



THE
DIE-HARDS

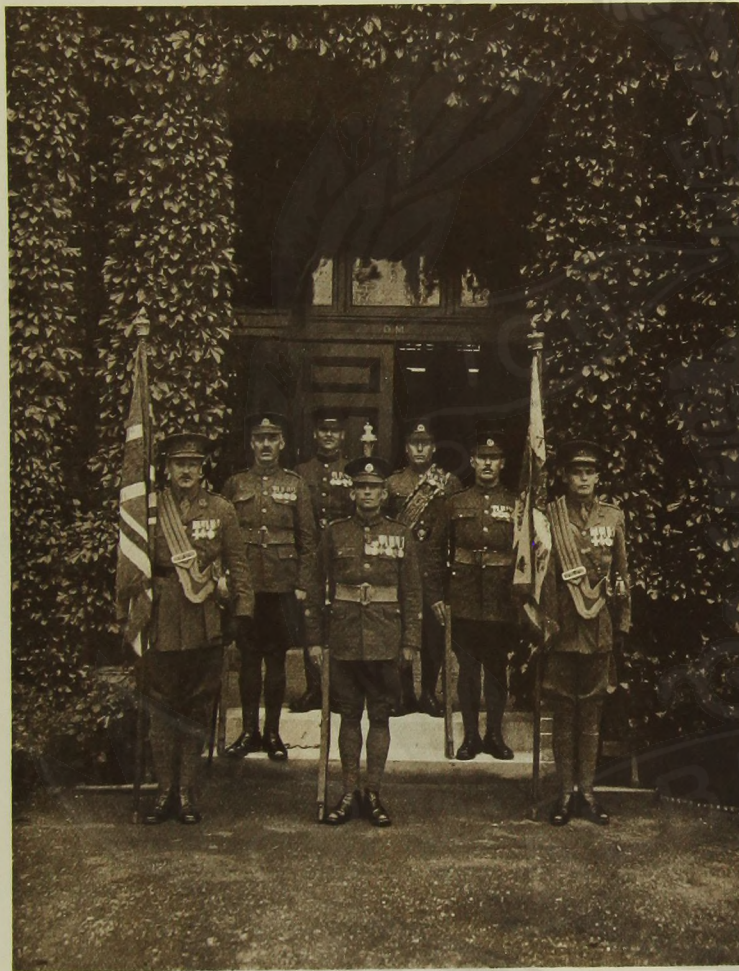
The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

November 1922

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[Photo: Rosa M. Sparrow, Finchley, N.]

THE COLOURS AND COLOUR PARTY OF THE 3rd BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN) TAKEN ON DISBANDMENT OF THE BATTALION, SEPTEMBER, 1922.

THE DIE-HARDS

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

VOL. I. No. 2.

NOVEMBER, 1922.

PRICE 9D.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN).

[57].

"Shires" Area.

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

"Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Alubhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Victoria," "Byrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Tukerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

Agents—Messrs. Cox & Co.

Regular and Militia Battalions.

Uniform—Scarlet. Facings—Lemon Yellow.

1st Bn. (57th Foot) Rhine.
2nd Bn. (77th Foot) Singapore.
3rd Bn. (to be disbanded) Tidworth.
5th Bn. (R. Elthorne Mil.) Mill Hill.
6th Bn. (R. East Middlesex Mil.) Mill Hill.
Depot—Mill Hill. Record Office—Hounslow.

Territorial Army Battalions.

7th Bn. Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.
8th Bn. Drill Hall, Hamworth Road, Hounslow.
9th Bn. Drill Hall, Pound Lane, Willesden, N.W. 10.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

The Peterborough Rangers Peterborough, Ontario.
The Wentworth Regiment Dundas, Ontario.

Allied Regiment of Dominion of New Zealand.

11th Regiment (Taranaki Rifles).

Colonel-in-Chief:

Col. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, K.G., K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.L.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.F., M.C., Col. W. Gds., Colonel-in-Chief 12th L., R. S. Fus., D.C.L.I., Seaforth, Leinster R., and R. Wilts Yeo., Personal A.D.C. to the King.

Colonel:

Lt.-Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS, &c.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. Contributions must be written on one side of the paper only. Rejected manuscripts, &c., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present Members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right to publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Mill Hill Barracks, N.W.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, to whom all Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 3/- (Post Free).

EDITOR'S NOTES.

AS the festive season is approaching, we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers the compliments of the season.

Our first number has been duly launched and we hope, successfully, from the readers' point of view.

Several congratulatory letters have been received on the appearance of the first number, and this indeed encourages us in our future efforts.

The second part of the "Short History of the 2/10th Middlesex Regiment," by Major C. Jarrett, D.S.O., T.D., will be found in these columns, and the concluding part in the next issue.

We have still a few copies of the first number of the Journal which we would be glad to dispose of.

In future a space will be devoted to the old comrades, under the title "Old Comrades Jottings." We therefore ask past members of the Regiment to send

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along some news for publication in the next and succeeding issues of the Journal.

We should be glad to receive from readers at any time suggestions for the improvement of the Journal. Letters will not necessarily be published, but any such will receive very careful consideration.

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR.

Apropos of the picture, "The Storming of Seringapatam," in the Calendar for 1923, we publish in this number an extract from "The History of the 77th Regiment," describing the battle. We are greatly indebted to Major H. H. Woollright, the author, for his kind permission to do so.

Additional copies of the Calendar are available, and can be forwarded, post free, by the Editor, on receipt of postal order for one shilling.

1st BATTALION NOTES.

THE Battalion arrived back to the Rhine from Upper Silesia on 11th July, and marched from Mülheim Station to the Kronprinz Barracks at Kalk, where was already the 3rd Battalion, which had reached there on 8th July, as well as the Cologne detachment of two companies. Some people had got to like Silesia, but the majority had not yet acquired that taste, and came back rejoicing.

A few days later it was our sad duty to see off the 3rd Battalion from Kalk Station, en route for Tidworth and disbandment.

Musketry next claimed everyone's attention, and on 13th August the Battalion marched to Eil Camp, about eight miles from Cologne, to fire Table "B." There the weather left much to be desired, and the best traditions of the service were amply fulfilled in the way of leaky tents and earwigs. The Battalion returned to Kalk on 9th September.

The season in which (to misquote) "a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of leave" is now at hand; not that leave is any longer the crying necessity one felt it to be in Ireland—there is too much to amuse one in Cologne after the day's work and football is done, since,

whether one's taste lies in the direction of grand opera or merry-go-rounds, or any of the numerous intermediate forms of entertainment, either the Rhine Army itself or the unloveable natives will have provided it. Still, leave will always be a popular institution, no matter how good the station, for (to again indulge our weakness for misquotation)—

"I could not love thee, Rhine, so much,
"Loved I not London more."

At the Rhine Army Horse Show, held at Riehl in the third week of September, the Battalion obtained second place in the competition for the smartest turned-out infantry transport. The Cup for this event, which had been presented by us for competition, was won by the 2nd Bn. D.C.L.I. All the eight battalions of the Rhine Army entered for the competition.

Mr. Nunn's "Energy" (owner up) was third in the race for the September Cup (five furlongs), at the last Rhine Army Race Meeting of the year, at Merheim, on 23rd September. Six horses ran.

CRICKET.

The cricket season has, on the whole, been very successful, the Battalion having entered the Rhine Army "A" League, and won the Cup.

The matches played were as follow:—

- 6-5-22—v. 75th Batty., R.F.A., at Kalk, won by 99 runs.
11-5-22—v. 75th Batty., R.F.A., at Kalk, won by 3 wickets.
13-5-22—v. 18th Batty., R.F.A., at Kalk, won by 168.
17-5-22—v. 18th Batty., R.F.A., at Kalk, won by 6 wickets.
27-5-22—v. 2nd K.R.R.C., at Kalk, won by 3 wickets.
31-5-22—v. 2nd K.R.R.C., at Kalk, won by 146.
7-6-22—v. 585 M.T. Coy., at Pöler Wiesen, won by 11.
12-6-22—v. Gloster Regt., at Kalk, won by 7 wickets.
14-6-22—v. Gloster Regt., at Riehl, won by 9 wickets.

- 15-6-22—v. Cologne Commission, at Kalk, won by 85.
17-6-22—v. R.A.O.C., at Riehl, won by 114.
21-6-22—v. R.A.O.C., at Kalk, won by 8 wickets.
24-6-22—v. R.E., at Stadtwald, won by 116.
25-6-22—v. 585 M.T. Coy., at Kalk, won by 7 wickets.
28-6-22—v. R.E., at Kalk, won by 8 wickets.
1-7-22—v. R.A.O.C., at Deutz, won by 9 wickets.
5-7-22—v. R.A.O.C., at Kalk, won by 29.
16-7-22—v. G.H.Q. Sergeants, at Kalk, won by 123.
26-7-22—v. 14th Hussars, at Kalk, drawn.
27-7-22—v. G.H.Q. Sergeants, at Kalk, won by 3 wickets.
29-7-22—v. Rhine Signal Coy., at Riehl, lost by 108.
3-8-22—v. 29th Batty., R.G.A., at Kalk, won by 193.
6-8-22—v. 14th Hussars, at Lindenthal, won by 114.
7-8-22—v. 29th Batty., R.G.A., at Kalk, won by 151.
9-8-22—v. Military Police, at Aachen Tor, won by 87.
10-8-22—v. Rhine Army Train, at Marienberg, won by 5 wickets.
12-8-22—v. Rhine Army Train, at Kalk, won by 164.

The K.O.Y.L.I. scratched both their matches in our favour.

The return match with the Military Police had to be abandoned on account of the weather, the result having no effect on the Cup.

The League resulted as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Ps
1st—1st Middx. Regt.	31	28	2	1	57
2nd—2nd K.R.R.C....	32	26	3	3	55

Lieut.-General Sir A. Godley presented the Cup to Captain N. P. Procter, M.C., at the Rhine Army Horse Show, on 21st September.

