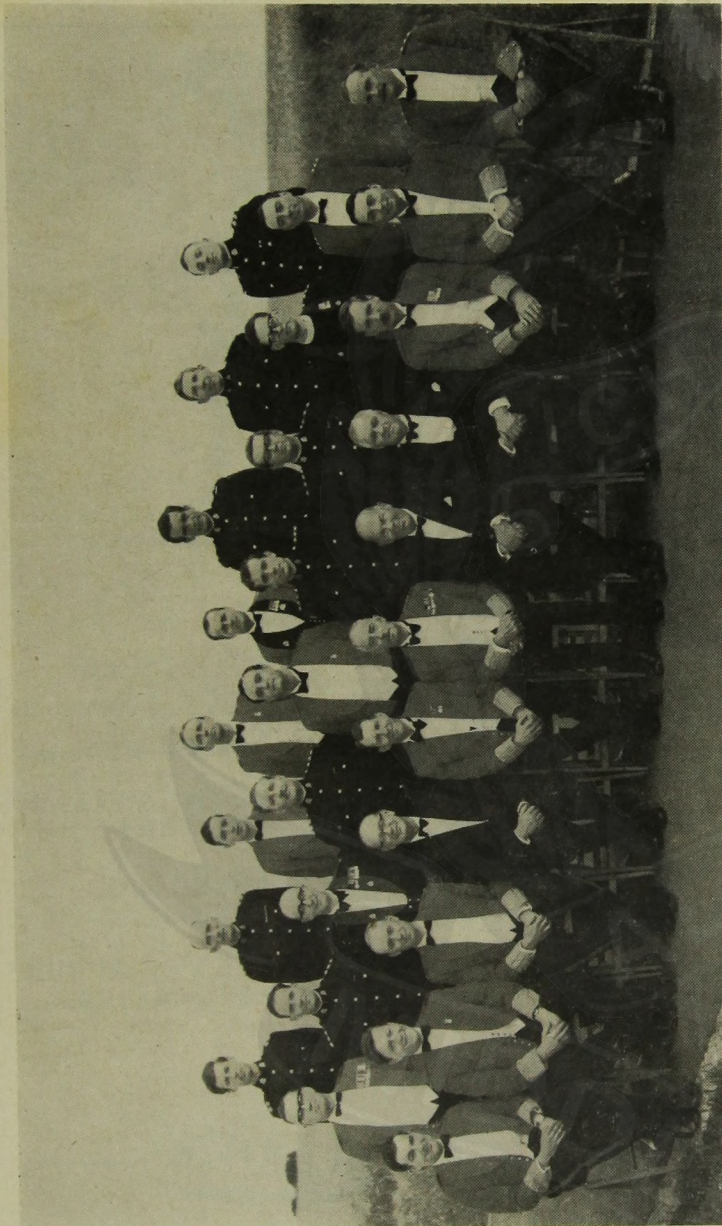


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Front Row (from left to right): Capt. M. J. S. Doran, Major H. E. Couch, Major S. L. J. Henshaw, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L. (Secretary Middlesex T. and A.F.A.), Major J. D. Gunnell, T.D., Major-General B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E. (Honorary Colonel), Lt.-Col. D. M. Gluckstein, T.D., D.L. (Chairman, Middlesex T. and A.F.A.), Col. F. Walden, D.L. (Regimental Secretary), Major C. L. Lawrence, M.C., Major M. J. Beaumont, Capt. G. J. Young

Back Row (from left to right): Lt. D. S. Smith, Lt. (Q.M.), R. G. Vaisey, 2 Lt. R. J. Claydon, Lt. M. L. Muirhead, Lt. (Q.M.) D. W. Adkins, Lt. F. J. Hamilton, 2 Lt. G. Berry (R.A.P.C.), Lt. J. Smith, M.C. Centre Row (from left to right): Major S. C. W. Weller, M.B.E., M.M. (Middlesex T. and A.F.A.), Capt. J. M. Robertson, Major R. L. MacQueen (R.A.M.C.), Capt. J. S. Richards, Capt. P. Mallalieu, Capt. J. C. Parkinson, Capt. D. J. Mangand, Rev. R. Brown (R.A.Ch.D.), Capt. T. D. Jones

# The Die Hards

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

HALF YEARLY : APRIL AND OCTOBER  
VOL. XVI No. 4 OCTOBER 1966 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," "Seringapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajos," "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," "Arrmentières, 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-Courcelette," "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," "Hazeubrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvia," "Landing at Suvia," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murnan, 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," "Akari," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943": "Francofonte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carreetto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgebus 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," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

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

<b>Regimental Headquarters</b>		<b>Affiliated Cadet Units</b>	
Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. (Tel. EDGware 2625)	16 (Hornsey)	Cadet Company	
R.O.II: Col. F. Walden, D.L.	32 (Edgware)	Cadet Company.	
R.O.III: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.	72 (Hounslow)	Cadet Company.	
Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.	75 (Staines)	Cadet Company.	
	77 (Feltham)	Cadet Company.	
<b>Regular and Territorial Battalions</b>			
<b>1st Battalion</b>			
O.C.: Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.			
Location: Palace Barracks, Holywood, County Down, Northern Ireland.			
<b>5th Battalion (T.A.)</b>			
O.C.: Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.			
<b>Locations</b>			
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.		
"D" Company	T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.		
<b>County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force</b>			
Headquarters: 456 Uxbridge Road, London, W.12.			
Commandant: Br. Col. I. D. Brotherton, T.D., D.L.			
Cadet Executive Officer: Major A. T. Jones M.B.E., T.D.			
<b>Canada</b>			
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.			
<b>Australia</b>			
University of New South Wales Regt.			
<b>New Zealand</b>			
5th Bn. (Wellington West Coast Taranaki) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt.			
<b>Hong Kong</b>			
The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).			
<b>Home Counties Brigade Depot</b>			
H.Q.: Howe Barracks, Canterbury.			
Brigade Colonel: Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.			
D.A.A.G.: Major P. D. Johnson, Royal Sussex.			



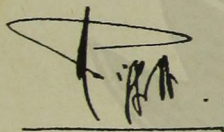
H.Q. THE HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE,  
HOWE BARRACKS,  
CANTERBURY,  
KENT.

27th June, 1966.

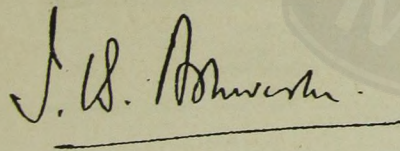
### THE HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE TO BECOME THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1. H.M. The Queen has agreed to a proposal made by the Ministry of Defence (Army), acting upon the recommendation of the Council of Colonels of The Home Counties Brigade, that the Brigade shall become a Large Regiment. The new Regiment will be called "The Queen's Regiment" and the vesting date will be December 31, 1966.

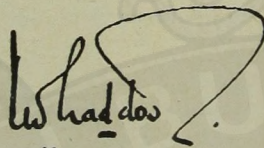
2. In forwarding the attached broadsheet for your advance information the Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, the Colonel of The Royal Sussex Regiment and the Colonel of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) each consider that his Regiment is indeed fortunate in being still more closely linked with the others by the formation of The Queen's Regiment.



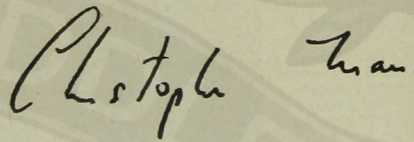
F. J. C. PIGGOTT  
Colonel  
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment



J. B. ASHWORTH  
Colonel  
The Royal Sussex Regiment



R. W. CRADDOCK  
Deputy Colonel  
The Queen's Own Buffs,  
The Royal Kent Regiment



CHRISTOPHER MAN  
Colonel  
The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)

## HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE TO BECOME THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

1. H.M. The Queen has agreed to a proposal made by the Ministry of Defence (Army), acting upon the recommendation of the Council of Colonels of The Home Counties Brigade, that the Brigade shall become a Large Regiment. The new Regiment will be called "The Queen's Regiment" and the vesting date will be December 31, 1966.

2. The basic reasons behind this decision were:

- (a) The Large Regiment concept is:
- (1) The next logical step forward from the post-war reforms which reduced to one the number of regular Battalions in Regiments of the Line, created the Brigade system and amalgamated a number of Regiments.
  - (2) The best means of ensuring that the future organisation is viable while combining and carrying forward the best traditions of our existing Regiments.
- (b) Many subjects are already on a Brigade basis (e.g., posting of Officers and Other Ranks, recruiting, dress) and the Council believes that now is the appropriate time to form a Large Regiment. The planned reorganisation of the Reserve Army in 1967 gives added weight to this decision.

#### TITLES

3. The title and its derivations will be:

- (a) For the new Regiment:
- (1) Full title—The Queen's Regiment.
  - (2) Short title—QUEENS.
- (b) For Regular Battalions:
- (1) Full titles:
    - 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys).
    - 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs).
    - 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex).
    - 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex).
  - (2) Short titles—1, 2, 3 and 4 QUEENS.
- (c) For the T and AVR II Battalion:
- (1) Proposed full title—5th Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Regiment.
  - (2) Proposed short title—5 QUEENS.
- (d) For T and AVR III units—To be decided later.

#### COLONELCY-IN-CHIEF AND COLONELCIES

4. H.M. The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

5. At the same time H.M. The Queen has been graciously pleased to ask H.M. The King of Denmark and H.M. The Queen of the Netherlands to accept the appointments of Allied Colonels-in-Chief of the Regiment. Both have been graciously pleased to accept, and their titles will probably be:

- (a) H.M. The King of Denmark, Allied Colonel-in-Chief The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs).
- (b) H.M. The Queen of the Netherlands, Allied Colonel-in-Chief The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex).

6. Colonel of the Regiment and Deputy Colonels—There will be a Colonel of the Regiment and four Deputy Colonels, with special responsibilities for Battalions, as follows:

Colonel (Designate): Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

Deputy Colonels (Designate): Major-General F. J. C. Piggott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.—1st Battalion.

Major-General C. H. Tarver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.—2nd Battalion.

Brigadier J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O.—3rd Battalion.

Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.—4th Battalion.

There will also be an Honorary Colonel of the 5th Volunteer Battalion, whose name will be announced later.

#### INSIGNIA

7. New insignia will be adopted for the Regiment. The details of the design will be announced when they have received H.M. The Queen's consent.

#### OUTLINE ORGANISATION

8. The new Regiment will consist of:

- (a) Regimental H.Q. (formerly Brigade H.Q.)—Howe Barracks, Canterbury.  
The Regimental H.Q.s of existing Regiments will become county offices of the new Regimental H.Q. They will remain at Kingston-upon-Thames, Canterbury, Chichester and Edware.



- (b) Regimental Depot (formerly Brigade Depot)—Howe Barracks, Canterbury.
- (c) Four Regular Battalions:  
 (1) 1st Battalion (Now 1 QUEENS SURREYS in Germany).  
 (2) 2nd Battalion (Now 1 QUEENS OWN BUFFS in Borneo).  
 (3) 3rd Battalion (Now 1 ROYAL SUSSEX in Germany).  
 (4) 4th Battalion (Now 1 MIDDLESEX in Guyana).
- (d) One Battalion of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Category II (5th Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Regiment)—Canterbury. There will be one Company based in each of the four Home Counties at Guildford, Broadstairs, Hastings and Hornsey.
- (e) Units of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve Category III—Details later.

#### REGIMENTAL ROLL—COMMISSIONING AND ENLISTMENT

9. As from December 31, 1966, all officers will be commissioned into The Queen's Regiment and all enlistments will be into the Regiment.

10. As from December 31, 1966, all serving officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and privates will be placed on the strength of The Queen's Regiment, taking seniority on the Regimental roll as applicable.

#### DRESS

11. Apart from the change of insignia there will be no major changes in dress. In general, current regulations will continue to apply.

#### COLOURS

12. Existing Colours will be retained for some years to come since all sets are comparatively new.

#### COMMITTEES

13. The following committees and sub-committees have been established to help in implementing the Large Regiment decision:

**W**HY NOT SEND A COPY TO YOUR MOTHER OR FATHER?

THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING

- (a) A Steering Committee.  
 (b) A Finance Sub-Committee.  
 (c) A Journal Sub-Committee.  
 (d) A Regimental Association Sub-Committee.  
 (e) A Regimental Clubs and Functions Sub-Committee.  
 (f) A Battle Honours, Alliances, Affiliations and Civic Distinctions Sub-Committee.
- } See paras. 14-20.

#### FINANCE, JOURNAL AND REGIMENTAL CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

14. The Council of Colonels recognises that these are subjects of immediate interest. Although they have not yet received or considered the recommendations of all the relevant Sub-Committees they wish to make their views clear at this early stage.

#### FINANCE

15. It must be realised that the new Regiment will be a new and quite separate legal entity. Funds will have to be provided for it and the complex legal repercussions must be dealt with professionally. The Trustees in conjunction with the Charity Commissioners will be doing this.

16. **Trust funds administered under deeds.** It is intended that funds held in trust for the benefit of past and present personnel of existing Regiments should remain undisturbed and continue to be administered as heretofore so long as potential beneficiaries under these rules are alive. When, eventually, the trustees find that demands on these funds have decreased to such an extent that income is accumulating unduly they might well apply to the appropriate court for a variation of the trust purposes so as to include as beneficiaries past or present members of the new Regiment.

#### JOURNALS

17. There will be a journal for the new Regiment. It will be produced by the new R.H.Q. on a monthly basis and the first issue is planned for January, 1967.

18. Existing Regimental journals are to be discontinued after the formation of the new Regiment and the date of their last issues will be decided by Colonels of existing Regiments.

#### REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

19. There will be a Regimental Officers' Club and a Regimental Association for the new Regiment. They will be administered by the new R.H.Q., with assistance from county offices where applicable, and will be for the benefit of all serving officers and soldiers and those retired officers and soldiers of the existing Regiments who care to join.

20. Existing Regimental Officers' Clubs and Regimental Associations are, in general terms to remain undisturbed, but it may be suggested that a few should be expanded.

# THE GREATEST NAME IN CIGARETTES



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## Officers Location Statement

### REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	J. E. F. Willoughby, C.B., C.B.E. ..	G.O.C. 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.	J. W. G. Ormiston ..	Colonel G.S. (Trg.) ALFCE
Col.	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C. ..	Colonel A/Q Singapore Base Area
Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C. ..	Colonel G.S., D.I. (M.I.) 3, Ministry of Defence
Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A. ..	Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade
Col.	I. H. Batty, M.B.E., B.A. ..	Commandant, Sennelager Training Centre, B.A.O.R.
Lt.-Col. (Lt./Col.)	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A. ..	G.S.O.1., A.S.D.1, Ministry of Defence
Lt.-Col.	F. de R. Morgan, M.C. ..	A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Eastern Command
Lt.-Col.	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A. ..	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Lt.-Col.	C. N. Clayden ..	T.S.O.1, Ministry of Defence (A.E.P. 2a)
Lt.-Col.	D. Sax ..	Comd. 1st Battalion
Lt.-Col.	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O. ..	14 Signal Regiment, Gloucester
Major	G. C. Dawson ..	D.A.Q. M.G. (Maint and A.E.) H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D. ..	G.S.O.2 (Secretary Exercise Planning Staff) S.H.A.P.E.
Major	P. W. Galvin ..	G.S.O.2, A.S.D.3, Ministry of Defence
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat ..	G.S.O.2 (Trg.), H.Q. 53 (Welsh) Division (T.A.)/Wales District
Major	C. H. Mieville, M.C. ..	D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. 43 (Wessex) Div./Dist.
Major	P. G. V. Bellers ..	2IC, 1st Battalion
Major	K. J. Carter ..	British Military Delegation, Paris
Major	B. A. M. Pielow ..	H.Q. COMBRITZAM
Major	H. J. A. Moore ..	1st Battalion
Major	G. G. Norton ..	B.M., 127 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Major	B. K. Clayden ..	1st Battalion
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C. ..	Company Commander, R.M.A.S., Camberley
Major	B. H. Marciandi ..	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C. ..	D.A.Q.M.G. (Maint) H.Q. Northern Command
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe ..	1st Battalion
Major	J. S. B. Pollard ..	1st Battalion
Major	R. D. Fisher ..	1st Battalion
Major	M. V. Hayward ..	Technical Staff Course, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham
Major	A. E. McManus ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C. ..	G.S.O.3 (Int.) H.Q. UNICYP
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd ..	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers)
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan ..	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham ..	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt.	P. Mallalieu ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. D. Legg ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	P. V. Cheeseman ..	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	M. F. Deakin ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	G. Bullock ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	G. Goring ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	A. B. Cowing ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	R. C. Pitman ..	Course, Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop
Capt.	J. G. Lofting ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	F. K. Gladden ..	1st Battalion
Capt.	P. J. Gybbon-Monypenny ..	A.D.C. to G.O.C. 49 Div. (T.A.)/W.R. and N.M. District
Lt.	B. K. Finch ..	Malaysian Rangers
Lt.	P. J. Hubert ..	1st Battalion



Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. F. Packham	1st Battalion
Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	D. J. Daniell	1st Battalion
Lt.	B. A. Carlston	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	1st Battalion
Lt.	D. M. Falcke	No. 42 Army Youth Team (Finchley)
Lt.	M. W. Deakin	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	A. G. D. Lowrie	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. H. Graham	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	S. M. Dowse	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	J. D. Jonklaas	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	D. C. F. Gouda	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	R. N. Colbourne	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	J. S. Ward Brown	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Major (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	Q.M., Radfan Camp, Aden
Major (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	4th Battalion, The Buffs (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion

## SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Lt.	T. I. McMillan	1st Battalion
Lt.	H. B. W. Barstow	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. G. Truman	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	S. J. Yates	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
2/Lt.	R. Gancz	1st Battalion

## 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	M. J. Beaumont	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Major	H. E. Couch	O.C. "A" Company
Major	S. L. J. Henshaw	O.C. "B" Company
Major	G. J. Young	Battalion H.Q.
Capt.	J. S. Richards	2IC "B" Company
Capt.	M. J. S. Doran	O.C. "D" Company
Capt.	J. M. Robertson	2IC "A" Company
Capt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander
Capt.	J. C. Parkinson	I.O.
Capt.	R. G. Tett	R.S.O.
Capt.	T. D. Jones	2IC "H.Q." Company
Capt.	D. L. Margand	2IC "D" Company
Lt.	J. M. Brown	Platoon Commander
Lt.	D. S. Smith	Platoon Commander
Lt.	F. J. Hamilton	Platoon Commander
2/Lt.	M. L. Muirhead	Platoon Commander
2/Lt.	R. J. Claydon	Platoon Commander
Lt. (Q.M.)	R. G. Vaisey	2nd Quartermaster

## Attached Officers

Major	R. L. MacQueen (R.A.M.C.)	Medical Officer
Rev.	R. Brown (R.A.Ch.D.)	Chaplain
2/Lt.	G. Berry (R.A.P.C.)	Paymaster

## Permanent Staff Officers

Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Training Officer
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	Adjutant
Lt.	D. W. Adkins	Quartermaster

## E.R.E.

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 September 1, 1966)

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

Bde. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit	Bde. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I					
3	G.S.M. R. Dodkins	Bulford Garrison	4	Sgt. M. Butler	P.S. Staff
14	R.S.M. K. Beale	1 Mx.	6	Sgt. R. Davies	Defence N.B.C. School
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II					
9	R.Q.M.S. A. DaCosta	School of Infantry	12	Sgt. K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
13	C.S.M. S. Michel	1 Mx.	25	Sgt. B. Tarry	1 Mx.
15	C.S.M. M. Eastap	1 Mx.	31	Sgt. W. Argent	1 Mx.
17	R.Q.M.S. G. Simmons	1 Mx.	40	A/C/Sgt. J. Williamson	1 Mx.
22	C.S.M. E. Steward	H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps	42	A/C/Sgt. B. Edey	1 Mx.
29	C.S.M. D. Walters	1 Mx.	58	A/C/Sgt. B. Pritchard	3 Malaysia Rangers
40	C.S.M. R. Power	Bde. Depot (P.S.)	60	A/C/Sgt. A. Briggs	1 Mx.
41	C.S.M. B. Warner	5 Mx. (T.A.)	62	A/C/Sgt. J. Redmond	1 Mx.
COLOUR SERGEANTS					
1	C/Sgt. J. Potter	1 Mx.	63	A/C/Sgt. D. Miles	1 Mx.
3	C/Sgt. P. Dive	1 Mx.	65	Sgt. J. Young	Inf. J.L. Bn.
17	C/Sgt. A. Nicholson	4 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.	67	Sgt. J. Kerr	4/5 R.W.K. (T.A.)
18	C/Sgt. W. Smith	1 Mx.	69	A/C/Sgt. G. Overton	1 Mx.
21	A/W.O.2 J. Martin, M.M.	1 Royal Sussex	80	Sgt. J. Leat	1 Mx.
25	C/Sgt. R. Clements	1 Mx.	84	Sgt. F. O'Rawe	1 Mx.
29	A/W.O.2 C. Partridge	1 Mx.	92	Sgt. J. Barr	4 Buffs (T.A.)
31	A/W.O.2 D. Lagden	1 Mx.	97	Sgt. M. Quinn	3 Malaysia Rangers
36	A/W.O.2 M. Elston	1 Mx.	98	Sgt. R. Shave	1 Mx.
38	A/W.O.2 R. Ford	1 Mx.	102	Sgt. R. DaCosta	1 Mx.
39	C/Sgt. C. Shinn	1 Mx.	103	Sgt. M. Weston	1 Mx.
41	C/Sgt. C. Blackwell	1 Mx.	106	Sgt. R. Scott	1 Mx.
			107	Sgt. J. Dickens	1 Mx.
			109	Sgt. D. Burke	5 Mx. (T.A.)
			111	Sgt. J. Meacock	Bde. Depot (P.S.)



Bde. Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit
115	Sgt.	J. Whittle	School of Infantry
117	Sgt.	W. Kerr	1 Mx.
121	Sgt.	C. Barnes	5 Mx. (T.A.)
127	Sgt.	F. Potts	1 Queen's Own Buffs
128	Sgt.	J. Reynolds	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
132	Sgt.	P. McFadyen	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
135	Sgt.	L. Fisher	1 Mx.
138	Sgt.	A. Brumwell	1 Mx.
141	Sgt.	F. Willis	1 Mx.
146	Sgt.	A. Stevens	1 Mx.
147	Sgt.	A O'Gorman	1 Queen's Own Buffs
157	Sgt.	B. Mullender	1 Mx.
158	Sgt.	J. Rogers	42 A.Y.T.
162	Sgt.	T. Fisher	1 Mx.
165	Sgt.	R. Seager	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
166	Sgt.	M. Flynn	1 Mx.
173	Sgt.	T. Pryor	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
180	Sgt.	P. Stewart	1 Mx.
184	Sgt.	H. Dowsett	1 Mx.
185	Sgt.	I. Baxter	1 Mx.

## BANDMASTER

2 B.M. J. McShane 1 Mx.

## BAND SERGEANT

5 Sgt. G. Beechey 1 Mx.

## SERGEANTS IN THE BAND

5 Sgt. A. Torrie 1 Mx.  
9 Sgt. L. Routledge 1 Mx.

## DRUM MAJOR

2 W.O.2 J. Lewis Bde. Depot (P.S.)

## ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

1 A/W.O.1 P. Soper I.R.O. Exeter (Clk. Sup.)  
4 O.R.Q.M.S. G. Cripps 1 Mx.  
6 W.O.2 P. Nash School of Infantry  
8 C/Sgt. A. Gibbs 1 Queen's Surreys

## ORDERLY ROOM CLERKS

147 Sgt. A. O'Gorman 1 Queen's Own Buffs  
166 Sgt. M. Flynn 1 Mx.

## 5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Rank	Name	Company
<b>Warrant Officers, Class II</b>		
W.O.2	R. G. Roberts	"B" Company
W.O.2	W. Payne	"A" Company
W.O.2	J. Vasey	"D" Company
W.O.2	R. R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Company
<b>Colour Sergeants</b>		
C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Company

Rank	Name	Company
C/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Company (Signals)
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
C/Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"H.Q." Company

## Sergeants

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.	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.	D. Harwood	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	B. G. Smith	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	C. Trindall	"D" Company
P/Sgt.	D. S. Bartrick	"B" Company
P/Sgt.	L. G. Eden	"H.Q." Company
P/Sgt.	M. G. Slack	"A" Company
P/Sgt.	F. W. Kavanagh	"A" Company

## Permanent Staff

W.O.1	B. J. Lyons (R.S.M.)	Battalion H.Q.
W.O.2	P. F. Garraty	"A" Company
W.O.2	B. G. Warner	"H.Q." Company
C/Sgt.	J. W. Eldridge	"D" Company
Sgt.	D. Burke	Battalion H.Q.
Sgt.	C. H. Barnes	"B" Company

**"WITH IT" PEOPLE  
ARE WEARING OUR  
REGIMENTAL  
CRAVATS**

See Order Form

## Editor's Comments

### The Large Regiment

An event of the greatest importance in the history of our Regiment has been the announcement that the Home Counties Brigade is to become The Queen's Regiment as from December 31 next, and that, from that date the 1st Battalion (57th/77th) will be known as 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex).

At the time of the announcement the Colonel of the Regiment sent the following message to the Colonel Designate of The Queen's Regiment, Lt.-General Sir Richard Craddock, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.:

"Hearty welcome to our Colonel Designate and assuring him of our loyalty and support to The Queen's Regiment."

to which he received the following reply:

"That was a very charming signal and I appreciate it enormously. I hope only that I may succeed in living up to its sentiments. My very best wishes to you and all your Regiment."

All essential information regarding this momentous change is given in the broadsheet republished on page 271.

In so far as existing Regimental functions are concerned they will continue.

Although the new Journal of The Queen's Regiment is planned to start next January, *The Die-Hards* will continue publication up to and including October, 1967. After that date it is proposed to issue a printed Newsletter on somewhat similar lines to that now issued in January and July, in response to a popular demand from so many of our Old Comrades who form the

majority of our Journal readers. Further details of this will be published in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

### Reorganisation of the Territorial Army

On March 31, 1967, the 5th (T.A.) Battalion will cease to exist as such, though it will live on under a different name and in a different form.

At the time of going to press all that can be stated with certainty is that the Company (consisting of volunteers, who accept greater obligations and liabilities) which is to form part of the new 5th Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Regiment, will be based at Hornsey, and that the remainder of the Battalion will form the nucleus of a Middlesex Territorial unit (whose role will be confined to home defence) with Headquarters and one Company at Edgware, and outlying Companies at Acton and Hounslow.

### 1st Battalion's Tour in Guyana

The Battalion's emergency tour in Guyana, which will have ended by the time this issue of *The Die-Hards* appears, has been highly successful. Not only did the Battalion acquit itself well on the various ceremonial occasions which reached their climax on Independence Day but, since then, great emphasis has been laid on adventure training, to which the terrain of the country aptly lends itself. In the Battalion's notes for this issue will be found several short articles which, whilst providing some most interesting reading, also give an excellent insight into the conditions under which this type of training has to be carried out in that part of the world.

## Personalia

Col. Peter Allen, having handed over his staff appointment as Colonel A/Q at Headquarters, 1st (British) Corps, last May, returned to the U.K. and underwent a major operation, which appears to have been highly successful.

On completion of sick and terminal leave he retired on retired pay on August 18, and is now living at Devizes, Wilts.

C. G. Broome (ex-Sergeant, 6209632) is one of our staunchest supporters of the Regimental Association. Having been discharged from the R.A.F. in 1940,

because he was under age, he enlisted into the Regiment on his 18th birthday on February 4, 1941, and was posted to that very fine Young Soldiers' Battalion, the 70th. When that Battalion was broken up in 1943 he was posted to 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and served in Sicily and Italy with that unit until late in 1944 when, through illness, he was medically downgraded and sent to the Base Depot.

Since the war he has been employed by the G.P.O., and moved earlier this year with the Savings Certificate Division to Co. Durham, which he finds vastly different from Finchley, where he lived previously.



Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden, having completed his short staff tour in Guyana, returned to this country soon after the granting of independence and is now awaiting his next posting, which is believed to be in the Far East.

We were very pleased indeed to hear from Lt.-Col. Jackie Clowes earlier this year, and to know that he was much better after a bout of illness.

He is almost certainly the only officer living who joined the 1st Battalion when it re-formed at Clipstone Camp, Notts, in 1919, and served in it without interruption until 1933 when he transferred to the R.A.P.C.

Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court writes from Hermanus, Cape Province, South Africa, to say that he has met Col. and Mrs. Frank Hedgecoe, who were passing through on their way to Zambia.

William Currie (ex-Pte. 6188718), who enlisted into the Regiment in December, 1910, and served for 12 years, in both the 3rd and 4th Battalions, was afterwards employed by H.M. Customs in the Royal Docks in London until he retired, on reaching the age of 70, some five years ago. He is still going strong.

Only a few days before going to press we were put in touch with one of our oldest former officers of the 2nd Battalion, Major Llewelyn Denham, who was 90 years of age on September 12 last, and now lives at Cuckfield in Sussex.

He was A.D.C. to Field-Marshal The Lord Methuen in Malta during the 1914-18 War.

We extend our deepest sympathy to A. R. (Brewer) Drane (ex-Cpl. 6196381), the Honorary Secretary of the Bandsmen's and Drummers' Branch of the Regimental Association, and Mrs. Drane on the death under tragic circumstances of their elder son, Barry.

H. G. A. Eden, who served with the 9th Battalion from 1912 to 1918 and now lives in Cape Town, was recently on holiday in this country.

He sends very best wishes to all members of the Regimental Association and to all ex-members of the 9th Battalion, who served with him.

C. F. Farley, who served in 1/7th Battalion in the 1939-45 War and has been employed on the office staff at Lord's for several years, writes to say that the latest addition to his young family is a son—a 10 pounder. Well done!

Edward Fairbrother (ex-Sgt., 619856), a member of the Corps of Drums of the 7th Battalion from 1928 to 1942 and later of the 5th Battalion (T.A.) until 1965, recently had a bad breakdown, as a result of which he is partly paralysed. He is, we are glad to be able to report, improving and there seems no question that in time he will get well again.

All who know this very cheerful and loyal T.A. soldier will wish him a speedy recovery.

That loyal and popular ex-member of the 1/7th Battalion in the 1914-18 War, Bob Ferguson (ex-Pte., TF/200487) who is employed as a storeman at Regimental Headquarters, recently underwent his long-awaited operation, and has made an excellent recovery.

We are glad to have him back at duty for his cheerful personality and willing help were much missed when he was in hospital.

Congratulations to the undermentioned on their promotions, which have been notified since the publication of the last issue of *The Die-Hards*:

Capt. Mike Hayward to Major, March 10, 1966.

Capt. Tony McManus to Major, July 31, 1966.

Lt. Peter Gybbon-Monypenny to Captain, July 23, 1966.

During their second week in camp this summer the 5th Battalion were very unfortunate to lose the services of their Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Peter Hall, who, whilst leaping over a low wall when out walking, fell and broke his leg.

We sincerely hope that he will very soon be fit enough to resume command.

We recently had news from Capt. Philip Handford, R.A.P.C., whom many of the 1st Battalion will remember when he was one of the Unit Paymaster's staff. He is now serving with Headquarters, Federal Republican Army, in Aden where, despite I.S. restrictions, he appears to be enjoying life. He states that he often sees Major Pat Donovan and family whilst they are sunning themselves on the beach!

His many friends will be pleased to know that Major Bill Heywood had his long-awaited operation last April. This was entirely successful and he has made an excellent recovery, as those who saw him at the Albuhera Parade and Reunion will testify.

Sgt. George Horder visited Regimental Headquarters recently before becoming a fully-fledged civilian and taking up employment with a catering firm at Earl's Court. He is now a member of the Regimental Association so we shall look forward to seeing him at some of our functions.

On the occasion of his birthday on September 7, a telegram of good wishes was sent to our most distinguished "Die-Hard," Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks.

Raymond Hugman (ex-Pte., 23736105), who completed his Colour service only a year ago, had an accident last March, which laid him off work for some time.

He has now recovered and started work again in Hatfield, Herts., where he lives.

Ex-Bandmaster F. A. Jackson wrote recently to say that he and his wife are hoping to attend the Annual Reunion this year, although it will be difficult for him to get away in term time from Giggleswick School in Yorkshire where he teaches music.

We sincerely hope that he will be with us on November 12, when he will receive a great welcome from old friends.

Major "Jeff" Jeffcoat has been selected to take up a new appointment as A.A.G. at H.Q. FARELF at the end of December next.

William John Kemp (ex-Pte., 87600), who was on active service with the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion in the 1914-18 War and is now in his 76th year, is not in good health, and has to spend most of his time confined to his home.

He lives at St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, where he has been resident for some years.

In a letter received recently Leslie Lansdell (ex-Pte., 6201452), who was serving with the 1st Battalion and taken prisoner when Hong Kong fell in 1941, states that he has had another spell in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, where he has been undergoing further treatment, and that he still has to take things very easily. He lives in one of the Regimental Memorial Cottages at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Capt. Mike Legg is to be posted to H.Q. Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces as a G.S.O. 3 in January, 1967.

Congratulations to Capt. John Lofting on his engagement to Miss Geraldine Olive Frogley, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Frogley of Manor Farm, Broxbourne, Herts.

Major Brian Marciandi, on completion of his course at the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, has been posted to R.M.A.S., Canterbury, as a Company Commander.

Major Geoff Norton is to be seconded to The Parachute Regiment for two years and is under orders to join the 1st Battalion of that Regiment at Aldershot in January, 1967.

In the Personal News column of *Regimental Newsletter* No. 8, for July, 1966, Lt. (Q.M.) Harry Parnell was erroneously referred to as ex-C.S.M.

The Editor takes full responsibility for this error, and offers his sincere apologies.

Major David Pike is to be posted to H.Q. Cyrenaica Area as Camp Commandant, and is due to take up this appointment in November.

Capt. Roger Pitman, on completion of his period of secondment to the Trucial Oman Scouts, is now attend-

ing a Light Aircraft course at the Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop.

We send him our congratulations and best wishes on his marriage in August to Miss Anne Maria Crogham.

Shortly before the Regimental Autumn Golf Meeting, Brigadier Neville Procter wrote to say that he had just returned from a short spell in hospital.

We were glad to see him at the Meeting looking none the worse for his enforced rest.

Fred Sadler (ex-Cpl., 6199853), whom many will remember as a member of the 1st Battalion boxing and athletics teams in pre-war days, and who lost his right arm at Dunkirk whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion, distinguished himself by winning a gold medal for athletics at the Blesma sports meeting held at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, on July 9, 1966. At these meetings in previous years he had won both bronze and silver medals, but never before a gold medal.

Fred, who is an indefatigable worker for B.L.E.S.M.A. (British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association), is as keen a sportsman today as he was whilst serving.

The Curator of our Museum, Major Dick Smith, who relieved Major Bill Heywood at Regimental Headquarters last February, was admitted to St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, in May for an operation for hernia. Although he made a quick recovery and was soon discharged, he had to be readmitted when a complication set in. This was eventually put right and he is now as fit as can be, and busy making up for lost time.

Col. Archie Stewart, the oldest surviving Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, met with a nasty accident recently when he fell downstairs at his home in Bedfordshire and was badly concussed and bruised. Luckily a subsequent X-ray examination revealed that no bones were broken.

We are so glad to know that, according to the last report we had, he is now well on the way to his usual self.

All our readers who know him will be very sorry to hear that Major Sam (A. V.) Weller is seriously ill in a nursing home in West Ealing.

Major-General John Willoughby made another of his fleeting visits to this country when he arrived home for the C.G.S. conference in September. As usual, he was in great form.

News was received in August of Leonard Wilson (ex-Pte., 6205016), who was Mentioned in Despatches whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion in France in 1939-40, and, as a result of wounds received in action, was later discharged with a disability pension.

He now lives at Tottenham and works as a commissionaire/caretaker.



## Albuhera Parade 1966



(Photos: Pte. O. Hunt)

1. The Colonel of the Regiment paying homage at Regimental War Memorial after laying the Regimental wreath.
2. Inspection of 5th Battalion detachment.
3. Inspection of Middlesex Army Cadet Force detachment.
4. Chelsea Pensioners C. M. King (left) and F. W. Worton, escort to the Colonel of the Regiment.
5. March past of a section of the Old Comrades.
6. Uniformed detachments headed by 42 Army Youth Team, representing the 1st Battalion.

## ALBUHERA PARADE 1966

The annual parade to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera was held in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, May 15. How appropriate it is that we can still hold the parade on the site of our old Depot where so many of those present began their soldiering and learned the rudiments of Regimental pride and comradeship they have lived ever since! The name "Inglis" and "Albuhera" are inseparable. Permission to use Inglis Barracks for the ceremony was kindly given by Lt.-Col. H. G. Jourdan, Commanding the Home Postal and Courier Communication Depot R.E., whose home it now is, and whose help on these occasions is so much appreciated by all "Die-Hards."

The weather was excellent, allowing those who are doubtful about bad-weather travelling, to make up their minds early in the day. This resulted in many who were to be on parade, and their friends and families, arriving early. Of these, quite a number had travelled a long distance and for others it was their first visit for many years.

The parade was commanded by Major S. L. J. Henshaw, 5th Battalion (T.A.). The 5th Battalion also provided the Parade Sergeant-Major, R.S.M. B. Lyons, the Band and Drums and a detachment of one officer and 50 soldiers. Other uniformed detachments present were from No. 42 Army Youth Team, commanded by Lt. D. M. Falcke, and consisting of regular soldiers from the 1st Battalion, and from the Middlesex Army Cadet Force. The cadets were under the command of Major V. Williams and came from 16 Company (Hornsey), 32 Company (Edgware), 72 Company (Hounslow) and 75 Company (Staines).

Old comrades from various branches were present — the majority from Mill Hill Branch and the 9th Battalion Branch — whilst the Association Standard was borne by Capt. W. H. Craydon, representing the Regular Battalions, Mr. C. Brust, M.M. (late 7th Battalion), Right Escort, representing Territorial Battalions, and Mr. A. A. Alma, D.C.M. (late 12th Battalion), Left Escort, representing the Service Battalions.

As soon as the parade had formed up it moved to the Regimental War Memorial where a short service was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Brown, J.C.D., Chaplain to the 5th Battalion, the Lesson being read by the Colonel of the Regiment. Throughout the service and the march past afterwards, the Colonel of the Regiment had as an escort two old soldiers of the Regiment, now In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, namely, ex-C/Sgt. C. M. King and ex-Pte. F. W. Worton.

During his inspection the Colonel spoke to many men in the ranks, giving great pleasure to those concerned. Our old soldiers especially like to have a

parade of longer duration and be noticed. Their intention in attending the parade is to be seen and to recapture the pride in parading shoulder to shoulder with their comrades of bygone days. This sentiment was passed on to the young N.C.O. i/c Picquet at the Guard Room who was impressed by the obvious joy of men attending a voluntary parade.

After the parade had dismissed, the now usual reunion took place at Edgware. Here the meeting of old friends and the reliving of past incidents of a happy service life made middle-aged and elderly folk grow bright-eyed and youthful again.

Next year it is hoped that the 1st Battalion will be able to be strongly represented. It will then be possible, whilst commemorating the gallantry of the original "Die-Hards" of Albuhera, for those who have in the past years of this century upheld our cherished traditions, to be able to see the "Die-Hards" of today, who are prepared to do likewise.

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## COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

By Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

Of the 93 Battle Honours granted by the War Office Committee to the Regiment in 1923 for its services during the fighting 1914 to 1919, the honour "Somme, 1916" was awarded to no less than 12 Battalions. This blood-soaked area of France again appears in our roll of battles under the honour "Somme, 1918" when it was awarded to nine of our Battalions, six of which had fought over the same ground in 1916. It was only fitting, therefore, that a Regiment which had been granted the honour 21 times should attend the ceremonies commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the opening day of the Battle, July 1, 1916.

A uniformed detachment consisting of one officer and nine other ranks attended all the official parades and ceremonies. These were Lt. D. M. Falcke, W.O.2 R. Power (14465101), Sgt. T. Pryor (22787650), Sgt. J. Rogers (22826929), Sgt. R. Segar (22803594), Cpl. M. Aylward (23915033), L/Cpl. H. Lovegrove (23873750), Ptes. D. Campy (23742709), J. Haines (23544766) and S. Scott (24013045).

Also attending the ceremony was a small party of Old Comrades who were, due to a very generous subsidy from the Regimental Association, able to make the pilgrimage from door to door by coach, beginning and ending at R.H.Q., Edware. It was hoped that a full coach of 40 would take advantage of this cheap trip but the response, no doubt due to the infirmities of some members, did not live up to expectations. Those who did go had a most enjoyable and interesting trip coupled very often by nostalgia as they passed sites of old billets and camps and battlefields they had trudged over so often half a century ago.

The coach left Edware in bright sunshine at 6.15 p.m., June 30. Fifty years before it was raining heavily and the thoughts of Charlie Ashby (L/14437) went back to that time when he was in Queen's Redoubt not only trying to keep out of the way of the rain, but also out of the way of the shells that our artillery were dropping short on the area occupied by the 4th Battalion. Bill Wright (L/14621), another old 4th Battalion veteran, also looked more comfortable than he must have felt on that evening so long ago. To Alan Barrel (TF/3192), Bob Ferguson (TF/2458), Perce Hutchins, M.M. (TF/1797) and Jimmy King (TF/3303), all old sweats of "A" Company 1/7th Battalion, the smooth run in the comfortable coach was a world away from the rain-soaked trenches at Hebuterne—or, "Abah-turn" as it was known to the troops—which was their home but hardly their refuge in 1916. The running in those days, especially by Bob who was a "duck-board harrier" (Battalion runner) was then done on tired and water-logged feet. Ginger Alma, D.C.M. (G/1787) and W. D. Wilkins (G/7431), who just prior to the coach leaving had been sheltering in the Drill Hall, had been reminiscing of that earlier June 30, when they were with

the 12th Battalion sheltering in the dug-outs at Carnoy, the right of the six Battalions of the Regiment in the front line at Zero hour ready to go "over the bags" when the whistle blew. This time, instead of climbing the ladder to the parapet, they only had two steps to climb to take a comfortable seat in the coach. George Webb, M.M. (G/54496) of 19th (2nd Public Works Pioneers) Battalion decided, as it was a Thursday, that he would take a half-day off. In 1916, the 19th Battalion could not take any time off. They were at Ploegsteert wiring and digging, etc. and laying tracks for the light railway. Harry Bird (L/14343), late of the 4th Battalion was, at that time, a bird in fact as well as Bird in name. He was in the cage in Germany, having been wounded and made a P.O.W. in the early days of the war. Other members of the Regimental party were Major R. W. J. Smith, Major V. Williams, Capt. W. H. Craydon and Bill Sanderson (6212614) who made a pictorial record of the pilgrimage with his cine-camera.

To the onlooker there was no mistaking who the party were. Each member was wearing a beret with Regimental flash and badge as well as a Regimental tie and O.C.A. lapel badge. The coach was also emblazoned with the "Die-Hard's" badge and a yellow streamer with "Middlesex Regimental Association" in red letters. It was most satisfying to see how scores of people immediately recognised our insignia, not only during the journey in England but also in France and Flanders. (A closer inspection of our cap badges would have shown that each member of the 7th Battalion was wearing their special pattern bearing "South Africa 1900-02" on the honour scroll).

From Ostend Bob Ferguson took over as guide and route-master, and did a very able job, taking the route Nieuport — Veurne (Furnes) — Woesten — Poperinghe — Ypres, where we stopped in the market place for a short halt. Whilst some of the party went for a short stroll as far as the Menin Gate Memorial, a few of us paid a visit to St. George's Church where we saw, amongst the numerous memorials, one to the Middlesex Regiment's 47 Battalions' share in the victory over the German forces. Two private brass plaques were also seen—one to 2/Lt. A. D. Rice, 4th Battalion, and the other to Lt.-Col. F. G. Poole, D.S.O., who was Secretary/Treasurer to the British Settlement, 1924-49. In the library were also the two volumes of "The Die-Hards in the Great War." They showed signs of being read, too. Not only do "Die-Hards" remember Ypres; Ypres remembers the "Die-Hards"!

On the coach again, we left Ypres by the Lille Gate, each mile of the road bringing back memories to the passengers. Two of the old soldiers, Jimmy King and Alan Barrel, had met for the first time since 1916 and discovered that not only had they been young soldiers together in the early days of the war but were, as boys, in



From left to right: A. Alma, D.C.M. (12th Bn.), D. Wilkins (12th Bn.), Capt. W. H. Craydon, A. Barrel (7th Bn.), G. Webb, M.M. (19th Bn.), H. Sanderson, C. Ashby (4th Bn.), R. Ferguson (7th Bn.), P. Hutchins, M.M. (7th Bn.), E. King (7th Bn.), Major V. Williams, W. Wright (4th Bn.), H. Bird (4th Bn.), Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

the same Boys' Brigade and had camped together in the Isle of Wight camp in 1913.

We were now in areas rich with memories, where every stone had a tale to tell and every tree was in its youth, the original trees having been blasted during the terrific bombardments 50 years ago. There were man-made stones there in their thousands, too. The stones are in those "Silent Cities," the military cemeteries, each marking the grave of a soldier who lost his life during the four years of fighting. I have yet to hear of a cemetery in which there is not at least one headstone bearing our badge and particulars of a "Die-Hard." At Zillibeke we halted the coach to visit Bedford House Cemetery where we paid our respects at the grave of 2/Lt. R. P. Hallows, V.C., M.C., the first "Die-Hard" to gain the Victoria Cross in the Great War. His dying words are on a par with those of Inglis of Albuhera:

"Men, we can only die once; if we have to die, let us die like men—like Die-Hards."

As we left Zillibeke, an old soldier who is now employed by the War Graves Commission, rode by on his bicycle and, noticing the badge on the front of the coach said, "Ah, the old 'Die-Hards'; bloody good mob that." So we are!

From Lillibeke to Ploegsteert, or "Plug Street" to the old-timers in the coach and to thousands of their contemporaries who speak of this area. Here is a memorial to 11,447 missing men. Over the border with a short stop at the Belgian and French Frontier Posts and on to Armentieres. Here the remarks took an earthy tone.

At Fleurbaix the 7th Battalion veterans had scores of incidents to relate, it being one of their earliest experiences of trench warfare. A little later we were at Fanquisart where the tired remnants of the 4th Battalion had put up such a good fight in October 1914. We were now passing over ground that are pages in our Regimental history, the next place of note being Neuve Chapelle where the 2nd Battalion fought so well and suffered so heavily in March 1915. Often on this stage of the journey there were periods of silence whilst all the passengers seemed lost in their own thoughts or memories. The Middlesex badge is very prominent on the head-stones in this area.

At Richebourg we stopped to pick up Bert Lee (G/49202) who had served with our 25th Battalion in Russia and for many years had worked for the War Graves Commission. He and his wife insisted on all of



us joining them in a glass of wine in their home, a gesture thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. On the wall was a photograph of "D" Company of the 25th Battalion and two interesting military prints. When Bert was interned by the Germans during the last war his military relics were left alone by the German soldiery although many other pieces of his property were lost. It appears it was a case of soldier respecting soldier. Although asked to attend the ceremony with his local branch of the British Legion, he had opted to join the Regimental party and was soon dressed in beret, badge, tie and lapel badge which were taken to France ready for him. With our additional member we were on the last stage of our journey, passing through Bethune, Arras, Bapaume, LeSars, Pozieres and finally Thiepval, where the huge memorial could be seen for miles.

Although not an official party, we were given a splendid position in the centre of the spectators' stands. Early in the afternoon Lt. Falcke came over to speak to the old soldiers and ensured that we had programmes. Our quasi-uniform made the contingent stand out conspicuously whilst the appearance of ex-C/Sgt. C. M. King (L/17614) who had fought with the 2nd at Neuve Chapelle and with the 13th at the Somme gave a splash of colour. He was one of the six Chelsea Pensioners who were with the official guests. His scarlet long frocked-coat had caused joyous comment wherever he had stopped during the journey to Albert where he was lodged. The arrival of Bob Ryder, v.c., one of the six Somme V.C.'s present, also caused eyes to swing in our direction as he came over with his wife to greet and talk with us. His reunion with Ginger Alma, D.C.M., who was a brother N.C.O. in the 12th Battalion, was quite touching.

