

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XIV No. 3

MARCH, 1960

PRICE 1/-

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," "Seringsapatnam," "Alubera," "Gildad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marnes, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "17, 18," "Armentières, 1914," "Ypres, 1915," "17, 18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "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," "Arlieux," "Pickleman," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Schierpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 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 Rounana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francoforte," "Sferro," "Sferro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carretero," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourguibus Ridge," "Troam," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederlin," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichswald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

"Korea 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Colonel of the Regiment

Brig. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

Commanding Officers

1st Bn.—Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.
Depot—Major R. D. Hutchings
7th Bn.—Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D.
8th Bn.—Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton.
571 L.A.A. Regiment (9th Middlesex)—Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle, T.D.

Home Counties Brigade

H.Q.: Weymouth Barracks, Canterbury.
Brigade Colonel: Col. H. R. Grace, O.B.E.
D.A.A.G.: Major M. R. H. Stopford.

Regular Battalion

1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948)—B.A.O.R.

Regimental Depot and Regimental Museum

Ingils Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

Territorial Army Units

7th Bn. Hornsey, N.8.
8th Bn. Hounslow.
571 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment T.A.)

Record and Pay Offices

Record Office—Infantry Records, Exeter.
Regimental Pay Office—Canterbury.

Allied Units

CANADA

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.
102nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery.
The Royal Rifles of Canada.

NEW ZEALAND

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

HONG KONG REGIMENT

British Forces Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.

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

Headquarters:

Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Ingils Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

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Secretary: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

Branches

HON. SECRETARY

Mill Hill Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., 11 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, London, N.3.

2/7th Bn. Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Church End, Finchley, N.3.

Hornsey Mr. A. E. Silks, 100 Somerset Road, Tottenham, N.17.

Ealing Mr. F. Hutchings, 2 Longhook Gardens, Grange Estate, Northolt, Middlesex.

Uxbridge Mr. A. W. Bennett, 170 Yeading Lane, Hayes, Middlesex.

Mr. J. K. Taylor, 40 Bernad Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

Joint Secretaries Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.

Hong Kong Capt. W. J. T. Lane, M.B.E., c/o Hong Kong Defence Force, British Army Post Office, 1.

Malaya Capt. J. I. D. Pike, M.C., Federation Military College, Port Dickson, Malaya.

12th Bn Home Guard Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, 3 Claremont Road, Ealing, W.13.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

"The Die-Hards" is published quarterly and may be obtained by completing the order form in this Journal.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Ingils Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7; cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, and crossed "Co." Annual subscription 5s. (post free).

Articles, news items, etc., are welcomed from readers; however, the Editor necessarily reserves the right of publication. Such contributions to the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, as above.

An Open Letter

From the Colonel of the Regiment

To all Members of the Regiment

I want to bring to your notice a matter of vital importance to the Regiment, and to ask for your assistance.

As you probably know, the call up for National Service is due to end in December this year, and by December, 1962, there will be no more National Servicemen serving with the Regular Army. Unless we can replace them with regular soldiers this will leave a gap in our ranks which will, I feel, at least prejudice the future employment of our 1st Battalion in the most interesting stations.

Every effort is being made by our limited recruiting staffs to get men for the Regiment, but there are many untapped sources which they cannot reach.

If you, whether you are a past or present member of the Regiment, know a suitable man who is thinking of joining the Army, will you please get him to contact the Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot, or send his name and address there, and arrangements will be made for him to be visited.

In this way only will we be able to cover the length and breadth of our recruiting area, and on the results of your efforts may well depend the future of our Regiment.

Yours sincerely,
J. E. F. WILLOUGHBY.

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Editor's Comments

"Personal Column"

The improvement of *The Die-Hards* is the object of our constant efforts on your behalf. Therefore, since it is felt that the Journal tends to be somewhat formal and impersonal, we will attempt to overcome this to a certain degree by publishing a "gossip" or "Personal Column" for all ranks. The first of these articles can be found towards the end of this issue.

Soldiers, commissioned or otherwise, make numerous friends during their service only to lose contact with them very shortly after leaving the Army. This, we feel, is a great pity and quite unnecessary, as this Journal offers an excellent medium for keeping in touch with old friends and comrades. In this "Personal Column" we will try and give brief news of past members and, more particularly, news of those of our serving members who are away from the Regiment; it will, however, in no way attempt to replace the Old Comrades' Newsletter, which will continue with its own particular purpose.

If you wish to contact any old friend or give us personal news, do write to the Editor, *The Die-Hards*.

Middlesex T. & A.F. Association

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a short article on the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, whose functions and activities are, we suggest, not sufficiently well known throughout the Regiment. Col. Aymar Clayton, who succeeded Brigadier Basil Rackham as the association secretary, has written this article, in which he stresses the need for suitable A.C.F. officers and T.A. recruits.

Maj.-Gen. G. P. L. Weston

By the time these comments are published, Brigadier "Joe" Weston will have received temporary promotion to Major-General and assumed the appointment of Director of Land/Air Warfare at the War Office. We offer him our sincere congratulations on this excellent appointment and also for being the second Major-General the Regiment has produced since the end of World War II; the first, of course, was Maj.-Gen. Dick Batten.

Gen. "Joe," who is well known to serving and retired members of the Regiment, is highly qualified for this appointment at the War Office. He was seconded to the R.A.F. from 1936-40, during which time he was awarded his O.B.E. for gallant services when in command of a Blenheim squadron operating over France and Belgium; and he later commanded the 2nd Battalion from the D-Day landings until the end of operations, doing so with such distinction as to be awarded the D.S.O. After VE-Day he saw further active service in command of an infantry brigade in Burma and Java; and, not content with these adventurous exploits, he then decided to drop out of planes instead of flying them, thus qualifying for command of a parachute brigade. He has since held various appointments connected with land/air warfare, the culmination of which saw him in command of the newly-formed Army Air Corps Training Centre. Readers will appreciate that Gen. Weston's present appointment is of the utmost importance in this new, "streamlined" and highly mobile Regular Army. We have no doubt, however, that he will find a little time to go to Lords!

Honours and Awards

Hardly a year goes by without the Regiment gaining a mention in the Birthday or New Year Honours Lists. Our reputation has been maintained this year by Lt.-Col. Tom Chattey, and we congratulate him on his recent award of the O.B.E. Many of us will recall that he was taken prisoner by the Japanese in Hong Kong, but his spirit and charming personality were not impaired by the privations he was forced to suffer. As a personal note, we consider Lt.-Col. Tom Chattey to be one of the best and natural horsemen that the Regiment has produced for many years; and that this natural ability was improved to a large extent by the instruction of C/Sgt. Christie, at one time Horse Transport Sergeant of the 57th.

R.S.M. Kendrick

We are delighted to hear that Mr. Kendrick, until lately R.S.M. of the Depot, has been promoted to commissioned rank as a combatant officer. May we remind

Lt. Kendrick of the persuasive efforts employed by your Editor, then C.O. of the 1st Battalion, exhorting him to become a Regular soldier? We hope he remembers that interview at Rendsburg, and our congratulations to him as one of the few to be so commissioned since the end of World War II.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks

Those of us who watch B.B.C. Television cannot fail to be fascinated and intrigued by Gen. Horrocks's latest series, "Men of Action." His grasp of his particular subject is quite remarkable, and he gives viewers a most realistic and intimate portrayal of the various exploits he so vividly describes, all of which is done without notes or the slightest hesitation. May we say that Gen. Horrocks never undertook anything which he could not do well and enthusiastically, and he certainly remains true to his reputation in "Men of Action."

As a matter of interest—great interest, no doubt—readers will be glad to know that the General's autobiography is due to be published in September of this year.

Victor McLaglan

It may not be generally known to readers that the well-known film actor, Victor McLaglan, who died recently in America, was formerly an officer in the Regiment, having been commissioned in 1915 and posted to the 4/10th Battalion. At one time he was a weapon-training instructor at Chatham, and Major Bill Heywood—then a recruit—remembers particularly his former instructor's proficiency with the revolver. Victor McLaglan later gained fame as a film actor, both in this country and America, and he was awarded an "Oscar" for his performance in the film "The Informer."

We quote from a letter by an old "Die-Hard," Mr. Birch, which was published by *The People* in November, 1959:—

"I was sorry to read of the death of Victor McLaglan, the Hollywood star. I recall him as my platoon officer in the 4/10th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—the Boxers Battalion—in the First World War. He was a real disciplinarian and a great guy and staged many boxing shows in the camps."

The late Col. J. N. Lamont

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death whilst holidaying in Ceylon of Col. Newton Lamont, who was a former C.O. and Honorary Colonel of the 9th Battalion. Up to the time of his death he took a keen interest in regimental affairs, and he will be sadly missed. An obituary notice, written by Gen. Horrocks, appears elsewhere in this issue.

French Battle Honours

Your Editor was recently on leave in Paris ostensibly to enjoy the racing at Longchamps. During his more leisurely moments, however, he noticed with avid interest that Napoleon Bonaparte had gained, amongst many others, the Battle Honours of Albuhera, Badajoz

NOTICE

Home Counties Brigade Tie

At the meeting of the Council of Colonels held on December 4, 1959, it was agreed that:—

"All ranks, past and present, Regular and T.A., of any Regiment in the Brigade, were entitled to wear the Brigade Tie."

The tie, the design of which is a pattern of small reproductions of the Brigade badge in silver on a dark blue background, is obtainable from:—

MESSRS. GIEVES LTD.

27 Old Bond Street, London, W.1

and costs, in pure silk, 18s. 6d. and in rayon 12s. 6d. It is much to be hoped that all ranks and/or members will purchase and wear this family emblem.

and Ciudad Rodrigo, all three of which are inscribed on both the Arch de Triomphe and Les Invalides. Perhaps the North Koreans and the Chinese have claimed Naktong Bridgehead as one of their Battle Honours? We doubt it, however, and we hope that such matters are now things of the past; in any case, the possibility of someone remaining alive to inscribe them could be termed as extremely remote!

Middlesex A.C.F.

As this is the Centenary Year of the Army Cadet Force, we have included in this issue a brief article on the A.C.F. in Middlesex. There are, in fact, eight A.C.F. detachments in Middlesex affiliated to various units of the Regiment, and they also wear our cap badge. A former officer of the Regiment—Col. Desmond Ellis—is the County Cadet Commandant, and he is assisted by Major "Taffy" Jones, who is well known to most of us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Spring Golf Meeting.—May 5, Hendon Golf Club.

Cricket Week.—June 18 to 22, Mill Hill.

Officers' Club at Home.—June 25, Mill Hill.

Tennis Tournament.—June 25 and 26, Mill Hill (providing sufficient entries are received).

Officers' Club Dinner.—July 22, United Service Club.

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Why not place an order for a copy of the Journal **NOW!**

An Order Form for the purpose is supplied with every copy of *The Die-Hards*.

Annual subscription is 5/-.

1st Battalion Notes

We last went to print in the shadow of two important occasions—the annual administrative inspection and the change of command—and both have now passed into history.

The annual administrative inspection was a greater success than anyone dared to hope, and was the culmination of several weeks of careful thought and hard work. Although rehearsals had been interrupted by bad weather, the great day (November 20) dawned bright and clear. The sun shone—and, even better, it shone straight at the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier R. E. T. St. JOHN. The parade went off without a hitch and was the first occasion on which the impressive guidons (presented by Col. NOLDA) had been on view. The Brigadier congratulated all ranks on their drill and turnout and the Divisional Commander graded our administration as "good"—from him this was high praise indeed.

Farewells are always sad and never more so than when the person leaving has had a long connection with the Battalion and has seen it safely through the rough and tumble of foreign service. When he left Lt.-Col. NOLDA had been with the Battalion continuously for four years; that the Battalion was in a high state of efficiency was amply demonstrated in the autumn manoeuvres, reported in the last number, and by the result of the annual inspection. This efficiency was mainly due to Col. NOLDA'S tireless energy and incisive determination that only the best was good enough. We look forward to continued and further success under Lt.-Col. BATTYE, to whom we offer a belated but nevertheless heartfelt welcome.

In December we received a visit from Mr. DEREK RICHARDS, the Editor of the *Weekly Post* series of newspapers and a firm friend of the Regiment. He visited the Battalion in CYPRUS and organised several coach loads of parents to welcome us on our arrival at SOUTHAMPTON. He showed keen interest in all our activities and has since written four most informative articles in his newspapers on life in the Battalion. These have been illustrated with numerous photographs of those members of the Battalion who live in the district covered by the *Weekly Post*. All ranks thoroughly enjoyed his visit and hope that he will return again soon.

Anglo-German relations have remained cordial and the Stadt Council gave a dinner on December 3 to the Commanding Officers and Seconds-in-Command of the four units in HAMELN. The Burgermeister was in the chair and, in the course of his speech, he said: "We can say with confidence and pleasure that in the past year particularly good relations have developed between the British garrison and the population of the town."

This has been due to the good sense shown by all ranks and not least to the splendid performance of the Band and Corps of Drums. The Germans love a military spectacle—they even gather to watch guard



COL. NOLDA

Making his farewell address to the Battalion before leaving Gordon Barracks for the last time

mounting—and the Band and Drums have been excellent ambassadors.

Christmas came and went all too quickly and an account of our activities appears elsewhere in these notes.

In January we welcomed Brigadier WILLOUGHBY on his first visit to us since taking up his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment. It was an informal visit which was thoroughly appreciated by all ranks, and the Colonel managed to see a great number of people whilst he was here. January is not the best month to see the WESER-BERGLAND and we hope that this will be added excuse for another visit later in the year.

On January 20 (his birthday) Padre DESCH slipped and fell outside the Commanding Officer's residence and broke his ankle. All readers will be glad to know that he was sober, on duty, and not to blame! We extend to him our sincere sympathies and hope that he will soon be fully active again.

Turning for a moment to the future—1960 gives every appearance of being as busy as 1959 if not more so. At this moment we are taken up with ski-ing, boxing, hockey, cross-country running and, when time permits, individual training. Next month the training starts in

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION



Brigadier R. E. T. St. John, M.C., inspecting "C" Company, Maj. E. A. H. Jeffcoat, O.C. "C" Company, is with him and the familiar figure of C/Sgt. J. Potter can be seen in the foreground



"A" Company marching past

earnest and without let until the end of September. The highlights will be:—

March: Annual classification.
 April: Platoon and section firing at SENNELAGER.
 May: Rifle meetings and support weapon firing.
 June/July: Battalion exercises and infantry/tank co-operation at SOLTAU.
 August: Company weeks.
 September: Inter-Corps exercise in the area of SCHLESWEG HOLSTEIN.

CHRISTMAS

To the uninitiated, Christmas 1959 in North Germany might equate with icy winds and driving snow. How wrong can you be? Many of us did our inevitable last-minute Christmas shopping in the "Osterstrasse" hatless and coatless. Christmas Eve belonged more to spring than the end of December. We could hardly believe it! The only reminder of "Jingle Bells" and a white Christmas was on the wireless.

There was a general feeling in Gordon Barracks against a completely organised Christmas, but the P.R.I., Capt. Alan COWAN, knowing the dangers of leaving us to our own devices, had arranged an ample and well-balanced programme of both meditation and merriment.

On December 22 the Battalion were hosts at a party given for 40 German orphan children from HAMELN.

The usual environmental noises of a gymnasium are thuds, gasps and heavy breathing, and the hosts were certainly left gasping for breath as they were given the run around by 40 energetic youngsters. However, the gym resounded at the treble end of the scale when Father Christmas entered, to be greeted with excited squeals by the children who had just done the disappearing trick on a table of fruit, jellies, sandwiches and cakes.

The cherry-red robed figure had a bulging sack over his shoulder from which, true to form, he conjured a present for each child. What a memory for names that man must have! The hard-working Capt. COWAN had laid on most things, but the reindeer had refused to travel to a snowless zone, so the Pony Club provided the tractive power for Father Christmas's sleigh.

A helter skelter provided endless amusement and even after tea it was still top of the poll for thrills. It was a little thrilling for the hosts when one little fellow decided to come down a new way. He came down on his friend's shoulders! Exit Capt. COWAN in a dead faint.

Father Christmas provided a ray gun for one of tomorrow's space men, but it was only loaded with a very familiar terrestrial liquid. No, not whisky. Another little boy was clutching a model tank which had a red star on the gun turret. Had Father Christmas been brain-washed, we wondered, or was he providing himself with an alibi if the Russians came?

By this time he wasn't worried about a Russian advance, in fact he was considering a tactical withdrawal as a score of eager faces battered him with questions. How far had he come; why hadn't he brought his reindeer?

After the questioners had all been satisfied and the ray gun unloaded by a wet, but grinning soldier, a period of games was enjoyed before the party began to



Visit of G.O.C. 2 Division

Maj.-Gen. W. G. Stirling C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., inspecting the Battalion Main Quarter Guard during his visit on December 11, 1959. From left to right: Cpl. Heath, Sgt. Patterson ("A" Company), Pte. Tomlinson ("Sp" Company), Pte. Lloyd ("H.Q." Company), Pte. Barratt ("A" Company) and (hidden) Pte. Rockell ("A" Company)

close down. It was difficult to see who needed a rest most, children or adults.

However, the shining eyes and excited but slightly tired faces told their own story of a very happy afternoon.

The Tuesday night before Christmas was the occasion of the all ranks' dance. The dance band excelled itself in providing music for both dancing and listening. The gym was very gaily decorated and straight away was created an atmosphere of jollity and merriment. Christmas certainly had arrived!

December 23 was supposed to be a breather before Christmas Eve, but in spite of this there was a certain amount of activity at the Gordon Club and in the Officers' Mess.

That most hallowed of rituals, the Christmas draw, was held at 241700 in the NAAFI Canteen. There were good-natured shouts of derision as the Sergeants' Mess carried off the large prizes and the 2IC was almost driven "right round the bend" by his prize, a tin of well-known toilet disinfectant!

This was followed by a gathering in the Sergeants' Mess at which more healths were drunk, or shattered? Somebody whispered something about "tombola" on the programme, but most people seemed to be well occupied.

The Garrison Church was well filled for the midnight Communion. Rarely can a church have looked more beautiful. The interior was lit almost completely by candles, the only electric light being the ones shining on the sharply focussed altar. The Fresco of the Nativity on the walls of this charmingly converted stable was given extra significance as we enjoyed the familiar but always moving service.



"A" COMPANY

The winners of the Albuhera Shield with their trophies

Christmas morning dawned dull and cloudy, but the atmosphere in the cookhouse was anything but dull when, after drinks in the Officers' Mess, the Sergeants, W.O.s and officers arrived to serve the Christmas dinners. Much enjoyment was had by everybody from the unaccustomed situation, and after a splendid meal the Commanding Officer spoke to the men for a few minutes. This seemed to set a precedent, as other personalities were demanded, notably Pat DONOVAN, who had one or two spry and succinct remarks to make.

The only organised event on Boxing Day was, to quote, "Officers and Sergeants Football knock-out," but it wasn't quite clear who was going to knock who out, and we never found out, as the weather was against activity on the square. The disappointed participants retired to the Sergeants' Mess and took their revenge out of a few innocent-looking bottles.

For the people not needing organised recovery from a strenuous Christmas, there was free tombola at the Gordon Club and a free film show at the A.K.C. Cinema on the remaining two days of the Christmas period. And so a Frohes Wernochtsfest was had by all. In more than one quarter, however, was overheard a heartfelt sigh of relief. "Christmas comes but once a year. How relaxing to return to normal duties."

Ein Recht Gutes Neues Jahr!!

"A" COMPANY

I spy with my little eye something beginning with A.

Albuhera Ashes?
Athletic cross-country team?
Association Football Cup?
Albuhera Shield?
"A" COMPANY?

Correct. Give that man a contract for "What's my Line?" (What a pity he isn't telegenic.)

We made a brief reference in the last issue of *The Die-Hards* to the fact that we had won the Albuhera Shield. Well, in this issue we're rubbing it in. Last time we said that we were still awaiting its presentation. We have now had it presented. The late C.O. decided to give it to the Company on one of the rehearsals for the annual administrative inspection. Capt. NORTON was called forward in front of the whole parade to collect the shield, and also, he had to carry it all the way back. Phew! The fact that he was unable to command the company on the actual inspection a few days later shows how overcome he was with emotion and the weight of the shield. It is also a testament to Major CLAYDEN's medical talent, of which neither Capt. NORTON nor indeed Major CLAYDEN were in the least aware. But we'll tell you that story in the next issue. May we now, in a final general reference to our successes this past year, thank all the other companies for playing us so hard and losing when they did (and it wasn't by any means always) so sportingly. It made the shield doubly worth having. We will at least make them fight equally hard again this year.

Actually there isn't very much of general interest to report this quarter. You've already heard of BATTLE AXE and PHOENIX which brings us on to the next high-light: that of the annual administrative inspection. For this we enclose a photograph of the Company marching past and—"here Mum, that's me there, centre rank, fifty-fourth beret from the left!" We did not see very much of the inspecting team; it was "C" Company that had the "hammer." However, the Brigadier came to look at "A" Company doing some bayonet fighting. The C.S.M. conducted this lesson in something rather less than *sotto voce*, and the Brigadier was enchanted. Pte. HAZELWOOD wasn't.

The Company has had its usual quota of old soldiers and new ones—and isn't it amazing how often the new ones try and come the old?

Amongst the newer ones we should particularly like to single out Pte. BULL, who, on joining the Company, volunteered to box and get his front teeth knocked out for his trouble. But—and this is the point—he literally made a fighting comeback and won his fight. We are also very pleased to have Pte. LYNCH, who has run, played hockey and football for the Company and acquitted himself well in all three sports. He is also a good shot and will replace Pte. PAGRAM, whom we are sorry to lose. Talking of losses, we are suddenly rather hard hit. We lose C/Sgt. SIMMONS, Sgts. BARR, PATTERSON and TAYLOR at one fell blow. And although traditionally effing Sergeants are a mucking nuisance generally, we are sorry to see this lot go. Then again we lose BROWN, CAREY, STONE, WOOLSTON, GIBBONS, POWELL and MARCH-ANT—all Company footballers. These are useful chaps who have helped build our soccer side into a team that dropped only a single point in the 1960 Albuhera League, thus winning us the Soccer Cup. However, we shall still have Capt. NORTON and the C.S.M., so our faces light up again in happy anticipation. (And what colour, pray, is your nose?)

Now a word about the recent inter-Company cross-country. The Company team was subjected to a certain amount of derision as it arrived at the start. This was due to their being brought in private Volkswagens, Wolseleys, and Mercedes (Benz, of course), pennants flying. This derision hurt our sensitive team so much that they actually wept as they came across the finishing line—first! For this win we are indebted to 2/Lt. LOFTING, Cpl. CURTIS, L/Cpls. AHERN and PEAK, Ptes. BROWN, BARRETT, LYNCH, TRIMMER, RAHMATULLAH and CONSTANTINOU.

And that brings us slap up to date. We are, at the moment of writing, engaged on a Company patrolling exercise in rapidly thawing snow. We shall roll these notes up, put them in a bottle and float them down the WESER to the Editor. (We hope he fishes—or, at any rate, drinks.) Before he pulls the cork out, though, there is one episode we must tell you of. We were out on a night exercise a few days ago—also patrolling—and L/Cpl. GREEN's six-man patrol found a short cut through the woods. Now it was quite obvious that someone else had used it for there were footprints—to be precise, six pairs of them—which they followed. Well, after a bit (Dr. MOORE had nothing on this lot,

believe me), they discovered twelve pairs of footprints: then a bit later eighteen. . . .

We say good-bye to Lt.-Col. NOLDA and welcome Lt.-Col. BATTYE as our new Commanding Officer. Both officers, incidentally, are ex-"A" Company Commanders. They have both, therefore, had very good training. Capt. KITCHENER (yes, he's still with us) says we are not to make any rude remarks about him or laugh at his expense this time. Had we mentioned that he's temporarily commanding the Company again?

"B" COMPANY

As for the Battalion, so for "B" Company, this has been a period of change with old faces going and being replaced by new ones.

Major R. D. HUTCHINGS times his departure brilliantly—just before the administrative inspection. C.S.M. BARTLE stayed with us until he had seen that we did not disgrace him on the parade. In his place we welcome C.S.M. FIRMAN, whom we are sorry to hear will shortly be leaving us for the T.A.

After a concerted effort at drilling, cleaning and painting, the Company was ready for the administrative inspection. We were rewarded by a very good report. C/Sgt. MICHEL claimed he had been cheated—no one ever went near his immaculate stores.

Until mid JANUARY sport was in full swing, but now the snow has suspended all outdoor sport. In the novices boxing our gladiators did very well to win handsomely. Our successful boxers were Ptes. THOMAS, SEATORY, SILVERMAN, SEARLE, BRAIME, PAYNE (04), and HURST. Cpl. O'RAWE, Cpl. SHAVE, Ptes. LOCKE, PAYNE (04), ENDA-COTT, SILVERMAN, THOMAS and HURST have all boxed for the Battalion, thus justifying our nickname of "Bruiser B." Cpl. O'RAWE is also to be congratulated on being chosen to represent B.A.O.R. v. R.A.F. U.K. at RHEINDAHLEN. In the last round of the Army Boxing Cup we were very proud that five out of seven Battalion winners came from "B" Company.

This is the first year that the Albuhera football has been on a league basis. It was a particularly hard-fought competition. Pte. CHAPMAN did well to lead his team to 2nd place. He was well backed up by Pte. ROGERS, JOHNSON and WARD. Both CHAPMAN and ROGERS played for the Battalion.

The third Albuhera sport which we have taken part in recently was the cross-country. We were unfortunate that both MOORE and HAYNES were on leave when the race was held. Cpl. WILLIAMS and Cpl. Da-COSTA and Pte. JERROM ran well, but despite their efforts we finished 5th. We would like to congratulate Capt. McMANUS, 2/Lts. IGENS and GORING, Sgt. SMITH, Cpl. Da-COSTA, L/Cpl. CLATWORTHY, and Pte. WOOD on representing the Battalion at rugby. Capt. McMANUS and 2/Lt. GORING travelled to PARIS to play for the Division, the former also went to BERLIN with the Divisional team. He also has the privilege of introducing the Renault Dauphine to the Battalion. He brought it back safely from PARIS, but he hadn't reckoned with route 217!

2/Lt. GORING and L/Cpl. CARR went on an athletics course and the former did so well that he has been sent back to do an advanced course in England. At last the snow has come and Capt. McMANUS is now happy. He is in charge of the Battalion ski team which is training hard at the Hartz. Other "B" Company skiers are Cpl. DaCOSTA, L/Cpl. HILLS and Ptes. DARVELL and O'CONNOR. Another snowman is Pte. BEAUCHAMP, who is attached to the Brigade Ski Centre. Many members of the Company have spent a week up there. Cpl. SHEFFIELD is congratulated on the successful result of his first-aid course. Cpls. FISHER and POLLARD have just finished a senior N.C.O.'s cadre and Cpl. FISHER is going on a platoon weapons course at HYTHE in February. Sgt. CLEMENTS is already back in England on a N.B.C. course and leave. Ptes. BEEDLE and O'HALLORAN are on a M.M.G. cadre at the moment. Ptes. FLACK, CLUTTON and DOWDELL are doing an M.T. cadre. We hope they will all have good results. L/Cpl. STEPHENSON is to be congratulated on getting a well-deserved "B" on his P.T. Leaders course at SENNELAGER. We hope he will do even better on the assistant instructors' course at ALDERSHOT. We would like to congratulate the following on becoming Lance-Corporals: L/Cpls. CARR, HILLS, PAYNE and MURPHY.