Batting and bowling averages were as under:—

BATTING AVERAGES, 1922.

	No. of Inns.	Times not out.	High-est Score.	Total Runs.	Aver.
Mr. Worton ...	26	6	85*	779	39.95
Mr. Clowes ...	22	5	119	594	34.90
Capt. Lyon ...	8	1	95	203	29
Capt. Procter ...	9	2	56*	188	26.85
Bdsmn. Fry ...	27	3	69*	594	24.79
Maj. Bucknall ...	14	3	52*	199	18.09
Pte. Baker ...	17	2	38	253	16.86
L./Cpl. O'Brien ...	18	3	52	231	15.4
Bdsmn. Hart ...	23	3	53	307	15.35
L./Cpl. Sammons ...	12	0	53	172	14.33
L./C. McDonald ...	6	1	18*	51	10.2
L./Cpl. Addinal ...	4	2	9*	15	7.5
L./Cpl. Kennett ...	7	1	6	19	3.16

*Not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES, 1922.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
L./Cpl. O'Brien ...	264	48	826	120	6.48
L./Cpl. Kennett ...	109	21	309	37	8.35
L./C. McDonald ...	78	10	253	20	12.65
Bdsmn. Fry ...	179	17	550	41	13.50

Captain Lyon played for the Rhine Army throughout the season, and captained the XI. during the absence of Colonel Barber. Mr. Clowes, Mr. Worton and L./Cpl. O'Brien also played occasionally, while Major Bucknall, Captain Paul and Captain Procter played in trial games.

Mr. Worton heads the batting averages, and in League cricket and Rhine Army games has scored over 1,000 runs during the season, his highest score having been 117, for the Rhine Army, v. The Amsterdam C.C.

L./Cpl. O'Brien, as his bowling average shows, has done extremely well, taking over 100 wickets at 6.48 runs apiece.

L./Cpl. Kennett only returned from Silesia in time to play in 12 matches, and had hardly settled down to his usual form before the close of the season. However, his having taken 37 wickets, at an average of 8.35 speaks for itself.

Bdsmn. Fry, who, with L./Cpl. O'Brien, was the chief stand-by as regards bowling in the earlier matches, fell off slightly towards the end of the season, but his batting was consistent throughout.

The fielding has been good on the whole, considering the state of some of the grounds played on.

The following were awarded their colours:—Captain Procter (Capt.), Mr. Clowes (Sec.), Mr. Worton, Captain Lyon, L./Cpl. O'Brien, L./Cpl. Kennett, Bdsmn. Fry, L./Cpl. Sammons, Bdsmn. Hart, Pte. Baker, L./Cpl. McDonald, Major Bucknall, L./Cpl. Addinall.

Owing to the fact that during the greater part of the season half the Battalion was in Silesia, it was decided to give thirteen colours, in order that certain players who had helped to win the earlier matches should not be left out.

It has not been possible to play a Company Cricket League this season.

GENERAL.

The Company Championship for the year is about to be decided by an athletic sports meeting—the only outstanding event. The Albuhera Sports should have been its conclusion but, as separate sports had to be held in Silesia and Cologne, this could not be the case. H.Q. "G" Company has the lead for the Championship, though the other companies are not so very far behind.

The football season has now begun, and the Battalion has entered for the Rhine Army "A" League. We have been successful in the two matches so far played.



2nd BATTALION NOTES.

THE move of the Battalion from Cairo to Port Suez, en route for Singapore, was accomplished on the night of the 8th January, 1922, the following officers and 266 other ranks embarking on H.M.T. *Huntsend* on the morning of the 9th January:—

Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Swainson, Major B. A. Thompson, Major W. H. Samuel, Major P. Grove White, Captain W. W. Jefferd (Adjutant), Captain and Bt.-Major L. A. Newnham, M.C., Captain G. N. A. Cursons, M.C., Lieutenant A. V. Weller, Lieutenant E. T. Pain, Lieutenant H. A. A. Howell, Lieutenant H. W. Clayden, Lieutenant A. N. Overell, Lieutenant W. H. V. Jones, Lieutenant E. S. M. Ayscough, Lieutenant L. G. W. McArthur, Lieutenant H. A. V. Spencer (Army Educational Corps).

On board the troopship the following officers and a draft of 432 other ranks were awaiting the arrival of the Battalion.

Captain and Qrmr. H. G. Harding, who was joining us in relief of Major and Qrmr. H. A. Weimers, who had proceeded to the Depôt for duty, after approximately 24 years' service with the Battalion.

Lieutenant E. P. Manson, M.C., and Lieutenant F. A. Bailey joining the Battalion on posting for duty.

Lieutenants G. A. Stephenson, J. R. S. Chapman and E. L. Heywood, who were re-joining the Battalion on completion of their courses in the United Kingdom.

The vessel sailed on the morning of the 10th January for Singapore, and throughout the journey the weather was splendid.

It is with heartfelt regret that we have to announce the death of Lieutenant L. G. W. McArthur, from acute gastritis, on 17th January. He was buried at sea on the morning of the 18th January, and his loss is sadly felt throughout the Battalion.

Prior to arriving at Colombo the kiddies received their annual treat, tea, games and toys being provided by our officers and ladies.

A very pleasant two hours was passed, and the little ones, and big ones, too, thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment.

Two days were spent at Colombo while coaling ship took place, and all on board enjoyed a spell ashore.

On the afternoon of the 22nd January the Battalion football team met a team from H.M.S. *Renown* in a friendly match, and emerged successful by 3 goals to 1.

All good things come to an end, and on the 24th January the ship left Colombo on the last stage of its journey to Singapore, arriving at the latter port on the evening of the 31st January.

Disembarkation was not effected until the morning of the 1st February, the Band of the South Stafford Regiment playing a short programme of music.

The 6th February saw the Battalion once again settled down, and a return to normal routine.

The whole of February and part of March were occupied in preparations for the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

His Royal Highness arrived at Singapore on the 31st of March, the Battalion taking part in lining the streets for the Royal Procession to Government House.

During His Royal Highness's stay in this town the Battalion furnished Royal Guards of two officers and 43 other ranks at Government House.

A Guard of Honour was also furnished at Kuala Lumpur, from the 28th to 30th March, 1922, under Lieutenant E. L. Heywood.

The town was *en fête* during the stay of His Royal Highness, the native population in particular displaying great enthusiasm, vying with each other in their efforts to please their Royal guest.

Early on the 1st April our Colonel-in-Chief carried out an informal inspection of the Battalion.

On arrival in barracks he played squash, then bathed in the Garrison Swimming Bath, and from all accounts His Royal Highness thoroughly enjoyed his dip.

Breakfast was then taken in the Officers' Mess, His Royal Highness afterwards being photographed with the officers of the Battalion.

Then a tour of companies and institutes was commenced, the companies parading under the verandahs of their bungalows. The informal inspection was completed by a visit to the Sergeants' Mess, His Royal Highness afterwards being photographed with the members of the Sergeants' Mess. Each member of the Mess was then presented to His Royal Highness by Regimental Sergeant-Major Douthet.

A visit to a married quarter completed the inspection of our Colonel, His Royal Highness afterwards leaving barracks through lines of cheering troops.

The period April to the end of July was occupied with the Annual Musketry Classification of the Battalion, each company in turn proceeding to Kuala Lumpur for a period of about a month, where we understand they were made much of by the European planters of the district.

The strength of the Battalion on the 31st July was as follows:—

Battalion Staff.

Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Swainson, Commanding.
Major B. A. Thompson.

Major W. H. Samuel.
Captain W. W. Jefferd (on leave in New Zealand).

Captain and Qrmr. H. G. Harding (en route for U.K. on posting to Northampton Regt.).

Lieutenant and Adj. E. P. Manson, M.C.

Lieutenant H. A. V. Spencer (A.E.C.).

H.Q. Company.

Captain G. N. A. Cursons, M.C.

Lieutenant E. L. Heywood (Signalling Officer).

Lieutenant G. A. Stephenson (Machine Gun Officer).
201 other ranks.

"A" Company.

Captain R. N. Moore.

Lieutenant A. V. Weller.

Lieutenant J. R. S. Chapman.

122 other ranks.

"B" Company.

Major P. Grove White.

Lieutenant A. N. Overell.

Lieutenant E. S. M. Ayscough.

Lieutenant E. M. G. Wray, D.S.O.

126 other ranks.

"C" Company.

Captain and Bt. Major L. A. Newnham, M.C.

Lieutenant E. T. Pain.

Lieutenant H. A. A. Howell.

130 other ranks.

"D" Company.

Major H. F. Spence.

Lieutenant F. A. Bailey.

Lieutenant P. Pater.

Lieutenant H. W. Clayden.

124 other ranks.

Strength—24 officers, 703 other ranks.

IN EGYPT.

The 2nd Battalion record as regards games, since they have been abroad, is quite a good one.

In Egypt the football team came out winners of the Cairo Military League two seasons running, and they won the Kramer Cup for two seasons also. They reached the semi-finals and finals each season for the Anglo-Egyptian Cup and Egyptian Expeditionary Force Championship. Season 1920-21 they won the

"Robert Hughes" Cup by beating the 2nd Sherwood Foresters by 3-2.

The cricket team had two very good seasons. The first season the only games they lost were against the Gezira Sporting Club, who were able to call on a number of County players, and the Y.M.C.A., who were also able to produce a good side. The second season they reached the final of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force Championship, and were beaten in a most wonderful match by the 2nd Sherwood Foresters.

There was very little hockey, as it was very difficult to find grounds to play on.

SINGAPORE.