Later we had the pleasure of having two holders of the Victoria Cross in our company when Bob Ryder came over with Col. A. C. T. White, v.c., M.C., who won his decoration as a Captain with the 6th Yorkshire Regiment. The sight of two V.C.'s in our small company attracted plenty of attention and numerous interested lookers-on.

The position originally allotted to our uniformed detachment was on the right of the altar in the centre arch of the memorial, so naturally we were watching keenly when the parade began to form up. As old soldiers do, we were commenting on the smartness, etc. of the various units on parade and remarked how smart and steady were the detachment which occupied the small arch at the left of the memorial. Their white belts were like a tape in front of them whilst the sizing off showed the line to advantage and fortunately they kept their heads still. The slightest movement was so easily seen as they had the clear sky behind them, silhouetting the upper part of their bodies. At that moment, Lt. Falcke came to inform me that the organisers had altered the position of our detachment from their first allocation to that of the small arch on the left. I was able to repeat to him the complimentary remarks we had just passed, not realising at the time that the soldiers in question were our own representatives. They were certainly a credit and were surpassed by none.

When the parade was in position, a short description of the Battle was read by Field-Marshal The Earl Alexander of Tunis. Not only did he mention the valour of our own troops, but he also spoke of that of the Germans who so tenaciously held their positions. This tribute to the enemy troops was again paid by the Chaplain-General in The Bidding at the beginning of the services. At the end of the service, wreaths were laid by the representatives of the 123 units which had been awarded the Battle Honour "Somme, 1916." This was done in fours by the Colonels of the Regiments, or their representatives, after the British Ambassador and V.I.P.'s had paid their tribute. Lt. Falcke represented the Colonel of our Regiment.

After the wreath-laying ceremony had been completed a lamp was placed on the altar by the World President of the Brotherhood of the Lamp—Prince Constantine of Bavaria. To some of the onlookers it seemed strange that a German nobleman should perform this task but to us who have had the honour to serve with the Middlesex Regiment it need not be so strange. It was the Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, a relative of Prince Constantine who caused the memorial to our 4th Battalion to be erected at Saint Symphorien Cemetery, Mons, and who officially attended the Dedication in 1916.

At the conclusion of the service the Royal Canadian Air Force flew over the memorial dropping clouds of poppies which were accurately placed, many of our party bringing one home as a souvenir.

It was a bright sunny day, showing the Great Memorial to the Missing on the Somme in its splendour with the names of the 73,367 missing Allied soldiers engraved on its panels. Many of the veterans present were there for the first time since 1916. One of them was Bob Ryder who won his Victoria Cross only 50 yards from where the memorial now stands. Thiepval was not rebuilt except for the church and a couple of houses; it is as it was, although covered with undergrowth, and it is easy to find the old positions held by the Germans. Another "Die-Hard" veteran present was Noel Peters (PS/1841) who was with the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion when they went over the top at Beaumont Hamel on the first day of the battle 50 years before. This Battalion suffered 24 officers and 500 other rank casualties, nearly all Public School men, whilst the 2nd Battalion lost on the same day 22 officers and 600 other ranks. The panels of the Middlesex Regiment show many of these men as well as those of the other Battalions which took part in the battle. There was plenty of reason for thought as we looked at the ground and the memorial. The total casualties on both sides amounted to the frightening total of 1,200,000 men.

We left Thiepval Ridge at 6.30 p.m., returning to Ostend by a slightly different route and dropping Bert Lee at his home in Richebourg. Our small party were pointed out with interest when we got off the coach as the television programme in Belgium had, half an hour before, shown the ceremony, our group being in the picture. The French television had also shown the same thing live during the service whilst a letter from

Canada gave the news that the Canadian TV had also included our party.

The Old Comrades, who made the pilgrimage, all expressed their pleasure at being able to make the trip, and their gratitude for the generous subsidy from the Regimental Association. To those who were visiting France and Flanders for the first time as civilians, it was a journey of mixed thoughts and feelings. One old soldier whom we all meet as a happy carefree comrade, wrote, "I wore dark glasses for the first time ever; they hid the tears in my eyes. Every time we read 'Known unto God' it recalled the working party I was on a fortnight after the battle, picking up bodies and arms and legs, etc., putting them in a disused trench and covering them with a few inches of soil. Over the years I have often wondered if these graves were ever found." He now knows, having seen the cemeteries and memorials. Other letters in a similar vein were received all emphasising the fact that it was a journey they would not have missed—the first time for them when it was "All Quiet on the Western Front."

## 50th Anniversary of the Institution of the Military Medal

The Military Medal, bearing the inscription "For Bravery in the Field," was instituted by King George V on March 25, 1916. Since that date some 60,000 were awarded in the First Great War and approximately 11,000 in the Second Great War. Over 800 N.C.O.s and soldiers serving in the ranks of the "Die-Hards" have been awarded this decoration since its institution, three dozen being awarded a bar denoting a second award and in two cases, at least, in the 4th and 12th Battalions, there were awards of two bars. (Sgt. Hickman of the 2nd Battalion was not only awarded a bar to his Military Medal, but he also had *two* bars to his Distinguished Conduct Medal.)

More than 300 men and four women holders of the Military Medal attended a parade to commemorate the Jubilee of the institution of its award in Dean's Yard, Westminster, on Sunday, July 24. In one case, both husband and wife were holders of the decoration. It was unfortunate that the weather was foul, preventing the ceremony being seen to its best advantage, but, nevertheless, it was a gathering of proud, brave, men and women.

Of our Regiment seven of our old soldiers were seen to be present, namely, TF/200119 C. Brust, TF/1197 P. Hutchins, TF/730 E. J. King and TF/200955 D. Vincent of the 7th Battalion; TF/243127 W. Thatcher, 8th Battalion; TF/265160 G. Cooper, 9th Battalion; TF/291839 C. Rich and TF/2660 A. L. Ward of the 2/10th Battalion. All were members of our T.A. Battalions during the war of 1914-1919. It had been hoped that ex-L/Cpl. Cousins (G/2826), 12th Battalion, one of our "treble" Military Medallists would have

### PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

This Cathedral, which had not been completed in 1939, is to have a new nave built to commemorate D-Day. When completed, probably in 1969, the nave will have a clear span of 76 feet—nearly double that of St. Paul's Cathedral and only exceeded by St. Peter's in Rome—and emblems of all the units which took part in D-Day will be incorporated in its ornate ceiling.

The foundation stone of the new nave was laid on June 6, 1966—the 22nd anniversary of D-Day—by Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, in the presence of Service chiefs and senior representatives of the many regiments, etc., which took part in the invasion of North West Europe in 1944. In the unavoidable absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General G. P. L. Weston, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who was in command of the 2nd Battalion on D-Day, represented the Regiment at this ceremony.

A Regimental contribution has been made to the Cathedral Completion Appeal Fund.

attended, but he may have been kept away by the inclement weather.

After the inspection and the march past when Major-General A. E. Watford, C.B., C.B.E., M.M., late Royal Canadian Artillery, took the salute, a service was held in Westminster Abbey, the General reading the Lesson. The sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by the buglers of the Light Infantry Brigade was a perfect example of bugle playing. The sound of a bugle in a church or cathedral can at times be raucous, but on this occasion it was a dulcet, silvery tone and a pleasure to hear.

An interesting fact is that two of the old soldiers of our Regiment on parade, Sgt. King and Cpl. Hutchins as they were at the time of their awards, were named on the list when the original submissions were made for the newly instituted decoration in 1916. Both were for gallantry prior to the institution of the medal. Of interest to students of military decorations is that the first two M.M.s recorded were both gazetted in April 1916, a fortnight after the institution of the medal. These were to two N.C.O.s of the Royal Garrison Artillery for bravery when the German battleships Derfflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke, Von der Tann and Blucher shelled Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepoons on the morning of December 16, 1914.

Mr. Thatcher, one of our holders of the M.M., mentioned above, is the Secretary of the Military Medallists' League. He is also a member of the Ealing Branch of the Regimental Association.

R.W.J.S.



## HONG KONG RE-VISITED, 1965

In November last year a party of ex-P.O.W.s were able to visit Hong Kong for a week by means of an air charter flight specially organised by Lloyd International, one of whose directors, Mr. Francis Rossini, was himself a prisoner of war there.

Three former officers of our 1st Battalion—Capt. C. G. Webber, Capt. J. H. S. Hudson and Lt. E. C. Graham—were included in the party and, as a result of a most enjoyable and interesting trip, the following random recollections by Lt. Ewan Graham are published, since it is felt that they will be of interest to many of our readers who knew "The Jewel of the East" in other days:

Tremendous changes have taken place both on the Island and in the New Territories during the last 20 years in the way of buildings and roads, and often it was difficult to pinpoint old sites, or remember what the landscape used to be like.

The old Murray Barracks Parade Ground in Garden Road has disappeared and on it has been built the huge skyscraper Hong Kong Hilton Hotel.

In Kowloon too, several huge hotels have been built in Nathan Road adjoining the Peninsular Hotel.

The first evening there a Reunion Dinner was held in one of the old Prisoner of War huts in Argyll Street Camp, where we met several of our Hong Kong Volunteer friends of previous days.

The following evening we were invited to a cocktail party at the Hong Kong Regiment's Mess where, amongst others, we met Sgt. Bull, late of the Ordnance, who will be remembered no doubt by several who served with the Battalion in those days.

A Remembrance Day Service was celebrated at the Cenotaph on Sunday, November 14, after which another service was held in the Cathedral.

In the Cathedral, although it is perhaps not known to many, there is a Memorial to the 1st Battalion, and a Roll of Honour of those who lost their lives in Hong Kong, and elsewhere as prisoners of war, which is kept in a glass case.

Monday, the 15th, was spent in a charabanc tour of the New Territories, going out on the Castle Peak Road, past Gin Drinkers Bay, Yuen Long, Kamtin to Ma Tau Kok, which was as near to the border as we were allowed, and from the observation post there we could, through glasses, see troops in Communist China. On our way out we passed Shamshuipo rather hurriedly but it appeared to be all built over, probably by factories, although the old married quarter, Jubilee building, could still be recognised. Coming back via Fan Ling and Taipo it was impossible to remember much of the road as it used to be and unfortunately we had no time to go and see our old camp sites at Sunwai and Lo Wu.

The following day, Tuesday, the 16th, after visiting the Hong Kong Garden of Remembrance and Shrine near the Queen's Ferry on the Island, our party was taken by bus to the War Cemetery at Saiwan. There,

after the service, amongst other wreaths, Capt. Webber laid one for the Regiment in memory of our fallen. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and the Saiwan War Cemetery is in a wonderful setting, and it was most impressive.

After that we were taken on to Stanley where we visited Col. Newnham's grave, amongst others, and then came back round the Island past Repulse Bay, which in no way resembled the Repulse Bay we knew, as the whole skyline has now been spoiled by the large block of apartments having been built behind the hotel, and numerous other buildings almost obliterating the Bay from the road.

On Wednesday, November 17, our party entertained at the Hong Kong Club various old friends who had shown us such a lot of hospitality during our visit, and on Thursday, November 18, we left Kaitak for home.

### REGIMENTAL BADGE, LAMB'S HILL, FANLING

The following is an account by Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan, late Adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) of the steps leading up to and the actual cleaning of the Regimental badge in the new Territories so willingly and generously undertaken by our old friends of the Hong Kong Regiment:

Last summer a Staff Officer from H.Q. 48 Brigade contacted me to find out what was to be done about the cleaning of the Middlesex Badge on Lambs Hill. Rising labour costs and difficulties from the local contractor meant that the next bill would be in the region of £20.

Lt.-Col. John Laurence-Smith, our C.O., agreed wholeheartedly with the proposal that 3 Company, the Infantry Company of the Volunteers, should take on the task of renovating the badge.

Major Gordon Hampton, O.C. 3 Company, and myself then spent many pleasant hours in the Hong Kong Club formulating a plan. It was thought that the best time to go about the task would be the nearest Sunday to the Chinese Festival of Ching Ming, which is in April. This seemed an appropriate time since during Ching Ming the Chinese families go up to the hills to the graves of their ancestors in order to sweep them clean and tidy them up. Joss sticks are lit and simple memorial services are held.

On Saturday afternoon, April 2, 3 Company moved out to the New Territories. Since it was not a training weekend but more of a "jolly" the men chipped in a few dollars and a Company chow took place that evening. I arrived late at night to find Major Gordon Hampton, Capt. Rene Ozorio, Capt. Alec Jack and Eddie Carmos still celebrating. I never found out what about.

Sunday, April 3, promised to be a lovely warm day and we all set out for Lambs Hill in great spirits after an early breakfast in the backyard of Tai Po district office.

We had decided that the usual white-wash was not good enough for the job in hand and so we had persuaded Capt. Charles Wiley, our Regular Army Quartermaster, to provide several gallons of Government white

paint. Picks, shovels, matchets, paint and brushes were hauled up to the top of the hill. O.P.s with radio were set up on the other side of the Sha Ta Kok Road to report progress and faults. We wondered whether Col. Clinton Nolda had used this method when he built the badge.

The badge was overgrown with grass and weeds but the stones were all in position and well secured with pickets. All that had to be done was to cut away the weeds and turf, sweep the stones free of earth and then paint them. The whole operation only took a few hours.

To the amusement of everyone we decided to hold a "first and last brush stroke" ceremony. Having lined up several bottles of Sam Miguel beer and Chinese rice wine, a string of fire crackers was attached to a pole and ignited amidst shouts of approval as the final dab of paint was applied. The beer and wine were drunk, more fire crackers lighted and the Company descended into the plains of Fanling.

Gordon Hampton then invited the officers and senior ranks to the Fanling Golf Club where toasts to the Middlesex Regiment and the Volunteers were drunk. We returned to R.H.Q. later that day feeling very pleased with the successful end to a most pleasant task. My only regret is that I will not be there next year to do it again. Gordon Crumley, no doubt, will carry on what will become a tradition in the Volunteers.

The good work carried out by 3 Company of the Volunteers was recognised by the local Press as is shown by the following brief account, which appeared in the *South China Morning Post*, on April 4, and was sent to the Editor, *The Die-Hards*, by Major A. R. Tawney, 1/6th Q.E.O., Ghurkha Rifles, son-in-law of the Curator of our Museum, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.:

### Regiment Badge Cleaned

The badge of the Middlesex Regiment on Lamb Hill at Fanling in the New Territories was cleaned and renovated by 60 members of the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) yesterday.

The Volunteers all from the Third Company of the Hong Kong Regiment, carried out the work under the direction of Major G. Hampton. They cleared the grass around the badge and later painted it with white paint-oil.

The Middlesex Regiment, which has a long association with The Hong Kong Regiment, was last in Hong Kong during the time of the Korea War.

### MIDDLESEX FESTIVAL DAY

The Middlesex Society, whose President is the Duke of Northumberland, have decided to make Albuhera Day a Festival Day annually in the old County of Middlesex to celebrate the gallant deeds of Middlesex men throughout the world in all campaigns in which they have fought.

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## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Amongst the recent additions to the Regimental Museum and Archives are the following:

**Sword of Lt-General Sir Manley Power, K.C.B.**

**Letter written by Lt-General Sir Thomas Picton, G.C.B.**

**Plaster cast of the bronze lion of Menin Gate Memorial.**

**Drinking horn of Lt. Phillip Powys, 57th Regiment.**

**Medals of 2/Lt. C. A. Clarke, M.M.**

**Medals of Sgt. C. Reed.**

**Medals of Pte. W. G. Wilkins.**

**.455 in. revolver.**

Brief notes on each of the above items are given below:

**Sword of Lt-General Sir Manley Power, K.C.B., K.T.S.**

This sword, made by Tatham, sword cutler to King George IV, has a heavy cutting blade, slightly curved. Frosted into the steel are the Royal Monogram and the insignia of a General Officer. Not an ornament, it is a weapon forged for battle having been sharpened so often that the front letters of the inscription on the blade are worn off. The brass guard on the hilt also has the General's insignia of cross baton and sword within a wreath of laurels as part of the ornamentation. The weapon is well balanced and business-like.

Sir Manley Power's name is well known to "Die-Hards" and has been so for 150 years, due to the title of the Regimental quick-step bearing his name.

Manley Power was born in 1773 and commissioned as an Ensign in the 20th (Leigh's) Regiment of Foot, August 27, 1785. He fought in the Netherlands campaign under Sir Ralph Abercromby when the 20th (later the Lancashire Fusiliers) were in the Sixth Brigade commanded by Lord Cowan, "Egmont-op-Zee" fought in October, 1799, being one of their honours. At that date, though, the 20th were named the East Devon Regiment. Five days after the battle, Manley Power was granted his majority, his earlier promotions to Lieutenant and Captain being in May, 1789, and June, 1794, respectively. In June, 1801, he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel and in 1805 was with the 32nd (or the Cornwall) Regiment of Foot.

Serving under the Iron Duke in the Peninsular he gained his steps in promotion to Colonel in July, 1810, and Major-General in June, 1813, when he served with the Portuguese Army under General Beresford, being given command of a Portuguese Brigade. For his services during the Peninsular War, he was awarded the gold medal for Salamanca (22.7.1812) with two clasps for Vittoria (21.6.1813) and Nivelles (10.11.1813). The

year following his Brigade appointment he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Portuguese Military Order of the Tower and Sword. In addition to this recognition of his services by the Portuguese Government, he was also rewarded by the British Crown by the appointment as one of the 100 army Knights Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath when the Prince Regent enlarged and divided the Order into three classes in January, 1815. His gold medal with its two clasps was replaced by the Peninsular Gold Cross with a clasp to mark his service in addition to the three battles already mentioned, at the Battles of Orthes (17.2.1814) and Toulouse (10.4.1814), five awards in all.

During his years in the Peninsular and later, in France, he was constantly in contact with the 57th. His commander, Marshal Sir William Beresford, held the 57th in great regard and must often have spoken of their fighting prowess and the field of Albuhera to his Brigadier. It was natural, therefore, that when he was commanding the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Division in the citadel of Valenceines in 1816, during the occupation of Paris by the British Troops, in which the 57th were at that time serving, he should give them the score of the music of a quick step. At that time, the British Army had begun to march in quick time, whereas before they had marched at a pace nearer to our present slow march. For moving on long marches, the time was still stately and slow, but on reviews and ceremonials the new, quick time was used. The music offered to, and accepted by, the 57th was that said to be found by General Sir Manley Power in a French camp after a victory. Much loot and baggage, in fact all that the French Army had taken during its victorious years in Spain, were retaken by the allies at Vittoria. Instead of our Regimental march starting its existence as a French composition, it may well be English originally and picked up by the French in a British camp during Wellington's withdrawals early in the war. It is suspiciously similar to the song "O soldier, soldier, won't you marry me with your musket, fife and drum?" which was composed at the end of the 18th century. Whatever was the origin of the tune, the 57th promptly gave it the name of their respected General and from 1816 to 1966 the same air has been played in bivouacs, camps, barracks and Japanese P.O.W. camps as well as on long marches and reviews.

From 1819 to 1825, Sir Manley Power was in Malta as commandant of the forces and Lieutenant-General. During that time the Commander-in-Chief and Governor was almost continuously absent and Sir Manley Power administered the island in his stead. He died in Switzerland in 1826, a year after he was promoted Lieutenant-General but his name is ever-green in the Regiment as, from the youngest drummer boy to the oldest retired veteran, the immediate answer to the

query of the name of the Regimental march is "Sir Manley Power."

*Presented by A. Manley Power, Esq., a direct descendant of the General.*

**Letter written by Lt-General Sir Thomas Picton, G.C.B.**

This letter, the latest addition to our Archives, reads as follows:

London 17th Jany (?) 1813.

My dear Sir,

As soon as the Reduction is notified (which I am told will be 10 Lieutenants, 2 Serjts, 20 Corporals & 190 Privates) and which is to take place from the 25th Decr., the arrangements you point out shall be as nearly as possible carried into effect—Captain Queade was allowed to exchange upon the condition of becoming an effective Officer with the Regiment, and I have to request that you will apply through the Adjt General, that he may be ordered to join without loss of time. I am sorry to find that the long expected Brevet is not likely, for some time at least, to take place. I had obtained a promise for Col Rudd to be Employed as an Inspecting Field Officer which would have given Maclaîne the majority & the eldest Lieutenant a Company: but with this victory it may possibly come to nothing in the End.

I have been a good deal inconvenienced by the recurrence of an old strain which gives me a good deal of trouble and wholly prevents my taking Exercise on Foot, which is a great annoyance to me: particularly in London where there are so many pretty things to amuse a Lounger.

They have spread various reports all equally true respecting my return from the Army: and amongst others that I returned in disgust at the Conduct of the Commander of the Forces, with whom I had had serious dis-agreements. A report of this kind I thought it right, in justice to his 'Lordship' as well as myself, formally to disavow, which I did by a paragraph in the Times—they have also circulated that I behaved in a most Cavalier manner to the Regent when presented at the Levee: and all without a shadow of foundation. I shall give myself no further trouble about the inventions whether mischievous or otherwise: for if people will believe miserable things I shall not undertake the peculiar labor of correcting their curiosity.

I hope you are all going on well. Pray offer my best wishes to Col Dunkin, Capt Maclaîne & generally to the whole Coy, and believe me to be most faithfully,

Th Picton.

P.S. I am Happy to find you have at length got rid of Macavie (?) Pray has Genl Spry's relation succeeded to Bennets Ensigney.

Fighting and hard swearing Sir Thomas Picton was, at the time this letter was written, Colonel of the 77th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot. His career is so well known and has been written about so often that it is

needless to repeat it in full here. He was the fifth Colonel of the 77th, holding the appointment from October 1811 until he was killed whilst in command of the 5th Division at the Battle of Waterloo. His orderly at that time was Sgt. Alexander Campbell, 77th Regiment. In addition to his relationship to the 77th, he was also closely connected with the 57th when he was Governor of Trinidad 1797-1803. In fact, in General Warre's "Historical Records of the 57th," himself once C.O. of the 57th, Lt.-Col. Picton is shown as commanding the 57th during that period, the record reading "In 1797 the Regiment proceeded to Trinidad, where the 2nd (Queen's) Regiment was drafted to it, and remained stationary for six years under the command of Colonel Picton." This is incorrect as the Commanding Officer of the 57th then was Lt-Col. William Balfour.

The following comments on the officers in the order in which they are mentioned in the letter may be of interest.

The addressee of the letter was Lt.-Col. John Bromhead, a zealous and experienced officer who commanded the 77th at El Bodon and Badajoz receiving the gold medal for the latter battle. He was made a C.B. for his services in the Peninsular and retired in 1822 after 23 years in command.

Capt. William Queade had received his Captaincy in the Regiment in October, 1812, on exchange from the 40th Regiment. He joined soon after this letter was written!

Col. John Rudd was an officer of long service and great experience. He began his service as a volunteer in the 75th Regiment, going to India in 1788. During the war in Mysore he won a commission as ensign in the 77th in April, 1792. At El Bodon he had a portmanteau knocked from the rear of his saddle by a French cannon ball within six inches of his back. He coolly turned round and said "There was nearly the end of poor Jack." He commanded one of the storming parties at Badajoz, receiving severe wounds. Wellington made a special mention of him in his despatch after the action. His services were rewarded by promotion to Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel in April, 1812, and later the C.B. Sent to England to recover from his wounds, he returned to Spain in 1813 as a member of a general court martial at Vittoria, rejoining the 77th in 1814. In 1816, he retired from the service and died in January, 1827.

Capt. Murdoch Maclaîne was at this time the senior captain in the 77th. He had severe wounds at Ciudad Rodrigo, causing his right leg to be amputated. He succeeded to the command in 1822, dying at Spanish Town, Jamaica in October, 1828, after 29 years' service in the Regiment.

Col. John Dunkin was the second Lieutenant-Colonel of the 77th at this date. He had fought at El Bodon where a cannon shot fell under his horse covering him in dirt, without hurting him or his horse. During the absence of Col. Bromhead, he commanded the Regiment at the assault and capture of Ciudad Rodrigo for which he received the Gold Medal. A letter written by an officer of the 77th at that time speaks of General Picton saying a few kind words to Col. Dunkin as the troops were about to assault quoting "He bid us 'Cool-speed,'







## .455-in. Revolver

A .455 revolver carried by the donor during 1917 and 1918 has been added to the arms now in the Regimental Museum. This type of small arms was the universal weapon of officers in the British Forces during the war of 1914-1919, not as an issued item as now but privately purchased by the officer on commissioning.

The donor, Capt. E. J. Owen, originally served with the 1st County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex Hussars) and as a subaltern transferred to the 7th Battalion (T.F.) in 1917. He continued to serve with this Battalion until he was wounded by shell fragments at Telegraph Hill Switch, August 9, 1918, during a supposedly quiet period. He was at that time in "C" Company (Capt. Shiell) whilst the Battalion was commanded by Lt.-Col. Peter Kay, who saw more fighting than any other officer of the Battalion during the years 1915-1918.

After discharge from hospital in October 1918, he joined the 7th (Reserve) Battalion (T.F.), then under the command of Lt.-Col. J. S. Drew in Tunbridge Wells. He later served for a short time with the 6th Battalion at Chatham and when that Battalion transferred all its personnel in November 1918, joined the 5th Battalion at Clipstone. On the break-up of the 5th Battalion in August 1919, Capt. Owen was posted to the 3rd Battalion then at Hillsborough Barracks, Sheffield, and in the same year was demobilised.

*Presented by Capt. E. J. Owen.*

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## CHRISTMAS CARDS 1966

1. As for 1965, it has been decided that the Regimental Christmas card will be one produced by the Army Benevolent Fund.

The card size 6 in. by 4½ in. has on the outside a full colour reproduction of "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Reni (1575-1642).

On the inside of each card the Regimental Crest will be embossed in black above the greeting.

The price of each card is 11d., or 11s. per dozen, to which must be added postage as under:

For 1 dozen	—	1s. 0d.
" 2 "	—	1s. 6d.
" 3 "	—	2s. 0d.

and thereafter adding 3d. for each additional dozen.

The card number is 10, which should be quoted when ordering.

2. In addition there are also the following cards available: **Card No. 9**, size 3½ in. by 6 in. On the outside a reproduction of the original oil painting by Vincenzo Catena (1470(?)—1531) of a Warrior adoring the Infant Christ.

Inside of card as for No. 10 above.

The price for these cards is 11d. each or 11s. a dozen. Postage as for card No. 10.

There is only a very limited supply of these cards still available.

**Card No. 4**. A plain double card with the Regimental Crest on the outside and the greetings on the inside.

The price of these cards is 5d. each, or 5s. per dozen, to which must be added postage as under:

For 1 dozen	—	10d.
" 2 "	—	1s. 4d.
" 3 "	—	1s. 8d.
" 4 "	—	2s. 0d.

and thereafter adding 3d. for each additional dozen.

To avoid unnecessary clerical work and book-keeping, payment must accompany the order.

## Our Advertisers

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.

1st BATTALION  
NOTES

## EDITORIAL

Time has flown here in Guyana. It seems only yesterday that we arrived in this interesting tropical country yet already plans are afoot for our return to Hollywood in early October. We have missed our families and friends at home and it has been a great comfort to us all to know that our families have remained cheerful and kept up a high state of morale in Hollywood where they are mainly based. It says much for their spirit and neighbourliness that they have helped each other with their problems. Our Rear Party deserve a special mention. They have done a marvellous job in solving the many problems that have arisen and in helping families. The assumed well being of "all at Hollywood" has been a great factor in keeping up our morale here in Guyana.

The Guyanese, of every race, have been most friendly and hospitable. They are a cheerful, gregarious people with a ready wit and turn of phrase, an even match for our soldiers. The country is poor economically but there are great hopes of striking oil or further mineral wealth and thereby attracting overseas capital and investment. Bauxite is already mined at Mackenzie (40 miles up Demerara River—a Canadian Company) and Kwakani (on Berbice River—an American Company); manganese at Mathews Ridge (near the Venezuelan Border—a British Company), see map; the sugar industry just manages to hold its own; subsidised heavily by British Commonwealth sugar preferences; and gold and diamonds are found in small quantities all over the interior. Everyone is waiting and hoping optimistically but rather vaguely it seems for the discovery of new mineral deposits.

It is interesting to see how the Guyanese are gradually, somewhat grudgingly, beginning to realise that it is now their duty to shape the country's future. Many people are alarmed at the imminent departure of British Forces and foresee unrest. Some seem bewildered that they are no longer able to blame all their troubles on to the British Government. One thing is certain, the country will continue to rely on overseas aid for a long time to come. One can only hope that peace will continue and the economy will gradually improve until the low standard of living of many of the people is raised above its present subsistence level.

Independence Day, May 26, and the connected ceremonies and events passed in a frenzy of feverish, even mad, activity but, most important of all, without internal unrest. Once this milestone was passed we were able to settle down to some useful training. We still hold ourselves in readiness to come to the aid of the

civil power but now only stand by as a reserve until October 1, when we cease to be operational.

The Guyana Defence Force, eventually to consist basically of two infantry Battalions, has been formed rapidly, latterly with the assistance of a Middlesex Training team and is now up to one and a half Battalions in strength (see G.D.F. notes later on).

Now that we are not tied to our widely scattered operational areas we have managed to get many men into the interior on foot and boat patrols. Movement is achieved by many means—dugout canoe, rubber dinghy, raft, rail, patrol boat with outboard motors, scheduled ferry services and "shank's pony." This last method is tough in the dense jungle and entails the cutting of "lines" (trails). It is slow and only a practical proposition for training purposes.

We have carried out a lot of field firing at Takama; one or two Platoons at a time. Takama is a sort of Wild West Cattle Station about 100 miles up the Berbice River. It is accessible by sea and river ferry via New Amsterdam or the dusty Mackenzie/Takama/Ituni cattle trail. Helicopter or Cessna aircraft provide a welcome alternative to these other uncomfortable routes. It must be one of the best infantry field-firing areas in the world. The rolling savannah provides a variety of terrain (even some like Salisbury Plain) and there are no firing restrictions whatsoever. Our Assault Pioneers rebuilt the last part of the Ituni Trail including two bridges. Nos. 4 Platoon (3-in. Mortars) and 8 Platoon (Mobot anti-tank guns) have each fired their support weapons successfully. As Company Commanders, particularly of both "Headquarters Companies," are able to lay their hands on everybody with ease it seems that we will have achieved an all-time record with annual range classification and annual physical efficiency tests! I am able to record that over 90 per cent. of "H.Q." Company has been caught. Readers with experience of this annual problem will appreciate this fact.

In spite of the humid climate everybody on the whole has maintained excellent health. Thanks to regular fitness training in the early morning before breakfast, training, patrolling and sports, the general state of fitness is high.

With a large proportion of the Battalion spread out in Platoon localities administration becomes a greater task than normally. Rifle and Support Platoon Commanders have found themselves running Platoon vehicles, P.O.L. accounts (including A.V.G.A.S.), Platoon canteen accounts and stock sheets, Platoon cookhouses and rations and many other additional extras.



## BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) INDEPENDENCE 1966

1. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent arrives at the National Flag Raising Ceremony accompanied by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent.

2. H.E. The Governor and the Prime Minister at the National Flag Raising Ceremony on May 26, 1966.

3. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent meets the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.

(Photos: 'Soldier')



The experience has done them good (particularly those newly joined from R.M.A.S. and M.O.C.S.) and will serve them in good stead in the future. Thanks to an increase in strength we have been able to build up Platoons in strength and to preserve some stability of command. As a result Platoon spirit has been built up and maintained.

Our Medical Officer, M.T.O., Paymaster, Q.M. and Messing Officer have dual appointments in that they act in these capacities for the whole of British Forces in Guyana. They and their staffs shoulder a tremendous load of work and responsibility above the ordinary with great efficiency and cheerfulness. They all do a first-class job and deserve a special mention here.

The Regimental Band and Corps of Drums also have reflected great credit on the Regiment. In the various Independence ceremonies, particularly the National Flag Raising and last Beating of Retreat by British Forces in British Guiana, they performed with great distinction and were specially commended by His Excellency The Governor, Sir Richard Luyt, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.C.M. (now Governor-General). They are to represent British Forces in the Final Parade in Guyana on September 10, which will take the form of a Beating of Retreat. More recently the Corps of Drums have amazed everybody, including the Drum-Major, by producing a magnificent Steel Band. It is no exaggeration to say that after only three months training by their instructor, Mr. Sandiford (a local Guyanese), they are equal to the local bands. We hope that they will be able to be heard at Regimental functions in the future. They have yet to learn to play the Regimental March on their "pans." I am sure that it will not be long before they will.

A highlight of the Independence period was the visit to the Battalion by H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. He visited both the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and met all members. Our pictures show the Commanding Officer being presented to him and accompanied by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent arriving for the National Flag Raising Ceremony.

Certain individuals need a special mention for their back-stage work in running the Independence Ceremonies—Major Pollard (Chief Marshal), Capt. Gladden (Acting Adjutant), R.S.M. Beale for their tremendous work in producing order out of chaos in the Flag Raising Ceremony. The Union Flag was lowered for the last time in British Guiana by 2/Lt. J. D. Jonklass, newly joined from Sandhurst and attached to the G.D.F. R.S.M. Beale and C.S.M.I. Meadows and his staff personally devised and trained two major items in the Display—Toy Soldier Parade and a Club Swinging display by G.D.F. Recruits respectively.

Albuhera Day was observed with the customary programme. We held a Drumhead Service on Sunday, May 15, which was attended by H.E. The Governor. Our photograph shows the buglers of the Corps of Drums sounding the Last Post. Many classed the functions as the best in recent years. Their estimates were presumably based on absence of family control and the price of rum!

The Queen's Birthday Parade was held on the Queen Elizabeth Parade Ground on Saturday, June 11. H.E.

The Governor-General took the parade and the Battalion provided a detachment. The parade was colourful, comprising detachments from 1G.D.F., 2G.D.F., The Guyana Police Force and 1 Middlesex. The Guyana Police Mounted Troop also carried out an exciting and well-drilled Trot and Gallop Past.

We have been afforded magnificent co-operation here by the Army Air Corps "Allouettes" of 25 Flight A.A.C. and the R.A.F. Whirlwinds of 1310 Flight R.A.F. Nothing has been too much trouble for these outstanding fliers and their crews. Their response to emergencies has been immediate and some of our soldiers owe their lives to this. Flying over the poorly-mapped, dense jungle is an exacting and potentially dangerous occupation as there are few spaces for emergency landings, but our confidence in them has been unquestioning. Most of our men have flown here at some time or another.

At the time of writing, we have just concluded a three-day Signals Exercise between the Demerara R. and Essequibo R.—Exercise "Parika Glory." It has been a valuable way of reminding us of our more normal role. As we face the prospect of a Brigade Signal Exercise within seven days of our return from leave in Holywood, this is no bad thing. Much was learnt and relearnt. The Signal Platoon achieved a remarkable feat in manning both our Static Battalion Command Net—eight outstations on S.R. 62/S.R.C. 11 working 24 hours a day and a full Operational Vehicle Borne Command Net plus controls down to Platoon level.

Our manning strength has improved considerably. This has solved many of our problems. Our strength has increased by 100 since November, 1965: 188 men have been posted in and 88 out. Still quite a turnover. We must thank our Special Recruiters and the Brigade Recruiting Staff for this improved state of affairs. Well done! Currently our Special Recruiters are Sgt. Leat (Marble Arch), C/Sgt. Dive (Hounslow), Sgt. Willis (Acton), Sgt. Fisher (Tottenham), Sgt. Burford (Wembley) and Sgt. Kerr (Finchley). We are looking forward to seeing them soon. We have also had an increase in officer strength. Eight have been posted out and 17 in. The net gain of nine has considerably eased our problems in Guyana.

Football, both Rugby and Association, and hockey have been going well. The standards are high here and we have been holding our own. As we are now playing "out of season" as far as U.K. is concerned we hope to arrive in Holywood with a big advantage. Our soccer and rugby teams have great potential. Let us hope that we can develop it usefully.

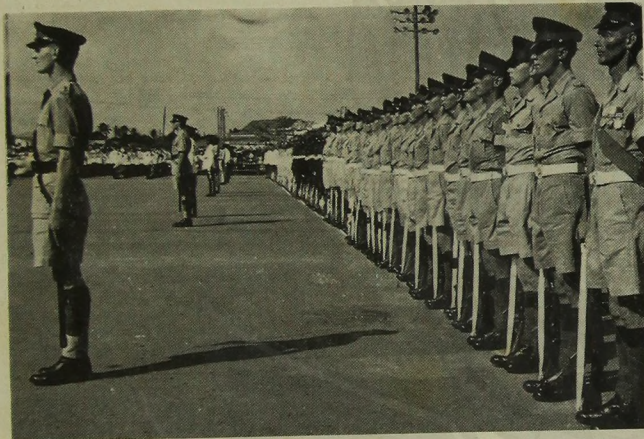
The greatest event has been the formal notification of our future transformation into 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment at the end of the year. This great step in the life of the Regiment will be dealt with elsewhere in this Journal but all ranks of the 1st Battalion wish to record their firm resolve to accept the change in the spirit with which it has been introduced and to carry forward into The Queen's Regiment all that is good from our present cherished Regimental traditions and standards. We look forward to a visit from our new Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., in Holywood in May, 1967.



We are now at the end of our stay in Guyana. As we take stock of what has been achieved there is no doubt that this short tour has done a great deal to improve and consolidate our operational, specialist, administrative and physical efficiency after nearly three years of garrison duties. Much practical experience has been gained by everybody and in particular junior leaders have been able to exercise independent command.

By the time that these notes are published we will have returned to U.K., Hollywood and our families. We have all enjoyed our stay here but will be glad to be back.

This Editorial is followed by an appreciation of the Battalion's services in Guyana by His Excellency The Governor-General, Sir Richard Luyt, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.C.M.



Queen's Birthday Parade,  
June 11, 1966

Capt. and Adj. P. V. Cheesman,  
O.C. 1 Middlesex Detachment and  
Lt. P. F. Packham

Letter from His Excellency The Governor-General  
of Guyana, Sir Richard Luyt, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.C.M.

Guyana House,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.  
August 18, 1966.

My dear Col. Shipster,

The time is drawing near when both the Middlesex Regiment and the Governor-General will be leaving Guyana. It is thus specially fitting that I should write to you about the Regiment's service in this country and about my association with it.

When The Middlesex arrived I was—until Independence—still Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Guiana. This put me, much more than is usual in Colonial territories, into close relationship with the

military forces. For several years British Regiments, supported by local troops, had had to play a major internal security role in British Guiana. Without them I could not have implemented British policy in 1964 nor would I have been at all happy in 1965. By 1966, with work well done, the internal security position was easier but it remained necessary for at least one British Battalion to be ready with the necessary knowledge, training and ability to resume the work of their predecessors should need arise. I was always sure that The Middlesex Regiment could do this with full competence.

Since May 26, your Battalion's main duty has been to assist in the rapid training of the Guyanese Defence Force. From what I have seen and been told this duty has been, and is still being, well performed. I

know that the Government of Guyana is grateful.

When we both leave in October I am sure that you, and all who serve with you in The Middlesex Regiment, will be able to feel that your tasks have been performed well. I, for my part, will be grateful to you, the last British Battalion to work with me, just as I am grateful to your predecessors. Without the help of the British Soldier the success story of Guyana of these last two and half years could almost certainly never have been written.

I wish all "Die-hards" every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard E. Luyt,  
Governor-General.

Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.,  
Commanding Officer,  
The Middlesex Regiment,  
Georgetown.



The Last Post

Aluhura Drumhead Service, May 15, 1966

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## Staff List of 1st Battalion Appointments — Guyana 1966

## BATTALION H.Q.

C.O.: Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.  
 2IC: Major K. J. Carter  
 Adjutant: Capt. P. V. Cheesman  
 R.S.O.: Capt. A. B. Cowing  
 I.O.: Lt. P. F. Packham  
 R.M.O.: Major T. D. Jones, R.A.M.C.  
 Paymaster: Capt. N. J. Bryant, R.A.P.C.  
 R.S.M.: W.O.1 K. E. Beale  
 O.R.Q.M.S.: W.O.2 G. D. Cripps

## "A" Company

Coy. Comd.: Major R. D. Fisher  
 Coy. 2IC: Capt. P. D. J. Clarke  
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 R. Ford  
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. D. Miles

## "H.Q." Company (Atkinson)

Coy. Comd.: Major M. V. Hayward  
 Coy. 2IC: Capt. F. K. Gladden  
 Q.M.: Lt. (Q.M.) R. E. B. Morris  
 M.T.O.: Capt. (Q.M.) M. Wild  
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 M. Eastop  
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. W. Smith

## "B" Company

Coy. Comd.: Major G. G. Norton  
 Coy. 2IC: Capt. J. G. Lofting  
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 D. Walters  
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. R. Clements

## "C" Company

Coy. Comd.: Major J. S. B. Pollard  
 Coy. 2IC: Capt. G. Goring  
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 D. Lagden  
 C.Q.M.S.: C/Sgt. J. Redmond

## "H.Q." Company (Georgetown)

Coy. Comd.: Capt. G. Bulloch  
 P.R.I.: Capt. M. D. Legg  
 C.S.M.: W.O.2 E. Elston

## Attached G.D.F.

G.D.F.L.O.: Major J. I. D. Pike, M.C.

## THE "DIE-HARDS" STAY ON IN GUYANA

## Down South America way with the Middlesex Regiment

(By Donald Leslie)

They were last out—the last British troops to serve in British Guiana, or for that matter anywhere else in South America.

That, when the latter-day history of what was British Guiana is written, is what will be said of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)—the famous "Die-Hards"—in peace, as in war, one of the great Regiments of the British Army.

In late March this year, in the uncertain days preceding independence, the Battalion was sent to British Guiana from Northern Ireland on an unaccompanied tour to support the colony's police and to preserve its internal security.

Now, in independent Guyana, born at midnight on May 25, at the invitation of the Guyanese Government it is staying on for the next four months to assist in training the newly-formed Guyana Defence Force.

In October, however, the Battalion is expected back at its former station, Palace Barracks, Holywood, Belfast, where the families they left behind await their men's return.

I have newly returned myself from a visit to the Battalion—a visit entailing a round trip of over 10,000 miles. I was there for its Regimental Day—Albuhera Day. There to see the vital part it played in Independence preparations and celebrations. For a fortnight I lived, worked and played with the soldiers from Middlesex. What a great and eventful experience this proved to be.

## "Land of Waters"

Guyana is a long, long way from Middlesex. It lies on the northern coast of South America between Venezuela to the west, the Dutch territory of Surinam to the east, and Brazil to the south. In terms of square miles, it is nearly the size of Great Britain. The population of over 638,000 mainly consists of East Indians (320,000) and Africans (200,000). The name Guyana means "land of waters," and in the Demerara, Berbice, Essequibo and Corentyne certainly it has four mighty rivers.

To get to Guyana—or British Guiana, as it still was then—I flew at 600 miles an hour in a big B.O.A.C. Boeing via Bermuda, Antigua (one of the Leeward Islands), Barbados and Trinidad. We left London Airport at noon, were overtaken by darkness between Antigua and Barbados, and, losing 3½ hours by adjustments to our watches en route, completed a 14 hours' flight by landing at Atkinson Airfield at 10.30 p.m.—just after 2 a.m. in U.K.

First impressions of Atkinson were of swarms of cheery black faces and of near chaos inside the Customs

office, in which, at tedious length, we tired, perspiring travellers underwent the most sluggish round of Customs and immigration formalities I have ever experienced.

But, as I was to have impressed upon me repeatedly during my stay, the Guyanese seem to have nothing like the regard for time, as expressed in hours and minutes, that some of us have back home.

Maybe a good thing in a sense. Maybe the right idea. They go their ways unhurried. They are as pleasant, as happy, as good natured a mixed race—particularly the Africans—as any you could wish to meet in a day's flight anywhere. Nobody—but nobody—will push them around. Taking your time is a national characteristic.

I was met at the airfield by Lt.-Col. John Shipster, D.S.O., the Battalion Commander, and Major Nick Carter, his 2IC. We drove the 30 miles to Georgetown through a night hot, sticky, full of stars.

## In Georgetown

Georgetown itself (pop. 162,000), where the Battalion has its H.Q., is the capital of Guyana. Situated at the mouth of the Demerara River, and known as "the garden city of the Carribean," it is noted, too, for its attractive lay-out, its wide streets, and fine public buildings.

Next day was Sunday, the eve of the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera, which gives its name to the annual Regimental Day of The Middlesex Regiment—the old 57th Foot—whose valour on May 16, 1811, in one of the bloodiest actions of the Peninsular War, earned them their nickname, "The Die-Hards."

At 8.30 on that Sabbath morning in Georgetown, before the big heat of the day, the Battalion paraded on the palm-fringed square at Eve Leary Police Barracks for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance at which the hymn singing was accompanied by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums.

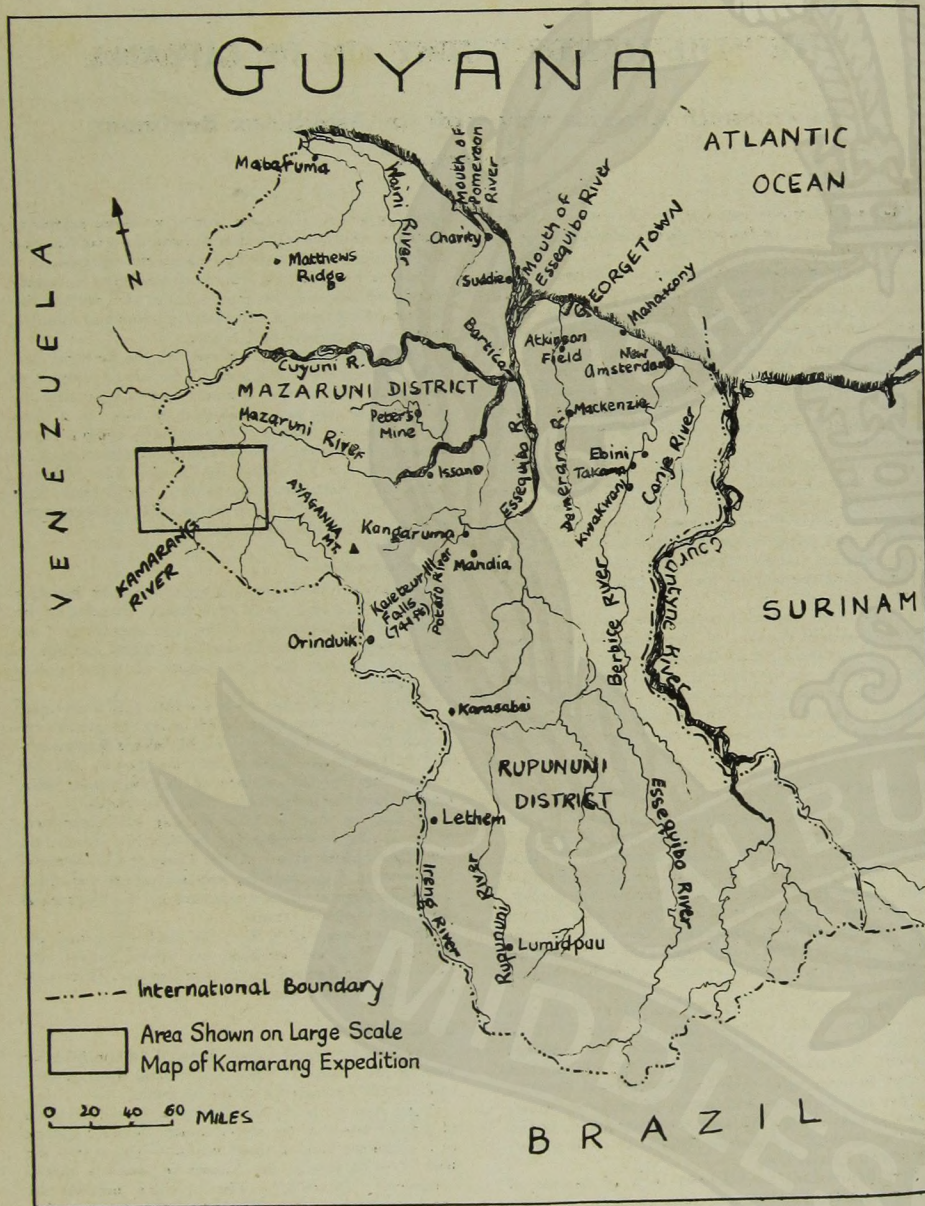
The Battalion Padre, Rev. Ian Bull, conducted the service, which was attended by, among others, the Governor (Sir Richard Luyt), now Guyana's Governor-General, and Lady Luyt.

