



THE  
**DIE-HARDS**

*The Journal of*

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

*(Duke of Cambridge's Own)*

**May 1923**

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### MEMORIAL AT MONS.

The Monument shown in the picture was erected by the Germans in the Military Cemetery at Mons to some of the Men of the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment who fell there on August 23rd, 1914.

After the Armistice, when the 4th Battalion was stationed at Jumet, on the Charleroi-Brussels road, several Mons survivors revisited the scene of their first fight and discovered the Monument which had been erected during the early part of the German occupation of Belgium.

# THE DIE-HARDS

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

VOL. I. No. 4.

MAY, 1923.

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," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo,"  
 "Badajoz," "Victoria," "Pyrenes," "Nivelle," "Nive,"  
 "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New  
 Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith,"  
 "South Africa, 1900-02."

Agents—Messrs. Lloyds.

#### Regular and Militia Battalions.

Uniform—Scarlet. Facings—Lemon Yellow.  
 1st Bn. (57th Foot) ... Rhine.  
 2nd Bn. (77th Foot) ... Singapore.  
 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, Hanworth 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.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., 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."

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### EDITOR'S NOTES.

SINCE our last publication reasons of economy have again necessitated alterations in the Regiment.

It is officially stated that recruiting for the Militia Battalions of the Regiment (5th and 6th) is indefinitely suspended.

We venture to express the hope that this historical link with the county may not be entirely severed and that when the financial state of the county permits it may carry on as in the past.

It is interesting to record that prior to the Great War we had ten battalions, now only five, viz., 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th.

It will probably interest our readers to know that the two Militia Battalions have had a longer connection with the County of Middlesex than any other units of the Regiment.

The 5th Battalion was formerly the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry, whose badge it used to wear.

The 6th Battalion has been connected with the county for many years, tradition has it

### CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Editor's Notes	71	Middlesex Regt. Officers' Club	85
Major-General Sir Harcourt Bengough, K.C.B.	73	Regimental Association Notes	86
The Story of a Die-hard	74	The Old Comrades' Dinner	87
1st Battalion Notes	74	Obituary	87
2nd Battalion Notes	77	Pink Nightgown	88
Depot Notes	80	Answers to Correspondence	92
7th Battalion Notes	81	"London Gazette"	92
8th Battalion Notes	82	Competitions	93
9th Battalion Notes	83		
South Middlesex V.R.C. and 10th Middlesex Regt.	85		

that it was associated with Edward the Confessor; in fact, there is supposed to be only one battalion in the Army which can boast of a longer record.

It used to be the Royal East Middlesex Militia, and the badge, a Saxon crown above the county arms, denoted its ancient connection with Middlesex.

The Depot too, has not escaped.

To ensure rapid formation of squads, recruiting zones are now formed into groups and the whole of the infantry recruits taken in a group are attested for one Regiment only, until a squad is complete, when the group switches on to the next regiment.

Thus a squad of 30 men is completed and ready to commence training within a week, whereas under the former system a month or more sometimes elapsed between the arrival of the first recruit and the last required to form a squad.

The Middlesex Recruiting Area is grouped with the Royal Fusiliers; Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire zones are all at the moment recruiting for the Middlesex Regiment only.

The new Depot establishment is organized as follows:—

(a) Depot Headquarters, consisting of:—1 Major, 1 Captain, 1 Acting Adjutant (Lieutenant), 1 Assistant Adjutant, and 1 Quartermaster; 1 R.S.M., 1 R.Q.M.S., 1 C.Q.M.S., 1 Orderly-Room Sergeant, 1 Sergeant-Instructor of Musketry, and 1 Sergeant-Cook; 3 Drummers, 3 Corporals, and 42 Privates.

(b) Training Company, comprising:—1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 1 C.S.M., 5 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, and 5 Lance-Corporals.

(c) Training Cadre:—1 Subaltern, 1 Sergeant, and 4 Corporals.

Normally the appointment of all ranks will be for a term of three years, except in the cases of the Quartermaster, R.S.M., R.Q.M.S., O.R.S., and Sergt.-Cook, who are permanently posted.

Not more than 50% of the Depot staff of and above the rank of sergeant are to be appointed from the battalion abroad and the remainder from the battalion at home.

All N.C.Os. selected for duty must be recommended as suitable for promotion to the next higher rank.

The above took effect from April 1st, 1923.

\* \* \*

The Editor will gladly welcome any suggestions for the improvement of the Journal.

It is our aim, in addition to providing the news of the various Units of the Regiment, to help any of our readers who care to seek our assistance in matters affecting their personal interests.

We specially invite inquiries from the junior N.C.Os. and Private soldiers.

Such inquiries will be dealt with in an "Answers to Correspondents" Column, unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication.

All letters will be treated as confidential.

It is much regretted that a few articles from contributors have been unavoidably held over for want of space.

\* \* \*

May we remind our readers that the Journal can only carry on its functions through the assurance of financial success. This can be done by all becoming annual subscribers at once. It has been suggested that the price of the paper is too high. With this we agree, providing it receives the loyal support of the serving members of all battalions. It is quite impossible at present to reduce the price of the Journal. It may interest our readers to know that the cost per copy is 1/4. What we want, and must have, is a larger circulation.

The fact is our friends at home and abroad are not giving the paper the financial support which we are entitled to expect. Its success or failure is, to a great extent, in your hands. We require your support in this matter.

The statement of accounts will be published annually.

The Journal has now been incorporated with the Regimental Association and will in future be administered by that organization.

We draw our readers' attention to our competition page, which we hope will prove a success.

## MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HARCOURT MORTIMER BENGOUGH, K.C.B.

(AN APPRECIATION.)

HARCOURT BENGOUGH was gazetted to the 77th Regiment as an Ensign in 1855, when still a Rugby School-boy, and as the Regiment was serving in the Crimea, he was only in time to join just after the suspension of hostilities. He was posted to the Grenadier Company and did duty at the front. On the termination of the war the 77th Regiment returned to England. In 1857 it embarked for New South Wales, and was the last British Regiment to serve in Australia.

Owing to the Indian Mutiny the Regiment was sent to India in 1858, but by the time it arrived there the Mutiny was practically over, and the Regiment proceeded to Dum Dum, where the Colonel, Col. R. T. Stratton, C.B., died very suddenly and was succeeded by Col. the Hon. A. Chichester.

