnell to Battalion Headquarters as 2IC designate, Capt. Couch to Command "A" Company, Capt. Doran to Hounslow as 2IC where we are told "D" Company eventually opened the gates (pearly or hell is a matter of opinion), and Capt. Richards to "B" Company as 2IC. C.S.M. Birmingham has left the Assault Pioneers on his appointment as Company Sergeant-Major, (we also congratulate him on having another baby!). C/Sgt. Green takes over the Assault Pioneers on leaving the M.T. On the credit side, we welcome back Capt. Beaumont from "A" Company as Company Commander, Lt. Tett as Regimental Signal Officer and Sgt. Wagner as M.T. Sergeant. To complete these considerable changes, our P.S.I., C/Sgt. Partridge, that keen humourist on the T.A., has recently met Sgt. Barnes from the 1st Battalion, with a vehicle and red carpet, in case he lost his way, and has just managed to get his signature! We welcome Sgt. Barnes and trust that he will enjoy his stay with us, which will have one consolation—it could not possibly be as bad as he has been told!

We also welcome all our new recruits who have joined recently. There were seven at autumn camp, and they have proved a valuable asset to the Company.

**Training**

Whenever the Company takes part in Battalion competitions the problem of having our specialists trained both in their tasks and basic infantry skill rears its head as, unlike a regular Battalion, due to travelling difficulties, it is impossible to draw our strength from fully trained soldiers in the Rifle Companies and we have to attempt the dual task ourselves. For the Battalion Weapon Training Competition, it was decided that everybody would do a short (dare I say refresher, or was it initial?) course which proved very popular and successful as we came second to "D" Company and the recruits in particular did very well, being within one point of winning, despite having a man short. The Company is now endeavouring to strike a balance between specialist Platoon training and a limited amount of Company organised infantry training. The first Company administered week-end on these lines in January, proved a success. An escape and evasion exercise was arranged for the Saturday night with the help of "D" Company on Hankley Common. It is suspected that specialist Platoon training came to the front at the beginning as a number appeared to believe that the best method of finding their position on the

map, having been dumped some way from a rendezvous, was by going to the nearest pub! A few noteworthy stalwarts, finding themselves on their feet for the first time, decided to make the most of it and succeeded so well in evading the enemy that they were still out after the exercise had ended, eventually finding their way back to camp in the early hours.

Specialist training is going well and the Signal Platoon, having had an influx of recruits, is working hard teaching them. The Recce Platoon has just been told to put their M.M.G.s into preservation, pending removal and, while they look forward with vague hopes to the G.P.M.G. being issued, can now concentrate on their real tasks and expect to become radio-active at camp. The loss of the M.M.G.s is probably the last link the Regiment will have with this weapon.

For any old Die-Hards who read these notes, this might bring back some poignant memories. It is appropriate that the Perring Trophy should have been given on a long loan to the Battalion from the Territorial Army Association for safe keeping to remind us of the M.M.G.

The Provost Section have now moved to Hornsey for evening training, and for an experimental period will be training the Corps of Drums one night a week for their field role.

Sgt. Stunt has started a Signal Platoon group at Hounslow which should help to strengthen further this extremely important Platoon.

The .22 shooting team is having mixed success mainly because our best shots are senior ranks who are limited in the inter-Company competition, but we are through to the quarter final in the T.A.A.F.A. competition. Our young blood though must be trained up for the future.

**Social**

The first dance for some considerable time was held in November. It was very well attended and was both a social and financial success. It was held on the last Saturday of the month, so the Mill Hill Branch Die-Hards Club were invited. It was amusing to see and hear (unprintable) their reactions to the two bands and dancing, but we are certain that they secretly enjoyed themselves and many ventured onto the floor. The canteen bar is being rebuilt and decorated at the moment, and when it is completed should be a very pleasant place for social evenings, which we hope to hold more often, making it a place to bring wives and girl friends.

**Sports**

The basketball team is doing very well with Pte. Boatwright as its main key. It has won every match so far, including beating "D" Company, the favourites, by one point, much to their annoyance. If we beat "B" Company, we have won the competition.

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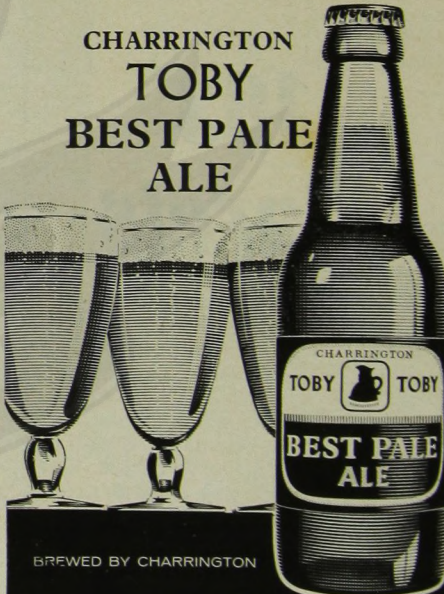
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## THE BAND

## Divisional Band Competition

With superhuman effort and repeating our achievement at annual camp, we turned up 100 per cent strong for the 1964 Divisional Band Competition. It cannot be said that we excelled ourselves in the marching event but we came second in the orchestral re-entry competition. The Bandmaster has negotiated with R.S.M. Boseley and we trust a little guidance with the pace-stick instead of the baton will improve our "performance" on the barrack square this year.

## We welcome:

We were pleased to welcome the 2IC who, in his capacity as Band President, attended our party on December 8, accompanied by Mrs. Hall. Also present and very welcome was Capt Murray, O.C. "D" Company, and our tolerant host at Hounslow. The success of this party was contributed to in no small measure by the splendid buffet produced by Pte. C. Mason.

We are indebted to Lt. T. D. Jones for the artwork he produced for an advertisement in the local Press. His sketch has already achieved success in recruiting Bdsmn. Colin Paulson. Guess what instrument he plays!

Congratulations to Ron Beeston on his promotion to Lance-Corporal.

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C-26

## "A" COMPANY

Shortly after the last notes were written an exciting "initiative" week-end was enjoyed in Snowdonia. The Welsh weather started with unbelievably glorious sunshine, but was less kind later.

Lt. Brown's Middlesex Tournay Competition team of Sgt. Stone, Cpl. Slack, L/Cpl. Davis and Ptes. Thomas and Mortelmans came a most creditable third and would indeed have won had Lady Luck been kinder.

The Autumn "Wind of Change" produced an "A" Company with a new look. We said goodbye to Capt. Beaumont and Capt. Young, who moved to "H. Q." and "C" Companies respectively, and welcomed Capt. H. E. Couch, Company Commander, Lt. T. D. Jones, 2IC, and Lt. D. O. M. Thomas, O.C. Sp. El. Our new line is "A for Action," and our forthcoming programme, and the past months, have lived up to this slogan.

The Battalion completely re-organised training—basing all Sp. weapons and personnel at Hornsey. The very good "A" Company Sp. nucleus (now representing the whole Battalion) and a full training programme with plenty of live firing, will do justice to their task. Training is combined where possible with the Company. A successful 3-in mortar firing week-end was held at Hangmoor in November and the future programme includes a revision week-end at Netheravon, and B.A.T. and M.O.R. live firing at Lydd and Fingringhoe respectively. The new Sp. El. Stores displays an inspiring armoury with room to spare. Sgt. Smith is welcomed back and we also welcome Cpl. Hinton, Ptes. Enever and Johnston to Sp. El.

The usual Remembrance Sunday Parade was also the last Civic Service in Hornsey due to the change of Boroughs. The old 7th Battalion Colours were carried for the last time, prior to being laid up, by Lts. Smith and Brown with C/Sgt. James, Sgts. Stone and Aldridge forming the Colour Party. The parade comprised the Old Comrades, contingents of Highgate School C.C.F. and 16 Middlesex A.C.T. and a detachment from "C" Company. After the March Past, led by the Battalion Corps of Drums, refreshments were served in the Drill Hall and many old friends were welcomed.

Company training week-ends have been enjoyed at Stanford P.T.A. in November and at Pirbright in January.

Assault boat training on the Buckenham Tofts lake culminated in a night patrolling exercise and a dawn attack on an enemy of the Sp. El., assisted by the "Medics" and the Cadets. It was "comments" on catching crabs or at the water level, inside the boats which gave away the patrols rather than the standard of boat drill! After Grenade throwing and the Mouse Hall Sten Alley an Assault Course Competition was held. The Officers and Sgts. Team produced the best time over a course which was unusually dry—except under the tunnel!

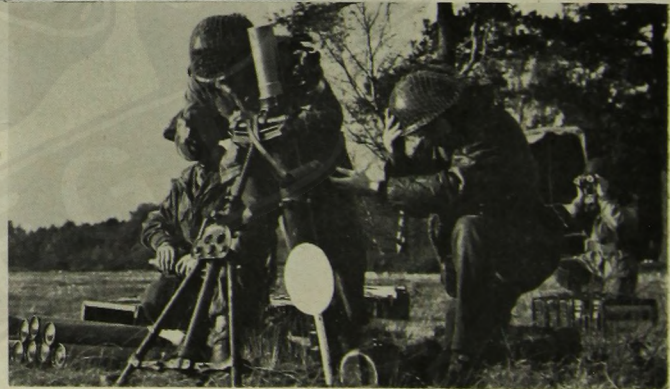
A "Pentathlon" Competition was held at Pirbright and teams were led by senior Privates or Corporals. The events were Pistol and S.L.R. Shooting, a night



"A" Coy. Team who took part in the Middlesex T. & A.F.A. "Tough Training" Tournay October 10/11, 1964. (Left to right) Sgt. Stone, Cpl. Slack, Cpl. Davis, Pte. Mortimer, Lt. Brown



Assault landing. Training at Stanford P.T.A. November 21/22, Near Boat (Left to right): Cpl. Slack, Ptes. Edwards, Fairbrother and Cadet



Sp. Pl. of "A" Coy. at Hangmoor Ranges. No. 1—Cpl. Davis, No. 2—Pte. Bird

compass and map reading march, and the Guards Depot Assault Course. Some excellent results were obtained and the winning team was Ptes. Munro and Monro, from the Drums, who received a monetary prize. The Company bivouacked on the range and the good spirits (liberally dispensed by Drummy from his mobile Canteen) added to the warmth and well being. As usual Cpl. Ashby produced meals of the highest standard.

The Company Dinner was well supported on December 11, and as a favourable experiment ladies were invited. After the meal and the loyal toast proposed by Cpl. Bird, we officially said "Good-bye" to Capt. Beaumont. C.S.M. Elliott presented a tankard as a token of thanks. The Company was presented by Capt. Beaumont with a fine clock which graces the bar in the Canteen. It was commented that "it couldn't tick" as loudly as Cpl. Jones but that it might (?) help to reduce late nights! (This has not been noticed yet!)

Company Dances were held in October and January and C/Sgt. James' Social Committee deserve congratulations for two splendid evenings.

After Christmas we were initiated by Lt. Jock Smith into the mysteries of a Haggis Party. The focal point of a most appetizing meal was the steaming Haggis carried in aloft to the music of the pipes! Despite doubtful appearance, (and the fact that they had been smuggled across the Border under the kilt) the Haggis tasted really "bonnie." Our grateful thanks to Lt. Jock Smith's mother who skilfully reared them(!)

Shortly after Lt. Jones' appointment, armies of workmen were seen all over the T.A. Centre and improvements could be seen in all directions. The Old Officers Mess has been tastefully decorated and was christened with an Officers and N.C.O.s Curry Party on February 6.

The .22 Shooting Team under Lt. Brown and Sgt. Graham have a first rate winning record again.

Capt. Couch has led a spirited basket ball team and the standard is noticeably improving.

We congratulate C.S.M. Elliott, Cpls. Davis, Bird and Kavanagh on their promotion and welcome Ptes. McIntyre, Knibbs, Vaughan, Wood and Oakley to the Company.

#### "B" COMPANY

At about the time that the last notes were published the O.C. was holidaying in sunnier climes, and Battalion Headquarters was busily engaged in providing the Battalion with a "New Look." As a consequence Capt. S. Henshaw discovered on his return that two of the Company Officers had been posted to other Companies, and that the Mortar Platoon was no more.

Whilst we are naturally sorry to lose Lts. Tett and Jones we extend our congratulations to them on their new appointments as R.S.O. and 2IC respectively. They have given long and valued service to the Company over many years and their efforts and enthusiasm are sorely missed. Sgt. Wagner too has been posted as M.T. Sergeant to Edgware and "B" Company has consequently lost the service of yet another loyal member. This bitter pill has, however, been sweetened

by the return to Ealing of Capt. S. Richards who only left us about a year ago. We are very pleased to welcome him back as Company 2IC and hope that he will enjoy a long and happy sojourn at "B" Company.

Following the success of our week-end in Wales in 1963 we decided to follow up with a three-day exercise in Thetford. It was intended that "B" Company supported by the Recce Platoon would oppose "D" Company 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, but we found on our arrival at Thetford that the Parachute Regiment had "Flown" Off. We hastily organised an exercise against Cambridge University O.T.C. who had similarly been embarrassed by the disappearance of the Red Devils. The object of the exercise was for "B" Company to infiltrate through the enemy lines and "blow up" a rocket platform, and obviously for the 100-odd Officer Cadets, supported by armoured Cars, to prevent us from doing this. We managed to reach our objective and just about the first the enemy knew of our existence was the realistic explosion made by the R.E. detachment as the rocket platform disappeared into space. This was a most enjoyable and instructive week-end, and we thank the Recce Platoon and Cambridge University O.T.C. for their enthusiastic participation.

Just before Christmas we had a Company Dance which was made the occasion for the presentation of a belated wedding present to Lt. and Mrs. T. D. Jones. The evening was a great success, which was a direct result, the writer is assured, of the fact that it was organised by the Entertainments Committee and not by the Officers.

This claim is probably justified and in any event thanks are due to Cpls. Murphy, Duggan, Duff, Clark and Pte. Newnham for their efforts.

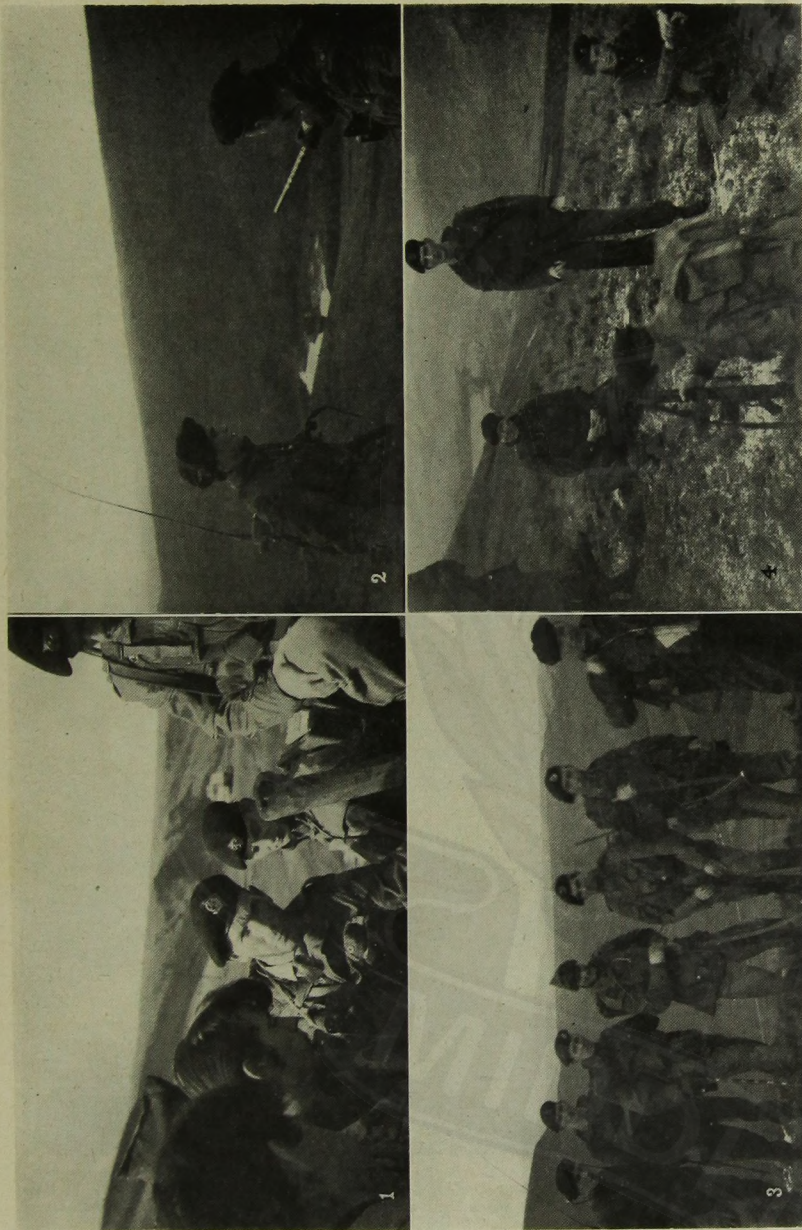
In conclusion our congratulations to L/Cpls. Clark and Rose on their promotion and to Lt. and Mrs. Margand on the birth of another son.