## Albuhera Day

Albuhera Day proper was observed on the Monday with all the customary celebrations—and solemnities—traditionally associated with the occasion.

A gay start to the day's holiday was the sudden crash of martial music in the street shortly before 7 o'clock as a volunteer band dressed imaginatively, to say the least, arrived outside the Messes to sound a special version of "Reveille." The revellers invaded the various rooms to rouse the last of the sleepers, after





which refreshments were served, and an impromptu calypso danced outside. Now, reinforced by a score or more of willing, if inexperienced "musicians," the band moved off to the uncertain strains of an otherwise rousing march, "Die Berliner Luft," legacy of the Regiment's service in Germany.

Sports and parties figured in the subsequent programme. In the evening, at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the historic "Silent Toast" was drunk in memory of the comrades who fell at Albuhera and of the "Die-Hards" fallen in all the other wars.

**Battalion's Main Task**

Col. Shipster, in briefing me at the outset of my visit, was at pains to emphasise that one of the Battalion's main tasks was the maintenance of good relations with the populace. This he said was being done through high standards of discipline, behaviour, courtesy and turn-out.

"We also place great emphasis on our sports teams and on our Band and Drums," he added. "I rate these the best ambassadors we have."

The soccer eleven is regarded as the Battalion's best of the post-war years. Playing in the Guyana Football League, it has not yet lost a game, and in a match against Guyana's national "Under 23" side was unlucky to lose 3-1.

One of the best known members of the Regimental Band is Sgt. Ivan Routledge (28), a trumpet player, he has been with the Battalion 12 years. He is married and his wife and two children are with the rest of the Battalion families in Northern Ireland.

"The Guyanese are keen on our band," said Sgt. Routledge. "You can tell that by the way they turn out at parades and other events to hear us play."

**Training Recruits**

One of my first calls in British Guiana was at the Headquarters of the new Guyana Defence Force in order to see something of their recruit training in which, following independence, the "Die-Hards" will be increasingly assisting throughout the rest of their stay in the country.

Lt.-Col. R. J. Pope, who commands the Force, has with him 14 other officers and warrant officers on loan from the British Army, plus the Middlesex personnel attached to his Training Wing.

In Guyana there is no problem over attracting recruits—the one problem is their selection. Only ten out of every 500 applicants are selected as Regulars, and some 20 more as volunteers.

The Force, when complete, will consist of a Headquarters, a regular Infantry Battalion, including armoured reconnaissance, an Engineer Company, a Voluntary Infantry Battalion, an air wing and a coast-guard wing.

But, my goodness, apart from their enthusiasm and a smartness of sorts on parade, this is really raw material that, from what I saw of it on exercise, will need a lot of knocking into shape before being capable of effectively taking over, although by order it has had to do so already, responsibility for the internal and external security of Guyana.

As well that they have first-class instructors—those of The Middlesex Regiment among them. For they need the best, nothing less, and in this respect are fortunate to have our co-operation.

One of the instructors I watched putting Guyanese recruits through their paces was C/Sgt. George Overton (33), who used to be attached to "D" Company, 5th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (T.A.), at the T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow. He is attached to the Guyana Defence Force as a drill instructor and supervisor on weapon training.

The Middlesex Liaison Officer with the G.D.F. is Major David Pike, M.C.

**"Thin Red Line"**

Over something like 14,000 of Guyana's 83,000 square miles the "Die Hards" have borne ultimate responsibility for maintaining peace and order. Nowhere is our Army's "thin red line" stretched tauter than this, yet—a tribute to their ubiquity, tact and toughness—somehow these 550 Middlesex soldiers have managed to cope.

One found their outposts in wild, remote places. At Wineperu, for instance, by the broad Essequibo River, where they do adventure training. To get there I flew in an Army helicopter from Atkinson Airfield over thick jungle. "Lots of snakes and other nasties down there," the young pilot cheerfully confided. I didn't doubt it.

Our landing place was a dust patch outside a bungalow on a hill-top overlooking the shimmering Essequibo—a patch little larger than the helicopter itself. Its whirring blades raised a dust-storm in the final moments of descent.

"That's why they're not hanging out the washing," grinned the pilot, as we stepped into a temperature of 122 degrees. The heat hit us like a hammer.

**Adventure Training**

Here, at Wineperu, they run seven days' adventure training courses which include raft building and raft sailing on the Essequibo, hunting and living out in the jungle.

I heard of the snake menace, of deadly vampire bats, of the land turtles and lurking caymen farther up river. When three fist-size dead spiders—black-haired tarantulas—were produced to me from an envelope I stepped hurriedly back, for the tarantula is no less repulsive looking in death than when alive.

Sgt. Don Da Dosta, who runs the courses with the help of a small staff, told me that local sunburn, unless properly guarded against, is more of a menace than mosquitoes.

From Wineperu we resumed our flight to an even more outlandish spot—Takama. The jungle gradually receded, and for the last few miles we skimmed low above the savannah—a vast treeless plain, a pale green wilderness, lifeless in the sunshine.

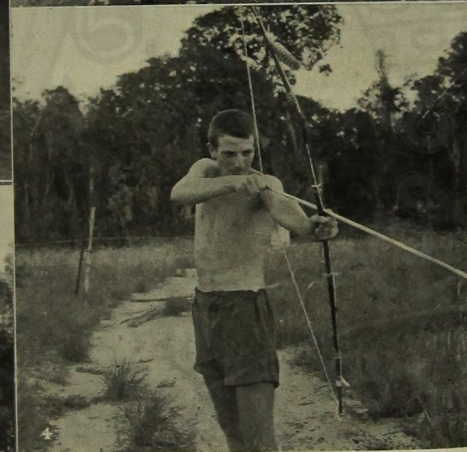
Takama. A collection of shacks with corrugated tin roofs, a kind of Wild West frontier outpost with Wild West nomenclature conferred upon it by the "Die Hards" sent here in turn to do small arms practice firing.

"Wells Fargo," read the name-board on the first building I saw when our landing dust had subsided. I was heading for the "Chuck Wagon" when I promptly



## 1st BATTALION

News in pictures ...



... from Guyana

1. "How much, man?" L/Cpl. Dave Dent buys a coconut in Georgetown Market.

2. Mana Patrol—L/Cpl. Derek Allen, "B" Company, leader of the Patrol, questions a Muslim who was attacked and beaten up a few minutes previously. Pte. Davis looks on.

3. "You're welcome man." Pte. Bob Wright offers a Georgetown donkeyman a cigarette.

4. Pte. Stephen Howick demonstrates use of his fishing bow.

(Photos: "Soldier")

changed course on being greeted pardner-like from the open doorway of "The Silver Dollar Saloon."

The time was 2 o'clock—past high noon, but a roaster still in Takama, where between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. activities cease because of the heat.

I met and chatted with the boys of 1 Platoon, "A" Company, and the Signals Platoon, among them Pte. Stephen Howick (18), Pte. Paul Shepherd (21), Pte. Alan Hill (18), Pte. Dennis Brodie (21), Pte. Anthony Storer (21), Pte. David Mansfield (21), Cpl. John Fenson (21), and Pte. David Plimsaul (19).

Howick and Shepherd told me how they had lain and listened the night before to pumas prowling in the surrounding savannah.

All the boys were in good heart, and there, at out-of-the-way Takama, as indeed at every other place I visited during my stay with the Battalion, one of the things that impressed me was a general keenness to save. Most men, I found, aimed at saving not less than £5 a week—but savings targets of £9 and £10 weekly were by no means uncommon.

As one Private put it: "Postings to places like British Guiana, where so much is done for you, and there isn't much to make you want to spend, provide a wonderful chance to save."

On the drive back that evening from Atkinson to Georgetown I simply had to stop at a bend in the road to gaze a while across the Demerara, a limpid expanse of watery gold stretching into the last of the sunset.

## Train to Rosignol

The train for Rosignol, connecting station for the New Amsterdam ferry and my onward road trip to "B" Company H.Q. on the Rose Hall sugar estate, left Georgetown at 8.15, taking three and a half hours for the 65 miles' run.

"You ought to go by train," I was told. "It's quite an experience." And so it proved.

Off we chuffed across the flat, arid countryside, at first through long rows of wooden houses perched on the by now familiar stilts. Our driver was in splendid form, and, whether as greeting or warning, kept tooting his whistle as we pounded along.

But now the houses began to thin out. Palms and wide stretches of open country took their place. Merrily we continued on our way, the carriage windows wide open to the sun. Our fellow passengers—a mixture of Indians, Africans and Chinese—were friendly enough without having much to say.

If the stations at which we called were hardly up to the best of British Railways, their refreshment charges put B.R. deep in the shade. A shilling for ten nice juicy mangos was what I paid one of the dusky lady platform vendors whose bananas were offered at bargain prices as well.

The train was late, and the ferry late in crossing the mile-wide Berbice River, but an Army truck awaited us on the other side to get us to Rose Hall.

## Alligator

At Rose Hall, down by the side of the River Canje, I made the acquaintance of Pte. "Dick" Barton (20), and Pte. James Alexander (25), both busily engaged on

construction of a raft to be used for adventure training.

Earlier, while accompanying Major Geoff Norton, the Company Commander, on a tour of the backdams—a chain of canals intersecting and irrigating the acres of tall, reed-like sugar cane—I encountered my first alligator—at a range of ten yards. Only its eyes appeared above the water—cold, goggle eyes that stared at me fixedly—and the tip of its snout, but suddenly, as if from nowhere, its tail lashed upwards when I threw a stone. There was an angry splash, and next moment he'd gone.

"Vicious brutes," said the Major. "We see a lot of them here. Best left alone."

It was while with "B" Company that I went to their first "jump-up"—a happy-go-lucky Caribbean style dance to the joy-jump music of a steel band.

## Out on Patrol

Not many hours later I went out on what they called "the Mara patrol" with L/Cpl. Derek Allen (22), (he enjoys hunting alligator); Pte. Mick Davies (23) and Pte. Les Forrest (18). Our driver was Pte. John Slater.

Object of this 60 miles' round trip motor patrol, which took us over rough, dusty tracks and through numerous Indian and African villages, was to check on any reports of incidents that might indicate trouble.

We drove straight into an incident on the way back when a middle-aged Muslim brandishing a broken stick, his shirt torn and blood streaming from a cut on his face, ran out into the roadway and waved us down.

Excitedly he indicated three men in a stationary car about 20 yards away, and accused them of having attacked him because of a family dispute.

L/Cpl. Allen handled the situation as coolly, as effectively as any veteran London bobby. Sternly he ordered the injured man to throw away his stick, bade him calm down, then proceeded to take short written statements from all concerned.

The incident closed on our side with those involved being quietly escorted to the nearest police station, where we left them for further interrogation.

Next day, at the village of Fyrish, near Port Morant, I watched about 50 coloured Boy Scouts and Girl Guides practising marching and rehearsing their part for a local flag-raising ceremony under the direction of Cpl. Dug Bassett (23).

Dug volunteered to train the youngsters after their Pastor had approached the Anti-Tank Platoon, appealing to it to help out.

## "Beating Retreat"

One has so very many memories of this visit to The Middlesex Regiment, and among my best is that of the "Beating of Retreat" by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums on the Parade Ground, Georgetown, on the eve of Guyana independence.

Under a warm night sky, in a tree-ringed arena, those "Die-Hards" musicians in their white tunics really put on a show—with a Caribbean number and some very special drumming included as extras for the benefit of the 10,000 Guyanese onlookers who thronged round the ground.

What an ovation they got as they marched off to the



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strains of the Regimental March! It occurred to me that they were marching off into history.

### Visit by Duke of Kent

While in Guyana with his Duchess to represent the Queen at the Independence celebrations, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent paid a mid-day social visit to the Battalion—first to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, then to the Officers' Mess.

An autographed photograph of the Duke which the Battalion Commander later received as a memento of his visit has been presented to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

I was present at the national display and flag-raising ceremony held in Queen Elizabeth II Park on the night of May 25, when at midnight the Union Jack was lowered, and the new five-colour Guyanese flag raised in its place.

The actual act of lowering the Union Jack was performed by a 22-year-old "Die-Hards" officer, 2/Lt. James Jonklaas.

Once again the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums, augmented on this occasion by the Police Band, gave a great performance.

The Battalion's part in the Independence celebrations may not have been spectacular, but in their planning and preparation it did some hard work behind the scenes.

### Goodbye "Die-Hards"

On Whit Sunday morning I again drove out to Atkinson Airfield to board the homegoing plane. The sun beat down as usual, just as it will be beating down now unless the long overdue rains have set in at last.

As we rose from the runway and turned seawards I looked back on Guyana for what, I imagine, was the last time.

Back on its unlimited sunshine; back on its sugar cane, its exotic trees and galaxy of flowers; and, in my mind's eye, on its broad rivers, jungle and savannah. Back on a jolly, light-hearted people who now that they have to stand on their own feet without any further bullying, any further buttressing, by the British, are going to find, and find soon, that there is more to the facts of life than celebration. Finally, a look back on my 14 happy, if crowded, days in the grand comradeship of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment.

"Why don't they send away the old 'Die-Hards'?"  
Why don't they send away the boys?  
All the lads in the Regiment are anxious to do or die—I don't think!  
Oh, why don't they send away the old 'Die-Hards'?"  
They're better than the Navy any day.  
And if it wasn't for the old 'Die-Hards,'  
Where would England be?  
B\_\_\_\_\_ if I know!  
Where would England be?"  
—The "Die-Hards" song.

Great Regiment. Great team. My association with them one of many very happy memories I am about to take away with me from Middlesex.

Bless 'em all!

### CAMBRIDGE WIVES' CLUB

The dust had barely settled after the last plane took off for British Guiana, when the Wives' Club were hard at it keeping spirits up and morale at 100 per cent.

Weekly coffee mornings are held in the Club Room by each company in rotation. Wives and children galore drop in to have a "cuppa" and a chat with friends, and talk over any health problems with Miss McCulloch, the local Welfare nurse, who often manages to get along. The Club Room decor has had a face lift with the long-awaited arrival of the new curtains. We are most thankful for all the furnishings provided which do a lot to alleviate the barrack room atmosphere.

Excursions to the local zoo, Tollymore Forest Reserve, and local beaches have been organised by the O.C. Rear Details and paid for by Battalion funds which have been most helpful. Unfortunately the weather has been typically Irish but we are hopeful for a hot and dry August, in which we can take full advantage of these coach trips.

Members of the Committee have organised regular weekly whist drives, table tennis and badminton evenings and many wives have taken it in turn to baby sit so that others could attend these and our Wives Club evening meetings, which are now held monthly. A fortnightly children's tombola afternoon has restarted and the bags of sweets have proved popular prizes.

The Nursery School continues to flourish with Mrs. Edey and Mrs. Elston, who work devotedly to teach and amuse the under fives. The nursery is now gay and bright with new curtains and equipment; the new play house proved most popular.

The Thrift Shop energetically run by Mrs. Fisher and her team always manages to attract wives each Thursday afternoon, as does the weekly Wives' Club tombola run by the nursery school in aid of Club and nursery funds.

The library is open three times a week and has its following of regular readers. We are most grateful to Mrs. Partridge for her endeavours in keeping the shelves restocked from Lisburn.

We have said farewell to a number of wives; among them Mrs. La Touche, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Tarry, who has given the Cub Pack so much of her time and energy. On behalf of the Wives' Club and Cubs, a picture was presented to Mrs. Tarry upon her departure and our best wishes go with her for the future.

In April we were invited to a social at the Lough View Ladies' Club and those able to go had a most enjoyable evening. At our May Club night we were able to return their hospitality and entertained over 60 guests.

At the beginning of June many Club members took advantage of the long school holidays and disappeared over the water to England. Many also to recuperate from our everlasting battle with the "elephant grass," hedges and weeds. It is said that many wives have blisters on their hands for the very first time.

The finish of the seamen's strike saw many relatives visiting us and it has been very pleasant to see some of them at our coffee mornings.

Since April, we have had our full quota of new babies,

some only just making the local hospitals in time. Neighbours and friends have rallied round the new mothers and tried to make up for the husbands' absence.

In general the wives left behind have kept their spirits up; we have had many problems to face but have always managed to find someone to help us. We are now preparing for a Bring and Buy Sale in early October to help fill in some of those never ending last weeks before our husbands return.

### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Off again—the Battalion Orderly Room has again moved the Battalion and the staff are now becoming quite expert at it. This move was somewhat easier than others because there were no families—much to everyone's dismay.

There have been quite a few changes in routine since we arrived here and for the most part all changes have been welcomed. The O.R.Q.M.S. has been initiated into the wonderful duties of the Orderly Officer, between his rowing training.

Guyana has impressed most people and, although some things are disappointing, a good time is had by all. The favourite pastime here seems to be the "Jump-Ups" and our "expert," Capt. Cheesman, could no doubt tell more about these local dances than most. "Jump-Ups" are closely followed in popularity by a nice cool drink of "rum 'n' coke."

Some of us have been to our Adventure Training Centre at Wineperu which is situated up the Essequibo River and is reached by ferry and road from Georgetown. At Wineperu students are taught the rudiments of jungle survival, and at the end of the week's course the party, normally six, builds a raft and sails down the river to the base camp from a point some five miles up the river at a place called "Kon-Tiki Island." This is all good fun and it makes a welcome change from the close confines of the Orderly Room. Other activities undertaken include trips to Kaieteur Falls (the highest single drop waterfall in the world with a sheer drop of 741 feet). Cpl. Mitch Fordham should be able to tell a lot about his (abortive) trip there—or should we say almost there.

Sgt. Mick Flynn, our Rear Party representative, is "missed" very much and all the questions which he cannot answer he passes on to us in the hope that we can—naturally we oblige every time.

L/Cpl. Mike Pedley and Pte. "Spike" Milligan have both learnt that XM Rum (the happy rum) is stronger than water and a little more expensive. Our Irishman, L/Cpl. John "Paddy" Doran, just wanders around muttering something about "Banks." We do not know whether he is talking about a brand of local beer or all the money he has saved whilst here in Guyana. We will not say anything about his amorous escapades but "57" has been mentioned.

Our typist, Guyanese-born Miss Una Bullen, has been a great help to us here and we will all be sorry to see her leave. There is some talk of a special box being made and sent by airfreight.

L/Cpl. Mike Pedley has been giving some very



valuable assistance to the "H.Q." Company (Georgetown) Office but he no sooner got it sorted out than he returned to us. Pte. Dave Bailes has also been detached from us for a short spell to work in the M.T. Office at Atkinson Field. It is thought that his girl friends find it hard to get sufficient cash together to pay for the long distance calls.

Pte. Ted Constant has been "turning out" his usual work and despite his frequent visits to the M.R.S., he still manages a smile and keeps on top of the job.

The R.S.M. has been appointed O.I.C. Football and has recently returned from a trip to Surinam where the Battalion team played two matches against the Dutch Army. Although the team was beaten in both games, he is more determined than ever that he will be on the winning side in the forthcoming Army Cup competition as team manager.

We are all now looking forward to going home a few short weeks from now and are just preparing the "ground work" for the impending move.

#### INTELLIGENCE SECTION

It has been four years since the Battalion included an Intelligence Section in its ranks. The Section was raised soon after the Battalion arrived in Holywood and has gone from strength to strength.

Lt. Packham and Sgt. Dowsett both attended the exclusive course at the School of Military Intelligence and returned assured with all kinds of ideas for improving the Section and establishing their own small "cell" within Battalion Headquarters.

We are a small but tightly-knit group of well trained specialists well versed in the intricacies of Map Marking, Collation, Operational Intelligence, Air Photograph Reading and many other complicated military techniques. A certain member of the Orderly Room Staff noted for his shiftiness and balding head would disagree with this description. However, he is constantly outwitted by the cutting remarks of "Acorn" and Cpl. "Jock" MacConnochie.

On arrival in Georgetown we were plunged into a world of patrol reports, sitreps and classified documents. At the end of April we were called upon to train the Intelligence Section of the Guyana Defence Force. This was hard work but thoroughly enjoyable and some useful international liaison was achieved.

In the middle of May the I.O., Cpl. MacConnochie and Pte. "Pots" Posthumus spent two very busy days assisting "B" Company with a patrol exercise for the G.D.F. at Mahaicony. During this exercise we were constantly worried that Posthumus might become an exercise casualty. The idea that our "boy from Bow" might be decorated after being fatally wounded was too terrible to contemplate. At the time of writing "Pots" is operating alone in the depths of North West District with "C" Company; we hope he returns unscathed.

Pte. "Dave" Watson left us recently with a "tape" and has joined "A" Company in a rifle platoon of all things. We sympathise but wish him well. In one sense

we were pleased to see him go as he had an unsteady influence on the I.O. at Company Smokers.

Sgt. Dowsett has spent most of his time in Guyana away from us at Wineperu. We hope that he is recognizable when he returns, as we have heard tales of what the bush can do to a man.

All applications for membership of this elite band of men should be made out on a five-pound note and delivered to the Intelligence Office.

#### MEDICAL

My impressions and ideas of "B.G." before this posting, being mainly based on imagination and on travellers tales, were somewhat misguided. These impressions were not entirely dispelled by my medical briefing before departure, when I was told of the presence of snakes, scorpions, poisonous spiders, vampire bats which carry rabies and all sorts of Frankensteinian horrors; together with all the other dreaded "Lergies" of a posting to the swampy, fever-ridden jungles. I was therefore ready for almost anything on arrival, so I was very pleasantly surprised to find, in fact, that we had been deposited in a very pleasant, sunny and comparatively healthy land.

We have, of course, had our problems, including ear infections, bronchitis, etc., together with some very tragic accidents and injuries, but by and large, from a medical point of view, this has been an interesting and happy posting.

Medical work in general has been made very much easier by the high standard of training, knowledge and efficiency of the Medical Centre Staff, ably supervised by Sgt. Fleet, Cpl. Murphy, L/Cpls. Greengrass and Morrison and our two new orderlies, L/Cpl. Glear and Pte. Pardoe have all distinguished themselves both at the Medical Centre and on location work and I can truly say that this is the most knowledgeable and efficient Medical Centre Staff that I have ever encountered in an Infantry Battalion.

One of the most interesting features of work out here has been the subsidiary function of dealing with civilian emergencies. We have given emergency treatment, mainly at M.R.S. Atkinson Base, to a large number of road traffic accidents (which seem to be a national sport out here) and for various other emergencies including snake bites, cutlass wounds (Two gladiators were once brought into the M.R.S. together, still locked in mortal combat), and drowning accidents, etc.

We have also tried whenever possible to assist the Amerindians at St. Cuthbert's Mission, who have virtually no medical cover whatsoever apart from what we provide. Two sessions of vaccination against small-pox were carried out here, the first with the aid of Sgt. Fleet and the second with the enthusiastic clerical assistance of our Quartermaster, Lt. Morris, and two of his staff, L/Cpl. Williamson and Pte. Jewell. We will long remember the return journey that day, since the track had been completely transformed by a tropical downpour into a river along almost the whole of its



The Medical Officer, Major Jones, R.A.M.C. and Sgt. Fleet at Charity Mission

(Photo: 'Soldier')

length. In many places this was two feet deep or more and we were very glad to see Atkinson that evening.

A very important feature out here has been the large number of "Casevacs" which have been achieved with the unstinted assistance of 1310 Flight R.A.F. Whirlwinds and 25 Army Air Corps Alouettes. The R.A.F. alone has carried out 50 of these "Mercy Missions" this year so far and 25 Flight numbers would bring the total to approximately a hundred; many of these being carried out in the most difficult and dangerous conditions. About two-thirds of these casualties were civilians and this has done a great deal to foster good relations. One cannot help but wonder what, if indeed anything, is going to replace this service when British troops withdraw.

Being the only Medical Officer, I have been rather "tied" and therefore unable to go out much to locations

and on Adventure Training expeditions, etc. Perhaps this is just as well since I am capable of losing my way even in Georgetown and I am assured on very good authority that it is much easier to get lost in the jungle.

Finally, I would like to say what a pleasure it has been looking after a Battalion whose morale and behaviour have always been at such a high level. There has been practically no "Lead Swinging" and very little late night "needlework" following "Punch-Ups," a regular and frustrating necessity with many Infantry Battalions. Other medical statistics too (perhaps better not specified in the Regimental Magazine) point to a high level of morale and one hopes that this happy state of affairs will continue to the end of our tour, which most of us will agree has been a most interesting and enjoyable one.

## Have you made a note of the dates?

SEE THE LIST OF  
FORTHCOMING EVENTS  
ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER



**P.R.I.**

While most of the Battalion have been emulating Col. Fawcett, the P.R.I. has remained close to the flesh pots of Georgetown. We could not persuade Sgt. Horder to come even this far. He preferred to take his chance as a civilian. We wish him the best of luck.

The P.R.I. has expanded (his staff, not his waistline). L/Cpl. Dent has joined us as N.C.O. i/c Films. Each week he selects some hoary old films from the local distributors, sticks them together, and sends them off to the outstations. Some of the films here would be rated as classics anywhere else in the world. For instance, we saw "All Quiet on the Water Front" a few weeks ago. It must be about six years old but it is still a general issue here. (Editor—Six?) Capt. Crumley found the pace out here too hot and is now on his way to Hong Kong to take over as Adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment from Capt. Lohan. Some people have all the luck!

Pte. Lim is still soldiering on in the shop. He has added the Battalion Sports Store to his empire. He sometimes mutters about joining a Rifle Company but then he decides that he gets quite enough exercise cycling down to Sun Tai Lee with the laundry.

**Messing**

The P.R.I. is also Force Messing Officer. Luckily he has W.O.2 Hynson and Sgt. Cowan to see him through. So far no one has starved to death which must be some sort of a recommendation. Sgt.-Major Hynson has to indent for and allocate the rations to all the Messes and

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# TV RENTALS

outstations. At times a computer would come in very handy—especially when people forget to indent! Sgt. Cowan is our trouble shooter. His motto is "Have ladle, will travel." And he certainly travels. There can hardly be a cookhouse out here in which he has not stirred it—with a ladle of course. At the last count there were 15 different cookhouses to visit. How peaceful it will be back in Holywood!!

**BATTALION PAY TEAM**

In March we welcomed Cpl. Anderson to the Pay Team. He has since become well established as "B" Company pay clerk, and it is hoped that he continues to enjoy his tour with the Battalion. His lively tongue has led to many verbal battles with Cpl. Hutchinson (and others!), but we are assured that, in spite of much evidence to the contrary, they remain the best of friends.

With the unit widely dispersed in Guyana, the pay team at times have appeared to be fighting a losing battle to keep up with the frequent changes of location. However, most of our "customers" seem to have received their pay without too much delay. After the initial rush to get up-to-date with the work that had caught up with us from Northern Ireland, and to get the new rates of pay and local overseas allowance into the pay books all the pay team have on various occasions ventured out of Georgetown.

Sgt. Hoare spent a few days at Mathews Ridge, and also accompanied "Q" Simms, Cpl. Foley and Cpl. Goddard on an abortive expedition to reach the Kaieteur Falls. Capt. Bryant and others have from time to time flown to Takama and Port Mourant in the "Cessna" light aircraft, ostensibly to deal with any pay queries but, if the truth were known, it is suspected that they merely wanted a little peace and quiet.

All the pay team have managed to participate in the various sporting activities available in Georgetown. The Paymaster has been seen at the Georgetown Cricket Club playing tennis, and he was also persuaded to take part in a squash tournament, but did not succeed in progressing beyond the first round. S/Sgt. Sabner has managed to get in a fair amount of golf at Lusignan, Cpl. Foley continues to persevere with his running, and the remainder of the pay team have played football and cricket with varying degrees of success. It is understood that there is a possibility, although remote, of Cpl. Hutchinson being included in the Battalion Cricket XI.

Thoughts of our return home are coming increasingly to the fore and some of the preparatory work for the move is already in hand. By Christmas, we will have a "New Look" pay team. Sgt. Hoare is leaving after five years with the Battalion; his departure to the Regimental Pay Office, Brighton, will be a great loss to the team. Cpls. Foley and Hutchinson are also moving on, to B.A.O.R. and Lisburn (H.Q. 39 Brigade) respectively. We shall no doubt continue to see Cpl. Hutchinson from time to time, as he will be just down the road from us in Palace Barracks. We would like to congratulate him on the occasion of his marriage before (but only just!) our departure for Guyana, and it is hoped that we will have the opportunity of meeting his wife on our return to Northern Ireland.

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## GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

The Guyana Defence Force—or G.D.F. as it is generally known—is a recently raised Force. The idea of a national army was first envisaged in early 1965 with the approach of Independence, and plans were quickly made to form a multiracial military force in which all races in Guyana would be represented. The G.D.F. barracks at Thomas Lands, Georgetown, were completed by September, 1965, and the first recruits received basic training a month later. Lt.-Col. R. Pope took command in December, 1965, as the Force's first Commanding Officer, and in June this year he was appointed Chief-of-Staff.

At present the G.D.F. consists of a Headquarters—including a Recruit Training Wing—one Regular Infantry Battalion (1 G.D.F.) and one Volunteer Infantry Battalion (2 G.D.F.) who were embodied into the G.D.F. from the old British Guiana Volunteer Force after independence. Following independence, the G.D.F. ceased to be under command of H.Q. British Forces (Guyana) and became solely responsible for day-to-day internal security duties within the country. Considerable expansion of the G.D.F. is planned for the



G.D.F. Signals Cadre with  
instructors

From left to right: Cpl. Hamill,  
Sgt. Fisher and Cpl. Ryan

(Photo: Cpl. J. M. Fordham)

## REAR DETAILS

The "Rear Details" consist of some 35 selected "specialists" from all departments of "H.Q." Company and it is our task to keep Palace Barracks, Holywood, going and the families happy.

After several postponements of Flights Four, Five and Six of the Battalion Main Body, on April 18 we waved farewell to the last aeroplane and the Rear Details finally settled down to operating as an independent body.

Originally it was intended that the Rear Details would consist of two officers and 33 soldiers but by April 18

future; with Air and Naval wings to be formed in 1967.

The Battalion has played a major part in G.D.F. training. Between April and August eight specialist cadres—intelligence, signals, P.T., M.T. (driving), water duties, stretcher bearer/first aid and assault pioneer—were arranged. In addition a training team consisting of Major J. I. D. Pike, M.C. (Liaison Officer), three Subaltern officers (Lt. H. Barstow, 2/Lt. J.D. Jonklaas and 2/Lt. S. M. Dowse) and three N.C.O.s (C/Sgt. Overton, Sgt. Da Costa and Cpl. McLean), were attached to G.D.F. Training Wing and made responsible for much of the basic, continuation and N.C.O. training. Everyone in the team has had much hard work to do, but results have been good and the effort worth while. It was particularly pleasing when Lt.-Col. Shipster took the salute at the passing-out parade on July 8 and congratulated all ranks on parade on their excellent turnout and bearing.

All "Die-Hards" in Guyana—especially the training team—send best wishes to their cheerful comrades in the Guyana Defence Force, and wish them all the very best of good fortune in the future.

Since their departure in mid-May we have had a Platoon each week from the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment to carry out the local guards. The smooth reception and accommodation of these different units owes much to the newly introduced Direct Accounting System for Barrack Accommodation and to W.O.2 Sid Michel and his team of Block Holders (Cpls. Bob Tuvey, Mick O'Brien and Jack Shearing).

As the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets made their departure on May 16 it was not possible for the Rear Details to have the traditional holiday. However, all members of the Rear Details, less those on essential duties, assembled in the Corporals' Mess on the evening of the 16th and after a sober reminder by Major M. E. Girling of the events that took place at Albuhera on May 16, 1811 we all settled down to a drink and buffet supper, for which Cpl. Paddy Murphy produced an excellent cold repast.

As the evening progressed we were entertained by some very fine singing by C/Sgt. John Potter and Pte. Fred Sutherland. We were even subjected to a few "Rebel Rousers" by our butcher, Pte. Mick Sherlock, or was it Cpl. Paddy Murphy?

By courtesy of the Royal Air Force five members of the Rear Details, namely W.O.2 Michel, Cpl. "Froggy" French, Ptes. Brian Jackson, Lawrence Betson and Les Hardman were treated to a free return trip to Great Britain for Whitsun. Of course this would not have been possible without the practical assistance of Lt. T. I. McMillan (Imprest Holder).

Soon after Albuhera Day C/Sgt. John Potter managed to get himself detached to the Army Reserve Camp, Chickerell, near Weymouth. He left Holywood on May 22 and it was noted that one item of his personal baggage was a large oblong bag. We have since heard that there are some very good "courses" along the Dorset coast!

Our one ceremonial occasion was to provide a party to form part of the Arena Lining Party on the occasion of the Government of Northern Ireland's Review and Drumhead Service in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in the presence of her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at Balmoral Showgrounds, Belfast, on July 4. The Lining Party consisted of Sgt. John Turner, Cpl. Bob Tuvey, L/Cpl. Dave Adams, Ptes. Brian Jackson, Phil Rogers and Ricky Herbert.

Her Majesty reviewed some 1,500 Veterans of the 36th (Ulster) Division who took a leading part in the first three days of the long series of battles. The review was a solemn occasion, enriched by the bearing and example of the Veterans on parade before Her Majesty.

Owing to the seamen's strike the North Irish Horse (T.A.) were unable to proceed to Great Britain for Summer Camp this year. As a result alternative means of training had to be found. Our assistance was asked for and granted in the form of Sgt. Turner. His instructiveness during the week he spent with the North Irish Horse (T.A.) was much appreciated.

All ranks were glad to hear the news from Guyana to the effect that Physical Efficiency Tests and Range Classification had to be completed by August 31. We

got off to a good start on July 22 when 16 of the Rear Details personnel carried out their P.E. Tests. The party was split up into two groups, both ably led by Major Girling and C.S.M. Michel respectively. The initial part of the test—the ten miles march—was covered with the greatest of ease.

Here it must be mentioned that no amount of persuasion on the part of "Froggy" French (35 on August 21) would convince the Sergeant-Major that it was unnecessary for him to do his P.E. Tests. Needless to say on July 16 "Froggy" was out there with the rest of us.

Still on the subject of training. Palace Barracks is to be graced with the presence of S/Sgt. Ted Girling, R.E.M.E. on August 5. Ted, who was posted from the 1st Battalion in November 1965, has not forgotten old ties and was only too glad to accept our invitation to assist in checking our weapons for serviceability prior to our range classification, which begins at Ballymena on August 15.

In the field of sport (cricket) the Rear Details have excelled with the following results:

June 29	1 M.X. Rear Details	44 runs all out
	R.A.F. Barons Court	40 runs all out
July 3	1 M.X. Rear Details	71 runs all out
	Queens University Staff	75 runs all out
July 9	1 M.X. Rear Details	93 runs all out
	1 Kings Detachment	46 runs all out
July 16	1 M.X. Rear Details	111 runs all out *
	Queens University Staff	98 runs all out
	* Jack Shearing 54 runs	

During July we lost the services of Sgts. George Horder, John Redrup and Pte. Peter King who have left us for richer pastures (civvy street). We wish them the best of luck.

Since the Battalion left Palace Barracks we have had the new Telephone Exchange installed in the Orderly Room. This means even less work for the switchboard operators Ptes. Larry Pocock, Mick Milsom, Les Hardman and Mick Boyle.

Pte. Ernie Powell after a short spell of "French" leave decided he would like to rejoin his Company who were in Guyana and emplaned at London en route for Guyana on July 27.

A few words on other Rear Details personalities before closing these notes will not go amiss.

Cpl. John Mitchell continues to perform the duties of Post N.C.O. most satisfactorily—apart from the odd letter from the Commanding Officer in Guyana which finds its way back to him.

Cpls. Len Robertson and Jack Shearing continue to make Friday night Tombola a big success.

Pte. Phil Rogers now finds himself working in the Orderly Room instead of being tucked away in the Quartermaster's office. His clerical knowledge is broadening and his typing is going from strength to strength—we will soon have him typing routine letters.

Pte. Tom Marshall has been chosen to represent Northern Ireland Command in the forthcoming Army



Dog Trials with his dog Caesar. We wish them every success.

The security of the Barracks is well protected by L/Cpl. Peter Norman and his Merry Band although it is noticeable that whenever it is necessary to escort a dog to Melton Mowbray L/Cpl. Norman is always the one queuing up for railway warrants.

In closing, the following are to be congratulated:

Lt. McMillan, Mick Milsom and Bruce Tarry; to each a son.

Pte. Brian Fryers on his marriage to Miss Alice Bigger at Albert Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on July 16.

Pte. Dennis Nagle who was married on July 29. Further details not yet known.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY (ATKINSON)

The last Notes advised that the Company had "split in two for sport." The split has now widened to include duty, and "H.Q." 1 and 2 have become "H.Q." (A) and "H.Q." (G). Each keeps its respectful distance of 25 miles from its other half. "H.Q." (A) has done rather well, having taken to itself Company "H.Q." M.T. Platoon, Q.M.s, the Drums, the Pioneers and some signallers.

Atkinson Base was ceded to the U.S.A. by Britain under the "Bases for Destroyers" deal in 1940. When British Guiana gained Independence on May 26, it was handed over to the Guyanese. This change, however, has made no difference to Major Hayward—congratulated on his promotion since last notes—who continues to enjoy the title of "Base Commander," nor to C.S.M. Eastap who is "Base Sergeant-Major." The Base comprises the Country's Airport, and is also the home of both the Training Company of the G.D.F. (Guyana Defence Force), and one Rifle Company of our own Battalion. We have had in rotation "A," "B" and "C" Companies with us at the Base. The day-to-day facts of life which we have learned to take for granted include the close proximity of the jungle; the whining over-head of helicopters—now only the Whirlwinds of 1310 Flight R.A.F., but until recently also the Alouettes of 25 Flight A.A.C.; the presence of R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E., R.A.M.C. and other Increment personnel of British Forces, Guyana; and the landing and taking-off of aircraft. The Camp enjoys the advantages of (over our Georgetown half) a 24-hour supply of hot and cold water, and of being first to receive the mail which makes Post N.C.O. L/Cpl. McKenzie the most welcome individual in the Battalion. We also have a fine swimming pool, which is always chlorinated and occasionally open! All "Akie-ites" have learned to go up the creek and down the trail. The main trails

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lead to St. Cuthbert's Mission (a fascinating Amerindian village), to Takama, a Platoon/Company location, and to Mackenzie, centre of the bauxite mining.

The months since arriving have seen much activity and a variety of events. Albuhera Day was duly celebrated with a resounding victory for the men over the combined Officers/N.C.O.s team in the popular swimming gala; then with a meal, served by the losers, which few will ever forget but some will never remember! The P.E. Tests have been completed and Range Classification is currently sorting out the marksmen from the failures. An A.C.E. 2 Course and an M.T. Cadre have been held. The Drums have been staunch allies of the Band in keeping the Battalion in the public eye.

They have also provided a background of music to daily life on the Base, and since converting themselves into a Steel Band (a Guyanese institution) have taken up such tunes as "Archie" and "Wings of a Dove" with "Black Orpheus" as their signature tune. The M.T. Platoon under Capt. Wild, and Lt. Morris and his Q.M. staff have done sterling work in ensuring the efficient administration of a very widely scattered Battalion. The Assault Pioneers have done many Trojan tasks, not least on the Takama trail. In the Signal Centre, Cpl. Ives and his men have coped with a very temperamental exchange. Major Dav Jones, R.A.M.C. (Welsh!), welcomed to the Battalion just before we flew out, has, with his staff, not only attended admirably to all our medical needs, but has had many civilian casualties pass through the Atkinson M.R.S. L/Cpl. Davidson (Drums) has played for the Battalion Soccer XI; while Cpl. Stewart (M.T.) and Cfmn. Houghton (R.E.M.E.) have played rugby for the Battalion; and Capt. Acheson (R.A.E.C.) refereed most of its matches before deciding to hang up his whistle and play for the Battalion!

Recent promotions, which earn our congratulations, have been Sgt. Hilton (Assault Pioneers), Sgt. Dawson (Drums), Cpl. Graham (Company H.Q.), L/Cpl. Flowerdew and L/Cpl. McGlade (M.T.), Cpl. Lawn and L/Cpl. Chapman (Drums) and L/Cpl. Harper (Weapon Training Stores). Capt. Gladden is congratulated on his marriage on St. Patrick's Day (alas! in England). Recent strength increases include L/Cpl. Burns (son), L/Cpl. Chalmers (daughter), Pte. Mallon (son), Pte. Keemer (son), L/Cpl. Constant (a monkey). Pte Gurr and Pte. Cross are in the expectant-father category. Cpl. Marquiss has returned to the Drums after two and a half years at the Depot, while L/Cpl. Chappell (Company Stores) has gone to Oswestry. Cpl. Harding, L/Cpl. Flowerdew and Pte. Washer (M.T.) are due for release shortly. Cpl. Berry (Police) has decided to soldier on! Cpl. Stopp (ex-Dog Section) has gone from us to "H.Q." (G), via "A" Company.

Flight dates for the Battalion's return have just been released, and thoughts are turning from the "green land of Guyana" to that of Erin. The only discernible difference between the two is that Guyana's equally incessant rain is infinitely warmer! If a second Irish winter of fog, snow and frost is the gloomy prospect, leave for all ranks is the cheering one from Atkinson Base. Back to the cold!

#### "H.Q." COMPANY (GEORGETOWN)

As explained in other parts of the Journal, it has been necessary to split "H.Q." Company into the Georgetown and Atkinson Base elements.

Whilst at Atkinson, the impression given is of a large flat air strip with buildings hidden away in scrub, and thousands of places to hide away, the Georgetown Company live in one building beside the North Atlantic Ocean in a semi-residential area—Mariners Club. An easy atmosphere exists, with a canteen, juke box, and swimming pool, to boast as amenities. The actual Company strength is about 100 men; however, there is always a large drifting satellite population passing through to Wineperu, Kaieteur Falls, and other places. The popularity lies in the very high standard of food that Cpl. Revera and Pte. Hazel produce—the best in Guyana. The town patrol also starts from Mariners and discipline in the form of Sgt. Brumwell, Cpl. Quilter, L/Cpl. Soall, L/Cpl. Read and others, stalks the town.

The football team trains here in the mornings—it has been a continuing source of amazement how they get such good football results by playing darts! The Company Commander and C.S.M. Elston sit at their desks through sounds of P.T., juke box and L/Cpl. Dent running through tomorrow night's film. Company Orders once took place to the musical accompaniment of "Custers Last Stand."

Cpl. Tydeman, Rouse, Bain, Mallon and McAnnan drive us to and from our work giving the impression of an easy life, which is shattered by eight persons sharing the back of an F.F.R. vehicle, because all the others are in workshops.

Cpl. Stopp joined us in July to take our mattresses away to limit our easy life, and to this the thought of the Band returning depresses even the most level headed.

Smokers come, smokers go—so does the Adjutant's suit as well! Jump-ups come, and drunkards go—early.

It is reliably predicted that life at easy Mariners Club will continue unchanged until the Company's departure for the U.K., and will then be pricked like the South Sea Bubble.

#### SIGNAL PLATOON

Our arrival in British Guiana, as it was then called, found the Signal Platoon stronger in numbers than it had been for many years. A total of 45 all ranks, under Capt. Cowing as Regimental Signal Officer, consisted of an additional and most welcome detachment of six Royal Signallers, a new cadre of 17 who had just finished three months training, a dozen or so who joined us in Gibraltar, four N.C.O.s fresh from the rigours of Hythe and a half-dozen "old sweats" (who said the emphasis was on the "old").

This anyway was the young Signal Platoon facing the quite unfamiliar problem of providing communications between Companies and sub-units of the Battalion, which were scattered over some 200 miles of coastline and penetrated the interior a hundred miles into the jungle. Not since a very long time had the Platoon carried out signalling on such a grand scale.

With a minimum of ten and as many as 17 stations on the net it would be difficult to recount all the activities of the Platoon. Suffice it to say that those who are not mentioned here, are, I hope, mentioned under Company notes elsewhere.

Our Headquarters Section and control station is situated at Mariners Club, Georgetown. Here, Pronto, resides as Minister of "External and Internal Affairs." He sits in state in the Signal Centre, from where control operates. Those who have had to do the often monotonous and tedious shifts in order to keep around the clock, seven days a week vigilance on the control radio set will look back with a sigh of relief over the past months. The leader of this ungallant band is Cpl. "Giggles" Barratt. He has led his followers with great success and is probably a "touch typist" by now. Only in one respect has he, and those with him, failed. The ever increasing flow of formal messages has not been stemmed.

At present Cpl. Morley of football fame (and also the ex-detachment N.C.O. of "A" Company) is about to usurp Cpl. Barratt's power in a take-over bid. It is rumoured that Cpl. Barratt is joining the Band, but that is not strictly true. With Cpl. Morley is L/Cpl. Terry Theobald about to start a pre-Hythe cadre, and promoted since Ireland. As an "old hand" we wish him well on the course and on the ladder of promotion. L/Cpl. "Volkers" Walsh is another who has taken a step up the ladder since leaving Ireland and to him also we wish every success. No one is quite sure if he was sent by Pronto to spy on those at Atkinson originally, and then recalled to the Kremlin and promoted; or if Atkinson sent him to spy on Pronto and the Kremlin. Nevertheless he keeps the control happy, composing ditties in his spare time. (Probably secret codes).

"Happy" Hayes is the only one of the four present operators not belonging to the "Pooh" Club. However, he does not seem to be offended and now his brother is at Legionnaires he probably would not want to become a member. The trio left are Ptes. Mick Brown, "Willie" Williams, and "Feathers" Featherstone. All are proud members of the "Pooh" Club. Feathers, a founder member, was the first Wineperuvian to return and it was thought, had he not done so when he did, he might well have "towed it" to the jungle and joined his brother "Howlers." Young Willie was not much better. By day he hunted with his bow and arrow. By night the fishes learnt to dread his fearful stab from a native "spear-type" harpoon. The third member to go to Winepooh was Mick Brown. He probably saved Willie but at some cost. A story reached control that in his two months there he began to teach the tame parrot some Spanish phrases, but that the parrot, not to be outdone, taught him some "English ones."

Mahaicony, known as the punishment station for signallers, closed and so it was decided to withdraw all good "Pooh" members and keep them at control. They were replaced by "Rolling" Stone and "Paddy" Glass (Royal Signals). Both are believed to be happy and soon out for parole.

Troglydites are creatures that live underground, and thus it may be the reason why Sgt. Weston who has



served the Signal Platoon for many eons, decided that this name could not be coupled with him. Alas he left us shortly on arrival and has gone to the Quartermaster's Department at Atkinson (where he still works underground). From all members of the Platoon both past and present our sincere good wishes and thanks.

At the same time we all welcome C/Sgt. "Wild Bill" Williamson as our new Chief Trog and hope that with the best part of three Battalions' worth of radio equipment, he will survive. "Down under," working with him, are Cpl. "Jock" Duffill (Royal Signals) our radio technician, Cpl. Jim Hannaford (the Colour-Sergeant's side kick) who is another of the favoured footballers and accompanied the tour to Surinam recently, L/Cpl. "Snowy" Phillips, whose father lives but a few miles from Georgetown and Sgmn. Carl Figiel. Without the efforts of our two Royal Signallers we would probably have ceased to function months ago. Pte. Henry Higgins, though only a semi-trog, still drives Pronto round the countryside and often drives him mad. Recently, however, Sgt. "Roving Pete" Stewart has been chief chauffeur, and surprise Saturday morning visits to sub-stations have produced amazing results.

Sgt. "Teacher" Fisher and Cpls. John Hamill and Pat Ryan have spent a great deal of their time teaching the Guyana Defence Force. A seven-week cadre produced excellent results and Lt.-Col. Pope's remarks about them at the final address were well deserved. All three recently returned from Hythe with good reports and are soon to start another cadre—this time a pre-Hythe cadre. May they be as successful as previously.