Ensign Bengough here began his study of Oriental languages, in which he greatly excelled, and being a good linguist he passed the Examination for Military Interpreter in '62, and the High Proficiency in Persian in '66, in which year he attended the Durbar at Agra as Persian interpreter and extra A.D.C. to the Governor-General (Lord Mayo). In 1870 the 77th Regiment, then commanded by Col. H. Kent, left India for home and was the first Regiment to pass through the Suez Canal in a troopship.

In 1875 Capt. Bengough passed into the Staff College, where he remained for two years. He frequently rode with the Drag and also drove the Staff College coach, and it was said that "when Bengough drove, all the four horses seemed to start in different directions."

In 1876 Bengough, then a Brevet Major, rejoined his Regiment in Ireland, and in '78 was selected for special service in South Africa, where war was imminent with the Zulu tribes. He at once commenced to learn the Zulu language as he had been told to take over the command of the 2nd Natal Native Contingent, and felt he ought to gain some knowledge of his men's language.

The Natal Native Regiment consisted of ten companies of 100 rank and file, all carrying their native weapon, the assegai, and

10 per cent. armed with rifles. In January, '79, Major Bengough and his native contingent were across the Buffalo River when news was received of the English being destroyed ("eaten up" in Zulu) at Isandhlwana. This necessitated a decision whether to withdraw across the Buffalo, or to take up a defensive position. Bengough decided to withdraw into Natal, which was fortunate, as a tribe had been sent to eat them up, and his own natives had to be disarmed for fear of them deserting to the enemy. In July, '79, Major Bengough's contingent was present at the Battle of Ulundi, when a British force of one Division, with three Batteries of Artillery, and some gatling guns, was drawn up in a hollow square, on a bare plain, without shelter, trench or other defence, and was attacked by twelve Zulu regiments, 20,000 strong, of whom not less than 1,500 fell on the field.

Shortly after, the Native Levies were disbanded and the following letter was sent to Major Bengough by Sir E. Newdigate, Commandant 2nd Division of the Field Force . . . . "H.R.H. has requested me to say that from the beginning he appreciated the work done by the gallant men under you, and the very efficient manner in which you commanded the force entrusted to your care. I can assure you he has always spoken to me in the highest terms of services performed by your column."

In 1880 Lieut.-Col. Bengough, as Second-in-Command of the 77th Regiment, proceeded to India, and in the following year he was invited to join the Intelligence Department at Simla as Russian interpreter. For his work in this department he was afterwards thanked by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief, in India. He was appointed A.A.G. at Bangalore in 1882, and later A.A. and Q.M.G. of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force under Gen. Sir Charles Keys, K.C.B. Next he was selected as Chief of the Staff (under Gen. Prendergast, V.C., C.B.), to the force detailed for service against the King of Burma, and in this campaign received the C.B.

In 1886 he was appointed Brigadier-General to command the Magpur District, with Headquarters at Kamptee, where his old Regiment, the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, was then quartered.

In 1888 he officiated in command of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force with Head-

quarters at Secunderabad, and in the following year he was appointed to command the Bangalore Division, which he held till his return to England in 1892.

His next appointment was the command of Strensall Camp, but in 1893 he was sent as Colonel on the Staff, with the rank of Major-General, to command at Jamaica, where for a time he also acted as Governor. On returning to England he was appointed to the command of the 2nd Infantry Brigade at Aldershot and this proved to be his last command, as under the age clause he had to retire from the Service in 1898. For his services he received the Order of Knight Commander of the Bath, also the reward for Distinguished and Meritorious Service.

To the end of his life in 1922, General Bengough retained his love for foreign languages and was in the habit of reading the Gospel for the day in Russian, having a German and English text at hand for help and comparison. May I add that I had the honour of serving twice under him, when he commanded a Wing of the 77th Regiment in India, and also when he was in command of the Nagpur Brigade. There was never a keener sportsman, nor a more courteous gentleman; he lived up to the motto which he has placed at the beginning of his Memoirs, viz. :—

"Count failure as success, if it indeed"  
 "But make thee more determined to succeed."  
 G. W. W. S.

### THE STORY OF A DIE-HARD.

IT is only by chance that the deed recorded in this story has come to light. Lieut. Gilbert, an officer of the 46th Canadians, happened to be in the Mons district about the time that the Armistice was signed, and being interested in scenes of the 1914 retreat, made enquiries of the inhabitants as to the events of that date. The story, which is well known in the district, was related to Lieut. Gilbert by M. Leon Boivilard, Chief Pioneer of Aubourg Station, who was an eye-witness of the scene. The incident, as he described it, is as follows :—

"During the morning of August 23, 1914, the British troops had retired in the direction of Mons. One soldier, however,

remained behind, and took up a position on the east roof of the station building. He built a parapet of sand bags round himself and then awaited the oncoming Germans. On two occasions two other soldiers—apparently his comrades—returned to the station and urged him to retire. This he refused to do, so finally they left him.

"His position was well chosen, as it commanded the Rue Beauval, which crosses the canal and is the only approach to the station. It is joined at its northern end by Rue de St. Denis, the distance from the station to the junction of the two streets being about one hundred metres.

"The English soldier held up the Germans at that corner for almost two hours. Every German who showed himself in Rue Beauval fell, either killed or wounded.

"Many efforts were made to dislodge him, but he maintained his position against all attacks.

"He ceased firing eventually—apparently for want of ammunition—and got down from the roof. Just at that moment a large party of Germans rushed round the fatal corner, so the soldier fixed his bayonet and prepared to retire. While doing so he was struck in the head by a bullet and killed.

"He had accounted for fifty Germans—ten killed and forty wounded.

"The Germans allowed me to retain as a souvenir a razor which was found on his body. It bore the number 18907; the shoulder straps bore the name Middlesex."

The foregoing is taken from "The Golden Horseshoe," the journal of the 37th Division, to which the 4th Battalion was transferred in 1916 and was contributed to the journal by "C. R. H." (Major C. R. Hay).

### 1st BATTALION NOTES.

SINCE our last notes were sent in, we regret that Capt. T. C. Sharp, who had previously been collecting the Battalion news for THE DIE-HARDS, has left the Regiment on transfer to the Royal Welch Fusiliers, which accounts for the sketchiness of the present efforts.

In addition to the departure of Capt. Sharp, several other changes have taken place amongst the officers. Capt. T. J.

### FOOTBALL.

The Battalion finished third in the Rhine Army League. The West Yorkshire Regiment won it and the York and Lancaster Regiment second.

In the Rhine Army Knock-out Competition the Battalion reached the final, and played the Royal Artillery.

It was a fine struggle and ended in a draw after extra time, the score being 1—1.