Singapore we find to be just the reverse to Egypt. Whereas in Egypt every game was played on the sand, in Singapore every ground was grass. In spite of the different conditions, they have up to date done very well. The football is not quite up to the standard that was met with in Egypt. Just after the arrival of the Battalion the Malaya Borneo Exhibition was opened by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. A knock-out football competition was arranged for all the teams in Singapore by the Exhibition. This the Battalion won by beating the Royal Garrison Artillery in the final. A very nice cup was presented, which now adorns the Sergeants' Mess sideboard. The first team have just won the Singapore League, in which they did not lose a match.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex Regt....	8	7	1	0	14	5	15
Singapore Cricket Club	8	5	0	3	17	7	10
Singapore Chinese F.A.	8	2	1	5	11	10	5
Singapore Recreational Club	8	1	3	4	4	7	5
R.G.A.	8	1	3	4	5	22	5

The Second Eleyen have not been so fortunate, and finished fifth down the Second League Table. The First Team are now after the Singapore Cup. If they are fortunate enough to win this cup, the hat trick will constitute a record in Singapore.

The Cricket Team have been carrying on very well, although they have not come up to the form that was shown in Cairo. The curious thing about Singapore is that cricket and football are run at the same time, and that may account for the lack

of form in cricket. There is a Garrison Cricket League, in which the four companies have teams. "A" Company have done the best, and are third down the table. Fort Canning, which is the Headquarters here, are on top, and naturally they have a number of good cricketers to choose from. Major T. C. Spring, D.S.O., who has just arrived in this country to take over duties of G.S.O., is a County player, and plays for Fort Canning.

The Hockey Team have played a number of friendly games, and are doing very well.

The Hockey League is being started.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

It seems almost like pre-war days to once again be able to chronicle our doings in our own particular Journal.

Whether our literary talent will attain the heights reached by the pre-war veterans is another matter.

However, we will trust that should these notes come under the critical eye of any of our predecessors that we shall be treated leniently.

But what a lot of water has passed under London Bridge since the last number of our Journal was published, and what great changes have taken place.

Very few of the old faces remain, but the younger generation is nobly upholding the old traditions and carrying on.

Since the beginning of the year one or two changes have taken place. Sergt. Shoemaker "Jock" Humphrey, Sergt. Tailor Beasley and Sergt. Drmr. Siddons have all proceeded to "Blighty." C.S.M. W. Sperry, M.C., Sergt. Bratby, Sergt. Wallace, Sergt. Tugate, L./Sergts. Hart and Connors have joined us from home. In addition, the following members have joined us on promotion:—Sergts. Fox, Capel, Wilson, and Peck, L./Sergts. Wilson, Banfield, Mewett, Leatherby, Turner, and Egan.

These additions have brought us practically up to establishment, but even so we could still do with more. (Ask the duty Sergeants!)

Sport still plays its part in the home and social side of the Mess.

Since our arrival in the Station the hard tennis court has been put into condition,

and each evening is fully occupied. It is rumoured that several members, with their eyes on the Tennis Championship, have been putting in private practice just after daybreak.

At billiards we are "cock of the walk." Here, as in most military stations, we have a Sergeants' Mess "Billiards' League," and out of due respect to the Garrison we entered an "A" and "B" Team.

So far, we have only suffered one defeat, and that by our "B" Team.

It is possible that we are too strong for the opposition; if so, it is likely that we might be barred the Competition next year. However, for the time we are smiling.

At the present time the Mess is rather well off for athletes. Ask our R.S.M.

As a runner he has no equal. When competing in the Sergeants' Race at the Regimental Sports he got off the mark when nobody was looking, and by virtue of keeping his head up and chin well in got home quite comfortably.

Practice makes perfect; at least they tell me so.

Cricket and football matches play their usual part, and we are in the happy position of being able to field three or four Regimental players in each team.

Consequently we are able to put up a fair show.

As might be imagined, each match is a social function on a small scale, and by this means we get to know our neighbours and add in no small way to our popularity.

I almost forgot, but really I ought to tell you before closing that we have a few Gardening Experts among the members of our Mess.

Our greatest are, as would be imagined, the members who have most recently joined us from home. Knowledge is everything, and since the arrival of our new members gardening has made great strides.

Sad to relate, experience is always the butt of the wit, and in consequence one of our wags (looking for a new source of amusement) handed one of our agriculturalists some seeds for planting.

These were duly planted and religiously watered for a period of three weeks or more. Careful inspection each morning failed to find any shoots above ground,

so the plot was accordingly dug up, only to find that the seeds handed over for planting were "ball bearings."

Most members of the Mess are now busy planting pieces of metal with a view to raising a crop of motor-bicycles.

In closing, the members of the Mess wish the management of the new venture every success, and trust that this time nothing will interfere with its future prosperity.

"HOPELESS."

CORPORALS' ROOM.

Since the arrival of the Battalion in Singapore the improvements made have been many and varied, and the Mess now possesses a most cheery and comfortable aspect.

In consequence it is, as has always been the case in times gone by, the Mecca of the junior N.C.Os. of the Battalion.

I wonder, should "Wagashus" read these notes, whether he will still have visions of "Youngers." However, it is still just as warm here as it used to be, so that it is quite possible to develop a thirst.

Monthly Dances have been started, the first one being held in May. These Dances have proved very successful, and have been the means of adding many friends.

Each Dance is well supported by the Senior Mess, whose friends also attend in force.

We aspire to still greater heights, and hope to at least rival the dancing proclivities of our Sergeants in the near future.

Cricket and Football are both going strong, and a series of matches have been played against the European Wardens and the Wireless Operators of Seletar.

We emerged successful from all encounters.

Boxing is our forte, inasmuch as we have youth on our side, to say nothing of ability. Both in and out of the ring we have met with success; in some cases the opponents have been a trifle damaged, but what of that! Youth will out.

A set-back was received a few days ago when we challenged the Sergeants to a cricket match.

Our batsmen were unable to cope with the wizardry of Sergts. Wayte and Capel, who skittled us out for 63, the Sergeants then going in and making 67 for four wickets, when rain stopped the match.

However, we hope to have our revenge shortly, when possibly a stronger team will be available. Of that more anon.

By the time our next notes appear in print we hope to be able to give you much more news, as we are keenly looking forward to the Competition for the Singapore Football Cup and its attendant expeditions.

“CAPORAL.”

DEPOT NOTES.

CRICKET.

WE had a very strenuous but successful season this year, playing in all 38 matches, with the following results:—

Won, 21; lost, 11; drawn, 6.

Amongst our opponents (and sometimes victims) were Southgate, Hampstead Heathens, Hampstead, King's College, Old Merchant Taylors, Cox & Co., South Hampstead, University College Old Boys, M.C.C., The Cryptics, The Wanderers, Woolwich Garrison, Hampstead Nomads, and Public Schools.

Space alone forbids from giving all the averages of the players, but special mention must be made of the very excellent and consistently good bowling of Sergt. Drmr. Sharpe, who accounted for 165 wickets at the cost of only 11 runs apiece. To him we owe in a great measure our successes.

That we shall not have him next year is a matter of regret for us.

FOOTBALL, 1922.

Our team has been sadly depleted in consequence of the reduction of establishment, and we do not aspire to win the Army Cup this season.

So far no League matches have been played, but in a friendly game with a Mill Hill Team we won 6-1. This augurs well, perhaps.

The team this year is:—Goal, Cpl. Thomas; backs, Sergt. Campbell, D.C.M.,

and Pte. Spiers; half-backs, C.S.M. Walker, M.M., Sergt. Tisdale, and L./Cpl. Northcott, M.M.; forwards, L./Cpl. Staines, Pte. Johnson, Sergt. Humphrey, Dmr. Carnell, and L./Cpl. Fletcher, M.M.

7th BATTALION NOTES.

SINCE the last publication of these Notes, the most important event with which the Battalion has been concerned was the Annual Training. As a full report of this appears elsewhere in this issue, there is no need for further comment here, but this opportunity cannot be allowed to pass without a word of congratulation to Captain Tait and his team, which tied for second place in the Divisional Inter-Unit Rifle Championship, and won the Middlesex Shield for the Battalion.

Next to the Annual Training, the most important part of the year's work during the last four months has been musketry. Instructional practices and standard tests have been carried out on twelve occasions between May and September, at Bisley, and although the weather throughout this period could hardly be described as excellent for shooting, the Battalion has, on the whole, been very lucky, and has had some very good shooting days.

Recently a boxing tournament was held at the Drill Hall of “C” Company, at Tottenham, in aid of the Prince of Wales Hospital, which is in that Company's recruiting area. Several well-known boxers, including “Kid” Lewis—always a great attraction—gave their services, with the result that the tournament was a great success, and a large sum was handed over to the Hospital.

At present the energies of the Battalion in the sports direction are engaged in getting together a football team worthy of representing it in the T.A. Championships, and hopes are entertained that it will go much further than in previous years.

“B” Company are arranging a further series of dances, whist drives, etc., which will continue throughout the winter, and they will be glad to see men of other companies and units at Northfield Hall.

Highgate, at any of these, which are usually held on a Saturday evening.

It is hoped that the Memorial to those of the Battalion who fell during the Great War will be unveiled on a Sunday afternoon early in November. The Memorial, which takes the form of an oak screen, forms a distinctive part of a Memorial Chapel in Hornsey Parish Church. On the screen will appear the badges of the Regiment and the Battalion, the names of the various detachments, as they were in 1914, and, inscribed on vellum, a complete list of all who were killed or died of wounds or disease.

An announcement of the date and arrangements of the unveiling will appear in due course in the local newspapers.

8th BATTALION NOTES.

THE Battalion has completed the musketry for this year by four week-end camps at Bisley, and in each case had good weather for firing.

A very good landscape target has been made by the Permanent Staff Instructor, on the lines of the one at Hythe, at Staines Drill Hall; and it is intended to construct others at company drill halls during the coming winter.

A Battalion church parade took place at Hounslow on 25th July the Band and Drums attending, the Battalion marching to St. George's Church, Brentford.

A Guard of Honour was provided from “A” and “B” Companies on the occasion of the opening of Twickenham United Services Institute.

“B” Company paraded for the unveiling of the Brentford Gas Company War Memorial.

“C” Company paraded for the unveiling of the Staines Linoleum Company War Memorial.

The football season having commenced the company teams are playing in the local leagues.