Both the junior N.C.O.s on return from Hythe went to Companies as Detachment Commanders and were able to practise the lessons learnt. Cpl. Ryan went to Rosehall with "B" Company. After almost blowing up the Signal Centre he settled down and his little group of L/Cpls. Mick Hutton, Tony King, "Paddy" Glass, "Rolling" Stone, "Scotty" Bob Halfman, Bob

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Hardy, Cpl. Jeff Smales (Royal Signals) and Jack Emerson, spread over three locations, worked together in harmony. (Please note Uncle Curly).

Cpl. Hamill went to "C" Company at Legionnaires. Greeted by Pte. Bob Webb and Signaller "Rick" Ward he was soon shown a C.11 and taught how to operate it. At Leonora, a (troublesome) outstation, he found Ptes. (now Lance-Corporal) Mick Reddings and Alan Costello (now at Atkinson telephone exchange). The other location was at Enmore where Pte. Ken Williams was the operator. He managed to stay with them, including a move to Port Mourant. The Recce Platoon known as "Late" c/s 5 managed to make the calls but were with monotonous regularity—late. On leaving Cpl. Hamill handed over to Cpl. "Fritz" Smith.

Since then Cpl. Smith has done four patrols, the last of which was at Baramita. Here, using a twin depot antenna and a SR 62 he was able to communicate with Port Mourant some 230 miles away and to relay for certain out-stations to Control! Not content with this, however, he contacted the Commanding Officer while he was flying in a Cessna. Not to be outdone the Commanding Officer spoke to the Adjutant while the latter was in his office at Georgetown, some 150 miles away, calling from the Cessna to the "remote" at Battalion Headquarters.

Atkinson Base is the "other" Headquarters—"H.Q." Company. It is here that the notorious "Eugene" Ives lives. In the daily life of the "Ives family" many interesting facets of Signals might well be recorded. However, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" and the most evil thing at Atkinson is a museum piece called the Telephone Exchange. To all those who work her, may they find peace of mind in the Emerald Isle. Their names are listed below as a living memorial: Ptes. Alan Costello, Bob Halfman, Terry Price, Ken Williams (late of "late" 5), Pete Day, Paul Ward, "Bootsie" Plimsaul and Tim Haynes (Royal Signals).

To all of them our deepest sympathy.

It would be wrong not to give a special mention to Pte. Ron West who left the Exchange and is now with "B" Company, as is "Toad" Harris. Similarly Keith Yielding who has disappeared to Port Mourant from the Exchange and joins "A" Company and Bob Hardy. Cpl. Smales (Royal Signals) is "A" Company Detachment N.C.O. at present and with him Ptes. Cleverly and Lagden, not forgetting Pte. Sharman, who is back to "batting" duties for the O.C.

Our strength has decreased by four overall. Pte. Mike Panting has moved to the M.T. Platoon as a 3-ton driver, while Pte. Constant is still in Northern Ireland, his future at present unknown. The two old stagers, L/Cpl. Larry Lambourne and Pte. Mick Gillham, have both left to try Civvy Street. I have it on good report that life outside is not so good and that Larry may come bounding back (if you do make it before the end of the year you're always very welcome). On that happy note we bid our readers farewell until Northern Ireland.

*"So it's back to the Emerald Isle we come,  
Leaving Guyana and the wonderful sun."*

## M.T. PLATOON

### Wild's Taxi Service Guyana

Shortly after our arrival in Guyana it soon became apparent that we were going to be very busy indeed. In spite of 83 vehicles operated by ourselves and an additional 29 operated by the Garrison "Increment" we found that the demand far exceeded our supply. C/Sgt. Cliff Shinn soon took a firm grip on the situation and a very strict control was kept on the "fleet." Periodically Companies appeared to get a "rush of blood to the head" normally all at the same time.

Guyanese roads are not the best in the world by any means and this hazard coupled with a great deal of cross-country usage soon found the R.E.M.E. L.A.D. under Sgt. Ray Joel full to capacity with vehicles which had some kind of disease! At times it seemed that there were more vehicles in the Repair Park than on the road! Maintenance and servicing also required careful planning as the vehicles in the Battalion were so widely dispersed throughout Guyana. Breakdowns occurred sometimes in the most inaccessible areas and recovery presented quite a problem. Generally these difficulties were overcome thanks to the assistance of 1310 Flight R.A.F. and 25 Flight A.A.C. Fitters, inspection teams and spare parts were flown all over the country at short notice.

After Independence the Guyana Defence Force requested assistance from the "Taxi Service" in training some 20 drivers. In addition an M.T. Cadre for a similar number of soldiers from the Battalion was undertaken. This work was passed into the able hands of Cpls. Ken Toohey and Alec Boyd. These two assisted by L/Cpl. John McGlade, Ptes. Bob Wright and Philip Roberts successfully completed both commitments.

The Platoon's Social Committee headed by Cpl. George Whitt was not completely idle. Several most enjoyable trips were arranged to St. Cuthbert's Amerindian Mission, 20 miles from Atkinson in the interior.

Our Managing Director, Capt. Jimmy Wild, soon established himself as chief "Trail Blazer." When told that the overland route to Takama was unusable he disappeared into the jungle for several days and returned tired but triumphant! Shortly after this exploit he vanished again to pioneer the overland route to the Kaieteur Falls via Mardia—again he was successful.

We congratulate the following on their recent promotion: Sgt. Ken McIntosh, Cpl. Alec Boyd, L/Cpls. Tom McCaig, John McGlade and Blossom Flowerdew.

A six months tour in South America obviously has its disadvantages but there is no doubt that all members of the Platoon are thoroughly enjoying themselves and learning a great deal.

## QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Like everybody else's, our notes are mainly about our move to, and life in, Guyana.

Cpl. French was left behind in Palace Barracks to hold the (Q.M.) fort. It appears from his signals to us that he is having a hard time coping with sleep and the test matches.



Q.M.'s Staff

From top to bottom: Lt. (Q.M.) R. E. B. Morris, R.Q.M.S. Simmons, Sgt. Weston, S/Sgt. Webb (R.E.M.E.), Sgt. Stubbings, Pte. Gurr, L/Cpl. Chalmers, Pte. O'Connor, Pte. Carpenter, L/Cpl. Burns, Pte. Amor, L/Cpl. Williamson, Cfmn. Emerson (R.E.M.E.), Cfmn. Collins (R.E.M.E.), Pte. Edwards and Miss Streete (civilian typist)

The Q.M. who arrived in Guyana with the Advance Party had a difficult job moving around to the many Company and Platoon locations taking over accommodation and equipment; in this he was ably supported by our newly-joined Armourer S/Sgt. Webb (R.E.M.E.). S/Sgt. Webb is not a complete stranger to us as he served as an armourer at the Brigade Depot and therefore already knew many "Die-Hards." (The Q.M. got so into the swing of "Takeover" that he went off to Surinam and tried taking over the Dutch Army there.)

Our main task here has been to take stock of and "digest" the large amount of equipment we took over, and to get it ready for "Final Disposal" on withdrawal of British troops from Guyana.

We have the usual catalogue of arrivals and departures, W.O.2 Michel joining us (on rear party at Palace Barracks) as Accommodation W.O. "R.E.M.E. wise" we have already mentioned S/Sgt. Webb and have also received into the Armourer's Section Cfmn. Collins and Emmerson who are both under the tutelage of our well-



known Cfmn. Houghton. Sgt. Weston joined us to assist in the disposal of G1098 equipment and has proved to be a great asset with his hard work and knowledge of accounting. Sgt. Lloyd also recently joined us to cope with our problems concerning the buildings in which our Companies and Platoons are billeted throughout Guyana, and he combines this with supervision of the Pioneer Section under Cpl. Jamieson. Cpl. Jamieson with Ptes. Gurr, Carpenter and O'Connor are taking on many tasks which are peculiar to Guyana such as manufacturing Arms Chests on a mass basis.

Arrivals in the Army usually at the same time bring departures. We have had to say goodbye to our former Armourer, S/Sgt. Girling (R.E.M.E.). He served nine years with the Battalion but told us he was past Field Service and took himself off to the Depot, North Irish Brigade.

Departures of a different sort were those of W.O.2 Lagden who moved across the road to become C.S.M. of "C" Company having handed over to W.O.2 Michel. Sgt. Argent who had the job of taking over all our accommodation and the maintaining it, has now turned tactical and become Platoon Sergeant of 1 Platoon in "A" Company.

Our strength has increased by the birth of a girl (Allison) to L/Cpl. and Mrs. Chalmers and a son (Sean) to L/Cpl. and Mrs. Burns. Pte. Gurr of the Paint shop not to be outdone got Mrs. Gurr to produce a son (David) showing that our Pioneers cannot be beaten. Sgt. Stubbings seeing all this going on promptly became the proud father of nine fine puppies; it is quite touching to see the pups looking up at "Bilko" with such faith in their eyes, especially when the Duty Drummer plays "Cookhouse"

#### ASSAULT PIONEERS

The new Section was formed on April 1, 1966, and as we are not bothered by superstition we have not let it worry us. The main job we were given was to maintain tracks and roads between Atkinson and Mackenzie and then from Mackenzie to Takama.

The Section was to consist of one Sergeant (Sgt. Hilton), one Corporal (L/Cpl. Rolph) and seven not so little dwarfs, from left to right in size, Ptes. Broderick, Brady, Barton and Sutliff (all 6 ft.), Ptes. Abrahams and Nesbit (5 ft. 10 in.) and not forgetting "Snowwhites Own," Pte. McVeigh (5 ft. 1 in.).

The first thing to do was have a look at the trails so off went our Sgt. with Capt. Wild to have a look at them, leaving the section behind to re-landscape Atkinson Base. Sgt. Hilton returned two days later looking a lot greyer and even more dejected. He also collected a hole in the head for his troubles, which the Section swears is still there.

It was decided to build a new road from the mining village of Ituni to Takama. This we did, cutting seven miles of thick jungle and bush in 14 days and building a wooden bridge, which we still insist C/Sgt. Clements will not break. The job finished we returned to the Base to build an Assault Course, and make enemies of the rest of the Battalion.

We have passed our P.E. tests, classified with rifle,

and provided members of the Section to keep Wineperu open. Apart from these tasks, we have assisted in building a new jungle range, and are about to assist in training the G.D.F. Assault Pioneers, to whom we wish the best of luck!

#### BAND

We introduce this year's autumn contribution to *The Die-Hards* with our flight out to Guyana, then British Guiana.

As you can probably imagine we left Northern Ireland during the cold wet spell early April '66. On April 18, after a three-hour delay at Aldergrove Airport we finally took off for Guyana. Our half-way stop at Santa Maria for re-fuel was to have been for about only two hours. However, after spending about one-and-a-half hours in the Airport bar-lounge it was announced that there would be a further three-hour delay—we were then informed that we would be entertained to dinner. As most of the Band had experienced Portuguese wine with dinner we were obliged to enlighten those of the Band and others who had not. A good time was had by all and the three-hour delay soon passed.

On arrival at Atkinson Base, Guyana, we were met by the Base Commander, Major Hayward, and the Bandmaster.

The Band's accommodation at the Base was exactly as we had been informed—shocking. The actual building had been an American Hospital during the last war, so you can probably guess that the maintenance on the building had been well neglected. The Band was stationed at Atkinson Base for about a month before moving down to Georgetown. Once in Georgetown we joined forces with the Corps of Drums in rehearsals for the Country's Independence Parade and celebrations (May 26, 1966).

Albuhera Day was celebrated in the usual manner with a voluntary Band and Drums playing and beating reveille outside the various Messes. Finally, the Officers and Sergeants joined the force and all marched round to the Garrison Commander's residence and played for his reveille. After the trog round all ended up in the Mariners Club for drinks. The merry making was going along quite happily until somebody amid the gathering shouted "in the pool." Well, from then on everybody had a drink whether they wanted one or not, some drink! From the Commanding Officer down— all had a drink, everybody was thrown into the swimming pool! So far the Band have only been able to play two cricket matches due to the weather conditions and other commitments. Both games have been against Mariners Club (where all the wasters reside). The first game was a draw due to bad light (April 30). Main features of this game were L/Cpl. Dennis Binns took a wicket with his first ball; Bds. Nash took a wicket with his fourth ball; L/Cpl. Clark was the top scorer with 23 runs. Scores were: Band, 100 to 9 declared; Mariners Club, 27 for 3. A couple of weeks later (May 12) we had a return match. This time the Band team completely routed Mariners, getting them all out for 29. Cpl. Cooper was the destroyer taking five wickets in three overs for one run. This included a hat-trick. The

Band also had a little bother starting but passed Mariners score with 3 wickets down. Bds. Roy Abrahams did a "Trevor Bailey" on us—35 minutes without scoring a run, but Cpl. Cooper was getting runs from the other end, it was enough for us to continue on our winning way.

After much "foot slogging" and rehearsals with the Guyana Police Band and Drums, we took part in the Independence Day Celebrations. For the actual Parade we joined forces with the Police Band and Drums so that we were able to dominate the Parade in "Black and White"!

The Band have had the usual run of Mess luncheons, dinner parties, etc. The mid-day luncheon party which followed the Independence Day was attended by H.R.H. Duke of Kent. Before leaving the Officers' Mess he was introduced to the Bandmaster and members of the Band.

Throughout our tour of Guyana we have given a series of public Bandstand Concerts in Georgetown; also Beat Retreat in the Independence Park, Georgetown, and given a weekly concert at the local hospital (St. Josephs).

It is so nice to be away from the smoky cities. Talking of smoking, several members of the Band have taken up pipe smoking and the Band have been invited to play at various Company "Smokers." The Company locations are up and down the country, so we have managed to see a little of Guyana. All Smoking Concerts have been well attended and enjoyed by all. One particular trip took us the whole day—travelling by train, boat and then truck. The train ride took us about four hours. Lt. Packham accompanied the Band on this trip and suggested that we take our own Bar. We did just that and the journey only seemed to take half as long. While on this trip to Port Mourant we not only played to the troops but to the local hospital and the Sugar Estate (Albion), not forgetting the Civic Centre. On our way back from Port Mourant we had to play at all the main stations; this was a request made by the Commanding Officer. Our trip to the Enmore Estate (Major Pollard's Company) was made very pleasant indeed. We joined in the swimming and played tennis in the afternoon. The Band gave a concert in the evening and then joined in the social drinking and chatter.

We held a Band and Drums "Jump-Up" "Getting to Know You" in the Toucan Club (the Garrison NAAFI, Georgetown) and the party was well supported by the female staffs of Messrs. Bookers Stores Ltd. and Messrs. Fogarty's Ltd.

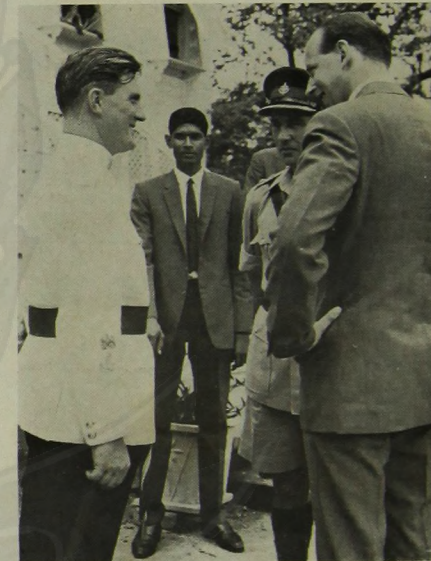
The local music has hit the Dance Band in the neck. We have found that the locals cannot really afford a European Dance Band plus the fact that they do not really appreciate our sort of music, so the Regimental Dance Band have been having a nice long rest. It is anticipated that they will be performing at the Queen's College shortly. All Mess functions, "Jump-Ups," etc., have had their music supplied by the local Music-Man (this chap plays a very loud gramophone) and recently by our own Corps of Drums Steel Band. As Band to Steel Band we really congratulate them on their fine effort and varied repertoire.

It was requested that the Band should play at the University Teachers' Training College as a tribute to

Mr. Potter, who composed the music for the Guyana National Anthem. Mr. Potter had recently retired as Principal of the Teachers Training University College in Guyana.

Early in May Bds. "Flogger" Hull and Terry Wright volunteered to go to Wineperu Sports and Adventure training centre, way up the Essequibo River. Both of them complained that it was hard graft and that they did not even get a shot at any wild life.

Since being posted to South America, Bds. Victor Peterson, who comes from Trinidad, has on occasions been able to get home to see his family. He has often invited many of his friends from the Band to spend a



(Photo: 'Soláier')

H.R.H. The Duke of Kent talking to Bandmaster McShane

weekend in Trinidad. Cpl. "Bonanza" Beano Rose thought for a time he was with the "Bandarosa" (Pondarosa) after battling with a horse that finally got away. He is now saying "A Horse, a Horse—My Flute—for a Horse." We understand that our recent arrangement by the Bandmaster of "Bonanza Ska" was dedicated to Cpl. Rose over the incident. The horse was owned by the local Fire Chief Inspector who lives in the vicinity of the Band's accommodation in Georgetown.

We would like to congratulate the following for attempting to swim while staying at the Mariners Club—Cpl. J. Chester, L/Cpl. D. Binns and L/Cpl. Bernard Yates, who now not only drinks like a fish, but swims like one too!



## CORPS OF DRUMS



(Photos: 'Soldier')

(Top) Independence Celebrations, Guyana—Beating of Retreat.

(Bottom) Corps of Drums playing in the garden of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, Georgetown, during the visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent

Cpl. Clive French and Bds. Roy Abrahams, Allen Slater and Victor Peterson took a week off to go with one of the organised trips through the jungle to see the Kaiteur Falls.

We congratulate L/Cpl. E. B. Crompton who celebrated his nine years' wedding anniversary on July 27, 1966.

One of our French horn players, Alfred (Alfie) Tubb went to the "Matterhorn" Bar to find out what was the "matter-with-his-horn." He returned with an echo effect. Our current signature tune is "Big, Big Bamboo" but we think we will change it to "Bye-Bye Black Bird." Band 1 XM oops! Sorry Band 1 MX.

## CORPS OF DRUMS

Since the last notes we have moved yet again, to the land of the sun and, XM rum (we think they are going to change the XM to MX and call us "The Happy Regiment"). We always thought that slavery had been abolished but we were soon to find out that this is not so.

Many things have happened to make our life out here happy and interesting. Several of the men have been to the Training Centre at Wineperu and we played in the Sergeants' Mess when the Duke of Kent was visiting; Beating Retreat; Flag-Raising Ceremony; Queen's Birthday Parade; and we have formed a Steel Band which plays at Company and Platoon "Smokers" and "Jump-Ups."

The Drums left Northern Ireland on April 17, and arrived at Atkinson Base on April 18, to be met by the Drum-Major who informed us that there was plenty of hard work to be done. He was not kidding and we went right into it that very morning, sorting out our new home.

Our first public performance was on Albuhera Day and we say that Georgetown still does not know what hit them. We think that the luckiest man in B.G. that day was the Governor and Commander-in-Chief. We often wonder if he would have appreciated it; we shall never know. The rest of the Garrison were not so lucky, however. Col. Dewar, the Garrison Commander, accepted it in good heart; in fact he was late for work waiting for us. He was in really good form and we played our "General Salute" which was "Wings of a Dove." We are sure that Georgetown will never forget "Our Day."

Two days before Independence Day we started the ball rolling with a Beating of Retreat. This was performed at the Parade Square in Waterloo Street and was a great success. We marched off and disappeared through "Red and Yellow" smoke. A remark from R.Q.M.S. G. Simmons was "It brought a lump in my throat to see them disappearing through the Old Red and Yellow." The following day we played outside the Sergeants' Mess while the Duke of Kent was visiting the W.O.s and Sergeants.

The Flag-Raising Ceremony took place on Independence Square at 2200 hrs., May 26. The massed Band and Drums were the first on parade. This was followed by Steel Bands, a P.T. display by the Guyana Defence Force and a parade of Toy Soldiers trained by

the Regimental Sergeant-Major, who not only showed them how to drill by numbers but laugh as well! They put on a fine performance with the Corps of Drums playing the music.

We have now formed a Steel Band with the aid of a local chap whom we know as "Danny." The Steel Band was accepted with mixed feelings by everyone and quite a few thought it to be a complete waste of money and time but they have all eaten their words because it undoubtedly has been the most successful thing the Drums have done in a long time.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us, especially the M.T. for putting up with us, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess for their support, and last, but not least, Danny, who made all the pans himself, 36 in all. Under his expert tuition we were able to do our first performance after only three weeks of hard practice, and since then we have had bookings a month in advance. We are looking forward to showing ourselves and the Regiment off when we get to Northern Ireland.

Cpl. Marquiss has rejoined us after two years as an instructor at the Junior Soldiers' Company at Canterbury. Welcome back. We would like to congratulate the following on promotion: Sgt. Dawson, Cpl. Parker, Cpl. Lawn, and L/Cpls. Davidson, Furlotte, Clare and Chapman, and also Harry Brodie and his wife on the birth of a baby boy. We are pleased to say that the boy looks more like his mother than his father. Thank goodness! Tony Cross has left the ranks of the bachelors and got himself hitched. We wish them both lots of luck.

A large calendar was fixed to the wall of the Drums Room with the amount of days to do. We were working on the assumption that our stay would be seven months but we found the days were going too quickly and we soon found out why. Our Harry was caught crossing off three days at a time. His excuse—he wanted to get home quicker. He was not kidding.

## THE DIE-HARDS

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## "A" COMPANY

Our final days in Northern Ireland were highlighted by Exercise "Mad Hatter." This was an Officers' and Sergeants' endurance exercise during which the C.S.M. proved that a four-point landing in soft mud from a stone wall guaranteed a graceful slide of some ten feet thus saving that amount of walking, and that solitary Irish rams were better avoided. Also the O.C. proved that one valley on the map could look exactly like another, thus creating substantial detours. However, once the exercise was over we were well into the throes of preparing for the Battalion move; our block leave period was from March 4-16 and the Advance Party was away on March 22.

We were extremely fortunate in having the task of taking over Diamond Estate and Takama Battle Camp with Company Headquarters and the Third Platoon at



Nature boys at Takama Creek

From left to right: L/Cpl. Daly, Cpl. Hart, Ptes. Shepherd, Howick, Murphy, Woodhouse

Atkinson Base to start our tour in Guyana. This far-flung empire proved a good chance for us all to see a very large amount of this extraordinary country in a short time; especially as we were given the task of mounting the first major expedition from the Battalion to Kamarang, the details of which are given elsewhere. Unfortunately due to unforeseen aircraft delays the main body did not arrive in Atkinson until April 17. No. 1 Platoon were pushed down to Diamond Estate very quickly, under command of Sgt. Willis as 2/Lt. Truman was away on the Kamarang trip. No. 3 Platoon, after a week's intensive preparation, were off to the interior on April 23 and two days later No. 4 Platoon, accompanied by the O.C. did the trip to Takama via the quaint, wild-west type railway from Georgetown to New Amsterdam and then by a very crowded ferry up the Berbice to Takama.

No. 4 Platoon's trip, for us who were of course very new to the country, was quite an experience. The Platoon arrived at New Amsterdam at about 1900 hrs. and were met by a very welcome group from "B" Company at Rose Hall who supplied tea and sandwiches. The ferry had left Georgetown on the evening of the previous Friday with Cpl. Blackman and a small party guarding 30 tons of stores on board. The ferry was due to leave New Amsterdam at 2100 hrs. By the time the Platoon 3-ton vehicle with trailer and all the soldiers had been packed aboard the M.V. *Pomeroon* it was within minutes of departure time. The small ship seemed to be dangerously overloaded and appeared to have sleeping figures packed three deep on every square foot of vacant deck space. However, she staggered away from the quay side and started on the long journey up river just about on time. The time table for the ferry gave the arrival time at Takama as 1500 hrs. (plus

or minus) the next day. This vague assurance that the Platoon would get there sometime was justified as the ferry, after docking at every mission, "stalling" (or quay) on the way, finally pulled into Takama "stalling" at 1900 hrs. By the time the stores had been off-loaded and the six-mile track journey to Takama had been completed it was nearly midnight and a very weary Platoon bedded down for the night in the old cattle sheds at Takama. The ensuing weeks were spent in some extremely useful mortar training and intensive camp maintenance and repair. The camp had been manned only by a small holding party for some weeks and had fallen badly into disrepair, so a large effort at cleaning up was required. An unfortunate misrepresentation of the order "to sweep through" found some of the Platoon armed with bass brooms clearing the area in rear of the cookhouse on an evening shortly after the

Platoon's arrival. This caused a plaintive cry from one of the party: "I've swept the . . . . . desert in Tobruk. I've swept the . . . . . jungle in South America. Next we'll all be at the North Pole white-washing the . . . . . snow." Despite such comment, with a big clean up all around, underbrush cut back, fences built and strengthened to keep out the cattle and a magnificent effort on the part of Ptes. Butler, Osborne, Wilson and Barlow by digging the finest deep trench latrine in South America, the fly menace was largely removed and the camp rapidly became a far more pleasant place to live in and a very successful Platoon shoot ended the Platoon's stay there.

No. 1 Platoon drove up from Atkinson by road on May 12, and after proving quite positively that a 3-ton vehicle would not go over one of the bridges near Takama, spent some three weeks there field firing. No. 4 Platoon drove down the same trail to Atkinson.

Albuhera Day was spent in as near traditional style as possible. No. 4 Platoon joined No. 3 Platoon at Diamond for a morning of inter-Platoon sport. All ranks joined together for a drink then No. 4 Platoon went back to Atkinson for the traditional lunch.

We were not directly involved in the Independence Celebrations in Georgetown but during the whole of the period of the Royal visit duties came very heavily, as we supplied stand-by Platoons at notice varying from three hours to immediate and it was with a great sense of relief that we acknowledged the transition of the

colony to Guyana. No. 3 Platoon supplied a small guard on Independence night to lower the Union Jack over Diamond at midnight. This was a successful ceremony and went off surprisingly quietly.

Shortly after Independence the Company change came around. We were fortunate to retain Diamond estate with its excellent club and other amenities but we became technically the Georgetown Company. No. 3 Platoon stayed at Diamond, No. 1 Platoon moved to Leonora on the west bank of the Demerara and Company Headquarters and No. 4 Platoon went to Legionnaires in Georgetown itself. This was a comparatively quiet period for us. Platoons changed around on the average of about once a fortnight, brisk patrolling and exploration of the Essequibo district and the islands in the mouth of the Essequibo was carried out and Company Headquarters managed to fly the O.C.'s flag at both Leonora and Diamond for about ten days each time. Meanwhile No. 1 Platoon proved the route for the Battalion series of visits to the Kaieteur falls. The rainy season was upon us and this caused severe flooding in places (Leonora had nine inches of rain in 12 hours on one night); it also brought a marked increase in mosquitoes and other fauna seeking shelter. The prize in this respect definitely goes to Lt. Daniell who at Legionnaires put his shirt on one morning and found there was a bat in it. The ensuing uproar was not lessened by references to belfries in connection with the same Platoon Commander.

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With the frequent Platoon changes it did not seem long before we were on the move once more, this time to the Berbice area. The move took place over the period July 14-20, and we are attentuated here by the temporary detachment of No. 4 Platoon to "C" Company at Atkinson in order that they may make another visit to Takama to use that unparalleled area for firing the remainder of the mortar ammunition entitlement. No. 3 Platoon at the time of writing are at Port Mourant with No. 1 Platoon and Company Headquarters at Enmore. Once again here the accent is on patrolling and adventure training, principally exploring the various large rivers that abound here.

The accent in the sports field has been on the Battalion soccer and rugby teams. C/Sgt. Miles has appeared regularly for the Soccer XI and Lt. Lowrie and Cpl. Blackburn for the Rugby XV. Inter-Platoon and inter-Company sport has proved difficult due to the great distances involved but numerous sports have been played against local teams, not the least of which has been the strong team fielded regularly at Diamond by Bookers and Fogartys stores in the local game known as Jump-Up. These were without exception enormously successful matches and we suffered no casualties from them; we hope to continue these fixtures at Enmore and Port Mourant against more local talent.

The Company strength has been maintained at a fairly steady 100 since our arrival here. Since the last issue of the Journal we have bid farewell to Sgt. Willis to the Sergeants' Mess at Atkinson, Cpl. Blackburn (only temporarily we hope) to the R.P., Ptes. Broome and Fogel to the Officers' Mess in Georgetown and Pte. Davey who has left us to move to civilian life. We wish him all the best in the plumbing trade. We welcome Lt. Lowrie, Sgt. Argent, Cpls. Plumb and Terry, L/Cpl. Watson, Ptes. McLaughlin, Quinn, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, Kowatch, Barnett, Cunningham and Goodwin who have joined us either from other Companies or from the Depot. Our congratulations go to Capt. and Mrs. Clarke on the arrival of twins and to Sgt. and Mrs. Shave and Pte. and Mrs. Cleverly on the safe arrival of a son each.

We are now more than halfway through our tour here. We have become used to sugar estates and of their main by-product locally known as The Happy Stuff. We have got used to building bashas and living in the jungle. Stories of tarantulas, caymans, camoudis, banks and other local beasts are prevalent and after the swamps of Fort Island the bogs of Derry will present little problem. Even the rain here has proved as dry as it was in Ireland. We are all still enjoying life and many of us will be sorry to leave. This then is a dual farewell from "A" Company; from Guyana and from "A" Company 1 Mx. as our next submission to journal notes will be as "A" Company 4 Queens in Ireland.

## Christmas Cards

Full details and prices on page 292

### KAMARANG EXPEDITION 1966

The operational situation was very quiet at the time the Battalion arrived. Independence was a matter of only a few weeks ahead and all political parties in the country appeared reconciled to it. It was decided to try and explore as much of the country as possible and particularly to show the presence of British troops on the Venezuelan frontier. The G.S.O. I of the headquarters that became H.Q. British Troops, Guyana, was a Middlesex Officer, Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden, and in consultation with the Commanding Officer it was agreed that the first expedition should be a Platoon penetrating and thoroughly exploring the area of the border to the north and south of the Kamarang river.

The Kamarang river rises in the west of Venezuela, crosses the border into Guyana and meanders some 40 miles due east before joining the huge Mazaruni river at Kamarang village. The area is very thickly wooded, with a very steep, jungle-covered 4,000-ft. escarpment running roughly parallel to the border and lying about ten miles inside Guyana. It is wild, very rugged country and "going" in almost all areas is slow, tiring and time consuming. There are two savannah areas, one on the slopes of Mount Holitipu and the other on top of the escarpment south and west of Great Falls.

There are occasional scattered Amerindian settlements and farms in the jungle and several "porknocker" camps in the area where prospecting for gold and diamonds is carried on throughout the year. The village of Kamarang is the administrative centre of the area and has an air strip to which there is a regular Guyana Airways Dakota service from Atkinson Field. To the west of Kamarang, particularly along the border, the country is unsurveyed and is little known by Europeans. There are Amerindian "lines," or trails, which lead across the border and it has been long suspected that these are used for illicit gold and diamond traffic with Venezuela. It was discovered that in the north-west of the area, across the Wenamu river on the Venezuelan side of the border there is mining activity of some sort and a good all weather road has been built leading north-west towards Caracas, but there is no regular large scale commercial traffic across the border.

It was decided that "A" Company based at Atkinson Field should be given this task and the expedition was to last a fortnight, from April 23 to May 7. The aim of the expedition was given to the Company Commander: "To operate a number of patrols in the area Kaikan to Great Falls based on Paruima with the purpose of:

- Obtaining up-to-date information of the frontier itself and all river and track routes leading to the frontier.
- Introducing members of the Guyana Defence Force to this area of Guyana.
- Visiting and obtaining help and co-operation from the Amerindians of the area and maintaining a link with the people of the Border area."

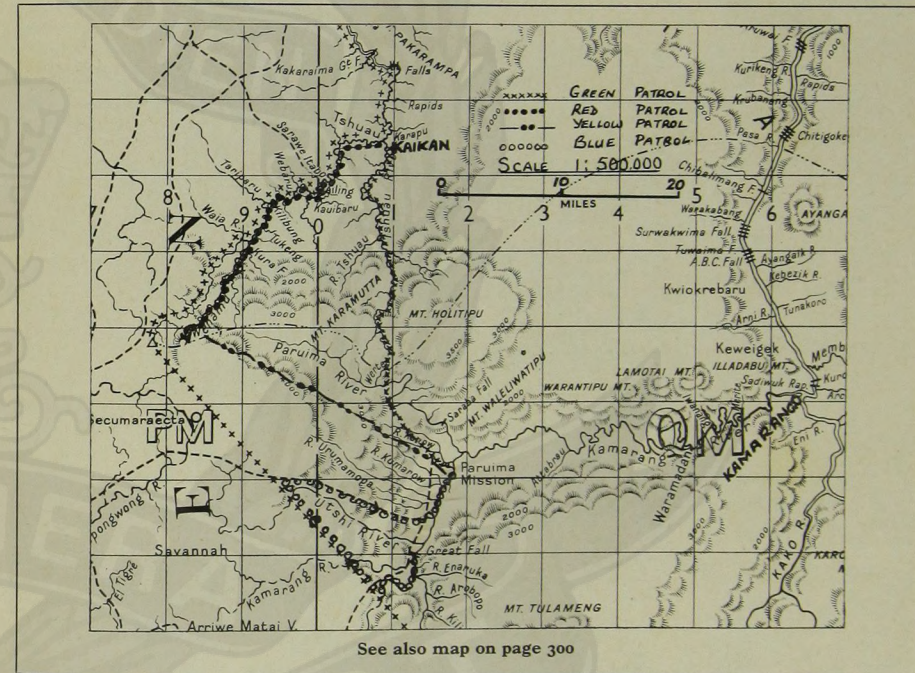
The forward base, to be set up at Paruima Mission was to act as a liaison link between the patrols and the

rear base at Kamarang village. At Kamarang were to be sited helicopters of 1310 Transport Flight R.A.F. from Atkinson Field. The Platoon was to be flown to Kamarang from Atkinson by chartered Dakota and four patrols were to be lifted from Kamarang to various start points by helicopter.

Merely for ease of reference the patrols were given a colour nickname, Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. Each patrol had an N.C.O. from the Guyana Defence Force moving with it and two, Red and Blue, had a constable of the Guyana Police Force. Red patrol was commanded by the Platoon Commander, Blue by the Sergeant and the other two by Corporals. The strength of each patrol was five or six including G.D.F. and Police. The

to Waramadan and move by boat to Kamarang. The start point for Blue patrol was on top of the escarpment on the open savannah at Great Falls. Their task was to follow the Kuna river to the frontier, move along the frontier to the Utshi river and work down the Utshi to Paruima.

The G.S.O.I, the Commanding Officer and O.C. "A" Company carried out a reconnaissance of the complete area by light aircraft on April 21 and met Mr. Harry Turner who is the District Officer at Kamarang. As a result of this reconnaissance the plan was slightly altered with reference to Red and Yellow routes which, even from the air, looked very hard going for unacclimatised troops. The return to Waramadan and Kamarang



planned patrol routes are shown on the map; Red and Green started from Kaikan, Red to move up the Wenamu to the headwater and then if possible through to the savannah on top of the escarpment and Green to travel down the Tshuau river to Paruima and thence by boat to Kamarang.

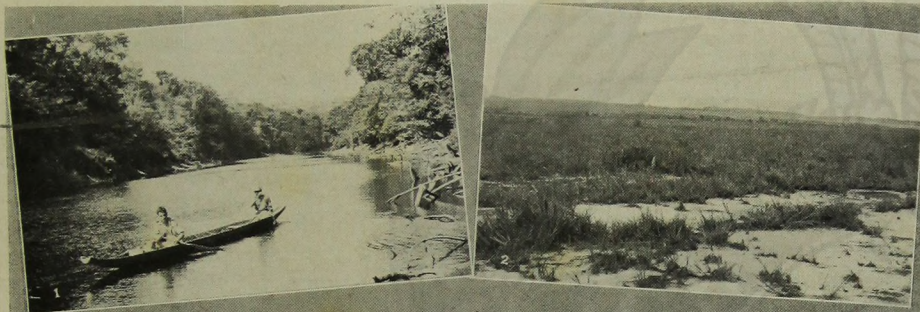
Yellow patrol were to start from Paruima and move up the Paruima river to the headwater. They were to attempt to penetrate up the escarpment to cut through to the Wenamu and possibly link up with Red patrol. They were then to return, following the escarpment line

was deleted from Yellow route and in each case a fixed date for onward penetration was established by O.C. "A" Company, and if in the opinion of the patrol leader the full route could not be completed they were to turn back. In the event no one turned back but certain variations of route were made for various reasons which will be described later.

The patrols were flown to Kamarang on the morning of April 23. They stayed there overnight and on Sunday, April 24 were lifted on to their start points. They remained at their start for that day to reconnoitre



## KAMARANG EXPEDITION



1. Cpl. Thorpe in his dug out along the Kamarang River
2. Savannah—Mt. Ayanganna in the distance
3. Yellow patrol—Typical close country
4. Green patrol—Ptes. Lee and Rice, and L/Cpl. Deepnarine (G.D.F.)
5. Base Party Paruima—Pte. Daly (38) and Lt. Truman

the immediate area and arrange guides and boats and they all moved off on their routes on Monday, April 25.

The expedition now broke into its four components excluding the base party, and each of the patrols has a quite different story to tell. In addition to the formal report given by each patrol commander, they were ordered to maintain a detailed, day-to-day diary of their experiences and these, slightly paraphrased, were attached as Annexes to the official expedition report which was forwarded to H.Q. British Forces, Guyana. They make most interesting reading. Due to the wild nature of the country, Red and Yellow patrols had the most formidable tasks.

Red patrol along the Wenamu river which in itself forms the frontier for a large part of its length, was led by Lt. Lowrie. Although he managed to move by hired dug out for the first few days, the portages became more and more frequent due to large falls and rapids and solid packs of fallen trees and on Sunday, May 1 he had to abandon the boats. It was at this point that his guide and some other Amerindians with him informed him that they were in unexplored territory and they had never been further up river. Meanwhile on the first helicopter resupply day he had been forced to evacuate two of the soldiers of his patrol who were suffering from acute sunburn on their faces and hands. The only other casualty on this patrol was the Guyana Police representative, Constable Jervis, who kept going very well indeed until he suddenly collapsed. He was flown back to Paruima and as he celebrated his 50th birthday there on May 5 he had put up a remarkable effort. This patrol was the only one of the four that had any luck in seeing much wild life. Besides cayman, a profusion of bird life and monkeys, some of the fauna came a little too close for comfort as when Lt. Lowrie, leading the patrol up the river bed jumping from rock to rock, landed with one DMS boot firmly on the back of a Carpet Labarriere, a snake which has a reputation exceeding its very venomous appearance. His immediately ensuing agile back flip into the river was watched with admiration by the members of his patrol and the snake was despatched by the guide with a machete. The rest of their patrol was an exhausting business of cutting "lines" up the river bank until they nearly reached the foot of the escarpment where they cleared an L.Z. for their second supply drop. When the helicopter landed they were advised that the best area for an L.Z. for their final pick up was a large area of flat rock about five miles back down river. As it was Tuesday, May 3, Lt. Lowrie decided to press on by himself and the next day left the remainder of the patrol under the G.D.F. N.C.O. to retrace their steps and prepare the L.Z. The patrol then only consisted of the G.D.F. N.C.O., one Private and two Amerindians. Lt. Lowrie set off at about 0700 hrs. on Wednesday, May 4 and was moving quickly through a patch of jungle when, to quote his diary: "Reached a very large fork in river, shown on map. Came face to face with Venezuelan Stephano Diemerto who was carrying a sawn off shot-gun. I heard him coming through the undergrowth and had my weapon cocked as I thought it might have been a wild tapir. Thank heavens we didn't shoot each other." Diemerto turned out to be a

road worker out on a little hunting expedition of his own and appeared friendly. He gave Lt. Lowrie a great deal of information about the mining and road building activities going on just over the border. Shortly after leaving Diemerto, Lt. Lowrie managed to get to the top of the escarpment (the river by this time was a waterfall) and spent the night tied in the fork of a tree having taken bearings on the mine workings on the other side of the border visible from his height. He rejoined his patrol the next day and on May 6 they were flown back to Kamarang, having covered some 87 miles by dug-out canoe and on foot.

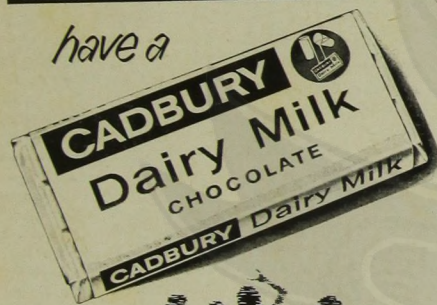
Yellow patrol had the task of tracing the Paruima river to its headwater. This patrol was led by Cpl. Robinson, and the entire journey was undertaken on foot as the Paruima proved too obstructed by rapids, falls and fallen trees to be navigable even by local canoe. They managed to find an Indian line which ran roughly parallel to the river and which took them past the Saraba Falls; they crossed the river at this stage and continued on another Indian line. They had been joined by three or four Amerindian hunters who stayed with them until the end of the patrol. On Wednesday, April 27 they stopped on the edge of the river; they had cast around for any clearing in the jungle that could be converted into an L.Z. but there was nothing suitable. In the end they felled trees to lie across the river as a D.Z. and spread their air recognition panels on them. This was desperately hard work but they managed to complete the D.Z. by mid-day the following day. There appeared to be plenty of space for the helicopter to get down to them but they had underestimated the width of the gap at tree-top height. When the helicopter arrived at about 1530 hrs. the pilot managed to lower the rations and stores to them by tying an additional 150 ft. of rope to his winch, such was the height of the surrounding trees. The patrol moved off on the following day and "ran out of trail," to quote Cpl. Robinson's diary. In fact the trail petered out in the middle of dense jungle and the Amerindians claimed they did not know the area and were not prepared to try and guide the patrol further though they wished to stay with the patrol as protection against "tigers." Cpl. Robinson cut through to the river bank and from there kept as close to the river as he could. By Monday, May 2 they had pushed well towards the source of the river but the shortage of suitable L.Z. sites was giving them much cause for anxiety. They managed to clear a site; on Tuesday the helicopter arrived. Again it was unable to land and dropped a message suggesting the patrol retraced their steps about six miles to a likely-looking island in the river. Meanwhile Cpl. Robinson had pushed on with one man and had reached the point where the Paruima was a mere trickle falling down a sheer cliff face. He carried out a reconnaissance of this cliff and decided that he had neither the equipment nor the time to scale it. He thus penetrated to the head-water but could not cut through to the Wenamu.

On Wednesday, May 4 they made their way back to the island and started to clear it. Despite brushes with several hornets' nests they managed to clear it sufficiently for the helicopter to land by about 10 o'clock the next morning. The helicopter got in safely with O.C.



and C.S.M. "A" Company on board. The patrol were pleased to see their visitors as they were the first people to be seen to speak to in ten days. The next day they were lifted out direct to Kamarang. This patrol had one of the toughest treks of the four, covering over 50 miles on foot through thick jungle, and it was fortunate that all its members were among the longer serving members of the Platoon. Even so, Cpl. Robinson was given due credit for leadership and tenacity of a high order in getting his Platoon through extremely difficult country to their objective.

Blue patrol was the other patrol beside Red whose route took them along the border itself. The patrol was led by Sgt. Shave and included not only a G.D.F. N.C.O., but also Constable Dover of the Guyana Police. They were dropped on the very open, shadeless savannah around Great Falls on Sunday, April 24 and moved off from there in the early morning on Monday. One very fair-skinned soldier began to blister very badly on his face and hands through acute sunburn before they had gone very far even though both Sunday and Monday had been overcast. As they were on top of the escarpment at this point, they were at a height of about 4,000 ft. The soldier was obviously in great pain by the time they camped that night and the next day they rested up in the hope that a helicopter would fly a check patrol on them so that he could be evacuated. Unfortunately the helicopter programme had had to be curtailed slightly due to fuel shortage at Kamarang and no



it's part of the  
**GOOD LIFE**

missions were flown in the Great Falls area that day. Sgt. Shave left the three private soldiers of the patrol together under command of the senior soldier, and pushed on for two days with Constable Dover and the G.D.F. N.C.O. They followed their planned route almost exactly but then deviated from it in that on reaching the Utshi river they turned back to where they had left the other members of the patrol. On arrival at their camp they found that the soldier had been evacuated. The next day they set out again and by mid-morning had hit a good line which took them down the line of the Utshi and Kamarang rivers to Paruima over about two or three days. They arrived at Paruima by mid-afternoon on May 2 and stayed with forward base until being flown back with them to Kamarang on May 6.

The last patrol, Green, was led by Cpl. Thorpe, a young N.C.O. of under three years' service. On leaving Kaikan he found the Tshuuu to be a very narrow stream and it appeared to Thorpe that very soon they were going to run out of river. Their guide claimed he knew of a regular line to Paruima and Thorpe agreed to follow this line, which took them in a wide sweep to the west slope of Mount Holitipu and across Mount Waleliwatipu. The going throughout was comparatively easy and they were only slowed slightly by one soldier who had slipped and fallen whilst fully loaded and had pulled a muscle in consequence. The main problem to be met in going so far off route was that they missed their first resupply day as the helicopter was unable to find them. However, they had taken a good supply of packet soups with them and lived on these during the last day of the journey to Paruima where they arrived at about 1230 hrs. on April 30. The next few days were spent in negotiating for a boat and learning how to handle it on the river around Paruima. They set off for Kamarang on May 4 and paddled along the Kamarang with few portages and little incident until reaching Kamarang at about 1530 hrs. on May 5 having spent the night at Waramadan.

All patrols assembled at Kamarang by mid-day on May 6, mostly tired but all conscious of a considerable sense of achievement. This was slightly dampened by the Platoon taking on a local Amerindian team at cricket on the afternoon of May 6 and getting soundly beaten.

It was considered that various modifications in kit and equipment would have been advantageous, governed by the fact that the only possible means of supply in that country is by helicopter. The men carried '44 pattern large packs on an A41 carrier frame and all were armed with S.M.G.s. Compo rations for four days were carried and resupply took place every fourth day. Red and Yellow patrols both managed to supplement their rations with fish, and in the latter case a type of bush turkey called "Powis." It was generally agreed that Bergen rucksacks would have been better if they had been available or, as a local purchase alternative, the Amerindian carrier known as a "Warishi." With very little training it was found that large amounts of rations and stores could be carried by this means with no undue discomfort or strain. No issue man-pack wireless was available that would work in these conditions and communications, especially for emergency, were a worry. Each patrol had a Verey pistol and air recogni-

tion panels and two patrols, Red and Yellow, had Sarbe beacons. These homing devices for Whirlwind helicopters proved invaluable for Red patrol but unfortunately the one supplied to Yellow was unserviceable. (The supply of these beacons was improved for future patrols.) In the meanwhile the liaison between patrols and helicopters depended on the skill of the pilots of the Kamarang detachment of 1310 Transport Flight Royal Air Force under the command of Flight-Lieutenant D. L. Mitchell. Fortunately the enthusiasm and skill shown by all ranks of this detachment was such that no onward incidents occurred.

The patrol leaders accepted the advice of their Amerindian guides when it was available. This proved to be acceptable in the case of all patrols except Green which was led badly astray. The Amerindians are honest enough to admit immediately when they are in country that is unknown to them but another factor of which all patrols were unaware is that the Amerindians are nearly all Seventh Day Adventists and therefore refuse to work on Saturdays.

The patrols managed to camp at or near Amerindian shelters at least until entering hitherto unexplored areas. All ranks soon became very adept at building "bashas" for themselves; for instruction in the finer points of this the Amerindian guides proved most useful. The health of the patrols remained good throughout and insects proved no great problem. As had been pointed out, the preparation of L.Z.s in thick bush gave considerable difficulty as the size of the "hole" at tree top height proved very difficult to judge from ground level.

All managed to achieve the aim set for them although there were certain variations of route as originally set. Many lessons were learnt—some the hard way; in the case of at least two patrols they will know now not to build "bashas" within range of a Whirlwind's rotors. However, the mistakes made were greatly offset by the great value of this experience to the young soldiers so soon after arrival in Guyana, by the rare opportunity for individual leadership offered and taken by the junior N.C.O.s and by the greatly valuable lessons in jungle craft absorbed by all ranks on the expedition. The soldiers reflected with some pride that they not only introduced members of the Guyana Defence Force and Police to parts of their own country but some Amerindians as well.

### MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES

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

### "B" COMPANY

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards*, five months of our tour in "B.G." now Guyana, have already elapsed. The next issue we are told, since the announcement of the formation of the "Large" Regiment on December 31, is likely to be the last. This is therefore a somewhat sad occasion as the following notes will be the last from "B" Company, 1 Middlesex, to be seen in print. Doubtless "B" Company, 4 Queen's, will continue to be as big a headache to the "Kremlin" as their illustrious forebears, so perhaps all will not be lost in the changeover!

The "B.G." tour started (appropriately enough) with the arrival of the Advance Party on March 23, at Atkinson Field. This Party, after a hurried breakfast, was moved with indecent (we thought) haste by 1 King's vehicles to Georgetown and bundled on to the train for the Berbice area. We were therefore unable to do more than catch a glimpse of the Capital City at this time. Apart from registering the fact that being almost entirely a city built of wood it must surely be an insurance agents' nightmare, we thought it should provide an interesting pyrotechnic display if I.S. duties were to become reality. We were glad it was not to be our "baby."

The Georgetown to Rosignol Railway is a single track line along the coastal plain connecting the Demerara to the Berbice. The trains are somewhat ancient with the exception of one or two diesel locos, and the carriages, whilst clean, are not, to say the least, designed for passengers' rear-end comfort! The four-hour journey, however, was interesting if unhurried, and we obtained our first glimpse of the country and its people. Time, we soon discovered, has no great meaning as the train driver stopped frequently to pick up casual passengers en route, and on at least one occasion to have a chat to a relative who lived near the tracks!

On arrival at Rosignol we had our first view of the Berbice River, and New Amsterdam on the far bank. From the train we transferred to the Ferry, a modern vehicle and passenger vessel but whose schedule, like that of the train, bore only casual relation to the printed timetable. The river here is almost three quarters of a mile wide and in common with all rivers in Guyana is a muddy chocolate-brown colour. On the New Amsterdam side we met our temporary "hosts," 1 Kings, and were taken by vehicle to our new home at Rosehall Estate, situated on the Canje River some five miles outside the town.

Accommodation here was good as Company Headquarters and one Platoon occupied a compound containing five wooden bungalows. The Senior Staff Club also in this Compound (including an air-conditioned cinema) with all its facilities were available to the military and it looked to be, and was, a pleasant spot. Relationships with the estate staff were excellent and augured well for the future. There was, alas, no swimming pool at Rosehall, but Albion some 50 minutes drive away provided this luxury.

The next day saw the start of the takeover from the Kings and the initial prongs into our area of responsibility. Time was also spent in meeting all the local personalities, our opposite numbers in the police,



and in preparation for the arrival of the main body of the Company. During this period we were also introduced to the mysteries of the "Jump Up" when the Kings threw a final farewell party before leaving. "Jump Ups" have to be seen to be understood, or believed, and whilst now we are somewhat blasé about them the initiation is somewhat shattering to those used to conventional dances.

On April 7, the main body of the Company eventually arrived, and on the 8th we assumed responsibility for the Internal Security, until Independence, of the Berbice. Platoons were based at Port Mourant and Mahaicony with Company Headquarters at Rosehall. It is interesting to note here the extent of the area the Company was to control. The Berbice, site of many of the original Dutch Settlements in the early 17th century, now consists of an area bounded to the West by the Abary River and to the East by the majestic Corentyne River. It contains centrally the great Berbice River, with its tributary, the Canje, on which stands New Amsterdam, the second largest town in Guyana. The Berbice itself penetrates some 220 miles inland to the south and this mileage is very considerably increased if the tortuous path of the river is followed. The Canje, from which much of the water for the irrigation of the sugar estates is taken, reaches some 90 miles inland and at its source is only some five to six miles from the Corentyne.

The region is divided North to South into three basic areas. There is a coastal belt some 50 miles long and from 20 to 25 miles in depth, which is irrigated by a network of some 2,500 miles of canals. The bulk of the population live in this area, which comprises also the economic heart of the Region. The coastal plain merges into a belt of primary jungle some 30 miles deep, which in turn gives way to the great Savanna area in which large cattle ranches flourish. This savanna area in turn merges into primary jungle, which covers the remainder of the interior up to the Brazilian border.

Maps in the H.Q. of the Guyana Police "B" Division, which controls the Berbice, shows the police boundaries as containing 16,922 square miles with a population of some 234,729. The Police Division consists of some 207 ordinary constables with in addition 50 special branch officers and "B" Company was, at this time, 110 all ranks. It is of interest to note therefore, that this produces a policeman, and half a soldier per 1,000 head of population. To this must be added the Mahaicony area, of some 5,000 square miles, outside the Berbice, for which the Company was also responsible. In all a fairly sizeable area in the event of I.S. duties!

Fortunately the bulk of the population is centred in the coastal plain along the coastal road, which within the Company area was a mere 2,000 square miles. This of course reduced the problems somewhat.

The coastal belt, with which we were mostly concerned, comprises almost the entire area of economic activity in the region. From West to East this consists in general terms of coconut plantations in the Mahaicony area, rice growing between the Abary and the Berbice, the main sugar growing areas centred on the Berbice and Canje Rivers, rice in the Government sponsored Black

Bush Polder (Dam) area towards the Corentyne and finally the last sugar plantation at Skeldon on the Corentyne itself. These main areas of agriculture are of course interspaced with small holding farms producing vegetables and general market garden produce. To the south and inland the jungle produces timber which is floated down the river to the saw mills at New Amsterdam, whilst the Savanna areas, though of poor quality soil and grasses, support large herds of cattle. On the Berbice River are the large bauxite open cast mines at Kwakwani, whose ore is taken by barge for processing to a plant at Overton just South of New Amsterdam and then shipped overseas. Apart from this the area is entirely agricultural and industry as such does not exist. The majority of the working population is almost entirely engaged in, or associated with, the production of sugar.

From a multitudinous collection of sugar plantations originally established, since 1627, on the Berbice, have emerged the four large grinding estates of today. Blairmont on the west bank of the Berbice (which also includes a cattle ranch of some 6,000 head of cattle grazed on 15,000 acres of pasture), Rosehall on the Canje, Albion which includes the old Port Mourant Estates and Skeldon on the Corentyne. Of the 330,000 tons of sugar grown annually in Guyana these estates between them produce some 120,000 to 125,000 tons and have 38,500 acres of sugar currently under cultivation employing some 19,000 staff.

From the historical aspect there are many signs of the old Dutch plantations, and the ruins of old forts are to be found on the canals and along the river. At Rosehall there is a stretch of some two or three miles of one of the old Dutch canals dug some 200 years ago. Now overgrown, it provides a bird sanctuary in which 23 identified different species are known to exist, some of them quite rare. In living memory too are tales of the remains of an old Dutch schooner which was entombed in this canal and though the ship itself is no longer to be found, old timbers can still be discovered in the bed of the canal.

With the arrival of the Company a busy period was spent on intensive foot and vehicle patrolling, both for I.S. purposes and of course, familiarisation with our area and its key points. For the next two months "B" Company vehicles averaged well over 2,000 miles per month and a great deal of local knowledge was obtained.

It was not all work however. Sport against the locals' team was played to a great extent, alligators were to be found in plentiful supply on the estates and patrols were sent up the rivers. These river patrols provided an element of adventure training and produced a great deal of information on which future and deeper penetrations into the interior were based. Platoons changed locations every three weeks in order to see more of the country and to prevent monotony where facilities were limited. This applied particularly to the Mahaicony area which, though interesting, required a constant 24 hour a day battle with the mosquitoes that lived by the million in the swamps and coconut plantations. This menace, though never entirely overcome, was brought under control by hard work, D.D.T. and the use of constant copra fires (coconut shells) on the perimeter.

The Company spent Albuhera Day with traditional celebrations in locations and a representative party from all Platoons attended a church service at Rosehall, the Padre flying down by Cessna to conduct the service.

During this period occurred an unfortunate accident when a routine patrol Landrover overturned in the Backdam area of the Black Bush Polder. Thanks to the great presence of mind and resource shown by Pte. Perry, helicopter casevac was obtained in time and four very badly injured soldiers, L/Cpl. Fish, Ptes. Cargill, Lister and Gardiner were in hospital in a few hours. For his conduct in this accident Pte. Perry has been commended by the G.O.C. in "C" Southern Command, a copy of which appears at the end of these notes. We were very pleased to see that at the time of writing Ptes. Gardiner and Lister have rejoined the Rear Party in Holywood. We hope the other two will soon join them.

The Company also suffered the tragic loss of its R.E.M.E. vehicle fitter Cpl. Fairbrother who was stabbed to death in New Amsterdam by what turned out to be a well-known and violent criminal. This was a most tragic and pointless killing, and the Company extends its deepest condolences to Cpl. Fairbrother's parents in their bereavement.

During Independence Week the Company stood by but fortunately there was no trouble and the period, which included the visit of their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent, passed uneventfully. The only exception to this being No. 8 Platoon's gallant defence of Mohammand Raffi, the local Indian Pop singer, who was besieged by frantic fans in the theatre in Port Mourant. There is now one Platoon Commander in the Company who will in future know the difference between a rioting mob and a teenage fan club seeking its idol.

On May 27 we handed over Rosehall and the responsibility for the I.S. in the Berbice to the newly formed Guyana Defence Force. Port Mourant was taken over by the Recce Platoon and the Company moved to Atkinson Field. No. 5 Platoon had at this time built themselves a raft and Sgt. Ormerod with L/Cpl. Hendly, Ptes. Alexander, Anderson, Davies and Dunsby set off for Takama, 110 miles up the Berbice where the remainder of the Platoon was to join them by road via the Mackenzie Trail. The raft eventually arrived much to the amazement and against the predictions of many of the locals.

No. 6 Platoon were unfortunately left to sweat it out a little longer at Mahaicony but rejoined eventually on June 8. Here Lt. Bartlett took his leave of the Platoon to become the R.S.O.'s understudy in preparation for his Signals Course at Hythe. He has our sympathies. The Company received in return 2/Lt. Gouda, just arrived from the R.M.A.S., who had no idea of the fate in store for him in the form of No. 6 Platoon. He seems to have recovered from the initial shock as he is still with us, though of course there is no accounting for taste.

Also at this time the Company 2IC, Capt. Legg, was dragged (struggling mightily to the bitter end) into the office of the P.R.I. and is now helplessly enmeshed in "tinned equivalent" tied up neatly with reels of

"celluloid classics." We were joined in body by Capt. Lofting fresh from the "genteel" life as A.D.C. in Aden. He has not yet recovered from the shock and his spirit often seems elsewhere. Or perhaps it is just that far-away look in his eyes as he passes by muttering about M.C.A., canteen deficiencies, 1514's, Jump-ups and the Company M.T. It is nice to know though, that he has a full two years to straighten out all the books when we get home.

The period between June 1 and mid-July was spent mainly at Takama where the Platoons carried out infantry training, field firing and P.E. tests. No. 8 Platoon managed another cadre, taking their guns, "Pixie" and "Ballerina" (1953 model prototype Mobats) to Takama and fired in all directions, including that of the Battalion 2IC and the Adjutant!

During this period the Company carried out a ten-day helicopter mounted and supplied operation at Orealla, a large Amerindian reserve, on the Corentyne. This was mounted from Takama, as forward base, by No. 6 Platoon and Company H.Q. and proved an interesting and rewarding experience. Patrols visited all the local countryside and made recce of the 79-mile land route in detail from Kwakwani on the Berbice to Orealla, a route disused for some years. Re-supply and collection of patrols was carried out by helicopter and we learned a great deal about using this means of transport and living in the jungle. Company H.Q. had (as usual) the soft end of the job living in the Amerindian village, studying the people and the river traffic on the Coren-

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"The Raft—Home is where you make it"

From left to right: Ptes. Alexander, Anderson and Dunsby

tyne. Capt. Lofting (still muttering) managed to take for all our wants on the re-supply and the operation went very smoothly indeed. The only person eager to leave the village was the C.S.M. who was pursued throughout by two elderly Amerindian grandmothers, giggling like schoolgirls—we always knew there was more under that "Crome Dome" than met the eye. The operation was marred, however, by an unfortunate accident when Pte. Bartlett fell off the stelling (jetty) in the village and broke his neck. Bartlett was evacuated by helicopter to the Mercy Hospital, Georgetown, paralysed from the neck down. He has since been flown home to the U.K. to Stoke Mandeville Hospital where we hope he will recover the use of his limbs again. Our sympathies are extended to him and his parents and our hopes for an eventual recovery went with him.

The end of the Takama period saw the indefatigable No. 8 Platoon on another long range patrol involving a jungle march and dinghy trip down the Demerara. Unfortunately the patrol found itself in the most difficult jungle country and unable to keep anything other than a rough course. This resulted in a three-day search for the missing members of the patrol, who were without food for this period, and the abandoning of the river part of the trip. A great many lessons were learned the hard way on this patrol, not the least of which was that the Company Commander discovered it is an unnerving proposition flying in a helicopter at night through a tropical storm, over jungle, with the fuel gauge registering zero. One unexplained phenomenon of this episode is, however, puzzling the Company. How did Pte. Cannon survive for three days without food in the company of his Platoon Commander, a well-known

Gourmand? Is there something wrong with Cannon we wonder? Or did the "chopper" find them just in time?

On July 18 and 19 we moved again—this time to the Georgetown circuit and the bright "lights," feeling a little like country cousins in the big city. This particular period has, however, provided a welcome break from an almost continual period out in the "sticks," and we have been able to relax somewhat from military activities. So far we have had "jump-ups" at Diamond and Leonora Estates, a band night at Legionnaires, and hope to have one or two more functions before we move again. Fourteen of the Company are at present visiting Kaieteur Falls, and No. 6 Platoon complete is to march there as an adventure training scheme in mid-August. Patrols have also visited the islands at the mouth of the Essequibo river, with more to follow. By the end of August we hope we will have managed to classify on the range at Atkinson. In fairness, due warning has already been passed to all airline companies operating scheduled flights in and out of the base, that between mid-August and September 1 they do so entirely at their own risk.

On September 3 we move back to the Berbice, for the last period before our return to Hollywood. Platoons will be stationed at the Enmore Estate with Company H.Q., and at Port Mourant again. The Company appear pleased with this prospect, though what the Berbicians will feel remains to be seen. Then if all goes to plan (we've heard that before too) the Company are scheduled to return to Hollywood in early October, with the prospect of 28 days leave (great), and that of facing another winter (with dry rain) in the Emerald Isle (Ugh!).

Whilst the Guyana Tour is not yet over the final lap is in sight. In retrospect so far, the Company has enjoyed its stay and the opportunity to see so much of the country. A great deal has been learned, even if only how not to do it, and we are all a great deal fitter and self-reliant. The Company promises faithfully, however, to "Screw-In" the first person who mentions 6 a.m. P.T. once we are back in Hollywood.

#### GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF'S COMMENDATION

##### 24020340 Pte. Terence John Perry The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

24020340 Pte. Terence John Perry born September 14, 1946, joined the Army on July 20, 1964. He completed his training at the Home Counties Brigade Depot, and joined the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) in Gibraltar in late 1964, and has served with the Battalion since then in Northern Ireland, and currently in Guyana (then British Guiana).

On April 26, 1966, Pte. Perry was a member of an Internal Security routine patrol, in company with a N.C.O. and four other soldiers, in the Corentyne district of British Guiana. In the course of this patrol, the patrol vehicle overturned in a remote area some miles from habitation. Pte. Perry was thrown out of the vehicle and suffered bad bruising, lacerations, a badly sprained leg and minor concussion. His companions were all seriously hurt, one with a smashed leg, three



Pte. T. J. Perry

with fractured skulls, one with apparent internal injuries. All were unconscious.

Despite his own shocked, dazed condition Pte. Perry at once administered such first aid as he could and made the casualties as comfortable as possible. He then went backwards and forwards to a nearby stream to wet towels to bathe the dirt and dust from the casualties, and in an attempt to keep them cool in the heat.

After some time a vehicle approached the scene. Pte. Perry stopped this and asked the driver to begin the evacuation of his comrades to the nearest hospital some 20 miles away. He supervised and assisted with the loading of the casualties. He stopped and did the same

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with several vehicles until all the casualties had been evacuated from the scene. He then stopped a motorcyclist and briefed him to report the accident to the nearest Police Station, and to inform his own Platoon Commander of the situation.

Pte. Perry then gathered up all the arms, ammunition and equipment of the patrol and remained on guard over them and the smashed vehicle until the arrival of the police some hour or more later. He then handed over the weapons and ammunition of the patrol, less his own, to the safe custody of the police. He refused to leave the scene until the arrival of his Company 2IC, and remained at his self-appointed post until properly relieved. He later was taken to hospital for treatment of his own injuries.

From the time of the accident, despite his own injuries, his calmness, initiative and presence of mind were entirely responsible for the fact that his comrades received prompt medical attention and enabled evacuation by helicopter to be organised quickly. Furthermore, arms and ammunition in an operational Internal Security area were not lost.

His coolness at a time of crisis, and his sense of duty under very difficult conditions, have served as an example to his Battalion.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief directs that an entry shall be made in the relevant documents in accordance with Queen's Regulations, paragraph 1633(0).



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## OF RIVERS AND PLAINS

By Lt. M. B. Montgomery

Four-hundred years ago, when Sir Walter Raleigh first saw Guyana, he called it "El Dorado," the land of gold. He was closer to the truth than he realised. Today "pork-nockers," the local prospectors, find gold and diamonds in virtually every creek of the Northern half of the country. Despite this, the land has remained virtually untouched, apart from a few bush negroes, who formed small communities after having been forced into the interior as a result of the 1763 slave uprisings, a few bauxite mining towns, and the cattle ranchers of the South West. Even now Guyana offers a wealth of unexplored jungle for the adventurous, and the wide rivers remain as the only routes to the plains.

Guyana, until recently a British Colony of some 600,000 people, still keeps her secrets. Surprisingly little is known about her beyond the densely populated coastal fringe. To obtain information about the country patrols were sent up the major waterways. The country is divided by the many river systems—in the West the Essequibo, Mazaruni and Guyuni complex, in the East the Demerara and Berbice. The following story is based on two of these patrols; the first a boat trip up the Berbice to discover how far that river was navigable, the second a foot patrol across the plains which divide the two rivers. The second patrol carried dinghies which were to be used to paddle down the Demerara River, and so link together the Eastern part of the country.

## "Stop the boat, I want to get off . . ."

The first patrol was launched from New Amsterdam at the mouth of the Berbice River. After a fortnight's delay during which we organised stores and fuel we at last heard that the boat and boatman loaned to us by the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics were waiting for us at the Department jetty. Accordingly, Cpl. Bassett, Ptes. McLelland and O'Regan and myself presented ourselves at the waterfront on Monday, April 18, 1966. The morning mist had still not cleared from the river, indeed it was barely light, so anxious were we to get under way. Our enthusiasm got us nowhere—we soon discovered that we had brought the wrong grade of engine oil, and that we would have to wait until the stores had opened, and Mr. Harris, the boatman, had collected his tools. It was about this time, as the first toucan cleared its throat and the dense mist began to move down river that we first set eyes upon the vessel that was to be our home for the next week or so. First impressions are often misleading, but there was little to deceive one about this boat. She was about 27 feet long and belonged to the "punt" class of sailing ships. Flat-bottomed and nearly awash, her hull was filthy and had not seen a coat of paint for years. Her engine, however, was enormous—a 40 h.p. Buccaneer, which must have weighed 2cwt. Shortly after being reassured by the sight of a so-obviously competent engine, we were however, set sharply back on our heels by the sight of Mr. Harris and a fellow boatman struggling towards us with a spare engine. He obviously did not share our confidence in the first!

By lunchtime we were 60 miles from the coast and sufficiently well organised on board to start taking note of our surroundings. We had stopped at Torani for "elevenses," and to talk to the owner of a floating supermarket. He persuaded us to sample a drop of his personal home-brewed rum, which though horribly overstrength, had a very fine flavour and would have made a pleasant enough drink if produced with a little more attention to detail. The river there was broad and smooth, its colour the consistency of weak drinking chocolate, the banks muddy and heavily overgrown. We were beginning to see some game; at first there were only small alligators which hurried into the water as soon as they heard our engine, but just short of Torani we saw our first Canje pheasants, large reddish-brown birds, now becoming rare. The workers at the hydraulics station had caught an Armadillo which was shortly to become the main ingredient in a "Guyana stew"; later we were to pass another one swimming across the river.

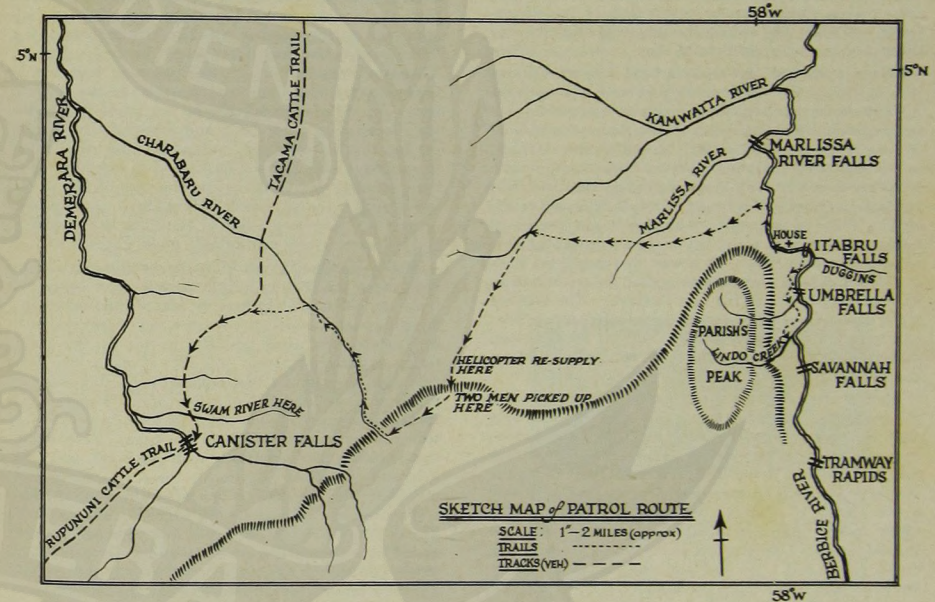
Past Torani towards Fort Nassau, an old Dutch stronghold famous for its part in the slave uprisings, which has now almost rotted back into the jungle, the river-bank began to change slightly. It was now slightly higher, and every few miles the trees had been cut back to leave room for small groups of ramshackle houses built on stilts and occupied by Amerindians. By the time we reached Tacama stelling (near the battle camp which was to be our resting place for the night), it was beginning to get dark and we had been obliged to grope our way up the river using torches to search for obstacles such as sunken logs, alligators and other boats. Eventually we found the stelling and were met by a small party of "A" Company who had already been waiting for some hours, and were not enchanted by life on the riverbank at night. We at least managed a good night's rest in fairly comfortable conditions and were able to make an early start the following morning. The river at this point was much more interesting—now slightly narrower we were able to see both banks at the same time—and as the water was much deeper the boat could run much closer to the trees. We were continually passing families of Amerindians paddling upstream in heavily-loaded dug-out canoes.

We reached Kwakwani, a large bauxite mining community, and the southernmost town on the Berbice, at about noon. Here we changed boats. Leaving our massive punt resting appropriately enough on a high mud bank, we moved all our kit into a beautiful little boat, brightly painted, light as a feather but with a strong resilient look about her. She was called Angela. Also at Kwakwani we hired two Amerindian guides, Stanley and Den, who were later to prove themselves invaluable, not only for their knowledge of the river, but for their ability to locate and catch game and fish. Two o'clock that afternoon saw us nosing our way up a very different Berbice, much narrower and quite gloomy in places. The "rains" had not arrived at this time (although we had all been thoroughly soaked a number of times on the way up the river) and the water was still shallow, so shallow in fact, that the locals doubted whether we would even get to Marliisa Falls, let alone Itabru. We had, of course, laughed, confident that even if we had

to push the boat the whole way, we would get there somehow. Halfway through the afternoon we hit our first obstacles—trees below the water. When I say "hit" I mean just that—we soon discovered that the best way to cross the obstacles was to race at them, cut the engine as the boat began to rise out of the water, and then hang on for your life as you bounced down to hit the water with a tremendous splash on the other side of the log. About this time we began to run into the first of the sandbanks which were later to give us so much trouble. At first Stanley and Den managed to find narrow channels of deeper water, but eventually we were all out over the side, pushing with all our strength.

many trees on the bank—often he chose one as far as 100 yards away. The boat's engine stopped as Den guided us quietly to the bank. A few seconds later and an iguana would be struggling in the bottom of the boat with an arrow through it. They shot several iguana in this way, but the astonishing fact was not the ease with which Stanley and Den shot them, but that they could see one of these superbly camouflaged lizards, sometimes as far as 100 yards away, when we had difficulty in picking them out at 6 feet.

We ate one of the iguana at that camp and found it quite tasty—a little like spiced rabbit. I could not help noticing though, that our tinned chicken proved more



See also map on page 300

Had the water been 2 inches lower we would probably have had to unload the boat and carry the stores over the obstacle, before pushing the boat over.

Just before dark we made camp on the river bank. It would be more accurate to say that Stanley and Den made the camp—felling trees, stretching tarpaulins, lighting fires and cleaning game—while we stood by feeling slightly superfluous but trying to look busy. This was just another example of their self-reliance on the river; we had already seen how well they could hunt. Their powers of observation defied description. Stanley would sit on the bow of the boat apparently half-asleep—every now and again he would lazily point at one of the

popular with the Amerindians than the iguana with the soldiers! We finished eating shortly after nightfall and went to bed early after talking for a little under the fire. We had scarcely closed our eyes, however, before a fantastic thunderstorm broke over us. At first we all lay there listening (rather anxiously) to the thunder and looking at the river, brightly illuminated by continuous lightning. Then, with a rush, the rain hit us, and we spent 20 hectic, and very wet, minutes re-organising our sleeping positions. Eventually the storm passed, but we were still wet when the dawn came.

We started early after a quick breakfast of eggs and fresh bananas. The river soon became much narrower



and slightly darker, but the water had risen 2 or 3 inches during the night, so we made quite good progress. The jungle on either side was alive with birds, mainly kingfishers and herons, and Stanley soon caught a couple more iguana, so we had plenty to keep our minds occupied. About lunchtime we shot an enormous snake—at least it looked enormous to us, measuring well over 11 ft. The Amerindians called it a haemoralis and said it was one of the most poisonous in South America. However it was black and buff in colour, and looked to me rather like some kind of anaconda which, although extremely dangerous, is not in the least bit poisonous, but relies on its strength to crush its victims. One often hears of strong swimmers drowning inexplicably in Guyana; these deaths may well be the result of one of these snakes, which sleep for long periods of time underwater, and when they awaken, hungry, will attack the first thing that moves, regardless of size.

Whatever its type, the snake proved very reluctant to die; it had already survived six 7.62 mm. rounds when a No. 6 shot from the 12-bore finally at least rendered it unconscious. Even after this it took three of us to hold it down while Den skinned it. Soon after this incident, as we approached Marlissa Falls we began to run into a lot of trouble, first with long sandbanks, and then with the large number of dead trees that had fallen across the river. There is no doubt that had it not rained so heavily the previous night, we would not have been able to reach Marlissa Falls. As it was, we reached the Falls at about 2 o'clock, and after struggling for about half an hour managed to push the boat through. The falls are really about 50 yards of rapids, very rocky and shallow, and quite difficult to cross with a heavily-loaded boat. Angela, fortunately, was quite light, and did not give us too much trouble.

Shortly after crossing the rapids we caught our first stingray with a couple of spears. It gave a tremendous fight even when impaled against the sand by two cast-iron spears. They say that if one stings you (and they are quite common in the upper reaches of most Guyanese rivers) you become an immediate hospital case, with only a slim chance of reaching the hospital. This one certainly looked pretty formidable—it weighed about 10 lb. and measured about 2 feet across with a vicious spine on its 9-inch tail. We had not long passed the sandy stretches where we caught the stingray when we reached a series of rapids that proved an even greater obstacle than Marlissa Falls. We started pushing again, watching the river bed a little more carefully now. Dozens of fish tried to get past us in the narrow stretches; we immediately tried to stop them and managed to force one to jump into the boat. It was a nice looking fish, deep-bodied, weighing at least a couple of pounds and called, I think, a katabac. Stanley was soon jumping from rock to rock following the shoal, and did in fact manage to shoot a couple with his bow and arrow. Not long after chasing katabac we saw our first tiger fish, or culet—it too was soon racing for the bank with an arrow in its back. We chased it, only to find that we had to fightoff a cayman, which also fancied fish for supper, before we could shoot it again and finally pull it into the boat. This fish was well worth the trouble it took to catch it, as it weighed over 20 lb. and later proved to be delicious

eating. There certainly appeared to be no danger of starving in this land.

We eventually reached the Gate, which, incidentally, would be quite impossible if the river were in flood—the Gate is a 20-foot gap between two enormous boulders through which the river races with a deep, silent, swell. We rounded the corner and came upon a beautiful lake with an island in its centre, and Itabru Falls at the far end. This was to be the end of the "trail" for this patrol, for, although we would all have liked to go further, it is quite impossible to get a boat over the Falls when the river is still low. On the west bank of the lake, high above the water there is an old house, the only one for 50 miles in any direction, which is used as a weather station. It is run by an old man who has been there almost continuously since 1959, and whose sole job is to send a daily weather report to Georgetown over a V.H.F. radio that had not worked for over a month. This was presumably some indication of how highly Georgetown prized these reports—this did not seem to worry the old man unduly for he continued to take his daily readings of water depth and wind velocity, despite the fact that he could not communicate the information to anybody! He had sufficient food to last him many more months, and there was no shortage of fish in the lake or fruit in his back-yard. He made us very welcome—there was obviously a lack of travellers in this area—and we spent a very comfortable night in his home.

That night Stanley took McLelland and me on a night hunt down the river in a little dugout canoe borrowed from the old man. At first we just drifted down the river, through the Gate to a small series of rapids known as Teacup Falls, using powerful torches on the banks trying to dazzle alligators. We shot at one or two with rifles, but soon found that our night-shooting was not nearly accurate enough, and started spear-fishing off the rocks. This proved much easier than we expected—the technique is to catch a fish in the beam of the torch, then, holding the light steady with one hand, spear the fish with the other. Obviously there are one or two pitfalls for the beginner; if you move the torch the fish will swim away, if you try for a fish in water that is deeper than you expect you will lose your balance and spend some time diving for torch and spear, and lastly, unless you kill the fish properly before you put them in a shallow canoe, you will return to find the canoe empty. We were very lucky, we caught a number of medium-sized lukenani, and Stanley speared a magnificent 15-lb. tiger-fish. Our only success with the alligators was a 4-in. baby that could not have been long out of its shell. We let it go again, having decided that it might prove an embarrassment in later life if we tried to keep it as a pet.

The following morning we started our return journey and had our first experience of shooting rapids. Although there were no particularly difficult rapids, except perhaps Marlissa Falls, when Stanley and Den cut the engine for the first time, and started poling us between sharp rocks at an ever-increasing speed, we all found ourselves hanging on very tightly to the sides of the boat. After the first few we felt confident enough to join in, but even then Angela took a number of nasty knocks

and came close to overturning several times. The river had fallen a couple of inches during the night, and we soon found ourselves pushing the boat over sandbanks, many of which we had not even noticed on the way up.

Only two near-disasters occurred on the way back down the river, both of them strangely enough involving unwelcome visitors that nearly caused the patrol to abandon ship. The first would never have happened had we not been naturally helpful people. Seeing something swimming ahead of us we at first thought that it was an iguana which had escaped with one of Stanley's arrows in it two days before. When we drew level we saw that it was a fish that a man standing on the shore had shot. We pulled it aboard only to realise almost immediately that it was a large piranha, one of the most voracious fish in the world. As this one was particularly angry it was touched and go for a few moments as to whether it would leave us, or we would leave the boat. Eventually Den, ever a man of action, decapitated it with a cane knife, and we all started breathing again.

The other incident concerned a little visitor that had presumably come aboard while the boat was moored against the bank during the previous night. About 10 o'clock the following morning I awoke from a little nap in the bottom of the boat, to see a tarantula spider climbing up over my boots. Moving slightly more quickly than usual I kicked it into the river. There followed a short and pregnant silence, then sudden activity as every bit of kit in the boat was moved and thoroughly searched to try and discover any other guests. Fortunately we did not find any more.

After the first of the patrols. We sailed into New Amsterdam on the Saturday afternoon closely followed by a storm even more violent than that which followed us up-river on the first day. The next stage would be to have a look at the land between the Berbice and the Demerara, and then explore the Demerara River itself.

#### One More River

Owing to the Internal Security commitments and the changes in location of the Company during the period surrounding Guyana's Independence it was impossible to attempt the second phase of the patrol until the middle of July. When we did eventually get moving we based ourselves on Tacama, and a Whirlwind helicopter of 1310 Flight R.A.F. from Atkinson Base lifted the new patrol consisting of Ptes. Cannon, Slade and Crawford to a landing site chosen by the earlier patrol on the South side of Itabru Lake. I had myself already flown over the course in a Cessna aircraft to get some idea of the land, as the maps of the area were very often inaccurate and completely lacking in detail. The helicopter flight took only an hour. Dry and comfortable we landed beside the lake and waited for the weatherman to come and ferry us across to his house. The helicopter meanwhile continued to Canister Falls to leave additional supplies there in anticipation of our arrival.

The remainder of that morning was spent re-organising the very considerable amount of kit we rather optimistically hoped to carry with us—apart from the normal weapons, equipment and two days rations, we each carried Amerindian hammocks to give the journey

some illusion of comfort, and the one-man R.A.F. dinghies we were going to use to paddle down the Demerara. When assembled, each man's kit weighed about 50 lbs. and had a remarkable steadying effect on our otherwise high spirits. In the afternoon, still full of energy, we set out to investigate an old pork-nocker's trail that led through the jungle on the West bank of the Berbice towards Savannah Falls. The path was dark and narrow and ducked precipitously over the steep hills, dipping back frequently to the river as though to check its position. In fact these reassuring diversions were quite unnecessary—the noise of the river forcing its way between the rocks of the many rapids in this region left no doubt as to where it was. Where the track crossed streams trees had been felled to save the experienced traveller from getting his feet wet. At first we encountered some difficulty in crossing these precarious bridges, but slowly grew more sure-footed, and were able to run quite quickly over them. It was not long before we discovered that the penalty for over-confidence was an unpleasant dousing in smelly, muddy water. I would strongly advise other travellers in these regions to get their feet wet by wading the streams, rather than to risk the drop of 10 ft. or so into a creek full of ticks, and possibly piranha or alligators!

We managed to get as far as the Lindo Creek before the approaching darkness forced us to return to the weather station, where we spent a most enjoyable

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evening eating fresh pineapple slices with our coffee, and listening to the old hunting stories of our host and his Amerindian guest. From them we learned of another pork-nockers trail. Originally we had planned to march due West from the Falls, forcing our way across the foothills of Parish's Peak to the Savannah beyond. Now we learned that we could follow a trail across the Marlissa and Kamwatta headwaters and then strike South-West for the plains. Any trail through the jungle would be better than no trail at all, so next morning, bent almost double beneath our packs, we accepted a lift in the weatherman's boat, and made our way down-river. The river was considerably changed since my last visit, the water having risen 8 ft. as a result of the heavy seasonal rains. The Gate was a roaring torrent, the two rocks that gave it its name having completely disappeared, and many of the smaller rapids could only be distinguished by the sinister whirlpools in the dark brown river.

The trail, when we found it, looked as though it was quite regularly used, and we had no difficulty in following it for three or four miles, although we were all soaked to the skin within minutes from perspiration and rainwater off the undergrowth. It was extraordinarily quiet in the jungle, almost depressingly so, the lack of light adding to the feeling that nothing but trees and creepers and thorns existed. We soon stopped talking and marched in silence, occasionally cursing when we slipped and fell down the muddy banks. We were all quite surprised when, after about an hour and a half, we came across a hut in a clearing and heard voices nearby. This was the gold and diamond mine about which we had been told. We spent about an hour there, drinking coffee and talking to the miners, six of them, as they shovelled the clay of the stream bed up to a simple washing and sifting machine they had built themselves. This was a very poor claim, and the miners treated the arrival of four armed men, albeit soldiers, with some suspicion, so we did not get to see any of the fruits of their labour, but were soon shown politely onto the trail to the Kamwatta head.

We followed this new trail for about an hour without any difficulty, despite the fact that it had not been used for some months. Then it began to get involved with a number of small streams and began to twist and turn in a variety of directions, finally disappearing altogether.

We were obliged to start marching by compass and spent the rest of the day forcing our way up and down over ravines and sharp ridges, all covered with trees bound together by fine strong vines, many of which were covered in inch-long, sharp thorns. By half-past four we were all exhausted, soaking wet, and covered in scratches. We found a pleasant little spot on a hillside near a stream and made camp. After a hot meal, a change of clothes and the luxury of lying in a dry hammock, we were all feeling in much better spirits and were confident of reaching our objective the next day.

The next day, however, the ridges got steeper, the jungle denser, and our loads apparently much heavier. Apart from several false alarms when we thought we had reached the Rupununi Cattle Trail we saw nothing to alleviate the tedium of forcing our way through

undergrowth that would do nothing to make our passage any easier. Unfortunately, as we were taking two paces sideways to every one forward, and we were unable to follow the compass bearing as accurately as we would have liked, our progress was considerably slower than we realised, and by Wednesday evening we were still eight miles or so from Canister Falls. Thursday we had expected to be re-supplied by helicopter as we paddled down the river. As we were still deep in high jungle we were obliged to halt and clear a piece of high ground so that the helicopter would not have too much trouble in seeing us after it had homed onto our Sarbe Beacon. We were in a pretty poor state already, with cuts on arms and legs that were rapidly becoming infected despite frequent dousings with disinfectant, and sores caused by webbing straps on shoulders and hips; in fact, we were all thankful of the opportunity to rest while waiting for the helicopter, and had we been given the chance, would probably have been quite happy to be lifted out, even at that early stage.

The helicopter arrived in time and had little difficulty in locating us after we had fired a few miniflares in its direction. With fresh food and cigarettes, and a note telling us that we were only a mile north of the Savannah, and two or three miles from our objective, our morale had improved a hundred per cent. It was still only lunchtime, so darkness should see us at the Falls. Accordingly we set off as quickly as possible taking with us enough rations to last until evening. We moved quite easily at first and soon covered a mile, thereby missing the helicopter, which returned to tell us that we were in fact six miles from our objective! After marching across a couple of ravines we came straight up against a 200-ft. ridge, covered in rocks and dead trees. We managed to struggle up this, but were only able to move about a half a mile along the crest before we were forced to stop for the night.

That night it rained very hard, we were quite hungry, and our sleep was continually disturbed by the thousands of little forest creatures, normally so inconspicuous, that were forced by the weather to seek shelter under our ponchos. The next morning we were very badly bitten and not very well rested. Our only consolation was that we could not be much further than a mile from the Falls, if the helicopter had been correct. Accordingly Cannon and I left most of our kit with the other two, who were still very tired, and set out to find the best route down the river and bring back some food. In case of accidents we left the Sarbe Beacon there, knowing that should anything go wrong they could be lifted out of the clearing by the helicopter when it came on the Saturday for the second re-supply run.

At first Cannon and I made quite good progress and found some open, sandy ground after about a half a mile. However, we soon crossed this, and for the next three or four hours we forced our way through densely-tangled deadwood, interspersed with swampy jungle. It was extremely hot being fairly open, and we were soon obliged to rest frequently. Thinking that we must by now be too far south of our objective, we followed a stream that ran conveniently North-West, and was bound to run into the Demerara somewhere near the

Falls. The stream plunged sharply over the ridge we had climbed the day before, and continued to run more or less in the right direction. Slowly, however, the jungle grew denser and the ground marshier, and we were only able to go for half an hour or so before resting. As the light began to fail, the stream, which had been meandering annoyingly for some time, suddenly swung due North and showed every indication of continuing in that direction. We camped near it, intending to head due West to find the Cattle Trail the following morning.

That night was particularly uncomfortable. Apart from the rain, which we had come to accept as inevitable, we had had only a bar of chocolate to eat between us all day, and camped as we were in very low, swampy ground we were soon over-run by ants, ticks and mosquitoes. Insect repellent kept them at bay for a little, but they soon returned with reinforcements to press home the assault. We were quite happy to break camp the next morning and continue westwards. After a little while we heard the re-supply helicopter in the distance, and realising that it was picking up the other two, and would soon be searching for us, we found a small clearing and lit a fire hoping to attract the pilot's attention. We stayed in that clearing all day expecting to be picked up at any time. As the afternoon wore on, and collecting wood and wet leaves became more and more of an effort, we slowly began to realise that our chances of being found were growing slim. We spent half an hour fruitlessly chasing an iguana, and Cannon

made an abortive attempt to capture a couple of howler monkeys that came close. We now regretted having left a tortoise we had found the day before—after two days without any food we would have had no qualms about eating it. Knowing that if we stayed in the clearing another day we might be unable to march at all, and seeing that most of our smoke was being contained by the canopy of the trees, we decided to march the following day, Sunday.

That evening a tremendous storm blew up, putting a stop to further searching and effectively drowning our fire in about 15 seconds. At least the rain kept the insects at bay, but we narrowly missed being killed by lightning twice, and a tree was knocked down nearby, falling with a deafening roar that made it seem to be falling directly over us. As soon as there was light enough to see by, we collected up our kit and started marching, feeling surprisingly fresh and confident. As it happened, our confidence was well founded, for we had been marching barely an hour when we came across the Rupununi Cattle Trail. Overjoyed and not a little relieved we set off South-West at a good pace and covered three miles in less than an hour. That was when we came to the first stream across the track—this one only ankle deep and not at all difficult to cross. The second flooded patch reached our knees in the centre, and the third was waist deep and not at all easy to cross. By this time as we had covered five miles and several hills, and the scenery had not changed appreci-



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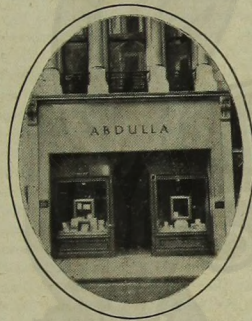
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### "C" COMPANY

A few days before the Advance Party left Northern Ireland the Recce Platoon were posted in from "H.Q." Company as our third Platoon and so put us on an equal footing with the other two Rifle Companies. With Lt. Hubert away on the Hythe Signals Course, but due back in mid-April, Capt. Goring handed over the Platoon to C/Sgt. Edey and set himself up as Company 2IC.

The Advance Party had an uneventful trip out to Georgetown and was deployed within 24 hours—C/Sgt. Edey to Enmore on the East Coast, Sgt. Stevens at Leonora on the West Coast to await 9 Platoon and the O.C., Major Pollard, 2/Lt. Gancz, C/Sgt. Redmond and L/Cpl. Beall to Legionnaires, Georgetown, to await Company Headquarters and 10 Platoon.

Promptly on April 1 (no comment), the Company flew in to the usual cries of "Get your knees brown," etc., and went straight to their locations. No. 10 Platoon were the first Platoon in the Battalion ready for Standby duties, completing six days continuous duty before the Atkinson Company came to the rescue. No. 9 and Recce Platoons were settling into life on an estate with its club, swimming pool and the odd friendly face compensating for the burden of P.O.L. accounts, Platoon canteens, etc. Initially 10 Platoon were hard done by; I.S. drill ad nauseam, fatigues, guards, but with the changeover in early May they escaped to Leonora leaving Lt. Graham and 9 Platoon to join Company H.Q. in the Independence Celebrations! Before leaving, however, 10 Platoon secured a double first—they held the first "Jump Up" in the Battalion and as far as the local "visitors" can remember the first ever "military" "Jump Up" at Legionnaires. It was a great success even, it is believed, financially, though Sunray Callsign 32 is no accountant! No. 9 Platoon were not slow to follow this lead—they were the first to hold a Band Smoker at Legionnaires. The Band really excelled themselves; the singing was reasonable (until the Band left) and the Colonel, 2IC and Intelligence Officer seemed to enjoy themselves. Mr. Wally Myers an American who specialises in community singing came along too but seemed for once out of his depth!

Independence saw Company H.Q. and 9 Platoon involved in the Flag Raising Ceremony. Company H.Q. produced the marshalling organisation and the Platoon provided most of the drill contingent and various fatigue men. Six evening rehearsals were held and the final dress rehearsal was attended by quite a large and cheerful crowd. On the actual night everything went "haywire" as all the V.I.P.s arrived 20 minutes late from the State Banquet. The O.C.'s telephone line to the control box glowed red at times but eventually all those taking part except 260 very disappointed children entered the arena and the flag was raised at the right time.

After Independence "Standbys" in Georgetown were less arduous and patrolling on the estates was cut to a minimum. No. 9 Platoon had managed one or two interesting patrols to the Essequibo Islands prior to their move and 10 Platoon kept up the good work. The Recce Platoon at Enmore were set for their turn under the wing of Company H.Q. when details of the first inter-

ably (we were still in thick jungle) we were beginning to flag slightly and were stopping more frequently. It was about this time that we started splashing our way through yet another flooded stretch. Soon the water was waist deep and the current quite strong. By the time we reached the centre we were swimming for our lives. Fortunately we only had 20 yards to swim, nevertheless we reached the track on the opposite side considerably shaken and very tired. This proved to be the last river we were to cross—a few minutes later we could hear the roar of falling water in the distance. Our pace automatically quickened and after a few hundred yards we broke out of the jungle and stood blinking in the sunlight, looking at Canister Falls.

We had no difficulty in finding the hut and the food but opening the box was a different matter altogether. Quite unable to break the wire, we eventually managed to cut a hole in the side and so get the tins out. Surprisingly, despite our hunger neither of us could eat anything at this stage, and contented ourselves with condensed milk and water, until the helicopter arrived to continue the search and saw the marker we had left for them. Although we had carried a dinghy with us to Canister we were in no condition to continue down the river, and so unfortunately had to abandon the second part of the patrol and return to Atkinson Base having collected Ptes. Crawford and Slade from Kwakwani where they had spent the night.

*Conclusion.*—Although these two patrols managed to get about 200 miles inland, they only really nibbled at the edge of Guyana's interior. The Essequibo River winds its way well over 400 miles South and is more or less navigable over most of its length. The patrols learnt the hard way that the rivers are the only realistic routes inland and that anyone who wanders far from their banks must have a very thorough knowledge of how to live in the jungle; must, in fact, be able to "live off the land" if he is to survive. The Amerindians have an inbred commonsense which permits them to live comfortably in places where Europeans would probably starve to death; possibly the answer would be always to hire an Amerindian as a guide. The fact remains, however, that there is a vast expanse of Guyana that is waiting for somebody to exploit it, and that "El Dorado" has still not yielded all its secrets.

## ANNUAL REUNION

November 12th

T.A. Centre, Edgware



Company change round were published and they were saved.

The first Battalion change round saw the Recce Platoon move 70-odd miles by road and ferry across the Berbice River to Port Mourant where they lived for a month in the luxury of three houses in the estate compound. Company H.Q. and 9 Platoon followed them into Enmore and basked in the considerable goodwill created by our predecessors. Accommodation in one house and the rather tumble-down club was tight but it was good to get away from Georgetown. To complete the move 10 Platoon left the luxury of Leonora for a spell at Atkinson attached to "B" Company. They got down to some good section training and range work whilst the other two Platoons made full use of the excellent adventure training facilities offered by local rivers and the interior. The next change round, a Company one, saw the Recce Platoon at Atkinson, 10 Platoon at Enmore and 9 Platoon at Port Mourant. Adventure training continued apace and everyone worked and played really hard, especially as it was realised that we were into the second half of the tour.

Whilst 10 Platoon were at Enmore the Band again visited us and gave an excellent informal concert in the Club. Estate families attended in force and the local tunes were again much in demand. The Recce Platoon made friends with a steel band who played at all their "Jump Ups" for next to nothing and proved worthy volleyball opponents. During 9 Platoon's stay there the Band braved the journey to play in the local Community Centre to a crowd of over 1,000 and, later in the evening in the Albion Estate Club.