The re-play produced a most exciting match with any amount of good football. It was a contest between a well-balanced team and one containing some brilliant individualists.

Our men pressed from the start, which enabled them to have most of the game. Some beautiful shots were put in by Sergt. Truss and L./Cpl. Scales, and the Gunners' goalkeeper was kept busy. Shortly afterwards the Artillery scored with a fast shot, which gave no chance to L./Cpl. Norman. Half-time arrived with the score 1—0 against us. Six minutes after the start Sergt. Truss equalized with a clever shot. The game was continued at a fast rate, and both goalkeepers were called upon to make several saves, but neither side managed to obtain the winning goal, and the whistle blew with the score 1—1. Extra time was played and the Gunners collected two more goals, thus winning the match by 3—1. Of the players, Corpl. Jones played with excellent judgment and set his team a good example by his skill and determination. L./Cpl. Sammons as usual worked hard. L./Cpl. Phelps played a sound game. Pte. Bolden and Sergt. Cullen combined well together and were always dangerous. Sergt. Truss made some good shots.

The team has been unfortunate having Ptes. Hance and Lindsay on the injured list for some time.

1st round v. 5th Fusiliers; won 3—1.  
 2nd round v. K.O.Y.L.I.; won 5—0.  
 Semi-final v. York and Lancs; draw 2—2.  
 Re-play: Won, 3—0.  
 Final v. Royal Artillery; draw 1—1.  
 Replay: Lost, 1—3.

The Company League has been completed; the result being:—1st, "G" Company; 2nd, "B" Company; 3rd, "D" Company; 4th, "Q" Company; 5th, "A" Company; 6th, "C" Company.

No. 5. Platoon of "B" Company won the Inter-Platoon Knock-out Competition.

Townsend has been transferred to the Royal Berks Regiment, and Lieut. F. S. S. Lamprey to the Green Howards. Capt. E. F. Lyons, Lieuts. Mirams, Dobbs, Bostock, Hedgecoe, Parker, and Clark have joined the Battalion, with the result that we are now very strong in officers, although Lieuts. Nunn, Dix-Lewis, and Dobbs have gone to various duties in the garrison.

In spite of the heavy demands made upon the man-power of the Battalion in finding Garrison duties and employments, we have been very active in a variety of sports.

The most important event was the arrival of the Battalion football team in the final of the Rhine Army Cup, and we extend the heartiest congratulations to the team, Corpl. Jones the captain, and C.O.M.S. Pelly the trainer, on their efforts, which might very easily have been rewarded by the winning of the cup, had the fates been more kindly disposed.

On March 15th we took part in the Rhine Army Route Marching Competition and were fourth. That we were not higher was no fault of the Transport, who are to be congratulated on being the best.

We congratulate Lieut. G. H. C. Pennycook on his appointment to the Adjutancy, in succession to Capt. Procter, and wish him the best of luck.

Several very successful evenings have been held in the club and dance rooms. The absence of ladies has not prevented as many as fifty couples from having some very cheery dances and whist drives.

We welcome the arrival of three of our Territorial officers for a fortnight's attachment; they are 2/Lieuts. L. C. Wright, I. E. Furlong, and E. W. Wright, of the 9th Battalion. The leave season is now over and as far as garrison duties allow, preparations for the coming musketry season are in full swing and the evening silence is disturbed by the activities of squads of third class shots getting ready for a fresh endeavour to find the elusive "bull." We hope the clues they are being given will be helpful.

The Battalion Concert Party "The Inmates," is preparing for a fresh spasm at Albuhera time, in spite of their name, but the troupe find the many other social attractions an obstacle to rehearsals.

The following have been awarded their Soccer Colours:—L./Cpl. Sammons, L./Cpl. Norman, Bdsman. Fry, L./Cpl. Phelps, Pte. Baker, Sergt. Truss, Sergt. Cullen, Corpl. Jones, Pte. Lindsay, L./Cpl. Scales, Pte. Bolden, and Pte. Hance.

The boys were unfortunate to lose their first round in the Boys' Knock-out Competition, being defeated by the D.C.L.I. They finished third in the Boys' League.

#### RUGBY FOOTBALL.

In the second Rhine Army Rugby Competition the Battalion XV defeated the K.O.Y.L.I., who had previously won Lord Derby's Cup, by 46 points to nil. A very good performance, even though their opponents were not at full strength. At present the ground is so hard that it seems possible that the competition will not be finished.

We regret that Lieut. Lamprey is leaving the Battalion, and shall feel the loss of a promising full-back.

We congratulate 2/Lieut. Worton on playing for the Army *v.* the Navy and Air Force.

#### HOCKEY.

The Battalion Hockey team ended third in their league, which was disappointing, as only the first two teams in each league competed in the final and the team is quite strong enough to have done better.

The following Colours have been awarded and re-awarded:—Capt. Procter, L./Cpl. O'Brien, L./Cpl. Murphy, Lieut. Clowes, C.Q.M.S. Tulley, Sergt. Farrow, Sergt. Truss, Lieut. Dobbs, Corpl. Page, and L./Cpl. Sammons.

The majority of the team have been taking part in the Rhine Army Trial games. The Company League is nearing completion, and seems likely to be won by "Q" Company, as they are at present undefeated.

#### BOXING.

This winter has seen more boxing in the Battalion than at any time since the war, and although we have only been able to hold one Battalion competition, 70 men have taken part in Rhine Army tournaments. The Battalion Competition was held on February 28th and the team was selected from the winners.

The results were:—

*Light-weight.*—Pte. Howlett, "A" Coy., beat Pte. O'Neil, "D" Coy.

*Feather-weight.*—L./Cpl. Swindon, "D" Coy., beat Pte. Skull, "D" Coy.

*Welter-weight.*—Pte. Jackson, "Q" Coy., beat Pte. Bayliss, "B" Coy.

*Middle-weight.*—L./Cpl. Fisk, "C" Coy., beat Pte. Nicholls, "C" Coy.

*Fly-weight.*—Pte. Chant, "Q" Coy., beat Dmr. Bodden, "Q" Coy.

*Light Heavy-weight.*—Corpl. Hawkins, "C" beat L./Cpl. Pickett, "Q" Coy.

*Heavy-weight.*—Sergt. Griffen, "B" Coy., walk over.

*Boys' special three rounds.*—Boy Wooley beat Boy Stuhldreer; Boy Barling beat Boy Harris; Boy L. Amos beat Boy Tibble.

Good losers' prizes were awarded to:—Pte. Barnes, "Q" Coy.; Pte. Bolden, "C" Coy.; Pte. Garratt, "D" Coy.; Pte. Shewring, "D" Coy.; and Pte. Newman, "D" Coy.