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It would be greatly appreciated by the Editor if readers would mention "The Die-Hards" when corresponding with or purchasing from firms who advertise in this Regimental Journal.



1. Capt. S. L. J. Henshaw and Lt. R. G. Tett plan the battle. 2. A respite, the village having been taken. L./Cpl. Bond (back). Pte. Patterson, Pte. Rudd, Sgt. Foster, Cpl. Bartrick and Pte. Tuvey in rear. 3. Pte. Middleton netting in. 4. Pte. King ready with his Bren. 5. Grub up. Lt. R. G. Tett, Capt. S. L. J. Henshaw, Lt. T. D. Jones, Lt. D. J. Margand and W.O.II D. Adkins (P.S.I.). 6. The Cookhouse. Pte. C. Mason with C/Sgt. F. Hawes in charge.



**TRAINING ON BRECON BEACONS 1964**  
 1. Briefing for the Exercise. (Centre) C.S.M. Payne and L/Cpl. Smith 2. Patrol Commander's Briefing. Pte. Edwards and 2/Lt. Muirhead  
 3. Before moving off. (Left to Right) Pte. Edwards, Cpl. Cowlard, 2/Lt. Muirhead, Cpl. Brunton, Ptes. Sturgeon, Wayne, Sgt. Harwood  
 4. Half-way there. (Left to Right) Sgt. Harwood, Cpl. Cowlard, Pte. Edwards

**"C" COMPANY**

Since Annual Camp last year, "C" Company have been active in many fields; this could be taken literally, it is understood. An invasion of Wales took place in October, when the Company moved for the week-end to the Brecon Beacon area for a map reading and signal exercise. By reasonably accurate use of the map, and help of the local sheep each group arrived at the right place at approximately the right time. The "Beacons," whilst not on the grand scale of Snowdon, which we visited last year, are quite a formidable group of peaks rising to 2,906 feet. It was generally a sunny week-end at the end of a splendid summer, and this made the hail-storms we encountered on the Peaks seem even more biting.

Various promotions have been made during this period, namely:—L/Cpls. Cowlard and Swarbrick to Corporal, Ptes. Hosking and Smith to Lance-Corporal. Lt. Thomas was transferred to "A" Company to take over the support element of the Battalion which has now been centralised at Hornsey. Capt. Young moved as 2IC to us from "A" Company with a certain amount of relief, having watched the vast build up of stores taking place at Hornsey.

It is regretted that our .22 Shooting has not been too good during the period. But it is hoped an improvement will be apparent with the addition of Pte. Rollason to the teams ranks. He is also a member of the 27/30 Middlesex Home Guard Rifle Club.

We received visits from two old members of the Company just before Christmas, Pte. Hek, now with the R.A.O.C., who had just been awarded a Medal as "Best Soldier" in his recruit Platoon at Blackdown, and also Sgmn. Beckenham who is now stationed in B.A.O.R.

The Company put in the only team from the Battalion for the Escape and Evasion Exercise "Fly by Night" on November 28 and 29, 1964. It is regretted that we were not placed in the first three, despite the fact that we were one of the few teams to finish the course. We did, however, get the usual T.A. complaints of pneumonia-lumbago, and frost-bite for our efforts.

Social functions during the period were a Bounty Night Social, and a Dance on January 9, both of which were very successful, everyone enjoying themselves.

Remembrance Day this year was a "lease and lend" affair, with "A" Company. We joined them for their Parade in the morning, and they joined us in the afternoon. This ensured a good Middlesex Regiment representation at both Parades.

January 30 and 31, found the Company field firing at Stoney Castle, Aldershot, and were pleased to have a visit from our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier Sir Jeffrey Darell, Bt., M.C. He spent some time watching the training, and talking to members of the Company during the tea-break, and causing dismay to S.M. Payne by tapping his cane on the boot of the Sergeant-Major's car.

Continued on page 67



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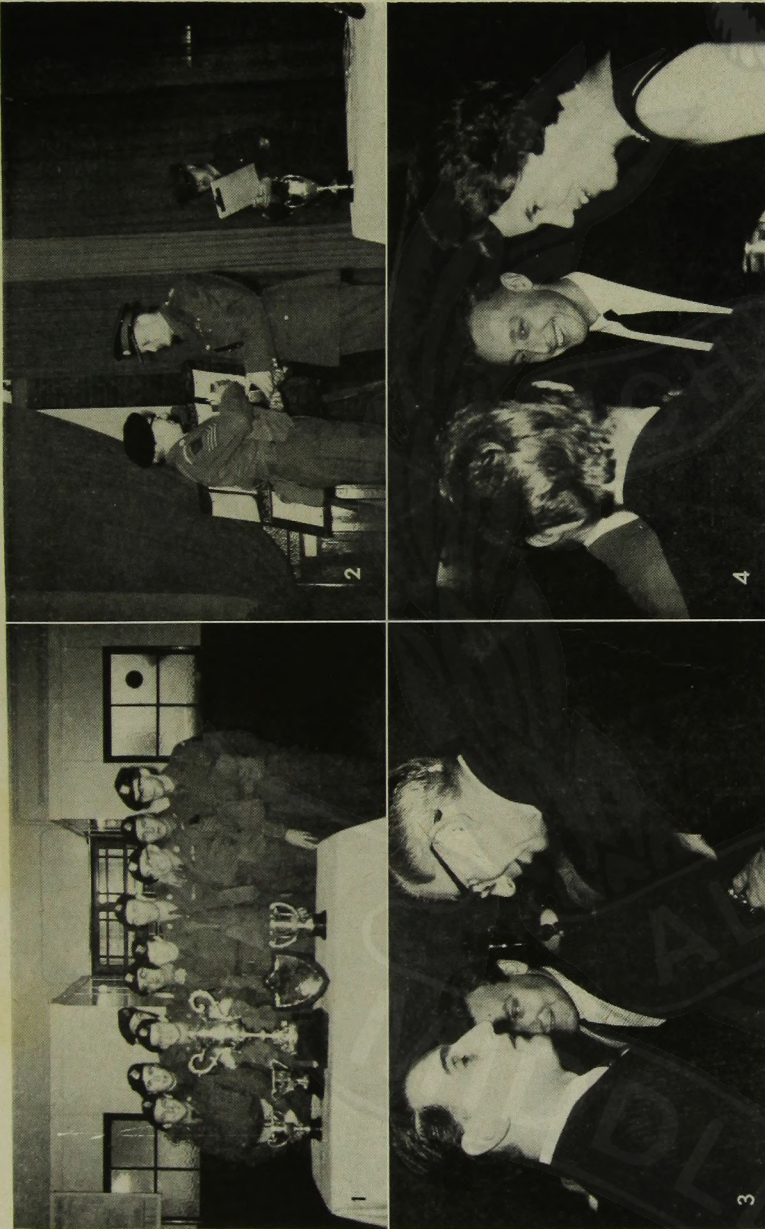
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1. The Winning "D" Company Trained Soldier Team at the Bn. Weapon Training Competition, December 10, 1964. (Back row, left to right) Pte. Oliver, L/Cpl. Davies, Sgt. Ward, Cpl. Smyth, Pte. Crawford. (Front row) Pte. Hart, L/Cpl. Joyce, Pte. Mattock, Sgt. Large, Pte. Faul. 2. Presentation of the Cup for the Winning Team for the W.T. Competition, Col. Webber and Sgt. Large. 3. Bounty Dance November 27, 1964. Sgts. Young and Large with Capt. Hogg our retiring O.C. in the background. 4. The Company Commander, Capt. Murray, with his fiancée Miss Alison Cunningham at the Bounty Dance. "Beattie" in the foreground is thankfully anonymous!

**"D" COMPANY**

Since the last publication of these notes the Company has continued its run of success including winning the Battalion Weapon Training Competition as usual, although we were disappointed to be narrowly beaten by "H.Q." Company in the Basketball this year.

Capt. Hogg has left the Company after many years and has been succeeded as Company Commander by Capt. Murray who celebrated his succession to power by becoming married with the same alacrity and enthusiasm that characterises his military decisions.

Recruits have been flowing in steadily and the strength of the Company is greater than it has been for some time.

L/Cpls. Bennett and Hudson are to be congratulated on their recent promotions although, unfortunately, Pte. Preston's efforts to impress his suitability for appointment as Pioneer Sergeant on the R.S.M. did not meet with the same success.

There is a shortage of officers, sometimes only two in the Company but, either in spite of, or because of this, the Company's list of successes grows. A Signal Section is to be started at Hounslow which it is hoped will extend the Company's communications potential beyond shouting distance.

Social activities have continued and the Company is grateful to C/Sgt. Rea and Sgt. Ward who have attended to most of the organisation, particularly the catering. It is hoped their threats to leave the T.A. and set up as caterers in the vast amount of spare time they will then have, will not be carried out. We have had the Bounty Dance, Christmas Party, and a special farewell evening for Capt. Hogg.

The Company looks forward to our usual Spring Pentathlon Competition and the T.A.E.R. members are prepared to spend a fortnight in Germany in lieu of Annual Camp.

Sgt. Overton has left us and C/Sgt. Eldridge is our new P.S.I. from the 1st Battalion. We also welcome Ptes. Oliver, Richardson, Jones A., Dalwood, Foster, Green, Hunt, and Crow.

**OFFICERS' MESS**

This year we welcomed into our Mess at Okehampton, Officers from 254 Field Regiment, R.A., 167 Field Ambulance and 254 L.A.D. and thus with a total of 48 Officers we had the largest number in Mess at Camp for many years.

The Mess building was a large one and a separate ante-room and dining room was occupied by the London Rifle Brigade Rangers, although the kitchen was shared! This put an unusual burden on the Mess Staff, but they rose to the occasion and the Camp began well with a Dinner Night on Monday, June 22, after which we enjoyed excellent hospitality at the Sergeants' Mess.

Cocktail Parties given by other Units in the Brigade followed almost nightly and the Battalion were well represented at all these, notably by the Commanding Officer and P.M.C.

On Thursday, June 25, a Regimental Guest Night was held which was preceded by "Beating Retreat"

by the Corps of Drums, whose turnout and display were of a very high order.

Last of the official Mess functions was the visit of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. A record quantity of alcohol was consumed on this occasion which was also believed to be the first on which champagne had been produced, albeit for privileged members of "B" Company!

Our congratulations to Capt. Ken Murray on his recent marriage to Miss Alison Cunningham. We sincerely hope that his other two loyalties (5 MX and the Toucan) will see as much of him as in the past!

Capt. Dan Hogg and Lt. Jim McMaster have both been granted extended leave, but we hope to see them back with the Battalion shortly.

A successful curry lunch was held in the Mess at Edgware on the Sunday before Christmas—seasonal decorations were by courtesy of the Commanding Officer, who, as usual, was able to produce a vast quantity of holly at a moment's notice. After lunch we were entertained to recitations from Kipling, rendered by selected Officers who donned period costume for the occasion.

The County of Middlesex have lent the Perring Trophy to the Battalion for Competition. Until the G.P.M.G. is issued to the Battalion and Company M.G. Sections are formed it will be held in the Officers' Mess. This magnificent trophy is a silver cup with replica of a Vickers M.G. mounted on the lid. Since the 1939-45 War this cup has only been held by the 7th Battalion and the 9th Battalion, and it was considered appropriate that it should be passed to the 5th Battalion on long loan.

On February 5, Lt.-Col. H. G. Hansen, presented a silver replica of the Nijmegen Bridge, to the Officers on behalf of the former Officers of the 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A. On this occasion 13 former Officers of the 9th Battalion dined with us as our guests. This presentation commemorates the years spent by the 9th Battalion as a Regiment of Artillery, and in particular the part played by the 9th Battalion in the A.A. Defence of Nijmegen Bridge after its capture.

We would like to take this opportunity of reminding all serving Officers of the Regiment, both Regular and T.A., that they are members of the Mess at Edgware. They will be very welcome there at any time they care to call.

**MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES**

Details of the forthcoming events which concern the Regiment will be found on the inside front cover.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

We must begin by congratulating C.S.M. Elliott and Sgt. Aldridge on their respective promotions and by welcoming the latter into the Mess. We also welcome Sgt. Smith back to the fold from the T.A. Reserve and C/Sgt. Eldridge and Sgt. Barnes, as P.S.I.'s, from 1st Battalion. We trust their stay will be a pleasant one.

Some say the Pheasant is a wily bird but alas he met his match last October. Accompanied by Sgts. Dickens and Argent, from Brigade Depot, he proceeded to the West End in the early hours of a Sunday morning and was invited to pay an exorbitant price for a cup of coffee and sandwich. It is rumoured that all three have been allergic to coffee since then.

Social evenings, on the last Friday of each month, were started again last September and have been very successful. Once again we would like to extend an invitation to any past or present Mess Member of the Regiment, who might find himself in the Edgware area on these evenings. The Christmas Draw and Dance was held on December 12, 1964, and was voted the most successful one since the amalgamation in 1961.

S/Sgt. Berry was granted extended leave, so he told us, for the purpose of studying for an examination. However, on his return, we discovered that he has now joined the ranks of the "Married Pads." Congratulations Gordon and Mildred!

Sgts. Kemp and Hill have had to leave us owing to business commitments. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for all the sterling work they have put in, in the past.

Finally we bid farewell to Sgt. Overton and C/Sgt. Partridge, with his own particular brand of enthusiasm for the T.A., who have now returned to the 1st Battalion, and wish them every success in the future.

## Note by R.Q.M.S. Vaisey

On Boxing Day we had a large family party at home. An aunt, aged 81, had previously asked my wife if she might bring her "boy friend," who, to my surprise, turned out to be a "Die-Hard," Chelsea Pensioner, Sgt. W. Meachen.

He was a wonderful old man of 92, who related to me some of his experiences, as I conveyed him from and to Chelsea Hospital. These of course included incidents from the Boer War, World War I and World War II.

He joined in the Christmas Festivities and it was a great pleasure for my wife and myself to entertain this "Old Soldier."

*(Editor's note.—4387 Sgt. W. Meachen, was born on November 5, 1873. He joined the Regiment on July 10, 1893. He reached the rank of Sgt. in 1907 and was eventually discharged after 21 years service in 1914).*

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## HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT

The County of Kent has been cruel this winter to Training Company Staff, but with the advent of Spring and the Administrative Inspection in late March, we are working at an industrious pace. We hope to see more recruits through the Depot this year than ever before.

Many Die-Hards went up to London in October for the Regimental Reunion which everybody enjoyed.

farewell to Sgt. Ford who goes back to the Battalion with a well earned promotion to Colour Sergeant. Sgt. Seager has just arrived along with Cpl. Clarke, Cpl. Ward and L/Cpl. Eldred, and we trust that they will enjoy their tour here.

The Junior Soldiers Company has been rather quiet during this period and we have spent much time in the classroom preparing for our exams, but on

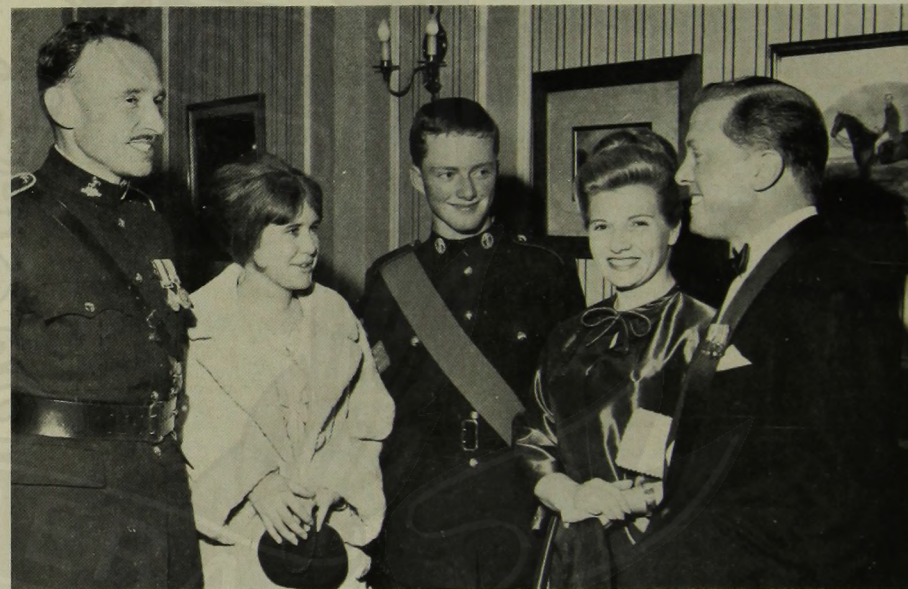


Photo: 20th Century Fox

## Home Counties Brigade Depot personnel at Film Premiere

R.S.M. P. Floyd, Queens Oxen Buffs, Miss Iris Pinwill, daughter of Cpl. J. Pinwill, A.C.C., Junior Sergeant J. Grimes, Mx., Mrs. Floyd and film star Mr. Richard Attenborough at the Cafe Royal on the occasion of the premiere of the film "Guns at Batasi."