In mid-July, the second Battalion change round saw us concentrate at Atkinson with 4 (Mortar) Platoon, "A" Company loosely attached. This is probably the most comfortable posting with plenty of accommodation, a NAAFI, good sports facilities and a share in the Base Commander's bungalow for Sunray; this is why of course we are rarely in! Tied to this station is the excellent training camp at Takama which will at a pinch accommodate the whole Company. Recce were first there, 10 Platoon joined them, Recce returned and 4 Platoon hit the trail and Company H.Q. and 9 Platoon are poised for their visit as soon as the Baramita patrol is finished. Back at Atkinson big efforts are being made to fire annual classification.

Each Company has undertaken one major "patrol" or exercise and "C" Company's took some of Company H.Q. and most of 9 Platoon, 160 miles N.N.W. of Georgetown to Baramita in the North West District. A base camp was set up some five miles East, ten miles North and 20 miles South of the Venezuelan border and six patrols sent out to recce possible tracks to the border, check navigability of certain rivers, get to know the local people and last but not least construct and use a helicopter landing zone. The base camp was in fact on a civilian airstrip hewn from the very thick jungle; the trees in this area are anything up to 200 feet high and civilisation seems a long way away. There is an Amerindian (Carib) settlement near the airstrip and six miles away by tractor trail a gold mine run by a very helpful negro, Mr. Baird. The base party—O.C., O.C.

9 Platoon, Medical Orderly, Signaller and Intelligence Section "mapper"—flew in by Cessna light aircraft and were followed the same day by a Dakota with helicopter fuel and limited stores. Eighteen men from 9 Platoon and two local policemen with stores for a ten-day stay flew in next day and were followed by a Whirlwind helicopter and crew of three which stayed throughout the exercise. As mentioned elsewhere the whole operation proved successful and enjoyable, thanks to everyone really making an all-out effort. The R.A.F. detachment were invaluable and our signaller achieved 220 miles (voice) with his 62 set!

We have had our share of visits. The Commanding Officer made an initial tour of our locations (and "sharpened up" a few) and then the Garrison Commander chose 9 Platoon at Leonora for his first visit; he met them again at Port Mourant and Baramita. No. 10 Platoon escaped his inspection until the morning they left Legionnaires but got a good chit none the less. Recce were visited at Enmore but have kept pretty "close to the wall" since. Enmore, once Company H.Q. moved in, attracted the odd Army Air Corps pilot, the M.O., D.A.D.O.S., a bevy of Q.M.s, M.T. Colour-Sergeants and of course Sgt. Weston—king of inventories. It may have been the pool—or XM—or was it those sheets?

We have been well represented at the two Battalion major sports out here. C/Sgt. Redmond, Pte. Hall (Recce) L/Cpl. Wittig (10 Platoon) are in the soccer team with Ptes. Hamilton (ex-Stores) and Herbert (ex-M.T.) now back with "B" Company after three months with us. Major Pollard, Capt. Goring, Lt. Graham, 2/Lt. Gancz, Cpl. Crook (10 Platoon) and Pte. Stevens (Recce) play in the rugby team and C/Sgt. Edey (Recce) and L/Cpl. Tofts (Recce) often join them. Ptes. Ashley (10 Platoon) and Broderick (now Pioneers) played cricket for the Battalion in the one match played so far but regrettably failed to score! No. 9 Platoon have two excellent volleyball teams and have beaten all comers, both military and on the estates; they also won the inter-Platoon swimming though Recce were not far behind.

#### Company H.Q.

This is very much a posting where administrators and attached make the day. We have had our fair share of S.A.B.U.s (Self Adjusting . . . ups) but by and large the harassed Company Clerk (L/Cpl. Perrott), Storemen (Ptes. Major, Abraham, Smith and Murphy) and Cooks (L/Cpl. Dempsey, Ptes. Lyons and Graham) have done wonders and considerably eased C.S.M. Lagden's and C/Sgt. Redmond's burdens.

Our M.T. under L/Cpl. Beall has gone from strength to strength; eight landrovers and four three tonners in three locations take some supervision as do anything up to three P.O.L. accounts plus A.V.J.E.T. Ptes. Charman, Twigg, Gallagher, Evans, George, Hedger, Williams, Davis, Graham, Herridge and L/Cpl. Tofts have given good support.

Our Signallers come and go—we are at present only three strong but have had six. Cpl. Hamill got thin

going well from the start and Cpl. Smith—the patrol maniac—has carried on the good work. L/Cpl. Reddings and Pte. Webb are our old faithfuls but we have been well served too by Signm. Ward, Ptes. West, Costello and Williams.

Finally the batmen, Ptes. Maguire and Peters, fresh from a week at Kaieteur Falls, deserve a mention especially for their work at Enmore where they ran an Officers'/W.O.s'/Sergeants' Mess between them. Others too numerous to mention have been "loaned" (until our return to Northern Ireland) to "H.Q." Company for special jobs ranging from Garrison Commander's batman (L/Cpl. O'Sullivan) to film selector and projectionist (L/Cpl. Dent).

#### 9 Platoon

Since our arrival in Guyana, the Platoon has seen great changes, with the departure of many old faces to such exalted jobs as Sergeants' Mess waiter and barman, and with the arrival of new blood to fill the gaps. To the arrivals we bid a friendly welcome; to the departed ones we can only say "It serves you right."

The Platoon has spent its time rushing from one sugar estate to the other, calling in briefly at Georgetown on the way. Our stay in Georgetown coincided with the Independence Celebrations and we were privileged to provide not only the Guard of Honour but also a highly-skilled team of ushers. It was a memorable experience for all, although Cpl. Puckey may well remember it more poignantly than most since it was his unenviable task to control several hundred exuberant, prancing school children who showed absolutely no regard for rank. At least he provided us all with a laugh and with memories to be treasured!

The Platoon has had its fair share of adventure training with patrols to the Essequibo Islands, and to the Berbice, Canje and Mahaica Rivers, all of which were of immense interest and pleasure.

Our congratulations go to Cpl. Frost, whose mania for cine photography has left him bankrupt, and to L/Cpl. Hawkes on their promotion. The latter celebrated in his own peculiar way by losing a compass. He should go far!

All in all it's been a hectic period of varied activity. The rainy season has been successfully negotiated, Pte. Cox has lost at least 2 lb., and we are all raring to go on the last part of the tour.

#### 10 Platoon

A somewhat frustrating and sometimes chaotic two months in Northern Ireland was spent in preparation for our move to British Guiana.

We eventually arrived on April 1 and were the first Platoon to be installed, being stationed at Legionnaires in Georgetown. Here to our dismay we found ourselves unexpectedly existing in the same building as Company Headquarters and when we were not out fulfilling the Sergeant Majors fatigue detail we were training hard on I.S.

However, life had its brighter side and we can claim to be the first Platoon ever to hold a "Jump Up" at

Legionnaires. Georgetown had much to offer us in these early weeks and many friends were made and much money was spent. After six weeks in Georgetown we changed locations with 9 Platoon and went to Leonora Sugar Estate. Here much time was spent patrolling by vehicle and on foot amongst the sugar-cane fields and, though hard work, it was much enjoyed by all. Here hopes were raised and imaginations ran riot when Pte. David "Pork Knocker" Jennings drew up a pick and shovel and started digging for gold down by the P.O.L. point in the middle of the compound. Pte. Terry Twigg set himself up as chief of M.T. and was regularly heard to say in complaining terms "but Sergeant, I'm downgraded." It was here that we were joined by Pte. Alan Smith from Canterbury whose wife is to have a baby in August.

From Leonora we had a series of moves in quick succession, spending two weeks in Atkinson Field, attached to "B" Company; two at Enmore; back to Atkinson again for another two; and then to the battle training area of Takama.

At Enmore Sgt. "Dick" Dickens led the Platoon on a highly successful four-day patrol down the Mahaica River by boat and overland, over some of the most difficult country the Platoon had seen, for about 30 miles, and then by river down to Mahaicony. It was a tough test which everyone came through successfully.

After six enjoyable months in what is now Guyana we are looking forward to our return home and with luck should be one of the first out.

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### Recce Platoon

The Recce Platoon, keeping up with international wind of change, moved out to Guyana under the banner of "Integrate" with "C" Company and were immediately sent as far away from the management as possible, down to Enmore Estate. Here the Platoon spent a comparatively uneventful eight weeks. "Ticker" Williams was well occupied trying to get one up on the Platoon Commander and with blaming the Padre's "intolerable Protestant dog" for Shep's very Catholic litter of pups. All visitors were put through a shattering entrance test on early morning P.T.—small wonder the Sergeant-Major fixes us for guards now.

Alubhera Day brought an invasion of overseas visitors from Legionnaires and Leonora for the "C" Company inter-Platoon Swimming Trophy (last competed for in the 1920's). In spite of a valiant last minute effort by the Padre's wife, the day and cup were temporarily lost to No. 9 Platoon. The Platoon selectors were, as a result, duly punished by a sound ducking; Cpl. Brown did his best to pass the buck to some poor innocent soldier but he went in too—pity he could scarcely swim.

With the post-Independence reshuffle, the Platoon was moved far away to Port Mourant where a hurricane seemed to hit the place. The heavens opened and the rains came. The Platoon put away their uniforms and, armed with hammers, nails, putty, wood and paint turned over to building or rebuilding. Fences, walls and gates sprang up. At the end of three days the landscape was crowned by the largest suspension bridge in Port Mourant—"Stevens Folly," which was opened with due ceremony—by a cow. Housekeeping over, the Platoon settled down to a hectic month of football, jump-ups, parties and even a little training. Cpl. Brown seemed to have a strange knack of finding guest houses in dense jungle and so upset the Platoon Commander's vision of him sleeping under a cloud of mosquitoes in some unsavoury clearing.

Will "Winkle" Walsh ever forgive the Padre for waiting for an unreliable tractor to give them a lift and so letting his party miss the boat at the Sandaka R.V.? And there was that king of fitness, L/Cpl. Gore, busy refreshing his memory over the Convent Guard Drill used in Gibraltar. The amazement of the local population was worth seeing as the "dirty half dozen" went through the ceremonial ritual while awaiting the arrival of the truck to take them to camp after a week's mud and rain.

The climax of the Port Mourant stay was a lengthy patrol by Cpl. Norman Crookston down the Berbice to the Tramway rapids, further than anyone had been before, including that glorious Support Platoon. Details of this expedition appear elsewhere in this magazine (we hope).

The two final weeks of our stay in Berbice were a trip looking for oil drums to replace, perhaps, those used by that great musical mob at Atkinson. Jim Davis managed to combine it with a search for his Gypsy Pen Friend but he came back a disappointed man. The other event was the Miss Guyana Competition at which the ever-helpful C/Sgt. Edey deputised for the sleeping Com-



(Photo: 'Soldier')

C/Sgt. Edey of the Recce Platoon with "Joe"

mander of the British Landforces, Berbice, and presented the winner with a Recce Platoon Shield and . . . . It was now time to move on again. There were too many requests on the Sunday half-hour of Radio Demerara, with "Cookie" Graham, top favourite.

Our stay at Atkinson was brief but, as usual, hectic. But there was time for some to make a brief trip to St. Cuthbert's. Most people have long known that the Landrover is not bouyant. On that day Bob Graham nearly managed to prove otherwise. John Tofts, newly promoted and under the influence of cherry wine, went souvenir hunting and then indulged in a bit of sharp salesmanship back in camp. Who was the poor sucker with the "bow and arra"?

The rigours and flies of Takama were the next torment on the list—oh, and there was that terrible clerk of Mr. Hubert's. The short ten-day stay was spent in varied ways: "Froggie" Stevens enjoyed the pleasures of biscuits and water along with that great hold-up man, L/Cpl. Goodman. Even a loaf of dry bread seemed like caviar after that diet. Takama found the Platoon hungry again, but this time it was unintentional. But a chance shot and there was fresh beef for Sunday lunch. Weekends at Takama produced all sorts of excitements as the hunters went out on safari. L/Cpl. Barry Gore in search of monstrous spiders, Cpl. Norman Crookston looking for deer, Cpl. Brown who had a frightening altercation with a 10-in. high armadillo, and Herridge who nearly eliminated the Platoon Commander.

### TRAMWAY PATROL

Guyana is a land of dense jungle, many rivers large and small, few roads and one railway line. Since time immemorial the answer to personal transport problems has been "paddle your own canoe," and latterly, the motor launch.

Recently a party of five "Diehards" from the Reconnaissance Platoon, under Cpl. Crookston, were ordered to patrol up the Berbice River to a series of water falls and rapids some 230 miles from the river mouth. As a test of initiative for most of their journey the patrol had to find their own food, boats and guides, bargaining with the Amerindians.

The patrol set out on a local ferry boat and travelled on this slow, crowded, dirty vessel for about 20 hours. They journeyed an uneventful 100 miles between banks covered to the water's edge by dense jungle, only occasionally broken by a settlement or individual straw huts of the Amerindian river people. The next stage of the journey was by a small launch which took a further six hours to complete the 25 miles to Kwakwami, which is a bauxite mining centre stuck deep in the jungle. Here the patrol settled down for the night sleeping rough in the cabins of small boats moored to the jetty.

The following morning L/Cpl. John Tofts found a pair of Amerindian guides who were to prove invaluable. After a frugal breakfast (the party was on very reduced rations to save weight) they moved up river towards Itabru. The Berbice, which lower down was a very wide, slow-flowing, dirty river, was now considerably

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narrower and the water was reasonably drinkable.

At the Itabru Falls, 30 miles from Kwakwami, Crookston and his party spent the night at a hut used as a one-man weather station, sharing it with a Chinese Ranger who panned the river sand for diamonds.

From now on the going was much harder. The first obstacle was the Itabru Falls where the boat was unloaded and dragged up over a knoll with a killing gradient of 1 in 7! After a much needed rest the boat was reloaded and moved on to the next falls at Itabulb. There was no way round these and so everyone had to get out of the boats and strip down to pants (for modesty's sake) and boots (for protection against the sharp rocks). Heaving and straining in neck deep water the patrol managed to get the boat up to the river level above and then over the Cappelo Falls. At one point one soldier was swept over the falls and narrowly avoided serious injury.

Two more similar falls were left to be dealt with, and one of them, the Umbrella Falls, so called because a tree crowns the island which splits the Falls. All members of the patrol managed to get on to the island but as they were hauling up the boat it overturned, the chain links snapped and the boat was swept away.

The guides and all the soldiers save one, a non-swimmer, struggled across to the bank. One man, Williams, had his pants sucked off by the current; another, Reardon, was washed over the falls; Jones was left marooned on the island with the equipment. The boat was recovered but it was agreed that it was no longer possible to continue in it; but by sheer good fortune another was found sunk just above the falls. This, when baled out, floated (just) and the patrol paddled up to the Winters Falls and there left their boat to move on to their goal, the Tramway Rapids, on foot via a jungle track. This involved a short but arduous jungle march.

Time was by now running short, so after a rest they made their way back uneventfully to Kwakwami where a launch waited to carry them back to their base near New Amsterdam. In five days the party had travelled over 400 miles by boat, and had been further up the river than anybody had been before them.

#### BARAMITA PATROL

The highlight of the tour in Guyana, as far as 9 Platoon is concerned, came at the end of July when we all bade farewell to the comforts and sophistication of Atkinson Base and headed for the unknown terrors of the North-West frontier. We soon found that all those stories about fierce, dissident tribes are completely untrue, and came to the conclusion that somebody has moved the Khyber Pass, because we looked very hard for it and had no success.

But this is jumping ahead. Actually it all started at the beginning of July when the Medical Officer showered us with tablets which he called Paludrin, and the Company Commander told us we were soon to go on a special mission.

The Paludrin puzzled us at first. One school of thought firmly believed they were the latest chemical

warfare device, but could offer no ideas as to what weapon they were to be fired from. The more mature of us realised that of course they provided the painless last release from fiendish torture by the enemy. As it happened we were all wrong. They were to stop us from catching malaria, for we were bound for Baramita where all the malarial mosquitoes in the country gather for their annual summer training camp.

Baramita lies some 150 miles west of Georgetown, being only five miles from Guyana's Western frontier with Venezuela. No. 9 Platoon were to go there to gather all the information they could on the border, the country and the local inhabitants in the immediate area. The very sound of Baramita is exotic, and to the naive it conjured up images closely linked to Acapulco and Southend-on-Sea. When, however, we tumbled from the Dakota after a bumpy hour-long flight, all we could see was a grass airstrip with just three wooden shacks and an endless panorama of virgin jungle. This was to be our base for the next 12 days.

We soon began in earnest to fulfil our allotted tasks. Local guides were engaged from the 20-odd Amerindians who live at Baramita, and we were all set. Sgt. Stevens disappeared in a north-westerly direction, headed for the frontier, and Cpl. Puckey with his section did likewise to the south. Cpl. Frost and L/Cpl. Saunders preferred to travel in style, and with Ptes Gardener and Murphy and a pair of collapsible canoes, left by helicopter to be dropped on the Barma River, some six miles to the south. They were to report on the navigability of the river and to plot its course. They soon found that in common with most rivers in the area, the Barama is full of obstacles in the form of fallen trees, submerged rocks and swirling rapids, and that if you do not happen to have a pair of gills and a dorsal fin on you, your progress is bound to be slow. The patrol suffered many "duckings" but to their credit became quite expert at re-floating both themselves and their boats. L/Cpl. Saunders was even seen to surface with a cigarette still in his mouth. In the meantime, L/Cpl. Barlow and his section were busy mapping tracks between Baramita airstrip and the numerous, small gold mines that are still being worked in the area. Actually we now suspect that he had tampered with his compass, because it seemed to lead him with suspicious frequency back to the comforts of base! While all this was going on, Lt. Graham had donned his loin-cloth and gone all Amerindian. With Ptes Burge and Love in tow he flitted from one Amerindian village to the next, gathering all possible information on the local tribe known as the Caribs. The latter we found at all times to be a most helpful, friendly, if rather shy, people who still live a primitive existence in spite of the general drive to open up and develop the interior. The first to settle in the Caribbean Islands, the Caribs have now withdrawn to this remote area and now number only some 600. They retain many of their past customs, such as the belief in voodoo and the practice of polygamy. We met up with one old Carib who still keeps five wives and who impressed us with his general good health and cheerfulness.

On a more serious note, it was very distressing to find that many of the Caribs were suffering from measles, a disease of no great significance to urban communities

but one which has serious effects on these forest dwellers, causing both a general listlessness and, in some cases, death. We derived some satisfaction from the efforts of L/Cpl. Glear, our "medic" who did sterling work in helping to keep down the fever of those who allowed themselves to be treated, but regrettably many of us will leave this country with a picture of their suffering and helplessness firmly embedded in our minds.

After four days the first patrols returned to base all having achieved their various aims.

Sgt. Stevens complained of sore feet and should have known better, for he was whisked off by helicopter to wield a pair of paddles on another more distant stretch of the Barama River. He returned four days later with even more painful feet, having been forced to walk with his boat much further than it had been possible to paddle it.

After ten days all patrols were back at base, able to look with satisfaction at a detailed map of the area which was entirely due to their own good work. Tall stories were swapped, and even taller stories told to the base personnel. The latter had been confined at Baramita air-strip for the duration of the visit, and were by now expert poker players to a man. They were also able to testify to Major Pollard's qualities as a cook although some were still not reconciled to having curry powder and red peppers with their cornflakes!

By August 6, it was time to begin the return journey to Atkinson. Company H.Q. returned the easy way by air, but there were more arduous plans in the offing for the Platoon. Ahead of us lay a 34-mile march to Matthew's Ridge, a large manganese mine, and from there a trip on a manganese train to the Kaituma River. A launch was then to take us by river to Mabaruma where we were to embark on a steamer for a two-day trip to Georgetown. The march was negotiated after three days which tested us to the full. Mile after mile of swamp, mountains and thick forest were finally put behind us and we settled down to a complete day's rest at the manganese mine where everyone was most hospitable and helpful.

Pte. Love had proved the "brew-up" king over the past few days. We worked it out quite accurately and found that he would do 10 m.p.g. on a long run.

After two days on a crowded steamer which was hard put to accommodate our hammocks, we finally tumbled ashore at Georgetown.

Cpl. Smith changed from green to his more usual white, so we knew we were back to normal. We all have our own memories of Baramita, and Cpl. Frost is often heard to say in his sleep "only three miles to go." One certainty is that for every one of us it had been an experience none would have missed.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

First impression on arrival in April was as expected. The hot sun of Guyana—or British Guiana as the country was then called—proved a welcome change from the cold drizzle (however invigorating!) of Ireland. After the first week, everyone had that bronzed "Caribbean" look about them, and were soon busy enjoying the breezy hospitality associated with Georgetown.

Perhaps initial reactions could best be summed up in the words of one young officer—unmarried of course—"why only six months!"

The Georgetown Mess—situated in a delightful but somewhat small wooden building built in the usual Dutch colonial style and belonging to the well known Luckhoo family—is the central Battalion Mess. But owing to the Regiment being so dispersed in Guyana, only the officers actually stationed in Georgetown use the Mess, and with bedroom space very limited, we are very fortunate in being able to accommodate "overflow" officers in the nearby Georgetown Club. Although soon after arrival certain members of the Mess suffered an attempted "choke and rob" attack whilst walking at night from the Club to the Mess, we are glad to report that a similar repetition of such villainy has not been tried again.

The arrival of our silver and pictures did a lot to brighten up the ante room where the Colours are also on display each day. New lights, a plastic strip curtain (in near Regimental colours) and some repositioning of furniture added some more colour. A combined effort by the Commanding Officer and 2IC sorted out the garden. Two new gate posts and repairs to the fence set off a good display of plants from the Botanical Gardens and even further afield, all of which had been planted by gardeners loaned from the gardens. A touch of paint on the house and various flower pots and the flagpole added the final touches.

With whisky at 6s. a bottle, social life has gone with a swing. Invitations to ever popular Sunday curry lunches have been avidly sought after by all local gourmets, while capacity attendances at monthly "jump-ups" has enabled all Mess members to attempt the frenzied if perspiring beat of the calypso. The young

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May 16, 1967



and the not so young have vied with each other in showing their individual style to advantage, but no one—at the time of writing these notes—has quite been able to excel the gymnastics, almost professional, style of dancing demonstrated by Paymaster, Capt. Nick Bryant.

But the more official side of entertainments has not been neglected. On May 4, over 150 guests, including His Excellency, the Governor, Sir Richard Luyt, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.M.C., and Lady Luyt, attended a very successful cocktail party, and on May 19—just prior to Independence—the officers of the Regiment attended a memorable farewell dinner to say goodbye to the Governor as the Colony's last Commander-in-Chief. During Independence celebrations the Mess was honoured by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, who talked informally to all officers present.



Officers' Mess  
Georgetown,  
Guyana

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Beswick, also paid us a visit during this period and lunched in the Mess. He was kind enough to make a short speech thanking the Regiment for the work it was doing in Guyana. On Albuhera Day all officers dined together—wearing “red sea rig”—and in June the Dinner Club entertained the local Chairman of Bookers, Mr. Anthony Tasker, C.B.E., and were rewarded with an excellent talk on Guyana. Also in June Commander Franklin, R.N., and the officers of H.M.S. *Tartar* were entertained to cocktails whilst on a courtesy visit to Georgetown. Others who have visited the Mess at one time or another include the Commander of British Forces in Guyana, Col. G. J. A. Dewar, and Mrs. Dewar, Chief of Staff Guyana Military Forces, Lt.-Col. Ronald Pope, and Mrs. Pope—both well remembered from Hameln days; Commissioner to Guyana, Mr. Ian Puttock, and Mrs. Puttock; British High Commissioner to Guyana, Mr. T. L. Crosthwait; Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden (when free from bird watching and other G.S.O.1 duties); Bishop of Stadoek, Dr. Elder, and

Mrs. Elder; Bishop of the West Indies, Dr. Alan Wood; Col. E. A. Hefford; Mayor of Georgetown, Mr. E. Gajraj, and Mrs. Gajraj, and Sir Joseph and Lady Luckhoo to mention but a few.

With regard to personalities, everyone said a regretful goodbye to Gordon Crumley—his farewell party with champagne before the Commanding Officers' conference was a great success (other officers about to leave please note); and we wish Gordon and Margaret all success in their new life in Hong Kong. Arrivals include Capt. John Lofting from Aden (but without his cricket bat the P.M.C. was sad to discover), Capt. Gavin “Jamaica” Bulloch whose stories about the West Indies appear inexhaustible, Harry Barstow from Mons, David Gouda from R.M.A.S., and Padre Ian Bull who joined us in Guyana from 1 King's Regiment. Parenthood has also taken its happy toll, and we congratulate Peter and

Ingrid Cheesman, Peter and Kyren Packham, Peter and Joyce Clarke (wins deserve extra special congratulations), and David and Doris Pike on recent additions to their families. C/Sgt. Briggs and the Mess Staff—both military and civilian—must not be forgotten. They have all worked long hours and given excellent service throughout the tour. “Archie,” our ever friendly seven-coloured parrot, must also be mentioned. His cheerful antics have been a constant source of amusement to everybody.

Packing up for Hollywood will soon be upon us, and the “Emerald Isle” draws nearer every day. Everyone will take away their own particular memories of Georgetown, but perhaps your poor scribe will be forgiven if he attempts to sum it all up as “jump-ups,” and steel bands, calypsos and “Archie bruck-em-up,” armchairs and “who's for tennis?” Colgraine Pool and that “bronzed” look, nightfall and “choke and rob,” curry lunches and “do stay for tea.” But whatever recollection we have of this hospitable town and its friendly people, let us all enjoy the sunshine while we can.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS (Georgetown)

At the time of writing the last notes, all thoughts were on British Guiana and everyone was busy preparing for the move. We did, however, have one very memorable event in the Mess which is worthy of record. Sgt. Willis, the Mess artist, had been busy for several weeks painting in oils a replica of our Regiment's famous painting, “Steady the Drums and Fifes.” This artist's impression of the original was duly completed and an unveiling ceremony was organised in early March. The officers were invited and the 2IC with due pomp and ceremony performed the unveiling. We are all most

Our Battalion's advance party left Northern Ireland on the evening of March 22 and arrived in British Guiana the following morning, where we were heartily welcomed by 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, who whipped us off to their Messes to swop yarns and drinks. They looked after us well for our first few days in Guiana, but gradually they melted away as incoming plane-loads of “Die-Hards” became out-going plane-loads of “Kingsmen.”

In the realm of Mess entertainment we believe we have exceeded even our wildest dreams. In the countries and islands of the Caribbean, one of the most popular pastimes is a “Jump-up” (to which an enlightened few of us were introduced after only two days in the colony!). A “Jump-up” is dancing to calypsos,



#### At Barbados en route for Guyana

From left to right: Sgt. W. Argent, C/Sgt. W. Smith, S/Sgt. C. Sabner (R.A.P.C.), C/Sgt. J. Redmond, O.R.Q.M.S. G. Cripps, Sgt. A. Torrie, Sgt. R. Shave

grateful to Sgt. Willis for producing for us such a treasure. The picture, a 5x4 ft. giant, takes pride of place in our Ante-room.

Before we left the misty, rainy shores of Northern Ireland for the more equable climate of British Guiana, we knew that, as a Mess, indeed as a Battalion, we should be spread over an extremely large area of territory which would make it impossible to have but one Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. However, by means of informative correspondence with his opposite number in 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment (the infantry Battalion whom we were relieving), the Regimental Sergeant-Major was able to give us the low-down and put us in the picture.

There were to be two principal Messes, the first in the capital, Georgetown, which was shared with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants from the Garrison Headquarters, and the second at the main base, Atkinson Field, again shared but with Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 1310 Transport Flight, R.A.F., as well as other supporting arms.

and other West Indian music played by a steel band or simply by record-player. The rhythm and tempo of the music is such that most people are compelled to jump up and dance. We hold our “Jump-ups” each Saturday evening, alternating between the Georgetown and Atkinson Messes.

On Albuhera Day the Regiment's traditional activities were carried out with the customary spirit of gay abandon! The Georgetown Mess was stirred from its slumbers by an impressive selection of music played by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums garbed in an impressive selection of sartorial elegance! We were surprised and delighted to see the Commanding Officer as an acting unpaid Drum-Major! At lunchtime we paid our customary call at the Officers' Mess for drinks, the Warrant Officers remaining for a most excellent lunch. In the evening, the officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants gathered together for the traditional Albuhera Silent Toast Ceremony, after which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants sat down and dined together. It was a most happy occasion as all but a very



few Mess members were able to gather in Georgetown for this function.

Our next big function was a cocktail party held on Saturday, May 21, which went on well into the early hours of the morning. At this party we took the wise precaution of *not* letting C/Sgt. Bill Smith attend to the mixing of the cocktails. Instead we had a "triumvirate" consisting of C.S.M. Mick Elston, Sgt. Trevor Fisher with "Old Man" S/Sgt. Bill Robson cracking the whip. By the following morning everyone was wishing they had let Bill Smith have his way! We invited about 150 guests to this party and they were royally entertained by a display from the Corps of Drums and, afterwards, a selection of music from the Regimental Band.

On May 26, 1966, British Guiana gained her Independence and became the new nation of Guyana. Her Majesty's representative at all the official functions leading up to the principal ceremony on May 26, was His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent. On Wednesday, May 25, the Mess was highly honoured to have the Duke as our guest for a short while, during which he found time to have a word with most of our members. He later presented the Battalion with a signed portrait of himself, which will have a place of honour in our Mess on our return to Holywood.

In the world of sport, the Mess is holding its own. It is now a regular Saturday morning feature to see the Mess team resplendent in lily-white shirts, making their way to the football pitch, to take on another team from within the Battalion. We have had our share of "lost matches," but mostly we seem to win, no doubt due to such stalwart players as "World Cup" Willy Williamson, "Grotty" Ford and "Bootsy" Elston; not forgetting the Regimental Sergeant-Major who does really well in preventing our opponents from getting at the ball (and our own players too!).

As usual we have our departures, arrivals and promotions. First we say farewell to S/Sgt. Ted Girling who has torn himself away after ten years as our Battalion armourer. We all wish you and your family the best of good fortune in your new posting, Ted. C.S.M. John Martin, M.M., has now moved to 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment and is at present serving in Germany. Our vehicle genius, Sgt. George Peacock, R.E.M.E., has left us on posting, also to B.A.O.R.; Sgts. George Horder and John Redrup are now braving the rigours of civilian life and Sgt. Bruce Tarry has left us to become a recruiter. More power to your elbow, Bruce.

We welcome the following to the Mess and hope that their stay with us will be pleasant and rewarding: S/Sgt. Arthur Sabner (R.A.P.C.), Sgts. Joel and Webb (R.E.M.E.), and once again, hello to C/Sgt. Bill Williamson.

On their well deserved promotions we congratulate C/Sgts. Dave Miles and George Overton, S/Sgt. Webb and Sgt. McIntosh (R.E.M.E.), and Sgts. Turner, Hills and Hilton. Perhaps the most surprised of all these lucky people was Cpl. Sid Hilton who stepped off the aircraft at Atkinson Field into the waiting arms of C/Sgt. Bill Smith, complete with a brand new Sergeant's

K.D. shirt in his hand and an invitation to breakfast in the Mess. Sid's promotion had been published only the day before!

And now the end of our tour in Guyana is but a matter of weeks away. We are all enjoying our stay here but will not be worried to return to the rains and mists of Northern Ireland, Bushmills whiskey and Guinness.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS (Atkinson)

The Sergeants' Mess here at Atkinson, like most communities on the Base, is one of mixed membership and the "Die-Hards'" representative force of some 18 members lost little time on arrival in settling in and making themselves acquainted with their friends and fellow members of 1310 Flight R.A.F., 25 Flight A.A.C., R.A.O.C., R.A.M.C., R.E. (Postal Section) and Sgt. Pete Howard whose Regiment/Corps is yet to be determined as Middlesex or A.C.C.! (1310 Flight R.A.F. are contemplating secondment to the Battalion also!)

One half of our original Mess staff in Holywood were assigned to the Atkinson Mess from the time of our arrival. They, together with an additional soldier on loan from the Corps of Drums, and the Mess Caterer (now Sgt. Frank Willis), have proved a great asset and have to date kept our 50 members well cared for.

Being some 26 miles from Georgetown (the nearest outside social community) our entertainment has been completely in the hands of the Mess Entertainment Committee who so ably organise our twice monthly "social evenings." These are arranged on alternate Saturdays so as not to clash with the similar arrangements of our Battalion Mess in Georgetown, thus affording our members the opportunity of a "get together" with our "brothers" and vice versa.

With the formation of a Steel Band in the Battalion, here at Atkinson, came the idea of curry luncheons, to the strains of the Caribbean music. We have had two such Sunday occasions to date, and with the ever increasing skill and popularity of the Band, they are proving extremely successful. Our main problem now is coping with the increasing flood of visitors who call on us on other Sundays in the hopes that there might be a function in progress.

Early evenings must prove quite a spectacle for the few Guyanese employees of the nearby airfield. For, having dined at the end of the day, it is in that direction that many of the Mess members wind their way in groups of fours and fives for their evening stroll. Suddenly a group will disappear from view, only to be seen some minutes later sitting on the tarmac in a small enclosure marked "Smoking Area." Others, rather anxious to be back in U.K., have been seen running along the tarmac with arms flapping to the tune of "If I had the Wings of a Dove." No one has yet made a successful take-off and our 1310 Flight friends assure us that we must, in fact, be patient and await their assistance.

The alternative to a stroll around the airfield has recently been to provide a live audience for the Steel Band at evening practice. It was in that direction one night that a dozen or more members were seen heading after dinner. Some have even found their way into the Band with a minor part to play, if one could call Tom Smith's (R.A.F.) a minor part.

The evening constitutional over, it is inevitable that most of the members should arrive at Willis's Tavern to a card table, a game of darts or skittles, to a cinema seat (twice weekly) or most popular of all, to a bar stool. It is there that we have not only maintained our long established friendships but have made many new ones. We feel sure that the Atkinson Sergeants' Mess will be the talking point of many a conversation to come, its advantage being that the majority of our Battalion Warrant Officers and Sergeants have spent at least part of their present tour at this location and all have joined in making Mess life here as enjoyable as possible. This has been much appreciated by the "permanent fixtures" of "Happy Akie"—a name well fitted, we feel, to a community so fond of "MX"—sorry, "XM," the happy stuff.

We now look forward to the return of the Battalion to Holywood and our Mess gatherings there. We have had some good times certainly, but as members of a Sergeants' Mess of a Regular Battalion we cannot help but miss Mess life among our friends and families who have for many years been moulded together, as we have.

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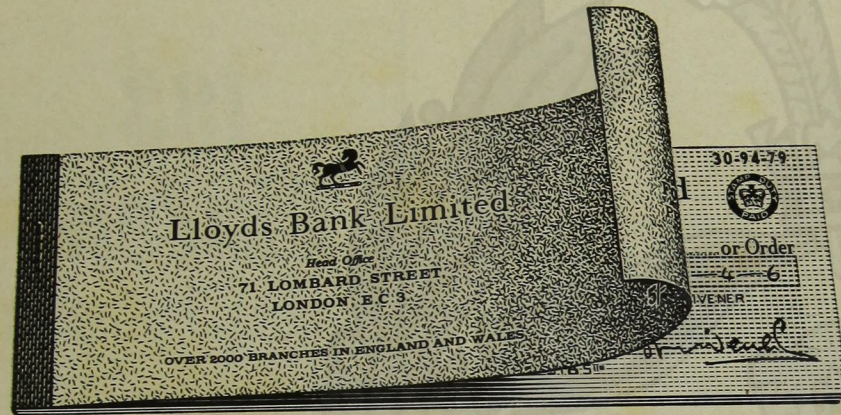
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## SPORTS



### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Guyanese are a truly sporting people and have more facilities for playing games than most. Their two major loves are cricket and football. At cricket their reputation is second to none. Football is played nearly all the year round and in Georgetown, the Capital, there are seven major teams which compete in the Hood League and in various cup competitions. To go to a country where football plays a major part in the way of life and not to enter into the spirit of things would be a crime and indeed a waste of a wonderful opportunity to play competition football of a high standard.

The "Diehards" are now well and truly a force to be reckoned with in local football. At the time of going to

three match tour to New Amsterdam in the Berbice and several other friendly matches complete the programme.

The Dauntless Club of Grenada toured Guyana in July and played a match against us on the 22nd. This was a game with an international flavour played at Leonora on the West Coast Demerara. The Band and Drums played before the match and during the interval and a large crowd of spectators were treated to a feast of good football. The result, a 1-1 draw, was a fair reflection of the game. The champions of Grenada were, however, shocked as they expected a convincing win. They later played the Guyana National side and beat them 3-2.

The highlight of our stay here was the eagerly

### The Die-Hards Football Team

Back Row (left to right): C.S.M.I. S. Meadows (Player/Coach), L/Cpl. K. Wittig, Cpl. G. Tydeman, L/Cpl. R. Davidson, Pte. V. Herbert, C/Sgt. D. Miles, R.S.M. K. E. Beale (O.I.C.)  
Front row (left to right): Cpl. D. Quilter, L/Cpl. J. Clements, Cpl. B. Morley, Pte. W. Hamilton, C/Sgt. J. Redmond, L/Cpl. D. Read



press we are fourth in the league with half of our matches played. Recent team and positional changes have added more punch to our forward line and we are now convinced that our good approach work will not be wasted.

### THE HOOD LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Sandbach Parker	7	4	2	1	17	9	10
St. Barnabas	7	3	3	1	10	7	9
Police	7	2	4	1	11	10	7
Die-Hards	7	2	3	2	11	10	7
Georgetown F.C.	7	3	1	3	11	9	7
Thomas United	7	2	1	4	6	17	5
Victoria	7	2	0	5	3	14	4

In the remaining two months we have in Guyana we have a very full programme to fulfil. Five Hood League matches, the McDonald and Eye Witness Cup Competitions, a match against the National side, a

awaited tour of Surinam (Dutch Guiana). This took place from July 24 to August 1. The journey in itself was an adventure, taking almost four days to complete. The majority of the time was spent on a Dutch Army launch wending our way along the Nickerie River flanked by solid walls of jungle.

The Dutch Army were extremely hospitable to us and the tour was highly organised. Although we only stayed two days we must have seen about everything of interest. Visits were made to New Amsterdam (not the one referred to earlier in these notes), the Marienburg Sugar Estate, the Bruynzeel Timber Company and the Parbo Brewery to name a few. By the time it came to play the matches in the late afternoon the entire team were very tired but how could one refuse such wonderful hospitality? Our only criticism was the early reveille, 0500 hrs., and the chocolate spread sandwiches which we had for breakfast and tea.

Although we lost both our matches—6-3 against a



combined Army and Civilian XI and 3-1 against an all-Army XI—we put up a very creditable performance and had Lady Luck been on our side the tables could easily have been turned.

Drinking, until after both matches had been played, was taboo. On the last night of our stay in Paramaribo, the Capital of Surinam, we let our hair down and treated our Dutch friends to a night out. This is best described by L/Cpl. Ken Wittig, our stalwart right back.

#### Report of our glorious football tour of Surinam or how "Christine" performed in the Havanna Bar

It was our last night in Paramaribo and as we were ordered not to drink while there were still games to be played we eagerly awaited the last night for a good bender.

Fifteen of us booked out of the Dutch Guard Room, plus four Dutch soldiers who were to show us around. We all jumped in four taxis and roared off to find the grottiest bar in town. We found one called the "Tutti Frutti" where we all settled down for a good drink. After about an hour in walked the R.S.M., C.S.M.I. Meadows, C/Sgt. Miles and C/Sgt. Redmond. A big roar welcomed them. By this time we were getting restless to see "Christine" do his striptease but he remarked that the bar was not groddy enough. Off we went again in search of a grottier bar and were very lucky for just around the corner we came across the Havanna Bar, and was it groddy? The grottiest you could wish to find anywhere. Cpl. Hannaford even

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remarked it was so groddy that even the mice wore denims. We explained to the four women behind the bar that our "Christine" was going to strip. They were all for it and even helped to clear the centre of the floor of tables and chairs. One of the boys got the juke box playing a nice sexy record and he was on. I have never seen anyone strip like this before, male or female. The sex just poured out of him. He wiggled and turned as he pulled off his garments one by one; he was so good the four girls abandoned the bar and pushed through the crowd to get a good view. Cpl. Butler then took over working the bar: but back to the sex-ridden "Christine." He danced around to the cheers of the crowd with those of the four girls loudest of all. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end; the record went off and so did our "Christine." It was a tremendous performance and he got his reward—a quart bottle of Parbo beer presented by the landlady who said "Please come again tomorrow."

After "Chris" dressed we all departed for the Cactus Club where there was a real girl who stripped, but that is another story. Ask the R.S.M., he knows!!

#### CRICKET

As few known cricketers were available in Georgetown, the Battalion did not enter any civilian league—not being sufficiently strong enough to compete in the extremely high grade of cricket that is played in Guyana—and only two games were played against visiting Royal Navy sides, both being won. Scores:

May 4-1 Middlesex: 61 (Sgt. Stewart 24).

H.M.S. *Vidal*: 37 (Major Pike 8 for 10).

May 25—H.M.S. *Tartar* and H.M.S. *Lynx* (combined teams): 56 (Major Pike 5 for 5; Pte. Crawford 4 for 36).

1 Middlesex: 58 for 6 (Sgt. Stewart 21).

British Services (Guyana)—comprised mainly of Battalion players—also played two games against the Guyana Police and Georgetown Cricket Club respectively. Both matches were most enjoyable, and a large number of spectators turned out to watch. Although the game against the Police was lost, the Services—thanks to a very fine innings by Capt. John Lofting—managed to beat the Georgetown Cricket Club after a close fight. Scores:

August 14—Guyana Police: 151 for 5 (Major Pike 4 for 29).

British Services (Guyana): 79.

August 21—G.C.C.: 149 (Major Pike 3 for 20; Pte. Crawford 3 for 48).

British Services (Guyana): 150 for 8 (Capt. Lofting 54; O/Cadet Dewar 32).

#### RUGBY FOOTBALL

We arrived fresh from our success in the Northern Ireland Cup to find the Rugby Season in then British Guiana about to begin. The two local teams from last season, The Caribs and The Hornets, were joined by the newly formed All Blacks and ourselves. A fifth team exists at Mackenzie some distance inland on the Demerara River but they only compete in the knock-out competitions and seven-a-sides.

In spite of the small number of teams we soon learned that there was no lack of spirit or competition—the latter encouraged to a degree by the number of cups available, namely the Gonsalves, Demba, Argyll, Dunlop, Grenadier and, new this season, D'Aguiar. These are awarded respectively for Double league, seven-a-side at Mackenzie, seven-a-side at Diamond, single league, knock-out and now a third seven-a-side. Diamond, seven miles down the Demerara, is the home ground for all teams except Mackenzie—a good pitch but often waterlogged in the rainy season and very hard at other times. We have all suffered a lot in the dry weather from grass burns which take time to heal.

Initially we started the season with friendly games and won the first three easily, the pack playing well and our main weakness being on the wings. In our first game playing as The Army—there are only two service players outside the Regiment—we beat the Rest (25-5) and then beat the Hornets and All Blacks. However, in our fourth match and first in the Gonsalves League we lost to the Hornets (3-11). Capt. Cheesman was away in England but we still had no excuse: the pack were not together and the tackling of the backs was poor. We won our fifth game against the Caribs narrowly—they are probably the best team out here—but then lost two league games in quick succession in spite of fielding on the second occasion one of our best teams for many seasons—on paper! Suffice it to say that at the end of this patch we had lost to all teams, except Mackenzie, as well as beaten them!

We regained some of our form at Mackenzie in the Demba sevens, in spite of a five-hour launch trip down the river in blazing sunshine—never has a glass of cold orange juice been so welcome as that consumed on arrival! We entered two teams, Mackenzie two, Hornets two, All Blacks one and Caribs one and the whole competition was played off from 4.30 p.m. onwards as part of a grand festival of sport; the final was floodlit. The first team had a good win over the Hornets in the first round but the second team lost to a good Caribs seven by 20 points though they were unlucky to lose Sgt. Shave, their scrum half, after only two minutes play. In the semi-final our team won a terrific struggle with Mackenzie Mines (6-3), thanks to a fine run and try by Cpl. Crook seconds before time. The final was a terrific game but the Caribs had the speed outside the pack and won by 13 points to 3.

Since mid June a lot of games have been cancelled because of rain but we managed to win our last two Gonsalves Cup matches and in fact finished one point behind the All Blacks, the winners. We, by beating the Hornets 6 points to 3 in the final game robbed them of the Cup! We might easily have won the cup but for our bad patch in the middle of the league.

By way of consolation in early July we won the Argyll Cup seven-a-side at Diamond—though the cup has still to be found! Ten teams entered—Caribs three, Mackenzie one, and remainder two each. The second team, this time without Major Pollard whose pleas to watch sevens were at last answered, were beaten by Carib "B" in the first round but the first team beat Caribs "C," All Blacks "A" and finally Caribs "A" to win the competition. The standard of play was if

anything higher than at Mackenzie but on the day we played the better game.

Just prior to Independence, Lt. Lowrie and Cpl. Crook played for "B.G." against H.M.S. *Ajax/Tartar*. "B.G." won and Cpl. Crook scored a good try. In early July, Barbados came over on a short four-day tour and we fielded seven players in the combined Caribs/"Die-Hards" team that beat Barbados (6-3). They were: Cpts. Cheesman and Goring, Lts. Lowrie and Barstow, 2/Lt. Gancz, Cpl. Blackburn and Pte. Anderson.

The rugger is certainly enjoyable and pretty tough here. We have made a lot of friends on and off the field and have the makings of a better than usual team for this coming season at home.

The arrival of Lt. Barstow, who is a Sussex wing three-quarter, and the return of Capt. Lofting, have strengthened our team as has the re-discovery (from Lydd days) of Cpl. Crook. There is a good attendance at training sessions each Tuesday.

The present XV is: Lt. Lowrie (A), Cpl. Crook (C), 2/Lt. Gancz (C), Capt. Goring (C), Lt. Barstow (Att. G.D.F.); Capt. Lofting (B), Capt. Cowing (H.Q. Lt. Packham (H.Q.), Capt. Cheesman (H.Q.), Cfm. Houghton (H.Q.), Lt. Graham (C), Cpl. Blackburn (A), Major Pollard (C), Pte. Anderson (B), C/Sgt. Briggs (H.Q.). The following have also played: Capt. Clark (A), Lt. Daniell (A), C/Sgt. Edey (C), Cpl. Stewart (H.Q.), L/Cpl. Tofts (C), Pte. Stevens (C). Cpls. Stopp and Murphy have done great work as touch judge/trainer.

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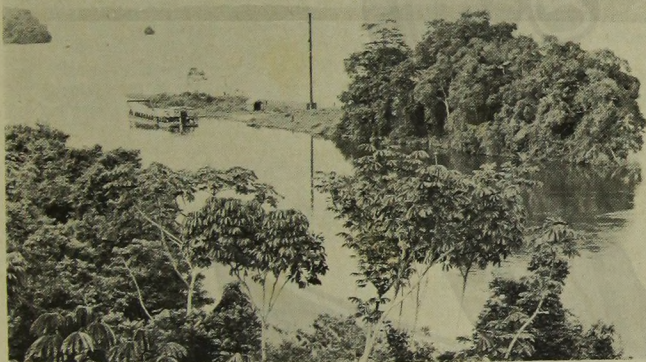
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## WINEPERU

The Essequibo rises in the southern-most regions of Guyana, on the borders with Brazil. It travels over 300 miles to its estuary into the Atlantic Ocean. The islands in the mouth of the estuary are large, three of them being larger than most of the British West Indian Islands, and the widest the estuary reaches is 15 miles wide. On the side of the Essequibo, above Bartica and Monkey Falls, is a logging camp, 55 miles from the estuary. This is Wineperu, and this is where the Battalion have had an Adventure Training Detachment since arriving in Guyana. About 250 soldiers will have passed through Wineperu on a week's course of adventure training in the jungle.

The permanent staff have changed during the six months, but Sgt. DaCosta and Sgt. Dowsett have been chief instructors for three months each approximately.