At the Rhine Army Tournament held on February 22nd, the Battalion had two successes, L./Cpl. Fisk winning the Middle-weight, and Corpl. Hawkins beat Corpl. Charville (K.O.Y.L.I.) in a special six-rounds contest.

In the Inter-Battalion Team Boxing the Battalion was represented by:—Pte. Chant, Pte. Jones, L./Cpl. Swindon, Pte. Howlett, Pte. Bayliss, L./Cpl. Fisk, Corpl. Hawkins, Sergt. Griffen, Lieut. Walden, and Lieut. Reid.

Corpl. Hawkins and Lieut. Walden are to be congratulated on winning their weights, and Sergt. Griffen was unfortunate to break three fingers in the semi-final and to be thus robbed of a probable win in the final. The remainder of the team all reached the semi-finals with the exception of the Fly-weight.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS JOTTINGS.

As the previous notes terminated with the advent of Christmas, 1922, these must commence from that date.

As usual the Sergeants' Mess spent Christmas with the troops and certainly had a most enjoyable time.

The Mess had their night (and day) out on December 30th. The evening was subdivided into three parts: Dinner, smoking concert, and dance. Need it be added that all attained a great success? Several visitors

came to dinner, including ex-C.S.M. "Dusty" Wright (3rd Battalion), and "The Count" (Mr. Rimpler, R.G.A.). Everything ran very smoothly throughout. After dinner the officers and ladies arrived and things began to move. Several members sang. We must not forget the ladies and officers. They sang as well. In fact, it was "Some" concert. Then came the dance. This lasted until very late. I believe some members were dancing on Tuesday, three days later! However, it came to an end and everyone voted it a most enjoyable evening. During the months that followed the usual whist drives and dances were held. The officers challenged us to a billiard tournament and naturally we accepted. The games have spread over a long period, but we are in an undefeatable position. These games, however, are enjoyed very much. What is considered the most unique shield of its kind has just been presented for monthly competition, namely a "Pokey Die" Shield. A billiard cup has arrived but so far has not been put up for competition. We regret to have lost several members owing to moves, etc., particularly C.S.M. "Fizzer" Gray, who has gone to the Depot for duty. However, we have been able to welcome several new members, among whom are R.Q.M.S. Holman and C.S.M. Green. In mentioning departures, we must not forget C.S.M. "Bob" Cullum, as with all our members who leave us, it is with us "Gone but not forgotten." This is about all the notes up to the present; more we hope will follow.

#### BIRTHS.

BUCKINGHAM.—On January 2nd, 1923, to wife of Bdsman. Buckingham—a daughter, Rose Mary.

CARTWRIGHT.—On February 23rd, 1923, to wife of C.S.M. Cartwright—a son, Reginald Victor.

GREGORY.—On March 25th, 1923, to wife of Bdsman. Gregory—a daughter, Doris.

MISSO.—On January 29th, 1923, to wife of Corpl. C. V. Misso—a daughter, Doreen Evelyn.

MURPHY.—On March 6th, to wife of L./Cpl. J. Murphy—a son, Joseph William.

#### MARRIAGES.

JONES—KOMER.—On January 3rd, 1923, at Kalk Military Church, L./Cpl. D. C. Jones to Miss V. A. Komer.

RICHARDS—ROURAGE.—On March 31st, 1923, at Deutz Registrar's Office, Corpl. W. J. Richards to Miss S. G. Rourage.

#### DEATHS.

HART.—On January 30th, 1923, Pte., A./Dmr. Joseph Hart.

PAIN.—On March 1st, 1923, David William Sydney Pain, son of Sergt. Pain.

PAULL.—On March 19th, 1923, Pte. James Paull.

PEACOCK.—On March 15th, 1923, L./Cpl. Harry Peter Peacock.

### 2nd BATTALION NOTES.

#### OFFICERS' NOTES.

MAJOR B. A. Thompson has left the Battalion for Johore, having been seconded as Military Adviser to the Sultan and Commandant of the Johore Military Forces.

Capt. W. W. Jefferd arrived back from six months' leave in New Zealand on October 22nd.

Capt. G. N. A. Cursons, M.C., returned from two months' sick leave in China and Japan on October 29th, 1922, and sailed for India again on December 21st for a Machine-gun Course at Ahmednagar.

Lieuts. E. T. Pain and J. R. S. Chapman returned from their respective courses in India on December 21st. Their ship experienced a bad typhoon in Rangoon Bay and very nearly foundered.

Major H. F. Spence has assumed the duties of Second-in-Command. Mrs. Spence recently joined him from home.

On November 29th the officers of the Battalion gave a most successful dance. The Mess provided an excellent and spacious ball room with the screens dividing the ante and mess rooms removed. Great pains were taken over the decorations, which were much admired. The dance was pronounced by many of the guests, of whom there were 250, as the best one they had been to in Singapore for some years.

#### CHRISTMAS.

The officers' Christmas festivities were very kindly provided by Col. and Mrs. Swainson, who gave an excellently arranged Christmas dinner party to all the officers,

both married and single, and a number of others from the garrison.

The true Christmas spirit was provided for in the form of games and dancing and everyone enjoyed a thoroughly jolly evening.

#### FOOTBALL.

An interesting and amusing football match was played on December 20th between the officers of the Battalion and the officers of H.M.S. *Despatch*. It had been raining heavily all day and although it had stopped by the time the match was due to begin, the ground was practically under water. This, however, did not deter the teams, for the game was quite fast considering the state of the ground.

At half-time neither team had scored.

On play being resumed the officers of the Battalion got the upper hand and were soon rewarded with a goal. Play then became faster but in the end the senior Service, in spite of their efforts to reduce the lead, were unable to prevent the Middlesex from scoring twice more.

The final whistle then blew and the players who were completely saturated with liquid mud, went off the field amidst prolonged cheers from the large number of spectators of all ranks, and thus ended perhaps the most amusing match that Tanglin has ever seen.

The following represented the Battalion:—

Major Spence; Lieut. Clayden and Lieut. Bailey; Lieut. Overell, Lieut. Heywood, and Lieut. Howell; Capt. Moore, Lieut. Pater, Major Wollocombe, Capt. Cursons, and Lieut. Wray.

#### BAND NOTES.

The Band proceeded to Kuala Lumpur for musketry on October 10th with instruments, and while there played at the Selangor Club (The Spotted Dog, the best known club in the East) eight times, the Lake Club twice, and the Semenyan Club once; the latter club is situated about 25 miles from Kuala Lumpur amidst rubber plantations.