This is a period of farewells. Cpl. WILLIAMS has already left for civilian life and 2/Lt. IVENS will join him in February. We are also losing most of those who joined us from the Queen's Regiment. We are very sorry to see them go and wish them the very best of luck in the future. If any of them have any second thoughts about "civvy street" we will be very pleased to welcome them back. In their place we welcome 15 newcomers from the Depot. They are already learning how lucky they are to have to come to "B" Company.

Looking back on 1959 it has been a year of hard work rewarded by achievement both in work and sport. We are confident that 1960 will be even more successful.

Finally we welcome Major CLAYDEN, who takes over as Company Commander in February from Lt. LEGG who has been holding the fort while Capt. McMANUS goes ski-ing. We look forward to a much-needed improvement in our hockey and basketball under Major CLAYDEN's coaching.

"C" COMPANY

The emphasis has switched once more to individual training to prepare for SENNELAGER. With the continual change of individuals this task is quite formidable, since there are less than 10 who were with the Company when we visited SENNELAGER last APRIL.

There have been many changes in the last quarter and we welcome to the Company Cpl. SCOTT, L/Cpl. NILES, Ptes. JONES (86), HOLLEY, CURRIE, BURGESS, CAIRA, MERRALL, CARNEY, FLYNN, MERCER, THOMPSON, TURNER and WARDLE. Our losses have been very heavy indeed. Sgt. KERR left us in December for the 8th Battalion, Cpl. STOPP has been loaned to the Depot for training a large intake, Cpl. CAIRNS has been posted there as an instructor, and the Company Headquarters' team of Ptes. PEARCE,

BEAUCHAMP, DISBREY, LINFORD, SAVAGE and SKEWS have all departed for civilian life where we wish them every success. The new team includes Ptes. KEEN, HODGES, PRIOR and LAFLIN who are already acclimatising themselves to field training. We have lost 2/Lt. COWING to the "Kremlin," where we wish him the best of luck, as Assistant Adjutant, and 2/Lt. LUCK has taken over command of 7 Platoon in his place. We congratulate Sgt. YOUNG on his promotion, although his transfer to "A" Company was not approved! Congratulations also to Cpls. STEVENS and SHAFFNER and L/Cpls. O'SULLIVAN, KNAPP and WOODMAN on their promotions.

The winter season is the time for courses and cadres. Sgt. PLUMB has been to WINTERBOURNE GUNNER for a nuclear course and Cpl. DICKENS to HYTHE. L/Cpl. MURPHY is becoming a muscle man at ALDERSHOT and Cpl. FINNIS is also there, training for the 1960 Olympics in which we wish him great success. Ptes. CATTERMOLLE, BEAVER, BUTLER and DAVIS are attending a Battalion M.T. cadre, and Ptes. HALL, HOLLEY and RAPPOPORT are aspiring to become N.C.O.s. It is rumoured that for the first time in two years a certain soldier was silent when asked to explain how the rifle worked! Other training activities have included a 20-mile night patrol in the snow and a total of 15 passes in the third-class education.

In sporting activities we have had mixed fortunes. We came second in the Albuhera Shield basketball, and the team selected from C.S.M. DaCOSTA, C/Sgt. POTTER, Sgt. EDEY, L/Cpl. BELL, Ptes. RENWICK, BUTLIN and RAPPOPORT are congratulated on their effort.

A first-class effort was also produced by the Company boxers and cross-country runners. There were 25 entries for the boxing from the Company, all of them showed tremendous spirit and we particularly mention Cpl. CAIRNS, Ptes. VERRELS, BEAVER, COCKS and GIBBONS on reaching the finals. We gained third place in the cross-country, thanks to a determined effort by the team, and especially Pte. JONES (86) who won the race from L/Cpl. FLANAGAN. The remainder of the team was Ptes. SKEWS, PRIOR, WRIGHT, RAPPOPORT, PUCKETT, LAFLIN, WALDRON and L/Cpl. BELL.

Our efforts to retain the Football Cup were not so good, and in most ways we have only ourselves to blame for being placed fifth. We lost to "B," "S" and "H.Q." 2 by the odd goal, having dominated our opponents, but for some reason being unable to put the ball in the net. We won friendly matches against everyone with the greatest of ease, but there let the subject rest—our hopes of winning the Albuhera Shield in 1960 still remain high.

"D" COMPANY

N.C.O.s cadre No. 5 dispersed on December 5 and, of a total of 21 students, 17 were subsequently promoted Lance-Corporal.

The Company has also conducted a N.C.O.'s upgrading cadre and we congratulate Sgt. MILES, and

Cpls. SHAFFNER and STEVENS, students on this cadre, on their subsequent promotion.

N.C.O.'s Cadre No. 6, comprising 11 students, is at present in progress and Cadre No. 7 is scheduled to begin on February 22.

Capt. LLOYD has left the Company for Battalion H.Q. as I.O. and in his place we welcome Lt. MALLALIEU as Company Commander.

Although drafts continue to be posted direct to companies on arrival, the "permanent staff" are kept fully employed with cadres and various "extra-Company" duties.

We have also said good-bye to L/Cpl. RICKETT and wish him luck and success in the hard civilian world. Sgt. LLOYD and Cpl. BARNETT have left us on posting to the Depot and we wish them success in their endeavours.

"S" COMPANY

We all breathed a sigh of relief after the administrative inspection was over. The Brigade Commander was very pleased with what he saw. Congratulations to C.S.M. DODKINS, C/Sgt. DIVE, and the Mortar Platoon, Anti-Tank Platoon and Assault Pioneer Section for their hard work in so well preparing their departments for the inspection. It was a pity that the inspecting team could not spend more time seeing all the good work that had been put into the stores and offices.

This has been a period of leave, Christmas and cadres. All requests for Christmas and New Year leave were met, and those remaining in HAMELN had a most enjoyable Christmas.

The Company received a draft of 14 in December, which should see them through another training season. The draft, plus all the old hands have been fully occupied this month of January. C.S.M. DODKINS turned his hand to running and instructing on the Mortar cadre, at least for the first two weeks, until Sgt. ARGENT returned from leave. Sgt. PARTRIDGE, if he can be found, is instructing six men on the Vickers machine-gun. Sgt. PRITCHARD is running his own Assault Pioneer cadre, and finally, Lt. WAITE is fully committed with an Anti-Tank cadre when he can be spared from boxing.

We were glad to see Ptes. MAY, KERRISON, WELLS and WEBB had passed their driving tests.

In the sporting world "S" Company, in spite of hard luck in the swimming, boxing, and football finished third in the Albuhera Shield for 1959, one point behind H.Q. 1. This year 1960 we have started well, with third place in the football, fourth in the boxing and second in the cross-country running, which makes us third in the Albuhera Shield so far.

Major CLAYDEN will be leaving the Company at the end of January and would like to take this opportunity of thanking all past and present members for their loyalty and support over the last year. He was well pleased with the standard achieved and looks forward to seeing members of "S" Company in his company area on exercises and he guarantees plenty of work for the Assault Pioneers.

He may even need a raft. . . !

3-in. Mortar Platoon

We enter into a New Year with some new faces in the Platoon (and fortunately some old ones). We extend a welcome to Ptes. ROBINSON, McKENZIE, McMINN, HOWE, CLAYTON and CAPRON and hope they will enjoy their stay with the best platoon in the Battalion!

Christmas was celebrated in the usual manner—plenty to eat and drink, plus time to sleep it off. It is perhaps fitting here to extend our thanks to Sgt.-Major MEDLOCK and his cooks for such an excellent Christmas dinner, which even Pte. ANDERSON enjoyed (he having rejoined us from a short holiday!).

The celebrations prior to Christmas Day provided a good deal of amusement. One incident being Pte. ("Jock") McMINN seen on Christmas Eve with Ptes. ROBINSON and McKENZIE (both from the Emerald Isle), all singing "I belong to Glasgow," but their remarks on the following morning about Glasgow are unprintable.

At the time of writing our Platoon Commander has managed to "fiddle" himself on to U.K. leave (minus his automobile) and was heard to say something about going ski-ing on his return, the reply to that being, "You'll be lucky." The latest cadre is in full swing and we hope at the end of it to have a well-trained platoon all ready for the "Battle of SENNELAGER."

We have said farewell to a number of the old stalwarts recently: L/Cpl. ("Chop Suey") CHALMERS, Ptes. FAIRHEAD and RAINBOW. We hope Civvy Street will not be too hard on them.

Pte. ("Elvis") CROSKELL has also left us, but we may see him again in the future, as he is on a home posting.

Pte. GREENING has escaped into the Company Office, and we hope the typewriter doesn't make his legs ache too much.

Our congratulations to Sgt. MILES on his promotion; he will be staying with us for a while.

Our condolences to "H.Q." Company who have an A/C.S.M. for a few weeks—Sgt. TARRY. We hope "H.Q." Company will eventually recover.

Sgt. ARGENT returned from leave looking rather wan; he looked even paler after his first week's boxing training.

Sgt. PARTRIDGE has returned from his six weeks' holiday with "D" Company, but is only seen with a couple of Vickers machine-guns. Don't let him hear you say that they are obsolete! He will soon be back with the Platoon, so the terms "Fred Ner" and "Charlie Hops" will be heard again.

Finally, we send our greetings to all the old members of the Platoon and remind them that there are still some vacancies for a few "refugees from Civvy Street."

Anti-Tank Platoon

Since the last journal notes the Platoon has taken on a new look. All our stalwarts of last year except for Ptes. DINNING and HILTON have been released. Amongst those that have left is Sgt. SEAGER. He has been Platoon Sergeant for one complete training season. His knowledge of the mobat was first class and his stores

and equipment were the show-piece of the Company. We all wish him every success in his return to civilian life. Pte. BATESON is now employed in the Company Stores and Cpl. BARNES is still out of action. We wish him a speedy recovery with this stern warning: DANGER. DO NOT SIT ON WALLS.

The gladiators of the Platoon have not been idle during this period. Lt. WAITE and L/Cpl. CREASER are boxing for the Battalion, though they spend most of their time on the canvas! Pte. HEALE, another Battalion boxer, has just joined us. Pte. PATMORE is in the Battalion cross-country team. There is a rumour that Pte. HARRIS has passed his P.E. tests this year. The shock has forced us to send him on leave.

The Anti-Tank cadre has been hampered in its training to a certain degree by the arrival of snow. This made loading of the gun rather difficult. At one stage it was difficult to tell the difference between Pte. HOLLOWAY and a 120-mm. round, as both were covered by snow; fortunately, HOLLOWAY wriggled as he was being loaded.

We have not forgotten L/Cpl. GILBERT, who is at NETHERAVON, learning all about the Wombat and any more "bats" to follow. We hope life is not too strenuous for him.

We wish all those that have been demobbed a Happy New Year, and we hope that in this year's training we shall maintain the standard which they set. Perhaps we may even raise the standard.

We have a New Year's resolution. It goes something like this:

"Keep your mind on the job,
Keep your hands on the trigger."
(And Fred comes in somewhere.)

Assault Pioneers

Our Section Sergeant, Sgt. PRITCHARD, having had his annual leave returned to the fold with renewed vim and vigour. Having enjoyed a very good Christmas, we settled down to a four-week cadre, starting on January 4. It is hoped that by the end of January, all members of our section will be familiar with their pioneering duties.

Since Pte. HILTON has "absconded" to the Anti-Tank Platoon, we have been without a driver, so we were given Pte. MILBURN, who has driven before. Unfortunately, now he has arrived, there is no truck. We have therefore taught him about mines and booby traps.

Pte. BAIMBRIDGE, although still a member of the section is now in the cooking business and Pte. SMITH (82), one of the smaller members of the section is cutting up meat in the butchers shop as a winter hobby.

We continue our struggle to make the Company (including the Company Commander) more booby-trap conscious. We are not particular where we lay them.

We have not forgotten certain remarks made in the last *Die-Hards*. We shall acquaint ourselves fully with the 31 and 88 wireless sets.

We look forward to an interesting training season with ourselves up to strength and "raring" to go. The section includes Sgt. PRITCHARD, L/Cpl. BEAVIS, Ptes. BARTLETT, COLES, LAM, BAIMBRIDGE,

SMITH (33), SMITH (82), MILBURN and POLLARD.

Last but not least we would like to wish L/Cpl. ROBERTS, Ptes. SULLIVAN, CHURCH and ADAMSON the very best of luck in Civvy Street.

COMPANY CREDITS

1. We say goodbye and good luck to Ptes. HAMLING, BROWN (55), THOMAS, STAMFORD GEAR, NICHOLSON, MILLARD, KATTENHORN, CAMPBELL, RAINBOW, FAIRHEAD, SULLIVAN, ADAMSON, CHURCH and L/Cpl. ROBERTS.

2. Pte. TIMMS whose hearing has been getting worse with the number of exercises he goes on, has at last acquired a posting to H.Q. 1 (Br.) Corps at BIELEFELD. We hope he will settle down and enjoy the next four years in the Army.

3. Pte. BAIMBRIDGE has escaped to the cookhouse. We have not yet heard what is his speciality. We are depending on him to give us "Savoy Treatment" this training season.

4. Cpl. BARNES we hear is no longer eager to learn to swim, since his last dive. He is however, quite happy to live with his .45 bullet.

5. Congratulations to Sgt. MILES, Cpl. SHEARING, Cpl. MULLENDER and L/Cpl. REYNOLDS on their promotions.

6. We were very sorry to see Sgt. SEAGER leave for civilian life, we wish him the very best of luck, and thank him for his enthusiastic work whilst in "S" Company. We also say goodbye to L/Cpl. CHALMERS.

7. We thank Pte. CAMPBELL very much for the nice Holy Bible he presented to the Company before leaving.

8. Well done L/Cpl. FLANAGAN and Pte. JOHNS in running so well in the Battalion cross country run.

9. Major CLAYDEN, Sgt. PARTRIDGE and Sgt. TARRY have been shooting for the Battalion .22 rifle team.

10. C.S.M. DODKINS, Sgt. PARTRIDGE and Sgt. TARRY have been busily firing pistols into space, hoping that the odd bullet will stray on to the target. Apparently the best of them will represent the Battalion in this pastime.

11. We welcome the following to the Company: Ptes. JOHNS, HEALE, ATKINSON, BUDD, CAPRON, CLAYTON, HAFNER, HOWE, JONES, MCKENZIE, McMINN, PATMORE, ROBINSON, SHARP, SMITH (33) and TONER. We promise to show them more of GERMANY as the months go by.

12. Boxing is foremost in our minds at the moment, we watched an excellent match against 24 Med. Regt. R.A. which the Battalion won by 7 bouts to 4. Lt. WAITE is to be congratulated on his team which apart from himself includes L/Cpl. CREASER and Pte. LAM from the Company. Sgt. ARGENT on his return from leave has gone into training.

13. Pte. CROSKELL has at last "wangled" a home posting and is residing at CARLISLE.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since writing the last Journal notes the Company has weathered the annual administrative inspection and

Christmas. The weeks of sordid drill paid off and resulted in a smart parade which was also a fitting farewell to Col. NOLDA.

Christmas was observed with the usual festivities. The all-ranks dance was well attended and "H.Q." Company carried off most of the prizes in the Christmas draw. The full 20 per cent. of the Company went on leave and are just beginning to trickle back again.

Some new faces can be seen. C/Sgt. STEWARD has left us for "A" Company, C/Sgt. SIMMONS now fills his place. Cpl. HOARE, the Company Clerk, is shortly to be demobbed. Pte. FLYNN is now taking over his unenviable task. Two more Regimental policemen adorn the guardroom, L/Cpl. COUSINS, ex-Foreign Legion, and L/Cpl. RAHMATULLAH, ex-"A" Company. Amongst the last National Service draft to be released were Pte. ALLIGAN, the Company accommodation storeman and Pte. BERRYMAN, ration storeman. Ptes. BENNETT and MAYNARD now fill these positions.

In the overall placing for the Albuhera Shield, H.Q. 2 came second and H.Q. 1 came sixth. The last cup to be fought for was the basketball cup, which H.Q. 1 won. Our best place in the Battalion cross-country run was gained by Pte. O'RIORDAN of the Signals Platoon, who came fourth. He is now training for the Battalion cross-country team. A number of the Company have spent a week in the Harz Mountains at the Brigade ski hut. One young enterprising member of the Q.M. staff has made himself a pair of skis. Lets hope they don't have to be used as splints!

Thanks to C/Sgt. STEWARD we won the 11 Brigade Group minor units small-bore shooting competition and came second to "H.Q." Company 1st Seaforths in the 2nd Division competition only 21 points behind!

A thick layer of snow now covers the ground putting all sports grounds "out of bounds." So we are looking forward to spring—and exercises!!

Signal Platoon

With Christmas behind us we face 1960, that mystic year when our new range of wireless sets will all be with us, by April 1 it is said, and we hope that the date is merely coincidental. C42s were ready, so the book says, on December 1 last year; but that's all we know. We did hear that the Q.M. has to ring up H.Q. 2 Division every Monday, first to tell them we are still using the old sets and then that we haven't got the new—no doubt they are worried in case we find the odd new set in a W.D. surplus store in the Charing Cross Road! However, we fight on—19 of the Platoon are in the third week of their cadre as we go to press, and the rifle company cadres continue *ad nauseam*. Now our only worry is that all the new sets arrive as we go to SENNELAGER.

The last quarter of 1959 proved fairly quiet though, as usual, the administrative inspection brought with it a fair amount of work. The Colour-Sergeant went to town on the G 1098 kit giving it all a good coat of paint, though not in Regimental colours as some other people did! The cadre which finished prior to the formation exercises in October classified on December 15, 10 passing out of the 12 who sat. Our deepest sympathy to

Ptes. COLES and LLOYD—neither of them ever wanted to be a control operator anyway. The new Brigade Signals Officer (also about 6 ft. 5 in. like his predecessor, but even broader) seemed quite pleased with the result. Wait till he sees the present cadre!

In November we held our first Platoon dinner in BAD MUNDER with Capt. LAWRENCE and Sgt. PRITCHARD as our guests. A very successful evening was enjoyed by all including Pte. EDWARDS, and proved as popular as our summer trip to HAMBURG and that terrible night in HANNOVER. The shouts of "lucky break" from the last to return, believed to be in the R.S.O.'s car, were not so well received. Next day, eight of our number left the Army—perhaps it was as well.

Congratulations to Cpls. MEPSTEAD and STEWART on their promotion. L/Cpls. RAND and HAGGERTY on their appointment after coming second and fourth on the N.C.O.s' cadre, and to Pte. and Mrs. SHORT on their marriage on Boxing Day—a good start! A mention, also, for Pte. LLOYD who spent some of Christmas searching for escaped prisoners.

We have been well represented in Battalion sport, but chances of running Platoon teams are poor owing to the shortage of pitches. However, at football we have beaten both "C" and "S" Companies, admittedly at O.H.R. park which is a pitch that takes some getting to know and which we use every Friday. We have also beaten the "H.Q." Company "O. & S." XI at hockey in spite of the umpire. Ptes. COX, HESLIN, O'RIORDAN and RAND have been playing soccer for the Battalion this season in either 1st or 2nd XIs, the R.S.O. (he is, of course, the O.I.C.), Sgt. BRIGGS and Pte. HALL (57) have played rugger, though Pte. SCORGIE, when invited to join them, missed the transport, and Pte. ANDERSON has played in the hockey 2nd XI. Pte. GIBBONS is playing basketball for the Battalion, Pte. O'RIORDAN is in the cross-country team and Pte. HESLIN boxed for the Battalion in the last round of the Army Championship. A good all-round effort.

Amongst the newer members we have a guitarist, Pte. CONNER, and harmaniac, Pte. KADSHAW. Musically the result is pleasing until Pte. EDWARDS tries one of his "This would make Sinatra cry" impersonations. He now sleeps in the corridor fairly regularly. Whilst the rest of us enjoy the warmth of a barrack room; we are, of course, the last block on the central heating circuit and now sleep in winter kit—just watch the speed of our next turnout. The cadre room is a very good winter training area.

At present the Platoon basks in the absence of the R.S.O., who is taking a well-deserved leave.

In two weeks or so we say good-bye to the last of the Cyprus veterans—52nd intake of course! We leave the rest of the Platoon to see their way through the next training season which, we are sure, they will do with the utmost efficiency. Perhaps "Pronto" will even find a journal note writer whose work he can continue to mutilate beyond recognition.

Finally, a warm welcome to the 17 new members of the Platoon, too numerous to mention, and good luck to the eight who leave us before the next journal appears.

M.T. Platoon

Some 152,853 miles of Germany have passed under the wheels of the M.T. since your scribe last wrote these notes, and on the whole it has been an interesting period, as in that time we have passed through the annual administrative inspection, had a visit from the Brigade L.A.D. and the Central Servicing Team, and we are now engaged in the work of preparation for the C.I.V. inspection which will take place in the first week of February. New to the Platoon strength are Sgt. PRITCHARD and Cpl. BRENNAN, both of whom were soon on their way to the M.T. School at Borden, where we hope that matters M.T. will be given a little thought. We also wish to welcome to the Platoon Ptes. CHILLINGWORTH, FLETCHER, TROTTER, HOPKINS, BRUNIGES, JAMIESON, McINTYRE, PAGE, PADGETT, ROBINS, ROWLAND, STOCKLEY and SUMPTER, and for the R.E.M.E. Section Cfn. BINNS. To all we wish a happy stay in the Platoon.

In the first week of February we expect to say hello to Sgt. PEPPERCORN, who is to replace Sgt. SMALLS as big chief R.E.M.E., to the former we can only say it was a good thing you have not had the experience of arriving at the start of January, as at that time we had chalk marks on all but two vehicles to the effect that they were V.O.R., and for the latter we hope that both he and Mrs. SMALLS will enjoy a very pleasant stay in Hong Kong, and that liver salts are freely available. The cost of replacements has been very heavy and in the last three months 18 old faces have been lost to Civvy Street, chief of whom were Cpls. COUSINS, RICE and ALDRIDGE, the latter's departure has resulted in a noticeable decline in the beer consumption in Hameln and we feel Surrey has gained by an equally large increase. To them all we can only say that if the life out there is not up to the standard required we can always give you a bed to sleep in.

We wish to extend to L/Cpls. CONNOR and PUCKEY our congratulations upon their promotions and also to C/Sgt. WALTERS and Sgt. BRIGGS of the Signals Platoon, both of whom have been elevated to the ranks of Squadron Leader and Flight-Sergeant, this was in recognition of their efforts on the morning of the Commanding Officer's pre-administrative inspection and to which the M.T. Platoon were forced to be unwilling partners somewhere around 0430 hrs. It was somewhere around this time that the M.T.O. was observed checking up on flights to Siberia, we can only think that this action was prompted by the Brigade Commander's remark on a certain polished dip-stick encountered upon his inspection of vehicles.

Cpl. MINNETT has at long last been eased out of the seat of the Commanding Officer's staff car, this following being eased off the Minden Road by a Volkswagen, thus he now has the job of running the unit driving cadre, and we notice that he has bought a hat to cover the grey hairs that are starting to sprout, but with cause, as Pte. BOWLES would say, or Pte. PADGETT when speaking of a certain little black building in the Bridging Camp.

Pte. SUMPTER has the doubtful distinction of being

the only member of the Platoon who snores, so well, in fact, that over-night he managed to empty a very large barrack room, therefore he should not be surprised at his posting to the M.I. Room driving staff, to whom we wish many nights of doubtful sleep, and it is not true that Pte. FLETCHER requires any instructions given to him that end with the words: "Do I make myself perfectly clear, PAT!"

And now we are facing up to the work of preparation for the C.I.V., and as far as possible all transport has been grounded midst some very unfair comments from groups of walking soldiers, but never mind, perhaps we shall be able to live through the sea of kerosene and rags, find all the paint brushes, dust caps, ruby reds and fuses, three-ton, and live to fight another day. Then perhaps the M.T.O. will once again be able to sleep soundly. (Even if it is on Christmas Island.)

As a final note we wish to congratulate Sgt. and Mrs. ELSTON upon the new arrival to the ELSTON family, and we are still waiting to wet the baby's head in the traditional manner.

CORPS OF DRUMS

Despite the loss of several of our number through demob, we were able to put on a really grand show for Col. NOLDA's farewell parade on November 21, 1959. This took the form of the Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums beating Retreat on the Square in GORDON Barracks. The gates were open to the public and a large crowd assembled and appeared to enjoy the performance.

Another event for us on the 21st was the 21st birthday of "Ginger" MARQUISS, and after the parade we all moved to the "Scorpion" to celebrate. In December we were all preoccupied with places for our leave, and by the 20th all but a handful were away.

On the sports field and in the gym the Drums have been as active as usual. Several of our number have represented "H.Q." Company at football and basketball. Notably: Drms. SAFFIN and MARSHALL, who play both; BARNES and MASON, football; Cpl. HART, MEARS, WATTS and PUMPHREY, basketball.

We would like to give a very warm welcome to Cpl. HART who rejoins us after three years' absence, having served previously in the Drums in Austria and Cyprus. We also welcome Drm. DAWSON, who joins us from Brigade Depot at Canterbury where he was Junior Drum-Major. He is now on a potential N.C.O.s' cadre and we wish him success.

Once again we have to say good-bye to a large number of stalwarts who have served their time in the Drums. Cpls. SEXTON and HEATH, Drms. SAFFIN, THOMAS, SUMBLER, HOWARD and DELANEY and L/Cpl. DAVIS now we hope fully recovered.

BAND

Since the last appearance of the Band notes so much has happened to the Band and its members that our re-counting of the events should be sufficient to produce the expected amount—I hope.

Like all members of the Battalion, we had our full

share of pre-admin inspections, plus all the intensive preparation which filled the weeks before November 20—a date welcomed with relief by all members of the Band. It was to prove a short relief, however, because between then and January 2, 1960, the Band's services were required at no less than five annual administrative parades of other units in our area and, although it was unanimously agreed that they made no such demand on us as did our own admin parade, as the days got colder so the dubious joys of the barrack Squares—however small—became even more dubious!

Towards the end of October we welcomed back L/Cpl. ROUTLEDGE and Bds. HAZELL, returning from an "exhausting" year at Kneller Hall, the former even more reluctant to return to us so soon after the birth of his son—for which we all proffered our congratulations. At the same time we were able to welcome a new member to the Band from Canterbury, Bds. BUTLER, a percussionist.

The Band concert at the Weserbergland Festhalle on Thursday, November 12, proved a great success, much to everybody's relief and surprise. The programme was well balanced, containing concert marches, folk songs, popular music, and some dazzling displays of virtuosity by our solo musicians. We are now hoping that the concert will have proved a sufficiently good advertisement to the Band to ensure a large number of engagements in the surrounding districts this summer!

On Saturday, November 21, the Band performed a farewell Retreat for the outgoing C.O., Lt-Col. NOLDA, who was to hand over his command to Lt-Col. BATTYE early the following week. The weather was kind to us, and the show was obviously enjoyed by a large gathering from the town.

December saw the usual, but thankfully short, cross-country running season, in which most Bandmen stoically but unwillingly enjoy a bit of fresh air, although quite a few were somewhat picturesque in their impressions and descriptions of this sport! Nevertheless, six members of the Band "found" themselves in the "H.Q." Company team, with results that should not be dwelt upon too searchingly!

The Christmas period gave the dance band its busiest and most profitable period, and for several engagements, notably the all ranks' dance and the Christmas draw, it was supplemented by various other members of the Band, thereby being transformed into a full 13-piece dance orchestra—fortunately nobody was superstitious!

The Christmas engagements were no sooner over than the leader of the dance band, Sgt. ABURROW, proudly announced the birth of his first child—a son. He tells us that its embouchure is good, but that it can't get hold of a clarinet, and has, as yet, no signs of the fabulous "Aburrow chin."