Also some of us travelled up for a Service at Westminster to mark the ending of the County of Middlesex. The whole ceremony was carried out with much pomp and circumstance.

Lt. Hawkins left us at Christmas after his short stay in the fold to go to Oswestry to teach Junior Leaders mountaineering and potholing. C.S.M. Moyes came through on discharge in January and we also say

sports afternoons with sheer guts and determination under Capt. Docherty R.A.E.C. we have managed to beat most of the other platoons.

However early in October we went down to Battle camp at Okehampton in Devon—a week everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Walking and map-reading exercises took place, also section and platoon attacks, field firing and classification. We saw mortars and mobsats



Middlesex Platoon, Junior Soldiers Company, in camp

in action, which was a sight many had not seen before. In November, with the assistance of the other platoons, we sounded Last Post and Reveille in many of the Churches in our area on Remembrance Sunday. We also gave a display of marching in Canterbury.

December was the end of term with the Christmas Draw and Dance, which was a great success, and then we went on leave. D/Major Lewis spent his time partaking in that Berlinerluft? January has heralded the start of a new term and we are proud holders of the Nuffield Shield for the second term running.

In recent months we have sent to the Battalion, Wallace, Grimes (Band), Clare, May, Linale, and Cross (Drums) and J/Bdsm. Stanley to Kneller Hall. J/Bdsm.

Hunt has won the Bugle Competition and is now the C.O.'s Bugler. J/Sgt. Warr is the Platoon Sergeant and we congratulate him on this appointment.

We always like Die-Hards to call in at the Depot at any time. They will always be looked after well.

The following is a list of members of the Regiment who are serving at the Depot:—

Col. I. H. Batty, M.B.E.	Brigade Colonel
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	Depot Commander
Major A. E. F. Waldron,	
M.B.E.	Quartermaster
Drum Major Lewis, J.M.	Junior Soldiers' Company
Sgt. Ford, R.	Training Company
Sgt. Argent, W.	Training Company
Sgt. Barr, J.	Quartermaster's Sergeant
Sgt. Shave, R.	Training Company
Sgt. O'Gorman, A.	Training Company
Sgt. Seager, R.	Training Company
Sgt. Day, L.	Junior Soldiers' Company
Cpl. Mullender, B.	Training Company
Cpl. Stevens, A.	Training Company
Cpl. Turner, J.	Training Company
Cpl. Clarke, R.	Training Company
Cpl. Pryor, T.	Training Company
Cpl. Bartlett, D.	Training Company
Cpl. Marquiss, E.	Junior Soldiers' Company
Cpl. Ward, L.	Training Company
Pte. Penfold, S.	Officers' Mess
Pte. Hedges, B.	Regimental Police
Pte. Reed, B. G.	Bugler
Pte. O'Sullivan, J.	Depot Commander's Batman
Pte. Naylor	Officers' Mess

## The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion

By Lt. P. J. Monypenny

In a recent issue of *The Die-Hards* I noticed, among the 1st Battalion notes, a reference to the Boys Battalion. The writer had wrongly identified the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion. There is a small market town in Shropshire called Oswestry, nestling at the foot of the North Welsh hills, a very long way from anywhere. Outside Oswestry there is a unit of infantry billeted in a sprawling wooden-hutted camp of the "spider" type. A large infantry-red notice board at the gate declares to all that enter in, that here is the Training Battalion of the future Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Foot Guards and Infantry of the Line. A boy who enters this gate for the first time is nearing the end of boyhood and approaching the beginning of young manhood. He who continues to consider himself a boy is likely to pass through the gate the other way quite soon and he will not come back again.

One out of every three applicants is accepted into the Battalion. Those who have a summed selection group grading of lower than 3 are automatically turned down and the rest undergo selection tests before they are accepted. Successful candidates enter the Battalion between the ages of fifteen and sixteen and a half, the older ones taking a slightly shortened syllabus so that they can all enter adult service at approximately seventeen and half to eighteen.

The training is divided into three "terms," each of fourteen weeks, and a Junior Leader who joins the Battalion at fifteen and completes the full course stays for seven terms. He spends his first term in the intake company where he is given a modified basic training. Weapon training and fieldcraft are not included and instead of these he learns to read a map and is taught first aid. During his first term he is obliged to pass his

third-class Army Certificate of Education. If he fails to do so he is discharged.

At the end of his first term the Junior Leader moves to one of five training companies depending on the regiment to which he belongs. "D" Company, for instance, is the company for the Home Counties and Fusilier Brigades and the Royal Anglian Regiment. The administrative organisation of the Battalion is similar to that of a regular infantry battalion. There is a junior rank structure which emulates the Other Rank structure in a battalion except that there are not any junior quarter-master sergeants. In the training companies junior ranks understudy their opposite numbers on the permanent staff and are given practice at acting as company orderly sergeants.

Training is not undertaken by the individual companies but is operated on a wing system, the wings including a tactics wing, weapon training wing, signals wing, drill wing, education wing and adventure training wing, which is known as external leadership.

The Junior Leader spends his second, third and fourth terms mainly "at school" with the Education Wing which is staffed by about fifteen R.A.E.C. officers and about fifteen civilian lecturers. During this time he studies for his Army Certificate of Education. The great majority of Junior Leaders pass second class and over half of them generally pass at least two subjects towards first class. Some even sit one or two subjects at ordinary level General Certificate of Education. This period of academic study covers the Junior Leader's first training year which provides continuity and enables him to concentrate and then move on to a second year of uninterrupted military training. During this time his body is regularly exercised with physical training and games and he is not allowed to lose the soldierly bearing he gained in basic training. He attends drill periods throughout each term under the instruction of a drill sergeant and sergeants mainly drawn from the Brigade of Guards. It is interesting that Sgt. Young has followed in Sgt. Shinn's footsteps in this Bn. by being the only "Line Swine" instructor on the drill wing. There is an inter-company drill and turnout competition every term.

Each term, except for his first and last, sees the Junior Leader on an External leadership expedition which is just now being increased from three days to one week in length. Instruction is given in many activities; a one hundred mile canoeing trek down the River Severn, white water canoeing on the River Wye, rock climbing, ridge and hill walking in Snowdonia, potholing and gritstone climbing in Derbyshire, abseiling down rock faces and off an eighty-foot high aqueduct and various initiative problems including the construction of rope bridges and slides.

With his academic ambitions realised the Junior Leader begins his second year in the Bn. when he embarks in earnest upon his military training which embraces all the basic skills in tactics, weapon training and signals.

The Signals Wing teaches every junior leader to operate the A40 and A41 radio sets and there are one

hundred and six periods of instruction on voice procedure which include many outdoor exercises.

Weapon training covers instruction on S.L.R., L.M.G., S.M.G., 36 grenade and 94 grenade and starting in May of this year, G.P.M.G. Over ninety per cent. of the Junior Leaders currently taking their tests of elementary training are "skilled" or "above average." This wing has a staff of four officers, a Q.M.S.I. of the S.A.S.C. and twenty-four sergeants. The syllabus of over three hundred instructional periods includes the normal fieldcraft periods and such demonstrations as the characteristics of platoon weapons, range and butt organisation and locating the enemy. Every year a team of twelve Junior Leaders competes at Bisley for the Queen's Medal. Last year one of them shot his way into the Army Hundred and the team came third out of seventy-one in both the Coronation Cup and the Royal Ulster Rifles (Falling Plates) Cup.

The Junior Leader's last term is devoted almost entirely to tactics and the instructors approach their task as though the Junior Leaders are adult soldiers. Training is undertaken in all phases of war up to platoon level with the Junior Leaders experiencing the various platoon appointments. There is an arduous defence exercise half-way through the term and a three-week "battle camp" at Sennybridge later on during which there is extensive field firing.

After battle camp the Junior Leader attends a potential N.C.O.s cadre similar to that in a regular infantry bn. and finally, he completes his training on a special exercise which is designed to test his powers of leadership, stamina, initiative and all the military skills he has learned during his training. For the past few years this exercise has been in the nature of an escape and evasion exercise called "Pipeline"—a name which conjures up special memories for all old Junior Leaders of recent years. It consisted of a harum-scarum escape from a



"JUNIOR DIEHARDS"

Back Row (left to right): J/Pte. Batey, J/L/Cpl. Bartle, J/Pte. Bourne, Sgt. Young, J/Pte. Booth. Front row (left to right): Lt. Monypenny, Pte. Osborne, J/Pte. Walker, J/Pte. Broad, J/Pte. Reardon, J/Pte. Nickless, J/Pte. Elliott, J/C.S.M. Dolan, Lt. Hawkins.

prisoner-of-war cage by abseiling down a shaft in the black of night and crawling, alone, through a narrow pothole as though it were an escape tunnel. The escape was made after a frighteningly realistic interrogation and was followed by a helter-skelter flight, in small groups, across eighty miles of Welsh countryside to the coast. The journey was hazardous in the extreme, being a series of dashes from agent to agent with next to no information, scanty equipment and little rest. The agents were, more often than not, of doubtful assistance being intimidated by a determined and relentless enemy formed from instructors and other Junior Leaders. Many obstacles had to be negotiated—high mountains, broad lakes, blown bridges and cliffs—before the escapers saw the sea, made contact with friendly forces and were evacuated from the beach, in an exhausted state but with undaunted spirits, by high speed launches. This term the exercise has been changed to adopt a more strictly military flavour and has been given the new name of "Final Fling." It will be in the nature of a commando raid and patrol exercise. It will demonstrate to the Junior Leaders the extent and detail of the planning and preparation required for a deep penetrative operation and the precise and determined application of orders by all personnel that is necessary to achieve success in such a venture.

Special attention is paid to extra-mural activities at Oswestry and there is a prodigious range of hobbies and clubs to tempt potential talent. The Junior Leader is obliged to develop an interest in at least one hobby for which one evening is set aside every week. The arts and

crafts are run by experts and include art, carpentry, pottery, leatherwork, photography, archery, aeromodelling and amateur radio. Some clubs are adventurous rather than creative and operate at weekends and during the leave when Junior Leaders climb or hike or cycle around Britain and on the continent. The Bn. has a fleet of dinghies based on Lake Bala and a squadron of go-karts based on the drill square. Some Junior Leaders have been skiing in Norway and in Scotland while others have been parachuting and more have been gliding. Many have been canoeing up and down every good fishing river in the country. Some even ride horses. A dedicated few were hoping to visit their regiment in Gibraltar this Easter but the trip has fallen through. The most martial hobby is the Corps of Drums which has been equipped for ten years with the drums of 2nd Bn. the Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.). This month the drums have been returned to the Regiment and are destined, I think, for the Regimental Museum. Their unique claim, during this period of their service, must be to have trained drummers for more infantry regiments than any other set of drums in the land.

Sport in the Battalion is split into two distinct categories just as it is throughout the Army. Firstly there are the games which are played in the afternoons by the whole Bn. Secondly, although I should have mentioned this first in order of priorities, come the Army Cup competitions which are not games but a series of prolonged wars. We currently hold the Junior Army swimming, boxing, cycling, and cross-country cups which are only half of those which we held last year. We also hold the Senior Army Swimming Cup and provide five members of the Senior Army swimming team and one Senior Army cross-country runner. One Junior Leader, this year, reached the final of the Junior Amateur Boxing Association competition at the Albert Hall in London.

At the end of every term there is a passing out parade. Recently R.S.M. J. Lord lectured to the Bn. and said that when a battalion is on parade it shows off its condition, efficiency and spirit. He said that a good parade is indicative of a good battalion. The passing out parade is commanded by the Junior R.S.M., the companies by Junior C.S.M.s and the platoons by Junior Sergeants. From the time that the R.S.M. hands over to the Junior R.S.M., not a single member of the staff can be seen on the square. The parade is always good.

When a Junior Leader joins the Bn. he is already in the Regiment of his choice. He is encouraged to take an interest in regimental affairs from the start and to learn regimental history and traditions. Junior Leaders are always very enthusiastic towards their Regiments and there is a spirit of inter-regimental rivalry amongst them and an air of great expectation and anticipation towards the day of joining their Regiments.

The Infantry Junior Leaders Bn. does not attempt to present regiments with ready made N.C.O.s but with well trained young soldiers who, provided they have the necessary basic qualities and the ambition, have been developed into potential leaders for the future. Here they are put onto the road towards a worth-while career in the Infantry. They are shown which way the road goes and to what it leads. It is up to them to march along it.



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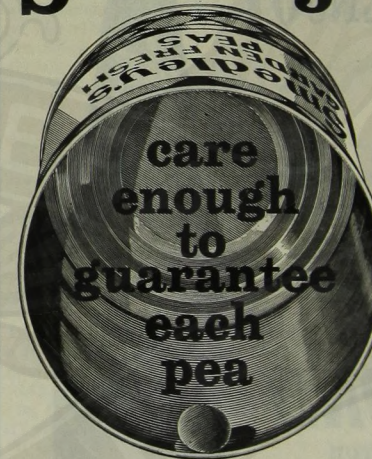
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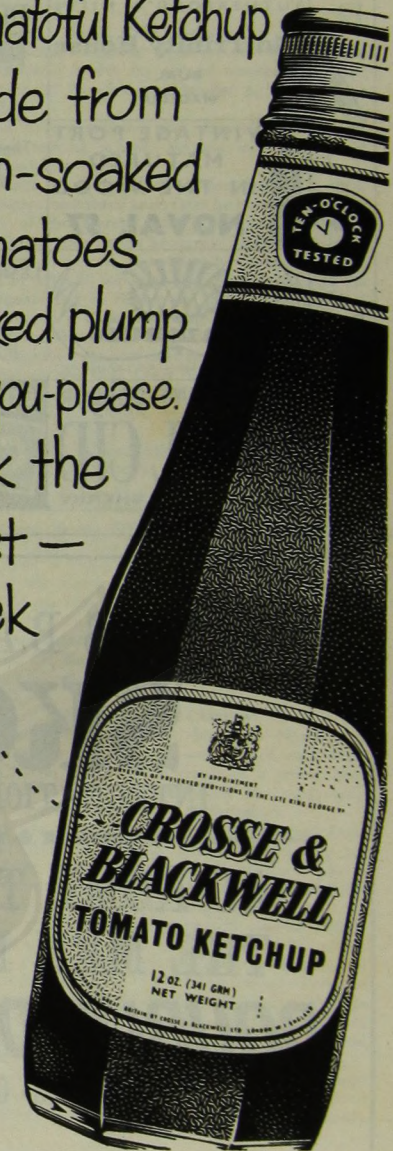


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**OBITUARY**

**Lt.-Col. L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O.**

Lawrence Lewin Pargiter died in a nursing home at Exmouth on October 11, 1964, after a long illness, at the age of 79.

Commissioned from the Militia in 1908 he spent the first six years of his service with the 1st Battalion.

In November 1914 he was posted to the 11th (Service) Battalion, which was then being formed at the Depot at Mill Hill, and appointed Adjutant. He remained with this Battalion until February 1917, and held the acting rank of Lt.-Col. during the last six months. From May 1917 until December 1918 he served with four different Battalions—the 1st, 15th, 22nd and 24th—of the London Regiment. With the last two he held the rank of acting Lt.-Col.

Altogether he had three spells on active service, was wounded twice, mentioned in despatches three times, and awarded the D.S.O.

He became a Brevet Major in 1919. In the same year he rejoined the 1st Battalion and was in temporary command when he brought home a cadre, on which the Battalion was re-formed after the war.

He was appointed Adjutant of the newly-formed Battalion in August 1919 and held this appointment until March 1920. He continued to serve with the 1st Battalion until 1927 when, as a result of a bad accident in Shanghai, which injured his spine, he was invalided home. Fortunately he made a good recovery and, after a tour of duty in command of the Depot, went out with the 1st Battalion, at the start of its foreign tour, to Palestine. Whilst there he was promoted to the rank of Lt.-Col. on December 17, 1932, and selected to command a Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

He retired in 1937.