The Band returned to Singapore on November 1st. On December 1st a small band under the Bandmaster proceeded to Malacca by boat to play for the St. Andrew's ball, returning on the 4th by train.

On December 29th a small band under Sergt. Wilson, proceeded to Kuala Lumpur to play for the Scottish ball on Hogmanay Night, returning on January 1st.

#### BOXING.

2ND MIDDLESEX REGIMENT *v.* H.M.S. "DESPATCH."

On December 22nd, 1922, a team of boxers composed of Sergt.-Dmr. Capel, A./Cpl. Myland, Pte. Cook, Pte. Horton, Dmr. Lazeras, Pte. Dyer, and Pte. Murphy, met a team from H.M.S. *Despatch*. The teams were well matched and a fine exhibition of boxing was given. Sergt.-Dmr. Capel won on points after a very hard fight; in addition Pte. Cook, Pte. Lazeras, and Pte. Hodgson won their fights. A./Cpl. Myland put up a splendid fight and although he lost, was congratulated by the acting Governor on the plucky way he fought.

#### AQUATIC SPORTS.

The Battalion held its Aquatic Sports Meeting at Tanglin on Thursday, November 23rd.

The following are the results of the Battalion Championship and Inter-Company Championship events:—

30 Yards (*free style*).—1, L./Cpl. French (15 secs.); 2, Pte. Jolliffe; 3, Pte. Brown.

60 Yards (*free style*).—1, L./Cpl. French (31 secs.); Bdsman. Botting and Pte. Cissell tie.

90 Yards (*free style*).—1, Bdsman. Botting (56 2-5 secs.); 2, Lieut. Howell; 3, Pte. Davies.

180 Yards (*free style*).—1, Bdsman. Botting; 2, Lieut. Howell; 3, Dmr. Wilby.

60 Yards (*back stroke*).—1, Bdsman. Botting; 2, Pte. Cadwallender; 3, Corpl. Clark.

60 Yards (*breast stroke*).—1, Pte. Davies; 2, Pte. Riley; 3, Corpl. Clark.

*Diving*.—1, Bdsman. Kemp; 2, Pte. Towell; 3, Lieut. Wray. Competitors were judged for nearest low and high dives, swallow high dive and optional fancy dive.

*Plunge*.—1, Pte. Glibbery (40 ft. 2 ins.); 2, Pte. Scholpur; 3, Pte. Hillier.

*Inter-Company Relay Race*.—1, "D" Company; 2, "B" Company; 3, "A" Company.

*Inter-Company Water Polo*.—"B" Company beat "A" Company in final; "C" and "D" Companies tied.

*Inter-Company Championship*.—1, "B" Company (21 points); 2, "D" Company (20); 3, "A" Company (11½); 4, "C" Company (7½).

*Individual Championship*.—Won by

Bdsman. Botting with 11 points. Runner-up, L./Cpl. French with 6 points.

*Open Relay Race*.—This was open to all British Garrison units (excluding the Battalion) and European Volunteers. S. R. E. (V) were the only entrants and beat a scratch team of the Battalion.

At the conclusion of the sports Mrs. Swainson kindly presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS.

As foreseen in my last notes the "Singapore Football Cup" has changed its home and is now resting among other pots on the side-board of the Sergeants' Mess.

The final was a thoroughly good game with the best team just the winners.

Practically the whole Battalion attended the match, lorries for their conveyance being arranged by the Commanding Officer, and to this factor much of the team's success is due.

We are now looking forward to the Garrison Sports and a few more "cups" which we anticipate might possibly be won by such members of the Mess as Sergts. Wayte, Capel, Hewitt. Watch the Stop Press column.

The usual tournaments of Euchre and Bridge have been held but the belts have changed hands.

One enterprising merchant, while on a holiday at Fort Canning, discovered a new form of entertainment, to wit, "Max"; this not only causes amusement to the players but also ensures the caterers' face being wreathed in smiles during the whole of the game.

To play the game it is necessary to have a small box containing five small square bricks, a certain number of points being awarded for each throw, the player obtaining the lowest number of points squaring the caterer.

Sad to relate that although the member who introduced the game was fairly proficient it is he who now most often asks the query "How much?"

Another "Euchre," together with a "Bridge" Tournament, have been played since my last notes, the winner of both being Sergt. Tom Smith (no relation to the Cracker King).

A dance was held on November 4th, to which His Excellency the Governor, the

Colonial Secretary, the General Officer Commanding and all the officers of the Garrison were invited.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Laurence Guillemarde, K.C.M.G., the Hon. F. S. James (Colonial Secretary), Major-Gen. Sir Neil Malcolm, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commanding Malaya Command and practically the whole of the officers of the Command attended. These, together with the usual quota of friends from other Messes, to say nothing of our civilian friends, rather crowded the theatre, but a very successful evening was held, and it is hoped to run many more similar to the above during the remainder of our stay in Singapore.

Then came Christmas and the New Year, which were spent in the usual fashion.

The next item of excitement was the arrival of the draft, including our new R.S.M. (R.S.M. J. Paris), our old friend Sergt.-Dmr. Siddons and Sergt.-Tailor Campbell.

On the 24th a farewell dinner is being held to be followed by a social in honour of R.S.M. Douthet, who is leaving us on completion of nearly 22 years' service.

Other members who are leaving the Battalion are Sergts. Wallace and Egan, who are being invalided from this station.

Full particulars of the farewell social will be given in our next.

A happy New Year to all members of the Depot and 1st Battalion Messes from the members of the 2nd Battalion.

HOPELESS.

#### HOCKEY.

Since the beginning of the season the Regimental team has improved considerably, and new blood has been discovered which promises well for the future and the past season shows very favourable results. We have played the R.G.A., the R.A.M.C., the Singapore Cricket Club and the Singapore Recreation Club, and can hold our own with all of them.

Four of our players have been playing in trial games for the Singapore hockey team, namely: Lieut. Heywood, Sergts. Wayte and Capel, and L./Cpl. Flint.

The Companies have shown a great deal more enthusiasm for the game than before and there are some good Company teams.

His Excellency the Governor has presented a cup to be played for annually. No 2 Group of the Headquarter Company won it

for the first time. After first drawing with "A" Company in the final of the competition, they won by 2 goals to nil in the re-play.

Capt. and Brevet Major L. A. Newnham, M.C., who has gone home to the Staff College, is a great loss to the team at centre-half.