View of River Essequibo from Wineperu

The M.T. drivers have been Elliot and Ridsdale, the Medical Orderly, L/Cpl. Morrison, and Cpl. Murphy and a variety of signallers who kept the all important radio link with Georgetown. The two wooden buildings lent by the logging company are very adequate, with a fine view of the mighty Essequibo (about 1,000 yards wide at this point). Running water, showers, and other facilities make these two buildings perfect as a base for training. A path leads down to the waterside where the three boats were moored. Two civilian cooks, a yard boy, and two excellent guides make up the complement of permanent staff.

A course of normally ten men would leave Georgetown by ferry early on a Saturday morning. After an eight-hour journey, first out to sea, and then into and up the estuary of the Essequibo, a driver would meet the course at Bartica, and take them in his vehicle 22 miles up the

Potaro 'rail, and fork into the road to the logging camp.

The first view of Wineperu would normally be after dark. Apart from unloading and camp noises one immediately becomes aware of the quiet of the jungle. The course gets into action early on Sunday morning. Without going into details, during the week, lean-to constructions are made, tracks are cut through the jungle, rafts constructed, and used in a thrilling kon-tiki race, where the record achieved was 2 hours 10 minutes, fishing, hunting and felling trees. The weather, which was invariably hot, could change from sunny to torrential rain in minutes, adding further hazards to training, and it would be rare to complete a day's training dry. A very pretty and attractive collection of moths and butterflies were pinned by Sgt. Dowsett, as also was a perfectly ghastly looking collection of tarantulas, beetles, locusts, and everything that went bump in the night. It is hoped that this collection will be on display

in Holywood to prove the veracity of numerous soldiers who all claim to have been in a similar spot as James Bond with a tarantula.

The military value of Wineperu has been proved beyond doubt, in that soldiers could leave there, and be more confident that they could tackle the hazards of living in the jungle, beating the weather, and learning how to live off the land or water. Many soldiers, as they bumped along the sandy track leading back to Bartica, would wish that their week had been longer, and were even thinking that they had only just begun to learn to live with Nature again.

The silent Essequibo has an attraction that grows, and to sit on the seats constructed by one course, and look out over the water, was a very satisfying feeling for those who had worked and fished on the river for a week.

G.B.

## The trip to Kaieteur Falls

The opportunity of visiting Kaieteur Falls does not come to everybody, and while the Battalion was stationed here it was thought that as many trips ought to be organised, so that this opportunity would not be missed. It will suffice to go into the details of one such trip, but of the 152 persons who actually made the trip, all will agree that it was well worth the visit.

Kaieteur Falls are the world's highest falls, that is 741 feet of straight drop from the lip of the falls. The Falls are on the River Potaro, a large, wide and sometimes very deep river that rises in the Ayanganna Mountains near the Brazilian border. After flowing through jungle to the Kaieteur Falls it then meanders again through jungle finally joining the Essequibo 120 miles from its source. The Falls were discovered by a geologist called Barrington Brown in 1870. He was searching for mineral wealth and found the Falls.

After making all preparations in Georgetown, the party would leave early on a Saturday morning, on the Bartica Ferry. This in fact follows the same pattern as the course going to Wineperu. The ferry would go out to sea, then turn in to the Essequibo estuary, and dodge around the islands up the river until arriving at Bartica late that afternoon. Bartica, the old mining town base, where prospectors, better known here as Porkknockers, would leave for panning diamonds and gold in the Potaro, Essequibo or Mazaruni rivers. A drive of 20 miles in military vehicles would bring the course after dark to Wineperu, where rest and shelter and refreshment were taken. On the Sunday, the party would then after breakfast leave Wineperu and motor off down the Potaro trail in two military vehicles. This trail, seemingly unending, would wend its way on and on through primal rain forests mile after mile. Eighty miles later the trail would lead to Garraway Stream where a suspension bridge crossed the dark fast flowing silent Potaro River. To stand on that bridge and look at this large unknown river, one begins to realise the immense distances that, even in one small country in South America, have to be covered to get into the interior. After motoring in some hilly country the track junction to Mahdia and Kangaruma is reached. A further four miles, and the party would now arrive at the Kangaruma Resthouse. A more pleasant rest house in this dull green coloured jungle could not be anticipated. Quiet, roomy, well laid out, and extremely clean the smartness of the Resthouse is due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart who are the supervisors.

Mr. Austin, the local boat owner and diamond panner, lives next to the resthouse, and this completes Kangaruma. The Potaro, swift and silent, flows below the resthouse, and after dinner on the verandah the impression of being Col. Fawcett on the Amazon can be very strong.

Early on the Monday morning, the party would leave

their vehicles and heavier equipment at the Resthouse, and carry down to the river side a large pack of possessions and bedding. Mr. Austin and three Amerindian boatmen load the boat, and then after starting the outboard engine, the boat journey up the river would begin. This would be utterly peaceful and relaxing, chugging up this wide and tree skirted river. The only difference from the Thames was that there was absolutely no form of civilisation anywhere to be seen. The first stop was Amatuk Falls, rather dangerous looking rapids that could not be crossed by boat. Unloading the boat, carrying kit and the engine over land to a spot above the falls, and repacking another boat would be completed in about 30 minutes, and again chugging further up the river towards Kaieteur. The party would notice that they were beginning to pass into a deep valley with high cliffs and mountains on either side ranging up to 2,000 feet high. Waratuk Falls would be reached eight miles later. Not as rapid as Amatuk Falls, these could be crossed by expert boatmen only. Again unloading, lifting kit, repacking a boat above the falls would delay the journey another 30 minutes, and then on the final leg of the boat journey to Tukeit 12 miles away. A glimpse of Kaieteur could be seen, the lip only, as the party approach Tukeit because it would then be clear that the boat was progressing up a wide gorge which the river Potaro entered by falling over the top of an escarpment.

Tukeit is a small hutted resthouse beside the Potaro three and a half miles walk from the top of the falls; travellers could stay the night, cook food over the stove provided. It was not luxurious but convenient. Here the military party would arrive at about 5 p.m., and stay the night, getting up early to wend their way up through forest tracks to the top of the Falls before the sun got too hot. And finally after three days of approaching there was Kaieteur right beside you. It is a fantastic sight to see a deep river over 75 yards wide, literally hurling itself over a 740-foot precipice. When the sun is out a rainbow permanently flickers over the spray and spume of water as it tumbles into the gorge. Photographs, poses, and cautious peering over the edge would give way to astonished gazing. Finally a return would have to be made, and after farewell looks the party would trudge down the hill to Tukeit for breakfast.

The return journey would be exactly the same as the outward journey, taking three days to complete.

Thus after six days away, those who sit at desks, or maintain stores, could with some justification say that they had seen something worth seeing in Guyana. When dates, place names, times, and other trivia fade in the memory, one picture will still remain bright—that of the silent Potaro changing its image, and roaring into the seemingly bottomless gorge.

G.B.

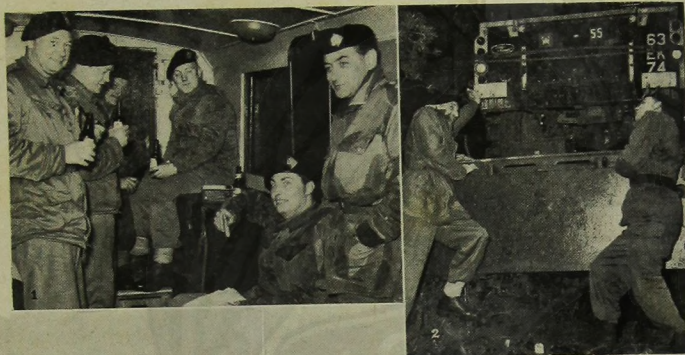






**'H.Q.' Company**

Activities  
highlighted  
in  
pictures



1. "Hello Sunrays 1, 2 and 3, report your exact locations"
2. The M.T.O. and S/Sgt. Pincombe making sure that the vehicle was fully aboard
3. The Band and Drums Beating Retreat at East Harling
4. Pte. Smith, the winner, receiving the Young Soldiers' Cup from Mrs. Peter Hall
5. The hierarchy of the Signals Platoon at "work" in Battalion H.Q.
6. L/Cpls. Hollett and Adams firing the Carl Gustav at camp

L/Cpl. Gilbert, the C.P. typist, also deserves credit for his untiring efforts on the typewriter.

Annual Camp arrived and Battalion Headquarters assembled at Bodney Camp. The Padre, Rev. Ralph Brown, arrived in extremely high spirits, which lasted throughout the camp, although several others appeared somewhat subdued each morning. R.M.O. Major MacQueen, set up shop with his team of orderlies and did a brisk trade in everything from German Measles to cut cooks. The Orderly Room functioned well under Mr. Howe. Mrs. Finlay and Mrs. Kirkley appeared dressed in holiday mood which brightened up Battalion Headquarters.

As mentioned elsewhere the C.O. broke his leg and Major Gunnell took over and ran the Battalion for the remainder of camp. Major Lawrence summed up the final exercise in his own picturesque language which, it is to be hoped, drove the points home.

**"H.Q." COMPANY**

During the considerable Government procrastination on our organisation, the Company has attempted a "business as usual" policy. This has proved successful and right in as much as Edgware will now remain with a Company and Headquarters of the A.V.R. III Battalion.

The main problem for the future is recruiting as we have to make up the void that almost a year's uncertainty has produced and let the public know that we are still, and will be, active and not buried as the press (and Government?) have led them to believe.

The second quarter of the year was taken up by R.E.M.E. inspections, Brigade signal exercise and shooting. Thanks to Lt. Ron Vaisey, the M.T. had a good report from R.E.M.E. This was well deserved after the effort the Platoon had put in. The Brigade signal exercise also went very well. The Battalion practice weekend on Berkhamstead Common proved how good civilian communications are, if not our own, judging from the speed of arrival and comments from the National Trust Warden when we harboured amongst a few beech trees!

The Adjutant, being very keen to make full use of his newly organised C.P. at the end of the Brigade exercise, sent a message to sunrays 1, 2 and 3 to report their exact locations which was received loud and clear in the adjacent borrowed "passion" wagon. Fortunately, as the photograph shows, the transistor wireless on which it was heard could not transmit a reply!

Camp seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Platoon training was carried out during the first week. The Assault Pioneers managed to get some blowing in and fired the Carl Gustav. An enjoyable party was held on the Thursday evening when even the Padre managed to add his verse to a well-known song! The second week saw the key people "helping" the rifle Companies on their exercise. The Signal Platoon hierarchy in particular were very hard worked, as the photograph shows, in Battalion H.Q. when they were not busy watching the Adjutant and Training Major performing with pine cones!

Our team at the Rifle Meeting did very well giving "D" Company a close fight. They are to be congratulated on winning the rifle match and Pte. Smith (818) on his winning the Young Soldiers Cup, although he was most upset at being called a young soldier as he says he is well past 17½ years old!

Another small party was held at East Harling on the last night of camp when the Band and Drums beat retreat in the village square.

L/Cpl. Smith (818) and L/Cpl. Shears are to be congratulated on their promotion.

The latter is welcomed back into the fold after "emigrating" to South Africa. He wasted no time in rejoining after his return as he was seen in the drill hall on the Sunday after listening to the World Cup Final in Johannesburg on the Saturday.

We look forward to the future with confidence and are sure that recruits will soon roll in when our full active programme on recruiting gets under way.

**Recce and Signal Platoons**

During the first week of camp the first few days were spent on "beefing up" Voice Procedure and getting acquainted with the three 19 sets which Staff Hawkins acquired for us. What we had learned or remembered was tested later on in the week by Man Pack exercise and exercise on F.F.R.s. Voice Procedure was slicker and the 19 sets had been mastered. On the Friday Signals went with 1 Company to act as enemy and Recce to 2 Company acting in their normal role. On the Saturday we took part in the Battalion Rifle Meeting where Pte. Smith did well in winning the Young Soldiers Shoot. Other members are to be congratulated on their speedy discovery of the "Flesh Pots" in Norwich during that middle weekend. If only we could net as quickly!!

The second week was spent maintaining communications on the Battalion scheme. Pte. Richardson, who had caught German Measles, came out of Sick Bay to work the rear link in camp. When the scheme ended it was merely a matter of checking kit and packing up ready for our return home, although we did manage to have a party on the Friday night. This proved to be an enjoyable evening. However, the R.S.O. remains puzzled by the disappearance of four members of the Platoon during the course of that evening.

Congratulations to Cpl. Jeffrey on his recent marriage. We wish him all the best. We also congratulate Sgt. Purchase on becoming the father of a Recce Platoon member for 1983.

**M.T. Platoon**

During the last period the Platoon has been very active. After working to obtain a satisfactory R.E.M.E. report we settled down to lectures and driver training on drill nights and weekends.

The Platoon turned out in force for the Battalion Signal exercise and, despite the muddy and wet conditions, no casualties to vehicles occurred and the M.T.O. and C/Sgt. Alan Green seemed well pleased with the way the vehicles were handled (for a change).

There was one casualty on the Brigade Signal exercise but from a borrowed vehicle. On the Saturday evening O.C. "C" Company reported trouble with his clutch



which proved to be burnt out. The M.T.O. having parted with his own vehicle scratched his head and decided to avoid towing by trying to load it on the back of the R.E.M.E. 3 ton. This was achieved in a remarkable short time by going to Longmoor sidings, stripping off the canopy and framework and passing the vehicle up the loading ramp. The ingenuity of the R.E.M.E. section certainly coming to the fore!

At the end of the exercise "A" echelon commanded by the Company 2IC moved out from Harley in a different direction from the rest, following his "short cut." After a very pleasant trip around the lake we came back to where we started! The Platoon is charging 5s. for any future trips around the lake with Capt. Tett.

Annual camp proved to be a good one for the Platoon with again the only major breakdown from a borrowed vehicle. All the drivers gained valuable experience of cross-country and night driving. Pte. Tuvey as the R.S.M.'s driver on the N.C.O.'s exercise from all accounts, can certainly sleep when not on duty!

The M.T.O. thanks the R.E.M.E. and all drivers for the support they gave him on this his first camp in the job.

Camp has now passed and looking to the future what do we find—Annual R.E.M.E. Inspection again due in October. So we close with the thought of weekends of cleaning rags, oils and grease, hoses, paint and sweat to enable the Battalion to get a good report.

The following have qualified as Battalion drivers since the last *Die-Hards* was published: L/Cpls. Brooks, Hooker, Richards, Hart, Adams; Ptes. Powley, Eggleton, Davis, Burl, Thompson, Jones ("H.Q." Company); Sgts. Stone, Smith; Ptes. Bushby, McIntyre, Oakley, Wood ("A" Company); Cpl. Cowlard; Pte. Bell ("C" Company) and Pte. Duff ("B" Company).

#### "A" COMPANY

Over the last six months our Platoons have not faltered in the tasks, nor relaxed in the varied and rigid training programme set for them.

With the new organisation looming on the horizon we have followed a course which we trust is the foundation for the future standard required, and it is good to report that all concerned have emerged with honours.

On April 2 we had a recruiting day which proved beyond all doubt that Hornsey is one of the best recruiting areas in the Battalion, recruiting no less than five men. Although the numbers were not quite so good as on our previous recruiting day, all members of the Company should congratulate themselves on a splendid day's work. W.O.2 Garraty came into his own with extra side shows, such as camp bivouac scenes, which really drew the crowds. We would like to congratulate Sgt. Stone and his .22 shooting team on winning the competition once again in spite of the loss of some previous team members.

Our Old Comrades (1st/7th Battalion) invited Sgt. Kavanagh and Cpl. Bird to their annual dinner, where they were wine and dined in grand style. We also had two of our younger members present, Ptes. Roper and

Foster, dressed in the 1881 uniforms which added a splash of colour to the event. We are very pleased to see such liaison between the Old Comrades and our members.

Another highlight of the last six months was our shooting weekend at Purfleet. Apart from the benefit gained by the Shooting team, the Company had a very enjoyable evening in Southend, although there was some dispute as to whether this constituted a Military exercise! Our own 007, Mr. Bremner, arrived by train for the evening, but had to return to a bivouac that night and soldier on the next day, muttering to younger members that it was tougher in his day.

There have been many enjoyable weekends, but one that will prove a lasting memory was the Pippingford Park Internal Security exercise. Notorious bandits led by Wan (alias W.O.2 Garraty) were chased across the English countryside in a midnight truck race and finally cornered at Pippingford Park where a series of spectacular deaths put an end to them. Hollywood, where were you?

We were pleased to have "C" Company amalgamated with us for camp and to be working with old friends again. "A" and "C" Companies have always worked together so well in the past and we have always regarded "C" Company soldiers as amongst the best in the Battalion.

This joint Company also succeeded in giving us an extra party at the "Angel" Larling, to add to the many of that first week.

The second week involved the Company in realistic digging which does not often fall to the Territorial soldier, but was taken in the right spirit and enjoyed by all. A special mention here to Sgt. Smith whose Anti-Tank Platoon were congratulated on their digging. Congratulations also to Sgts. Kavanagh and Slack on their promotion prior to camp. Not much remains to be done to our Drill Hall now to make it the best, not only in the Battalion but probably in the country, and to this end works will soon be begun. Special features in mind are the Anti-Tank and Mortar Puff range and the canteen bar. No doubt when the latter is finished a large party with suitable entertainment will be organised to celebrate the event.

As we go to press we give another big welcome to all members of "C" Company who are now finally with us at Hornsey. These keen men are already making an impact on our attendances and drill standards and with them we look forward to our future role.

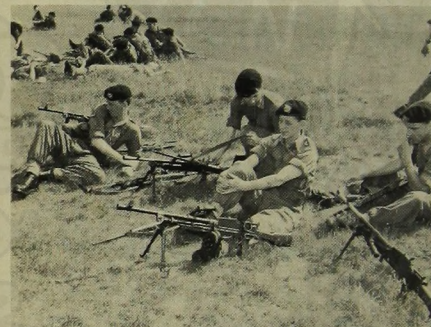
Hornsey boys since Napoleon have been ready for any event and changes have not deterred them nor will they in the future. We await our new role eagerly with a fine Company which does every credit to its illustrious ancestors. Advance the Hornsey Volunteers!

#### "B" COMPANY

It is with a great deal of sadness that the writer pens these notes, which may well prove to be the last submitted by a Middlesex Company from the Ealing Drill Hall. A Company from the Middlesex T.A. or Volun-

teers has served at Churchfield Road for nearly 70 years, but in the recently announced re-organisation the Ealing Drill Hall will be closed, and the "B" Company members will continue their T.A. careers in other Drill Halls as T.A.V.R. I, II or III volunteers.

Despite the uncertainties concerning the future we were all determined to make our last Camp as "B" Company a memorable one, and looked forward eagerly to our two weeks at Stanford P.T.A. In order to provide adequate numbers for good training we combined with "D" Company from Hounslow to form No. 2 Camp Company. Major Henshaw commanded the composite Company with Capt. Richards as 2IC and C.S.M. Vasey and C.Q.M.S. Rea from "D" Company as C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. respectively. The amalgamation



From left to right: Cpl. Sullivan, L/Cpl. Woodall, Ptes. Beavan and Hammond resting between practice at the Rifle Meeting

worked well and we were able to renew our friendships with the Hounslow lads before doing battle during the second week with No. 1 Camp Company.

The first week was spent in exercising as a joint Company prior to the scheme. By the middle weekend we were all much fitter and ready to face the fray (particularly the N.C.O.s who had been put through it by the R.S.M.).

The second week was entirely devoted to a running battle against No. 1 Company and as, for most of us, it was the longest scheme we had ever undertaken, we entered into it with misgivings. However, the scheme was a great success and the Company came through with flying colours. At the conclusion of the exercise it was unanimously agreed by the O.C. to march back into camp and a very tired, rather dirty, but very happy Company did just that to prove to themselves that a four-day exercise is all in a day's work.

On our return from Camp we settled down to arranging our training for the next few months prior to re-organisation. We will all be disappointed to sever our links with Churchfield Road but are nevertheless looking forward to assuming our roles (new) in the reformed T.A.

In conclusion double congratulations are due to Capt. Margand, firstly on his promotion and secondly on the birth of his third son. Congratulations also to Cpl. Tomkins on the birth of his third daughter making six in all.

#### "C" COMPANY

These notes in a way represent a sad occasion in the Battalion's history as these will be the last *Die-Hard* notes that will come from the Enfield Drill Hall in the foreseeable future.

It was decided at Camp this year, that in view of the numbers involved, and the fact that almost all the members of the Company were hoping to be accepted for the new A.V.R. II Company in April of next year, to combine with "A" Company at Hornsey. This was not to say that during the last six months "C" Company have been having an idle time. On the contrary they had a very active training period up to and including Camp with a field firing at Colchester on a very wet weekend and two Range weekends at Purfleet, at least one of which was wet as well.

One high spot was the Internal Security weekend at Stanford P.T.A. on March 12/13 when the Company made up a full Platoon for a field exercise. The enemy were from the Waltham X cadets (who provided the armed enemy) and 20 or so Rover Scouts, part of the Barnical Hospital Crew, Gilwell Park, who were the crowd, riots, bolshi populace or what have you of the area. The Company called in to quell the riot at West Toffs Village were met with a hail of half-bricks (whole bricks being considered un-scout-like) which resulted in two bruised legs and three bruised steel helmets with three spinning beads inside. From that time on the Company had a very aggressive approach to all matters connected with scouting. The remainder of the Saturday was taken up with night patrolling and casualty (excessive) disposal.

During the night the Platoon Commander, Lt. Muirhead, with the assistance of Cpl. Smith, managed to get himself captured in his own Platoon position. The writer does not know what actually happened at this point, being in bed at the time, but he did hear some very unpleasant language which was certainly last heard by Baden Powell at Mafeking. On Lt. Muirhead's return he was the most aggressive of the lot.

The Sunday started with a river crossing and dawn attack followed by road blocks and searching of vehicles and persons. Apart from being good fun this weekend was considered, thanks to the completely fresh approach by the enemy, to be one of the best instructional weekends we have had for a long time.

At Camp we combined with "A" Company and provided all the Rifle Platoon junior N.C.O.s. This was of great benefit to the combined Company as a whole, particularly in the second week and made the whole Company click.

We managed to collect two prizes at the Battalion Rifle meeting during the middle weekend at Camp, namely: L.M.G. Pairs, Lt. Muirhead and Capt. Robertson; and Officers Cup, Lt. Muirhead.

It was sad to close the Enfield Drill Hall after so many



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years of faithful service to various Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment but the reasons have been recognised and accepted by all members as the only course open.

### "D" COMPANY

The Company has prospered since the last edition of these notes, the only disappointing factor being the absence of recruits due to the uncertainty over re-organisation. Most of these doubts have now been resolved. Economy is bound to bring its difficulties, but bearing in mind the chronic shortages of, for example, ammunition and radio equipment over the last few years which have developed the T.A.'s initiative, inventiveness and improvisation, there should be no insuperable problems. Hounslow has been lucky in the re-organisation and is to find one Company of the A.V.R. III Battalion based on Edgware. We have been assured that there will be a flood of transfers from other less fortunate units to boost our rather depleted numbers. Unless the bar profits are referred to the Prices and Incomes Board we feel confident of survival.

There were several shooting weekends prior to camp, including the usual field firing. We managed to find a range of our own just off the main ranges, used for the Battalion Classification, and consequently everything went very smoothly and we finished in good time with some scores that were good enough to surprise some of

the firers and lead the powers that be to the conclusion that there must have been collusion between the butts and firing point. It was a great help to have the Cadets from an affiliated unit carrying out the range duties under the fatherly supervision of Sgt. Ward.

Camp went well for the Company, although unfortunately, due to shortage of numbers, we had to combine with "B" Company for the 15 days. The four-day scheme was one of the longest that most Company members had ever been involved in but, to give all credit to the directing staff, it was made most interesting within the rather artificial limits imposed by the training areas. The Training Major expressed great interest in the new bren trench invented by Pte. Crane which was likened to a cross between a double bed and a bird bath. L/Cpl. Long had the misfortune to have one of Stanford's derelict buildings collapse on him; rumours of a fractured skull, two broken legs, then one broken leg, rapidly spread but he had a lucky escape and was, as it turned out, only badly bruised, being back in the field within a few days. Probably his greatest hardship was being introduced to a host of visiting Generals as "the man the roof fell on," throughout the second week.

During the daytime defence exercise our Brigade Training Colonel told the Company Commander that his tactics were 50 years out of date and that there should have been one or two O.P.s, as opposed to the

whole Company, manning the trenches (who were doing it especially for his benefit). He said the bulk of the Company should have been asleep in the hedge and for once a senior officer's views were wholeheartedly endorsed by the Company.

We have held two successful Cheese and Wine parties for the ladies and took up our usual quota of tickets for the Royal Tournament. That well tried amateur catering firm of Rea and Ward attended to all the arrangements with the usual excellent results.

During this period the Company has suffered (or possibly benefited from) a shortage of officers. Lt. Hamilton has just completed a tour of duty with the B.B.C. camera crew in Vietnam and was able to relate his experiences, illustrated by some of his own film, when he returned.

As usual we won the Battalion Rifle Meeting held this year, by special request of C/Sgt. Rea, on the middle Saturday of Camp. The Rifle Match eluded us this year but an overwhelming victory in the China Cup Competition more than made up for this. Cpl. Lee, after several years as runner-up, was the best shot in the Battalion and Sgt. Young again took the Sergeants Cup. Sgt. Young and Cpl. Dillon returned one of the best ever scores on the bren during the China Cup shoot.

Although there may well be changes in the senior personnel of the Company, who have been mainly responsible for the successes of the last few years, on re-organisation, we are confident that "D" Company's own particular spirit will survive.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Annual Camp, the highlight of the year, has, once again come and gone leaving us with pleasant thoughts of our two weeks in Bodney. We, as a Mess, were well represented with only four of our members being unable to attend. We were fed and watered well, Sgts. Trindall and Price (A.C.C.) working long and arduous hours looking after our needs with great care. This opportunity must not be missed of thanking Sgt. Price, a regular soldier, who took two weeks leave to minister to our ravenous appetites.

Two social events which caused many a thick head were the Officers' night and a social for the Corporals. For the Corporals' evening the P.M.C. and entertainments committee ("D" Company members) produced out of the hat an excellent young pop group which set the Corporals alight and some of our more elderly and sedate gentlemen stone deaf. The usual indoor sports

followed and were ably controlled, if that is the right word, by Sgt. Ward. The Corporals won the tug of war in spite of our efforts to lash the rope to the piano and even, at one stage, to the rafters.

Some visitors on this occasion were S/N.C.O.s from R.A.F. Feltwell. Even though they did appear a trifle perturbed by some of our more robust games and songs it would seem that they enjoyed themselves; we hope so as this was a "return" visit after their most kind invitation for us to use their very well appointed Mess. Those of us who visited Feltwell certainly saw how the other half live and had a most enjoyable evening.

The morning after the Corporals' evening was indeed a morning after for some people. The Corporals enjoyed a pleasant (?) half hour under W.O.2 Warner, the Sergeants a profitable period under C.S.M. Vasey, while the remainder of the Battalion accompanied the R.S.M. on a tour of camp. There are those among us who would prefer to forget the whole affair but others, with a twisted sense of humour, still talk of the plight of certain more unfortunates unused to cobweb drill.

The Honorary Colonel, Major-General B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E., visited us at camp and we took the opportunity of requesting that he did us the honour of sitting with us for the Mess photograph. A notable occasion for us all as this camp is the last at which the Battalion will appear on its present footing.

On the Sunday prior to camp we held a curry lunch in the Mess at Edgware. This was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, including the wives and girl friends and the seemingly thousands of children. W.O.2 Banks as usual contributed in no small degree to the success of this event by providing a first-class meal for us. Sgt. Francis looked after the children's lunch and this appeared to go down well as not many children seemed to be covered in ice cream or jelly afterwards, and the plates and tables were bare of remains. W.O.2 Warner had a hilarious time showing the children's films with one hand whilst holding the projector together with the other. "Whipper" Sills ended up by being the most unpopular man of the day, walking off with both raffle prizes—a magnum of champagne and a large basket of fruit—both of which were bigger than him.

By the next time the next notes are written we shall be well on the way towards our reorganisation. Although many tears have been shed, and opinions voiced, we shall in the main soldier on as ever.

Finally we all wish our Commanding Officer a speedy recovery after his most unfortunate accident whilst at camp.

## *The Die-Hards*

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**HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT  
NOTES**

This is somewhat an auspicious occasion, for these notes, together with many others from detachments serving away from the Regiment, are appearing for the last time, and, as such, mark the passing of an era. For, come December 31, 1966, we are to witness the most notable event since 1959, that being the formation of The Queen's Regiment. This, naturally, will bring all four Regiments far closer together and will lead to a greater economy of effort in all spheres, not least in the writing of "Brigade Depot Notes." However, for those readers who inevitably will not find "Home Counties Brigade Depot Notes" in the next edition of *The Die-Hards* may we suggest that we look in the list of contents under "4th Battalion News from the Regimental Depot" in the "Tail End Charlie—Diehard Column." Suffice it to say that at the Depot one obviously sees far more of the other Regiments than anywhere else and at this juncture, in trepidation of accusations of over-tolerance or pride, we would make two points. Firstly, having served with many other members of the other three Regiments we would say that we are delighted to join them in The Queen's, and, secondly, in the light of such comments as "Who's bringing up the rear" may we add that we are proud to be the 4th Battalion. After all, no matter what the military operation may be, a commander will always call upon those most responsible to "bring up the rear"!

Over the past six months Canterbury has been the scene of many changes the end product of which, it is hoped, has been felt by all four Regiments. We speak primarily of the expansion of the recruit training syllabus from ten to 14 weeks in order that all Platoon weapons may be taught, and indeed to a higher standard of proficiency. The difficult transition stage has now been passed and Training Company is settling down into its stride once again. The new system has its drawbacks, naturally, since it imposes a far greater strain on the instructors. As proof of this we offer a photograph of Cpls. Clarke and Terry during a period of relaxation! The extra four weeks of training are now devoted to a Battle Camp, which, at the time of going to press, will be held at Stanford in conjunction with the Royal Anglian Regimental Depot.

This, however, is to be succeeded by an Infantry Battle Camp for all Brigade and Regimental Depots at Otterburn towards the middle of 1967, but Stanford is designed only as an interim measure until the larger concern at Otterburn becomes operational and it does, in fact, achieve this aim most successfully. In the final analysis it is hoped that the all-round standard of recruits joining the Battalions will have risen considerably by virtue of this increased length of training.

Ceremonially, the greatest event has been the visit of



*"... a far greater strain on the instructors"*

Her Majesty Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Sussex Regiment, in June. Her Majesty had come to England on a three-day private visit but she graciously accepted an invitation to extend this by one day in order to inspect her Regiment at Canterbury. With such glorious weather Canterbury provided a perfect setting to the Parade and one hopes that should a similar opportunity arise to any of the other Battalions, the Brigade Depot may once again act as host.

**At Home**

The Depot "At Home" was held on July 3, and once again the weather was kind to an event which depends so much on a fine day for its success. Plans were far more ambitious than in 1965 and a full day's programme kept a crowd estimated at between 8,000 and 10,000 very amused. Highlights of the afternoon were displays given by a motorcycle team from the Royal Artillery, a team of R.A.F. Police dogs and the Band and Drums of the Junior Soldiers Company who played intermittently throughout the afternoon and closed the evening by



Beating Retreat. All members of the Permanent Staff were dragged out of their usual Sunday habitats (i.e. the pubs), to help with the proceedings but not without cost. Sgt. McFadyen, the Provost Sergeant, had headaches deciding where to park about 6,000 cars, 50 coaches and hundreds of whining "ton up machines" whilst Lt. Malcolm Deakin, whose unenviable task it was to allow the public to "Come and fire the Infantry's latest weapons" and 10,000 rounds, still has his headache! Drum-Major Lewis was last seen at 6 p.m. simmering gently in a temperature of 70°F. No comments from Guyana veterans please, for this was quite hot enough for England! All in all it was a most successful day and we trust that next year's "At Home" will be even better, so be warned Training Company, 2IC designate, whoever you may be!

#### Cricket

This has been a cricket season par excellence, noted mainly for the team's lack of success and number of hangovers. Despite training commitments the Depot somehow always managed to field 11 players, getting to the right place at the right time with the right kit. Thanks for this are due mainly to Pte. Campy who manages the Sports Store and who could often be seen staggering down Garrison Hill clutching an oversize cricket bag. Also a special word of thanks to Mrs. Campy for being such an ardent supporter. Perhaps the two most enjoyable games were the less serious ones, these being the Officers v. Sergeants matches. The first of these passed without incident but with much beer and a convincing victory for the Officers XI. The second, however, found the officers threatened with defeat in the closing minutes and with only one wicket standing, so, when the wickets did eventually fall the Commanding Officer surreptitiously stepped in as twelfth man, who, although permitted to bat was by poetic justice, run out on the last ball of the match. A fitting end to a most enjoyable cricket season.

#### Junior Soldiers Company

Unfortunately at the time of writing these notes Junior Soldiers Company had just started their summer holidays and have since vanished to the far corners of the earth, so no detailed news of their activities are available. Nevertheless, may it be recorded that the Band and Drums under Bandmaster Pryce of the Royal Sussex Regiment and Drum-Major Lewis have been performing non-stop since the beginning of the summer, and at a very high standard. The entire Depot is indeed grateful to them for providing us with Displays and Retreats at every and any available opportunity.

#### Personalia

It was with regret that we said farewell to Cpl. Terry a few months ago but in the same breath we welcome Cpl. Jones to Training Company as an Instructor. It is rumoured that Cpl. Jones is an active and leading light in "The Clan" at the Depot, but despite interrogation the exact activities of this organisation are kept a close secret from the Regimental Representative!

Congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. "Nobby" Clarke

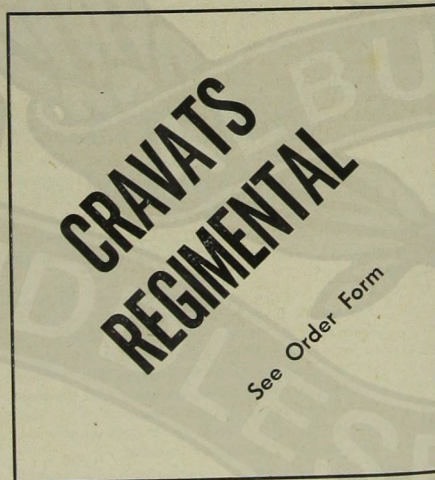
on the birth of their daughter at Folkestone on July 20, 1966. This is their third child and, I am told, the largest of the three. (Presumably Cpl. Clarke meant at birth and not at this present moment?)

A most successful Club Dance was run by the Permanent Staff Club and Cpl. Aylward and his Committee very kindly invited all Officers and Sergeants. Unfortunately the writer of these notes cannot remember the date nor the month of the party but neither can he remember getting home that night.

We are happy to report that the Quartermaster, Major-Frank Waldron, has now made a complete recovery after his illness earlier this year. Exactly what the doctors did to him is obscure but he is now cheekier than ever. Meanwhile his partner-in-crime, Major Fred Griffiths, Q.M. 4 Buffs, is still desperately trying to get his two large golden labradors fit by taking them about ten miles a day over the training area. The dogs are certainly fit but the Major is gradually becoming shorter in the leg!

The Brigade cricket matches brought some welcome faces to Canterbury once again. Major-General Christopher Man came down with his A.D.C., Capt. Peter Gybbon-Moneypenney and on the same day we also saw Lt.-Col. Peter Pearce Gould and Major Pat Wollocombe. Lt. Jim Hawkins was also seen wandering around Howe Barracks in the interminable search for his black Scottie during a spell of his copious free time away from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry! To all, we have endeavoured to extend a warm welcome and we sincerely hope that they and many others will call in again in the not too distant future.

And so the time has come to close once again, with our best wishes to the 1st Battalion on their return from Guyana. We hope that a few members will be able to spare the time to visit us at Canterbury—all are welcome.



## OBITUARY

#### Major T. R. Condron

Thomas Robert Condron died suddenly at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, on April 4, 1966, aged 57.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he passed for training at an O.C.T.U. through the Artists Rifles but, as he was slightly over age for the Infantry, he was not then accepted. Instead he was employed as a civilian in the offices of the War Cabinet (Allied Supplies Executive Section) from early 1940 until March 1942, when the age limit for the Infantry was raised and he left Whitehall to join the Army.

During the next 12 months he completed his recruits', pre-O.C.T.U. and O.C.T.U. training, after which he was commissioned into the Regiment.

He joined the 17th Battalion then in Sicily and returned to the U.K. with the Battalion in 1944 in preparation for "D" Day. On the disbandment of Support Groups, however, he left the 17th and returned to C.M.F.

From 1944 to 1947 he held various staff appointments in C.M.F. finishing up as a D.A.A.G. at G.H.Q., where he was responsible, *inter alia*, for the repatriation of Poles to Poland.

He was released, with the honorary rank of Major, on November 20, 1948.

In March 1952 he rejoined the Army by obtaining a Short Service Regular commission in the Regiment and was posted to B.A.O.R. as a Staff Captain at H.Q. Lubeck District.

He transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps in 1953 and served with that Corps in Egypt, Cyprus and the United Kingdom until 1960 when he finally retired.

Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment at the funeral, which took place at Eastbourne Crematorium on April 13, 1966.

#### Major H. S. Emery, M.C.

As reported in the *Regimental Newsletter* of July, 1966, Sidney Emery died on May 2, 1966.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he enlisted into the 5th Battalion The North Staffordshire Regiment, and in March, 1915, he was commissioned into our 18th (Service) Battalion, being transferred to the 19th (Service) Battalion a month later.

He served overseas from May 1, 1916, until he was demobilised in April, 1919. During that time he was Mentioned in Despatches twice—in November, 1917, and in January, 1918. In June, 1918, he was awarded the Military Cross, and a bar to the Military Cross in September, 1918.

He was recalled at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War and posted to the Machine Gun Training Centre, Mill Hill.

In August, 1943, he was appointed Army Welfare Officer for Stoke-on-Trent (South), Stone and District,

and held this appointment until he was released on September 30, 1949.

After the 1914-18 War he founded the firm of W. and H. S. Emery Co. Ltd., Builders' Merchants, and was a director of the firm from its incorporation until his death.

#### ex-C.S.M. W. T. Sperry, M.C. (L/12975 and 6188666)

By the death of Bill Sperry the Regiment has lost one of its most likeable and colourful characters, who was well known to all who served with him.

William Thomas Sperry was born on July 24, 1891, and enlisted into the Regiment on February 16, 1910. After completing his recruit training he was posted to the 1st Battalion in India, later moving to Aden. A smart, young soldier he was soon given his first stripe. He was promoted to Corporal in September, 1913.

Sailing from Aden on December 15, 1913, he was one of the N.C.O.s to volunteer to continue foreign service, joining the 2nd Battalion at Malta a few days before Christmas that year.

Soon after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he left with the Battalion for service with the B.E.F. in France, and had his baptism of fire at Neuve Eglise on November 17, 1914. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to Sergeant. He remained with the Battalion whilst it was taking such an active part in the fighting in France and Flanders in the next two and a half years. During that time not only was he promoted to warrant rank but he also built up a reputation as a very good trench warfare soldier.

For his gallantry and distinguished conduct at the battle for the village of Heudecourt on March 30, 1917, he was awarded the Military Cross. Shortly afterwards he was selected for a rest period and was posted to the 6th (Reserve) Battalion at Chatham, which he joined on Albuhera Day, 1917.

After the war he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then reforming at Clipstone Camp, Notts., before moving to its first post-war station at Milton Barracks, Gravesend. He served with the Battalion in the Army of Occupation on the Rhine and in Upper Silesia, where it formed part of the Plebiscite Force.

In November, 1921, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed in Singapore, and remained with the Battalion on foreign service until June, 1926, when he was posted to the Depot Staff at Mill Hill for a two-year tour of duty as an instructor. He rejoined the 2nd Battalion at Ahmednagar, India, in February, 1928, and moved with it to Madras in December that year. Five months later he sailed for England and took his discharge on May 17, 1929.

After his discharge he took up employment in the London Parks, but this did not stop him from being a regular visitor to the Depot Sergeants' Mess.

Illness during the last years of his life stopped him



from keeping in as close touch with the Regiment as he would have liked. He bore his long illness with great courage and remained cheerful, although in severe pain.

He died on August 16, 1966, and was cremated at St. Pancras and Islington Crematorium, on August 24.

Col. F. Walden, who had known Bill Sperry very well indeed since 1919, represented the Regiment on the sad occasion of this brave, old "Die-Hard's" funeral.

**ex-Col. Sgt. W. J. Wigginton (L/10206 and 6188426)**

Born in October, 1886, William John Wigginton enlisted into the Regiment on May 9, 1905, and, on completion of his recruit training, he sailed from Southampton on December 28 the same year to join the 1st Battalion, then stationed in Burma at Meiktila.

As a Lance-Corporal he was on parade when new Colours were presented to the Battalion at Allahabad in March, 1908. Three years later he was promoted Corporal and on May 30, 1913, with promotion in mind, he extended his Regular engagement to complete 12 years with the Colours. At that time he was in "F" Company stationed at Steamer Point, Aden.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he went as a Sergeant with the Battalion to join the B.E.F. and was only a short time in the theatre of operations before he was wounded during some heavy shelling on the night of September 8/9, 1914, and evacuated.

After the war he was posted to the 2nd Battalion then about to continue its foreign tour which had been interrupted by the war. Whilst in Singapore he was promoted to Colour-Sergeant on January 10, 1923. Two years later he was invalided home and once again joined the 1st Battalion. He only remained with the Battalion for a few months, however, before he was discharged to pension.

He was a popular N.C.O. and was held in high regard by his comrades and officers alike. He was a billiards player of some repute.

He died at the end of July and the funeral took place at North Luffenham, Oakham, Rutland, where he had lived for some years, on August 2. The news of his death unfortunately did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time to enable a representative to attend the funeral of this loyal, old "Die-Hard."

**ex-Sgt. Master Cook S. G. Searson, M.S.M. (F/1444)**

Sydney George Searson, who was born on January 29, 1890, was one of the early recruits of the newly-formed 17th (1st Football) Battalion raised by the late Right Honourable W. Joynson-Hicks, M.P. He enlisted on January 23, 1915, and went with the Battalion to France in November that year.

He was later posted to the 23rd (2nd Football) Battalion, where he gained a reputation for having one of the finest squads of Regimental cooks in the B.E.F. His services to this Battalion were recognised by the award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

After his demobilisation in July, 1919, he became one of the original members of the Fellowship of the

Services Ltd., now known as "The Fellowship." He eventually became a Trustee of The Fellowship and was so up to the time of his death.

He died on February 15, 1966, and was buried in Fulham Old Cemetery.

At the funeral the Regiment was represented by Mr. J. F. Stead (L/16526), who was for many years a personal friend of the deceased, as well as being a fellow "Die-Hard."

**ex-Sgt. W. H. Hagger (L/12800 and 6188635)**

William Henry Hagger, who served in the Regiment under the name of Cook, was born on May 10, 1893.

He originally joined the 6th (Reserve) Battalion at Mill Hill on September 4, 1909, and, on taking on a Regular engagement, he was posted to the 4th Battalion, then stationed at Aldershot. After the Battalion moved to Devonport he was appointed a Lance-Corporal and, when war broke out in 1914 he went with the Battalion to join the B.E.F. He was present at the Battle of Mons, where he was taken a prisoner of war.

He was discharged on the termination of 12 years' colour service on December 12, 1921, and then assumed the surname of Hagger.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he joined the A.R.P. services, transferring to the Home Guard when that force was formed in May, 1940. He served as a Sergeant with 33rd Battalion Middlesex Home Guard until he was discharged as medically unfit on February 16, 1943.

He had been a patient in hospital on many occasions during the last ten years before he died on March 4, 1966. Unfortunately the news of his death did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time to enable the Regiment to be represented at his funeral.

**ex-Sgt. C. Reed (L/10397 and 6193081)**

Christopher Reed was born on January 25, 1887, and enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment on August 14, 1905.

On the termination of his regular engagement he was transferred to the Army Reserve, but was recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, joining the 1st Battalion at Woolwich. He went with the Battalion to France and was later invalided home. He was discharged in March, 1920, but later that year he enlisted for four years in the 1st Class Army Reserve.

In November, 1926, two years after completing his Reserve service, he enlisted into the Territorial Army and was posted to Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, with which unit he served for 12 years before taking his discharge in November, 1938.

In civilian life he was a postman and for his loyal services as such, he was awarded the medal of the Imperial Service Order.

He died on January 23, 1966, but, as news of his death was not received in time, the Regiment was not represented at his funeral.

**ex-Pte. G. W. Mills (L/10491)**

George William Mills was born at Battersea on May 8, 1887, and enlisted into the Regiment on September 5, 1905.

After completing recruit and field training with the 4th Battalion he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then on foreign service. With this Battalion he served in South Africa, China, the Straits Settlements and India.

In 1912, when there were moves to reduce the armed forces, he elected to be "transferred to the Army Reserve with his consent before the expiration of his Army Service." Sailing in H.T. *Dongola* two days after Christmas, 1912, he left the Colours on January 13, 1913, from Gosport.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he was recalled to the Colours and went to France with the 1st Battalion. He later joined the 2nd Battalion and, whilst serving with that Battalion, was wounded in the left leg. On recovering from his wounds in France he was posted to the 6th Battalion in July, 1917 and, a few days later, he was transferred to the Labour Centre of the Army Service Corps.

He was finally discharged on March 31, 1920, with an Exemplary character and a certificate of appreciation from the G.O.C. 67th Division.

During the 1939-45 War he was with the A.R.P. service.

He died on April 28, 1966, and was buried at Wandsworth on May 2, 1966.

**ex-Pte. A. G. Poyntz (G/41759)**

Information was received early last June that Arthur George Poyntz had died at his home in Blacon, Chester, at the age of 70.

He saw service in France and Belgium during the 1914-18 War, was wounded whilst with the 20th (Service) Battalion in 1917, and eventually discharged in 1918.

For ten years until his retirement on account of ill-health in 1956, he had been employed at the office of *The Cheshire Observer*.

Always a keen follower of Chester Football Club he took an active interest in cricket, bowls and fishing in his younger days.

**Mrs. Burrowes**

The death occurred, on June 1, 1966, in her 92nd year, of Lillian Carr Burrowes, of Chettle, Fleet, Hants wife of the late Lt.-Col. L. A. Burrowes, who was, transferred from the Lincolnshire Regiment as a Captain in October 1901 and served with the 1st Battalion in India until his retirement in September 1912.

**Mrs. Martin**

The death occurred on May 31, 1966, at North Wootton, Sherborne, Dorset, of Norah Sophia Martin in her 90th year. She was the wife of the late Major H. M. Martin, who was transferred to the Regiment from the Somerset Light Infantry in December 1909 on promotion to Major, and served with the 3rd Battalion in India until his retirement in June 1911.

**Mrs. Overell**

Dorothy Gladys, beloved wife of Lt.-Col. A. N. Overell, of Willow Croft, Hampton Bishop, Hereford, died on May 25, 1966.

**Stop Press**

As we go to press it is with much regret that we have to announce the death of the undermentioned old "Die-Hards" who both enlisted in 1898:

ex-Drum-Major J. G. Holmes (L/5737), the last Drum-Major of the 3rd Battalion.

ex-Pte. G. E. Ford (L/5633), one of the last of our Spion Kop veterans.

Their obituaries will be published in the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Those who took part in pre-war Regimental cricket weeks will be sad to hear of the sudden death in hospital of Bernard Atkinson, of Hampstead, who frequently played against the Regiment.

Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson attended the funeral on September 8, and a floral tribute was sent from "His Cricketing Friends of the Middlesex Regiment."



## CORRESPONDENCE

From: Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E.,  
Headquarters Eastern Command,  
Hounslow, Middlesex.  
May 12, 1966

To: The Editor,  
THE DIE-HARDS,  
T.A. Centre,  
Deansbrook Road,  
Edgware, Middlesex.  
SIR,

## Military Miscellany

On page 236 of *The Die-Hards* journal for April 1966 an amusing story is attributed to Field-Marshal Wavell. This story was, in fact, told by the French General Gouraud when he was Governor of Paris in the First World War. It was quoted by Field-Marshal Wavell in his book "The Good Soldier" (pp. 93-94) but he was careful to identify the author.

I am, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
P. L. PEARCE GOULD.

From: Mr. E. W. Prosser  
15 Courtenay Street,  
Salcombe,  
Devon.  
June 21, 1966.