And so the Band was able to go on a much-earned leave on January 6—two of its members, Cpl. JACKSON and L/Cpl. ADKIN, to get married on the following Saturday, the rest of us to enjoy what can hardly be described as a rest—but then who rests on leave! It has recently come to light that Bob GREEN, now spending a year in Kneller Hall, also took it into his head to get married, so bachelors are becoming even scarcer in the Band, especially in view of Bds. ELDRED's



COL. NOLDA'S DEPARTURE

The team from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess about to draw Col. Nolda's car from the barracks

marriage last November to a HAMELN girl, thereby strengthening Anglo-German relations.

In bringing this rather eventful article to a close, a postscript can now be added to the matter mentioned in the last Band notes. There, the sudden increase in Band transport was advanced as a reason for the B.M. being unable to park his new A 40 in the mornings. The B.M. now has no such difficulty . . . !

W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The period with which these notes are concerned has been a particularly busy one, taking in the annual administrative inspection, Christmas, New Year festivities and the fair amount of travelling the darts and snooker teams have to do in competing against the other Messes in 11 Brigade Group.

In November, Lt-Col. D. C. L. NOLDA, O.B.E., was our guest of honour at dinner, prior to his departure. The Sergeants' Mess wish him every success in his new appointment and we all look forward to seeing him in the not too distant future.

Lt-Col. I. H. BATTYE, M.B.E., arrived in HAMELN during the same evening and was persuaded to come to the Mess for a brief visit, despite having arrived quite late in the evening after a long and tiring road drive, so the Mess members were able to bid farewell to the outgoing Colonel and welcome the incoming one at the same time. May we take this opportunity of wishing Col. BATTYE and his family a very happy and successful tour with the Battalion in Germany.

Major P. L. PEARCE GOULD was also present at dinner. He has recently presented the Mess with a magnificent silver statuette, "A man of Albuhera," depicting a soldier of that period—a possession which we will always treasure.

The Christmas festivities began with the Christmas draw on December 20, and was a great success due to the efforts of a hard working committee. C/Sgt. and

Mrs. MICHEL had a bumper evening and had to send for the duty truck to load up all the loot!

Christmas Day began in traditional manner with the Mess members serving tea and rum to the men of their respective Companies at Reveille. One of our C.S.M.s, who shall remain nameless, has since suffered a certain amount of embarrassment when it was subsequently discovered that he had given the full treatment to an absentee who had chosen to sleep in a different Company block for the night! Good will (and rum) to all.

Before serving the dinner in the dining-hall we were the guests of the officers for the customary Christmas drink in their Mess.

On New Year's Eve we had a ball in the Mess to which we were pleased to receive the Commanding Officer and Mrs. BATTYE, the officers and their ladies. Everyone enjoyed an extremely good party. C/Sgt. MICHEL had little difficulty in representing Old Father Time, and Sgt. PRITCHARD looked every inch the new-born babe, though his bottle contained pretty strong "milk." A credit must be given to Q.M.S. MEDLOCK who produced such a succulent buffet for the occasion.

The last quarter has produced the usual spate of changes in that Sgt. SEAGER has gone back to civilian life in South Africa, his last military duty being to command the Battalion main quarter-guard on the day of the annual administrative inspection. Sgt. KERR went off to join the 8th Battalion and he was followed by Sgt. TAYLOR, who has now started a tour with the 7th Battalion.

Congratulations to C.S.M. JESSUP ("D" Company) and Sgts. YOUNG and MILES on their promotion.

Congratulations are also extended to Sgt. and Mrs. ELSTON upon the birth of their first-born son on Christmas Day, and more recently to C.S.M. and Mrs. WRIGHT upon the arrival of their addition to the family.

SPORT

Boxing has dominated the sporting scene this quarter, and by reaching the semi-finals of the Army competition the team has done splendidly. Congratulations to Lt. WAITE, S.I. POOLE, Cpl. O'RAWE, and all those who have fought in the various rounds, an outstanding effort. We have been less successful with our football and rugby, being knocked out in the early stages of both Army Cup competitions; however, in spite of results, there seems to be a good spirit in both teams. The Football XI lacks a general on the field to unite their individual efforts, and the rugby XV has yet to solve their three-quarter problems.

Hockey is having a successful season; the team has only been beaten by a German club in HANNOVER and is already through the first round of the Army Cup. The cross-country team has been training hard for the Brigade competition and the basketball team are practising hard for the Divisional knock-out on February 8. Ski-ing also is much in evidence though the training facilities here are limited, and against the gladiators who spend three months in Austria we can but show the flag—and perhaps copy them next year.

Individually, we must congratulate Lt. CHEESMAN on being selected to play in the first B.A.O.R. rugby trial, Cpl. O'RAWE for continuing to add to his boxing laurels, and Capt. LLOYD who at eight hours' notice boxed at heavyweight for the Battalion team in the Brigade final. He last boxed in Cyprus in 1954. Also a word of thanks to Pte. O'BRIEN, who, apart from playing football and hockey for the Battalion, has reorganised the Battalion sports store and devoted a lot of his spare time to seeing our teams are properly equipped and turned out.

Soccer

This has been a disappointing period for football. Our defence has time and again proved quite able to hold the opposition, but we have been unable so far to produce a forward line capable of scoring the necessary goals. We have some good players in our ranks such as L/Cpl. PEAK in goal, and Ptes. BROWN ("C" Company), COX, STANBROUGH and WOOD. We are sorry to lose C/Sgt. WALTERS, who has worked hard at coaching our team. His partisan refereeing added yet another unexpected touch to our practice.

In the Army Cup we were drawn against 3 Royal Tanks. It was an extremely hard-fought game, but the final result (1-4) was indicative of their superiority. The other match of note was against our neighbours, 43 Field Park Squadron, R.E. It was a friendly match played on an iron-hard pitch, and both teams excelled themselves, but it emphasised our need to weld the forwards together so that they can take advantages quicker and know each others' whereabouts.

Far from despairing, we are already looking forward to next season. Many of the team will still be with us. We have the keenness and the enthusiasm. All we need is the skill.

ALBUHERA FOOTBALL

This was a keenly-fought competition which we managed to play off before Christmas, thus beating the ice and snow. "A" Company were the winners, with C.S.M. BEALE either on the touch line or putting on a crashing performance at back. "A" Company's performance is especially creditable as they are not blessed with a wealth of talent but played hard and intelligently.

The final results were: 1st, "A" Company; 2nd, "B" Company; 3rd, "S" Company; 4th, H.Q. 1; 5th, "C" Company; 6th, H.Q. 2.

RUGGER

The October exercises over, the rugby season continued with a return match with R.A.F. Sharfoldendoff whom we had previously beaten in our first match of the season. We fielded an "S" side and they produced a stronger team beating us easily 21-6. On the following Wednesday, we played 94 Locating Regiment R.A. at very short notice—we fielded our strongest team but lost a hard and clean game 5-16. Against 1st GLOSTERS at HAMELN on October 31, we suffered our heaviest defeat of the season although we were playing without seven of our regular players, three of whom were playing for the Division in PARIS. After further defeats by

7 Signals Regiment and 19 Field Regiment R.A., both after a hard struggle, the forwards were beginning to get a little despondent and fed up with all their opponents telling them what a splendid pack they were and leaving a lot unsaid! However, in spite of our appalling lack of three-quarter talent that has been our worry throughout the season they certainly won us our first round Army Cup match when we beat 2 Signals Regiment 13-8. The forwards did not dominate the play as expected but some good defensive tackling and good running by Cpl. FINNIS gave us a long awaited victory.

On November 14, the second XI had their first fixture beating Air Support Signal Unit 15-8. Capt. LLOYD who had just returned to the Battalion proved an able leader and played a good game in spite of his lack of wind!

On November 23, we played 1 S.W.B. in the second round of the Army Cup at home. We lost by 21-0, but the team in fact played 100 per cent. better than at any other time this season. The Battalion turned out in force to support the team and in spite of our opponent's prowess for the first 20 minutes they were pinned firmly in their own half and we were unlucky not to score two penalties. At half time we were eight points down but towards the end of the second half their three-quarters seemed to get into their stride and in spite of some magnificent tackling by Cpl. FINNIS and Bds. COLEMAN and the wing forwards they crossed our line three times. The forwards played exceptionally well and dealt competently with our opponent's attempts to liven things up a little in the loose mauls.

Since our match with 1 S.W.B. we have never been able to field our strongest side due in part to leave and injuries and to the priority of other sports. Cpl. FINNIS has returned to England to continue his pentathlon training, Bds. COLEMAN is now playing for the Battalion soccer XI at centre-forward and 2/Lts. LOFTING and COWING are invariably playing hockey. However, Sgt. MILES left the soccer team and is now strengthening our three-quarter line, and Ptes. JOHNS and KERRISON in their first season have already played for the Battalion.

On December 5, we fielded two XVs for the first time this season—to prove that we have 30 players if nothing else! Both teams drew 6 all, which was a great personal triumph for Sgt. BRIGGS captaining the second XV for the first time, and for Battalion three-quarters in general who in spite of the constant moans of the scrum are improving.

The weather has played havoc with our fixtures since then and most of our stars are on leave. We should be playing seriously again by mid February and throughout March we have both first and second XV fixtures each Saturday. All results have not been exactly startling but at no time have we cancelled a fixture for shortage of players.

Congratulations to Lt. CHEESMAN on being selected to play in the first B.A.O.R. trial and captaining the 2nd Division side; to Capt. McMANUS and 2/Lt. GORING for playing for 2nd Division in PARIS (the latter again in BERLIN) and to Capt. LAWRENCE, the grand old man of the side for providing both op-

ponents and spectators with some very entertaining forward play. Mention too must be made of L/Cpl. O'GORMAN the most improved player outside the scrum this year, Pte. WOOD whose tackling is a lesson to us all and Pte. HALL (57) who may not know all the rules but is never happier than when eight forwards are bearing down upon him. Finally, a special mention for our handful of regular spectators, both male and female who brave the elements to cheer us on, please bring your friends next time—and Major PEARCE GOULD who has refereed all our home games this season is very much fitter than most of the team!

Results since OCTOBER 24, are:

"S" XV	v.	R.A.F. Sharfoldendoff	..	..	Lost	6-21
1st XV	v.	94 Loc. Regt. R.A.	..	..	Lost	5-16
"S" XV	v.	1 Glosers (1st XV)	..	..	Lost	0-34
1st XV	v.	7 Sigs. Regt.	..	..	Lost	8-14
1st XV	v.	19 Field Regt. R.A.	..	..	Lost	6-17
1st XV	v.	2 Sigs. Regt. (Army Cup)	..	..	Won	13-8
2nd XV	v.	1 A.S.S.U.	..	..	Won	15-8
1st XV	v.	1 S.W.B. (Army Cup)	..	..	Lost	0-21
"S" XV	v.	1 R.H.B. "S" XV	..	..	Lost	3-14
1st XV	v.	7 Sigs. Rdtg.	..	..	Drawn	6-6
2nd XV	v.	654 Lt. Ac. Sqn. A.A.C.	..	..	Drawn	6-6
1st XV	v.	2 Sigs. Regt.	..	..	Won	11-0

BOXING

The season started with the Albuhera novices boxing competition, held on November 2, 3, 4 and 6. The standard proved to be quite good and many hard fights were contested. "B" Company gained an easy victory, the final scorers being: "B" Company, 113; "C" Company, 83; "H.Q." 2 Company, 4; "S" Company, 40; "A" Company, 29; "H.Q." 1, 29. The winners were as follows:

Fly	..	..	Pte. KELLY ("H.Q." 1)
Feather	..	..	Pte. HEALE ("H.Q." 1)
Bantam	..	..	Pte. SEARLE ("B")
Light	..	..	Pte. HURST ("B")
Light Welter	..	..	Pte. KATTENHORN ("S")
Welter	..	..	Pte. COCKS ("C")
Light Middle	..	..	Pte. BRAIME ("B")
Middle	..	..	Pte. SEATORY ("B")
Light Heavy	..	..	L/Cpl. STEVENSON ("B")
Heavy	..	..	Pte. SILVERMAN ("B")

Cpl. O'RAWE and Pte. LOCKE, both from "B" Company gave us a very well boxed exhibition contest.

So far this season has been most successful, we have reached the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. team championships to be boxed on February 4, 1960. In the earlier rounds we defeated the 1st Battalion the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and 24 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery, both by 7 bouts (18 points) to 4 (15 points). In the quarter finals our opponents, the 9th Queen's Lancers could not raise a team and so we gained a walkover.

We welcome this year to the team two boxers from the Queen's Royal Regiment, Ptes. LOCKE and ENDACOTT, both of "B" Company, who have both shown us how to box and train. Cpl. O'RAWE still represents the Army and does a sterling task training and helping all the boxers. Whilst he takes care of that side S.I. POOLE gets us fit and the word "circuit training" has just to be mentioned to produce looks of fatigue and strain on the faces of all.

Our thanks go to the 2IC for his tremendous help in obtaining kit and arranging very last-minute leave. We now hope to reach England for the Army finals on March 3, 1960.

The following are members of the Battalion boxing team: Lt. WAITE, Sgt. ARGENT ("S"), Cpls. O'RAWE ("B"), BURFORD ("C"), and SHAVE ("B"), L/Cpl. CREASER ("S"), PUCKEY ("H.Q."), Ptes. HEALE ("S"), LOCKE ("B"), ENDACOTT ("B"), SILVERMAN ("B"), HURST ("B"), BIRCH ("A"), THOMAS (96) ("B"), HORRIDGE ("A"), HESLIN ("H.Q."), KELLY ("H.Q.").

HOCKEY

As we hoped, the Battalion team has so far had a successful season. We have yet to be beaten by a military unit, although it has been very close on one or two occasions. The team sometimes not always 100 per cent. fit makes up for it with plenty of skill.

Our only defeat has been the Deutscher Club at HANNOVER who, besides giving us a very pleasant afternoon, gave many of us food for thought with their dashing play.

In the first round of the Army Cup we had to play 19 Field Regiment, R.A. Having beaten them substantially before Christmas we were not unduly worried. On the day a mixture of the after Christmas feeling and strange conditions gave all present many anxious moments, finally we won 2—1.

The team has remained basically the same for most matches. Bds. WALLWORK, a new face, has improved as the season has progressed and partners 2/Lt. COWING at back. R.S.M. McMILLAN has now retired from the front line to half-back. The Sgt. LEAT-Bandmaster JACKSON combination continues to provide the team with most of its goals, and always

looks dangerous. Sgt. TAYLOR leaves us for the U.K. but Major BELLERS has filled his place, thus preventing a problem.

At the time of writing the Band are on leave and different people are disappearing on courses but, with luck, success should continue.

STOP PRESS

BOXING.—In the B.A.O.R. Semi-Finals the Battalion lost to 1st Royal Scots by 7 bouts to 4. It was a very hard-fought match and the result might well have gone the other way. Congratulations to Pte. Heale, Cpl. O'Rawe, Pte. Lock and Pte. Endacott on their successes and to Cpl. Shave for a very fine fight with Pte. McGuinness, who represents the Army and whom he very nearly beat. We now wait to fight 1st Seaforths to decide the 2nd Divisional Championships.

BASKETBALL.—Battalion team won the Brigade Group Competition and goes forward to the B.A.O.R. Meeting on February 23. With their new boots we wish them success.

HOCKEY.—We have got through our 2nd Round match though only by the skin of our teeth and Major Clayden's shins. The next round is in Berlin at the beginning of March.

PENTATHLON.—Congratulations to Cpl. Finnis on winning the Inter-Services Tetrathlon match held at R.A.F. station Halton on February 5 and 6. We wish him continued success in the Templer Cup Pistol Competition and in the pre-Olympic match in Rome in April.

Depot Notes

EDITORIAL

The Depot, like some Irish drinking house, is full of people who pop in to ask "when do you close?", and it must be put on record for all those interested that we do not know. We have applied for an extension until as late as possible and hope even then to go on "after hours." Things are afoot on Bittacy Hill, as the army of men with theodolites, tapes and poles prove, but most of the activity is centred on 10 Command Workshops and not ourselves. Possibly we have driven the surveyors off by our persistent attempts to enlist them as Regular soldiers.

The plan, as we understand it, is to demolish the militia huts (Col. Browne is horrified) and to build in their place a barracks to house a W.R.A.C. Battalion. It is indeed a pity that we shall not be here to make full use of the additional facilities thus offered.

We understand that this project has priority and must be completed by December 1961. For once we do not object to the idea of "ladies first."

The Home Postal Depot Royal Engineers will even-

tually take over our barracks, having broken out of their present camp at Wormwood Scrubs. Here again there are plans to do a certain amount of building, but these exist only in the architect's mind at present.

The New Year, which was expected to bring with it a rundown of National Servicemen, has, in fact, brought news of even larger intakes. In February and March we shall have over 200 recruits under training. Not all of them, regrettably, destined for our Battalion. The problems of housing and feeding such a number are proving small compared with those of training them. In fact the manpower juggling required to reinforce this Depot and at the same time to staff the Brigade Depot is beyond solution on normal Army forms. The Commanding Officer has been seen with a book of Littlewoods permutations, and we all wish him luck with this more practicable solution.

How lucky was the Grand Old Duke of York with ten thousand men and no Records Office: "When he was up, he was up, and when he was down, he was down."

It is probably now well known that the Depot is under new management and that Major Hutchings has come to command and R.S.M. Bartle to rule. There is a smile on the face of the Adjutant at last, now that these key men do not remember "how it was done last year." A certain section of the congregation was recently observed in the Regimental Chapel to be singing "Abide with Me" with more gusto than you would have thought their Mill Hill sulphur-choked lungs would allow.

"Change and decay in all around I see." The names of those who sang "amen" were noted.

Finally a word to show that we still have the interests of the recruits at heart. A high-pressure salesman who visited recently "sold" us a new device for spreading polish "lightly and evenly and without fuss." The idea is that you perform this task standing up and not on all fours. (Sgt. Moran cannot understand the value in this, but he likes to see polish spread like Good King Wenceslas's snow—deep and crisp and even.) The device, which looked frail, was subjected to the Commanding Officer's weight, and withstood this severe test. Accordingly, one was bought for user trials. The R.S.M., in order to give the device a fair trial, explained the workings to an Orderly Room white-collar worker, and like a good instructor he demonstrated afterwards. "It came apart in my hands, Sir." The manufacturer will live to regret the day he guaranteed his invention for 12 months.

TRAINING COMPANY

This quarter has seen the arrival of two more National Service intakes, the 60th and 61st, and the passing-out parades of the 59th and 60th intakes each with their quota of regular soldiers starting the long, slippery climb to their personal summits.

These intakes were, as usual, our chief preoccupations and formed the back cloth on which our many other activities were superimposed. This last quarter of the year, we always fondly hope, should be spent in quiet reflection upon the ageing year and be uninterrupted by any untoward occurrences so that, at its close, we can sit back and revel in the indulgences of Christmas.

It is possible to say this time that, at least, we have not had our tempers ruined by the annual administrative inspection as was the case last year, or that we were overrun by too great a burden of National Servicemen to train as is going to be the chief story to relate in the next notes. Nevertheless, this quarter did have its moments of pressure as will be seen.

It started with a bang for some members of the Company who assembled on October 2, for another R.S.M. cadre. These cadres are designed to equip the young N.C.O.s for their day-to-day Regimental duties and to help the training N.C.O.s in their job of inculcating the essence of drill into sleepy civilians. One of its main effects, perhaps, is to blow away the cobwebs from these potential instructors themselves so that they can see clearly in their future tasks.

We have had the usual spate of cadets visiting the depot—we like having them and we always hope some of the boys will eventually see the light and join us when they are old enough. Most of these visits are controlled

completely by cadet-force officers and all that Training Company is required to do is to provide facilities. However, there was one weekend drill course where we provided all the instruction, and in spite of many difficulties arising from the differing sizes and experience of the cadets, they voted it a success at the end, which says much for Sgt. Power's patience and ability as a teacher.

Polling day passed unnoticed in Training Company, partly because it was a working day and partly because most of us are still too young to play an active part. Nevertheless there were distinct signs of dark patches under the eyes of many of the senior ranks after a night of vigilance spent glued to the television screen.

This was merely a prelude to a far more memorable day. On October 14, we discarded our Regimental cap badge in favour of the Home Counties Brigade one. Polling days come and go but only once in a hundred years or so do we go so far as to change our cap badge.

Other changes were also in the wind. Lt. Deakin came to us in place of Lt. Lloyd, a new Commanding Officer, Major Hutchings, succeeded Major Battye and R.S.M. Kenrick gave way to R.S.M. Bartle in influencing our lives from above. With these changes in personality came new ideas. For the first time in our history the toe caps of our boots lost their gleam as "bulling" was abolished in favour of the issue brush. Many sighs of relief were heard but it was surprising how many of the older ones amongst us felt an almost intangible nostalgia for the rigours of the past.

The aim of this really sensible reform is to comply with the spirit of the War Office policy which is to cut out time wasted on unnecessary spit and polish and occupy it more profitably.

On October 30, the majority of Training Company attended the Regimental Reunion at the Seymour Hall. Special late passes were issued to the senior intake and everyone enjoyed a most successful evening's entertainment.

Guy Fawkes's day this year was the cause of a terrible accident involving C.S.M. Burgess. Whilst he was entertaining the Depot children with his usual splendid firework display, one of the fireworks caught fire while still in his pocket. He was very badly burned and in fact is still in hospital making a slow recovery as these notes are written. Our greatest sympathy goes to Mrs. Burgess and her family but it is heartening to report that the Sergeant Major's complete recovery is now assured, although it may take some few weeks yet.

A number of the officers and senior ranks of the Depot attended the Field of Remembrance Ceremony at Westminster Abbey and, on the following day, the customary service and wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Depot. Both of these occasions are invariably moving in their solemnity and it is very pleasant to see so many old comrades here and at the Abbey who came to honour those who have gone before.

Naturally, the most powerful memories of this quarter are the Christmas festivities. Lt. Deakin in conjunction with the NAAFI manageress laid on a most amusing Children's party. The Disney cartoons shown were some of the best your correspondent has seen and certainly appealed at least as much to the parents as they

did to the children who were enthralled by them. The tea was almost too exciting and Father Christmas did not disappoint anyone.

The Christmas dinner in the men's dining hall was well up to Sgt. Bank's usual standard and the service by a crowd of slightly undisciplined officers and sergeants did nothing to destroy its excellence. After this experience all we could manage to do was stagger off on Christmas leave and to more excesses at home.

There have been an unusual number of changes in the permanent staff recently and it is regretted that all of them are not mentioned here. However, we in Training Company were particularly sorry to say goodbye to Cpl. Herbert who has put so much energy into his job as training N.C.O. and on the sports field.

On the outer fringes of the Company go C/Sgts. Markham and Hockley to civilian life, L/Cpl. Stevens and Pte. Castle to the 1st Battalion and L/Cpl. Arney, Ptes. Haggood and Barber back to their old life at the end of their National Service. We wish them all good fortune for the future.

In their place we welcome especially to Training Company Sgt. Lloyd and Cpls. Smith, Bennett and Cairns from the 1st Battalion. Also we have taken on a considerable number of National Servicemen from intakes to fill gaps in our ranks. To all these we wish a happy term at this Depot.

Finally our congratulations go to Sgt. Ambler and Cpl. Vincent on their promotions.

The 59th Intake passed out on Friday, November 13. The Inspecting Officer was His Worship the Mayor of Tottenham, Councillor A. B. Davies, J.P. The following recruits won prizes:—

Best All-Round Recruit	23639002 Pte. G. J. White
Best Regular Recruit	23708534 Pte. K. C. Harvey
Best Rifle Shot	23639002 Pte. G. J. White
Best L.M.G. Shot and Highest Physical Efficiency	23638991 Pte. R. Gibbons

The 60th Intake passed out on Tuesday, December 22. The Commanding Officer, Major R. D. Hutchings, acted as Inspecting Officer because the Mayor of Twickenham had to cancel his attendance. It was a wet day and the parade was held in the gymnasium.

The prizes were as follows:—

Best All-Round Recruit	23639003 Pte. S. White
Best Regular Recruit	23736105 Pte. Hugman
Best Rifle Shot	23646160 Pte. Dolan
Best L.M.G. Shot	23646177 Pte. Whelan
Highest Physical Efficiency	23646176 Pte. Warren

OFFICERS' MESS

We reported briefly on our Election Day party on October 8 in our last issue.

On October 11 Peter Bellers, whom we have seen little of lately, came to lunch. John Moore stayed the following weekend, and, on October 21, Mike Deakin joined the Depot staff.

The City of London School C.C.F. came here for weekend training from October 23-25 and three of their officers lived in the Mess. We have got to know them well now, and are always glad to see them.

Col. Mervyn Crawford, from over the border, came to lunch on October 27: we don't often see him these days either.

Hugh Evans, who has got a new job with the same firm, stayed here for a time whilst seeking suitable accommodation in London.

Major Hutchings came at the beginning of November, his wife remaining in Germany until he had settled here and taken over command of the Depot, which he did on November 11.

Three Cadets from Sandhurst came to lunch and tea on November 4.

On November 5 we had a guest night with the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Frederick Handley Page, the Chairman and Clerk of Middlesex County Council, Mr. G. A. Pargiter and Mr. Kenneth Goodacre, Lt.-Col. A. G. Heywood (G.I. Training, London District) and Lt.-Col. A. A. S. Fawcett (Rhodesia House) as our guests. Three others invited were unfortunately not able to accept.

On November 7 there was a goodly gathering at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster, and the following day we had the usual Remembrance Day service and ceremony here, after which all ex-members of the Regiment who attended, together with their wives and families, were entertained in the Officers' Mess.

Friday, November 13, passing-out parade. The Mayor of Tottenham, Councillor A. J. Davies, took the salute, and he and his Town Clerk lunched in the Mess.

Ian Battye left on November 19 to take over command of the 1st Battalion, he left his wife behind, too; she went on November 27 to join in Hameln.

On November 25 Capt. K. F. Neeves, R.E., came to live with us permanently, or at least until we go, or his appointment at the War Office ceases. The three City of London School C.C.F. Officers were with us again the following weekend.

Our old friend Col. Fawcett, recently returned from Hong Kong where he was Chief Engineer, H.Q. Farelf, came to lunch on November 28.

On December 2, Gen. Bucknall, Major Hutchings and Capt. Crumley had the honour of dining with the Lord Lieutenant at the Guildhall. The dinner was given by Sir Frederick to The Middlesex Regiment and the Middlesex Territorial Army and Auxiliary Forces Association. The Colonel of the Regiment was unfortunately unable to accept the invitation.

"Stumps" Green and Ken Clayden stayed here at the beginning of December, as also did Capt. Banks, Lancashire Fusiliers, who relieved our old friend Fitzpatrick as P.S.O. "Fitz" was going to Yorkshire, but rumour has it that he now moves to Aldershot.

A Certificate "A" Board brought 11 officers in to lunch on December 8.

On December 9 the 57/77th dinner was held at the United Service Club. Considering that those eligible to attend include all officers who have served at any time in any of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions, the attendance was disappointingly small.

As it turned out, it was most successful; the dinner was good, and everybody very cheerful. We were sorry to miss "Tod" Sloane and Percy Newman, both of whom had intended to come but couldn't at the last

moment. There were others too who had "paid to coom in," like Rex Waller, Martin Weedon, Roly Gwyn and Freddie Guest, but who, for various reasons, had to cry off. The following were actually there:—

Col. Allen, Brigadier Baker, Major Bennett, Col. Browne, Gen. Bucknall, Major Carter, Lt. Clarke, Lt.-Col. Clowes, Major Clayden, Col. Clayton, Capt. Crumley, Lt.-Col. Cubitt, Lt. Deakin, Major Evans, Major de Gaye, Col. Hedgecoe, Major Heywood, Major Hutchings, Capt. Legge, Col. A. M. Man, Lt.-Col. Nolda, Major Owen-Josephs, Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker, Major Pielow, Brigadier Rackham, Lt.-Col. Sax, Brigadier Tidbury, Brigadier Weston, Brigadier Willoughby, Capt. Wollocombe, Lt.-Col. Worton.