## DEPOT NOTES.

### OFFICERS' MOVEMENTS.

Brevet Lieut.-Col. W. Y. Miller, D.S.O., relinquished the command of the Depot on February 4th, 1923, on his appointment to Command a Battalion of the West India Regiment.

Cpts. C. T. Whinney, M.C., and V. J. Garrow embarked for passage to Singapore *en route* to join the 2nd Battalion on February 16th.

Capt. A. W. W. Row, transferred to the Essex Regiment with effect from February 19th.

Brevet Lieut.-Col. V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., assumed command of the Depot on March 10th.

Capt. W. W. Jefferd and Lieut. A. V. Weller joined from the 2nd Battalion on March 16th.

### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES.

During the winter months the Depot has been unusually quiet, and, had it not been for our various amusement committees, who provided many enjoyable functions, we should have all succumbed to the "blues."

A fancy dress ball was held on December 22nd, which was excellently managed and a bumper attendance resulted in a most enjoyable evening.

Our Sergeant-Major recently proceeded to Aldershot to undergo a Physical Training Course, and on his return introduced a new "skittle pool" billiard game. By his prowess one cannot help but draw the conclusion that the whole of his time was not devoted to gymnastics.

In February a "skittle pool" tournament was held and the following members gained honours in this order:—C.Q.M.S. Lewis, C.Q.M.S. Adcock, C.S.M. Manning and Sergt.-Cook Tabersham.

On February 22nd a dance was held. O.R.Q.M.S. Guscott, Sergts. Crouch and

Clarke formed the committee, and Sergt.-Dmr. Sheridan was the M.C. Thanks to the energies of the foregoing a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Owing to St. Patrick's Day being on a Saturday, our usual St. Patrick's dance was held on the 16th, the same committee obliging as before. Dancing commenced at 8 p.m. and towards 10 p.m. a good gathering were enjoying the dancing, accompanied by the excellent music from a few of the Depot Band. From midnight onwards the dances were accompanied by Irish tunes adapted to dance time.

By the way, who were the members who quitted dancing for the novelty of "listening in"?

An Indoor and Outdoor Committee have been appointed to run the functions during the summer when cricket, Badminton, golf and tennis will figure prominently in our amusement programme, accounts of which we hope to publish in future numbers.

A whist drive and dance was held on March 8th. Sixteen tables, an increase of seven on the previous drive.

The prize-winners proved to be:—

*Ladies*: 1, Mrs. Pratt, tea set; 2, Mrs. Harrington, rose bowl; 3, Mrs. Cullum, cress dish; highest score at half-time, Miss E. Dean, fancy glass vinegar bottle; Booby, Mrs. Adcock, replicas in clay of well-known members in golfing kit. (No names Mr. Editor, please).

*Gentlemen*: 1, R.S.M. Piggott, case of fish knives and forks; 2, C.S.M. Gray, half-dozen stainless knives; 3rd, O.R.Q.M.S. Guscott, shaving set; highest score at half-time, Mr. Ware, match stand and ash-tray; Booby, L./Sergt. Clark, additional replicas in clay of nonentities, etc.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing. A most enjoyable evening was spent, largely due to the efforts of the Committee: C.Q.M.S. J. Adcock, Sergts. Crouch and Campbell.

We take this opportunity of expressing our pleasure at the attendance of the warrant officers and sergeants of the Staff at Eastern Command who are now quartered in a number of the hired quarters at Dollis Road, Finchley.

Our congratulations to Sergt. O'Brien, who was specially noted for instructional ability during a course at Hythe from February 19th to March 9th.

### CORPORALS' JOTTINGS.

The Corporals are going strong in the local Football League, in which they have entered a team.

We are looking forward to winning the Hendon and District League, Division I, and also the Hendon Cottage Hospital Thursday Competition. The semi-final of the latter took place on March 22nd on the Hendon town's ground, our opponents being the Golder's Green Traders. Weather conditions were ideal and a large number of spectators witnessed an excellent game, our side winning by 2—1.

Space does not permit us to publish a full report of the game, but we take this opportunity of congratulating the Corporals in entering for the various competitions.

Many difficulties have stood in their way, but they have all been surmounted by a little effort.

The team in the semi-final of the Hendon Thursday Cup Competition lined up as follows:—Corpl. Thomas; Sergt. Campbell and Mr. (ex-Corpl.) Levitt; L./Cpls. Sando, Northcote, and Johnson; Cpls. Staines, Thompson (J.), Thompson (F.), Sergt. Humphreys (a very old Corporal this), and Pte. Horton. It may be of interest to the younger members of the Regiment to know that the average service of the above team is fifteen years each.

### 7th BATTALION NOTES.

ON Sunday, November 5th, the memorial erected by relatives and friends to the 695 officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Battalion who fell in the war, was unveiled in Hornsey Parish Church by Major-Gen. G. H. B. Freeth, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

In the church there is a memorial chapel to the men of Hornsey who fell in the war, and the Battalion memorial takes the form of a carved oak screen at the western end of the chapel. The lower part of the screen contains panels in which are set, engraved on parchment, the names of the fallen; above these are a series of carved open work arches, the whole being surmounted by the crests of the Regiment and the Battalion.

The Battalion, the Old Comrades, and the local Cadet Battalion assembled at Head-

quarters and marched to the church. The Old Comrades, who attended in large numbers, were drawn up together with the Guard of Honour to receive Major-Gen. Freeth. After the inspection the General, with other officers and the civilian officials of the borough, entered the church and moved together with the choir and the clergy to their places in the church. Meanwhile the Old Comrades had entered, while the Guard of Honour took up their position across the west end of the church. The Colour, carried by Lieut. W. E. Pringle, M.C., was handed to the Rector, who placed it upon the altar where it remained until the conclusion of the service. Two Sergeants in fighting order stood with reversed arms before the memorial.

Col. E. J. King, C.M.G., T.D., who commanded the Battalion from 1907 to 1918, requested Major-Gen. Freeth to unveil the memorial. As the Union Jack fell, the Guard of Honour presented arms and the bugles of the Battalion sounded the "Last Post," followed by the "Réveillé."

Major-Gen. Freeth then spoke from the chancel steps, paying a tribute to those who had fallen.

A large number of wreaths and flowers were placed at the base of the screen; among these were wreaths from our comrades of the 9th Battalion, the Old Comrades and the present Battalion.

At the conclusion of the service the Old Comrades, followed by the Battalion, filed past the screen and forming up outside the church, marched back to Headquarters.