H.Q. Wing.—1st team, Hounslow and District Premier League and South West Middlesex League; 2nd team, Hounslow and District Junior League.

“B” Company.—1st team, Hanwell and District Junior League; 2nd team, friendly matches.

“C” Company.—Hounslow and District Premier League.

The Battalion will be entering a team for the Divisional Association Football Competition.

9th BATTALION NOTES.

BY the time that this second number of the Journal appears, the days will be shortening, and the first breath of winter making itself felt. It will, therefore, seem somewhat ancient history to be relating notes of the Summer Camp and July Bisley Meetings.

We must, however, remind our readers that, owing to the exigencies of printing, our notes for the last number were sent to press on 10th June, and such items as the July Inspection, etc., were too late for inclusion in the Summer Number.

THE RIFLE CLUB.

A very enjoyable and successful week-end camp was held at Bisley on the 24th and 25th June, which was devoted entirely to musketry.

On Sunday, 25th June, the Battalion Cups were shot for, and some very fine shooting was put up by Lieut.-Colonel Hewett and Captain Lamont, in the “Colonel Harris” Cup shoot (for officers only). After some very close scores on the respective ranges, it resulted in a tie between these two officers. Noteworthy scoring was also made by 2/Lieutenant Furlong, and it should be mentioned that the whole of the firing was carried out under unfavourable conditions in somewhat inclement weather. The “Wyatt” Cup (shot for by all ranks below commissioned officers) was won by C.S.M. Todman, with a score of five points below the winners of the “Colonel Harris” Cup shoot. C.Q.M.S. Linthwaite came second with one point below. The “Harvey Lewis” Cup (for all ranks who had enlisted since June, 1920, and had not previously served with any other unit) was won by Private Putwain.

On Sunday evening, 9th July, the Battalion sent down four representatives to the annual Bisley Meeting, at Bisley, consisting of one second lieutenant, one sergeant-major, and two sergeants. Good luck attended the opening of the meeting, as regards the weather, which had been most unfavourable right up to the day.

C.S.M. Todman, who won several sweepstakes later in the meeting, was only one point below winning one of the prizes in the "King's."

CONGRATULATIONS TO—

Captain Henry Sherwood, on the arrival of a son.

Captain Fox, on his promotion to "skipper."

LIEUT.-COLONEL HEWETT, T.D.

It is, perhaps, the custom to eulogize those who leave us, and thus, to strangers, it may seem to deteriorate from the value of our words. But to all who knew our late Commanding Officer, whether it was their privilege to know him intimately, or their misfortune to know him only slightly, the sincerity of our remarks will not be doubted.

It is not our intention to embark upon his biography in this very brief appreciation—his record with the Battalion from which he has just retired, and which he commanded on active service in the East, and also during the post-war period of reconstruction, is too well known to enlarge upon.

But in this, our verbal tribute to Colonel Hewett, upon his departure, we feel that we may be permitted to say that his kindly consideration and capable command has caused him to be both endeared to and respected by all ranks, and has infused into the Battalion a spirit of good comradeship and high morale.

Upon his departure Colonel Hewett issued the following farewell order to his troops: "On relinquishing the Command of the Battalion, the Commanding Officer wishes to thank all ranks for the loyal and cheerful support which he has invariably received from them during his period of Command—a support which he is sure they will continue to give to his successor—and particularly to congratulate them on the keenness and energy shown

throughout the recent Annual Training, during which the Battalion has made marked progress in efficiency. To have commanded the Battalion on active service and also during the difficult period of reconstruction after the war, will always remain one of the proudest memories of his life. He wishes all ranks the best of luck in the future, and assures them that his interest in, and affection for, the old Battalion will never cease."

In conclusion, if I may speak personally, as a subaltern, I venture to echo the feelings of all my junior fellow officers in stating that it has been an unquestionable honour to have served under such a Commanding Officer as Colonel Hewett, even though to some of us the period of service under his command may have been of somewhat short post-war duration.

It is also our wish to combine with our deep feelings of regret at the departure of Colonel Hewett our heartiest welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Beach, who has for so long been our esteemed Second-in-Command.

THE JULY BATTALION INSPECTION.

On Saturday, 8th July, the Battalion paraded at Headquarters at 1800 hours, and marched, headed by both bands, to Gladstone Park, where they were inspected by the Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, Colonel J. L. Blumfeld, T.D. After reviewing the troops, Colonel Blumfeld inspected a large number of old comrades who were on parade. In his address to the men Colonel Blumfeld said he was delighted with the soldier-like bearing, smartness and steadiness of the parade. The Battalion then formed up, the old comrades being given a place of honour behind the band, and marched back to Headquarters at 2000 hours. After the parade was dismissed a Bohemian concert took place in the Drill Hall, which was beautifully decorated, over 500 old comrades, wives and friends being present. An excellent programme was arranged, and a very enjoyable evening spent. One of the chief features of the programme was the trombone solo, "Trumpeter," by Bandsman Hulbert, which produced loud and repeated cheers. The fine playing of the Battalion Band, under the conductor-

ship of Mr. H. J. Rouse, was one of the features of the evening.

During the evening Colonel G. Beach made a very interesting speech, and said that one of the three memorials to be erected by the Battalion was on view at the building, and he invited the old comrades to take an opportunity of inspecting it. He also stated that subscriptions were still required, and that they should be sent to the care of the local Treasurer, at Headquarters. The announcement of another reunion concert, to take place on Saturday, September 30th, was greeted with loud applause.

A very enjoyable evening terminated with the band playing the Regimental March, "God Bless the Prince of Wales," and the National Anthem.

The work of a small body of N.C.Os. and men responsible for decorating the hall and preparation of the concert deserves the highest praise.

SPORTS.

Some excellent boxing tournaments have been held at Headquarters on various occasions, and among some of the famous boxers billed to appear at these tournaments was "Battling Siki," about eighteen months ago.

The October fixtures for the Battalion football team are as follow:—Oct. 7th, home *v.* Airdale United; Oct. 14th, home *v.* Carp Diem; Oct. 21st, away *v.* Willesden Wanderers; Oct. 28th, home *v.* Willesden Old Boys.

THEY SAY—

That at the Summer Camp several officers made a study of the habits of earwigs.

That the "Doc." even took some home to Harley Street!

That thunderstorms are a good idea for washing tents.

That a certain insurance company has just issued an Overworked Subalterns' Liability Policy.

That a certain Club Treasurer has actually been seen attending a committee meeting on one occasion! (We hear, on good authority, that the effort proved too much.—Ed.)

That one of our ardent "B" Company subalterns went to hear a Gilbert and Sullivan recital of "Patience" the other evening, and returned home with a new version of the famous song from the opera in question. It ran something like this:

"Conceive me, if you can,
A thoroughly live young man!
A legal adviser,
Each day growing wiser,
Learned in law young man;
A keen six and eight young man,
A fee while you wait young man,
A "going-to-the-bar"
(What a shame it's so far!)
Donning the wig young man;
Conceive me, if you can,
A Sam-Browne and khaki young man,
A most energetic,
Peripatetic,
HARD as a CASTLE young man!"

CONTRIBUTIONS

from Company Officers and the Sergeants' Mess will be welcomed, which deal with Battalion news. Send all notes (while you remember them!) to 2/Lieutenant R. M. Lester, 22, Yale Court, West Hampstead, N.W.

SERGEANT-MAJOR PURDUE

During the Annual Training, at Shorncliffe, Sergeant-Major H. G. Purdue retired after 21 years' service, and his fellow warrant officers and sergeants presented him with a case of pipes prior to his departure. The Mess was crowded on the occasion of his "send-off," and the Officers' Mess was represented by Captain Rogers. R.S.M. Beasley made the presentation, and mentioned that during the past two years and a half Sergt.-Major Purdue had been their instructor, and they all regarded him as a jolly good fellow, and were exceedingly sorry to lose him. He had a very happy disposition and never lost his temper. [Yet a sergeant-major!!!—Ed.] They hoped the little gift which they asked him to accept that night would remind him of the good times they had spent together. (Cheers). Sergt.-Major Purdue, in reply, referred to the spirit of good comradeship

he had always found in the 9th, and he expressed his regret that he was compelled to leave them. He had tried to extend his engagement, but without success. Probably he would not be far from Pound-lane for some time to come, and he hoped very frequently to give his old comrades a look-in. He thanked them all for their kind and thoughtful gift, which he greatly appreciated. (Cheers.) Later, the Sergeant-Major was drawn round the camp on a limber, decorated and arranged as a chariot. The Regimental Band headed the procession, and everywhere he had a very warm and enthusiastic reception.

OBITUARY.

We greatly regret to report the death, during August, of Lieutenant Harris ("Smiler" Harris), a former and very popular officer of the Battalion, and at the time of his death on our list of T.A. Reserve Officers.

TERRITORIAL TIDINGS.

DEAR Mr. Editor,—

In response to your request, I'll do my best (no, this is not poetry*)—like the Prairie Pianist—to give you a syncopated synopsis of the recent Annual Training of the Middlesex and Sussex Infantry Brigade (T.A.).

For the benefit of the tyros, it should be stated that the three Territorial Battalions of the Regiment (i.e., 7th, 8th and 9th), together with the 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (T.A.), form the Middlesex and Sussex Infantry Brigade, which is commanded by Colonel R. J. Kentish, C.M.G., D.S.O., late Royal Irish Fusiliers.

The Brigade proceeded to Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe, on Sunday, July 30th, and in a very short time all ranks were settled down like "soldiers to the manner born."

We found ourselves in close proximity to the Surrey Territorial Brigade, with the Headquarters of our Division (44th, Home

*Quite right.—Ed.]

Counties), Divisional Signals, R.A.S.C., and R.A.O.C., near by.

During the first week training was chiefly devoted to battle formations, which were duly explained, demonstrated, executed, repeated, and sometimes bungled by sections, platoons, and companies, under their own commanders, and finally by Battalions working as a whole.

In compiling the various training programmes it was very evident that great efforts had been made to render the practices attractive as well as instructive.