Peter Allen and Nick Carter spent that night at the Depot.

This dinner was followed on December 11 by a most successful cocktail party, also held at the "Senior." No doubt the Officers' Club Notes will give some details of this affair. John Moore returned here again that day.

The Officers' Club had invited the former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Harold Gillett, to dine at the Depot on December 16. The following also dined in:—

Brigadier Willoughby (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-Col. Fox (chairman of the Officers' Club), Col. Maitland, Col. Pringle, Lt.-Col. Simpson (7th Middlesex), Lt.-Col. Brotherton (8th Middlesex), Maj.-Gen. Hughes and Lt.-Col. Doyle (571 L.A.A. (9th Middlesex)), Brigadier Flavell (chairman, T.A. & A.F. Association), Brigadier Rackham and Col. Clayton (past and present secretaries, T.A. Association), Col. Browne, Col. A. M. Man, Major Hutchings, Capt. Wollocombe, Capt. Crumley and Lt. Deakin, the last four being from the Depot. Brigadier Baker had intended to be present but could not come in the end.

After the loyal toast, Col. Fox, after a few well-chosen words, proposed the health of Sir Harold Gillett, and this was followed by Brigadier Willoughby making a small presentation to Sir Harold, on behalf of the Officers' Club, as a memento of his year of office as Lord Mayor, this being the first occasion on which any member of the Regiment has held this highly honoured post. This little gift took the form of a silver paper weight bearing the Regimental crest and a suitable inscription. Sir Harold replied and expressed his sincere appreciation of the invitation to dinner, and of the Regimental memento.

Our annual Christmas party took place on Friday, December 18. Married officers brought their wives, and most unmarried ones their lady friends; it was a most enjoyable evening.

Gordon Crumley was responsible for the presents from the tree, so those who know him can well imagine that no hold was barred. He really bore the brunt of most of the planning and arranging, and so it was thanks to his efforts mainly that the evening was such a success.

The Editor will clamp down on me if I produce yet another list of names, so, on that account, we will omit it: it is as good an excuse as any... "Oh, you took HER, did you?"

On December 21st 2/Lt. Everard reported from Mons O.C.S. and actually joined for duty after Christmas. He

will have been with the Battalion many weeks before these notes appear in print.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess paid us a short visit before Christmas dinner on December 23. They had very kindly invited us to their Christmas draw on the 19th and their dance on the 21st, and we express our thanks to them for their usual lavish hospitality.

The Mess closed on Christmas Eve until the afternoon of December 28.

Paddy Kenrick, late R.S.M. at the Depot, having been commissioned, joined us on December 29: well, that meant *another* bit of a party! We were delighted to have him with us, and our best wishes go with him when he goes off to Sierra Leone. At the moment of writing, he is on a course.

There was no New Year's Eve party here so 1960 crept quietly in—about time something happened quietly!

Major Ian Methven, lately 2IC 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshire Regiment, is living in the Mess until he finds a married quarter in this area: he is now D.A.A.G. A.G.2(o). He will be remembered by those in 1st Middlesex.

Peter Pearce Gould, 2IC 1st Middlesex, paid us a visit on January 6. Brian Marciandi has been up twice to play squash. John Moore left here by car on January 2 for 1st Middlesex.

We were very sorry to hear on January 7 of the death of Gordon Crumley's father, and we offer him and his family our sincere condolences.

On January 24, Norman Gilbert came for the inside of a week whilst attending a law course at Stanmore. He spent many years in Ghana, as some will remember, and is now doing a R.O.'s job in Yorkshire.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The main attraction of the period of which we write is, of course, Christmas and all it entails. This major event in Mess life was this year dwarfed by great happenings. A certain warrant officer transferred his allegiance to the Officers' Mess. He transferred other things as well and we now find we can accommodate up to four more living-in members. We most sincerely congratulate Lt. Kendrick on his commission and offer our warmest wishes for a successful tour with the Sierra Leone Regiment. His successor, R.S.M. Bartle, was subjected to a most rigorous hand-over which included a string of visits to a host of offices, flats, nooks and crannies and the odd Embassy scattered throughout the Greater London area. His bewildered comment was heard to be: "These Irish certainly know their London."

Just before Christmas we lost a staunch member in C/Sgt. George Hockley who has taken the plunge after 27 years' service to the Regiment. Good luck, George. A shadow over our festivities was the accident which has resulted in C.S.M. Burgess being detained in hospital since November 5. It will hardly be necessary to exhort him to "Remember, remember."

We held a most successful Christmas draw on December 19 and were pleased to see a gathering of well over 200 including many ex-members. S/Sgt. Bristow and C/Sgt. Eastap did an excellent job of work

in organising the function and are to be congratulated on the lay-out of well over 100 prizes, and every one well worth having. The non-smokers won their usual mounds of Senior Service and Sgt. Palmer was seen struggling to his den with a massive hind quarter of pork with Nell exercising first-class squad control from the rear.

We then had Sunday and Monday to pick up our empties and on Monday evening all members enjoyed a typical Sgt. Banks Christmas dinner. We were pleased to welcome a number of Mess members from the 7th and 8th Battalions as well as our special recruiters Sgts. Weller and Martin. The dinner was followed by our Christmas dance and once more we were splendidly supported by so many ex-members and old friends. Even the breath-taking thought of a passing-out parade the following day did not dampen a most successful party.

The soldiers' Christmas dinner was served in the traditional manner on December 23 and we were entertained by our officers most generously beforehand. Sgt. Redmond managed to conquer the heights of the hot-plate from whence he extolled the virtues of his mother-in-law. New Year's Eve presented the Mess with a number of problems as so many invitations were sent to us. Efforts were made to ensure that the Mess was represented at 10 Command (R.E.M.E.), Finchley Police Ball and the various other functions to which we were invited. A small handful—mostly those excused P.T.—decided to keep watch on the remaining idols (Buddha pattern) and we are happy to report that our vigil was most successful.

We are now in the depths of post-Christmas depression but we are determined to effect the usual annual recovery and are even now murmuring about Albuhera Day. (This is the life!)

Sgts. Redmond, Power and Horder were to rejoin the Battalion during this current quarter but it seems they may be retained here awhile to cope with a rather large intake expected in February. Sgt. Raffael has joined us from Netheravon and Sgt. Landreth is a "holdee" pending further mystic employment—Sgt. Lloyd has arrived from the Battalion and is at present realising one of his ambitions at Pirbright.

We were very pleased to see some faces from the Battalion during the Christmas period and we would again extend a welcome to any member or ex-member passing through. Most of us are convinced we will pull it off on the pools sooner or later and the usual constructive inquest is held at the Sunday lunch time gathering. Several methods of celebrating have been considered including parachuting on to the square of Gordon barracks. (The discussions indicate that the R.S.M. would like the lucky winner to present him with a consul.)

As these notes will not be published until March, we would like to extend a special invitation to members and ex-members to visit us on Albuhera Day. We shall be delighted to see you all.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since our last notes were published, we have seen many new faces joining the Club. First we must

welcome Cpls. Smith, Cairns and Barnett, who have joined us from the 1st Battalion. Our congratulations go to L/Cpls. Philp, Evans, Penny, Howarth, Cockburn, Forder, Bristow, Perkins and White on their promotion. Since their promotions, L/Cpl. Penny has been posted to the 1st Battalion and L/Cpl. Cockburn is now at Mons. We wish them both good luck. Congratulations to Cpl. Scott who did very well on the Platoon weapons course that he attended in October.

We say farewell to Cpls. Stevens, Chitson and Scott and L/Cpl. Niles who have left us for the 1st Battalion.

The Social Committee held a dance on October 16, which was well attended. There were spot prizes and a raffle. First and third prizes were won by Sgt. Ambler, his prizes being a bottle of whiskey and a half-bottle of gin. The other prize of a toilet set was won by one of the ladies of the W.R.A.C.

In the field of sport L/Cpl. Rogers has been doing well in boxing tournaments. At the moment he is training for the London Individual Championships and is hoping to progress from there to the Southern Command and I.S.B.A. Championships. We all wish him good luck.

Finally there is a change in Club secretaries, Cpl. Redrup having taken over from Cpl. Willis.

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

General

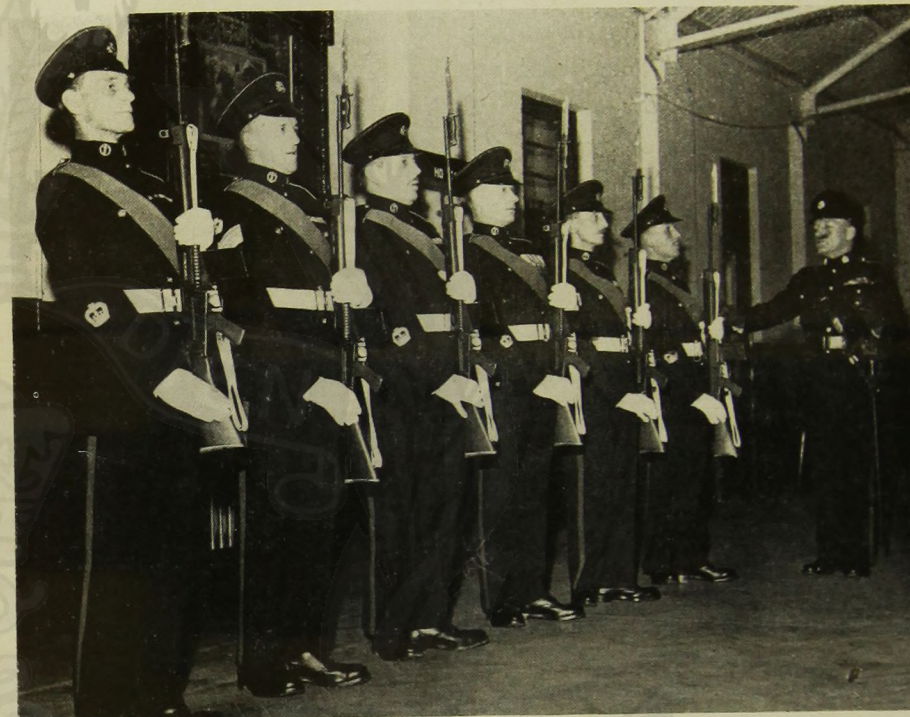


In November, we provided an escort for Sir Harold Gillett on the occasion of his relinquishing the office of Lord Mayor of London. A photograph of the escort appears elsewhere in our notes. Earlier in the month a most successful weekend was held at Stanford P.T.A. when all the rifle companies carried out field training. At the same time "S" Company was firing on the Chobham Ranges in Surrey, and "H.Q." Company was training in the Hornsey and Enfield areas.

This was followed by the Remembrance Day Parade when the Battalion turned out in strength. This was a splendid effort on the part of all those who came, as the morning was foggy and damp. Following the service the Battalion with the Band and Corps of Drums marched past the Mayor of Hornsey, Councillor Miss Anderson. The Hornsey O.C.A. and 16 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Company, A.C.F. were also on this parade.

Recruiting continues from strength to strength and during the past quarter 35 volunteers have joined. We hope to go to annual camp this year with 400 all ranks on strength.

Capt. B. K. Clayden took over the duties of Adjutant from Capt. N. F. Legge just before Christmas. We wish Nigel all good fortune in his new life with the R.A.E.C.



ESCORT FOR SIR HAROLD GILLETT, M.C.

On the occasion of his relinquishing the appointment of Lord Mayor of London

Left to right; C.S.M. Curry, C.Q.M.S. Moran, C.S.M. Cubitt, C.S.M. Holdford, B.E.M., Sgt. Stansall, C.S.M. Payne, R.S.M. Thom

Centenary Celebrations

The Battalion will be celebrating its Centenary this year and it is interesting to note that the following were accepted as Volunteer Units by Her Majesty Queen Victoria at various dates: Highgate, October, 1859; Barnet, October, 1859; Hornsey, November, 1859; Hampstead, 1859; Tottenham, February, 1860; and Enfield in June, 1860.

Our celebrations are taking the form of a Battalion march through the boroughs of Tottenham, Highgate and Enfield on February 20, in each of which the respective Mayors are to take the salute.

We will be exercising our prerogative as Freemen of the Borough of Hornsey by marching through that Borough with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed. As a compliment to the Battalion in its Centenary Year, the Boroughs of Enfield and Tottenham are granting us a like privilege; a privilege which is greatly appreciated.

A Centenary All-Ranks Dance is being held in the Hornsey Town Hall on February 26, the Officers' Mess are holding a Centenary Dinner at the Normandie Hotel, on March 5. Our guests will include the Colonel of the Regiment, G.O.C. 44 (H.C.) Division, the Mayors of Tottenham, Hornsey and Enfield and we hope Commanding Officers of the 1st and 8th Battalions, the Depot, 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Middlesex (T.A.)) and many others.

A week later the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess are holding their Centenary Dinner in the Drill Hall at Hornsey.

OFFICERS' MESS

In September, Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen was dined out of Mess before departing for Chester. We all congratulate him on his well earned promotion. In January, Capt. Nigel Legge attended his last dinner and was escorted out in true Regimental fashion. It is

rumoured that a Borough Councillor took a dim view of Capt. Mike Lanyon's bugle calls, especially as "Reveille" was blown at 1.30 a.m.

Sir Harold Gillett, Col. Grace, Brigade Colonel of Home Counties Brigade, and Major R. D. Hutchings have also attended dinners during the past few months.

Following the Remembrance Day Parade the Mess entertained a number of Civic Officials including the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey, and Lady Gammans, our M.P. for Hornsey.

The Mess grows from strength to strength and 30 officers attended the last dinner, many of them in Mess Dress. Should any retired officer wish to sell his Mess Dress, they are asked to contact the Adjutant who will be only too pleased to arrange the collection and sale of it. Our aim is to get all members of the Mess into scarlet before camp.

Our future engagements include the Centenary Dinner at the Normandie Hotel, Knightsbridge, on March 5, when we hope to see many of our past members and about 20 guests.

SERGEANTS' MESS

It hardly seems possible that when these notes appear in print we shall be rapidly approaching annual camp again. However, that's the future, and now we must concentrate on recording the highlights of the Mess activities during the past few months. In the main it has been a comparatively quiet period, although as we are about to celebrate the centenary of our Battalion people have been concentrating their efforts on preparations for these events. However, we are digressing into the future, and so more about that later.

An event occurred last November of which we feel justifiably proud. That was when the Mess had the unique honour of providing an escort for the retiring Lord Mayor of London in the Lord Mayor's Show. Led by R.S.M. Thom, the Mess members who took part were C.S.M.s Holdford, Cubitt, Curry and Payne, C/Sgt. Moran and Sgt. Stansell.

We feel that their bearing and turn-out were in the highest traditions of our Regiment, a credit to the Battalion and the Mess, and last, but not least, to the training and encouragement given by the R.S.M.

Christmas saw the usual Mess draw and social, and once again we owe our sincere and grateful thanks to the organisers for the splendid prizes provided and to the success of the evening.

In the past few months we have made a determined effort to interest ex-members in honorary membership and we remind all ex-members that we are always glad to see them. They are assured of a warm welcome whenever they care to look in.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The Company has been extremely active over the last few months and we are planning many activities of an unusual nature for the coming year. The Signal Section has been carrying out weekend training in the Enfield area and also, of course, the normal Tuesday evening activities, ably controlled by Sgt. Conroy. Every opportunity is given for companies to make good use of

this section, in order that situations can be as realistic as possible.

Perhaps one of the most active sections is the M.T., who are required nearly every weekend. Under the M.T.O., Capt. M. A. H. Lanyon, driving instruction and maintenance, both within the section and that of the Company, has formed a major part of training and will, of course, continue to do so during 1960.

Perhaps the section that will benefit the Battalion most in the future is the Provost Section. Concentrated training has been carried out en route sign posting at night, taping, both by day and night, and all the other very necessary jobs that are required to be done in a Battalion. All the members look extremely smart in their peak caps, white web belts and anklets. Discipline is excellent and, under the very able supervision of Sgt. Gibbons, they will continue to be both an asset and a credit to the Battalion.

The Intelligence Section under Cpl. Parsons, with the help of Capt. R. Leeman, from the Intelligence Corps, have been studying such subjects as advanced map reading, map marking, the organisation of the Battalion Intelligence Section and many other aspects. It is considered that they have reached a reasonably high standard.

A new section, the Snipers, is now active, and apart from their natural affiliation to the rifle they have also been studying fieldcraft.

Perhaps one of the most important sections is the Medical Section, and once again training is reaching a high standard. This has also formed part of the activities of the outlying companies and competitions held over the last year formed one of the main activities.

As every Battalion is always interested in what it is going to eat, the cooks have been practising their art for the forthcoming Divisional competition.

The coming year sees the Centenary of the Battalion and the Drums and Band come very much into their own. Under the Bandmaster (Mr. Whitewood) and Drum-Major Poulter, they will be practising around the roads of Hornsey.

In March or April we will be practising assault landings at Poole Harbour. We will be assisted by the Royal Navy and "C" Company.

We welcome to the Company Lt. D. H. Adams who will be taking over as I.O. Lt. Adams has joined us from N.S. with the 1st Battalion, and 4th Battalion the South Lancashire Regiment (T.A.).

"B" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Major J. D. Gunnell
Company 2IC ..	Capt. M. J. Beaumont
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 Webb
C.Q.M.S. ..	C/Sgt. Leahy
P.S.I. ..	W.O.2 Cubitt

As with other companies, the emphasis on Civil Defence can now be seen in our training programme with the appearance of first-aid lessons in the syllabus, not to mention the C.D. Sunday at Yeading which proved interesting and entertaining in spite of the bitterly cold wind sweeping through the "ruins."

Recruiting, however, has not been neglected and in the recruiting week in November many people visited us

to "shoot for pints" including the Mayor and Mayoress of Enfield and Councillor and Mrs. Tatman who came on the Thursday evening.

As usual, we had a full social programme. One Thursday "A" Company paid us a social call which developed into an excellent evening, and of the unofficial competitions which were held "A" Company won the darts and badminton whilst we won the table tennis and shooting.

The highlight, however, was undoubtedly the dance held in the Drill Hall, which was a great success. Apart from the fact that three recruits joined as a result of it, it was in itself a most enjoyable evening. There was some lively dancing to a dance band provided by Pte. Beddingfield, and to some of Pte. Brunton's friends who combined to make an excellent skiffle group, whilst the bar was an attraction for some of the "less active" guests. We were very glad to welcome the members of the other Companies who attended and thank them for their support. We were particularly pleased to see Col. A. J. Ross, D.L., and Mrs. Ross, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Simpson and Capt. and Mrs. Furneaux. Col. Ross is the Lord Lieutenant's representative for recruiting in Potters Bar and Capt. Furneaux is the Mayor of Southgate's representative for recruiting.

We should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all the others who helped to make it a success, particularly Sgt. and Mrs. Moore for providing such excellent food on this and indeed on many other occasions when we have called upon them for their expert help.

"C" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 Curry
C.Q.M.S. ..	C/Sgt. Moran
P.S.I. ..	Sgt. Turner

We were able with other rifle companies, to spend a weekend at Stanford P.T.A. at the end of October, before the weather got too cold. The Company had gained 12 new recruits during the previous month, and this two-day session provided an excellent introduction for them to the T.A. and basic field training.

Being somewhat close to November 5, there was some noisy activity in the lines and at our favourite local hostelry, which all attended on the Saturday evening. Fortunately, however, there was no fire, as on a previous occasion.

The end of November found a party of enthusiasts, under Cpl. Sullivan, searching for recruits among the Saturday crowds at Turnpike Lane. Despite the biting wind, five new faces were persuaded to come and "shoot for pints," and all five were duly enlisted. We are pleased to record that one of these recruits got top marks in the Company Commander's general knowledge test the following day, when a party of Cadets from the local platoon also joined us.

Bounty night saw the usual record attendance and it is comforting to note that this occasion at least draws some of the less frequent attenders.

The Company Social Committee, under 2/Lt. Phillips, were well rewarded by the success of the Christmas Party on December 19. It is estimated, rather vaguely,

that at least 90 people attended, amongst them the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Simpson. Our thanks go especially to Sgt. and Mrs. Moore for their excellent spread and our first Company Christmas cake.

Since the Christmas break the order of the day has been drill, drill and more drill. We fully expect and hope that we shall have the largest turn-out on the Centenary Parade—although certain members of the Company are practically doing arms drill in their sleep.

Finally, we welcome Capt. Pollecoff, who is temporarily attached to us as 2IC, 2/Lt. Hurst, Sgt. Turner—our new P.S.I.—and, of course, all those new volunteers who joined us in the last quarter.

"S" COMPANY

Company Commander ..	Major J. C. du Park Braham
Company 2IC ..	Capt. R. M. Fox
C.S.M. ..	W.O.2 Payne
C.Q.M.S. ..	C/Sgt. Medcalf
P.S.I. ..	Sgt. Reynolds

Unfortunately, "S" Company has lost two of its number recently. However, the Territorial loss is the Regular Army's gain, for in the last 12 months no less than five members in all have left to join the Regular Army. There is such a thing as selling too well as far as we are concerned. Our numbers fortunately are not reduced because as a result of recruiting the strength of the Company is still in excess of 40.

Due to his change of employment, 2/Lt. Van de Pol, the Machine Gun Platoon Commander, is not with us for evening training but has managed to attend all weekend periods. Once again our loss is someone else's gain, i.e., 5 Kings up in Liverpool. The Machine Gun Platoon has a lot to live up to having achieved such a success in competitions in 1959.

The Anti-Tank Platoon are keeping their fingers crossed as they expect to fire the 17-pounder in the spring. This is a rare thing these days and will be the first time for many. As well as this, there are rumours of a "Bat."

The Mortar Platoon is making steady progress. All three Platoons should greatly benefit from the courses that the officers and N.C.O.s will be attending at Netheravon in March.

In spite of the emphasis on training, social activities have not been forgotten and under the inspiration of C.S.M. Payne, who is a genius for that sort of thing, two very successful evening socials have been held at Tottenham.

The canteen is now working extremely well under the personal supervision of Capt. Murray Fox, and the bar profits are proof of this.

THE ELMS CLUB

We had the pleasure on October 22, of hearing about some of the interesting experiences of Mr. Hemsley, a senior probation officer who Mrs. Pringle introduced to us. On November 20, we went to the Aldwych theatre to see "A Sound of Murder" which we all enjoyed even though there were some of us who had thought the suspense might be too great.

We were visited during the interval by Lt.-Col.

Simpson, who was also seeing the show that evening.

We held a social for the Battalion during December and we were honoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey. R.S.M. Thom acted as M.C. and C.S.M. Holdford, who called for the tombola collected further donations for the children's party.

The Battalion held their Annual Children's Party, on January 2, and, as usual, the catering was undertaken by the Elms Club.

The Children's outing this year was to "Holiday on Ice" at Wembley. The party assembled at Hornsey and travelled to Wembley by coach. The show was very spectacular and all the children seemed to have enjoyed it especially a scene based on "The Wizard of Oz." We have received Christmas cards from Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Maitland for which we thank them.

Our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Legge, left us in December and we wish her and Capt. Legge all the very best for the future. Before leaving, Mrs. Legge presented the Club with half a dozen silver tea spoons.

8th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The New Year finds "H.Q." Company still forging ahead, with all sights focused on a fresh recruiting target of 150 all ranks. While the "bring a friend" campaign has produced gratifying results, the time has now come for applying commando tactics to pick off the likely lads wandering Hounslow's High Street. The plan of attack is at present on the top secret list but it is certain that H.Q.'s "War Council" has a number of interesting cards up its sleeve. Pamphleteering will play a big part in the new all-out drive, and a special hard-hitting "sales leaflet" is in process of production. But we will leave the future for other editions of *The Die-Hards* and look for a moment at a few highlights of the past months.

Main event was a very successful all-ranks' dance held in December at Hanworth Road T.A. Centre. More than 300 members and friends crowded into the hall, rocking 'n' rolling to the music of Band-Sgt. Mason and his Merry-makers; behind the scenes, battling with such chores as sandwich cutting, washing glasses and generally ensuring the smooth and efficient running of domestic affairs, was our dedicated and industrious Entertainments Committee, led by Cpl. Mike Ward. The ladies, too, lent a hand—many of them having spent a very exacting afternoon tending to the appetites of our young guests at the children's party. What wonderful people these wives are when it comes to asking their assistance.

January saw a particularly important event—the formal presentation of the coveted Bott Cup to "H.Q." Company. It is a magnificent-looking trophy, awarded—may we say it—for the best all-round company performance of the year. And we intend to hold on to it. As for training, the accent is now on Civil Defence, in preparation for annual camp. Thanks to the kind co-

operation of Hounslow Civil Defence Corps, we are well ahead with a very interesting and well-run course of instruction, which involves an average of two lectures each month. We are becoming so proficient in the subject that even Major Whipples allowed a team to lower him from a 40-ft. precipice while trussed to a stretcher—having first carefully explained to our newcomers that his demise did not mean that everyone automatically moved "up one"! There are one or two personal achievements to report. Firstly, hearty congratulations to Capt. Peter John on the birth of his daughter. Congratulations, too, to Jnr. Bdsm. D. Rideout on his outstanding performance in the Battalion cross-country competition. Pte. E. Dalton feels dismayed because he finished the course at the tail-end of the field—but cheer up, lad, you ran well and helped towards our outright victory in the contest.

We are very pleased to welcome our newly appointed Bandmaster, Mr. F. G. Firth, and wish him every success for the future. Another noteworthy newcomer is L/Cpl. R. Todd—late of the Royal Air Force, but better known as plain Mr. Todd, our civilian clerk; after much persuasion we finally got him to relinquish his loyalties and ties with the Junior Service and become a Territorial. To end on a rather sad note, we will shortly be losing the valued services of R.Q.M.S. Johnson, who announces his retirement this year. Throughout the Battalion he will be remembered for his very kindly, jovial manner—his well-earned reputation as one of nature's gentlemen. In the Company he has long taken a keen interest in all our activities, and, although several of us still smart from his criticisms of our physical abnormalities when battle-dress refuses to fit, we will all be very sorry to see him go. We are grateful for all that he has done and for the ready and generous assistance we have had from Mrs. Johnson during past children's parties. So much, then, from "H.Q." Company, save to offer belated but sincere good wishes for the New Year to "Die-Hards" everywhere.

"S" COMPANY

Winter activity has progressed favourable at both the Staines and Hampton Drill Halls of "S" Company. We managed to lead Armistice Day parades in both boroughs and were given magnificent support by the Battalion Band and Corps of Drums.

We now average one recruit per drill night, and this is due to the untiring efforts of individual members of the Company. Much credit is due to Cpl. Burt and Pte. Holmes in this field.

We engaged in a tripartite duel with "B" Company in November—basketball, .22 shooting and darts. In a close game we conceded the basketball to our opponents but managed to collect the trophy (a pewter pot for drinking) on the results of the other two events.

On December 14 we entertained the Mayor and Mayoress of Twickenham at the Hampton Drill Hall. The Mayor showed great interest in the varied equipment and weapons of "S" Company and, having assured us that he had not shot for many years, produced a card of 96 on our miniature range.

Sgts. Lloyd and Light were solely responsible for the

Sgt. Callaghan, our P.S.I., was on a Civil Defence course at Millom during November, and has acquired a great deal of useful knowledge, which he is now imparting to the Company—not only on C.D. matters but also about Millom and its prospects of entertainment, where our annual camp is to be held this year, from June 4 to 18.