After the unveiling of the Battalion War Memorial, the Old Comrades, the present Battalion and the Cadets had tea together, under the care of Major Hudson, in the Drill Hall, while the serving officers entertained their friends, the past officers and the officers of the Cadet Battalion in the Mess.

### THE KING'S LEVEE.

The following officers of the Battalion attended the Levee at St. James's Palace on March 13th:—

Major Cossar; Lieuts. Murray, Vickerage, Hill, and Lindsay; 2/Lieuts. Doidge, and Collinson.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO—

Col. C. H. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., on his promotion to Brevet Colonel; Major

S. C. Smith, and Major H. L. Gregory, R.A.M.C., on their receiving the Territorial Officers' Decoration.

#### SPORTS.

We regret that we are unable to report success in either the Football or Boxing Competitions; we should like to take this opportunity of congratulating our conquerors in the first round of the Football Championship, the 8th Battalion, on having fought their way into the Divisional Final.

#### R.S.M. PRICE.

Before this appears in print, R.S.M. Price, who was serving with the Battalion in Germany, and has been with us ever since its return, will have left us. We wish him every success in his future career. He will be especially missed from the Battalion Concert Party, which owes its origin and early success to him and we trust that the members of that party will still carry on the good work started by him.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS.

During the winter months all Companies have been organizing various entertainments for the men of the Battalion. Very successful dances have been held at Hornsey, and whist drives and dances at Highgate; both these Companies held carnival dances on St. Patrick's Night, which were very largely attended.



### 8th BATTALION NOTES.

THE Battalion congratulates Col. R. S. Murray White, D.S.O., on his promotion, and wishes him every success in his new command, the West Scottish Infantry Brigade (T.A.). Major E. E. F. Baker, D.S.O., M.C., who commanded the 2nd Battalion from June, 1918, to April, 1919, has taken over command of the Battalion.

#### BOXING.

The Middlesex Group Boxing Tournament took place on January 27th, 1923. Sergt. Willis, "D" Coy., winning the Fly-weights, and Pte. Daws, "H.Q." Wing, the Feather-weights.

In the 44th (H.C.) Divisional Boxing

Tournament, held on February 24th, 1923, both Sergt. Willis and Pte. Daws represented the Middlesex Group, the former was runner-up, and Pte. Daws won, in their respective weights. These competitions gained three points for the Battalion in the Divisional Boxing Cup.

The 98th Battery, R.F.A., won the Cup from the Battalion by half a point only, awarded for the best fight of the evening.

In the T.A. Boxing Championships, held at Nottingham, Pte. Daws represented the 44th (H.C.) Division in the Feather-weights, but lost his fight on points. We congratulate Pte. Daws and wish him better luck next year.

"D" Company has shown enterprise in introducing basket ball into its Physical Training Programme. The first match to be played in the Battalion was contested by the Company at Uxbridge against the Air Force, resulting in a victory for "The Diehards."

#### "B" COMPANY'S PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The Company Christmas Smoking Concert and Prize Distribution was held at the Drill Hall on Friday, December 22nd. Officers of the Battalion present were:—Lieut.-Col. R. S. Murray White, D.S.O.; Major E. E. F. Baker, D.S.O., M.C.; Capt. W. H. Parmeter, Officer Commanding the Company; Lieut. D. L. Rees, 2/Lieut. Pattison, and Lieut. and Qmr. H. Dymore, M.C. We were very pleased to see the following past members of the Battalion present: Major G. Jack, who had an enthusiastic reception; Capt. C. T. Waddams, and Capt. E. Dark. The Commanding Officer expressed his appreciation of the Company's late Commander, Major Jack, whose efforts, had so largely contributed to the Company's present success.

He then presented the Champion Company Cup to Capt. Parmeter, and other cups and prizes, the chief of which were:—

Company shot: C.S.M. Butler; runners-up, Dmr. G. Richards, Sergt. E. Smith, and Corpl. W. Deane.

Recruits Company shot: Pte. W. Hughes; runner-up, Pte. C. E. Skipp.

Proficiency Cup: Sergt. J. Simons; runner-up, Sergt. Smith.

Recruits Proficiency Cup: Pte. E. Spring; runner-up, Pte. Nicholls.

### 9th BATTALION NOTES.

SINCE the publication of the last number of the Journal we have plunged from the inactivity of winter into the activity of spring. Little ditties can be heard floating about heralding the season, such as:—

In the Spring a young sub's fancy  
Swiftly turns to thoughts of work.

(We should have said "more work"). Or the equally familiar:—

O to be at Bisley  
Now that May is here.

In fact, our thoughts are already turning to the summer camp. The rumour of a return to Hastings for the annual training is not correct. Neither can we verify the statement that a certain N.C.O. was heard to say that he might "marry in Hastings, and repent at St. Leonard's."

The outstanding event of the last three months was the Royal Levee at St. James's Palace on March 13th, when the under-mentioned officers were presented to His Majesty the King by the Secretary of State for War:—

Lieut.-Col. G. Beach, T.D., Capt. Lamont, M.C., Capt. Finlay, Capt. Abbott, 2nd Lieuts. Hardcastle, Hogg, Furlong, Lester, Hewson, Townell, Permain, and Wright.

After the ceremony the party gathered together for lunch at the Stratford Club, Oxford Street.

Shortly after our last notes went to Press a very successful officers' dance was held at the Drill Hall, Pound Lane, at which a large gathering of officers and their friends were present.

#### OBITUARY.

We regret to have to announce the death of Sergt.-Major T. Chandless, of "B" Company, which occurred under tragic circumstances early in the year. Following an explosion, a fire broke out at his shop in The Broadway, West Hendon, and although the other occupants on the premises were able to make a hurried escape through the rear, Chandless was trapped.

The firemen, upon entering, found the charred remains of a man, lying with his head towards the door in the printing room, but the body was so badly burned that it was at first impossible to identify it.

Major Jack, who was loudly cheered, said there was some satisfaction in knowing that he laid one of the bricks upon which the structure of the Company had been laid. He congratulated the Company on gaining such a list of successes, and for having such a Commander.

Capt. Parmeter said the officers, N.C.Os. and men realized that winning the cup was only half the battle and that it was up to them to give a lead to the Battalion in sport, military work, and social activities. He heartily thanked the Commanding Officer for presiding and Major Jack and Capt. Waddams for coming amongst them.

The musical programme was supplied by the Melody Blues Concert Party. The Company's thanks are due to the residents and tradespeople who gave prizes for the Christmas Shoot.

#### YELLOW FLASHES.

Last camp was so cold for our Young Boys that it is Rees unable to hope that next Summer's a Baker.