On July 31st the Inspector-General of Training paid us a visit, and expressed his satisfaction at the appearance of the men and the work in hand.

On Tuesday, August 1st, a very excellent demonstration was given by a platoon of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers (stationed at Shorncliffe), under Capt. C. S. Tuely.

Several very sound training ideas were expounded, especially with regard to sectional leadership. And if we did laugh at the description of himself given by "Number-r-r seven wid the limber-r-r", we all went away firmly convinced that the day we can produce such leaders and sections our battle is won.

On Saturday, August 5th, we had a "Double Event," for the Divisional Rifle Meeting was held on Hythe Ranges in the morning, and a "Flagged Attack" Demonstration was given to the "Mr. Winkles" of the Brigade by Lieut.-Colonel R. S. Murray-White, D.S.O., and the 8th Battalion at the same time.

In connection with these events, it has been saucily suggested that one Battalion got its parties mixed up and sent them to the wrong places.

So far as our Brigade is concerned, the 7th Battalion are to be congratulated on the splendid attempt their team made (under the leadership of Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.) to win the Team Championship, in which they tied for second place. Sergt. Chase, of the same Battalion, won the Pool Shoot at 200 yards, and was eighth in the Individual Championship, and C.S.M. Westley, of the 8th Battalion, was second at Pool-shooting and eleventh in the Championship.

Other prize-winners in the Individual Championship were:—

Capt. Taft, 7th Battalion, 19th.

Lieut.-Colonel Pank, 7th Battalion, 22nd.

Capt. Maitland, 7th Battalion, 29th.

Lieut. P. F. Murray, 8th Battalion, 38th.

The manner in which the 8th Battalion "shook itself out" in its "Flagged Attack" Demonstration, and the obvious knowledge of all ranks of the various essential formations and movements, proved that the principles and the drill laid down in the countless manuals and books of instruction had been well assimilated—*vide* Hints on Training.

On Sunday there was a short Brigade Church Service, followed by a Brigade Massed Band and Drum performance.

At this stage, having dealt with our first week's "doings," I think I may venture to meander to more mundane matters.

It should be made clear that this effusion is the result of each Territorial Battalion having sent you notes, which started something in this style:—

7th Battalion.—"Dear Mr. Editor,—Next to the achievements of our Battalion at the Divisional Rifle Meetings the outstanding feature of the training was the manner in which we nearly won the Brigade Transport Competition, etc."

8th Battalion.—"Dear Mr. Editor,—The greatest effort put up during the training was that of the 8th Battalion in winning the 'Albuhera Cup, etc.'"

9th Battalion.—"Dear Mr. Editor,—We're topping at Torchlight Tattoos, etc."

Quite right. The above statements are all accurate and beyond contradiction, and as an exhibition of *esprit de corps* the style displayed is undoubtedly "the goods." But I venture to suggest that the Brigade's greatest achievement was the pride all ranks took in their units and their successful endeavour to uphold the unparalleled reputation of their Regiments at work and at play.

Officers and N.C.Os. invariably attended special demonstrations and lectures in the afternoon, but work was over for the men on most days by dinner time.

Although the camp was some distance from Folkestone, a special service of

motor-buses provided an easy means of getting there and back.

For those who preferred to remain in or near camp there were football grounds, and good canteens and concerts provided by the N.A.A.F.I.; also a large Recreational Tent run by the Y.M.C.A.

The 7th Battalion Concert Party, under R.S.M. Price, gave several excellent entertainments. The 8th Battalion's

War

{	cry	} Strike out words your fancy dictates, or substitute something more horrible, if you can think of it.
	yell	
	whoop	
	wail	

killed all their earwigs. An ancient warrior, one Roger Rum, was apparently in the habit of wafting through the camp at midnight, and a certain Quartermaster is reported to have warbled hymns at "Réveillé." So you see we were always merry and bright.

We were truthfully told by a leading local luminary that Folkestone possesses more beautiful girls to the square mile than any other town in the world. Undoubtedly! and our Divisional despots knew of it.*

You may imagine therefore that many of us rushed to Folkestone as often as we could, and were all proud of the fact that not one untoward incident occurred in the town as a result.

But *revenons à nos bully boeuf*, as they say in the Messing Book (which, incidentally, the Inspector of Catering reported some of us for not keeping), we must hark back to the training.

We worked on more ambitious lines in our second week. Battalion and Brigade operations were the order of the day.

A detachment of the R.A.F. from Farnborough put up a most thrilling display on the Tuesday, and also gave us an interesting exhibition of wireless telephony.

On the same afternoon the Field Officers and Company Commanders participated in a Brigade Tour. The operations indulged in are, unfortunately, shrouded in mystery, to the consequent dismay and disappointment of many eminent military historians.

Our strategists all wore a worried look as the time of departure for the scene of carnage drew near. The Brigade Orderly was heard to say that it reminded him of the approach of "Zero." As it

*They did, that's why they didn't go to Salisbury Plain.—Ed.]

is recorded that the Brigadier dallied with his dinner that night, and went to bed at 9 p.m., we fear the worst.

The next day we indulged in Brigade operations (a continuation of the scheme propounded in the Brigade Tour), which were unfortunately cut short by adverse weather just when the attack was developing on sound lines, and showed much promise (*vide* the Divisional Commander's Notes).

We returned to camp soaked to the skin, but, fortunately, clean, dry clothing had been thoughtfully provided there for all.

We continued the Brigade operations on Thursday, this time in the Canteen, where all the Umpires and Officers and Warrant and N.C.Os. assembled for a conference. Some very original tactical ideas were disclosed, particularly by the juniors. It should be stated that this conference took place before opening time.

On Thursday night, in response to a request by the Mayor, a Torchlight Tattoo was carried out at Folkestone by the 9th Battalion, aided by the Massed Band and Drums of the Brigade, and was adjudged by those present to be the most successful ever held in the town. Over 10,000 people paid for admission, the proceeds being given to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Under ideal conditions the Brigade Sports were held at the Shorncliffe Stadium on Friday afternoon, August 11th. They were a huge success, and most creditable to all concerned. A Committee, under Major E. E. F. Baker, D.S.O., M.C., 8th Battalion, had worked very hard, and left no detail to chance. Consequently the show went off without a hitch.

I say "show" advisedly, because there was not one dull moment from start to finish. I need not say why. Our Brigade gains reflected athletic glory by its present strong connecting link with the Army Sport Control Board.

With such an experienced guide and counsellors at hand, you may guess that we are never at a loss for ideas, gear, or enthusiasm.

The Drums of the 87th Regiment kindly appeared, and gave us an exhibition of drumming, fifing, drill and precision which I am sure is second to none, and was greatly appreciated by our boys.

The "Albuhera" Challenge Cup for the battalion whose competitors gained most points at the meeting was won by the 8th Battalion, the 9th Battalion being not far behind, with the 7th Battalion third.

The 4th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment won the Transport Competition, the 7th Battalion running them very close.

On Saturday the Brigade marched into Folkestone, where the Massed Bands and Drums performed on the Leas, to the manifest delight of the inhabitants and visitors. Subsequently we marched past the Brigade Commander at the Town Hall, where the Mayor and Corporation had assembled in their robes of office.

Great admiration was expressed by the spectators at the smart, soldierly appearance of the Brigade. It was a pity that the style of our equestrians was so much cramped by the terms of the following Brigade Order:—

"No horse, whose manners, appearance, or gait is likely to evoke the mirth or unfavourable comment of the townspeople, is to be taken on the march."

Alas! most of us had to leave our fiery steeds behind, just when we wished to cut a dash.

Mention has been made in these notes of the 4th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment, and perhaps not so often as their deeds warrant, but one has to remember that we are writing for "The Diehards." Still, in saying that during our all too short companionship with this Battalion at Brigade training we found everyone, from Colonel to drummer boy, to be fine soldiers and good sports, I'm sure I'm but voicing the thoughts of all their pals in the Middlesex Regiment.

We were all pleased to renew by proxy our acquaintance with our esteemed late Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General R. J. Ross, C.B., C.M.G., through his son, Captain R. K. Ross, D.S.O., M.C., The Queen's Royal Regiment, who performed the duties of Brigade-Major during the training.

Had Regulations not forbidden the publication of laudatory remarks regarding individuals, we would have added that he bids fair to achieve, by his tact and talent, the honoured position in the Service gained by his distinguished father.

ENTERTAINED AT TOTTENHAM.

A pathetic reminder of the ravages of war was furnished by an assembly of 1,200 fatherless children in the Municipal Hall, Tottenham, on Wednesday evening. This monster New Year's party consisted of little folk whose fathers are numbered amongst Britain's heroic dead, who fell in the Great War; and to see so many types of childhood thus orphaned spoke eloquently of homes bereft of breadwinners. In many instances there were three or four from individual families, and at least one was represented by five children. The little guests were reminders of the Middlesex men who entered Mons in the early days of the war.

Practical interest in this event was shown by officers and men of the Middlesex Regimental Depot, at Mill Hill, who most generously subscribed to the children's tea fund. In the unavoidable absence of the commanding officer, Major Dundas, O.B.E., second-in-command, and Major Steed made a special journey to Tottenham, and handed to the Treasurer a cheque for £50, the voluntary contributions of all ranks. From the Depot, too, came the band accompanied by six bemedalled non-commissioned officers and twelve men, two or three of whom belong to local families. The presence of Major Steed, who is Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association which looks after old soldiers and their dependents, emphasised the measure of kindly interest which those on the active list take in the well-being of the time-expired and the families of the fallen within the recruiting area of the "Diehards."