Our dance was held at Cowley on November 28, at which we entertained over 100 guests. Sgt. Wagner and L/Cpl. Reynolds successfully looked after the buffet and bar respectively, while Lt. Jokel brought along Miss Carol Ann Ford (T.V. star and juvenile lead in "Expresso Bongo") to entertain with a cabaret and songs from her show.

We extend a hearty welcome to Lt. Pollock (ex-R.A.S.C. Para.), Ptes. Marshall (ex-Welsh Guards), Kelly and Phillips, all of whom are showing considerable enthusiasm in our activities. The basket-ball team has been very active and most results have been in their favour.

At the time of writing these notes we hope that the Company cross-country team will pull off a win for the second year running.

We are pleased to report that Cpl. Harvey and Pte. Cowie are re-engaging for a further two years.

"B" COMPANY

Why are we always late with the "Die-Hard" notes? The permanent staff often wonder, when in fact we have quite a lot to sing about. The Company is doing well, both in competitions and recruiting.

The activities of the Company during the quarter were varied—the outstanding ones, as far as training is concerned, being the two weekends spent at 60 W.E.T.C. The first was a combined exercise with the Cadets, run on the lines of an assault and arms competition, which, in spite of the rain, went very well and was won by L/Cpl. Tomkins's section. The weather was filthy and by lunch everyone was wet to the skin, so we returned in good order to 60 W.E.T.C. and after lunch carried out a wet weather programme in the barrack rooms. The second of our trips to Aldershot was just as wet as the first but this time there was no running for shelter, as we were there to classify, and with us was "D" Company; this meant that our late Company Commander (Capt. A. Holmes) was with us again. Having now taken over command of "D" Company we wish him well. The meeting was poor and the blame for this was laid at many doors but, let's face it, classification is an individual effort—a test to see if the individual is worthy of more "stars," which of course means more pay, so let's not look for a scapegoat.

The next item is more social—Bounty Night—and what a night. The Company turned out in force, all except one (who shall be nameless) in uniform. Why? We think it was in honour of L/Cpl. Tomkins, who had completed a personal double in winning both the Corby Cup and the Friary Meux Attendance Shield. The presentations were made by Col. Corby and Mr. P. H. E. Padley-Smith; every man on parade was very proud to be a member of the Company. Well done, L/Cpl. Tomkins!

Our first football match, against 452 H.A.A. Regiment, was a good win for the Company by 8-0; in our return



JUMP BALL

Sgt. Johnson throws up the ball while Mr. Parkinson and Sgt. Lloyd jump for possession. Pte. Taylor waits for the knocked back pass.

construction of a basketball pitch at Staines. It is thanks to them that "S" Company has been able to enter a team in the Battalion competition this year. The efforts of our team trainer (Sgt. Johnson, of the A.P.T.C.) are recorded in our match analysis—played 3, won 2, lost 1. (The photograph of a recent practice match shows 2/Lt. Parkinson and Sgt. Lloyd airborne.)

The Company said farewell to C.S.M. W. Thorogood on December 31, 1959, after a period of two years. We wish him well on his return to the 1st Battalion, via a Guards' drill course.

The Commanding officer and Sgt. Thomas were very welcome guests at the annual Company dinner held on December 19, 1959. C.S.M. Henry Rea accompanied the after-dinner singing in his usual polished style.

"A" COMPANY

"A" Company has had a relatively quiet period for the past three months. This is probably just as well, since the programme up to the end of annual camp (June 18), would appear to be very full and varied and we hope it will suit everyone's tastes.

match we were not so successful but, with only seven men on the field, it was certainly a good effort to have lost by 5 goals to 2, so now we look forward to the rubber. The team is in training and being well catered for by Cpl. Walton, who supplied a mystery dish, alleged to have been egg and ham pie; now we know where the old saying comes from "Who called the Cook?" or vice versa.

We are still very pleased with ourselves at basket-ball, as we have not yet lost a match.

What of the future? Recruiting of course is a priority and only this week we have three new arrivals—Ptes. Bowler, Walker and O'Shaughnessy. We will surely continue in this field with more successes.

Everyone in the Company is looking forward to Nijmegen, although the entire Company is aware that only a selected few will make the grade. Competition is going to be great as to who will be selected for the team. Funds are slowly (but we hope surely) being raised and contributions are always gratefully received, even to the odd copper from scoring under 20 on the dart board.

We welcome Capt. D. M. Lusty and Sgt. Salter to the Company and, at the same time, say goodbye to Lt. P. D. Hollidge, who we miss and whose departure is a great loss to the Company, but we all wish him the very best of luck in his new unit.

Births—to Cpl and Mrs. D. Gainsbury, a son (Gary). Documents have been set aside for this young "Die-Hard."

"C" COMPANY

The last quarter did not produce many highlights, although a reasonable amount of activity was maintained. It is apparent, however, that the payment of bounty acts as a signal to "take five."

The Company's recruiting still leaves a lot to be desired but we are hoping the better weather will attract the right element, plus the greater activity that goes with it.

We held an extremely successful dance in November, to start the festive season. It was, without exception, enjoyed by all ranks, together with many of our friends from the other Companies of the Battalion. The children also had a fine party in December when, thanks to good work by C.S.M. Roberts, they all enjoyed a full tummy, and extra presents (thanks to "B" Company).

We welcome to the Company Ptes. Leets, Merison, Smith, Shackell, Markham and the brothers Davies. At the same time we regret the loss of Ptes. Danes, to the Merchant Navy, and Hersnip, who will soon be residing in Swindon.

We are now looking forward to a busy summer, and probably after our camp in June, we will sincerely hope we are never rescued by a militarily-trained civil-defence team.

"D" COMPANY

We regret to say that Sgt. Lagden has left us and returned to the Regiment. Sgt. Lagden was not with us long because his talents were so much in demand that all the companies in the Battalion had to share him. He spent his last few months in "D" Company and our last memory of him is lecturing the Battalion on the

intricate and multitudinous technicalities of up-to-date nuclear weapons. We feel obliged to mention that he sounded more like a Harwell professor than a Regular Army Sergeant on that occasion.

We welcome Sgt.-Maj. Shrubbs as our new P.S.I. and hope he enjoys his stay at Hendon. This tour is his last with the Army and we are fortunate to have him.

We congratulate Cpl. T. D. Jones and L/Cpl. J. E. Townsend on their promotion. Although Mr. Kruschew has announced that he is cutting his forces, we are concerned that our recruiting has lagged lately and we hope soon to put that right!

We are looking forward to two events—a night attack upon R.A.S.C. premises in collaboration with "A" Company at Cowley, and the annual weapon training competition, when we hope to break the "C" Company monopoly and win a few cups. This requires hard training and regular practice and we are anticipating that C.S.M. Dunne's 28 years' experience will help us to turn out a competent Company team.

OFFICERS' MESS

A dinner was held at the Mess in Hanworth Road and was undoubtedly a successful one. Lt.-Col. Simpson was our guest and we wish him all good luck in command of our sister Battalion, the 7th. We were most grateful to Major Webber and Major Hall for arranging such an enjoyable evening, and to the Sergeants who gave us the use of their bar.

Whilst offering thanks, we must not forget the most generous gesture of Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, who has presented to the Battalion the sword which has been with him throughout his long and illustrious career.

We are sorry that Capt. Talbot-Price has left the Battalion after 10 happy years, and we hope he will come along to our social gatherings as often as he can. Capt. Heming, who has commanded "B" Company with such success, is leaving England for New Zealand and we hope he and his family will be happy there. Happier news is that Lt. Hogg is to marry in the spring, and our congratulations go to Capt. D. E. Lobb, who has announced his engagement recently.

Finally, we would offer our congratulations to Major R. C. Whipp upon his promotion and the success of the Company which continues, under his guidance, to swell its numbers and make recruiting seem so simple.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Sergeants' Mess activities have been rather quiet of late, with the exception of the occasional "splash."

A Christmas dance and "draw" was held on December 12 and this was a very successful and enjoyable evening. Sgt. Harry Carlier performed the duties of M.C. and it was obvious from the very start that this was by no means his first effort.

Sgt. "Owl Eyes" Cowell, who has organised the bar on these occasions for as long as anyone can remember, took his usual stand once again, and did a grand job. The splendid "draw" was aptly operated by C/Sgt. Pat Fullman and we do not forget the kind co-operation of Sgt. Banks, of the Depot, who once again did the catering.

Gone, but not forgotten, are C.S.M. Bill Thorogood and Sgt. Don Lagden, who have returned to the 1st Battalion. Both will be missed by us all as they are once more taken under the eagle eye of R.S.M. McMillan. We hope to hear later from these two "young soldiers."

A warm welcome to W.O.2 Les Shrubbs, who is already well known to all of us, and we hope that he has an enjoyable stay as P.S.I. to "D" Company.

The Mess socials continue to take place on the last Friday of each month and any Mess member who is passing this way will be more than welcome.

571 L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A., (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A.)

The briefest mention was made in the last issue of *The Die-Hards* of the Regiment's Centenary celebrations. These went with a very real swing.

During the week beginning October 19, the Regiment was at home to all and sundry. A wide range of weapons, especially artillery pieces, dating from the late 18th century, were displayed and a magnificent quarter-size model of a Corporal overshadowed the Kingsbury T.A. Centre. Bathed in floodlights, this "rocket," with ominous smoke rising from its base, attracted much attention.

Exciting displays under floodlights were given by the R.E.M.E. jeep assembly team. To ride into the arena on a jeep, strip it and carry it piece-meal through an ordinary door, re-assemble the machine and drive off on it—all in the space of four or five minutes—is some feat.

The Girl Sea Cadet Band gave a sparkling and very blood-stirring recital on the march, whilst, in the background, swings, slides and "what have you" entertained our juvenile visitors. The Gun Alarm Stakes brought its usual quota of fun and frolic and a very fine performance from the Cadet team. Meanwhile, indoors, the modern weapons were operated under the guidance of trained instructors. Although the visitors were fewer than had been anticipated, they were keen and a number of recruits were forthcoming.

The weather man was kind on Sunday, October 25, and, under a cloudless blue sky, Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, quondam Adjutant of the Ninth, inspected the Regiment and a contingent of some 85 Old Comrades. The Parade Square at Kingsbury made a brave sight: 400 relatives, friends and "immobile" Old Comrades were seated behind the saluting base as the Regiment and the Old Comrades' contingents were paraded. The Colours were marched on by the C.O., and one could sense the waves of pride coming from all sides. Two Guns—the Artillery "Colours"—were sited on the flanks of the saluting base—and the Movietone cameras were soon turning as Sir Brian came out to inspect the parade.

It was fitting that ex-Bandmaster Turner should come out of retirement for the day to lead the Regimental Band. Gen. Horrocks, accompanied by the Honorary Colonel, Maj.-Gen. B. P. Hughes, obviously relished this moment. Inspecting the Regiment, Sir Brian had a word for many of the men—especially perhaps those

whose medal ribbons clearly showed that he had commanded them in the field either in Egypt or in Europe. But it was with the Old Comrades that the General really ran into difficulties. So many of them had served with him during his tour as Adjutant of the Battalion that there were personal friendships to be renewed and old memories to be recaptured by the score.

The march past ended a most memorable parade—a fitting mark of the unit's Centenary. The Regiment was honoured by the many distinguished guests who saw the parade and shared in the usual celebration which followed. These included Lady Horrocks, the Mayor of Wembley and his Mayoress, Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Willoughby, Brigadier Hepper, Brigadier Weldon, commander of 33 Brigade, Col. Fox, who commanded the Regiment during the first three years of the war, Col. Smith, Deputy Lieutenant, Brigadier Baker and Col. A. de S. Clayton, chairman and secretary of the Middlesex T. & A.F. Association, and a host of others.

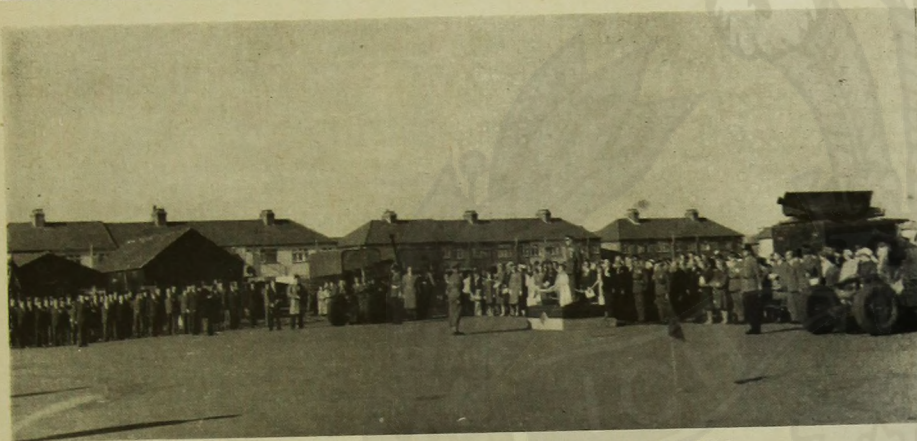
Comparisons are odious and the Regiment and the Old Comrades produced a standard of drill second to none. The Old Comrades were commanded by Col. H. W. W. Gray, M.B.E., the first post-war commander of the Regiment and the renowned Sgt.-Major Todman acted as his R.S.M.

Much nostalgia was dispensed in the T.A. Centre during the inevitable "party" which followed the parade. All members of the Regiment were presented with a copy of an attractive brochure, giving a brief history of the Regiment with many photographs recalling vividly the outstanding chapters in the unit's life—the Regiment advancing on the Mosul in 1918, taking up position round Nijmegen Bridge in 1944, receiving new Colours in 1950.

Movietone news rounded off the parade by presenting it in their news reels at the end of the ensuing week. The local and national Press were kind to us and *The Times* printed a very fine photograph of Sir Brian talking to one of the old Ninth during his inspection.

Two days later, on October 27, Wembley Town Hall was the scene of our Centenary dinner and ball. The foresight of ex-officers of the Regiment had enabled us to mount this magnificent function, which was attended by 450 present and past members of the Regiment and their wives, with guests including the Colonel of the Regiment, the Mayors of Wembley, Harrow, Hendon and Willesden, the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, our Brigade Commander, the Commander of the Middlesex Depot, and the chairman and secretary of the Middlesex T. & A.F. Association.

The R.A. Orchestra played for dancing and, after the dinner, Sir Frederick Handley-Page proposed the toast to the Regiment, stressing the great part played by the T.A. in preserving peace and, in his usual humorous vein, giving the ladies their share of praise for the good work of their menfolk. The C.O., Lt.-Col. Doyle, replied in like vein, not hesitating to remind the Lord Lieutenant of his traditional duty to father the T.A. Maj.-Gen. B. P. Hughes, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, proposed the toast to the civic authorities, stressing the close bond which exists between the unit and the civic fathers. The Mayor of Wembley replied,



THE C.O. REPORTS THE PARADE READY FOR INSPECTION

saying how delighted he had been to grant us the use of his Town Hall.

Telegrams were received from Her Majesty the Queen, in reply to a wire of loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the assembly, and from various Old Comrades, including one from Capt. John Kemp in Ankara and one from Major Charles Davies in Bermuda.

Again there was a fine assembly of past and present members of the Regiment. The ex-Honorary Colonel was present, Col. N. J. Lamont, surely the most fanatical "Die-Hard" in the Regiment. Other ex-C.O.s present included Col. Fox, Col. Dear and Col. Gray.

The final celebration is due to take place at Woolwich on February 12, when past and present officers of the Regiment meet to dine, fight old battles and renew old friendships. This final affair was dear to the heart of Col. Lamont. Just before going on holiday at the beginning of January he discussed with the C.O. the details of the dinner and he was obviously relishing the prospect.

It is sad, therefore, to record his death in Colombo on January 21. A better pen than mine writes his obituary elsewhere in this issue. He had an outstanding record with the Regiment, serving and being associated with it for almost 50 years, and loving it deeply. Through all its vicissitudes, he was ever ready to advise, help and, indeed, to extend himself to the utmost for the Ninth. No man ever held the appointment of Honorary Colonel more proudly, more conscientiously and more effectively.

His deep attachment to the Battalion was reflected in his knowledge of its history and its personalities, his adherence to its traditions and his concern for its continued success. His shrewd eye missed nothing of the effects of the Regiment's various changes of role and character and he was quick to correct, in a kindly and unobtrusive way, the deviations from custom which tended to creep in. Withal, he was resilient in accepting the changes which came.

A generous, kindly, God-fearing soldier, Col. John Newton Lamont has left a great gap in the ranks of the Regiment. *Requiescat in pace!*

With the Centenary largely behind us, camp looms ahead in April. Bude is our destination—invariably damp at that time of year. The T.A. Centres are alive with training of layers, etc., and there is already an air of expectancy about the place.

In November last the Remembrance Sunday parade was held, as usual, at Kingsbury, Padre Kingston taking the service with music by the Regimental Band. In a profound sermon, the Padre urged that we should use the occasion, with its strong memories and reminders, to turn our minds from material things to the re-fashioning of our lives on Christian lines. Dare one hope that this precept found its mark, and that such occasions are not degenerating into "matters of form."

Christmas brought its spate of social occasions—the all-ranks' ball at Kingsbury, the Sergeants' ball at Kingsbury, and the inevitable, and unfailingly popular, children's party—with Father Christmas, vaguely recognisable as B.S.M. Wright, arriving in his jeep-sleigh—bells ringing loudly.

It would not be fitting to end this report of such a vital year in the history of the Regiment without paying tribute to the many past and present members of the Regiment who helped to make it a success. Nor would it be just to neglect to print a very big thank you to the permanent staff of the Regiment, without whom it would not have been possible to mount the Centenary.

Throughout the Centenary there was one vital figure—the Adjutant. The Regiment wish him a speedy recovery from the illness which took him from us so soon after the Centenary celebrations. May he soon recover health and strength and the vitality which typified Capt. "Pat" Wadham in action.



LT.-GENERAL SIR BRIAN HORROCKS, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.
accompanied by Lt.-Col. Doyle and Capt. Cooper, A.D.C. to the General, move to inspect the Regiment



THE COLOUR PARTY LEAVES THE PARADE GROUND AFTER THE CENTENARY PARADE
The Queen's Colour carried by Lt. K. Price and the Regimental Colour carried by Lt. D. Herriott

"Q" BATTERY

Having recovered from the Christmas festivities, which included the usual all-ranks dance and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess ball, training is now in full swing in preparation for annual camp for which we depart on Easter Saturday.

In November we bade a sad farewell to Major "Gerry" Wynne, our Battery Commander, who has stood us through thick and thin for as long as we can remember. We wish him luck in his retirement. To offset this loss we are fortunate in having Capt. P. Davidson, posted to us from "P" Battery, as our new and able B.C.

Apart from camp our next social event will be the annual Battery dinner, which is being held in March and promises to be as enjoyable as usual.

Our apologies for the shortness of these notes, but we hope that the next issue will cover a fuller report of our activities.

"R" BATTERY

The winter training sessions are at present in full swing with attendances increasing each week. The officers are regularly drilling on the L70 every Wednesday evening, and so far no casualties have been reported.

We welcome Sgt. Parker as the new P.S.I. to the Battery in place of B.S.M. Bewick, who we are very sorry to lose to the attractions of Civvy Street.

We were glad to see L/Bdr. Steptoe and Gnr. Robinson back in training with us after their stay in hospital, and wish them the best of health in the future.

Capt. W. Campbell successfully organised the children's Christmas party this year, and we have it on good authority that this enervating experience has opened his bachelor eyes to the pleasures of married, family life.

R.E.M.E.

October 1959 will not be forgotten for a very long time by the permanent staff of this unit.

Well before the month had come into being we were all hard at work getting the programme out for the Centenary celebrations of the Middlesex Regiment which were held on October 19 to 23, 1960.

The R.E.M.E. Workshops (T.A.) attached to 571 L.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.) gave a very good account of themselves and put on a fine display of equipment, such as the Corporal Guided Weapon and accompanying vehicles and a very good assortment of electrical equipment.

R.E.M.E. H.Q. provided a most modern and up-to-date recruiting trailer which produced results.

This year we have an early camp, being away for Easter at Bude, and it shows every sign of having a full attendance.

The unit has had a change of R.E.M.E. P.S.I. A.Q.M.S. Martin has left us, being redundant with a golden nest egg. He is replaced by A/A.Q.M.S. Trep-tow, who also is very keen on the activities and training of the unit.



COL. J. N. LAMONT, M.C., T.D.
Commanding 1933-1937. Honorary
Colonel 1951-1957

**COL. J. N. LAMONT, M.C., T.D.
Personal Tribute by Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks**

It was just over 30 years ago, when I was appointed Adjutant of the 9th Middlesex, that I first met Newton Lamont—then Capt. J. N. Lamont, M.C., commanding "A" Company.

Looking back on those days I realise now that the 9th possessed a team of exceptionally able young officers, most of whom have since been successful in their civilian businesses, but unquestionably the most outstanding of them all was Lamont. He was already an officer of considerable experience, with some 14 years' service behind him. After going out to India with the Battalion soon after the outbreak of the first world War, he had volunteered for active service and had won the Military Cross while fighting with the 1/4th Hants in Mesopotamia. But there was far more to him than just bravery and experience. To use a very hackneyed expression, he was a born soldier. Newton Lamont more than almost anybody I have ever met, before or since, possessed a flair for tactics which led him instinctively to the root of any military problem. Nobody was the least surprised, therefore, when he was awarded a "Distinguished" in his promotion examination from Captain to Major; but this was such an unusual achievement for a Territorial officer that he received a personal letter of congratulation from the Secretary of State for War.

He loved soldiering, and with his clear penetrating mind would unquestionably have risen to high rank had he chosen to make the Army his career—provided always that he could have restrained the rebellious element in his character. As might be expected from a man with his attainments, he loathed inefficiency and red tape. Many is the time I have seen the latest copy of Army Council Instructions go whistling across the office into the waste-paper basket at the end of the room.

He was always a rebel at heart, yet no commander could ever have wished for a more loyal subordinate. All ranks of "A" Company were devoted to "their captain," and although impatient with those whose brains worked more slowly, he would always take infinite pains to encourage junior officers.

As Commanding Officer of the 9th Middlesex Regiment from 1933-37, Honorary Colonel of the 571 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (9th Middlesex) 1951-57, and a member of the County Association for many years, the Territorial Army in Middlesex has suffered a great loss in the death of Newton Lamont.

No personal appreciation would be complete, however, without a word about the man himself. It was not easy to penetrate behind the façade of efficiency and cynicism with which Newton loved to confront the world, but those of us who were privileged to do so found a man with a charming kindly nature and a rare gift for friendship. A host of people have benefited from his many generous acts, all of which he carried out almost in stealth, so that nobody would ever possibly find out. He was a devoted husband, intensely proud of his wife's artistic skill, and over the years, largely as the result of her influence, he mellowed and broadened his outlook to include an appreciation of art and a deep interest in his garden at "Marshalls," Chart Sutton. I can see him now entering the "Senior" almost invariably with a home-grown rose from the garden in his buttonhole.

But always he remained true to his first love, the 9th Middlesex, and a postcard which I received from Colombo, written only a couple of days before his death, ended with these words: "I shall be back in time for the Centenary dinner."

We, his old comrades, will miss him very much.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The main attraction this quarter was annual camp at Far East Farm. All the old training areas, both military and social, were used again and, if the bar profits in the Messes are any indication, a good time was had by all. On the military side great value was obtained from two Regimental exercises, when those in camp were joined by the remainder of the Regiment so that the whole unit could be exercised as a complete infantry battalion. Our affiliated battery from the Royal Artillery and the Light Troop from the R.H.K.D.F. added a touch of realism and heated arguments on artillery procedure became a feature of the Officers' Mess evenings.

Two highlights from the Regimental exercises stand out, first the capture of a M.M.G. N.C.O. by the company he was supporting and his subsequent interrogation by the I.O., and second the pleasure with which the R.S.M. greeted the Bird's Hill level crossing where he had been traffic controller as C.S.M. of "S" Company in 1st Middlesex. C.S.M. of "S" Company H.K.R. was not so enthusiastic about the job, particularly when attacked by the Gurkha enemy during the night withdrawal.

After camp there was only just time for heads and blisters to clear before the force rifle meeting, which was held at Kai Tak for the last time. As usual there was intense rivalry between the Regiment and the Home

Guard. In the end Sgt. Souza of the Regiment was champion shot and seven other members joined him in the force twenty. We also won the Cheylesmore Competition and were runners-up to the Home Guard in the Commando and China. The Permanent Staff Championship was won this year by C.S.M. Rodgers, so it was kept within the Home Counties Brigade.

During the camp period tradition was maintained by the laying of a wreath on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment by the Commanding Officer on Remembrance Sunday. A contingent from the Regiment paraded at the cenotaph and a detachment with buglers was present at a ceremony at the Club de Recreio. For the first time the Regimental Band was asked to provide the music for the Kowloon Garrison Remembrance Day parade at Gun Club.

We are now looking forward to the new training year with confidence and especially to the results of the Hong Kong Bisley, for which we have entered two teams.

NEWSLETTER BY M.B.

For me, Christmas 1959 and the beginning of a new year were indeed memorable; and, with the former being so close to my 75th birthday on December 13, the event of the birth of Our Lord stood out particularly in my mind. Over the period I received from my friends and despatched in return 115 cards and letters; also, I saw the annual Christmas tree at the Depot and the gifts being given to the children. As I cast my mind back, however, I was reminded vividly how very changed is life in the modern British Army, when I thought of the years I had spent Christmas abroad in Burma, India and the Sudan and then of the few overseas stations we now have. Changed days indeed!

I was glad to receive a card from Paddy Orr, now living in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He regrets that he will be unable to come to our Regimental festivities owing to business needs, and so the pleasure of this fine cricketer's company will be denied to his friends in the Regiment.

I recently received a photograph of Col. Archie Stewart's beautiful home near Saffron Walden. I was present at his wedding to his charming wife, Hilda—a very dear lady—and saw their children, Duncan and Mary, shortly after they were born. Archie was a young Captain when I first met him at Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, in 1903, and he was later to become my C.O. in the 1st Battalion at Aldershot, where we were in the Guards Brigade. We had a wonderful time there, and the Battalion was presented during that time with a lovely silver cup, which had the crests of all the battalions of the Guards inscribed on the plinth. Our time in the Brigade was well spent, and the splendid training given to the Battalion at Aldershot stood us in good stead during the two world wars. The Stewart family move to Tenerife on January 20 for about two months and will, therefore, avoid our cold weather until the end of March.

The appointment of Brigadier John Willoughby as Colonel of the Regiment brings back a wealth of memory to me. His father, Major N. E. G. Willoughby, served in the 2nd Battalion in 1903, at which time I was attached for instruction from the Royal Guernsey Light

Infantry for two years before finally passing my literary and military examinations and entering our Regiment on November 20, 1905. I later joined the 1st Battalion in Burma to serve under command of the late Col. Elgee, who was then a Major at Meiktila; and I have in my possession a book written about the 57th by Major Woolwright which is filled with notes on the 1st Battalion in Elgee's unique handwriting. After two years under the then Major Elgee I went to "B" Company, which I myself was to command many years later at Aldershot in the Guards Brigade.

I had a letter in December from Capt. David Pike, now with the Federation Military College at Port Dickson. You may remember, he was awarded his M.C. for gallantry against the Communist terrorists in Malaya. Always a keen cricketer, David Pike played against the Australians in Singapore last November before 5,000 spectators, and he took two wickets.

Major Henry Marsh visited the Depot on January 5. He had a terrible time as a prisoner in Japanese hands during the last war, and he retired on April 21, 1954.