DEAR SIR,

I note in the April issue of the Journal the departure of Pte. Howell. I knew Pte. Howell, in fact we were together at Chatham, 1914, and on the same draft that joined the 2nd Battalion in January, 1915. I lost track of him at Too Kee farm, trench H.Q. I expect on that dark night he was posted to another Company, and yet I have a vague idea that he was "C" Company's stretcher bearer. If this should be so I can only say that he was one of the bravest men I'd ever seen, for at Neuve Chapelle he went out numerous times to bring in wounded.

My kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
E. W. PROSSER.

From: Mr. G. C. Hamilton  
Colonial Secretariat,  
Hong Kong.  
July 10, 1966.

DEAR SIR,

I enclose 30 copies of a booklet which describes the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru*, which contained British prisoners of war, by an American submarine on October 1, 1942. A number of officers and men of the Middlesex Regiment, including Col. Stewart, lost their lives during, or as a result of, this incident, and you may wish to distribute copies of the booklet to survivors or to relatives of those who died. Major-General C. M. M. Man was one of the survivors.

I can supply additional copies for anyone who is interested, but the booklet is not being publicly distributed or sold.

Yours faithfully,  
G. C. HAMILTON.

The Editor,  
*The Die-Hards*.

(NOTE.—Anyone wishing to have a copy of this booklet should apply to Regimental Headquarters, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex—*Editor*.)

From: Mr. A. W. Sparkes.  
33 Northwick Avenue,  
Worcester.  
July 23, 1966.

SIR,

I read with regret the decision to merge the Regiment in a combined Regiment and sincerely hope that the name will still be embodied in the new unit.

I am sure that anyone who, with myself, left Woolwich Barracks in the early hours of an August morning in 1914 en route to Le Havre will remember the name "Die-Hards" with pride and affection as will also the many who followed us.

May I again express my regret and hope that the "Die-Hards" will not be entirely forgotten.

Sincerely,  
A. W. Sparkes.  
(ex-14710 "A" Company, 1st Battalion Mx. Regt.)

## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

## OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER 1966

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Friday, July 29, 1966.

Major-General C. M. M. Man, Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and the guests of the evening were the Right Rev. and Right Hon. R. W. Stopford, Bishop of London; Major-General J. A. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Director, Territorial Army and Cadets; and Mr. John Barber, Chairman of the Middlesex Association.

Others present were:

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker	Major R. J. Leighton
Col. I. H. Batrye	Major Sir Arthur Lewey
Col. I. R. Burrows	Major B. H. Marciandi
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton	Major H. Marsh
Col. W. D. Ellis	Major P. D. H. Marshall
Col. J. W. G. Ormiston	Major A. E. McManus
Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker	Major C. H. Mieville
Col. W. A. Stewart	Major F. J. Millard
Col. F. Walden	Major B. St. G. A. Reed
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	Major H. Sherwood
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	Major R. W. J. Smith
Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox	Major M. P. Weedon
Lt.-Col. A. R. Joyce	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy
Lt.-Col. T. L. Marks	The Rev. Ralph Brown, R.A.CH.D.
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan	Capt. D. K. Cattell
Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould	Capt. M. J. S. Doran
Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts	Capt. S. L. Enthoven
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson	Capt. J. S. C. Flavell
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	Capt. P. J. Gybbon-Monypenny
Major M. J. Beaumont	Capt. A. R. K. Hardcastle
Major P. G. V. Bellers	Capt. W. E. Hughes
Major R. M. Cain	Capt. T. D. Jones
Major H. E. Couch	Capt. P. J. T. Lane
Major J. E. Dobbs	Capt. K. D. Murray
Major J. W. Doyle	Capt. P. F. Murray
Major H. J. Evans	Capt. R. C. Pitman
Major M. E. Girling	Capt. A. W. Ramsay
Major J. D. Gunnell	Capt. W. R. Tomkinson
Major J. A. Hamilton	Lt. D. W. Adkins
Major H. K. Hardcastle	Lt. R. T. Douthet
Major G. Hartley	Lt. E. C. Graham
Major S. L. J. Henshaw	Lt. J. C. J. Grobel
Major E. L. Heywood	Lt. M. L. Muirhead
Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Lt. R. G. Vaisey
Major C. L. Lawrence	Lt. P. A. M. Walden

Before the Loyal Toast the Colonel of the Regiment read out the following telegram which had been sent to Her Majesty The Queen:

"The Officers of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) dining at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on 29th July, 1966, present their humble duty and loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen." and the following reply which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to have sent:

"Please convey to the Officers of the Middlesex Regiment the sincere thanks of The Queen for their kind message of loyal greetings which Her Majesty greatly appreciates."

Before the toast "The Regiment," was proposed, the Colonel of the Regiment read out the following telegram from the 1st Battalion in Guyana:

"Greetings from Commanding Officer and Officers of the First Battalion to you all dining tonight (.) the Battalion is in excellent spirits here in South America as we hope you are too (.) we look forward to our return but must admit to enjoying the sunshine

calypso music and the endless opportunities for exploring this magnificent and interesting country (.) we send our best wishes to you all and hope that you have enjoyed your dinner (.) if anyone wants a cockney-speaking green Amazon parrot let us know." Telegrams regretting their absence and sending best wishes for a pleasant evening were also received from Col. Rex Waller and Lt.-Col. Peter Hall.

## 11th (SERVICE) BATTALION OFFICERS' LUNCHEON

Although now greatly reduced in numbers it is inspiring to know that the annual luncheon of the officers of the 11th (Service) Battalion, which was raised in August 1914, as part of the 12th Division of Kitchener's First Army, still continues.

This year the luncheon was held on Albuhera Day at the Connaught Rooms, London, and was attended by the following five officers:

Lt.-Col. H. A. Maynard, M.C., T.D. (in the Chair)  
Capt. and Adjutant H. L. MacIlwaine  
Capt. R. C. Sheen  
Capt. S. R. Wilkins, M.C. (from Toronto)  
Lt. D. McDonald

Their optimism is such that they have arranged another luncheon for next year.

## GOLF

## Regimental Spring Meeting

Owing to the weather, which put the course at the North Hants Golf Club out of play, the above Meeting, arranged for Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17, 1966, had to be cancelled.

## Regimental Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting this year was again held, by kind permission of the North Hants Golf Club, at Fleet on Wednesday, September 14.

Owing to last minute cancellations on account of sickness the entry list was reduced to four only, which must be the lowest on record. Nevertheless those who took part thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant day's golf in quite reasonable conditions.

The results of the various competitions were:

Singles Medal Competition (18 holes)  
Scratch and Handicap

	Gross H'cap Net		
Capt. R. D. Latham (winner, scratch) .. .. .	85	14	17
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (winner, handicap and Horton cup) ..	97	18	79
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey .. .. .	97	12	85
Major H. K. Hardcastle (divot) ..	110	24	86



## Hidden Holes Competition

	1/3rd	Gross	H'cap	Net
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (winner) ..	29	6		23
Capt. R. D. Latham .. .. .	30	5		25
Major H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	36	8		28
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey .. .. .	35	4		31

## Stableford Competition

	Points
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Capt. R. D. Latham (winners, Jay Cup) .. .. .	31
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Major H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	30

At the conclusion of this small Meeting we were delighted to have the youngest and smallest Regimental spectator, Master Howard Clayden, who is himself a keen and promising golfer, to give away the prizes.

## Home Counties Brigade Meeting, 1966

This Meeting, which was held at Tandridge Golf Club on Wednesday, May 11, 1966, was not a large one, due to three of our four regular Battalions being abroad, but 20 players took part.

Only two Regimental representatives were able to play and their scores in the various competitions were as follows:

Singles Medal on Handicap			
	Net Score	Placing	
Major C. W. Summers .. .. .	74	7th	
Capt. R. D. Latham .. .. .	84	13th	

Foursomes Stableford Bogey (Greensome)			
	Score against Bogey	Placing	
Major C. W. Summers and Capt. R. D. Latham .. .. .	30	4th	

## FREE JOURNALS

The Editor wishes to thank the following readers for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades: Major F. J. Nunn, Mr. E. Fuller, Mr. W. Knight and W.O.2 E. Steward.

**DON'T FORGET—**  
**November 12**  
**Annual Reunion**

## Do the clothes make the man?

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# THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

Chairman: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L.

Vice-Chairman: Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.

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.
Hong Kong .. .. .	Capt. W. G. A. Crumley H.Q. Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O. 1.	Annually, during the 3rd week in January.	R.H.K.D.F. Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Hornsey and Enfield .. .. .	Mr. A. Fisher, 4 Windebrook Green, Bracknell, Berks.	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, 63 The Dale, Widley, Portsmouth, Hants.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	R.A.F.A. Club, Stoke Road, Gosport, Hants. (near White Hart Hotel)
Uxbridge .. .. .	Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., 127 Leybourne Road, Hillingdon, 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. R. T. Meers, 87 Tudor Court, South Wembley, Middlesex.	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.	Monthly, on 1st Saturday.	47th Signal Regt. T.A., (Middlesex Yeomanry), Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3.



## SECRETARY'S NOTES

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, at 8 p.m., on Saturday, November 12, 1966, and NOT on Saturday, September 24, 1966, as notified on page 260 of the April issue of *The Die-Hards*.

### Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the undermentioned to the Charitable Fund:

1st Battalion (collection at Drumhead Service, Albuhera Day), Major K. R. McK. Biggs, Mr. F. E. Birdsall, Mr. W. Digby, Lt. M. F. Hedgecoe, Mr. L. Levy, Major H. Marsh, Mr. W. G. Matthews, Mr. W. E. Newman, Mr. H. J. Parnell, Mr. G. S. Roots and Mr. F. J. Wallace.

### Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Albuhera Close, Enfield

The following subscriptions to the above Appeal were received between January 1, 1966, and June 30, 1966:

	£	s.	d.
Capt. N. T. Neal (covenanted)	25	0	0
In memory of 2/Lt. Charles Clayton	21	0	0
Princess Louise's Kensington Regt. (covenanted)	15	15	0
Major H. Sherwood (covenanted)	15	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Wortyn (covenanted)	5	0	0
Major F. J. Bennett (covenanted)	5	0	0
Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell (covenanted)	3	0	0
Major H. Farrow	2	0	0
Lt.-Col. D. Sax (covenanted)	2	0	0
Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat (covenanted)	2	0	0
Major M. P. Weedon (covenanted)	1	1	0
Lt.-Col. E. P. Shanks	1	0	0
Capt. W. H. Craydon	1	0	0
Bdmt. T. A. Barton (covenanted)	1	0	0
Regtl. Derby Sweepstake (per Capt. W. H. Craydon)	6	9	

Total received up to December 31, 1965	100	13	9
	7038	14	3
Total as at July 1, 1966	£7139	8	0

### Branch Secretaries

The following changes in Branch Honorary Secretaries have taken place:

Branch	Secretary	Secretary
Hong Kong	Capt. W. G. A. Crumley	vice Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan.
9th Battalion	Mr. R. T. Meers	vice Mr. H. J. Fisher.

Addresses are given on the Regimental Association Title Page overleaf.

### Regimental Cravats

Regimental cravats in terylene have now been added to the list of goods stocked by the Regimental Association. They are obtainable, as in the case of Regimental

ties, in both the old and new patterns, at a cost of 19s. 6d. each.

When ordering the Order Form inside the front cover of the Journal should be used.

### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Monday, March 14, 1966.**

*Present:* Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., President; Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Chairman; Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. Vice-Chairman; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.; Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Major H. E. Couch; Major R. J. P. Cummins, M.B.E.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; R.S.M. K. Beale; R.S.M. B. Lyons; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Mr. A. White; Col. F. Walden, Secretary.

*Apologies for absence were received from:* Col. S. F. Hedgecoe; Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E.; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.

#### 1. The Colonel of the Regiment

Lt.-Col. Fox, the outgoing Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming the Colonel of the Regiment and saying how delighted he felt that all members of the Committee were to see him present in his capacity as President of the Regimental Association.

#### 2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Lt.-Col. Fox informed the meeting that, whilst only one nomination had been received for the office of Chairman, four nominations had been submitted for that of Vice-Chairman, though three of the latter had since withdrawn as they did not wish to stand for election.

The following, therefore, were now put forward for election by the Committee:

Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., as Chairman.  
Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., as Vice-Chairman.

Both were elected unanimously.

Lt.-Col. Fox then vacated the chair, and Col. Ellis took his place.

Before continuing with the meeting Col. Ellis expressed his appreciation for his election, to which Col. Burrows also added his thanks.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on October 19, 1965 were passed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary stated that he had nothing to add to the Report as distributed with the Agenda, and moved its adoption.

(b) There were no comments and the Report was adopted.

#### 5. Address by the President

The Chairman stated that, before continuing with the Agenda, the President wished to address the Meeting.

The President said that he could not let this occasion pass without a special word of thanks to Lt.-Col. Fox. Quoting from a resume of his services the President stated that Lt.-Col. Fox had been a member of the Executive Committee since 1937 and Chairman for the past ten years. He drew attention especially to the vast amount of work Lt.-Col. Fox had done in connection with the Widows' Flatlets Scheme at Enfield, for which the Regiment would ever be grateful. He expressed the thanks of all to Lt.-Col. Fox for the years of devoted service which he had given to the Regimental Association.

He also thanked Lt.-Col. Roberts for his services as Vice-Chairman.

The President then welcomed Col. Ellis as the new Chairman, and said how happy he was that Col. Ellis had agreed to accept the office.

He concluded his remarks by saying how pleased he was to see R.S.M. Beale from the 1st Battalion at the meeting.

Lt.-Cols. Fox and Roberts then both thanked the President for his remarks.

#### 6. Correspondence

A file containing the following letters of appreciation was circulated for members of the Committee to read:

##### A — For Annual Donations

- Letter dated December 20, 1965 from S.S.A.F.A.
- Letter dated December 20, 1965 from The Regular Forces Employment Association.
- Letter dated December 20, 1965 from The Star and Garter Home.
- Letter dated December 20, 1965 from The Gordon Boys' School.
- Letter dated December 21, 1965 from Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops.
- Letter dated December 21, 1965 from The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows.
- Letter dated December 22, 1965 from The Family Welfare Association.
- Letter dated December 24, 1965 from The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

B. Six letters of appreciation for individual charitable grants.

#### 7. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Lt.-Col. Fox stated that the Accounts for the year ended December 31, 1965, copies of which were circu-

lated with the Agenda for this Meeting, formed the basis of his Report.

(b) Dealing first with the Association Charitable Fund, he drew attention to the increase in donations and subscriptions, especially those received from the 1st Battalion, and stated that certain items, namely, grants from the Middlesex County Council and Sunday Entertainments Fund, were not likely to be received in future.

He informed the Meeting that Administration expenses were now as low as it was possible to keep them.

He stated that the surplus of £820 on the year's working was very satisfactory, especially as for the past five years there had been an excess of expenditure over income, and this was almost but not quite made good by the earlier deficiencies.

(c) As regards the War Memorial Fund Lt.-Col. Fox explained that maintenance costs of the cottages at Albuhera Close, Enfield, had been heavy in 1965 because they included a sum of £686 for external painting, which normally only occurs once in three years.

(d) Brigadier Rackham asked why only £868 had been expended on charitable disbursements when £1,450 had been budgeted for.

Lt.-Col. Fox replied that the sum expended did not include that from the Renny Fund, which brought the total up to £1,265.

(e) Col. Clayton asked the present position with regard to the repayment of the loan from the Enfield Borough Council for the Flatlets Scheme.

Lt.-Col. Fox explained that the Loan was made for a period of 60 years, and that the Finance Sub-Committee considered that advantage should be taken of investing in fixed interest securities at a higher rate of interest than that payable on the Loan with the Enfield Borough Council as and when cash was available rather than make loan repayments.

A 7½% rate could now be obtained on suitable fixed interest securities as opposed to the 6½% payable on the loan.

(f) In reply to a further question by Brigadier Rackham Lt.-Col. Fox stated that a budget for the current year would be produced for the next Meeting.

(g) There being no further comments the Accounts as submitted were approved for submission to the Annual General Meeting and the Finance Sub-Committee's report was accepted.

#### 8. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Brigadier Rackham stated that, as it had not been possible to carry out the Annual Inspection of Dwellings beforehand, and there was no other important business, he cancelled the Housing Sub-Committee Meeting arranged for February 7, 1966.

He mentioned that the Annual Inspection was actually carried out on February 19, 1966 by the Housing Manager accompanied by Mr. Knight and the Report, to which he had nothing to add, was circulated with the Agenda.

(b) Brigadier Rackham informed the Meeting that Mrs. Killick, 14 Albuhera Close, had been interviewed. She had no plans for moving at present, and would be interested in a bungalow if one became available. In



this connection he said there was a possibility that the present tenants of Bungalow 12D (Mr. and Mrs. S. Saunders), who were finding the accommodation too small, might like to exchange with Mrs. Killick.

(c) As regards the tenant of Bungalow 12C (Mrs. K. Bagnall) Brigadier Rackham stated that he believed that a further offer of accommodation might be made to her by the London Borough of Barnet, but he was uncertain whether or not she would accept it.

(d) Brigadier Rackham then asked the late Chairman if any steps had been taken in regard to the sale of the surplus land at Enfield.

Lt.-Col. Fox replied that further consideration had been given to this matter. When it was decided that the land could be offered for sale some time ago the financial position of the War Memorial Fund was not as good as it is now. He, therefore, felt that, in view of the various difficulties with regard to access to the surplus land, it would be better to put the land under grass and plant trees to make it attractive, and to maintain it so.

Major Couch, when asked for his opinion, stated that the land obviously had some value, but that no formal approach had been made to the Borough of Enfield with regard to purchase. He agreed that it would be worth while asking if they would be prepared to purchase the land and, if so, what they would do with it.

After further discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Roberts and seconded by Major Reed that the Chairman of the Housing Sub-Committee should make a formal approach to the London Borough of Enfield with a view to purchasing the land, and should report back to the next Executive Committee Meeting. *Carried.*

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 9. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

(a) In submitting his Report Col. Walden stated that every effort was being made to increase the number of advertisements and that, as a result of sending out the appeal already mentioned to ex-members of the Regiment who are not at present Journal readers, he hoped to increase substantially the circulation.

(b) Lt.-Col. Roberts said that, as there were a number of new members on the Executive Committee, he would like once again to appeal to all members individually to assist in increasing the revenue from advertisements by approaching those whom they deal with, such as tailors, etc. He also stated that any member who had shares in a Company might approach that Company as a shareholder and ask for consideration to be given to advertising in the Regimental Journal.

(c) Brigadier Rackham drew attention to the subsidy of £439 to the Regimental Journal as against the sum of £100 budgeted for.

Lt.-Col. Fox explained that it was agreed that £100 per year would be set aside for the Journal, and that each year the loss was written off.

After discussion Major Reed proposed that a sum be recommended for the budget each year to meet the loss, and Lt.-Col. Fox agreed to include such a sum in this year's budget.

(d) There being no further comment the Report was adopted.

#### 10. Formation of Sub-Committees

The Chairman stated that, after careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that, in addition to the Finance and Housing Sub-Committees, a further Sub-Committee to deal with social activities, etc., should be formed and should be known as the General Purposes Sub-Committee.

After some discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Fox and seconded by Major Hardcastle that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the present Chairmen of the Finance and Housing Sub-Committees should meet and decide on the composition of each of the Sub-Committees to be formed. *Carried.*

#### 11. Annual Reunion 1966

The Secretary stated that, at a recent meeting of Branch Secretaries, it had been suggested that this year's Annual Reunion should take place either on the last Saturday in September or on the first Saturday in October, and that, on account of the central position, it should be held at the T.A. Centre of the Middlesex Yeomanry at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, if it was otherwise suitable and available. Failing this the second choice was the T.A. Centre, Edgware.

After some discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Reunion should be held again at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, either on the last Saturday in September or the first Saturday in October.

#### 12. Albuhera Day 1966

It was agreed that a Service in Commemoration of Albuhera Day should be held at the Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, May 15, 1966, followed by a Reunion at the T.A. Centre, Edgware.

#### 13. Salvation Army Centenary Appeal

The Secretary stated that he had received a copy of the Salvation Army Centenary Appeal.

In this connection he felt that he should inform the Committee that, since he had become Secretary, the Salvation Army had, to his knowledge, been helpful in housing and feeding three ex-members of the Regiment.

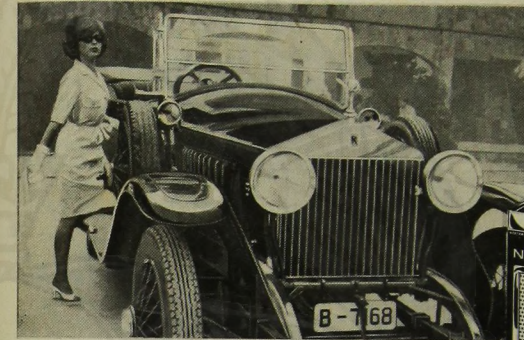
It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Fox and seconded by Brigadier Rackham that a contribution of £25 should be made. *Carried.*

#### 14. Co-opted Members

It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham and seconded by Col. Clayton that Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., should be a co-opted member of the Executive Committee. *Carried.*

Before the Meeting closed Brigadier Rackham said, on behalf of all members of the Executive Committee, how pleased they were that Col. Ellis had accepted the office of Chairman, and Col. Burrows the office of Vice-Chairman of the Regimental Association.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

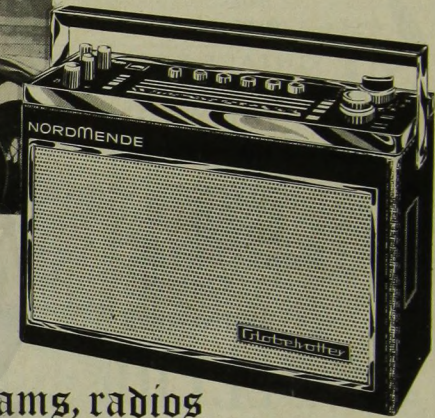


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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,  
March 14, 1966  
SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from September 1, 1965, to December 31, 1965, the sum of £409 12s. 8d. was spent on assisting 63 cases. The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:

1914-18 War	42
Between 1919 and 1939	5
1939-45 War	12
Since 1945	3
Korean War	1

(b) *Clothing Grants.*—Five grants were made.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays.*—Five grants were made to ex-members or their widows who, after serious illness, had been recommended a period of convalescence.

One of the cases helped—an ex-N.C.O. who won the M.M. whilst serving with the 12th (Service) Battalion—has since died.

Another case helped was the wife of an ex-member of the 7th Battalion. She is a registered handicapped person suffering from severe disabilities, which followed a cerebral haemorrhage, and can only move about in a wheel chair.

(d) *Food Grants.*—Six grants were made either for extra nourishment or special food.

One of the cases helped was the widow of an ex-member who served in the 1914-18 War. In addition to being totally blind she suffers indifferent health as a result of which she had to undergo four operations last year.

(e) *Fuel Grants.*—A total of twenty-one grants were made, mostly for coal, to elderly ex-soldiers or their widows.

One of the grants went to an elderly ex-R.S.M. separated from his wife and living alone in poor conditions. As this Report is being written news has been received that he has just been found dead in bed.

Another grant was made to an ex-Regular C.S.M. who won the M.C. during the 1914-18 War, and has been suffering considerably from heart trouble and a duodenal ulcer, which have necessitated long spells in hospital.

(f) *Housing.*—Seven grants were made to assist with various housing problems. Of these, four were for the replenishment of bedding, one to assist with removal expenses, one to help provide a room partition for an ex-Regular married soldier suffering from Parkinson's Disease, and one to defray the cost of the construction of a vehicle crossing to the house of a disabled ex-soldier whose right leg was amputated as the result of service in the 1939-45 War.

(g) *Rent and Rate Arrears.*—Seven cases were assisted—five in respect of rent and two in respect of rates—on the strong recommendation of S.S.A.F.A.

(h) *Miscellaneous Grants.*—

(i) Three grants were made to pay for the television licences of incapacitated persons.

(ii) Two grants were made, on the recommendation of S.S.A.F.A., to assist ex-members with their H.P. commitments, which had fallen in arrears through sickness.

(iii) One grant was made, in co-operation with the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, to the widow of an ex-soldier to help towards the payment of debts incurred as a direct result of her late husband's last illness.

(iv) Three small grants were made towards out-of-pocket expenses incurred by ex-members who applied in person for financial assistance.

2. Members—Deaths.

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last Report:

Major G. B. Anderson, M.C., late 11th (Service) Battalion.

ex-C.S.M. G. Soper, late 1st Battalion.

ex-Sgt. G. H. Corby, late 4th Battalion.

ex-Sgt. A. E. Weddell, M.M., late 12th (Service) Battalion.

ex-Cpl. A. H. Morgan, late 1st Battalion.

ex-Bdsm. L. A. Price, late 2nd Battalion.

ex-Pte. L. G. Barrow, late 16th (Public Schools) Battalion.

ex-Pte. R. A. Howell, late 2nd Battalion.

ex-? H. R. Terry, late 9th Battalion.

3. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report:

Christer, W. J. (4279837)—Semi-skilled—unspecified.

Cuff, M. L. (23802512)—Porter.

Edge, T. (23742803)—Security Staff.

Graves, W. A. J. (47399930)—Postman.

Paganini, R. (23371010)—Postman.

Saul, E. J. (23736159)—Trainee.

Thompson, E. J. (22290563)—Postman.

4. Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Ex-Sgt. W. Clarke, D.C.M., M.M., late 4th Battalion, was admitted as an In-Pensioner on January 10, 1966.

5. Branches

(a) *General.*—All Branches are flourishing with the exception of the following:

(i) *Hounslow.*—This Branch has virtually ceased to exist, since no action has been taken to hold any meetings since November, 1964.

I have been in touch with the Chairman of the Branch with a view to ensuring that the Branch itself does not disappear altogether, and he has undertaken to call a meeting.

It will need great drive and enthusiasm if this once well-founded Branch is to survive.

(ii) *Uxbridge.*—Since the death of Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, T.D., a former Chairman, this Branch has had a difficult time. However, I have enlisted the help of Major G. Hartley, T.D., D.L., late 8th Battalion, and it is now hoped that Branch activities will take place as heretofore.

(b) *Amalgamation.*—With reference to Minute 10 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 19,



1965, the Hornsey and Enfield Branches amalgamated with effect from January 1, 1966.

(c) *Formation of New Branches.*—Negotiations are in progress in an effort to start the following branches:

- (i) Northern Ireland.
- (ii) Kensington (from ex-members serving with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, when that Regiment formed a part of the Middlesex Regiment).

#### 6. Annual Reunion, 1965

The attendance at the above function totalled 805, of whom 48 were serving members of the 1st Battalion. This total far exceeds those of the previous five years when the Reunion was held at the Seymour Hall. They were as follows:

1960	..	..	546
1961	..	..	575
1962	..	..	573
1963	..	..	648
1964	..	..	548

#### 7. Annual Subscriptions—Day's Pay Scheme

Arrangements have now been completed whereby officers on the strength of the 1st Battalion will be contributing one day's pay per year to the Charitable Fund.

The total annual income therefore will now be £83 as compared with £33 previously.

#### 8. Association Standard

Since my last Report the Association Standard has been carried on the following occasions:

- (a) Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, on November 13, 1965.
- (b) Regimental Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on November 14, 1965.  
F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Monday, June 13, 1966.**

*Present:* Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L. (Chairman); Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. J. R. Dear, T.D.; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.; Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Major R. J. P. Cummins, M.B.E.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Major E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; R.S.M. B. Lyons; Mr. T. R. Bennett; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.; Mr. A. White; Col. F. Walden, D.L., Secretary.

*Apologies for absence were received from:* Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman); Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.; Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E.; Major H. E. Couch; Capt. A. W. Ramsay, J.P.

#### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on March 14, 1966, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2. Secretary's Report

(a) In presenting his Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, the Secretary drew special attention to the following points:

- (i) *Executive Committee—Nominated Members.*—A replacement would be required to serve on the Executive Committee since Col. Hedgecoe, as stated in para 3, had had to resign as the nominated member for 2nd Battalion.
- (ii) *Annual Reunion, 1966.*—The change of date from Saturday, September 24, to Saturday, November 12, which, as stated in para 7, would enable members of the 1st Battalion to attend, would be notified in the next Newsletter.

(b) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 3. Chairman's Appointment

Before proceeding with further business Lt.-Col. Roberts, on behalf of all members of the Committee, congratulated the Chairman on his recent appointment as Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty The Queen. He said that this was not only an honour to Col. Ellis personally, but to the Regiment as a whole.

Col. Ellis thanked Lt.-Col. Roberts and the Committee for their congratulations.

#### 4. Correspondence

A file containing nine letters of appreciation for charitable grants and donations was circulated for members of the Committee to read.

#### 5. Finance Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Major Reed, deputising for the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, referred to the Minutes of the Meeting held on June 6, 1966, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and formed the basis of his Report.

(b) *Investments.*—Arising from Minute 2 Major Reed stated that it had been decided to sell holdings of International Publishing Corporation Ltd. and Midland Bank Ltd. stock by the Charitable and Renny Funds, since these were not now considered to be profitable, and that re-investment was under consideration and would be reported on at the next meeting.

(c) *Budget for 1966.*—Arising from Minute 3, Major Reed stated that:

- (i) The estimated expenditure on charitable disbursements from the Charitable Fund included those from the Renny Fund and was, therefore, higher than that budgeted for in 1965.
- (ii) The subsidy estimated for the Journal was £300, but last year this reached £380, and no doubt this year the estimated figure would again be exceeded.
- (iii) Expenditure on the War Memorial Fund would be much less this year on account of the fact that last year's expenditure included the exterior decoration of the cottages.

In reply to questions the Secretary stated that he

did not consider that there was any item of high expenditure which had not been allowed for in the budget.

In reply to questions regarding funds for future large expenditure on maintenance, Lt.-Col. Roberts stated that the sum of £500 held on deposit for Property Maintenance was for this specific purpose and should, with accumulation, cover future costs.

(d) *Salary of Housing Manager.*—Major Reed asked if the salary of the Housing Manager could be reviewed. The Chairman stated that this was a matter for the Housing Sub-Committee and that a recommendation should be made to this Committee at its next meeting.

(e) *Association Funds.*—Lt.-Col. Roberts drew attention to the fact that, on account of the proposed re-organisation of the Army, our Association funds may not receive any large contribution from the 1st Battalion in future. Last year well over £500, representing one day's pay per man, was received, but this might not be repeated. He asked, therefore, that any possible assistance with advice regarding profitable investments or means of raising funds might be forthcoming from members of the Committee.

(f) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 6. Housing Sub-Committee's Report

Major Thompson, deputising for the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, stated that, apart from the fact that approaches were being made in regard to the disposal of the surplus ground at Albuhera Close, there was nothing to report.

#### 7. General Purposes Sub-Committee's Report

(a) Col. Clayton presented his Report, copies of which had been circulated to members present.

(b) After discussion it was agreed that this sub-committee should in future be known as "The Membership and Social Sub-Committee."

(c) In reply to a question as to the work of this Sub-Committee possibly overlapping the work of the Association generally, Col. Clayton stated that, as the Secretary of the Regimental Association was automatically the Secretary of this Sub-Committee, there would be no overlapping.

(d) Col. Clayton then drew attention to the fact that a Vice-Chairman should be appointed, and proposed that Lt.-Col. Chattey should be invited to fill the post.

Major Cummins seconded this proposal which was carried. Lt.-Col. Chattey agreed to accept the post.

(e) There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

#### 8. Journal Sub-Committee's Report

In moving the adoption of his Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, Col. Walden stated that the present income from advertisements was good, and that there had been a notable increase in the number of new readers since the publication of the October, 1965, issue.

There being no comments the Report was adopted.

#### 9. Executive Committee Meetings

The Chairman proposed that, as the various sub-committees were now functioning, the Executive Committee should in future meet twice in each calendar year instead of at least three times in each calendar year as laid down in Rule 26.

Lt.-Col. Roberts stated that he could not agree with this proposal partly because new members would get little opportunity to meet the Executive Committee and so gain little experience of the work, and partly because he felt that it could be detrimental to the Association as a whole, since the sub-committees might become watertight and each work on its own without reference to the main committee.

Mr. Knight suggested that four meetings should be held in each calendar year—two in the evening at R.H.Q., Edgware, and two as now at the Middlesex Guildhall. He felt that this would give members, who found afternoon meetings difficult, more opportunity to attend.

After some discussion it was agreed that Executive Committee Meetings should continue to be held at Middlesex Guildhall three times in each calendar year, as at present.

#### 10. Annual Reunion, 1967

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Hon Secretary, Bandsmen and Drummers' Branch, proposing that the Annual Reunion next year should be held at Edgware on the same day, as the Albuhera Day celebrations.

After a short discussion the Committee decided that this would be impracticable, and that the two functions should continue separately, thus enabling members to meet at least twice a year at regimental functions.

#### 11. Sale of Silver

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the sale of silver of the former 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, notice of which had appeared in the April, 1966, issue of *The Die-Hards*, had been discussed at the Officers' Club meeting held previously.

As a result it had been agreed that:

(a) Representatives of each of the former T.A. Battalions should be consulted before a final decision as to sale was made in order that any items of historic value could be preserved.

(b) The following should represent the Battalion concerned:

7th Battalion	..	Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L. Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.
8th Battalion	..	Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. Bt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, T.D., D.L.
9th Battalion	..	Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D. Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.

(c) Before any item of silver was offered for sale generally past members of the Battalions concerned would be given the opportunity of buying it.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,  
June 13, 1966

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 1. The Chairman of the Association—Appointment as A.D.C.

The Chairman of our Regimental Association was appointed an Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty The Queen with effect from Albuhera Day, 1966.

## 2. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period January 1, 1966, to April 30, 1966, the sum of £459 os. 6d. was spent on assisting 56 cases.

The breakdown showing the service of these cases is as follows:

Pre 1914-18 War .. .. .	1
1914-18 War .. .. .	34
1939-45 War .. .. .	17
Since 1945 .. .. .	4

(b) *Clothing Grants*.—A total of ten grants were made, of which one was in co-operation with the Riflemen's Aid Fund and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays*.—Five grants were made to ex-members or their widows who, after serious illness, had been recommended a period of convalescence.

One of these grants was made for a widow aged 85, whose husband had served with the Regiment in the 1914-18 War and had died in 1952.

(d) *Food Grants*.—One grant only was made on the recommendation of S.S.A.F.A. to an ex-soldier who had served with the 1st Battalion during the 1939-45 War.

(e) *Fuel Grants*.—A total of eighteen grants were made, mostly for coal, to elderly ex-soldiers or their widows.

(f) *Housing*.—Five grants were made to assist with various housing problems.

One of these grants was made to provide bedding for the family of a married ex-National Service soldier consisting of a wife and 12 children.

Another grant was made to the widow of an ex-soldier of the 1914-18 War to assist her with the cost of repairs and replacements as the result of a fire in her flat.

(g) *Rent and Rate Arrears*.—Five cases were assisted on the recommendation either of S.S.A.F.A. or the Forces Help Society.

(h) *Miscellaneous Grants*.—A total of twelve grants—most of them small—were made under this heading, which do not come under any of the previous headings.

Two of these grants were made to assist ex-members of the Regiment with their H.P. commitments, which had fallen into arrears in circumstances beyond their control.

Another of these grants was made to pay the legal expenses of a widow's appeal to the Pensions Appeal Tribunal, whilst another was given for the benefit of an ex-member's totally paralysed daughter, whose father and mother had both died.

## 3. Executive Committee — Resignation of Member

In view of the fact that he is leaving at the end of this month to stay with his daughter in Zambia for at least a year, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe has resigned as the member nominated to represent the 2nd Battalion on the Executive Committee.

## 4. Members—Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last Report:

ex-C.S.M. W. Hurst, D.C.M., M.M., late 2nd Battalion.  
ex-Pte. T. Filbee, late 25th (Service) Battalion.  
ex-? G. W. Mills, late 3rd and 4th Battalions.

## 5. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last Report:

Crean, E. (24053309)—General Hand pending Government training course as welder.  
Rose, R. W. (23433524)—Technician.  
Simmonds, A. E. (538493)—Security Officer.  
Slater, T. W. (23782185)—M.T. Driver.  
Titmarsh, A. E. (6206392)—Postman.  
Townshend, D. L. (23783532)—Steward, Merchant Navy.

## 6. Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Ex-Sgt. A. J. Packer (aged 87) was admitted as an In-Pensioner on May 2, 1966, bringing the total of In-Pensioners from the Regiment to five.

## 7. Annual Reunion, 1966

With reference to Minute 11 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on March 14, 1966, in view of the fact that the 1st Battalion will be on leave in the U.K. before returning to Northern Ireland and are anxious to attend, the Chairman has agreed to the Annual Reunion this year being held at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, on Saturday, November 12, instead of on Saturday, September 24, as advertised in the April, 1966, issue of *The Die-Hards*.

## 8. Association Standard

Since my last Report the Association Standard has been carried or used on the following occasions:—

(a) Albuhera Day Commemoration Service and Parade at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on May 15, 1966.  
(b) 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T.A. Centre, Hornsey, on April 30, 1966.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,  
Secretary.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OF THE  
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)  
BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1965

	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund
Accumulated Funds .. .. .	£ 38,169	£ 38,418
Creditors .. .. .	99	1,680
Bank Overdraft .. .. .	109	—
Property Reserve Account .. .. .	500	—
Mrs. Renny Legacy .. .. .	2,532	—
Site Improvement Account .. .. .	—	3
Loan Redemption Reserve .. .. .	—	835
Loan Account (Secured) .. .. .	—	8,165
Lord Lieutenant's Appeal .. .. .	—	7,092
	£41,406	£56,193
Investments at Cost .. .. .	33,423	756
(Mid-Market Value December 31, 1965)..	(27,574)	(774)
Mortgage .. .. .	1,000	—
Property .. .. .	—	53,977
Furniture and Fittings at nominal value ..	—	25
Premium Bonds .. .. .	—	25
Stocks at Cost .. .. .	243	—
Debtors .. .. .	304	52
Cash at Bankers .. .. .	—	1,276
Cash in Hand O. C. A. Clubs .. .. .	63	—
Cash in Hand of Charity Commission ..	3,494	—
Cash on Deposit (Property Reserve Account)	261	—
Mrs. Renny Legacy—Investments, etc. ..	2,532	—
Lord Lieutenant's Appeal Cash at Bank, etc.	—	132
	£41,406	£56,193

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 1965

	Charitable Fund	War Memorial Fund	Die-Hards Journal
INCOME:			
Grants and Donations .. .. .	1,241	—	—
Subscriptions, etc. .. .. .	522	—	206
Interest on Investments .. .. .	1,094	12	—
Income Tax receivable on Covenants .. .. .	129	—	—
Profit on Ties, Badges, etc. .. .. .	14	—	—
Rents .. .. .	—	527	—
Maintenance Receipts .. .. .	—	62	—
Housing Grant .. .. .	—	426	—
Advertisements .. .. .	—	—	306
Grant from Charitable Fund .. .. .	—	—	100
Officers' Club .. .. .	—	—	25
Colonel of the Regiment's Fund .. .. .	—	—	50
Excess of Expenditure over Income .. .. .	—	492	280
	£3,600	£1,519	£997
EXPENDITURE:			
Grants and Allowances .. .. .	1,265	—	—
Administration Expenses .. .. .	419	—	—
Wreaths .. .. .	69	51	54
O.C.A. Reunion .. .. .	60	—	—
Grant Die-Hards Journal .. .. .	100	—	—
Provision for Deficiency Die-Hards Journal .. .. .	280	—	—
Uplisp of War Memorial Hong Kong .. .. .	20	—	—
Remembrance Day .. .. .	56	—	—
Sundry Regimental Parades .. .. .	66	—	—
Legal Expenses .. .. .	120	—	—
Cottage Homes Maintenance .. .. .	74	—	—
Property Maintenance Reserve Interest .. .. .	238	—	—
Rates and Insurance .. .. .	5	306	—
Repairs and Maintenance .. .. .	—	1,022	—
Amortisation of Loan .. .. .	—	70	—
Printing and Distribution .. .. .	—	—	913
Excess of Income over Expenditure .. .. .	819	—	—
	£3,600	£1,519	£997

In the interests of economy it has been decided to print only an abridged form of the Association Account which has been approved by the Auditors. Copies of the full Accounts are in the hands of each O.C.A. Club Secretary and may be inspected by any member.

NEWS FROM THE  
BRANCHES

## EALING BRANCH

It is with regret that I type these notes, on behalf of the Ealing Branch, as they may be the last ones, because as is common knowledge the happy hunting ground for the older members of this branch is about to be swallowed up in the name of re-organisation of the T.A. forces. From previous notes I read that this is one of the oldest T.A. Centres in the County. We would like to know of an older one which is still in use; any offers? However, let's get back to the subject. It is hoped that eventually we shall be able to have our "get-togethers" at Hounslow or Acton. Whichever it is the Ealing Branch will certainly live up to its standards.

Once again it is great to recall the fact that the Branch was well represented at the Albuhera Parade and celebrations this year, and may they attend many more. All members at the moment are looking forward to their outing to Bognor on September 18. This should prove to be a very enjoyable day, although they will have to be on their best behaviour because their better halves will be present; so watch it Compo, Bob and company.

I feel that I must report the following facts to all "Die-Hards." Remember the writer is a Gunner, but seen in the bar recently was a "Die-Hard" taking water with his liquor. Surely this is a crime, my friends of the old Eighth.

We welcome to our branch a new member by the name of Mr. W. Thatcher, M.M., Honorary Secretary of the Military Medallist's League. I sincerely hope that he will enjoy our company at the monthly meetings.  
GUNNER.

(The "Die-Hard" who committed the crime of taking water with his liquor was no other than the R.O. III!!—*Editor*.)

## MILL HILL BRANCH

Most of you will by now have read in the daily press that our Regiment is, on December 31, 1966, to become part of The Queen's Regiment along with the three other Regiments, which comprise The Home Counties Brigade. A full report of this event appears elsewhere in this Journal; suffice for me to say that it will now, more than ever, fall upon ex-"Die-Hards" to keep the comradeship and traditions of our Regiment, built up so jealously by our forebears, alive.

Our monthly meetings continue to flourish and it is almost impossible for anyone to attend one of our gatherings without meeting someone with whom he served during his period of colour service. Then the "remember when" starts. I am always amazed by chaps who have stated quite categorically that after this lot "I won't even join two pieces of string," soon are drawn into conversation and only appear to remember the good times.

On behalf of all our members we offer our condolences to "Brewer" and Mrs. Drane on the sad loss of their



son. We hope that the future will hold no more blows for them.

The next period will be a full one for our members and I know that all who can, will make the effort to attend at least one of the functions on November 12 and 13, full details of which are to be found in the forthcoming events.

Some 16 new members have joined our branch recently, the latest being P. Barron (6201425) ex-1st Battalion, who was a P.O.W. in Jap hands after the fall of Hong Kong.

To all readers of our Journal and to all members of other Branches of the "Die-Hards" Club we can promise you a warm welcome if, on the last Saturday of any month, you happen to drop in to see us.

ERNIE COLEBECK.

**1/7th BATTALION (1939-45)**

The Annual Reunion of the 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) was held at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, on Saturday, April 30, 1966.

As usual this event was most successful. All present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This year we went all out to commemorate in a practical manner our admiration and affection for the 51st Highland Division.

We were, indeed, fortunate to have with us as our Guest of Honour, General Sir Horatius Murray, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. We were delighted to welcome him and several other members of the Highland Division.

Col. Stephenson, in his enthusiastic, amusing and most sincere style, proposed the Toast of the Highland Division and suggested that we should send Greetings to General Douglas Wimberley.

(Note.—A message of Greetings and Good Wishes was duly sent to General Douglas Wimberley and a most appreciative reply received.)

General Murray, in his reply, which exactly captured the prevailing atmosphere, emphasised the warm regard and affection which all ranks of the Highland Division had for their Cockney Machine Gunners. The basis for this was their absolute confidence in the M.G. support in the Field.

These speeches were received with much applause which they fully deserved. Our minds went back to 1942-45 with vivid memories recalled—some stirring, some sad, some amusing.

The speeches over, the chatter and natter came into their own—and so did the bar.

A most enjoyable evening! Maybe, for some, morning as well.

We would take this opportunity to record how much we appreciate the help and co-operation which we always receive from:

Col. Walden and his staff at Regimental Headquarters. Lt.-Col. Hall and many members of the 5th Battalion. Mr. A. Fisher and his staff for the enjoyable dinner and service.

Thank you one and all.

Finally we appeal to all members of the 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) who are not already in touch with us to drop a line to Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E., 91 Dawpool Road, Neasden, N.W.2. Do it now. B.B.R.

**1/10 BATTALION**

The 33rd Reunion of the Battalion organised by "D" Company was held at The Feathers Hotel, S.W.1., on March 26 with Sgt. George Hurford in the Chair. There were 47 present but eight others who accepted failed to show up. Illness, distance and weather are our enemies. As it is, men came from Taunton, Littlehampton, Bexhill, Goring-by-Sea, Upavon, Eastbourne, Colchester and Dunmow.

Sgt. J. R. Dodd was again the oldest present and at 84 years of age delighted us by reciting from memory a soldier's ballad of life on the veldt in the South African War, in which he was a member of the Imperial Yeomanry. Another octogenarian, Capt. A. E. Bowker, came up from near Worthing and delighted us with his stories, legal and otherwise. G. P. Gardiner and F. L. Brown spoke to the Company Toast and their reminiscences were many and humorous. J. B. Wood proposed the Toast of "The Battalion" in great style. Wherever he went in India and the East he usually found a 10th Middlesex man in a position to give him help. F. J. H. Parker replied. He had joined the Battalion in 1908 and he testified to the profound influence the Battalion had had on his life. Col. F. Walden, Secretary of the Regimental Association, brought us up-to-date with Regimental affairs. We are always glad to see Col. Walden and hope to have that privilege next year.

Harry Bedford, whose voice is as good as ever, charmed us with his songs and accompanied the Glee in which most of the company joined. T. S. Richardson thanked visitors, entertainers and the Chairman. At 9 o'clock we remembered "Absent Friends." F.J.H.P.

**2/10th BATTALION O.C.A. (1914-18)**

The 38th Re-union Dinner of this unit took place at The Cranbourne, 1 Upper St. Martin's Lane, W.C.1, on Saturday, May 7, 1966. Mr. C. A. Rush was in the Chair and an attendance of 65 was recorded. Amongst the guests were Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E. (representing Regimental Headquarters) and Prebendary G. A. Lewis Lloyd, M.B.E., B.A. (Vicar of Chiswick and Hon. Chaplain to the O.C. Association).

During the evening it was announced that at the Annual Remembrance Service to be held at Chiswick Parish Church on the afternoon of Sunday, November 13, a Roll of Honour commemorating the 266 members of the Battalion who fell in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine during the First World War, would be placed in proximity to the existing memorial. The glazed casket containing the Roll would be surmounted by a wall panel incorporating a small cross of wood from the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, fashioned, with their clasp-knives, by soldiers of the Battalion in 1917 and used in the field by the Battalion's Chaplain, the late Canon T. W. Taylor of Eccles.

Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, M.C., was appointed Chairman of the O.C. Association for 1966-67. The Hon. Secretary is most anxious to contact any ex-members of the Battalion who may have lost touch over the years or who may be unaware of the existence of the O.C. Association; enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at "Cleveland," Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon. A.D.S.

**This is (a) The Last Will and Testament  
(b) Codicil to my Last Will**

(delete line not applicable)

of me \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

I appoint \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
to be executor/executrix of this my Will.

I give and bequeath unto  
The Charitable Fund of the Middlesex Regimental Association

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ one thousand nine hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Testator or Testatrix

Signed by the above-named Testat \_\_\_\_\_  
as and for h \_\_\_\_\_ last Will in the presence of  
us present at the same time who at h \_\_\_\_\_  
request and in h \_\_\_\_\_ presence and in the  
presence of each other have hereunto sub-  
scribed our names as witnesses.

Witness { Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness { Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_





## don't forget



the important events  
which may concern you  
in November 1966  
or during 1967



*See the list of events  
printed on page 2 cover*

## Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows Flatlets Albuhera Close Enfield

*Have you given your  
contribution to this  
worthy cause?*

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