By the good offices of Mr. J. Saunders, of the Canadian Rink, the programme led off with an afternoon's entertainment of the children in that popular picture house. Here the Band and other soldiers received the guests, who marched into their seats while the musicians played popular airs. An excellent selection of pictures afforded the youngsters a couple of hours' rare amusement, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Headed by the Band, they then processioned to the Hall, the soldiers kindly assisting some of the smaller children en route. Within the hall a scene of delight awaited the big party. Thanks to many volunteer lady workers, piles of sandwiches and plates of bread and butter, cake, etc., had been prepared and placed in readiness on the tables, which had been set out most artistically. Upon the stage stood a large Christmas tree (the gift of Mr. Henderson) amid the branches being numerous crystal electric lights; and a real Father Christmas ("Len" Vivian) red-robed and white-whiskered, was an additional reminder of the festive season. Grace was played by the Band; and the hundreds of children, all bedecked in paper caps, soon played havoc with the generous fare awaiting them. Ladies, Committeemen and soldiers vied with each other in waiting upon the "consumers," whose performances of "the vanishing trick" testified to healthy appetites. During the tea the Band of the Depot, Middlesex Regiment, played selections; and, subsequently, contributed other pieces which were lustily taken up and sung by the children. When at length, the hour arrived for dispersal, the children were lined up, and as they marched from the hall each one received a bag of sweets, an orange and a toy, passing thence to their waiting mothers, tired, but obviously happy in the possession of their gifts.

During the evening Councillor Clarke played the

As we're not allowed to say so, we won't.

These all too long notes may most aptly be closed by brief extracts from the comments of our Divisional and Brigade Commanders respectively:—

Major-General Sir John Longley, K.C.M.G., C.B., in his notes on the training said:—

"Officers and N.C.Os. in the Brigade are well above the average in military knowledge, and apply it intelligently in dealing with a tactical situation. . . . The progress made throughout the year reflects great credit upon all concerned."

And our Brigade Commander has stated:—

"I feel that I have the privilege of commanding a very efficient Brigade."

Well, that's all, Mr. Editor. We returned home from Dibgate Camp on Sunday, August 13th.

*"No more shall trenching war channel her fields,
Nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hoofs."*

Yours ever,
HUFF, J.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES.

HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., M.C., Colonel-in-Chief of the Middlesex Regiment, has graciously signified his intention to unveil the Regiment War Memorial at Mill Hill Barracks, at 2.30 p.m., Saturday, 4th November, 1922.

Applications for cards of admission to the ceremony should be made to Major F. S. Steed, D.C.M., The Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

The following account of an entertainment at Tottenham, given to fatherless children, is culled from the *Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald*, Friday, January 6th, and should prove of real interest to the many readers of the Journal who hail from that district.

host to the officers from Mill Hill and members of the Committee, a daintily prepared tea being provided by Mrs. Townley (the caretaker) in the Chairman's private room.

Councillor Harvey took that opportunity of placing on record their keen appreciation of the honour of being visited by the two gallant gentlemen who represented the Middlesex Regiment. But for their donation the Committee would have had a much more anxious time in organising so large a party. They were anxious to assure them of the sincerity of their thanks; adding that many ex-service men in the Institute had served in the County Regiment. He also acknowledged the assistance given by the non-commissioned officers and men; and on behalf of the Committee he took that opportunity of thanking all—and through them the Middlesex Association—for their handsome contribution.

Councillor Clarke (who presided at this gathering) in endorsing what had been said, remarked on the generous spirit in which the Regimental authorities took the matter up, which showed that they did not forget the children of their fallen comrades.

Major Dundas, in returning thanks, expressed regret that Colonel Miller was unable to be present. They all felt that they should help the children; and he congratulated them on the excellence of the arrangements.

OBITUARY.

With much regret we announce the death of Mrs. Eliza Ann Morris, the wife of ex-Colour-Sergeant Edward Morris, which took place in London on the 20th August last.

The funeral, at Paddington Cemetery, was numerously attended by relatives and friends, amongst the latter being Major F. S. Steed, D.C.M., Captains J. Lee and M. W. Farrow.

The coffin was borne to the graveside by the Sergeants of the Depôt, Middlesex Regiment.

The late Mrs. Morris spent very many years with her husband in the Regiment, and was extremely popular.

We extend to Mr. Morris our very sincere sympathy in his bereavement.

We also learn with much regret the news of the death of ex-Sergeant George Meacher, which took place at 62, Brocklebury Road, Earlsfield, on the 2nd Oct.

The late Sergeant Meacher, who joined the 1st Battalion in 1892, was very well known as a prominent cricketer, and was always to the fore in matters of sport. We last saw him at Mill Hill on Albuhera Day, playing for the "Past" against the "Present" members of the Regiment.

We offer our deep sympathy to the widow in her irreparable loss.

ERRATUM.

August, 1922, Number.—Page 16, column 2, line 29: For "Colonel J. Gore White, C.M.G.," read "Colonel J. Grove-White, C.M.G."

“THE STORMING OF SERINGAPATAM.”

[Extracted from *The History of the 77th Regiment*, with the kind permission of Major H. H. Woollright.]

1799.

IN 1799 the intrigues of Tippoo Sultan with the French, who had occupied Egypt with a force under Buonaparte, and were planning an attack on the British possessions in India, brought about another war with Mysore. The Bombay Government, as in the previous war, furnished a contingent to co-operate from Malabar with the main army, under General (afterwards Lord) Harris, assembled at Vellore. This contingent assembled at Cannanore, under Major-General Stewart, and consisted of one European and two native infantry brigades, with some artillery and sappers. The 77th, 693 strong, under Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop, arrived at Cannanore on the 14th January, and with the Bombay European Regiment and the flank companies of the 75th Highlanders, formed the Centre Brigade. Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop was appointed to the command of this brigade, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel John Montresor (senior major), of the 77th, to that of the Right Brigade, the command of the Regiment devolving on Major Spry. The force, 6,400 strong, marched from Cannanore for Coorg by the Poodicherram Ghaut on the 21st February, and on the 25th reached the top of the pass, where the 77th encamped to await the arrival of stores and provisions, and protect them on their way up. On the 1st March it advanced to Seedapore, on the frontiers of Coorg and Mysore (about 90 miles from Cannanore and 60 from Seringapatam), and encamped there with the main body.

General Stewart had been ordered to take up a defensive position on the Coorg frontier and await orders, but the thickly

wooded nature of the country compelled him to disperse his troops in several detachments, affording each other mutual support as far as possible. Lieut.-Colonel Montresor, with the Right Brigade, consisting of three battalions of Bombay sepoy, occupied the height of Seedaseer, 11 miles in advance, which was of the utmost importance, being the only point from which signalling communication could be maintained with General Harris, then near Bangalore. On the 6th March this advanced post was furiously assailed by 12,000 Mysoreans, led by Tippoo in person, who had been enabled, by the denseness of the surrounding jungle, to approach almost unobserved. General Stewart, on receiving intelligence of the attack, immediately marched with the 77th and the flank companies of the 75th, and reached the scene of action at half-past two. The enemy had penetrated to the rear of the British position, and by occupying the main road to Seedaseer had completely surrounded Colonel Montresor's sepoy, who, after several hours' fighting, were exhausted with fatigue and almost at the end of their ammunition. However, the vigorous onslaught of the 75th and 77th quickly cleared the Seedaseer road, and in half-an-hour they had fought their way through to Colonel Montresor, the enemy falling back through the woods before them. At twenty minutes past three the Mysoreans retreated in all directions, and left the British troops in possession of the field after an engagement lasting nearly six hours. Both British and native troops received great credit for their behaviour in this action. Their losses amounted to not more than 143 killed and wounded—the 77th lost a sergeant, drummer, and twelve men—while the number of Mysoreans killed and wounded came to nearly 1,500.

General Stewart remained in the neighbourhood of Seedapore till the 7th April, when he marched for Seringapatam, and a week later joined General Harris's army engaged in the siege of that fortress.

The fortress of Seringapatam is situated at the western end of an island, about three miles in length and one in breadth, formed by two arms of the Cavery River. The northern and south-western faces are built on the shore of the island, and the north-west bastion in the angle opposite

to where the two branches of the river divide. The river was very low at this season of the year, and formed but a slight obstacle to the besieging army.

The point selected for attack was the northern end of the south-west face, and the Madras army had taken up its position opposite this end of the fortress. The Bombay army crossed to the north side of the river, where batteries were to be erected to enfilade the south-west face of the fort.

These batteries opened fire on the 20th, and told with such severe effect on the enemy that a vigorous sortie was made by the garrison in the early hours of the 22nd, with the intention of destroying them. A demonstration was made against the rear of the Bombay army at 2 a.m., and immediately afterwards the outposts and advanced works were attacked by 6,000 infantry, led by the French contingent in Tippoo's service. The enemy—especially the French—fought with great spirit, and the engagement, in which two companies of the 77th, under Lieutenant Lawrence, distinguished themselves, lasted several hours. The Mysoreans were, however, at length repulsed with a loss of 700 men, many of the French being bayoneted inside the British works.

In the course of the next few days the whole of the enemy's outworks south of the river were captured, and on the 28th and 29th batteries were erected 360 yards from the western curtain, to play on the north-west bastion and open a breach 60 yards to the south of it.

On the evening of the 3rd May the breach appeared nearly practicable, and it was determined to assault the place the following day, orders being given for the necessary dispositions to be made during the night, and those troops of the Bombay army detailed to take part in the assault brought over to the south side of the Cavery.

Major-General David Baird, a veteran of the Indian wars, who had for some years been a captive in the hands of Tippoo, was to command the force detailed for the assault, which was told off into right and left columns. The latter was under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop, 77th Regiment, and consisted of the six European flank companies with the Bombay army—i.e., those of H.M.'s 75th

and 77th, and the Bombay Regiment; the whole of H.M.'s 12th and 33rd Regiments; ten Bengal sepoy flank companies; and fifty artillerymen. This column was to move left in front, and, after capturing the large cavalier behind the breach, to wheel to its left and proceed along the northern rampart till it joined hands with the right column, under Colonel Sherbrooke, directed to move in similar manner along the southern ramparts. The two columns were to advance on the breach simultaneously if space admitted, otherwise the left was to lead. Each was to be preceded by a forlorn hope of a sergeant and twelve volunteers, supported by a subaltern and twenty-five men. The leading flank companies were provided with hand hatchets, and ordered to use the bayonet principally, and only fire in case of absolute necessity.