News also reached me of the late Haji F. Shaboudeen,

who was contractor to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions in India and a most generous benefactor to the Regiment. Towards the end of my command of the 2nd Battalion he sent me a huge brass image of a Hindu goddess, which is now installed in the Sergeants' Mess at the Depot; also to be seen at the Mess are three valuable and very ancient (so I am told by experts) teak Bhuddas, which came to me from my father's forbears.

Col. Wilfred Samuel, I hear, is not in very good health. During the last war he was in charge of air raid duties at Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

I had news of Archdeacon Ormonde Birch, who was our chaplain at Dinapore during Col. Ward's command. He now lives in Melbourne, Australia, though he still retains his fondness for the sea and goes on long voyages each year.

Finally, I received news of the two Ash girls, Molly and Pip, the daughters of Col. W. C. C. Ash, who was killed in World War I. Col. Ash commanded the Depot from 1912-1914, and was, in fact, in command there when I arrived as a subaltern from our 1st Battalion in 1912. M. B.

OLD COMRADES' NEWS

MILL HILL BRANCH

We can look back over the past year and congratulate ourselves it was the best year yet as far as our branch was concerned. The membership increased to a total of 169, which, I think, is a good number taking all things into consideration. The attendances at the monthly meetings increased also, it was, on an average, about 80 each meeting. What makes this branch "tick over"? A good committee, good and interested members, helped by the ladies, have made the club very popular. Unfortunately, however, a small number have "forgotten" to pay subs for 1959; do check up and send your subs as soon as possible.

Our members are not the only ones who make it "tick." The officers, warrant officers and Sergeants at the Depot, too, pull their weight and have done for the past three or four years, when Capt. Moore, as Adjutant, set a wonderful example by his regular attendance—thank you, Sir. You will be glad to know your example is lived up to. This brings me to the appeal made by the secretary of 7th Battalion O.C.A. re lack of interest by ex- and serving officers. On this subject I have been in the past rather outspoken which has not, in all cases, been too well received, but of one thing I am certain, to make and maintain lively and successful O.C.A. branches we must have the support of both ex- and serving officers. Visit us and talk to the old chaps who loyally served you—they want to see you—I say this (if I may) from experience, both as a Regular officer and other rank.

To help increase membership Mr. Escudier has presented a silver cup to be awarded to the member who "brings in" the greatest number of old "Die-Hards" to our branch during the coming year. Thank you for such a gift, it will, I am sure, be earnestly competed for.

I was fortunate to meet after many years, 19 in fact, a very old member of the Regiment who, during his service could readily tell you the Army number of 90 per cent. of the personnel who served with the 1st Battalion, 1931-38, and the Depot, 1938 to about 1942. Yes, it is ex-O.R.Q.M. Sgt. A. E. Finch, M.B.E., better known to us as Bert Finch.

He is now living at Chatham and looking forward to the day he will be able to meet us at the Depot. He is now a member of our Branch and on your behalf I offer him a warm welcome.

Another "Die-Hard" has written to me—Mr. L. F. Adams, who joined 2nd Middlesex at Dumfries in April, 1943, and posted to "D" Company, where he remained throughout his service until demobbed with 29 Group. He would like to hear from George Bettis, Cpls. Stewart, Caterer, Cheesman, Ptes. Nelson, White, Miles and a host of others. Send your letters to me and they will be forwarded.

Major Stewart-Sutherland has written to say that for various reasons beyond his control he is very sorry not to have been able to attend our meeting, but hopes to do so very soon.

Sorry to say that ex-C.S.M. Edwin Soden, employed by the Harrow Council as a rent collector was the victim of a cowardly attack by a gang of masked youths on Tuesday, January 19. Leaving a block of flats in Burnt Oak Broadway, he was knocked down a flight of stairs and received injuries which necessitated his removal to hospital. This is the second time he has been coshed, last spring he was robbed. Our best wishes to you Edwin for a speedy recovery.

Within the last hour or so, I have heard that Jack Christie is very ill in hospital at Norwood, and that Capt. William Green is also in the Edgware General

Hospital. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Our old friend "Busty" Hull is also under the weather—hope you will soon be better Busty.

A number of our older members have expressed delight in the improvement of the Journal, and two items in particular have attracted our interest. Firstly, it is gratifying to know that the Editor, Col. A. E. Green has taken such a keen interest in us and given us so much notice with the promise to look after all Branches; and, secondly, Major A. W. Clark's report on the work of the Association is just what we want, although an even fuller report would be most desirable.

In view of this new interest taken in us, do pass your Journal on to any "Die-Hard" you know and ask him to help increase the sales.

RECORD OF SERVICE OF THE LATE MAJOR L. L. F. CLARKE, T.D.

Enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment as a Drummer Boy at the age of 14, on August 26, 1908, from the Hibernian School, Dublin, posted to the 2nd Battalion, then serving in the Channel Isles. Proceeded to Malta with the 2nd Battalion September 3, 1913, until May 14, 1914, when he was discharged at his own request under Article 1130 Pay Warrant on payment of £18.

He re-enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment, on February 18, 1915, and was stationed at Chatham with the 5th Battalion until September 8, 1916, when he joined the 3rd Battalion, serving with the B.E.F. (Med.) in Salonika.

Invalided home with malaria and arrived in England on November 29, 1918, to hear the news that the Armistice had been signed. He rejoined the 3rd Battalion and left Aldershot for Germany March 4, 1920, being stationed in Cologne and Silesia.

He was in the Corps of Drums with the rank of Corporal until October 21, 1921, when he was appointed Lance-Sergeant, and posted to the Regimental Depot on a tour of duty, and his tour was completed in June, 1925, when he joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot.

From there he was attached to the 19th London Regiment, High Street, Camden Town, as Sergeant Instructor, from 1926-29, when he rejoined the 1st Battalion, at Catterick Camp.

Promoted Colour-Sergeant and posted to the Depot in 1931.

Promoted W.O.2 and posted to the 2nd Battalion at Colchester on November 15, 1932, and took over C.S.M. of "B" Company.

Whilst stationed at Colchester he was promoted a R.S.M. and attached once again to the 19th London Regiment, at Camden Town, and it was whilst with them that he was discharged at his own request on November 29, 1935, in order to take a T.A. commission as Q.M. to that Regiment, which had now been converted from an Infantry to a Searchlight Regiment.

His was the first commission in the Regiment, during the reign of King Edward VIII.

He remained with that Regiment which was later named 33rd Searchlight Regiment R.A. throughout the Second World War, serving with them in various places in Britain and in Norway from where they returned to

England for disbandment. He was then posted to a Prisoner of War camp in Norfolk as Camp Q.M., and on the reforming of the T.A. in 1947, he applied for and was appointed Q.M. 537 S.L. Regiment.

He remained with this Regiment at their H.Q. at Albany Street, Camden Town, until he reached his age of retirement in 1949, and it was during this tour with the T.A. that he was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Nobby was a very likeable person. His cheerful personality helped to make life easier when things seemed to go wrong. His example and advice to the young soldier was sound in every sense of the word and will be remembered by them for many a long day.

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to his widow and family, we are sure that the example Nobby set, and lived up to, will soften the blow which has fallen upon them.

P.F.N.

HORNSEY BRANCH

Triggered off, no doubt, by the revived interest in the social activities of our branch, we have increased by at least 30 in the past four months. We hope to obtain many more in the coming year.

December was an exceptionally busy month for us all, as we had several social functions. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess arranged a very special social for us and we do thank R.S.M. Thom and his Mess members for all their help. The highlight of the evening was the ladies' .22 shooting match. We have yet to learn who got the most shots on any one target.

The Royal Corps of Signals O.C.A. held a social which many of us attended and which we all enjoyed very much.

On the following evening the ladies of the Elms Club invited us to their social and we thank them for an excellent evening.

On December 23 we held our Christmas party, and we are most grateful to C.S.M. and Mrs. Holdford for organising such a successful event.

On January 2 the O.C.A. dance was attended by 180 people and we were glad to have Col. and Mrs. Pringle with us. The C.O., Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Mrs. Simpson and the Adjutant, Capt. B. K. Clayden, also attended.

We have invited the Islington N. and W. Branch (British Legion) to a social on March 5, and we hope many of our members will attend.

Fourteen members and their wives will be going on an Easter pilgrimage to France, Belgium and Holland with this branch of the British Legion. Those of us who went last year made many friends over there. We are delighted to hear that Cpl. G. Chacksfield will again be coming with us to sound the Last Post and Reveille at the British and French memorials on Easter Sunday. We are proud to know that at least a dozen members of The Middlesex Regiment O.C.A. will be with us on this occasion.

The 1914-1918 Old Comrades will shortly receive notices giving them details of the annual reunion dinner. We are unable to hold the dinner at the Manor House this year but arrangements are being made to hold it nearer to home.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. Morley,

a 1914 member. Our older members will recall that he was a boxing instructor at Hornsey long ago.

9th MIDDLESEX BRANCH

The sad news of the passing of our president, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., has just been received and our branch has sustained the great loss of one of our keenest members. Elsewhere in these pages a record will be written of his activities.

The Centenary celebrations are now a milestone in the Regimental history and the functions arranged were varied and will long remain a happy record in the archives of our Battalion.

Throughout the week, demonstrations, displays and an exhibition of the Regiment's equipment, both ancient and modern, were on show.

At the beginning of the week of celebration an inspection parade was held on Sunday morning, when the Regiment and Old Comrades were inspected by our own member, Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks. Over 200 ex-members were on parade, and the film cameras produced a news film in the local cinemas.

On the following Tuesday a dinner and dance was held at Wembley Town Hall and we filled the place.

Throughout the week our members were present at Kingsbury and were entertained by the serving members in displays which demonstrated what can be done with a jeep to those who are so well trained in the "know how."

We congratulate all who organised the week's celebrations which we look back on with pride. To the Adjutant, Capt. Wadham, we send greetings and trust his return to Kingsbury, fit and well, will not be long.

Your committee thank all members of our branch who supported the week's functions in such good numbers, and "yours truly" will welcome new names. In any case, come and pay us a visit at Kingsbury.

PERSONAL COLUMN

News of past and present members of the Regiment

Sgt. F. Markham has retired after nearly 29 year's service, and is now working for the G.P.O.

C/Sgt. G. Hockley has also retired after 27 year's service, and is now employed by Middlesex T.A.A.F.A. as a caretaker at one of their drill halls.

Major P. F. Newman. We are sorry to hear that Major Percy Newman has had a recurrence of tummy trouble. We wish him a speedy recovery.

C/Sgt. J. Christie has also been sick recently and we wish him a speedy recovery as well.

Col. A. M. Man has retired from the service and is now working for Charringtons in the city. He has recently presented a Nazi Dress Dagger to the Museum.

Sgt. W. Landreth has arrived home from Cyprus and is filling in at the Depot until he goes to his next appointment at Headquarters, Mid-West District, Shrewsbury.

C/Sgt. J. Whitehead has recently completed a "do-it-yourself" home maintenance course before retiring. He also is going to work for the G.P.O.

Brigadier R. A. Gwyn is now settled in his new appoint-

ment with the Army Operational Research Group, and has bought himself a house in Argyllshire.

Col. J. W. G. Ormiston is home from Norway and preparing himself for the rigours of the N.A.T.O. Defence College in Paris, followed by a tour as Colonel G.S. at Fontainebleau.

Major K. J. Carter has moved to Headquarters Southern Command as G.S.O. 2 Strategic Reserve. He is living in private splendour, outside Salisbury at Donhead St. Mary.

Major B. A. M. Pielow is well established at the Staff College. He finds that his syndicate is nothing to do with football pools.

Capt. F. Skinner who was a C.S.M. with the 4th Battalion on the Somme in 1916 and was then commissioned to the Royal Fusiliers was among the Spion Kop veterans who gathered in the Old Comrades Hut at the Depot on January 24. He has been away from the Regimental fold too long and it was good to see him as fit and well with us again.

Sgt. R. Seager has returned to South Africa where he feels he has responsibilities in the troubles now afflicting the Union.

Capt. N. Legge is now on a course at the R.A.E.C. Depot, pending transfer to the Education Corps.

Capt. I. S. Rutherford is due to return to the 1st Battalion in September from his appointment as Staff Captain Public Relations at Rhine Army H.Q.

Capt. R. D. Fisher is also due to rejoin the 1st Battalion at the end of the year after his tour of duty with the Nigeria Regiment.

Lt.-Col. A. Hewitt is due to go to H.Q. 42 Infantry Division as A.A. and Q.M.G. in the spring, after relinquishing command of the Ghana Training Battalion.

Pte. R. Bailey called at the Depot recently. He had seen Pte. "Joe" Read. Both are settling down to civilian life and send their regards to old friends in "B" Company.

Major H. J. Evans was married at St. Mary's, Finchley on Saturday, January 30. Miss Gracie Fields, who is an aunt of the bride was present at the wedding.

If you want to re-establish contact with old friends, write to the Editor, c/o O.C. Depot at Inglis Barracks and he will publish your news and request in this column.

SPION KOP REUNION, 1960

Sunday, January 24, 1960, saw the reunion of four members of the Regiment who had fought at the battle of Spion Kop 60 years ago. They were Capt. F. Skinner, M.C., ex-Sgt. J. C. Parsons, ex-Pte. W. Bailey and G. E. Ford. Greetings and messages from those unable to attend were received from Col. W. A. Stewart, O.B.E., Capt. George Johnson, ex-Pte. A. F. Page, ex-Pte. F. Hurst, ex-Pte. Green and ex-Band-Sgt. J. Kerwin.

All attended the service in the Garrison Church where the service was conducted by the Padre, Capt. the Rev. L. D. Milliner, who took for his text the Publican's Prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner." This was



Photo: Hendon & Finchley Times.

SPION KOP ANNIVERSARY, JANUARY 24, 1960

Standing: Major Smith, M.B.E., Dmr. Kenny, Cfmn. Basey, P/Cadet Smith, Major Hutchings, R.S.M. Bartle, In-pensioner Grimrod

Sitting: Mr. Hull, M.M., Rev. Milliner, Mr. Ford, In-pensioner Bailey, Mr. Parsons, Capt. Skinner, M.C., Mr. Cox, M.M.

chosen owing to a discussion he had with Capt. Johnson during a visit to him. The Padre was so impressed with the biblical knowledge possessed by old soldiers and referred to this during his address.

After the service, the reception was held in the Crawford Hut where the veterans were greeted by three members of the present generation wearing uniforms of 1900. One in full Regimentals and Slade-Wallace equipment, one in khaki drill, stained S.W. equipment, the old pattern cork helmet, with neck blind, and the third member in K.D., webbing and bandoliers and slouch hat. The room was decorated with relics and trophies of the Boer War including the rifles of Louis and Christopher Botha, the original plate from the graves at Spion Kop, a notice for the apprehension of a journalist who walked with a stoop to his shoulders and who could not pronounce the letter "s," by the name of Winston Churchill.

A toast was proposed by Col. Browne to the four officers and 38 other ranks who fell at Spion Kop, and another by the Commanding Officer, Major Hutchings, to the veterans gathered together on this occasion. During this toast the Padre played the recruiting song of the Boer War, "The Absent-minded Beggar." Later the whole of the company present sang another favourite of the first year of this century "Good-bye Dollie Gray."

Two pairs of men met for the first time since World War I. They were Mr. Parsons and In-Pensioner Bailey, and Capt. Skinner and Mr. "Busty" Hull. Capt. Skinner was the Company Sergeant-Major of the Company when Mr. Hull first went to France.

Lunch was supplied by the Sergeants' Mess and the members of the Mess, under the stewardship of R.S.M. Bartle, did the final honours of the day to the Old Soldiers.

The following speech by Gen. Talbot Coke is republished as an item of interest:—

SPEECH BY
GEN. TALBOT COKE
(Commanding 10th Brigade)
To 2nd MIDDLESEX REGIMENT
Charlestown, June 13, 1900.

Col. Hill, officers, N.C. officers, and men of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment,—I want to take this opportunity of speaking to you of the work which has been done and the privations endured by you during the past week. Here we are at Majuba; the Boers have been entrenching themselves in that position for months past, and they said they intended to stay there until the war was over. Now, as you know, we started away last week on what

was intended to be a reconnaissance, and we little thought that when we left De Wet's farm, with our dinners being cooked, but what we should return the same day. We never thought we should have had to stay all night, but the position (Van Wyk) was of great importance.

Now, I don't want to praise the Middlesex more than you deserve but the honour is with you all for the manner in which you won and held Van Wyk, that being the key to the whole work. By holding that position, as you did, we were able to gain Botha's Pass, and thence, as you know, we got into the Free State.

Then, again, your action at Almon's Nek—that battle was fought and won by the 10th Brigade. There was another Brigade on the left, but they did not close with the enemy, and it was a very serious position. We found the Boers there in a very strong position—about 2,800 strong—but a great many retired at the commencement of the fight; what remained were stubborn and determined men and, I must say, had not the Middlesex come up again at the most critical moment, just as the sun was setting, it may have proved serious, as it was a very grave situation, and I felt very anxious myself, knowing that if the position was not taken that night we should have to retire, which would have been very unfavourable to us, Sir Redvers Buller, and to the whole nation at home. But, however, the Middlesex came up and the position was taken, the Boers running away pell-mell that same night. When the Boers retired they also left Lang's Nek. I cannot say they retired, they simply fled—a disorganised rabble.

Now, this makes the third time you have distinguished yourselves, and you have covered yourselves with honour and glory, and when you read the history of this war in years to come you should be proud to think you belonged to that good old corps who fully maintained the name they deserve—"Die-Hards."

Now, this Regiment has always been very lucky in arriving at the most critical moment. The first time the Regiment distinguished itself was at that mountain, Spion Kop, when you saved the position and also the Lancashire Brigade, who were on the point of retiring. The Boers said they intended to make it a second Majuba, and make the English run down into Natal, shooting them down like rabbits as they ran; and perhaps they would have done so had not the Middlesex arrived just in time; but, thank God, they did not run. It is a matter of controversy as to whether it was a victory or not, but I say it was a victory and will be looked upon as such. As to the retirement, I had nothing whatever to do with that! but, as I have said, there will be more said about that in time to come. The second time you distinguished yourselves was at Van Wyk, when you, and you alone, fought and held that position and did not retire, but stayed there, like men and heroes all, through a night of bitter cold and frost, without food, shelter and without a top-coat. The third time you distinguished yourselves was at Almon's Nek, and the reason I made you second line that day was because Wellington and Napoleon always said they kept their best and bravest men in the second line to consolidate the victory, and knowing this Regiment from the work they had done, I acted in the same manner.

Now, I must tell you I have received congratulations from Sir Redvers Buller and other distinguished officers, and I think it only fair that I should share them with you.

There is one thing more that I should like to speak to you about, it is that during all the trying times you have undergone and the terrible hardships you have had, such as no coats or blankets, and the bitter cold winds and hard sharp frosts, you must have felt it very much. Yet, I am pleased to say, I have heard no grumbling or complaints. We are now going to stay here for a few days to renew our supplies before we advance and I know you have all earned this much-needed rest.

Col. Hill, Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Middlesex Regiment, once more I thank you, and I am sorry for the valuable lives you have lost and for the seriously wounded.

MEN OF THE REGIMENT The Men of Spion Kop

In my previous articles of Men of the Regiment, I have chosen an individual. This article will be a story of a group of individuals. The men of Spion Kop. On January 24 this year, 60 years after the battle, a number of the veterans gathered together at the Regimental Depot, to commemorate the action. All were octogenarians whom we saw. We saw what they are, but our interest as soldiers is what they were as fighting men. Fighting Men of the Regiment.

The Battle of Spion Kop was a defeat for the British Army as was Dunkirk, but the bravery of the British soldier was outstanding. Positions badly chosen in the dark, trenches too shallow to afford cover, no artillery or machine guns to oppose the enemy who were well armed with maxim-nordenfelts, Hotchkiss and field guns spraying the area with shrapnel and lyddite shells. Our men were terribly crowded, in many places lying on top of each other in the blaxing African sun. The sufferings endured from thirst were also very great. The only water available was what the men had in their water bottles. The explosion of the shells on the rocky terrain split the boulders and the sharp flint-like fragments caused many casualties. One private who had his chest torn open with splintered rock was evacuated down from the top of the Kop and when asked how he felt, replied "Oh, I'm all right, they only dropped me twice coming down." The troops, when ammunition ran out wanted to cross the dip between the hills and attack the Boers with the bayonet and frequently exposed themselves in their keenness to carry the fight to enemies positions. As someone at the time said, "Their courage is incontestable, their methods absurd." Since the Crimea War, the British soldier had been fighting native wars, but in South Africa he was opposed to an army who were adept at taking advantage of all types of cover, were trackers and stalkers of long practice and used the most up-to-date firearms and guns. Krupp guns were served by trained German and Austrian gunners and the Boer was not averse to approaching under a flag of truce and then suddenly opening fire. In short, the enemy were superior in skill of shooting and use of ground as well as being

superbly armed, he had the advantages in all except courage. A speech by General Talbot Coke to the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment in June, 1900, included the following, "Now this makes the third time you have distinguished yourselves, and you have covered yourselves with honour and glory, and when you read the history of this war in years to come you should be proud to think you belonged to that good old corps who fully maintained the name they deserve—"The Die-Hards." The first time the regiment distinguished itself was at that mountain, Spion Kop, when you saved the position and, also the Lancashire Brigade, who were on the point of retiring."

The men who fought at Spion Kop were in the majority, men who had served in India for many years and were acknowledged as soldiers who could march well and shoot well. In 1890, the Battalion marched from Kamptee to Mhow, a distance of 335 miles through jungle and villages which had not seen a British Regiment since the days of the Mutiny: 1893 saw a number of the Regiment marching over steep mountain passes to Kelat to avenge the murder of minister at the instigation of the Khan of Kelat. One of these was Pte. W. Boyd, who won the D.C.M. at Spion Kop and a clasp to this medal on June 14, 1915. He was twice specially promoted during the years of 1914-15 and was recommended for the Victoria Cross on two occasions. When 60 years of age he was still an efficient fighting man to whom his comrades naturally turned when their officers were killed. A brave man who led attacks on the enemy; who took charge of tight corners when his commander was a casualty; who brought up supplies under heavy shell-fire to save exposing his comrades to danger and who, on a number of occasions, rescued wounded men from "No Man's Land." Another "Die-Hard" of the same calibre was Dick Evans, who also won the D.C.M. in the Boer War. Besides the march to Kelat the men had to remove the Khan's treasure, 44 lac of rupees (4,400,000) packed in boxes containing eight thousand rupees each. Before starting the day's march, nearly an hour's work was entailed loading the 275 camels which carried the treasure, then, at the end of the day on arrival at the camp, all had to be unloaded again. Guard duties were severe as can be quite understood (most soldiers found it difficult to keep one rupee in India let alone nearly four and a half million). In addition to marching and loading this enormous weight of metal there was the camel to deal with. Readers who have experience of the "oont" will know that loading a camel in a frisky mood is far different to loading a land rover!

Referring back to the march from Kamptee to Mhow, this was excellent training for the Boer War, as the Army trekked for miles and had to be able to fight a battle at the end of the march, therefore it was essential that a Regiment do the approach march in an able manner.

The Battalion, 15 officers and 654 rank and file, each in fighting order and carrying 40 rounds of ball ammunition, started its march at 6.30 a.m. on January 24, 1890, a day 10 years later they would be fighting the Boers on Spion Kop. At the first halt, the troops piled arms and plucked and ate the wild fruit from the trees and, naturally, the ever-friendly "dudheens" were

filled and lit. At "Stand to!" the Battalion fell in, the flank men changing over, some men hastily tucking their pipes, "in full tune," up their sleeves until "march at ease" was given which set the men busily talking and brought the pipes into action again. As soon as the unit reached its camping place, equipment was blanched and brasses cleaned ready for the C.O.—Lt.-Col. H. D. Wade-Dalton—to hold his inspection and address the troops. At sunset Retreat sounded and there was the evening stampede to "Pint-Pot Villa," the canteen run by the canteen Sergeant. At 7.30 p.m. tattoo sounded and all troops went to their tents and to sleep until "Rouse" at 4 a.m. Then tents were struck and the march resumed. Unfortunately the bullock carts did not keep as steady a pace as the men and no tentage arrived. The Regiment at this time was often called the "Blinders," owing to the shine on their arms and accoutrements brasses. Report says they really earned the name in another respect that night. The next night the unit held a camp-bonfire and concert with Sgt.-Major Moore as announcer. Here the whole of the Regiment joined in lustily singing the popular choruses. One can picture these tough, lean, rugged men singing happily in the glow of this vast bonfire. Men who could work hard, march hard and, ten years hence, were to die-hard. After a hard day's foot-slogging, they scrubbed themselves, cleaned their arms and accoutrements and then together sat on the hard ground and in comradeship joyously roared together their robust songs. Very different from going to the T.V. room, lying over an armchair like a length of tape and watching a long-haired type wailing and wagging his bottom.

The cooks baked the bread in earth ovens, keeping a wary eye on the numerous dogs that followed the column. As ever with the British soldier, he and any stray dog soon became friends. Next to the bakers was the Battalion "Moochi" or shoe-maker. Here the soldier could be seen waiting for any repair to toe, heel or sole ready for the next day's march, then squatting on the ground next to the moochi would be the "Durzi," or tailor, repairing the ribbons of a glengarry worn by the infantry at this time, or perhaps another stitch or two in a torn jacket. The meat ration was on the hoof, therefore the Regimental butcher and his helpers would have to slaughter the beast ready for the next day. Mighty tough eating they were too.

Band and Drums supplied music however rough the going, and jungle tracks can be rough. Cheerful strains of "The Gypsy Chorus in Preciosa," "John Brown's Knapsack," and the martial air of "Scots wae," played by the Band, and merry hornpipes and reels by the Corps of Drums, including "The Middlesex Hornpipe" now only a worn sheet of manuscript paper in the writer's possession.

January 27 found the jungle becoming more dense and prickly shrubs abounded. Here at Sonair Camp quite a stir was caused as news was spread that two officers had a box that "took sketches" by the instantaneous process of photography. These officers were Lt. C. L. Muriel (killed at Spion Kop) and Lt. Prince. The sight of a camera intrigued the troops and was referred to by some as the "three-legged cyclops."

The natives were scared of the contraption and ran for dear life when it was aimed at them.

Strolling through the jungle ghastly sights met the view on all sides. A human skull with the hair still remaining, here a pelvis with part of the muscles still attached, here a thigh bone or a humerus, or a hand and foot, and all over the place large bones of cattle. The men were told by villagers that the human remains were those taken by night from graves by jackals whilst the bones of cattle were the remains of the tigers' prey. Lt. Muriel captured some of these sights in his box by the "instantaneous process of photography." Fortunately for the writer in his studies, he didn't capture the smells as well!

January 28 was a day of rough marching over rocks and boulders in a straight line over the hills to the next camping ground. These stupendous hills resembled truncated cones, being perfectly flat at the top, which gave the men a breather before marching down the rough track to the bottom. So overjoyed was L/Cpl. Wilson (the bass drummer) when he sighted the camp, that in his enthusiasm he sent his drumstick right through the drum-head and "let out all the music," as a man in the ranks remarked. At the end of this tiring march there was an out-post duty exercise under the command of the Colonel. The men did a full day's work for a full day's pay.

The next day, as the bullocks were being driven forward a tiger jumped out from the jungle and killed one of them and was about to devour it when the schoolmaster, Mr. Cockell, fired at the beast. Mr. Cockell was a God-fearing man and manager of the I.O.G.T. Lodge. The Independent Order of Good Templars' creed was to encourage religion and temperance and had much success for many years in the 77th and 2nd Battalion. The 77th was acknowledged as having the finest canteen and reading-rooms in India. In fact, reading-rooms were quite a novelty in the Army in those days.

The marching was making the bullocks tough, which meant it was essential to have good jaws to chew the meat; but the troops seemed happy, as one says: "At least the horse-soup the coffee-shop was selling is tender enough."