During the 1939-45 War he was Commandant of a Chemical Warfare School in Cumberland.

**Capt. S. H. Schocktee**

Sidney Harold Schocktee died on October 15, 1964, at the age of 72.

He joined the 9th Battalion on July 13, 1909, and, on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, embarked with the Battalion for India, where he served until 1918, attaining the rank of Sgt.

He received a temporary commission in 1918 and was posted to 1/5th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. He served with that unit in Mesopotamia until 1920 when he was demobilised.

In the 1939-45 War he was granted a commission in the Indian Army and served as a subaltern in the 7th Rajput Regiment until 1942 when he was posted to G.H.Q. PAIFORCE (Iraq) as a Cipher Officer with the acting rank of Capt. He held this appointment until 1945 when he was released.

At the funeral, which took place at St. Marylebone Cemetery on October 19, 1964, Maj. R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment and Mr. T. R. Bennett the 9th Battalion Branch.

**Lt. E. E. H. Buckley**

Edward Ernest Holland Buckley, who had suffered from indifferent health for several months past, died in Maidenhead Hospital on October 2, 1964, at the age of 58.

He had been associated with dogs all his life and, soon after leaving school, became an exhibitor of Wire-Haired Fox Terriers.

At the age of 18 he joined Spillers Ltd. as a show representative, and three years later he became Assistant Secretary of the Kennel Club. He served in this capacity for 11 years before becoming Secretary in 1939.

When war broke out, as soon as he could hand over the reins of office to someone else, he enlisted into the Royal Signals and in September 1941 was appointed to an Emergency Commission in the Regiment, and joined the 2nd Battalion. He had, however, only been with the Battalion for just over seven months when he was posted to the War Dogs Training School as an instructor. He served throughout the war in Great Britain and N.W. Europe, returning to civilian life early in 1946.

He rejoined the Kennel Club at a time when expansion was imminent and, within ten years of his return, the Club was forced to move into new premises to house the greatly increased staff. He took this new reorganisation in his stride as he took the launching of the first Cruft's Dog Show to be run by the Kennel Club in 1948, of which he also became Secretary.

In 1960 the members of the Kennel Club made a presentation to him at a cocktail party organised in his honour after 21 years in office.

He leaves behind a wife and two sisters and, to quote from the Kennel Gazette, "a host of friends in all walks of life who will mourn his passing."

**2/Lt. C. A. de S. Clayton**

As reported briefly in last January's Newsletter, Charles Clayton, the younger son of Col. and Mrs. Aymar Clayton, died as the result of a speed boat accident off Gibraltar on September 27, 1964, only about ten days after joining the 1st Battalion.

Charles was commissioned into the Regiment from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on July 30, 1964. After leave he reported to Home Counties Brigade Depot and, from there, proceeded to Gibraltar by air to join the 1st Battalion on September 15.

There is no doubt whatever that he created a most favourable impression from the moment that he arrived for, as a brother officer of considerable Regimental experience wrote of him, "His whole attitude from the start was a determined effort to show that he was prepared to 'have a go' at anything. The fact that this was noticeable within the first week of his arrival says a lot for his determination."

His death in such tragic circumstances has brought to a close a young life of great promise, and our heartfelt sympathies go to his family in their terrible and untimely loss.

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**B.S.M. E. F. Remnant (L/8821)**

Elma Frank Remnant was born on May 19, 1886, and enlisted into the Regiment at the Regimental Depot, Hounslow, on May 4, 1903.

He was posted to the 4th Battalion, then stationed in Dublin, and served there for a year before being posted to the 3rd Battalion in Middelburg, South Africa. The Battalion was then at the beginning of its foreign tour, so he went to a number of colonial stations before being transferred to the Home Establishment from India in 1913. On his return to the United Kingdom he joined the 4th Battalion at Devonport, and in April 1914 was transferred to the Army Reserve.

Recalled to the Colours on August 4, 1914, he rejoined the 4th Battalion then mobilising for war. He was present with the Battalion at the Battle of Mons and in subsequent actions until he was wounded on November 23, 1915. He remained a hospital patient until April 1916 when he was discharged and posted to the 6th Battalion, then stationed at Gillingham, Kent.

He was discharged on medical grounds on May 3, 1916, but two months later he re-enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. He rose quickly to the rank of Sergeant before being discharged on July 6, 1919. Re-enlisting the same day he was immediately given the rank of Bombardier, and in 1920 was drafted to India.

He was discharged on November 18, 1924, just over 21 years after his first enlistment.

On June 22, 1929, he made a special enlistment into the Royal Artillery (T.A.), being finally discharged on November 4, 1932, with the rank of Battery Sergeant Major.

He died on November 23, 1964, and was cremated on November 26, 1964. Unfortunately news of his death did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time for a representative to attend the funeral.

**C/Sgt. H. E. Jacobs (3236)**

Henry Edward Jacobs, who died at Herne Bay on January 22, 1965, aged 91, was one of the last survivors of our Volunteer Battalions who was serving during the reign of Queen Victoria.

He enlisted on November 7, 1893, in the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, was promoted to Corporal from Private on May 10, 1897, and appointed a Lance-Sergeant on November 1, the same year.

On April 19, 1898, shortly after the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers had become the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment, he was promoted Sergeant, and the following year he was awarded the Military Efficiency Certificate.

As a result of an appeal from the Lord Mayor of London on December 20, 1899, for volunteers to form the specially raised unit, the City Imperial Volunteers, for service in the Boer War, Sgt. Jacobs was one of the 45 other ranks selected from the 1st Volunteer Battalion. Not only did he become a member of the City Imperial Volunteers, but he also became a member of a very select body for, in the presence of the Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, on January 12, 1900, he was given the Freedom of the City of London, together with other volunteers of the C.I.V.

For his services with the City Imperial Volunteers in the Boer War he was mentioned in despatches and received the Queen's South African medal with four clasps, 'Cape Colony', 'Orange Free State', 'Johannesburg' and 'Diamond Hill'.

After having returned to this country in October 1900 with the C.I.V. he again volunteered, and was accepted, for the newly raised 2nd Service Company, which was to serve with the 2nd Battalion (the 77th) still on active service in South Africa. He arrived with the Company in the theatre of operations on April 26, 1901, and remained there until May 1902.

On the award of the King's South Africa Medal to certain troops who had fought in South Africa he was the only other rank of the 1st Volunteer Battalion to receive it—a distinction of which he was justly proud.

He was promoted to Colour Sergeant on September 24, 1902, and continued to serve with credit until he resigned from the Volunteer Forces on November 1, 1905.

In the evening of his life he lived in Herne Bay but never forgot his old Regiment.

The news of his death did not, unfortunately, reach Regimental Headquarters in time to send a representative to pay the Regiment's last respects to one of its earliest fighting Volunteers.

**Sgt. T. Broome, M.M. (L/7901)**

Thomas Broome, at one time a very popular and unassuming member of the 3rd Battalion Corps of Drums, died on November 25, 1964, aged 75.

He enlisted as a Boy in the 4th Battalion at Aldershot on July 11, 1902. Posted overseas he was at Peking with the Legation Guard of the 3rd Battalion, and subsequently served with the Battalion in Hong Kong, Singapore and India during its foreign tour. Returning to England in 1914 he was still with the Battalion when it joined the B.E.F. in France.

On completion of his Colour service he was discharged but immediately re-enlisted into the 2nd City of London Regt. (Royal Fusiliers), in which he rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the Field.

He was finally discharged on May 30, 1919.

After leaving the service he took employment as a tram conductor at the Finchley Depot.

At his funeral on December 2, 1964, Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment whilst Mr. J. T. T. Harrison (late 3rd Battalion) represented the 3rd Battalion and Mr. E. J. Soden paid respects on behalf of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, to which the deceased had been a loyal and staunch member for many years.

**Sgt. R. H. Ecclestone (6193443)**

Robert Henry Ecclestone died suddenly and peacefully in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on October 2, 1964.

Throughout his Colour service, which started in 1921, he was with the 1st Battalion, apart from a tour of duty at the Depot, and was Provost Sergeant when the Battalion was at Wei-Hai-Wei as part of the Shanghai Defence Force in 1927.

After leaving the Regiment he was for a time in partnership in a photography business, and also in the Corps of Commissionaires. Later he entered the Civil Service as a Postman and passed the examination for Sorter. On August 4, 1944, he was promoted to Clerical Officer and took up an appointment in the Director's Office, London Postal Region. He was promoted to Executive Officer on September 16, 1957, and served in that capacity until his retirement in June 1962 at the age of 60.

Whilst he was in the Civil Service he was a keen member of the L.P.R. Golfing Society and had represented the Region at many competitive meetings.

On his retirement he moved from Beckenham, Kent, to a bungalow which had been built to his own design at Ellingham, near Bungay, Suffolk.

At the funeral, which took place at Ellingham on October 8, 1964, Major F. H. Blackburn, who had been an Army and Civil Service friend of Bob Ecclestone for the past 43 years, represented the Regiment.

**Sgt. T. Masters (G/23524 and G/4012)**

Tom Masters was born on October 20, 1889, and enlisted on December 11, 1915, in the Banker's Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He remained with this battalion until August 16, 1916, when, with about 150 other reinforcements, he was posted to the 12th (Service) Battalion in time to take part in the later stages of the Somme battles. With the 12th he took part in the attack and capture of Thiepval under the command of that magnificent fighting Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Frank Maxwell, v.c. He remained with this battalion until February 1918 when he was transferred to the 20th (Shoreditch) Battalion on the reorganisation of the Army in the field. At that time he was a qualified instructor on the Lewis Machine Gun.

Just after the Armistice was signed he was transferred as a sergeant to the Educational Training Staff and spent the last few months of his service teaching war-time soldiers to prepare themselves for civilian life.

During the last few years of his life he made it his duty to attend the main Regimental functions, travelling up from Sussex to do so. The last occasion was at the Albuhera Day Parade on Horse Guards in May 1963.

He died on February 7, 1965, but the sad news did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time either to send a Regimental representative of a floral tribute.

**Sgt. W. A. Meachen (4387)**

William Anthony Meachen, one of our In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, died on Saturday, March 6, 1965, aged 91.

He enlisted into the Regiment on July 11, 1893, and was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed in Gibraltar. He served with the Battalion until 1895 when he returned to England to be stationed at Aldershot. In April 1896 he again went on foreign service with the

1st Battalion—this time to South Africa, followed two years later by a tour in India.

At the turn of the century he was for two years doing duty with a Mounted Infantry unit in India, and was later employed as a groom and officer's batman.

On promotion he held the position of assistant to the Battalion Schoolmaster until he was eventually absorbed into the staff of the Battalion Orderly Room.

Promoted Sergeant on September 1, 1907, whilst the 1st Battalion was still in India, he was chosen for posting to the Depot Staff. On arrival at the Depot he was employed on the Orderly Room Staff.

He was discharged to pension, after completing 21 years' service with the Colours, on July 10, 1914.

Immediately on leaving the Service he was employed by the National Bank Ltd., giving that firm another 21 years of service before having to retire on account of ill-health.

He was admitted as an In-patient of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on October 19, 1959.

He was cremated at Streatham Park Crematorium on March 12, 1965, and, at the funeral, the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith. Also present was R.Q.M.S. Vaisey, 5th Battalion (T.A.), who was a friend of the old soldier and had visited him frequently up to a few days before his death.

**Pte. J. Grindrod (7358)**

John Grindrod, one of our In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, died on Boxing Day, 1964, at the age of 81.

He enlisted into the Regiment on March 18, 1901, and served with it until September 1915 when he transferred to the Royal Engineers.

He was discharged at his own request in June 1920. He then went to live in Cheshire.

He was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in 1955, and remained there until his death.

Unfortunately as records of his service are incomplete, it is not possible to give any further details than those above.

At his funeral, which took place at Brookwood Cemetery on January 1, 1965, the Regiment was represented by Major E. L. Heywood.

**Lady Clarke**

On December 12, 1964, the death occurred at her home, Les Rossignols, Hyères, of Constance Lady Clarke, widow of General Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., who commanded the 57th Foot from 1878 to 1880.

**Mrs. Pargiter**

Only a few months after the death of her husband, whose obituary notice appears above, the death took place on February 17 at Exmouth of Marjorie (nee Horn), widow of Lt.-Col. L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O.

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11/11/11

## CORRESPONDENCE

From: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox,  
Chairman Middlesex Regimental Association.

March 5, 1965.

The Editor,  
DIE-HARDS JOURNAL  
DEAR EDITOR,

I thought your readers would be interested to hear that the Widows Flatlets at Albuhera Close have been erected and are now all occupied. This is a great achievement as the Regiment now own a most viable Estate and I wish to express on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and the Committee of the Regimental Association our thanks for the most generous response to the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal by past and present members of the Regiment.

The flatlets have cost approximately £12,500 and the Appeal to date with the balance due under covenants is estimated to produce £8,000. There is still therefore a gap to be filled and if readers of the Journal who have not subscribed care to do so the Appeal is still open. It is hoped that further donations will be received under covenant as this method is so beneficial however small the annual payment.

Yours sincerely,  
G. L. Fox,  
Chairman.

From: Mr. R. Webber, Knights of St. George  
3 Wolsley Gardens,  
Chiswick,  
London, W.4.

DEAR SIR,

May we invite readers of your Journal to join the Knights of St. George? So many ex-servicemen enjoy the lively comradeship... and even serving men often find it possible to become members and take their part when off duty.

We serve the war-disabled and others in any practical way open to members, and in this way maintain the fine comradeship of the past. On social occasions, wives and lady friends join the members, and disabled friends enjoy such outings.

There is no subscription, but membership is prized and guarded.

If you can make some mention in your Journal it will be very much appreciated.

Yours truly,  
R. WEBBER,  
Knight for Publicity.

K.o.s.G. is affiliated to the Royal Society of St. George and works in co-operation with the British Legion, B.R.G.S., etc.

From: Mr. G. H. E. Duffield

"Norlington,"  
Stevenage Road,  
Knebworth, Herts.  
November 8, 1964.

DEAR COL. WALDEN,

I had hoped that I would have been able to have paid a visit to the Regimental Headquarters during the

summer but could not make it.

I have now had the opportunity of reading the April, 1964 number of *The Die-Hards*.

I should like to pay a tribute to all those who were responsible for its production, what a difference to when I was first associated with it in 1906 when in conjunction with Lt. F. S. Steed (afterwards Lt.-Colonel) he and I represented the 4th Battalion Agents and sent it out to the 1st Battalion in India and then again in 1913 with Lt. Amor (afterwards Major) we revised it.

I was interested in the report of the first Annual Dinner held in 1913, for I was the individual who arranged it. I was the Honorary Secretary for the function and I acted in a similar capacity for two others held after the First War at the Hotel near Marylebone Station. Gen. Maxse was in the Chair.

Some years ago I gave the late Col. M. Browne the copies of the menus for the Museum.

In the excellent obituary notice of my friend Bob Guscott no mention is made of his interest in Freemasonry. You may recall I sent you particulars of this and the tribute his Lodge in London paid to his memory but alas I did not receive a reply to my letter.

Bob held high rank and was a very keen Freemason. He travelled from Bexhill to London in order to be present.

I am sure Bob would have regretted there was no mention of this in *The Die-Hards* Obituary to him.

It may be of interest to some to know that years ago Military Lodges were granted Warrants to hold Lodges and in 1755 two Regiments were granted Warrants; one was to the 57th Regiment of Foot (Honeyball). It was thought that Honeyball was the Commanding Officer.

When Bob Guscott was a Prisoner of War a New Zealand Officer gave him a Cigarette Box carved in Oak and the lid was carved with the Regimental Badge of the First Battalion. The New Zealand Officer carved his signature on the inside together with a "Kiwi."

This Box Bob bequeathed to me and it is now a cherished possession of mine.

Then in the same issue on page 441 a reference is made to Lt.-Col. Stanley.

I well remember him joining the 4th Battalion. He was posted to my Company, "G"—then commanded by Major J. E. D. Ward who always referred to E. F. S. as his Infant, much to the delight of the Other Ranks.

A memory of long ago.

Also the reference to another friend for many years Capt. G. Leatham—I had no idea he lived so close to me.

I was present at a gathering during the summer when a number of Pensioners from the Chelsea Hospital were there.

I recalled that in a previous Journal it stated that one Purdue (who I knew) had been admitted to Chelsea. I inquired about him and I was told by some of the Pensioners that he was permanently in the Sick Bay.