Contrary to usual custom, General Harris ordered the assault to be made at 1 p.m. "From knowledge of the customs of the natives of India," he judged "that the garrison would not be apprehensive of an assault, or prepared to make that obstinate resistance which at any other time might be expected to an attack." Accordingly the bombardment was resumed in the morning, and all through the forenoon the guns roared across the Cavery, as the British battered the breach and raked the south-west face of the fort from end to end. The infantry who were to make the assault meanwhile awaited, crowded in the trenches, the moment that was to decide the fate of Seringapatam. They had an arduous task before them, as is apparent to anyone who takes his stand near the two half-buried guns that to-day mark where the advanced parallel was in 1799, and gazes at the ramparts opposite across the river. It is true that the ditch is only about seven feet deep, and that the north-west bastion is too small to have afforded a very effective flank defence, but the breach must have been very steep and difficult to surmount, and immediately in rear of where it was is a lofty cavalier, commanding all the works at this angle of the fortress, and separated from the outer ramparts by a deep ditch. The existence of this ditch was unknown to the besiegers at the time, and this obstacle might have caused the failure of the assault if the defence had been more ably conducted.

"The state of silent and awful expectation in the trenches," says Colonel Wilks, "as the expected hour approached, may be more easily imagined than described. . . . Within a few minutes of one, General Baird sent round to the corps composing the assault to be ready at an instant's warning, and when the precise moment had arrived he ascended the parapet in the trench, in full view of both armies, a military figure suited to such an occasion, and, with an energy and animation not to be surpassed, drawing his sword, and addressing the soldiers in a tone which thrilled along the trenches, he desired them to follow him and show themselves worthy of the name of British soldiers." (*History of Mysore*.)

The stormers immediately sprang out of the trenches and dashed across the wide and rocky river bed towards the breach. In spite of the heavy pounding of the morning, the enemy received them with a very heavy musketry and artillery fire, and when Lieutenant Lawrence, commanding the support of the forlorn hope, reached the top of the glacis he found that the forlorn hope "had formed and commenced to fire, instead of rushing in." Lawrence, who had already been wounded by a shot in the left arm, "ran from right to left, hurrahing them on," and was at last compelled to run through the files to the front, calling out "Now is the time for the breach."* On this they leapt into the ditch, followed by the support, and climbed up the steep slope in front of them. In the breach they were met by a body of Mysoreans, who gallantly charged down, sword in hand, to meet them. A severe hand-to-hand fight ensued, and Colonel Dunlop, as he led up his grenadiers and light infantry, had a desperate encounter with one of Tipoo's sirdars, who met him scimitar in hand. Parrying a blow with his sabre, he slashed open his adversary's breast and mortally wounded him, but the man, with his remaining strength, responded with a cut that nearly hewed off Dunlop's head, and the Colonel, on reaching the summit of the breach, fell from loss of blood.

In spite of the resistance they encountered, only six minutes elapsed from the moment that they advanced from their trenches before the stormers reached the summit of the breach and planted the

* Life of Sir Henry Lawrence.

British colours thereon in signal of their success. A formidable obstacle, hitherto unsuspected, now presented itself. In the order for the assault the left column had been directed to occupy the cavalier behind the breach before moving along the northern rampart. This cavalier, however, was now found to be part of an inner line of ramparts, and separated from the outer line by a deep and apparently impassable ditch. On seeing this General Baird ordered the leading companies of the left column to wheel to the left and clear the outer north rampart, while the regiments in support found a means of crossing the ditch.

Tipoo himself now appeared on the scene to oppose the entrance of the hated British into his capital. He had refused to listen to the warnings of his officers that an attack was imminent, and had allowed one of his youthful flatterers to summon the men from their positions on the ramparts to receive their pay at mid-day. He himself was seated at his mid-day meal when the assault commenced. On the news being brought to him he hastened to the north rampart, with a glittering band of chiefs and nobles, to oppose the further advance of the British, and the flankers of the 75th and 77th and their comrades of the Bombay Regiment, met with a most determined resistance.

All their officers had now been killed or disabled, and the enemy was sheltered by a succession of well-built traverses on the outer wall, and assisted by a heavy flanking fire from the inner rampart. At length, however, the British succeeded in obtaining access to the latter. H.M.'s 12th Regiment, who followed the Bombay flankers, had been able to find a narrow platform crossing the ditch, and their light company, gaining the inner rampart and driving the enemy upon it before them, opened a heavy fire on the Mysoreans opposing the British on the outer wall.

The latter were now enabled to make better headway, and, under Captain Lambton, General Baird's Brigade Major, who had assumed the command, steadily drove the enemy before them into the north-east corner of the fortress. Here the surviving Mysoreans were attacked in rear by Colonel Sherbrooke's column, and, after a great slaughter among them, utterly routed. Tipoo, who had retired

from the north rampart some time before, had been shot by a man of the 12th, on his way into the inner fort, whither he was retiring in the hopes of holding it after the loss of the outer works.

All resistance on the part of the enemy was now at an end, and the British were at length masters of Seringapatam.

Their share in the achievement cost the 77th the loss of three officers and sixty men killed and wounded.* Captain Owen had been killed, and Colonel Dunlop and Lieutenant Lawrence severely wounded.

The latter officer was the only survivor of the four subalterns who had volunteered to cover the forlorn hope. Having been already wounded on his way up to the counterscarp, he received a second wound while ascending the breach, and, fainting from loss of blood, was dragged to one side and left lying there, exposed to the full glare of the mid-day sun. Some hours later he was found by a 77th man who happened to pass that way, and recognized the yellow facings of his regiment on what he thought was a dead officer. Finding Lawrence still living, the man, by a great effort—for Lawrence was over six feet in height, and bulky in proportion—picked him up and staggered off to camp, swearing "he would not do as much for any other man of them."† This unknown soldier thus preserved the life of the man who was to be the father of those two famous brothers, Sir Henry and Lord Lawrence, destined to render such splendid service to England in later days.

* The total loss of Colonel Dunlop's column was 174 (7 per cent.) killed and wounded. The 77th flank companies had to be completed to 100 men each, and were commanded by Captains Joseph Owen and John Shawe.

† Life of Sir Henry Lawrence.

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SHORT HISTORY OF THE 2/10th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (T.F.)

By MAJOR C. JARRETT, D.S.O., T.D.

(Continued from p. 21, August No.)

ALL that night the men did their best with their entrenching implements to scratch some sort of cover, for no picks and shovels had come up to the line yet. During the night our tireless Quartermaster Wallis had been toiling to bring us up food and water. He had gallantly attempted this several times during the day, but it had been impossible to bring his mules across the deadly Salt Lake.

The next day, the 11th August, having collected the companies more or less during the night, the Battalion was ordered to take over another sector of the line, a few hundred yards to the left of our first position, and this was done by noon, under great difficulties; and from then on, till the late night of the 13th—14th, we dug ourselves in, suffering many more casualties, but keeping the line intact.

That night we were relieved by the 1/4th Sussex, and went back to the Beach "A" for duty, unloading lighters, etc. Here we were reinforced by the party which had been left behind at Alexandria, and we had a very trying period on this work till the 4th September. The working parties were constantly shelled, and the work was extremely arduous. By this time the strain and heat was taking heavy toll of the Battalion, and there were many cases of dysentery and para-typhoid.

On the 4th September we moved to a small hillock (Hill 10, or "The Bun") on the Salt Lake, which was being prepared as a sort of half-way house to the front line; and also with the idea of it affording a position to fight back to, if we had to evacuate the Peninsula. On the 16th the Battalion had a spell in the front line till the 20th, after which it had several changes, and was constantly at work preparing trenches, and, as we found out later, providing for the evacuation which was to come.

It was originally intended that the force should leave the Peninsula at the end of November, but a most terrible blizzard came down on us, which lasted three days and nights, completely stopping all preparations. The rain and cold wind were worse than any of us could have imagined, and many poor fellows succumbed to the exposure. There was absolutely no shelter. Finally, on the 13th December, the departure was fixed, and the arrangements and camouflage were so admirable that, as all the world knows, the force was got off without any serious casualties. The Battalion was embarked on the night of the 13th on a lighter, to the Transport *Elkahira*, and later transhipped to the *Haverford*, and reached Alexandria on the 19th December.

Thus ended the first phase of the war service of the 2/10th Middlesex. The campaign has been described as a "glorious tragedy." Tragic it certainly was. Heart-breaking we all found it. And none who lived through those five months of misery and horror can ever forget them.

2. Egypt.

On arrival in Egypt, the 2/10th was sent to Wardan, on the western edge of the Delta, and several weeks were spent in re-equipping and re-organizing the Battalion; also in training.

On the 15th February, 1916, the Battalion was moved by rail to the oasis of the Fayoum, and was stationed at the village of Deir El Azab. The reason of this was that there was a grave unrest and hostility from a sect called the Senussi, who were giving a lot of trouble; and so it was found necessary to make a demonstration against them, and to garrison the western districts of Egypt. Three months were spent in this oasis; and a lot of good training was put in during that time. Detachments were sent off from time to time to other villages, such as Kefr-Mahfud, Kom-She-Sha and Kom-Abu-Radi.

No trouble was experienced from the natives, other than a general sullen hostility, which did not amount to any actual fighting. They were distinctly overawed by the display of force by the British, and the success of the Motor Car Expedition in the northern districts kept them quiet.

On the 26th May the Battalion was relieved, and moved back across Egypt to the Suez Canal line. At that time the Turk had just failed in his attempts to invade Egypt, and had been pushed back from the Canal into the Sinai Desert a few miles. A fortified line had been prepared about 12 to 14 miles east of the Canal, in the barren, sandy waste, and a very strong system of wire entanglements and trenches had been constructed. The 2/10th was allotted a sector covering Ismailia, and all through the scorching summer of 1916 it occupied the trenches. These trenches were very difficult to construct and to maintain, for the sand was very loose, and sandbags were the only possible means of revetment. When built, the sand kept filtering through, and every wind brought more sand into the trenches, so the work was continual.