The first day of February was an ordeal for the marching men as the jungle had caught fire the day previous and the march was through black dust and embers. So begrimed were they that they could not recognise one another. When eventually they halted it was beside a river, so a good bathe was possible. Some of the tentage was late in arriving, which meant a number of the men had to remain for hours under the glare of the "Bengal blanket," the old soldiers' name for the Indian sun. However, Pte. Wischhusen, who had a fine voice, gave the men a couple of songs and made himself useful. Ten years later he made himself useful again, this time the bullets were singing and Wischhusen was gallantly earning a D.C.M. He picked up a live shell that had fallen among the troops at Spion Kop and threw it over the cliffs.

Marching daily—and gaily—the Regiment were in fine fettle, meeting all obstacles and crossing them in their stride. The only rest was the Sabbath. On this

day there was no marching, but divine service and then dismiss. This meant that Saturday night was a camp bonfire and concert night, when many men would dance the hornpipe to the tune of a flute.

On one occasion whilst the Regiment was fording a river, the men were intrigued at the number of "turtles" they could see in the distance. The "turtles" turned out to be crocodiles with which the river was infested! The encamping ground was very rough and the surrounding jungle was full of game. Here Capt. Savile killed a wild boar which was brought into the camp, much to the delight and satisfaction of the troops, who had a change of diet. An old 77th man—he was the last officer serving in the Regiment who had enlisted in the 77th—he was fondly known to the soldiers as "Vinegar Bottle." An officer who did much for his men's welfare and fought gallantly at Spion Kop, being awarded the D.S.O. for his services there.

Monday, February 24, was a day of incidents. The Regiment had to pass a frail bridge over a river in single file, which necessitated much delay. Then the terrified natives reported "tigers about," which caused joy to the officers who planned a shoot. Later in the day an eclipse of the sun occurred which completely changed the face of nature, and insects of all descriptions were about in thousands. Little fishes seemed to go mad in the stream by the camp until the wind began to rise. A rush was made for hammers to secure tent-pegs and the wind began to howl, followed by the rain in torrents. This was sucked up by the thirsty earth that the ground was soon dry again when the rain ceased. A few tents were blown down, but by evening the men were once more settled down to cleaning up and eagerly waiting for their sing-song. Then with their mess-tins hanging from their belt-hooks, those who could afford it made their way to "Pint-Pot Villa" to recuperate ready for the next day's march.

The full story of the march is too long to tell in this article of the Men of the Regiment who fought at Spion Kop, but from January 24 to March 6, 1890, the troops marched through jungle, crossed rivers on rickety bridges or forded them when there was no bridge, climbed small mountains and hills and passed through places that had not seen a British soldier since the mutiny, areas that were veritable charnel houses, all the time carrying their own rations and supplies, also the Regimental treasure-chest. Not a man was lost through sickness or any other reason. On March 6 they marched erect and nimble into quarters at Mhow to the strains of the Regimental Band playing "Paddy's Resource." They were early in their arrival and the band of the other British unit, the 18th Hussars, who came to meet them were too late.

Immediately they got into quarters the bugle sounded "Orderly Sergeant," and they were told that the Battalion would parade at six o'clock the following morning (March 7) for inspection by Maj.-Gen. Gillespie, Commanding Mhow District. The Battalion was present to a man. Ten years later, with the exception of the Quartermaster and his staff, who were left at Spearman's in charge of the baggage, the Battalion was present to the man at the Battle of Spion Kop. No wonder Generals Buller, v.c., Warren and Talbot

Coke came to rely on these men and one to say: "You should be proud to think you belonged to that good old corps who fully maintained the name they deserve—'Die-Hards.'"

In the opening paragraph we wondered what kind of men were those who fought at Spion Kop, some of whom we had the honour to entertain sixty years later. Now we know, and we know the training that went to make them worthy of our pride in them as Men of the Regiment.

R.W.J.S.

CORRESPONDENCE

Re C/Sgt. Steward's comments, December, 1959 issue. THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

I am inclined to agree that the title "Old Comrades" probably has an adverse effect on ex-members of the Regiment joining the Association. To refer to a man as an "Old Comrade" immediately gives the impression of an old gentleman instead of somebody perhaps in his twenties.

Whilst not wishing to cry down the achievements of the Boer War veterans, "The Old Contemptibles" and the men who slogged it out in the trenches of 1914-1918, I think that a change of title from "Old Comrades Association" to "The Die-Hards Association" would encourage many more to join. In fact, I think even the old 'uns would prefer to be referred to as an "Old Die-Hard" instead of "Old Comrade," as there is something about it that makes a man feel proud.

T. G. CHRISTMAN.

There is something in what you say. Would Branch Secretaries kindly give their views?—EDITOR.

THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,

The other day I was checking through the records of service of members of the permanent staff at present with the 7th Battalion. I was surprised to come across a unit called the 1st Heavy Support Company, the Middlesex Regiment. It seemed a strange name and, obviously, was a unit as opposed to a Company of one of the Battalions. I became intrigued when I found no mention of this Company in the Regimental History, 1919-1952.

Apparently the 1st Heavy Support Company Middlesex was formed in Italy in the early spring of 1944. It was, I understand, an Independent Company and part of 1st Guards Brigade in the 6th Armoured Division. It comprised two platoons of M.M.G. and two of 4.2 Mortar, the Company numbering about 250 all ranks. I am told that on its formation, officers and men were drafted in from various reinforcement units, and also that a number came from the Kensingtons. It is believed that the unit was officially affiliated to the 2/7th Middlesex and, presumably, a number of officers and N.C.O.s came from that Battalion.

The 1st Heavy Support Company remained a part of the 8th Army until the spring of 1945, when it was disbanded in Austria after having advanced beyond Klagenfurt via Villad and Veldon. Some 80 all ranks eventually arrived at Blacon Camp, Chester, where from

the M.G. Training Centre they were subsequently sent to 1st Middlesex in Germany.

It seemed to me a pity that this unusual Independent Company of the Regiment should receive no mention in the Regimental History. Perhaps an officer who served in it might be prepared to record its activities?

Two members of the Company were R.S.M. Thom and C/Sgt. Larkin.

N. F. LEGGE (Capt.)

Adjutant,

7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

Thank you for your interesting and revealing letter. We do not consider that such a unit was officially sponsored by the War Office, as no War Diary for it was produced when the Regimental History, 1919-1952, was written; however, we presume that it must have been an improvised unit formed by the theatre or Army Commander. From our own experience in Sicily, similar improvised units were formed and known as Infantry Brigade Support Companies, but their existence was shortlived as they were so expensive in terms of manpower. Perhaps other readers may be able to give more details?—EDITOR.

ENGAGEMENTS

The following engagement was announced recently:

CRUMLEY—CRAIG.—The engagement is announced between Capt. Gordon Crumley, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Crumley, of 14 Oaklands, Ealing, W.13, and Margaret daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. W. D. Craig, of Cairnsmore, Fleet, Hants.

BIRTH

JORDAN.—On November 18, to Sheila (née Nicol), wife of Capt. A. N. Jordan, 6 Enterprise Road, Chisipite P.O., Highlands, Salisbury, South Rhodesia, a daughter, sister for Ann and Susan.

HUTCHINGS.—On February 10, at Kingsbury Maternity Hospital, to Andy (née Wells), wife of Major Roy Hutchings, a daughter (Jane).

DEATHS

WILCOX.—Ex-C.S.M. S. J. Wilcox, who died on November 22, in his 80th year, joined the Regiment in 1899 and completed 12 years' service, later rejoining the Regiment in the First World War. He served in the South African War, and was a member of the S.A. War Veterans Association. His funeral was attended by Capt. F. G. Ashby and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Association.

WEST.—William F. West who was an In-pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, died there on December 2. He served in the Regiment in the First World War, and had been an In-pensioner for three and a half years. His funeral was a private one so we were not represented.

CLARKE.—Major L. F. Clarke, who was a well-known member of the Mill Hill branch, died on January 8, and the cremation at Golders Green was attended by several members. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

LAMONT.—Suddenly on January 20, whilst on holiday in Ceylon, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D. Col. Lamont was the late Hon. Colonel of the 9th Battalion, and an obituary notice appears elsewhere in this issue.

GARROW.—We regret to announce the death at his home in Saffron Walden of Major Vernon J. Garrow, M.B.E., late of the Regiment, on January 30. Col. Browne and Major Heywood were among those who attended his funeral in Cambridge.

SCOTT.—We regret to announce the death on February 18 of Col. Donald Alan Scott, who served with the 19th Battalion London Regiment in World War I. Major Heywood attended the cremation at St. Marylebone Crematorium.

OBITUARY

LT.-COL. DONALD A. SCOTT, T.D.

Commissioned in the K.O.Y.L.I. Served in France 1915-18.

Re-appointed to the Territorial Army about 1924, in the 19th London Regiment (St. Pancras Rifles) in the rank of Captain. Commanded the Battalion from 1934 until the Regiment was converted from Infantry to a Searchlight Battalion, Royal Engineers, in the early part of 1935.

Served on staff appointments in England in the 1939-45 War.

His son, John W. Scott, was commissioned to the Middlesex Regiment during the time of his National Service.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX TERRITORIAL AND AUXILIARY FORCES ASSOCIATION

There are remarkably few Regulars or even Territorials who really know the aim and responsibilities of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association of a county, or, as it is often called, "The T.A.F.A." or plain "T.A. Association." Some have an inkling of what it is in aid of, but the vast majority have no idea at all or think, quite erroneously, that it is part and parcel of the Regimental Association.

In fact, the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association of the County of Middlesex is of direct concern to every member of our Regiment, whether Regular or Territorial, and every single resident in our county, since it is responsible for raising, recruiting and administering the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces of Middlesex.

Origin

The Boer War revealed beyond shadow of doubt that the citizen forces of this country were sadly inadequate in many ways. This inadequacy was examined in detail by a Royal Commission appointed in 1903, which, in turn, resulted in a complete reorganisation and the passing of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act of 1907. Under this Act the Militia became the Special Reserve, charged with the provision of drafts for the Regular Army, and the Yeomanry and Volunteers were combined to form the Territorial Force.

The training of this new force, for obvious reasons, was in the hands of the General Staff, but it was felt

that the Regular Army was singularly ill-qualified and organised to compete with the recruitment, clothing, administration, and maintenance of drill halls, etc., of units spread throughout the many villages and towns of this country. Added to which, the force was to be based on territorial connections and closely linked with the existing local civic organisations of which the Regular Army had little experience. Therefore, the responsibility for recruitment and administration, etc., was vested in special public bodies, known as County Associations, which were created expressly for this very purpose.

It is clear that associations came into being as a cushion between the military and the Volunteer in the hope that an association would understand better the peculiar needs and problems of the part-time soldier. An association is less bound by regulation and red tape in its system of administration than the Army itself and this naturally leads to greater flexibility. Anyway, this system, modified every now and then, has stood the test of time and can, therefore, be presumed to have been successful and achieved its aim.

History

It is interesting to consider the original units of the old Volunteer Force allotted to this Association on its creation. They included the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), the Middlesex companies of 5th West Middlesex Rifles and, in addition, one new company of the Army Service Corps had to be raised *ab initio*.

The 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions became 7th and 8th Battalions The Middlesex Regiment, with headquarters at Hornsey and Hounslow respectively and are still located there at the present day. The 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment became 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment), T.A., from 1947 to 1956 when it reverted back to its old title and role.

The 5th West Middlesex Rifles became 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment with headquarters at Willesden, but, in 1938, it was transferred to the Royal Artillery and, after several changes in role and title, it is now 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment), T.A., with headquarters at Edgware.

In 1908, 2nd South Middlesex Rifles were transferred to Middlesex and became 10th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment with headquarters at Chiswick. This Battalion became 44th Divisional Signals in 1920, which they still are but with the slightly modified title of 44th (Home Counties) Signals Regiment, T.A.

The Association first started handling Cadets in 1910 and began by raising four Cadet Battalions.

The name of the Territorial Force was changed to Territorial Army in 1921 and the title of the Association was altered in 1930 because of the inclusion of the Auxiliary Air Force.

Today, the Association administers 31 Territorial Army units and sub-units, one Royal Auxiliary Air Force unit, 23 Army Cadet Force units, 32 centres, 19 married officers' quarters and 82 married soldiers' quarters.

Organisation

The presidency of the Association is automatically filled by Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the county. Our first president was His Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G., who held office from 1908 to 1926. Our present president, the fifth in line of succession, is Sir Frederick Handley Page, C.B.E.

The chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Association are subject to annual election. Our first chairman was the Rt. Hon. the Lord Cheylesmore, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., who was chairman from 1908 until he died in 1925, since when there have been five chairmen, of whom the following were distinguished and well-known members of our Regiment: Col. Sir Edwin King, K.C.B., C.M.G., A.D.C. (1936-1945), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L. (1951-1959) and Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., who was elected in November 1959 and whose son, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, is the present Adjutant of 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

The membership of the Association is composed of the Commanding Officers of the units in the county, selected past or present Regular, Territorial or Auxiliary Forces officers, selected individuals connected with or interested in Cadet Forces and representatives of the County Council, local authorities and employers and employees' associations.

The Association headquarters has a permanent staff headed by a secretary. Of the six secretaries who have held office since 1908 the last three were all members of our Regiment: Col. A. M. O. Anwyl-Passingham, C.B.E. (1924-1945), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L. (1945-1958) and Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, the present secretary.

The Association headquarters staff is comprised of a Finance Section, Works Section, Administrative and Accommodation Section, Cadet Section and a Quartermaster's Store. Added to which, there is a working party who operate under the direct control of the Association Superintendent of Works and who compete with the hundred and one minor odd jobs affecting the maintenance of Association properties.

The administration for which the Association is responsible includes all aspects of finance other than the pay and allowances of Volunteers, clothing and equipment, and the building, maintenance and furnishing of all centres and married quarters—in fact, virtually all the "out of training" peace-time needs. It should be stressed, however, that one of the main tasks of the Association must be recruiting, without which there would be no Territorial Army nor Army Cadet Force to administer.

The business of the Association is handled by one or other of the following committees: the General Purposes Committee, Finance Committee, Recruiting Committee, Buildings Committee, Army Cadet Force Committee—and their recommendations, if and when approved by an Association meeting, become the Association policies which, in turn, are implemented by the permanent staff.

It is interesting to note that there is no standard lay-out for associations with regard to staff or committee organisation. Each association has a charter laid down in

general terms by the Army and Air Councils and receives an annual monetary allotment on which to run. There is no fixed organisation on the lines of a military establishment and each individual association organises itself as it considers best to meet the needs of the area for which it is responsible. These needs are bound to vary and on whether the area is basically urban or rural. It is this very aspect which gives associations such flexibility and enables them to eliminate much red tape and strict regulations which is inherent in any military organisation.

MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE

There has been an organised body of Cadets in Middlesex since 1910, when the County Territorial Cadet Association was formed. Today the Middlesex Army Cadet Force is celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

Army Cadets are no new growth—there are references to them as long ago as the reign of James I—but in Victorian times they became established by attachment to the Volunteer Battalion. Thus 1960 heralds the Centenary for Army Cadets—the first of the youth organisations to reach this venerable age. The centre piece of the Army Cadet Force celebrations will be the progress of the Duke of Edinburgh's Banner which is to pass from County to County until it arrives back in London when it will be the centre of a National parade.

Representative Cadets from the County are to take part in the Dedication service and the Presentation of the Banner on February 9, 1960, at H.M. Tower of London, when the Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel-in-Chief, the Army Cadet Force, will be present. The celebration of the Centenary Year will not end there. All Cadet units in Middlesex are being encouraged and will organise their own local functions throughout the year. It is hoped that readers of the Journal will support their local Cadet unit.

It will be of interest to know that there is a Middlesex Army Cadet Force unit in, almost, every Borough and Urban District in the County. In every case the unit is affiliated to the local Territorial Army unit and has the honour to wear the cap badge and other insignia of its affiliated unit. There would, undoubtedly, be more Cadet units and certainly more Cadets serving in them if the establishment of Officers and Sergeant-Major and Sergeant Instructors could be brought up to strength. Enquiries from volunteers would be welcomed at 30 Pont Street, London, S.W.1, or at Headquarters of local units who all meet on at least one and, in the majority of cases, two evenings each week.

It will be of special interest to readers of the Journal to know of those Cadet units who wear the cap badge of the Middlesex Regiment. These young "Die-Hards" are very proud of the honour and live up to that high standard of conduct for which the Regiment is renowned. A list of all Cadet units, with their locality shown in brackets after their title, will be found at the end of this news letter; those who are Middlesex badged being shown separately.

It must not be thought that activities in the Army Cadet Force are of a purely military nature. Far from it. The Charter defines its aim in the following matter:

To train and inspire the youth of Britain to serve their Queen and Country by:

- (a) developing the Cadet's character and powers of leadership;
- (b) instilling in him the soldierly qualities of discipline, initiative and self-reliance;
- (c) arousing his interest in the Army and its traditions;
- (d) teaching him the duties of a good citizen.

It might be argued that the last sentence should be the first for it has been said by many famous men that a good citizen makes a good soldier. It follows, therefore, that activities within the Army Cadet Force can be and are of great variety. Participation in sports, normal youth club activities, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and military training of all natures are regular features of Cadet life. Youths between the ages of 14 and 18 years do not have to seek very far to find in the Army Cadet Force, the opportunity to learn the basic principles of skill-at-arms and good citizenship and where they will have the opportunity of meeting others of their own age and laying the foundations of friendships which are necessary for the development of an alert and mature mind. A.T.

Affiliated to the Regiment

Affiliated to 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.

- 77 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Feltham)
- 13 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Edmonton)
- 16 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Hornsey)
- Tottenham County School Independent Cadet Company (Middlesex A.C.F.)

Affiliated to 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.

- 23 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Wealdstone)
- 72 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Hounslow)
- 75 Middlesex Independent Cadet Company (Staines)

Affiliated to 571 L.A.A. Regiment (9 Middlesex) R.A. (T.A.)

- 32 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Edgware)
- 33 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Kingsbury)

Other Units in Middlesex Army Cadet Force are located as follows:

- 10 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron R.E. (Tottenham)
- Tottenham Grammar School Independent Cadet Company R.E.M.E.
- 31 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Finchley)
- 91 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Wilkesden)
- 21 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron R.A.C. (Harrow)
- 25 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron Royal Signals (Uxbridge)
- 50 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Company R.A.S.C. (Ealing)

- 53 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron Royal Signals (Chiswick)
- 54 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Acton)
- 55 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Company R.A.S.C. (Southall)
- 71 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Battery R.A. (Twickenham)
- 78 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron R.E. (Heston)
- 79 (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Company R.A.O.C. (Feltham)

16 COMPANY MIDDLESEX A.C.F. (affiliated to the 7th Battalion)

Again another year! It is interesting to look back through the diary to see what has been achieved and whether it was worth the effort.

Though the O.C. Company has the usual disappointments, with Cadets joining and then leaving, those who stayed on with the Company make the whole thing worth while.

What do we find in the diary?

Those weekend camps and weekend field days, full of excitement of some kind or another. The 12-mile march, and the competition shoot against other units at Hounslow Heath. The never-to-be-forgotten 14-mile march in the pouring rain to Ash Ranges—the moans and groans of the Cadets and the cry for food by Cadet Grice, are still ringing in my ears, and then the look of horror and despair when, on arrival at the range, Major Williams, M.B.E., T.D., of the Middlesex Yeomanry, said: "Well done, chaps—now straight on to the range and fire the bren. We've put ground-sheets up there for you." He didn't say they were hidden under the mud and water! But those mugs of hot tea afterwards were as welcome as a long-lost Pay-Sergeant.

Then there was the field day at Radlett against four companies of the Sea Cadets. I am afraid that the defensive positions were not too well placed and, though some prisoners were taken, many Sea Cadets penetrated our lines. Another lesson learnt. And the fun we had with the 88 sets (borrowed from the 7th Middlesex). All those G.R.s given, repeated and acknowledged, only to find the section in a different place altogether. The mad scramble to get moving, and the same chap you find in the Cadet Force, the T.A., or the Regular Army, whose equipment will not stay on his back, but scatters itself across the countryside.

The visit to the Junior Leaders Battalion at Plymouth, Devon, where the well-laid plans with the Devonshire A.C.F. misfired; but an alternative programme was hastily laid on by the O.C. Junior Leaders Battalion, and everyone was quite happy.

The visit of some members of the 16 Company to the 1st Battalion Middlesex in Germany. And the fun in blazing away a whole year's Cadet's supply of ammo in one day on the ranges at Sennelager. The 1st Battalion made the Cadets very welcome and the visit was much enjoyed. The Middlesex Cadets were commanded by Lt. V. Williams, O.C. 16 Company, assisted by S.M.I. A. Hoy. In Germany L/Cpl. Andrews found to his cost that beer is a little stronger than he thought.

Thirty Cadets of 16 Company went to the annual camp at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe. The assorted training included P.T., shooting and field training, and finished up with a two-day exercise. The 16 Company guard, under the command of Cpl. Garrety, brought us fresh honours by coming second in the guard-mounting competition. The trip to France proved a new experience for some of the Cadets. Incidentally, the fact did not go unnoticed that the adult staff got no further than a certain cafe. After all, the coffee was good and I don't suppose that rather attractive Mademoiselle had anything to do with it really!

While I have the chance I should like to thank those who have given help in running this Company, either directly or indirectly; in particular, the Regimental Depot for putting up with the so-and-so Cadets at weekends, also the 7th Battalion for allowing us to parade with them on various occasions, and Sgt.-Major Gooze for his noble efforts in drill, on the range and with training films for the Company, and lastly to R.S.M. Thom who, it is said, no longer bristles and colours up at the very mention of the word "Cadet"! Lack of space precludes mention of all our helpers by name, but their efforts have been greatly appreciated.

V. W.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Benevolent Work

During the period September 1, 1959, to the end of February, 1960, 92 cases have received financial assistance. A great number of these cases are "seasonal"—that is they are grants made in response to applications on behalf of elderly people for assistance with fuel for the winter and warm clothing. Elderly people living on the retirement plus small National Assistance grants find it difficult to meet the high cost of fuel and warm clothing.

Once again we have received many applications from the British Legion, Middlesex County Council Welfare Department and from some almoners of hospitals to co-operate in the cost of convalescent holidays for mainly elderly folk recovering from illnesses, or those who are in need of rest. We have in most cases made a grant for half the cost of the holiday, the balance being found by the other funds concerned.

A grant of £10 was made with the approval of the Chairman to a family who were removing to a new area and making a fresh start on release of the father from prison. The wife and two sons had moved to the coast and prepared a fresh home for the man to go to. The grant was made to assist in living expenses until the man commenced work. The two sons were still at school.

The electric light account was met for one family where the father had been too ill to work for over a year, and the mother had eventually to give up her own job to stay at home and nurse the man. The account was so overdue that the supply of electricity had been cut off, and it was not until this happened that the family applied for help. After we had assisted the family were able to readjust themselves and the wife was

again able to take up a job, although only part time.

A request for assistance with the cost of a second-hand pram was received from one branch of S.S.A.F.A. The applicant was the wife of a National Service man still serving with the Battalion. S.S.A.F.A. had provided a cot and layette, and we made a grant to co-operate in the cost of the pram. A letter of thanks was received from the wife, who expressed some surprise that the families of National Service men were assisted.

A grant for special shoes was made for the wife of one ex-member of the Regiment. The wife is a sufferer from arthritis, and special shoes are necessary.

The widow of an ex-member of the Regiment wished to supplement her pension with typing work at home, and a grant was made to meet the first three months' hire on a machine.

S.S.A.F.A. asked us to assist the widow of a man who had died suddenly in his early 40's leaving the widow with three small children. There were quite heavy H.P. commitments, which are of course not taken into consideration when National Assistance allowance is granted. On the recommendation of S.S.A.F.A. assistance was given to clear the H.P. payments. A grant was made to another widow left suddenly in similar circumstances.

A wife had her purse stolen whilst shopping and a small grant was made to help the family over that week.

We co-operated with the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund to clear the debts of a couple with a family of six small children. The man is unable to work regularly due to the nervous complaint which necessitated his medical discharge from the Army. The wife had served during the war with the W.A.A.F. The man had now obtained a job which it was hoped he would be able to keep, and the assistance to clear debts was given so that he would not have domestic worries and so have a chance to settle down.

A further £10 grant was made to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to take care of the regular payments made to In-pensioners of the Regiment, and also to take care of the small regular Christmas gift made by the Association to each In-pensioner.

At Christmas an unusual appeal was received from S.S.A.F.A. They asked us to co-operate in the cost of sending an elderly lady away to a home for the Christmas period. She lived with a son, an ex-corporal of the Regiment, who took care of her, but as he had to work all over the Christmas weekend, he did not want her to be left alone at this period—a grant was made to help with the cost.

The Highland Division Trust Fund made their usual annual grant towards the fees of the son of one of our members who had served with the 1/7th Battalion whilst with the 51st H.D. The son passed a scholarship to a Cathedral School, and the father was later unable to meet the fees from his income. We co-operate with the small balance required annually, and we are glad to report that the son is doing very well. The grant is made to us by the 51st Highland Division Trust Fund, as they do not make grants direct to applicants.

A fairly large sum of money was required to adapt the house of a widow who had a leg amputated—rails and special ramps were required. We received an

appeal for assistance in this case from the M.C.C. Welfare Department and we co-operated with them in the cost, our share amounting to £18.

A family in great distress due to the unemployment of the father owing to slackness of trade, and the prolonged illness of a child in hospital, was assisted with the extra expenses involved and the clearing of small debts.

The almoner of a hospital requested assistance for a man who had only a short time to live and needed his wife at home to care for him, and she had therefore to give up her job to do so. A substantial grant was made to help them over a very difficult period.

We co-operated with the Essex Regimental Association to meet arrears of rent for a man and his wife. The man suffered from thrombosis and a ground-floor flat had been allocated to them, but they were able to take this until the arrears of rent on the previous flat were cleared.

An ex-P.O.W. appeals for assistance. His wife had been sick and he had to care for her and six children at school, and consequently arrears of H.P., etc., had occurred. A grant was made to put the family back on its feet.

B.L.E.S.M.A. appeal for assistance for a limbless man and his wife. The couple both needed constant warmth, and a grant was made towards the supply of coalite and also for the cost of an electric blanket.

A grant was also made towards spectacles for a man who had been unable to work due to illness and the share he had to meet towards these was beyond his pocket. He also has a daughter at Grammar School and assistance was given towards shoes for her.

An elderly couple who are unable to leave their home and who require constant warmth were assisted with the cost of an oil stove. It was considered that this was the most economical method of keeping them warm constantly, and would also save carrying fuel, which would be very difficult for the sick man. The stove was selected and purchased on their behalf by the local representative of S.S.A.F.A.

During this period we have received many requests for assistance from younger men and their families. Due to sickness, etc., the men have been unable to work, and in one case the man had been in hospital for many months and had a lung removed. Appeals of this type are always more prevalent in the winter months, as the cost of fuel, electricity accounts, etc., are heavier, and often the wives themselves are unable to continue work as they must care for the sick members of the family. We do find that when assistance is given in these cases it is much appreciated and often gives the family much relief and happiness.