Perhaps someone might look him up.

I am glad to say that I have completely recovered

from my illness. I much appreciated the visit of Major E. L. Heywood for I know that time marches on and Pharoahs grow up who know not Joseph.

All good wishes.

Yours very sincerely

GEO. H. E. DUFFIELD,  
7829-6188365.

(I wrote the obituary notice on Bob Guscott and take full responsibility for failing to mention his very great interest in Freemasonry, of which I was well aware—EDITOR.)

#### ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS' BALACLAVA DINNER AND DANCE

Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, deputising for the Colonel of the Regiment, had the honour of attending the above traditional function as the representative of the 57/77th Regiment, and of conveying our thanks and compliments, which were warmly reciprocated by the Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Kind enquiries were again made at this year's dinner by the wife of R.Q.M.S. J. McLaglan, A. and S.H., who was the popular N.A.A.F.I. manageress at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, between 1924 and 1926.

#### SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Small advertisements may be inserted in the Journal at a charge of twopence per word, with a minimum charge of 2s. 6d.

Matter for insertion, accompanied by the appropriate remittance, should be addressed to the Editor.

#### Highland Division Reunion

The 51st (Highland) Division, commanded by Major-Gen. Ian Argyll Robertson, is to hold a Divisional reunion at Aberdeen on October 2 and 3, 1965. It will

take place at the Highland Brigade Depot at Bridge of Don and will be based on the Divisional Games to be held at the Depot on the first day. The reunion will probably be repeated yearly but each one will be for a different category of the Old Comrades who served in the various campaigns in the two world wars.

Three events to be commemorated by the 1965 reunion will be: the 25th anniversary of the battle of St. Valery, the 50th anniversary of the landing in France of the 51st Division in the 1914-1918 war, and the 50th anniversary of the battle of Loos in which more Highland battalions fought than in any battle before or since and in which Highland Regiments covered themselves in glory. Those eligible to attend are ex-members of all arms and services who served in the 51st Division between mobilisation in 1939 and the St. Valery battle on June 30, 1940, those who served in the Division overseas in 1915, and those ex-members of Highland infantry battalions who served in France in 1914 or 1915 and who are entitled to wear the 1914-1915 Star.

The reunion will be held at the Highland Brigade Depot, now established at Aberdeen, because it is felt that a reunion there could help to cement a closer bond between the Territorial Army and the Regular Highland Regiments and it would provide an opportunity for visitors to see the conditions under which the modern young Regular soldier lives at his Depot.

Old Comrades will assemble during the afternoon of the first day to watch the Games, to meet in Regimental or Campaign tents and to tour the new accommodation. One of the highlights will be the Beating of Retreat ceremony by the massed Pipes and Drums of the Division, while in the evening there will be a Band concert in a hall in the city in which pipe majors and dancers may also take part. The next morning there will be a service in Holborn Central Church, Aberdeen, followed by a march past at which the Lord Provost of the City will take the salute.

## THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Maj.-Gen. C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

Chairman: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.

Vice-chairman: Lt. Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.

Secretary: Col. F. Walden, D.L.

#### BRANCHES

Branch	Hon. Secretary	Meetings	Place
Ealing .. ..	Mr. A. Smith (temp.), T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
Enfield .. ..	Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D., 4 Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 1st Saturday.	T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Hong Kong ..	Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan, H.Q., Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O.1.	Annually, during the third week in January.	R.H.K.D.F. Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Hornsey .. ..	Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M. T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.	Quarterly, usually on a Wednesday.	T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Hounslow ..	Mr. J. Castree, 20 Heldman Close, Heath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Mill Hill .. .	Mr. E. C. Colebeck, Belmont, Chilton Road, Edgware, Middlesex.	Monthly, on last Saturday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Portsmouth and Gosport .. .	Capt. C. H. Kennett, 35 Anthony Grove, Elson, Gosport, Hants.	Monthly, on 1st Friday.	Varies.
Uxbridge .. ..	Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., 88 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex.	Four per year, at irregular intervals, plus an annual dinner.	T.A. Centre, Whitehall Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion ..	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.	Yearly, on 1st Friday in October.	Varies from year to year. Dinner Club only.
9th Battalion ..	Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.	Monthly, on last Thursday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
12th Battalion Home Guard	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, 3 Claremont Road, Ealing, W.13.	Two per year, on 1st Friday in May and November.	Varies.
Bandsmen and Drummers	Mr. A. R. Drane, 11 John Dee House, Mortlake, S.W.14.	Quarterly, on the third Sat- urday in March, June and September, and on the last Saturday in December.	47th Signal Regt. T.A., (Middlesex Yeomanry), Duke of Yorks H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex, on Saturday, September 25, 1965.

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the undermentioned to the Association Charitable Fund:

Mr. F. L. Barker, Mr. A. W. J. Brown, Capt. H. R. F. Butterfield, Mr. F. W. Cleave, Mr. G. F. Engwell, Mr. G. E. Ford, Mr. W. R. Griffin, Mr. P. J. Hartnett, Mr. F. G. Jacques, Major A. E. Peasley and Capt. M. Wild.

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following subscriptions to the above appeal were received between August 22 (when the last list was made up and published in *The Die-Hards*) and December 31, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
Middlesex County Council	250	0	0
Middlesex County R.F.U.	105	0	0
Drapers' Livery Company	50	0	0
In memory of 2/Lt. Charles Clayton	25	0	0
The Elms Club	20	0	0
Miss K. M. Challen	10	0	0
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (covenanted)	10	0	0
Col. M. Crawford (covenanted)	10	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear (covenanted)	10	0	0
Major P. St. G. A. Reed (covenanted)	10	0	0
St. Aldhelm's P.C.C., Edmonton	9	8	5
Mr. R. E. Booker (third donation)	5	5	0
Bt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton (covenanted)	5	0	0
Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert (covenanted)	3	0	0
Brigadier H. A. D. Murray (covenanted)	3	3	0
Capt. A. W. Ramsay (covenanted)	3	0	0
Lt.-Col. W. D. Coles (covenanted)	2	2	0
Major P. A. Mann (covenanted)	2	2	0
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan (covenanted)	1	10	0
Capt. A. B. Cowing (covenanted)	1	0	0
Capt. E. Blake Budden (covenanted)	1	0	0
Col. I. R. Burrows (covenanted)	1	0	0
Major G. O. Porter (covenanted)	1	0	0
Capt. W. H. Craydon (third donation)	10	0	0
Mr. V. M. Corner	5	0	0
	542	5	5
Total received up to August 22, 1964	5,725	17	8
Total as at December 31, 1964	£6,268	3	1

When forwarding her contribution Miss Challen wrote as follows:

"I have been thinking since August 4 of doing something for old soldiers or dependants of the 1st/7th Middlesex Regiment, with whom my two brothers, Capt. C. F. Challen and Lt. Philip Challen, served during the 1914-18 war. My younger brother, Philip, left the Regiment in 1917 and was sent to join the Indian Army, where he became a Regular officer. Chris was with the Battalion until the last push and badly wounded at Bullecourt. He died in England on November 13, 1918.

"If there are men alive who remember my brothers, I should like them to know I have not forgotten the Regiment. Lunching recently with Geoffrey Bower, I was glad to hear about the Albuhera Close Scheme, which seems a most excellent type of memorial. I

therefore have much pleasure in enclosing a cheque as a donation to the scheme."

Formation of a New Branch

Since the publication of these notes in the last issue of *The Die-Hards* an event of major importance to the Regimental Association has taken place, namely, the formation of a new branch at Portsmouth and Gosport.

The meeting at which it was decided to apply formally for the formation of this branch took place at the Queen's Hotel, Gosport, on Friday, September 25, 1964. Needless to say, the Executive Committee, at their meeting last October, unanimously approved of the application and sent their best wishes for the future success of the branch.

This, our youngest, branch is a virile organisation and has got off to a good start, thanks to the energy and drive of its chairman, Mr. L. C. ("Bogey") West, and secretary, Capt. Charlie Kennett.

At present meetings are held on the first Friday evening in each month, the venue alternating between Gosport and Portsmouth.

Hong Kong Branch

With the return of Major Lane to this country at the end of last year, Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan has now taken over the duties of Branch Secretary.

The Association's thanks are due to Major Lane for all that he has done for the branch and for keeping us informed so frequently of branch activities, etc.

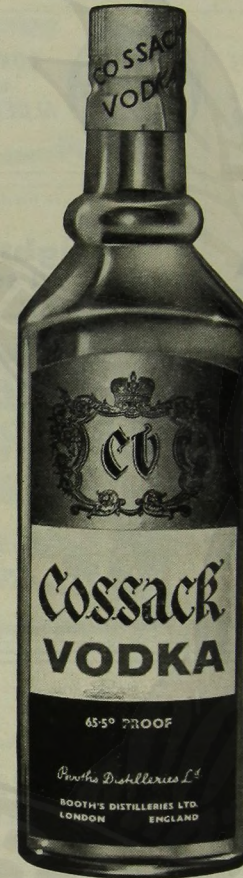
The Elms Club

It is sad that the Elms Club, which was formed some eight years ago for the wives of the 7th Battalion and met regularly at the T.A. Centre at Hornsey, has had to close down. This, however, was the inevitable result of the amalgamation of T.A. battalions and the subsequent downgrading of the T.A. Centre at Hornsey to Company level.

At its final meeting on Thursday, December 3, 1964, the Club, through its president, Mrs. Pringle, generously presented a cheque for £20 to the secretary for the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for the Widows' Flatlets Scheme.

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows Flatlets Albuhera Close Enfield

Have you given your contribution to this worthy cause?



Rise and shine!

Need to feel good in the morning? Then you should stick to Cossack Vodka at night. Cossack Vodka is 100% pure. There's nothing added. No sweetening. No flavoured. No smell. So? You feel fine. Even at reveille time.

Find out more about Vodka and recipes for mixing it. Write for "The Book of Vodka" to Publicity Department (19), 57-61 Clerkenwell Road, London E.C.1.



"If only I had the money!"

You may have said it yourself. But, consider. You will probably never have a better opportunity than you have now of putting some money aside for the future. You enjoy good pay—with no overheads—and all the facilities of the Post Office Savings Bank scheme are yours for the asking. What could be simpler?

Make saving a good habit. Save as much or as little as you like, but do it regularly. Keep your money in the Savings Bank as long as you possibly can. You will find that it soon mounts up and collects interest—ready to help start you up in the trade you are now learning in the Service, or for furnishing your home when you get married.

All the details of the scheme are in the leaflets illustrated here. Write to me personally, and I will send you a copy of the one that applies to your Service:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh W. L. Saunders, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.M., Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee, Block B, Government Buildings, London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex

THE FOLLOWING FIRMS SUPPORT SERVICE JOURNALS

 <p><b>BARRATTS</b> of Manchester Ltd. 86 OXFORD STREET MANCHESTER 1 Telephone: Central 0052 For all your musical necessities</p>	<p>For Your Enjoyment <b>Callard &amp; Bowser's</b> Celebrated "Thistle Brand" <b>BUTTER-SCOTCH</b> Famous since 1837</p>	 <p><b>POTTERS DRUMS</b> LONDON AND ALDERSHOT</p>
<p><b>RIZLA</b> CIGARETTE PAPERS</p>	 <p><b>O.K.</b> THE SAUCE THAT DOES YOU GOOD</p>	<p>Refreshes after work, travel and sport <b>Wright's</b> <b>COAL TAR SOAP</b> IDEAL FOR TOILET BATH AND NURSERY</p>
<p>The only way to find out if <i>Parker &amp; Dobson</i> Regal Fruit Drops and Everton Mints taste as good as they look is to <u>TRY THEM!</u></p>	<p><b>SMITHS</b> have crispness in the bag!</p> <p><small>Smith's Potato Crisps Limited, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.</small></p>	 <p><b>Glenville</b> CUSTARD POWER BUY Goodness BUY Glenville</p>

SCHOOL FEES

Substantial savings are to be made in ALL fees payable at schools, universities, colleges (or for professional services), provided planned provision is made and the actual cost to parents can be NIL.

Provision for Public School fees, with life assurance, for recently born children can be made by paying approximately one-third the cost now, spread over a few years, with the whole of the outlay returned at the end of the schooling period after the fees have been received as well.

Even when children are already at school substantial savings can still be made though the initial outlay is then greater.

Parents quite frequently introduce their friends to Student Funds Limited so that they too can benefit from the savings in money to be made out of fees payable.

Some parents have from time to time referred the company's recommended plans to their own professional advisers and in one instance a solicitor completed for his own three daughters ahead of his client. This is what some have said:—

A Trustee Department Manager of one of the Big Five Banks:  
"I have studied it very carefully and I consider it a most ingenious scheme and well worth taking up . . ."

A Parent:  
"I have passed all this to my Uncle, a Scottish C.A., who actually deals with most of my income tax position. He incidentally is also very pleased with your scheme. I've passed on your brochure to two other members of my company . . ."

Another parent:  
". . . I think it is an extremely good scheme as do the Bank Managers with whom I have discussed it."

A Major in the Royal Signals:  
"Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your answers to all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what I need to help me with the cost of education for my younger boy . . . I now regret that we had not been introduced when I was planning for my other son!"

An Officer in the Royal Marines:  
"I must say I find this scheme for the payment of school fees most ingenious and thoroughly worth while."

And, a senior General in the Army said he was told by his Bank Manager that the plan we sent to him was a "must."

Principles employed cover schooling in any part of the world provided all payments are in sterling. Further particulars to be obtained, without obligation, from Lt. Colonel F. Ashton Johnson, T.D., R.A. (retd.).

**STUDENT FUNDS LIMITED, Ramridge, WEYHILL, Andover, Hampshire.**  
Telephone Number: Weyhill 402.

ANNUAL REUNION 1964

The Annual Reunion was held on Friday, October 23, 1964, at the Seymour Hall, where each of these functions has been held since the last war.

The numbers attending were disappointing but this was offset by the new faces seen for the first time since they left the Service, and members of the older generation who were with us again after an absence of years. It must also be remembered that quite a number of other meetings and entertainments were at this time taking place including the Motor Show, which caused such a congestion of traffic and the delay of many of our members who travelled by car and coach.

It was again an occasion where many Die-Hards met after a lapse of decades—men who had last seen each other in India before the outbreak of war in 1914. On the other side of the scale, it was also where Die-Hards of a younger generation, who learned their love of the Regiment whilst they were, as National Service soldiers, on active service in Korea and Cyprus, renewed their friendship. The generation in between, the machine

gunners and mortar-men of 1939-45, were there in strength too, in greater numbers than in previous years. This was especially noticeable when General Man walked into the long bar. He was immediately surrounded by a circle of survivors of the epic battle fought by the 57th at Hong Kong in 1941. Listening to the different conversations were young serving soldiers who were on week-end leave prior to joining the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

Humour was abundant and great toleration was shown during the scramble for service at an extremely busy bar. One remark overheard caused great amusement. As one of our octogenarians was moving away from the bar with a full pot in each hand, he was brushed against by another, much younger man. The old soldier's remark of "Steady, mate, you ain't Jimson?" brought a smile of apology and query from the newcomer. It was explained to him later that Jimson was the 2nd Bn.'s pet mule. His reply was an amused "Cor, ar'n't these old 'uns funny?". Yes, that is true of both our old and young.

May we all meet again in 1965 to enjoy this friendship, toleration and humour.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

MILL HILL BRANCH

At a meeting held on October 17, 1964, the following members were elected to the offices as shown for 1965:

*Chairman:* Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.  
*Secretary and Treasurer:* Mr. E. C. Colebeck  
*Committee:* Capt. W. E. Green, Messrs. W. D. Bratby, J. Edwards, R. Ferguson, L. Shrubbs, M.M., S. Turner and R. Chandler, D.F.M. (Hon. Member).

Our oldest member—he is still in uniform—is Bill Meachen (4387) whilst our youngest—he also is in uniform—is Philip Hammond (23999380). These two comrades have a number of things in common, one being that they both started their active soldiering in the garrison of Gibraltar. Old Bill was a member of the garrison with the 1st Bn. in 1893 (he was then twenty years of age); young Philip, in the same Bn., is there now seventy two years later at the age of eighteen. Between these two, who can be said to form the top and bottom crusts of the members sandwiched between, can be found quite a variety of filling. Some of it mighty salty or fruity at times, too!

It has now become the usual thing for two old friends to meet at our monthly gatherings who have not set eyes on each other for four and sometimes five decades. One such meeting occurred in February when Ernie Rudd (L/11485) met Harry Bird (L/14343) for the first time since August, 1914, when both were lying wounded in a German Field Casualty station after being wounded during the Battle of Mons. They were the only British soldiers amongst the wounded Germans but received the

highest service from the German Medical Officer—a treatment neither has forgotten.