Fortunately the Turks were not very aggressive, so things were comparatively peaceful.

In July Lieut.-Colonel Pank vacated the command, and returned to England. The Battalion was given to Major V. L. N. Pearson, of the Middlesex Regiment.

During the last months of the year the Battalion occupied various sectors of the Suez Canal front, and had a period of intensive training at Ismailia, preparatory to the general move forward across Sinai, which was contemplated by the Commander-in-Chief.

This advance began in November, and the 2/10th started its long desert march on the 23rd November from Kantara, the various halts being as follow:—

- November 27.—Hill 70.
- November 28.—Pelusium.
- November 29.—Romani.
- November 30.—El Rabah.
- December 1.—Khirba (for a fortnight).
- December 18.—Bir El Abd.
- December 19.—Salmana.
- December 20.—Bir El Mazar.

These places were merely names in most cases. There was little to be seen, except a little grove, or hod, of palm trees, and a few shallow wells, usually of very brackish water. They were simply the recognized halting places of the old caravan route from Palestine down to Egypt.

The men found the heavy, loose sand very trying to march on, and there were many other discomforts.

Following along behind the columns, the Engineers, assisted by hosts of Egyptian labourers, were building a railway at the rate of several miles a day, and also laying down a large iron pipe to carry precious water to the army. This pipe line was a wonderful piece of work. The water, which came from the Nile, along a canal to Kantara, was pumped through a siphon under the Suez Canal. Then, by stages of about 40 miles each, into reservoirs. As each stage was completed the water was taken forward to rail-head in tanks on the railway, and thence on by camel convoy to the advancing troops.

With the foremost infantry were large working parties laying down a track made of four widths of small-mesh wire netting, laced together. This made a belt four yards wide, which, when pegged down on the sand, made a wonderfully good road to march on. The wire did not sink into the sand, and the relief to the infantry coming along later was very great.

At Mazar the Battalion remained until the 1st February, employed in constructing an elaborate scheme of defence works.

On the 1st February the move forward began again, and the halts were:—

- February 1.—Maadan.
- February 2.—Bardawil.
- February 3.—El Arish (three weeks).
- February 22.—El Burj.
- February 23.—Sheikh Zowaid.
- March 8.—Longview.
- March 21.—Rafa (the boundary of Palestine), and the change from desert to some semblance of cultivation.

- March 24.—Khan Younes.
- March 25.—Deir El Belah.

At this point begins a fresh chapter in our history, for the Turks had made up their minds to bar our further progress, and had strongly fortified a line from the sea at Gaza through Bir-es-Saba (Beer-sheba).

3. Palestine. (i) Gaza.

On the 26th March the attack on Gaza was launched, and, without being able here to describe the battle as a whole, we will follow the fortunes of our Battalion.

The task allotted to the 160th Brigade was to attack and hold the Labyrinth, which was the name given to a very

elaborate system of trenches south-west of Gaza City, with many cactus hedges of considerable height, and quite impossible to get through.

The Battalion left its bivouac at one o'clock in the morning, and the time-table of events, in the brief language of the war diary, is as follows:—

March 26—

Hours.

0100.—Marched from bivouac.

0330.—Crossed Wadi el Guzzi in support of 1/4th Royal Sussex Regiment, and made the high ground at El Sheluf.

1150.—Advanced to attack of Labyrinth trenches of Gaza defences.

1330.—Cleared Labyrinth and took up position 800 yards from outskirts of Gaza.

1770.—Reinforced by 2/4th Queen's, less two companies.

1800.—Contact with 1/5th Essex on right.

March 27—

0200.—Battalion withdrawn by orders.

0430.—Took up position on El Sheluf.

1100.—New line S.W. of Sheluf to cover withdrawal of 2/4th Queen's.

1400.—Resumed original position at El Sheluf.

1830.—Relieved by 1/4th Royal Sussex, 2/4th Queen's.

1900.—Sent forward again to line to repel threatened attack from left.

2000.—To Sheikh Rashid, and formed new outpost line.

From the official narrative of this action, which was sent by Colonel Pearson to Brigade Headquarters, some interesting details are forthcoming, which explain the reasons for the withdrawal, after capturing the Labyrinth.

Colonel Pearson says:—

"Owing to the extraordinarily broken nature of the ground, which was covered with deep pits, ravines and watercourses, it was impossible to see what were the movements of our own troops except for a few yards at a time. Urgent appeals were made for S.A.A., water and stretcher-bearers. Wounded were lying about with little prospect of removal. The troops were growing very weak for want of water at 6.30 p.m. there was little change in the situation, though several small mixed detachments were

organized from stragglers and pushed into the line. Any attempt at advance immediately drew heavy concentrated machine-gun fire from enemy guns concealed in the cultivation on the left flank. . . . At 7 p.m. the left flank was thrown back still more, in order to save surprise by small bodies of the enemy. I considered that unless large reinforcements were pushed forward, both to my left flank and to the general line held by the 160th Brigade, the position would become untenable. I reported by telephone to H.Q. 160th Brigade that, in my opinion, the position would be untenable if attacked, unless the necessary reinforcements were forthcoming. At 11 p.m. orders were received that the Brigade will withdraw from present line. . . . Water had arrived about now, and was issued to the front line, but only amounted to half a pint each man. The Brigade moved back at 4.30 a.m. to the El Sheluf position."

The Battalion received high commendation for its behaviour on this occasion. The following messages are on record:—

(a) *Copy of Telegram to 2/10th Middlesex, sent by G.O.C. 160th Brigade:*

"Following message received from General Dallas (Commanding 53rd Division):—

"Much regret that order to withdraw from the position so gallantly taken by you and your troops had to be ordered. They gained their objective over most difficult ground in a magnificent way. Will you please tell them how much I appreciate the great effort they have made."

(b) *H.Q. 160th Inf. Brigade.*

Brigade Order of the Day.

The G.O.C. 160th Brigade wishes to thank all Officers, N.C.Os. and men for the very gallant work they did in the operations of the 26th and 27th.

This Brigade nobly upheld the high character it possesses when it was put to the test in battle.

The taking of the Labyrinth was a great feat in arms.

The G.O.C. deplures the losses we suffered in Officers, N.C.Os. and men, but we may feel certain that the enemy suffered much heavier.

28-3-1917.

(c) *Copy of a letter, dated 28-3-17, from G.O.C. 160th Brigade to Lieut.-Col. V. L. N. Pearson, Comdg. 2/10th Middlesex.*

"General Dallas has asked me to tell all the Officers and men of the 160th Brigade how much he admired their gallant conduct during the operations of the 26th and 27th, and all you did in helping him in a very difficult situation.

"The taking of the Labyrinth was a gallant piece of work, and the consolidation of the front under heavy and continuous enfilade fire, to which the Brigade was exposed for two days and nights, was a situation to shake any but the best troops.

"He much deplures the heavy losses you suffered in gallant Officers and men, but those of the Turks must have been far heavier. We also captured the G.O.C. and Staff of the 53rd Turkish Division, four field guns, and 800 prisoners. They must have had numerous casualties.

"He wishes me to let you know how proud he is to command a Division in which they are such an important factor in all respects."

From this time till the 19th April the Battalion was employed in holding the line of the Wadi Guzzi, until the time was considered ripe for a second attempt to take Gaza. On the morning of the 19th this attack began, and the time-table of the Battalion is as follows:—

April 19th—

Hours.

0715.—Commenced advance. Objective, right redoubt of Sampson's Ridge.

1115.—Reinforced by 1/4th Royal Sussex.

1300.—Sampson's Ridge taken at the point of the bayonet. The Battalion captured two officers and 43 men of the enemy.

1315.—Consolidated the new position.

April 20th—

0345.—Battalion relieved by 1/5th and 1/7th Royal Welch Fusiliers, and moved to sea-shore N. of the mouth of the Wadi Guzzi.

This action was apparently much hampered by difficulties on the left flank of the Battalion. It appears that the 2/4th Royal West Kent Regiment was delayed

in the earlier stages, and its Commanding Officer was wounded. He sent his Adjutant to Colonel Pearson, asking him to take over the Battalion as well as his own, but the Adjutant was himself mortally wounded before he could give his message. Eventually the two battalions stormed Sampson's Ridge, and after hand-to-hand fighting with bayonet and bomb they took the position.

The casualties suffered by the 2/10th Middlesex in these attacks on Gaza were very heavy, viz.:

Officers: Killed, 6 (also one officer of The Buffs, attached to the 2/10th Middlesex); wounded, 12.

Other Ranks: Killed, 41; died of wounds, 8; missing, 32; wounded, 240. Total, 339.

(ii) "*In Front of Gaza.*"

Although the attack on Sampson's Ridge by the 160th Brigade was a success, the general advance was not so, and the force was obliged to settle down to trench warfare again, on the line Gaza to Beersheba. The Battalion had several moves in the line and in reserve during the months of May to October. The chief incidents during this period were:—

Colonel Pearson appointed to command 160th Brigade, and Major A. P. Hohler appointed to command 2/10th Middlesex.

August 11.—A patrol of one officer and 20 men reconnoitred Sugar Loaf Hill, and found a listening post of three Turks. Killed the lot.

August 13th.—Raided Sugar Loaf with three officers and three platoons. Met a Turkish raiding party. Sharp fighting resulted in rout of Turks. We brought in one Turkish officer, wounded, and one man, also the bodies of two dead Turks.

August 15.—During the night two officers and two platoons rushed Sugar Loaf with the bayonet and captured it. The Turks made two desperate attempts to recapture the hill, but were driven off by our flanking Lewis guns.

Our casualties were one man killed and nine wounded. We counted 38 dead Turks.

August 25.—The Battalion withdrawn to Deir El Belah for intensive training, which lasted till 24th October.

(To be continued.)

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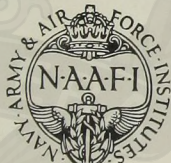
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