THE DIE-HARDS IN RUSSIA AN UNUSUAL CAMPAIGN

The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in October, 1917, radically altered the strategic situation of the Allies in the First World War. For three years the Germans had been fighting on two main fronts, against the Western Allies in Flanders and against Imperial Russia on the Eastern Front. Now the revolutionary leader

Lenin sued for peace, and the Germans were thus able to concentrate their attention and their forces on the West. The new situation brought danger to the 120,000 Czechs who had deserted the German/Austrian armies earlier in the war, and who had been fighting for the Tsar. Faced with slavery or death if they returned home, they accepted a French offer to take them via Siberia and America to France, to fight the Germans again there. In May, 1918, exasperated by Bolshevik delays in providing trains, they seized a vast depot of arms and ammunition at Penza and the Russian State Treasury of £65 million at Kazan, and began to make their own way—by force, when necessary—eastwards across Siberia. By July their vanguard had reached Vladivostok, but large groups were thousands of miles back along the Trans-Siberian railway, and about 5,000 had been cut off by the Bolsheviks near Lake Baikal. Britain, France and their Allies thus had two main reasons for sending Expeditionary Forces to Russia: They hoped to aid pro-Tsarist Russians to regain control and reconstitute an Eastern Front against Germany, and they wished to help the Czechs to reach safety. The Allies therefore decided to send forces into the Archangel-Murmansk area in the North, and into Siberia from the Far East, and to aid the "Whites," i.e. pro-Tzarist Russians, in the Crimea.

The only British unit available for Siberia, however, was 25 Middlesex. The 25th (Garrison) Battalion had been raised in U.K. by Col. John Ward, the Labour M.P. for Stoke, mainly from "B-One," i.e. semi-fit, men. It went first to India for guard duties, and then to Hong Kong. In November, 1917, it was secretly "warned for a cold climate," and on the same day a private resident in the Hong Kong Club asked Col. Ward when he would be sailing for Vladivostok! In fact, the Battalion did not embark until the end of July, 1918, and disembarked at Vladivostok on August 3.

Siberia and the Russian Far East were in considerable chaos, and everywhere were the visible signs of civil war. Vladivostok and the area round it were under "White" control, largely owing to the presence of the Czech vanguard and of a force of Cossacks under a Col. Semenov. The territory further to the North-West and North was in the hands of the Reds, apart from some isolated places along the railway occupied by cut-off detachments of Czechs. About 800 miles away to the North-West, Semenov was blocking the Red approach to Vladivostok near Manchuli on the Russo-Manchurian frontier, but on the North, near the River Oussurie, only about 200 miles from Vladivostok, 3,000 poorly-armed Czechs and Cossacks under the Cossack Kalmakoff were being forced back by about 18,000 Bolsheviks and Hungarians aided by some Germans. The War Office ordered Col. Ward to deploy half his Battalion on the Oussurie front.

Five-hundred and twenty-one all ranks left Vladivostok by train early on August 6, and Col. Ward complains bitterly that he could only obtain a "dirty" 2nd-class wagon for himself and Battalion H.Q., compared with a 1st-class wagon for the British Military Representative . . . and every officer in command of a dozen Cossacks"! After a journey of about 180 miles Col. Ward detrained at Svyagino, and made his Battalion

forward base at Spasskoe. On August 7 and 10, he reconnoitred the front with the local Czech commander, Capt. Stephan, and early on August 11, 25 Middlesex occupied a defensive position at Kamarovka, the pivot of the Oussurie line, with Czechs on their left and Kalmakoff's Cossacks on their right. Hardly were they in position, however, when it became clear that the enemy, having inflicted casualties on the Cossacks, were threatening to turn the right flank. Col. Ward was ordered by the British Military Representative to retire South, and was already loading luggage when a telegram arrived from Major Pichon, commander of a French unit which had reached Vladivostok on August 9, announcing that he had assumed command of the Oussurie front. Pichon ordered 25 Middlesex to stay in the Kamarovka position, and moved up in support. The Japanese 12th Division disembarked on August 12 and was followed by American, Canadian, Italian and Serbian units, with the Japanese General Otani in overall command.

Conditions at the front for 25 Middlesex were difficult. Siberian plague was prevalent in the area and all water had to be boiled. There were no "pup-tents" and the only shelter was in "bivouacs" of branches of trees covered with marsh-grass. "Millions of mosquitos" tormented all ranks and Col. Ward comments that, when he had asked in Hong Kong whether he would need to take mosquito-nets, the Chief of Staff had replied "Who ever heard of mosquitos in Siberia?" It was not an easy situation for a B-One battalion, particularly when, after three days of intermittent shelling, heavy rain fell on the night of August 13, and the "bivouacs" quickly became a hopeless bog in 6 inches to a foot of water.

Meanwhile, the tactical situation was deteriorating. On August 15, the enemy forced the Cossacks out of an outpost position on the right front of 25 Middlesex, and Col. Ward had to move his half-battalion slightly forward towards the river to cover their retreat and that of some Czechs who had gone to their help. The new position was dug by dawn on the 16th, but the enemy continued to push forward against the Cossacks on the right, and only accurate fire by two Naval 12-pounder guns, mounted on an armoured train and manned by gun-crews of H.M.S. *Suffolk*, held them in check. Moreover, the other half-battalion of 25 Middlesex, in rear at Spasskoe, had to assist Czechs and Japanese troops in beating off a daring attack across Lake Khanka against the Allied rear. This so occupied the Japanese that, when Major Pichon asked their Divisional Commander for aid on the Oussurie front on August 17, he replied that he could give none.

On August 18, the Cossacks beat off a further attack on the right flank, and only the timely arrival of two more Naval 12-pounder armoured trains from H.M.S. *Suffolk* enabled Col. Ward to persuade Major Pichon not to order retreat. Very early on August 20, however, the enemy crept into the Cossack position on the right flank, captured their guns and M.M.Gs, and routed them. Kalmakoff gallantly rallied his Cossacks and counter-attacked with a cavalry charge, but he had insufficient men left. His Cossack hat was shot off by a Bolshevik at point-blank range. One of his men leaped off his

horse to recover the hat and found himself faced by a Hungarian with a bayonet. Having no time to draw his sword he felled him with his sword in its scabbard, leaped to his horse and got away. The Allied position, however, was outflanked and Pichon ordered withdrawal. Thinning-out had begun when this order was countermanded on the grounds that the Japanese were understood to be moving up to hold the right flank. This proved untrue and at 1100 hours Pichon again ordered retreat. On arrival at Svyagino, 15 miles further South, Col. Ward received a War Office message placing 25 Middlesex under Japanese command. Col. Inagaka placed him in command of the reserves at Svyagino, consisting of a Czech battalion plus one company, some French troops, a Japanese company, 600 Cossacks under Kalmakoff and the 25 Middlesex detachment, less the M.M.G. Section which, with the Naval 12-pounders, was supporting the left flank of the Czech, French and Japanese main position astride the railway at Dukhovakaya about four miles further North. Half of this M.M.G. Section narrowly escaped annihilation on August 23, when they were ordered by Major Pichon to evacuate an exposed O.P. position in daylight. Only cool and accurate fire by Lt. King, the Section Commander, and a R.N. Petty Officer, held off the enemy who tried to "rush" them as they withdrew.

At 0145 hours on August 24, Col. Ward received a Japanese order instructing his force to join the main body at Dukhovskaya by 0200 hours with a view to an attack by all concerned at 0300 hours. He was four miles from the RV with only 15 minutes left, but at once gave orders to move. The Japanese and the Cossacks made no effort to stir, and Kalmakoff and his 2IC were later dismissed for this failure. The French and the Czechs prepared slowly, but 25 Middlesex was on the move by 0210 hours after only 25 minutes and covered the four miles in 95 minutes. Col. Inagaka could not be found but in the dim light Col. Ward could see that the Japanese infantry had just begun the attack Northwards on the right and left of the railway line, with a gap at the railway itself. With splendid initiative he at once launched his attack along the railway in this gap, directly towards five enemy armoured trains, placed at intervals on the line ahead, of which the nearest was only about 400 yards away. Not for the first or last time, the first round fired was discharged accidentally by a soldier during loading!

Heavy shells were ploughing up the ground around Col. Ward and his men and occasional shrapnel burst overhead, but fortunately this fire from the trains, like the enemy infantry fire from the woods to the front and left front, was erratic and inaccurate: 25 Middlesex replied with small-arms fire and a well-directed R.N. shell set the leading enemy armoured train on fire. Ammunition began to explode in all directions and forced the enemy gunners on the second train to leave their guns. The "Die-Hards" swept forward and a white flag went up from a group of enemy on the left of the railway. Japanese cavalry charged on the left and cleared two positions, taking no prisoners. Col. Ward's men pushed on, always on the axis of the railway, and his Allies thought it most irregular of him to place his prisoners under armed guard to prevent them being

butchered! The advance continued victoriously until 25 Middlesex and the Japanese to their right and left reached Kraevsk, eight miles from the start-line. They had outrun their artillery support, but the "Diehards" small-arms fire was so effective against enemy on an armoured train in the station that it retreated, and the Japanese and "Die-Hards" occupied the village. The Japanese commander halted the advance while the artillery moved up. Col. Ward was now back in the area of his defensive position of August 11 to 20, and over the fire in his former H.Q., he found the potatoes of the Bolshevik officers' breakfast still cooking—which he and his men greatly enjoyed.

The Japanese had had 600 casualties but, amazingly, not a man of 25 Middlesex had been hit, though several of them, as B-One men, were in a state of "complete prostration." The Japanese Divisional Commander sent his warm thanks to Col. Ward for his Battalion's splendid action, and Col. Ward, who was later decorated for his part in the battle, said, "One and all behaved like Englishmen—the highest eulogy which can be passed upon the conduct of men." The Battalion came into reserve at Svyagino while the Japanese cavalry pursued the retreating Reds for 300 miles North to Khabarovsk, capturing 120 guns and much rolling stock. Meanwhile, 700 miles to the West, strong Japanese reinforcements had reached Semenov's Cossacks at Manchulli, and the Reds, demoralised by the news of the Allied victory at Dukhovskaya, broke before them. The 5,000 cut-off Czechs near Lake Baikal struck Eastwards and, cutting through 600 miles of Red territory, joyfully linked up with the Cossacks and Japanese 150 miles north-west of Manchulli. Bolshevik control in the Far East of Russia was broken, the Trans-Siberian railway from Vladivostok to the Urals was at the disposal of the Allies, and the detachments of Czechs along it were safe.

For a while 25 Middlesex remained in the area of Svyagino and Spasskoe and Col. Ward found it necessary to hold open-air courts to try every kind of civil case from property disputes to murders. Soon, however, orders arrived for a move to Omsk and Col. Ward by persuasion and firmness obtained trains from the Russians for this 3,500-mile journey. Refugees were pouring Eastwards as the Battalion moved West, and once all ranks went without breakfast to feed a large group of hungry Serbian women and children. At Manchulli, where a stop was made for fresh bread and to exercise the horsed-transport, Col. Ward had to seize two more railway wagons at bayonet point from the control of Col. Semenov, who with Japanese backing was holding all rolling stock to ransom. At Chita the engine drivers were persuaded by Bolshevik influence to strike and were forced back to work by an armed guard. Col. Ward rode on the tender where his glasses were broken and he was in danger of being blinded by hot debris from the funnel, and his 2IC stood sentry beside a driver, where his uniform became scorched into holes. At Irkutsk the officers were entertained to a banquet and Col. Ward inspected newly-formed "White" units. Perhaps the loss of his glasses was responsible for him mistaking a cadet sub-unit for a company of girls and congratulating their Colonel on a

"fine body of women"! An old lady knelt and kissed the Adjutant's hand and the Commandant called for cheers for "the only country which came to Russia's help without conditions."

At Zema armed Bolsheviks surrounded the leading engine driver and threatened to shoot him. An alarm was sounded by bugle, and 25 Middlesex turned out and took control of the station. Col. Ward marched a force into the town, arrested the Bolshevik leader, occupied public buildings and confiscated hundreds of weapons in a house-to-house search. A battalion of the Royal Hampshire Regiment had now arrived from India and also Major-Gen. Knox, the Chief of British Military Mission, and Sir Charles Eliot, the British High Commissioner, and a train carrying the General and his staff and the High Commissioner now passed through Zema on its way to Omsk.

25 Middlesex followed behind them but after a few days stopped at Krasnoyarsk, where a company was detached to guard the railway communications and the vital bridge over the River Yenisei. At a banquet given for the officers Col. Ward records that "not more than the usual six speakers tried to make speeches at once." The Russian hosts ranged from violently pro-Tsarist officers to "progressive" near-Socialists and when the band played "God Save the Tsar" (though he and his family had recently been shot at Ekaterinburg), the banquet broke up in a near-riot.

On October 18, 25 Middlesex arrived at Omsk, almost on the border of Europe and Asia. It was high time to go into "winter quarters," for by November 6, the temperature was 60° below zero! There was much to do, however, for, while the bulk of the Battalion remained in Omsk to maintain order, Col. Ward with the Band and a picked guard of 100 men guarded Admiral Kolchak, the pro-Tsarist Minister of War, on a tour of his victorious Western front against the Reds. On November 9 they attended the presentation of Colours at Ekaterinburg to four Czech battalions, one of whose commanders, Col. Stephan, had commanded the Czech troops under Col. Ward on the Oussurie. On the following day they were with Kolchak at the front near Kungur. The War Minister decided to visit a forward unit and took his "Die-Hards" guard. Col. Ward moved the Band to within earshot of the front line, where they played "Colonel Bogey" and "Tipperary." The Reds evidently did not appreciate the music as they shelled the area—fortunately without causing casualties.

On November 12, 1918, the party was at Chelyabinsk, where they learned of the Armistice between Germany and the Western Allies, and Major Pichon, who was present, produced a bottle of champagne in celebration. The war was by no means over for 25 Middlesex, however, for back in Omsk by November 17 Col. Ward found the situation far from calm. Two factions of anti-Bolsheviks were at loggerheads, quite apart from Bolshevik activity. Anything from 5 to 20 murdered Russian officers were collected from the streets each morning, and there were no police, no courts and no justice. A coup d'état was in preparation by the pro-Kolchak faction and the fact that his H.Q. area was protected by 25 Middlesex undoubtedly gave him confidence to seize dictator's powers. Neither the

Czechs nor the Japanese would recognise his authority at first, however, and on the night of December 23, when he was in bed with lung inflammation, his enemies launched a counter-coup. A spent bullet struck the railway carriage which Col. Ward had used as H.Q.—cum-Mess throughout the campaign, and he alerted the Battalion and hurried through the snow to Kolchak's H.Q. with a guard of his men in their black fur hats, black sheepskin coats and fur-lined boots. The men fixed bayonets inside the H.Q. and the anti-Kolchak faction abandoned their plan. Col. Ward comments that his orders were "to take no part in the internal affairs of Russia, but it is the duty of every C.O. to take every means to protect his command." If he and his troops had remained passive in their quarters, enemies would have gained control and he and 25 Middlesex would have been wiped out in a hostile country.

Throughout the early months of 1919, Col. Ward, on War Office orders, toured the large towns of the Urals and Siberia along the Trans-Siberian Railway, addressing meetings of railway workers to persuade them to back the Kolchak regime and keep the vital railway working. His experience as a Labour M.P. stood him in good stead, and he was largely successful and received Kolchak's warm thanks. He twice visited his detached company at Krasnoyarsk, nearly losing his life on the second occasion on March 13, when, armed only with a cane, he entered the station buffet on hearing that some drunken Serbian troops had seized it and had stripped a Russian woman passenger naked there. The Serbians had shot his interpreter and were advancing with knives on Col. Ward and the "pistol-packing" interpreter's wife, when a Serbian Colonel with about a dozen armed Czech and British soldiers arrived to save them.

Early in April he moved West from Omsk, with R.S.M. Gordon, 22 N.C.O.s and men and one M.M.G., to address meetings. He was visiting towns recently evacuated by the Reds, for the "White" armies were advancing West towards Petrograd (Leningrad) and Moscow, and were backed in Siberia by strong Allied forces including 55,000 Czechs, 12,000 Poles, 4,000 Serbians, 4,000 Roumanians, 2,000 Italians, 760 French, 28,000 Japanese (half of their earlier strength), 7,500 Americans, 4,000 Canadians and the 1,600 British. In April, too, the British Government recognised Kolchak as the effective Government of Russia, and other Allies followed this lead. By May the "Whites" were not much more than 400 miles East of Moscow and only about the same distance from a link-up with the Allied Expeditionary Force at Archangel.

Early in May, however, 25 Middlesex received the long-awaited order for return to U.K. Their war was over. Kolchak's H.Q. arranged a farewell parade of the 2nd Siberian Cossack Regiment in their honour, including a magnificent display of horsemanship, a luncheon, an exchange of songs and the conferring on Col. Ward of the honorary title of a Chieftain of Cossacks, a ceremony which involved being "tossed on the swords." On May 21 Kolchak himself came to the station to say goodbye. Col. Ward had a warm admiration for him, but little for the Ministers under him: "I have absolute confidence in the Admiral but there is not one of them I would trust to run a whelk

stall." Col. Ward left Vladivostok in June and the Battalion sailed from the same port on September 8, 1919. With their departure from Omsk, Kolchak's luck seems to have deserted him. By late July his army had been driven back to the Urals and, though Denikin's forces came to within 200 miles of Moscow from the Crimea, the Red pressure against Kolchak continued. By September, the last British soldier was out of Archangel and by November the Reds had retaken Omsk. Early in 1920 the Head of the French Military Mission authorised the Czechs to hand over a beaten Kolchak to the enemy, and the Reds executed him in Irkutsk on February 7, 1920. The forces of Denikin and later of Wrangel were beaten into submission in the Crimea, and Yudenich was driven back from the gates of Petrograd. The "War of Intervention" was over. Bolshevism had arrived to stay.

(The author acknowledges with thanks his debt to "The World Crisis" by Sir Winston Churchill, "The Times History of the Great War," "Armed Intervention in Russia, 1918-1922," by Coates, "The Die-Hards in the Great War," by Wyrall, Col. Ward's articles in the *Daily Telegraph* of January 8 to 22, 1920, "La Guerre en Russie et en Sibirie" by Grondijs, and to the assistance of the War Office Library with maps, etc. If any survivors of the campaign are still readers of the Journal, the author would welcome any corrections or additional information.)

Editor's Note: It is regretted that it was not possible to print the sketch map accompanying this article.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE SEYMOUR HALL, SEYMOUR PLACE, LONDON, W.1, ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1959, at 7 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. W. G. Matthews, Mr. C. Painter, Mr. A. E. Sills, and ten additional members. Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

1. *Election of Branch Representatives to the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association.* The Chairman informed the meeting that nominations for Branch Representative had been received from:

Mill Hill Branch . . . Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
Hornsey . . . Mr. Sills and Mr. Ferguson

Major Newman, however, requested that his name be withdrawn, as due to a change in employment he would not now be able to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, and submitted the name of Major R. W. J. Smith in his stead.

The Chairman explained that he thought it desirable to elect new members from Branches annually to enable as many as possible to attend Association meetings and to see the business transacted by the Committee. He then nominated Major R. W. J. Smith and Mr. R. Ferguson as branch representatives for the ensuing year, and it was unanimously agreed that they both be invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Major Newman and Mr. Sills, the retiring branch representatives and it was hoped that they would continue to be interested in the work of the Association.

2. *Minutes of the Last Meeting.* The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read by the Secretary and were confirmed.

3. *Accounts.* The audited accounts for the year ending December 31, 1958, which had been circulated to Branches prior to the Meeting, and published in the *Die-Hards* Journal were received and adopted.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

Ingis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
November 27, 1959.

ROLL OF OFFICERS SERVING IN THE 7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) (T.A.)

Rank	Name	Appointment	Company
Lt.-Col.	D. E. Simpson, T.D.	Comd. Offr.	"S"
Major	J. C. Du Parc Braham	O.C.	"B"
Major	J. D. Gunnell	O.C.	"H.Q."
Major	R. G. Garrett, T.D.	Adj.	"H.Q."
Capt.	B. K. Clayden	P.M.C., P.R.I., Band Pres.	"C"
Capt.	R. J. Leighton, T.D.	O.C.	"A"
Capt.	B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.	M.T.O.	"H.Q."
Capt.	S. J. Carter	2IC	"H.Q."
Capt.	M. A. H. Lanyon	2IC	"S"
Capt.	P. A. Stocken	2IC	"B"
Capt.	R. M. Fox	Q.M.	"S"
A/Cap.	M. J. Beaumont	Mor. Pl. Comd.	"H.Q."
Lt.(Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	R.S.O.	"B"
Lt.	M. S. Gedy	Pl. Comd.	"B"
Lt.	S. Le M. Enthoven	Pl. Comd.	"S"
Lt.	F. R. Fenton	A/Tk. Pl. Comd.	"C"
Lt.	A. E. R. Beesley	Pl. Comd.	"H.Q."
Lt.	D. A. Gilkes	Asst. R.S.O.	"H.Q."
Lt.	J. S. Richards	I.O.	"C"
Lt.	P. J. Ottino	Pl. Comd.	"C"
Lt.	D. H. Adams	Pl. Comd.	"A"
Lt.	J. L. Bannister	Pl. Comd.	"S"
2/Lt.	P. I. Phillips	M.M.G. Pl. Comd.	"A"
2/Lt.	P. R. Sedley	Pl. Comd.	"B"
2/Lt.	J. A. Van De Pol	Pl. Comd.	"C"
2/Lt.	M. J. S. Doran	Pl. Comd.	"C"
2/Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Pl. Comd.	"C"
2/Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Pl. Comd.	"C"
2/Lt.	S. B. Hurst	Pl. Comd.	"C"

ATTACHED OFFICERS

Rank	Name	Appointment	Company
Capt.	J. C. Worswick	R.M.O.	R.A.M.C.
Lt.	B. A. Hennah	Unit Pmr.	R.A.P.C.

SUBSTANTIVE ROLL, WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I

Bde. Pos.	Number	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Date of Promotion	Last Known Station
9	5619855	R.S.M.	T. McMillan	January 29, 1957	1 Mx.
18	1520025	R.S.M.	J. Thom	December 27, 1957	7 Mx.
22	864815	R.S.M.	R. Budden	December 11, 1958	Hong Kong Def. Force

WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

1	6200942	C.S.M.	S. Blacknell	April 1, 1952	9 Trav. Wing
2	6197047	C.S.M.	A. Etheridge	April 1, 1952	Recruiting Staff
10	4267949	C.S.M.	A. Goodge	May 4, 1954	7 Mx.
13	6200579	C.S.M.	F. Firman	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
15	6210526	R.Q.M.S.	A. Cooper	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
22	6203433	R.S.M.	S. Bartle	December 7, 1954	Depot Mx.
37	6968442	C.S.M.	R. Dodkins	September 1, 1956	1 Mx.
339	6217070	C.S.M.	W. Thorogood	June 17, 1957	Depot Mx.
42	6206327	C.S.M.	C. Burgess	June 17, 1957	Y 2 List
65	22193814	C.S.M.	K. Beale	March 9, 1959	1 Mx.
66	14862617	C.S.M.	W. Wright	June 17, 1959	1 Mx.
69	14188539	C.S.M.	L. Jessup	October 18, 1959	1 Mx.
71	19039053	C.S.M.	A. Dacosta	October 22, 1959	1 Mx.

COLOUR-SERGEANTS

3	6200351	C/Sgt.	T. Perry	January 1, 1953	41 Garrison
10	6205098	C.S.M.	L. Shrubbs, M.M.	January 22, 1954	8 Mx.
22	5949742	C.S.M.	H. Davis	December 19, 1955	8 Mx.
25	6201818	C/Sgt.	J. Morgan	May 22, 1956	Depot Mx.
38	14066481	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	September 27, 1957	1 Mx.
42	6203495	C.S.M.	R. Cubitt	March 25, 1958	7 Mx.
45	14066639	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	December 31, 1958	1 Mx.
46	5781748	C/Sgt.	J. Moyses	January 1, 1959	1 Mx.

SERGEANTS

15	22290563	Sgt.	E. Thompson	April 5, 1952	22 S.A.S.
22	14476662	Sgt.	L. Weller	December 16, 1952	Recruiting Staff
29	6200376	Sgt.	G. Palmer	May 1, 1953	Depot Mx.
51	21014189	C/Sgt.	S. Michel	January 8, 1954	1 Mx.
61	6923739	C/Sgt.	E. Steward	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
69	21014210	Sgt.	S. Reynolds	March 25, 1954	7 Mx.
73	22229443	C/Sgt.	M. Eastap	March 25, 1954	Depot Mx.
75	22221109	Sgt.	D. Bailey	April 29, 1954	A.S.C.D.
78	22229344	Sgt.	G. Simmons	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
85	6205018	Sgt.	J. Preston	May 17, 1954	Inf. Junior Leaders Bn.
89	14470810	C/Sgt.	D. Walters	May 17, 1954	1 Mx.
95	22541432	Sgt.	J. Dickie	June 13, 1954	H.Q. E.A. Dist.
105	19039445	Sgt.	A. Nicholson	August 15, 1954	1 Mx.
106	22221098	Sgt.	B. Warner	August 16, 1954	1 Mx.
107	22550985	Sgt.	M. Butler	August 16, 1954	Depot Mx.
110	19145508	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	September 14, 1954	1 Mx.
111	19136922	Sgt.	W. Smith	September 16, 1954	1 Mx.
120	22309544	Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	January 12, 1955	Recruiting Staff
131	14187338	Sgt.	R. Davies	November 25, 1955	7 Mx.
140	22259650	Sgt.	F. Potts	December 13, 1955	Depot R.W.K.
147	22549082	C/Sgt.	P. Amor	February 3, 1956	22 S.A.S.
153	22276303	Sgt.	R. Clements	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.
163	14465101	Sgt.	R. Power	September 22, 1956	Depot Mx.
165	22375925	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	December 3, 1956	Depot H.C.B.
166	22221320	Sgt.	C. Partridge	December 3, 1956	1 Mx.
169	22588606	Sgt.	D. Lagden	December 3, 1956	Depot Mx.
178	22787149	Sgt.	C. Orme	March 7, 1957	1 Mx.
183	22774695	Sgt.	M. Elston	March 7, 1957	1 Mx.
197	23527228	Sgt.	H. Horder	September 10, 1957	Depot Mx.
207	22812279	Sgt.	R. Ford	November 7, 1957	8 Mx.
208	22823238	Sgt.	C. Shinn	November 7, 1957	Inf. Junior Leaders Bn.
213	22542445	Sgt.	N. Taylor	November 7, 1957	7 Mx.
214	6098747	Sgt.	B. Callaghan	December 27, 1957	8 Mx.
221	22843287	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	January 30, 1958	Depot Mx.
253	22971435	Sgt.	J. Patterson	September 8, 1959	1 Mx.
255	22979393	Sgt.	B. Tarry	September 10, 1959	1 Mx.

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

4	6202735	O.R.Q.M.S.	E. Colebeck	January 1, 1957	Depot Mx.
7	14476433	O.R.Q.M.S.	P. Soper, B.E.M.	January 27, 1958	1 Mx.
12	19133915	O.R. C/Sgt.	G. Cripps	October 7, 1958	Depot Surreys

BANDMASTER

5382114	Bandmaster	F. Jackson	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
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BAND SERGEANTS

5	6217126	Sgt.	A. Probert	March 30, 1958	1 Mx.
	22517173	Sgt.	D. Carson	April 28, 1959	1 Mx.

DRUM-MAJOR

3	2741385	C/Sgt.	J. Lewis	August 10, 1957	1 Mx.
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regimental journal

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At some time or another, every Regular eventually returns to civil life. When this happens, looking for a decent job can be a trying and lengthy business.

This is where the National Association comes in, completely free, to help you to start right. If you are not absolutely sure of your job, get in touch with the local Jobfinder. Incidentally, he is an ex-Regular like yourself so you will be quite at home when you meet him. He knows the employers and the vacancies they want to fill and can, therefore, give you an up to the minute picture of the local employment possibilities.

If, when you get home, you have forgotten, lost or have never been told the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office, or to your own Regimental Association. They'll be able to give it to you.

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