Not only do the old and sear meet at our jollifications, but the young and attractive do too. Recently, Tony, the son of the late George Markham and Mrs. Markham became engaged to Lesley, the daughter of Les and Mrs. Shrubbs. Both families are well known in the Regiment. Their choice of date was very apt—St. Valentine's Day. A similar incident occurred a couple of years ago when a couple, now man and wife, first met at one of our gatherings. It says much for the atmosphere of the club when, while the old soldier holds his pint pot, the youngsters hold hands.

Amongst the younger generation of members are the sons and grandsons of present or deceased members, some of them serving with the regular Bn. in Gibraltar. People ask "Why say OLD comrades when you have smooth-faced young men in your numbers?". The reply, of course, we are old COMRADES. When we were children we often referred to a special friend as "old Timothy" when we wanted to express affection, although our friend was also a child. I once had a conversation with that great Die-Hard stalwart, Busty Hull, telling him that it had been suggested we call ourselves "Past and Present members" etc. as do some regiments. Busty, whose son Chris "Flogger" Hull is one of our lads with the 1st Bn., replied "Anybody who calls me a 'Past' member gets himself a thick ear. Once a Die-Hard, always a Die-Hard." I'm sure many of us share Busty's sentiments. Now we are known as Die-Hards Clubs that covers our name and our feelings.

No matter in which category of the Regiment a man has served, Regular, Militia, Territorial, Service, Garrison or Reserve Bns., he can invariably find another member who served in his unit. We also have members in various Commonwealth countries who correspond regularly and a number still in France and Flanders who settled there after the two World Wars.

In December, many of our friends who can only make a visit to us occasionally, came along to share in the Christmas Draw and Raffle. In the Draw there were 83 prizes, 20 of them being wines and spirits; six more prizes were given in the raffle. Quite a number of these prizes were donated by our own members and this, I can assure readers, makes the job of running the Branch a joy. On the mailing list there are three hundred and eighty-five; this includes the widows of deceased comrades who are asked if they wish to hear from us regularly and also to join in whatever social is going on.

The ladies give us great support and are eager to help at all times. I hope to give the account of a "Bring and Buy" sale in the next edition of the Regimental Journal. The ladies, bless 'em, have organised this amongst themselves; their idea is to make a few shillings for the branch to show their appreciation of the welcome whenever they join us.

What more can a Chairman ask? The old soldier sitting at the table with his old barrack room mate sharing a pint and a pipe, the young soldier telling the old soldier how much things have altered since he joined, the mums planning what to do to help us all whilst the young and starry-eyed plan where to put the cuckoo clock and aspidistra.

Whatever their age and whatever their financial condition there is one thing all that concourse have in common and that can be seen on their cheerful faces. That is the complete harmony in happiness and good fellowship.

Come along and join us.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

#### PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

In the club room of the Queen's Hotel in the presence of Col. F. Walden and Major L. Honeybun the above mentioned Branch of the Association came into being on Friday, September 25, 1964.

This was the culminating point of much hard and determined spade work between Alfie (Lofty) Low, Peggy O'Neill and Major Honeybun, and what had been a long awaited possibility became a reality in the presence of 16 interested members.

Officers elected were Chairman: Len (Bogey, ex C.S.M.) West, Secretary and Treasurer: Charlie (Captain) Kennett. At the following meeting Peggy (Ex C.S.M.) O'Neill was elected Vice-Chairman.

A coach load of members and their families went to Seymour Hall for the Annual Reunion where we met many old friends and a very good time was had by one and all.

We now hold monthly meetings at which our wives are present and we enjoy very friendly social evenings. Our interested, if not paid up, membership is now 20,

with one associate member and at least seven most helpful wives.

If any of our friends from other branches are ever down this way please let us know when you are coming by writing to either of these addresses:— Mr. L. C. West, Grove House, Gosport Road, Stubbington, Hants, or to Capt. C. Kennett, 35 Anthony Grove, Gosport, Hants.

#### BANDSMEN AND DRUMMERS BRANCH

For the last three months of 1964, the Branch struck an "all-time low" in its fortunes.

The reasons for this were partly unforeseen and quite unavoidable when they occurred.

Directly after our September monthly letter was printed, Phulley's Secretary became the victim of a car crash and was in hospital for some weeks. Even now she is unable to do her normal work and I feel sure that you will all join me in wishing her a complete recovery and better fortune in 1965.

December also turned out to be a tricky month for the meeting of both our own and Mill Hill Branch.

Earlier in the year, it had been decided that those of our own branch who were free and wished to do so, should join up with the Mill Hill Branch at the beginning of December and that our December meeting should be dropped.

Unfortunately, the Territorial Army appears to have decided to have a "Training Competition" on the same evening that the Mill Hill Branch meeting was to be held, so they had to accept a Friday evening booking and because of our own breakdown, I was unable to let members know of this in time.

We did make enquiries to see if we could find an alternative meeting place and/or fit in a separate meeting of our own Branch and it was only then that we found all available T.A. halls already booked.

Fortunately 1965 has dawned a little more favourably for us and our meetings are to be held at the usual haunt (Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea) and an earlier start has been agreed upon which, it is hoped, will enable members to come in from longer distances. This was as a result of a request from one of our own members who lives in Colchester.

In recent weeks, I have attempted to make contact with "Dinkie" Pugh of the 2nd Bn. Corps of Drums in India 1926 and "Blood" Ormes of the 1st Bn., who was a Boy in Aldershot in the same year, but so far I have been unsuccessful.

I believe that I have two hundred and fifty names and addresses of former Bandsmen and Drummers in my address book, but only about eighty of them have joined the Branch and a few of these are now "falling out" due to various circumstances.

I am quite sure that very few of us are ever forgotten by someone with whom we served, and I am equally sure that those who have turned their backs do not realise the genuine delight of meeting old friends again—delight both given and received. The first year was spent in searching for those whose names have been given to me by others. One serving Bandmaster sent me a list of the names of everyone with whom he could remember

#### 9th BATTALION BRANCH

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Spotted Dog, Public House on Saturday, May 15, and I look forward to all ex-9th members turning up to this splendid evening. Members of the 9th Battalion Branch will receive a notice in due course but should anybody not in the Branch be interested I shall be pleased to forward details.

I regret to advise of the deaths of the following:—  
Sgt. W. Lock  
Bdsm. R. Collyer  
Bdsm. R. Bates.

Les Spivey an old friend and Die-Hard, and supporter, who for many years served the Regiment and afterwards in an Honorary capacity in connection with the Rifle Team Club at Kingsbury has had a long spell off work since 1963 and is again in hospital. I feel sure there are many who in the circumstances would like to drop him a line of good cheer or perhaps visit him for a few minutes. His address is:—

Ward B 12,  
Royal Masonic Hospital,  
Ravenscourt Park, W.6.

Visiting hours: Monday to Friday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HENRY FISHER.

#### THE ELMS CLUB

The Wives Club at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, was formed in March 1957 by Mrs. Allen, for the wives of all ranks associated with the 7th Battalion. The ladies called themselves "THE ELMS CLUB" taking their name from the house which once stood on the site where the present T.A. Centre now stands.

With the amalgamation of the Battalions the membership began to dwindle, until it was decided to make a graceful exit, rather than drag slowly to an end.



The Members of the Elms Club who attended the Meeting on December 3, 1964. Back row (left to right): Mrs. Holdford, Mrs. Bower, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Kenton, Mrs. Gunnell. Front row (left to right): Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Chittock, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Wallage, Mrs. Ellis

serving. In twelve years, with the engagements, discharges and transfers of service life, one can meet many men; memories fade and faces change, but the joy of reunion is unsurpassable. The search for those asked after has led me to Canada, Africa and Australia, all parts of England and into Scotland and Wales. It is also sometimes very surprising to realise that a few of our old friends have, apparently been completely forgotten by everyone. In some cases, their names may be on the Roll of Honour of those killed in the war; but changes in rank and forgetfulness of an army number make one uncertain, particularly where several of the same name are listed. Some of our earlier discharges became professional musicians and Hammond was seen on T.V. by one of his former comrades, but an inquiry to the Musicians' Union was also negative in reply.

Of Bandsmen now serving I have not much news at present. Dennis Bayton is still Brigade Bandmaster of the Welch Brigade but I have lost contact with Don Carson, H. C. R. Bently and Darkly Plummer, all of whom are now Bandmasters. I have made contact with Bdsman Bird of the 1st Bn. who is now at Kneller Hall and was interested to find that his father was a Bandsman of the 2nd Bn. in my own time and well remembered by many of us. Young "Sparrow" came to my house party a week before Christmas and met Ted Hill, one of his Father's comrades, and I was very happy to bring Alf Hodgson and ex-B/Sgt. Jeffree together again here a few weeks before that.

The lads who were at Kneller Hall for the last course are now back with the Bn. in Gibraltar and I am pleased that Vic Peterson is maintaining contact—the only one of all I have so far met to do so up to the time of going to press.

I would also like to thank all of those who sent me Christmas cards. I know that, in my December letter, I usually ask for a donation to be sent to Association Funds instead of a card to me, but it does add to the happiness of my Christmas to know that I am in your thoughts at this time.

I am sorry to report that Bos Barter is down again with bronchial and heart trouble.

"Brewer"

#### 2/7th BATTALION BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the 2/7th Bn. Branch took place at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 73 Seymour Street, London, W.2. on Friday October 2, 1964.

Sixty-eight members attended, and the guests of the evening were Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex (Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.) and the Secretary of the Regimental Association (Col F. Walden, D.L.). Lt.-Col. S. Mirams, M.C., T.D., D.L., presided.

During dinner, in accordance with custom, a collection was made, as a result of which the handsome sum of £20 os. 9d. was handed over to the Association Secretary for the Benevolent Fund.

This year the Dinner will be held at the same place on Friday, October 1, and any ex-member of the 2/7th Bn. who wishes to attend should get in touch with Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3. (Tel—FINchley 1649).

A party was held on December 3rd and Mrs. Pringle (the Club President and wife of a former C.O. of the Battalion) asked Col. F. Walden to accept a small cheque for £20, to be put towards the Albuhera Fund for the houses at Enfield. It was thought that past members of the Club would be pleased to know of this.

And so to "THE ELMS CLUB" we write  
"FINIS."

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W.1, on Friday, October 23, 1964.

Present: Maj.-Gen. J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., President; Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Chairman; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. I. H. Batty, M.B.E.; Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Col. J. W. G. Ormiston; Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden; Major P. G. V. Bellers; Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat; Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D.; Major J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.; Capt. S. R. Bonnamy; Capt. H. W. Craydon; Mr. S. Bartle; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. T. Boswell; Mr. L. Bull; Mr. E. C. Colebeck; Mr. C. Davis; Mr. A. R. Drane; Mr. C. Evans; Mr. R. H. Ferguson; Mr. G. Hurlock; Mr. E. Johnson; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Mr. R. Procter; Mr. W. T. Shead; Mr. E. G. Stokes; Mr. R. W. Stokes; Mr. K. Thiis; Mr. H. Thornton; Mr. J. Trunley; Mr. F. A. Warley; Mr. W. A. Wright; Col. F. Walden, D.L., Secretary.

#### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on November 29, 1963 were passed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2. Accounts for 1963

There being no comments it was proposed by Mr. Drane and seconded by Col. Ormiston that the accounts be received and adopted.—Carried.

#### 3. Any other Business

(a) *Journal Space*.—It was proposed by Mr. Drane that more space in *The Die-Hards* should be given to the Regimental Association.

The Chairman stated that, if Branches sent in the matter they wished published, it would, subject to editing, be printed.

(b) *Fete*.—It was proposed by Capt. Craydon that a Fete should be held to raise money for the Funds.

The Chairman stated that the Association had had under consideration for some time a Horse Show, which had fallen through, but that this proposal would be put before the next Executive Committee Meeting for consideration.

(c) *Cricket Week*.—A question was asked as to whether or not some form of Regimental Cricket Week could be revived.

The Chairman stated that this would be investigated.

(d) *Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Dunkirk*.—Mr. Knight asked if the Regiment proposed to do anything in connection with the 25th Anniversary of Dunkirk, which would occur next year.

The Chairman stated that this would be considered.

(e) *The Colonel of the Regiment*.—Brigadier Rackham said how honoured everyone present felt at having the Colonel of the Regiment at the Meeting. The Chairman informed the Meeting, for the benefit of those who did not know, that Gen. Willoughby was due to take up command of MELF next year. He congratulated the General on his appointment and, on behalf of those present, wished him every success.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, October 27, 1964.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Chairman; Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Vice-Chairman; Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. S. F. Hedgecoe; Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M.; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Col. F. Walden, D.L., Secretary.

Apologies for not attending were received from: Kenneth Goodacre Esq., T.D., D.L.; Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden; Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.; Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.; Major P. W. Galvin; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.; D/Major J. Lewis.

1. Before the business of the Meeting started Brigadier Rackham drew attention to the fact that only one of the serving members of the Committee was present and expressed the view that many more should be present at these Meetings.

It was agreed that this matter should be taken up.

2. Due to the unavoidable absence of Major A. T. Jones a report on the activities of the Enfield Branch could not be given.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on July 21, 1964 were passed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was discussed.

(b) *Annual Reunion*.—In reply to a question the Secretary stated that a total of 548 attended the Reunion this year, which was exactly 100 less than last year.

Mr. Knight asked if a Saturday evening would not be a better evening for the Reunion but, after discussion, it was agreed that a Friday evening was the best.

After further discussion it was agreed that some other venue should be considered and discussed at a later date.

(c) *New Branch*.—The Secretary was congratulated on his work in connection with the formation of the new Branch at Portsmouth and Gosport.

(d) *War Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill*.—Major Hardcastle explained that Mrs. Comber had refused to comply with the Court Order of eviction and although the Bailiffs, Welfare Officer and Ambulance men with an Ambulance were in attendance, it was impossible to move her. Mrs. Smith, her daughter, was present and admitted that she had a house near Windsor, but was not willing to take her mother in. The matter was, therefore, in the hands of the Court again, and it would now be necessary for Mrs. Comber's own doctor to be asked to give an opinion as to whether or not she could be moved and, if so, when. If necessary a second medical opinion would have to be obtained.

Major Hardcastle stated that everything possible had been done to assist, the Regimental Association even agreeing to meet all expenses in connection with her removal; and, of course, she had been offered one of the new flats at Enfield, which was, in fact, still being kept for her.

As far as the Regimental Association was concerned Major Hardcastle said that everything had been done to avoid unpleasantness in this case, and that we could not in anyway interfere with any further steps taken by the Court.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee to both Major Hardcastle and the Secretary for the trouble they had taken over this matter.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 5. Correspondence

A file containing eleven letters of appreciation for individual charitable grants was circulated for members of the Committee to read.

#### 6. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) *Widows' Bungalows*.—The Chairman drew attention to the fact that it might be necessary to arrange to overdraw on the Bank before the end of the year in order to meet outstanding accounts in connection with the Widows' Bungalows at Enfield. The Finance Sub-Committee did not wish to sell further securities for this purpose as more donations were likely to be forthcoming for the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal.

#### (b) Budgets 1965.—

(i) *General*.—The Chairman stated that he had prepared budgets for 1965, copies of which were issued to members attending the Meeting.

(ii) *Charitable Funds*.—The Chairman explained that *Income* was estimated at the average over the past three years. The same applied to *Charitable Disbursements* under *Expenditure*, though in this case he wanted to make it clear that there was no question of limiting the amount to £1,450 if applications for grants were received and approved in excess of this figure.

Brigadier Rackham asked if the £200 *Provision for Maintenance of Cottage Homes* at Mill Hill included the £100 set aside each year for the Amortisation Fund. The Chairman explained that such a Fund would now serve no useful purpose.

The Vice-Chairman asked if a Reserve Fund for major repairs to the Cottages should not be set up. After the Chairman had explained that the Cottages were de-rated and that water rates and insurances cost the Association less than £25 per year, there remained £175 for other expenses. The Vice-Chairman said that he was satisfied that adequate provision had been made.

Brigadier Rackham asked if the grant of £100 towards the Regimental Journal was to continue. The Chairman replied that further assistance might be required if the Journal was to be continued, but that this matter was being taken up with the Colonel of the Regiment in the hope that further assistance might be forthcoming from other Regimental Funds.

(iii) *War Memorial Fund*.—The Chairman stated that, under *Income*, the *Rents Receivable* for the houses were based on the increase approved by the Enfield Borough Council; and that, under *Expenditure*, the *General Repairs and Maintenance* were estimated at the average over the past three years.

The Chairman said that it would not be possible to redeem the loan of £2,000 from the Enfield Borough Council out of income in five years without recourse to the Charitable Fund. He went on to say that this did not mean that the loan could not be repaid in the four-year period but this would depend on the final result of the Lord Lieutenant's Appeal. He informed the Meeting that further donations to the Appeal were being received and that he had just received a letter from the Middlesex County Council Sunday Entertainments Committee stating that a sum of £250 had been allocated from that Fund for the Appeal. In addition further income would be forthcoming, through Deeds of Covenant, over the next seven years.

Brigadier Rackham expressed the gratitude of the Committee to the Chairman for the amount of work he had done in drawing up the budgets and keeping the Appeal moving.

(iv) There being no further comments the budgets were approved.

(c) *Investments*.—Arising from Minute 4 of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 21, 1964 the Chairman stated that he and Lt.-Col. Dear had met to consider the position of stocks, and that, as a result, they had decided to make the following changes:

*Charitable Fund*.—To sell 600 Ord. shares John Dickinson Ltd. and re-invest the proceeds in Spillers Ltd. Ord. shares of 5s. each.

*Renny Fund*.—To sell 996 Ord. shares Unigate Ltd. and re-invest the proceeds in Wilkinson Sword Co. Ord. shares.

The Committee approved of the action taken.

(d) *Albuhera Close, Enfield, Rentals.*—The Chairman asked for the approval of the Committee to increase the rents of the houses and bungalows at Enfield. He said that permission had been obtained from the Enfield Borough Council to make an increase, and it was proposed that this should be 8s. per week in the case of houses and 6s. 6d. per week in the case of bungalows, as from January 1, 1965.

Major Hardcastle said that he felt that to increase the rent of the bungalows so soon after occupation was rather unfair, especially as one occupant was from one of the cottages in Mill Hill which had been rent free.

After further discussion it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Major Hardcastle and passed unanimously that the rents of the bungalows should remain at 5s. per week, but that the rents of the houses should be increased to 8s. per week as from January 1, 1965.

Major Hardcastle agreed to deal with this matter from the legal aspect.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 7. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Brigadier Rackham moved that the Housing Sub-Committee's Report as circulated be adopted.

He drew attention to Annex "A" of the Report and asked for the Committee's agreement that "infirm" be interpreted in the widest sense. This was agreed.

Although there are 12 names on the Waiting List it was felt that these were not the most deserving cases that could be found, and it was hoped that by wider enquiries some really deserving cases would be forthcoming. It was, however, thought that some First World War men now felt that it was too late to make a move, should a house become available for them.

(b) *Rehabilitation of Site, Albuhera Close.*—With regard to Minute 3 of the Housing Sub-Committee's Meeting held on October 5, 1964, Brigadier Rackham stated that the rehabilitation of the site had been carried out very satisfactorily.

The Chairman explained that originally the land at Albuhera Close had been leased to the Association by the North West Regional Hospital Board for 999 years. Later the rear portion of the land had been returned to the Board, who had given in exchange the freehold of the land. At a later date, when the flatlets were contemplated and further land was required, an application was made for the return of part of the land at the rear. It took three years to recover this parcel of land and it was felt that the Association could not in the circumstances ask the Hospital to take any land back. He suggested that the land could be used as an orchard. He had in mind to explore the possibility of selling any land which could be spared without detriment to the estate to a property developer and thus it might be possible to raise money for redemption of the Enfield Borough Council loan.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the possibility of selling the land should be investigated,

but no action should be taken without consideration of the position in relation to the Hospital Board.

It was also agreed that Mr. Knight should approach car owners on the Albuhera Close Estate to ascertain whether or not they would be willing to rent garages should a decision be taken to build them on the spare land.

(c) *Annual Inspection.*—Arising from Minute 4 of the Housing Sub-Committee Meeting held on October 5, 1964, the annual inspection had been carried out, as arranged, by Mr. Knight and Major Jones.

Mr. Knight reported that, with the exception of two houses, the interiors were in very good condition.

In reply to a question from the Chairman Mr. Knight stated that the condition of the exteriors of the houses on the Estate was, generally speaking, fair.

(d) *Tenants' Association.*—With reference to Minute 6 of the Housing Sub-Committee's Meeting held on October 5, 1964, Brigadier Rackham said that he had found Mrs. Bagnall very lonely now that she was at Enfield and away from her friends at Mill Hill.

He felt that the tenants could be brought closer together and was anxious to re-form the Tenants' Association. With this object in view he was intending to invite certain of the tenants to his home to tea to discuss the matter.

After some discussion it was agreed that a party should be given for the tenants and that the Association would meet the cost.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 8. Journal Sub-Committee's Report.

(a) Col. Walden stated that his Report was brief and dealt with two main subjects connected with the Journal, namely, *Circulation and Advertisements.*

(b) *Circulation.*—In view of the fact that all copies of the October 1963 and April 1964 issues had sold out quickly it had been necessary to increase the print figure for the October 1964 issue from 1,000 to 1,200.

(c) *Advertisements.*—The revenue from advertisements continued to increase, due largely to the demand for space from firms in Gibraltar.

The estimated revenue from these advertisements in the October 1964 issue is £114 as compared with £66 from those in the corresponding issue last year.

The number of advertisements from firms at home remained fairly constant but, in view of the 1st Battalion's impending move to Northern Ireland towards the end of next year and the consequent loss of revenue from firms in Gibraltar, every effort was being made to increase the sale of space to firms in this country.

(d) Brigadier Rackham referred to the account which appeared in the October 1964 issue, of the visit last May by the 1st Battalion to the battlefield of Albuhera, and asked if arrangements could be made to have this re-published in local papers in the County.

Col. Walden undertook to take this matter up and to see what could be done.

(e) The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Col. Walden for the work he had done in

connection with the Journal since he had become Editor.

(f) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 9. Formation of New Branch

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Secretary's Report dated October 22, 1964, the Secretary stated that he had received a formal application under Rule 17 for the formation of a new Branch, to be known as the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch.

The Application was approved unanimously and, on behalf of the Committee, the Chairman wished the new Branch every success.

#### 10. Affiliation of Other O.C.A.'s

Arising from Minute 11 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on July 21, 1964 it was decided, after considerable discussion, that the Colonel of the Regiment should be asked to write to the O.C.A.'s in question with a view to inviting them to become affiliated to the Regimental Association. It was also agreed that, in his letter, the Colonel of the Regiment should be asked to mention that, if any O.C.A. so wished, it could, on application, become a recognised Branch of the Regimental Association.

#### 11. Any Other Business

(a) *Fiftieth Anniversary of Outbreak of 1914-18 War.*—The Secretary stated that, after the Parade and Service of Remembrance held at the Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on August 23, the Reunion at Regimental Headquarters cost approximately £50, and asked for permission for this to be charged to Association Funds.

The cost was approved, but the Secretary was instructed to approach the Colonel of the Regiment with a view to asking if part of the cost could be met from other Regimental Funds.

(b) *Laying Up of Old Colours.*—Mr. Bennett asked if arrangements were being made for the laying up of Old T.A. Battalions' Colours.

The Chairman stated that the Colonel of the Regiment was dealing with this matter and that further information on the subject would be issued later.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, October 27, 1964

##### Secretary's Report

##### 1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from May 1, 1964 to August 31, 1964 the sum of £347 18s. 2d. was spent on assisting 49 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:

Boer War .. .. .	1
1914-18 War .. .. .	27
Between 1919 and 1939 .. .. .	2
1939-45 War .. .. .	14
Since 1945 .. .. .	4
Still serving .. .. .	1

(b) *Clothing Grants.*—Nine grants were made. Six of these were to elderly ex-members of the Regiment, or

their widows, and three for the children of ex-members in straitened circumstances.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays.*—Five grants were made. One of these, which deserves special mention, was to an ex-Sergeant of the 4th Battalion, who had served throughout the 1914-18 War. His health has deteriorated so much through a series of severe abdominal operations that he is now unable to exert himself or lift anything heavy, and he cannot stand for any length of time.

(d) *Fuel Grants.*—A total of nine grants were made. Of these two deserve special mention:

(i) In co-operation with the Royal Fusiliers Aid Society and the Royal West Kent Regimental Association sufficient coal has been purchased to last the winter for an ex-soldier who, on account of his disability, needs extra warmth.

(ii) An ex-member of the Regiment, aged 84, with a cardiac condition and dropsy in both legs, living on his own near Dunmow in Essex.

(e) *Food Grants.*—Two grants were made. One of these was to an ex-member of the 2nd Battalion, who had been employed as a cook in Ahmednagar days, and is now desperately ill with lung cancer.

(f) *Housing.*—Five grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

(i) One of these was to a widow to pay for the removal of her furniture from the War Memorial cottage she had occupied at Bittacy Hill to one of the new Widows' Bungalows at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

(ii) Another was to an elderly widow, whose husband was killed in the 1914-18 War, to help pay for some much-needed redecoration to her house.

(g) *Rent and Rate Arrears.*—Six cases were assisted—five with rent arrears and one with rate arrears.

(h) *Miscellaneous Grants.*—

(i) Four grants were made to help with the payment of debts caused through death or sickness—three of them in co-operation with other Regimental Associations.

(ii) A grant was made to pay the railway fare of an old soldier, who had served with the 15th (Service) Battalion during the 1914-18 War and was now aged 82, so that he could visit his only relative, an elderly sister, living at Eastbourne.

(iii) A grant was made, on the recommendation of the British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, to an ex-soldier who had served in the 1939-45 War, towards the cost of a correspondence course in Office Routine to enable him to take up an appointment earmarked for him by the Ministry of Labour.

(iv) A small grant was made to an ex-P.O.W. who had served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, to enable him to replace a pair of spectacles he had lost.

## 2. Members' Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last Report:

Capt. S. H. Schocktee (late 9th Bn.)  
2/Lt. C. A. de S. Clayton (1st Bn.)

## 3. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report:

Benton, A. G. (23524010)—Warehouseman  
Kenealy, E. (12786)—Porter  
Mann, A. J. (6266361)—Sub-Postmaster  
McIntyre, J. W. (14269653)—Technician G.P.O.  
Tampin, A. J. (22259696)—Foreman, Rubber Works.

## 4. Annual Reunion

Up to today's date the number of tickets sold is as follows:

Singles .. .. .	59
Doubles .. .. .	96

## 5. New Branch

With reference to paragraph 5 of my Report dated July 15, 1964, a very successful meeting was held at the Queen's Hotel, Queen's Road, Gosport, on Friday, September 25, at which 19 ex-members of the Regiment were present.

It was unanimously agreed to apply to form a Portsmouth and Gosport Branch, and formal application under Rule 17 is to be considered at the forthcoming Executive Committee Meeting.

## 6. Star and Garter Home, Richmond

With the death on Sunday, August 9, of Mr. (ex-Pte.) J. P. Johnson, the number of former members of the Regiment, who are inmates of the Home, has been reduced to two, namely:

Mr. A. H. Hamlyn  
Mr. G. Oakley

## 7. War Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill

With reference to paragraph 6, c, of my Report dated July 15, 1964, on the orders of the Willesden County Court, Mrs. Comber was due to be evicted from No. 3 Cottage, Bittacy Hill, today. As, however, aided and abetted by her daughter, she utterly refused to move, the Welfare Officer and the Bailiffs had no option but to refer the matter back to the County Court for further instructions.

## 8. War Memorial Homes, Enfield—Rentals

With reference to paragraph 7, b, of my Report dated July 15, 1964, the Town Clerk informed me on July 29, 1964 that the Enfield Borough Council was prepared to approve an increase to 8s. per week.

This matter is now on the Agenda for the forthcoming Executive Committee Meeting.

## 9. Association Standard

Since my last Report the Association Standard has been carried on one occasion only, namely, at the Service of Remembrance at the Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, August 23, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the 1914-18 War.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

## MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Tuesday, February 16, 1965.

*Present:* Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., (Chairman); Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., (Vice-Chairman); Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.; Col. S. F. Hedgecoe; Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D.; Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Col. F. Walden, D.L., (Secretary).

*Apologies* for not attending were received from: Kenneth Goodacre, Esq., T.D., D.L.; Brigadier, E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden; Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D.; Major P. W. Galvin; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.; R.S.M. H. Boseley; D/Major J. Lewis; Mr. C. Holdford, B.E.M.

#### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on October 27, 1964, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was discussed.

(b) *Membership*—Col. Ellis asked if the figures shown represented the number of "paid-up" members.

The Secretary stated that the figures showed the actual numbers who were members of the various Branches of the Regimental Association and that the practice was not to strike off members until three years had elapsed without payment.

After some discussion it was agreed that in future membership figures of each Branch for the previous year should also be shown in order to draw a comparison.

(c) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 3. Correspondence

A file containing the following letters of appreciation was circulated for members of the Committee to read:

##### A. Letters of Appreciation for Annual Donations

- (i) Letter dated December 24, 1964, from British Limbless ex-Service Mens' Association.
- (ii) Letter dated December 28, 1964, from S.S.A.F.A.
- (iii) Letter dated December 28, 1964, from Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows.
- (iv) Letter dated December 29, 1964, from the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.
- (v) Letter dated December 29, 1964, from National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.
- (vi) Letter dated December 29, 1964, from the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

(vii) Letter dated December 30, 1964, from the Gordon Boys' School.

(viii) Letter dated December 31, 1964, from the Family Welfare Association.

B. Seven letters of appreciation for individual charitable grants.

C. Three letters of appreciation for Christmas food vouchers.

#### 4. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

The report submitted by the Chairman was received and adopted.

#### 5. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Brigadier Rackham moved that the Sub-Committee's Report as circulated be adopted.

(b) *Rehabilitation of Site, Albuhera Close*—After much discussion over the land at the rear of the site, and various suggestions as to how it should be maintained or disposed of, it was finally agreed that the matter should be referred back to the Housing Sub-Committee with a view to dealing with the problem of its immediate maintenance and to recommending whether or not:

- (i) The site should be grassed and planted with trees.
- (ii) Any garages should be built for use by occupants at an economic rental.
- (iii) Attempts should be made to dispose of it to a developer.

It was further agreed that, as so few of them had seen it, all Members of the Executive Committee should visit the site before the next Executive Committee Meeting, so that they would be in a better position to deal with the Housing Sub-Committee's recommendations.

(c) *Waiting List*—The Housing Sub-Committee's order of priority and selection for the vacant cottages at Bittacy Hill and Albuhera Close were agreed to.

(d) *Memorial Cottages, Bittacy Hill*—The proposals by the Army Land Agent regarding the surrender of Nos. 1 and 2, and the 30-foot strip from the rear of gardens of Nos. 3 and 4 were accepted.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 6. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Col. Walden stated that his Report would cover three main subjects, namely *Advertisements, Circulation and Production Costs*.

(i) *Advertisements*—The revenue from those firms in Gibraltar for the October 1964 issue amounted to £117, making a total of £207 for the year. Col. Walden stated that, when the 1st Battalion leaves Gibraltar later in the year, this revenue would cease and that every effort was now being made to get firms in the United Kingdom to take space in the Journal.

The appeal in January to each member of the Executive Committee to assist by providing the Editor with the name of at least one firm willing to advertise had met with a little success to date.

(ii) *Circulation*—This remained at 1,200. A total of 31 new readers had been enrolled since last October.

(iii) *Production Costs*—Notification had been received through Combined Service Publications Ltd. that, as from October 1965 issue, there would be an increase of 5 per cent on the production costs. This means that each issue will cost at least £15 more.

(b) The Chairman asked if it was possible to reduce costs by lowering the photograph content of the Journal.

Col. Walden stated that photographs were in fact always kept to a minimum, but that, in deciding on numbers to be reproduced, he had to bear in mind that they do help considerably to increase the sales of the Journal.

(c) Mr. Bennett asked if it would help if Branches mentioned the Journal in their newsletters.

Col. Walden stated that it would be a good way to encourage new readers.

(d) Mr. Knight asked if 500 additional copies could be bought and sent to ex-members of the Regiment who were not readers.

Col. Walden stated that he would investigate and report.

(e) Lt.-Col. Webber asked if it would be possible for the 5th Battalion to advertise in the Journal and then send copies to works canteens etc. in the area as a recruiting aid.

Col. Walden undertook to go into this and see what could be arranged.

(f) Major Reed said that the best way of increasing revenue was advertising and that a real drive should be made in this direction.

(g) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 7. Annual Reunion 1965

The Secretary stated that, at a recent meeting of Branch Secretaries, it was unanimously agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Executive Committee to hold the Annual Reunion this year at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, on Saturday, September 25. He estimated that the saving to Association Funds would amount to between £150 and £160.

After some discussion it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Brigadier Green, and carried unanimously that the Annual Reunion for 1965 should be held at the T.A. Centre, Edgware on Saturday, September 25.

#### 8. Albuhera Day 1965

The Secretary stated that, at a recent meeting of Branch Secretaries, it was recommended that, on Albuhera Day this year, which falls on a Sunday, a Regimental Service should be held at the Regimental Memorial in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on the same lines as that held last August to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Mons, followed by a Reunion at Edgware similar to that held each year on Remembrance Day.

The recommendation was adopted.

#### 9. Centenary Appeal on behalf of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School

The Chairman read out the contents of a letter which had been received in connection with the Centenary

Appeal on behalf of the above named School at Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey.

After a short discussion it was agreed that the Association's commitments to outside charitable organisations, which amount to over £110, were already sufficient for the funds to bear, and that a letter regretting that the Association could not subscribe to the Appeal, should be sent by the Secretary.

#### 10. Fete

Arising from Minute 3b of the Annual General Meeting held on October 23, 1964, regarding the holding of a Fete to raise money for the Charitable Fund, the Committee agreed with the Chairman's view that this type of function was more suited for Branches to organise, and that the Secretary should convey these feelings to Branch Secretaries at their next Meeting.

#### 11. 25th Anniversary of the Evacuation from Dunkirk

Arising from Minute 3d of the Annual General Meeting held on October 23, 1964, it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Dunkirk Veterans' Association and ask what arrangements, if any, were being made to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Evacuation from Dunkirk.

#### 12. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Chairman stated that the only names on the list of nominations received by the Secretary were:

For Chairman . . . Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox  
For Vice-Chairman . . . Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts  
The re-election of Lt.-Col. Fox as Chairman and Lt.-Col. Roberts as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year was unanimously approved.

A vote of thanks to both Lt.-Col. Fox and Lt.-Col. Roberts for their work during the past year was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and carried unanimously.

F. WALDEN, Colonel  
Secretary.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, February 16, 1965

#### Secretary's Report

##### 1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from September 1, 1964, to December 31, 1964 the sum of £453 17s. 6d. was spent on assisting 68 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:—

Boer War . . . . .	1
Pre 1914 . . . . .	1
1914-18 War . . . . .	35
Between 1919 and 1939 . . . . .	6
1939-45 War . . . . .	21
Since 1945 . . . . .	3
Still serving (T.A.) . . . . .	1

(b) *Clothing Grants.* Nine grants were made. One of these was in conjunction with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Comrades' Association to a disabled ex-soldier, who had served in both Regiments, and two of the others were to elderly widows of over 80 years of age.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays.* Eight grants were made averaging £8 per grant, to those ex-members or their widows who, after serious illnesses, had been recommended a period of convalescence usually at one of the British Legion convalescent homes.

(d) *Fuel Grants.* A total of twelve grants were made, mostly for coal to elderly ex-members or their widows.

(e) *Food Grants.* Three grants were made to provide extra nourishment in special cases. Two of these were elderly widows of ex-members of the Regiment who had served in the 1914-18 War.

(f) *Housing.* Four grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

In three cases the grants were for the replenishment of bedding, such as blankets, and in the fourth case the grant was for the removal of furniture from one of the War Memorial cottages to a cottage in the country.

(g) *Rent and Rate Arrears.* Altogether six cases were assisted, five with rent and one with rates.

##### (h) Miscellaneous Grants

(i) Christmas food vouchers, valued at 30s. each, were given to four old soldiers in straitened circumstances.

(ii) Two grants, totalling £12, were made to assist with funeral expenses.

(iii) A grant to help an ex-senior N.C.O. (aged 78) who served in one of our T.A. Battalions in 1914-18 War, with his out-of-pocket expenses whilst in New Zealand visiting his son and grandchildren for the first and last time.

(iv) A grant to an ex-3rd Battalion senior N.C.O., aged 80, who has lived in the U.S.A. for some years, towards the cost of new dentures.

(v) A grant to the widow of an ex-2nd Battalion cook, towards the payment of her fare home to Ireland, after the death of her husband.

#### 2. Membership

The total membership of the Regimental Association as at December 31, 1964 was 1,779, made up as follows:—

Central Register . . . . .	375
Ealing Branch . . . . .	91
Enfield Branch . . . . .	39
Hong Kong Branch . . . . .	9
Hornsey Branch . . . . .	203
Hounslow Branch . . . . .	47
Mill Hill Branch . . . . .	343
Portsmouth Branch . . . . .	16
Uxbridge Branch . . . . .	32
2/7th Battalion . . . . .	273
9th Battalion . . . . .	217
12th (H.G.) Battalion . . . . .	55
Bandsmen and Drummers . . . . .	79

Total 1,779

#### 3. Members' Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last Report:—

Ex-Sgt. W. Lock, late 9th Battalion  
Ex-Bdsm. R. Bates, late 9th Battalion  
Ex-Bdsm. R. Collyer, late 9th Battalion.

## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

### Golf

#### Regimental Autumn Meeting

The Regimental Autumn Meeting last year was held by kind permission of the North Hants Golf Club, at Fleet on Wednesday, September 16, 1964.

Whilst it was not expected that this Meeting would produce a large entry on the first occasion after its revival yet the numbers who eventually took part were disappointingly small. This was partly due to at least three last minute scratchings through illness. Nevertheless, the "few" enjoyed a pleasant day's golf in very congenial company.

The results of the various competitions were:—

#### Singles Medal Competition (18 holes) Scratch and Handicap

	Gross H'cap Net		
Capt. M. S. Gedye (winner, scratch) . . . . .	81	10	71
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (winner, handicap) . . . . .	93	18	75
Capt. R. D. Latham . . . . .	95	14	81
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton . . . . .	100	10	90
Major K. J. Carter (divot) . . . . .	133	24	109

#### Hidden Holes Competition

	1/3rd Gross H'cap Net		
Capt. M. S. Gedye (winner) . . . . .	24	4	20
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden . . . . .	32	6	26
Capt. R. D. Latham . . . . .	32	5	27
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton . . . . .	32	4	28
Major K. J. Carter . . . . .	51	8	43

#### Stableford Competition

	Points	
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (winner) . . . . .	31	
Capt. M. S. Gedye . . . . .	28	
Capt. R. D. Latham . . . . .	25	
Major K. J. Carter . . . . .	22	

At the conclusion of the Meeting Brigadier Proctor, who still takes a keen interest in the Regimental Meetings although he cannot be induced to play, very kindly presented the prizes.

#### Home Counties Brigade Autumn Meeting

This Meeting which was held at Tandridge Golf Club on Wednesday, September 2, 1964, was not a large one owing to the fact that the four Regular battalions of the Brigade are serving abroad. However, 18 players took part and enjoyed a good day's golf in excellent weather.

It was most unfortunate, from the Regiment's point of view, that Lt.-Col. John Worton was prevented from playing at the last moment owing to an injured back.

The scores of the Regimental representatives in the various competitions were as follows:—

#### 4. Royal Hospital, Chelsea

With the death last Boxing Day of in-Pensioner John Grindrod, at the age of 81, the number of former members of the Regiment who are in-Pensioners has been reduced to four, namely:—

Ex-R.Q.M.S. W. R. Carvill  
Ex-C.Q.M.S. C. M. King  
Ex-Sgt. W. A. Meachen  
Ex-Sgt. H. G. Purdue.

#### 5. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report:—

Chester, J. (22803566) . . . . . Storekeeper  
Clayton, S. A. (6203975) . . . . . Warehouse Driver  
Hall, G. H. (6203207) . . . . . Postman  
Hickin, B. R. (6216510) . . . . . Postman  
Mitchell, K. H. S. (14870197) . . . . . G.P.O. Technician  
Raynor, E. J. . . . . Postman  
Tampin, A. J. (22259696) . . . . . Machinist

#### 6. War Memorial Cottages, Mill Hill

With reference to paragraph seven of my last Report dated October 22, 1964, Mrs. Comber and the daughter who had been living with her, were eventually evicted from No. 3 Regimental War Memorial Cottage, Bittacy Hill, on November 11, 1964, and went to live at the daughter's cottage at Taplow, Bucks.

The furniture required at Taplow was removed on November 17, 1964, but a considerable amount was left behind for disposal. This has now been done and the cottage is ready to be handed over to the Housing Manager.

#### 7. Budgets 1965

With reference to Minute 6(b) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 27, 1964, statements showing the actual income and expenditure to date under the headings given in Appendices "A" and "B" to the above Minute will be available at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

#### 8. Affiliation of other O.C.A.'s

With reference to Minute 10 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 27, 1964, this matter is in hand.

#### 9. Fiftieth Anniversary of Outbreak of 1914-18 War

With reference to Minute 11(a) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 27, 1964, the Colonel of the Regiment's decision will be obtained when he next visits Regimental Headquarters.

#### 10. Association Standard

Since my last Report the Association Standard has been carried on the following occasions:—

Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, November 7, 1964.

Regimental Remembrance Day Service, November 8, 1964.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

## Singles Medal on Handicap

	Net score	Placing
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden .. ..	72	3rd
Capt. R. D. Latham .. ..	76	5th
Capt. M. S. Gedye .. ..	87	13th

## Foursomes Stableford Bogey (Greensome)

	Score against bogey	placing
Capt. R. D. Latham and M. S. Gedye .. ..	37	3rd
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Major K. J. Carter .. ..	30	6th

## Regimental Team Foursomes

	Points against bogey	Placing
Queen's Own Buffs .. ..	82	1st
Middlesex Regiment .. ..	67	2nd
Queen's Surreys .. ..	63	3rd

## Club Cocktail Party

The Club Cocktail Party last year was held at the Army and Navy Club on Wednesday, September 23, and, by general consent, was a great success.

The attendance of 102, including guests, was the highest for some years, and there is little doubt that everyone enjoyed themselves to the full.

Amongst our guests were three who provided distinct links with the past, namely, Miss Catherine Hayes, whose father, Lt.-Col. R. H. Hayes, was in command of the 2nd Battalion at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War; Mrs. E. Claudia Reed, whose father, Lt.-Col. W. C. C. Ash, took over command of the 1st Battalion in November 1914; and Mrs. Margarita Swanston, whose brother, 2/Lt. H. E. W. Berkeley-Hill, a former Signals officer of the 2nd Battalion, was killed in an avalanche in Switzerland in 1909.

## SEASON TICKETS FOR LORD'S 1965

Two season tickets for use at Lord's this season have been purchased and are available for the use of members of the Officers Club.

Applications for these tickets should be made to the Secretary in writing at least 48 hours before they are required, and must be returned to him in the stamped addressed envelope, which will be forwarded with the tickets, immediately after close of play on the day on which they are used.

In the event of applications exceeding the number of tickets available for any particular day a ballot will be held to decide to whom the tickets are to be allocated.

Admission cannot be guaranteed for the Test Matches unless entrance tickets are obtained beforehand. For all other matches Special Complimentary Passes to the Ground and Pavilion will accompany the season tickets, and must be returned with them.

## COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX LIEUTENANCY DINNER

The last Lieutenantcy Dinner of the County of Middlesex took place at Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, on Friday, February 26, 1965.

H. M. Lieutenant for the County (Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall) presided, and the following members of the Officers' Club, who are Deputy Lieutenants, attended:—

Brig. E. E. F. Baker, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col. W. D. Ellis, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Maj. G. Hartley, Brig. H. A. D. Murray, Col. W. E. Pringle, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, Col. R. D. Sherbrook-Walker (Vice Lieutenant), Col. Sir Harold Smith, Lt.-Col. P. A. Symmons, and Col. F. Walden.

## 57th/77th OFFICERS' DINNER

The 57th/77th Annual Dinner was held at the United Services Club on Thursday, November 19, 1964.

Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B.E., Colonel of the Regiment, presided and the Rev. W. E. B. Jones and the Rev. Terence Quinlan, both former chaplains to the 1st Battalion in Korea, were guests of the evening.

Others present were: Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, Col. I. H. Batty, Major R. G. V. Bellers, Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, Major R. M. Cain, Major J. G. Chiverall, Capt. P. D. J. Clarke, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Major E. L. Heywood, Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Capt. J. L. Lofting, Col. A. M. Man, Capt. A. E. McManus, Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, Major J. I. D. Pike, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Major J. N. Shipster, Major R. W. J. Smith, Col. F. Walden, Col. A. R. Waller and Lt. R. W. H. Willoughby.

## 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS CLUB DINNER

The 37th annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club was held at the United Services Club on Thursday, November 12, 1964.

Col. J. K. Maitland, M.C., T.D., D.L., presided. Others present were: Capt. H. S. Abbott; Major H. C. Bolt; Major G. A. H. Bower; Lt.-Col. S. F. Caulfield-Kerney; Major J. D. Gunnell; Capt. F. Stafford Hodge; Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson; Major R. J. Leighton, Capt. J. K. Lawrence, Capt. H. Leckie Forbes; Brig. H. A. D. Murray, Col. A. M. Man, Lt. A. C. S. Meynell; Capt. J. H. Oldham; Brig. D. G. Parker; Col. W. E. Pringle; Brig. B. B. Rackham; Col. S. C. M. Smith; Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe; Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson; Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes, Lt. J. R. Spooner; Col. D. R. W. Thomas and Col. F. Walden.

Crossword  
Puzzle

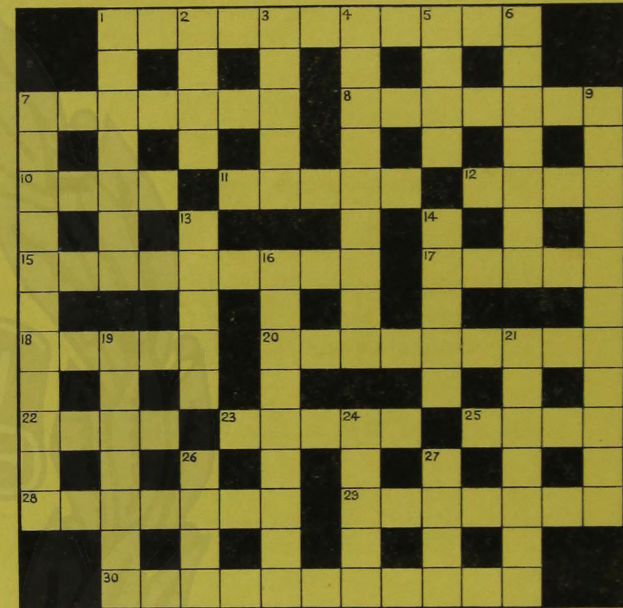
This Crossword, which is published by the courtesy of the Editor, *The Scotsman*, and by its composer, Mr. Roderick Morison, has clues of Regimental interest.

Solutions to the Puzzle should be sent to the Editor of *The Die-Hards*, T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. The name and address of the sender should be in BLOCK letters, and the outside of the envelope clearly marked "CROSSWORD."

The senders of the first three correct solutions opened on June 1, 1965, will receive the following prizes:—

- First — £1 Premium Bond  
Second — A Regimental silk tie (new pattern)  
Third — A copy of the Regimental History.

The names of prize winners will appear in the July Newsletter.



## ACROSS

- Symbol of learning in the building trade (6-5).
- Plunder ran to old wine from the Canaries (7).
- Where to pick up the cheapest coal (7).
- His Imperial Highness? His fiddle sticks! (4).
- "Haunted by woman wailing for her — lover" (Coleridge) (5).
- An Indian clerk soon gets a baccalaureate (4).
- I am ready to lead off extempore (9).
- An ideally perfect young lady, of course (5).
- Warm work, trichologically speaking (5).
- Recite at machine-gun speed (6, 3).
- There's a spy lying hid in Lanarkshire (4).
- This Beatle-type hair gets me in a state of prostration (5).
- Quite unlike a cleric (4).
- Ladder formation (7).
- Impossibly perfect Barse character (7).
- Witch into wolf (11).

## DOWN

- The wily go-getting women sets it (7).
- Shy when getting back (4).
- Low joint in a thankless position (5).
- For instance, coal-tar (2-7).
- Apostolic doings (4).
- It wasn't easy to kill one of the 57th Regiment of Foot (7).
- When art and letters lived again (11).
- Large whisky, stood up to, but not to be trusted (6-5).
- Derivatively speaking, its hair trails behind it through the sky (5).
- "A very good girl was — Jane" (W. S. Gilbert) (5).
- Virgin temple (9).
- The unicorn is all at sea (7).
- Stirring words along Brompton Road (7).
- It's often held off (and leg) (5).
- Smart guy, this politician, but beer goes to his head (4).
- The neb takes a knockout (4).



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