[I Newbery Well(s) someone would start this in the 8th. I cannot Permit another Thorn(e) in my side. You can't Palmer thing like that off on me.—Ed.]

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Annual bounties for 1922 having been paid, a number of men have retired from the Service (with honorary rank of Pte.), while inquiries are expected to be made as to accommodation at the Workhouse on behalf of at least one Company Commander.

\* \* \*

Our tame linguist subscribes the following:—

There was once a T.A. Recruit  
Who didn't know how to salute;  
A Frog, to his mind,  
Was the animal kind,  
And grenade was the name of a fruit.

\* \* \*

Now that so many officers of the 8th are in possession of light cars, it has been suggested that the Battalion might be suitably re-named "The 8th Middlesex Light (Car) Infantry." However, the addition of more vehicles should lend an added interest to the annual Middlesex Mechanical Derby (Bisley—Staines).



Chandless had been away on a holiday to Exeter, and only returned to the shop on the previous night.

#### THE RIFLE CLUB.

At the Easter camp thirty new members enrolled, and therefore the number of competitions are increasing in proportion to the size of the membership.

A large number of Company Spoon Shoots on the miniature range at Headquarters have taken place during the winter months, and also an Inter-Company Miniature Range Shoot was held in January and February. "B," "D" and "H.O." Companies came into the semi-final, and the shoot was won by Headquarters Company. "B" Company put up an excellent fight, coming only six points behind the winners in a score of 432.

During the Easter camp the first of this year's competitions on the open range took place. The chief event of the Club was the Inter-Company Shoot, for which there was some very keen competition. The winning team was "C" Company, with a score of 98 points, "A" and "B" Companies coming second in a tie with 93, and "D" Company fourth with 80 points.

The Individual Shoot for the best shot in the Battalion Rifle Club (open to all ranks) was divided into two classes, in order to give the recruits a good chance. Class "A" was for those who had joined the Battalion previous to July, 1920, and Class "B" for those who had joined since, and who had seen no previous service. Class "A" resulted in a tie between C.S.Ms. Todman and Sewell, with 32 points. Class "B" was won by Pte. Barnes, of "D" Company, also with 32 points, which showed excellent firing for the recruits' class.

At the final parade before marching off on Monday evening, the Commanding Officer presented the prizes of cup and spoons to the successful competitors.

#### THE EASTER CAMP.

The clerk of the weather, regretting his unspeakable behaviour last year, this time beamed with exceptional good humour upon the Easter camp. Conditions were ideal for shooting, and a very full programme was completed during the four days at Bisley.

Apart from the musketry course, some very interesting competitions were held, in addition to the Rifle Club events (which

are mentioned above). On Easter Sunday, Inter-Company Plate Shoots were held, and teams of four were entered from each Company. After keen competition, "C" Company proved to be the winning team.

On Monday morning, further Plate Shoots took place, between teams of four, representing Officers, Sergeants, Corporals, and Privates respectively. In the eliminating round, the Officers' team knocked out the Sergeants' very speedily, and likewise the Corporals overcame the Privates. In the final, the Officers' team succumbed to that of the Corporals.

A most interesting demonstration followed this, teams of riflemen, Lewis gun, and Vickers gun competing in long-range shoots.

Among the most notable feats during camp were the winning of the Inter-Company Club Shoots by "C" Company; the consumption of six pounds of plum-duff by an "A" Company subaltern; hitting a plate with a Lewis gun without taking aim by a C.S.M.; the abduction of a bull-dog into an officers' hut at night; and the "clever" manipulation of the railway carriage lights by a subaltern, on the return journey to town.

#### PERSONAL.

Congratulations to Lieut. Hardcastle on his promotion.

We have at last had a clue of Cleugh! In fact, he walked right into the Mess at Pound Lane last month, straight from Hudson Bay or Klondike, or some such snowy clime. But, joking apart, we welcome him back to the Battalion very heartily, and hope that New York will not reclaim his presence for some time.

Among the interesting week-end manoeuvres at Mill Hill, which took place during February, was that of a certain "A" Company subaltern, who succeeded in changing the Mess Room poker into a cane while on parade. We also hear that the same subaltern used extraordinary persuasive powers with a cinema commissioner. We leave him to tell the tale!

Some interesting literary news has come to light. We understand that one of our eminent Company officers has published a

novel entitled "The New Ton of Coal; or When I Lamonted." Also, that a subaltern of "D" Company has written a film scenario entitled "The Sheriff at the Town 'all." Finally, an interesting gardening text book has been compiled by another subaltern on "Apple Culture, or The Worcester *Permain*."

\* \* \*

The officer commanding "B" Company sends us the following new definitions to familiar words:—

"Alacrity."—Alacrity is what one falls in for pay with.

"Seniority."—Seniority is what keeps a clever Lieutenant a clever Lieutenant.

"Repatee."—Repatee is what you thought of after the other chap had gone.

"Pep."—Pep is the stuff that only requires a smart Battalion in order to create a smart Battalion.

"Renegade."—A renegade is a man who only finds out at half-time on which side his bread is buttered.

"Monologue."—A monologue is a dialogue between oneself and the wife.

We are sorry that he forgot to add the inevitable—"B" (or "Bee") Company is so called because, on account of the abundant work it performs, it approaches to the habits of the bee. (!!!)

\* \* \*

We have no intention of mentioning names, but who was the musketry instructor who delivered the following to his class:—  
"Your rifle is your best friend; take every care of it; treat it as you would your wife—rub it all over with an oily rag every day."

\* \* \*

And who was the Orderly Room N.C.O. who typed out a parade order ending "Officers will wear swords," as "Officers will swear words." ?—!! (No doubt they did!)

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### SOUTH MIDDLESEX V.R.C. AND 10th MIDDLESEX REGT.

#### OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB.

THE officers of the battalions of the late 10th Middlesex Regiment have formed a dinner club, to which also the

members of the old Second South Middlesex Volunteer Rifles were invited.

The South Middlesex Rifles were disbanded at the inception of the Territorial Force and its members formed a new battalion—the 10th of the Middlesex Regiment. The Club which is called "The South and Tenth Middlesex Officers' Club," was formally instituted on December 15th, 1922, at which some fifty officers were present, representing all five battalions.

Major C. Jarrett, D.S.O., T.D., was appointed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The subscription was fixed at 5/- a year, this to include a yearly subscription to THE DIE-HARDS. The annual dinner is to be held on the second Saturday in each December at the Constitutional Club.

Any ex-officers of the 2nd (South) Middlesex V.R.C., or the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Tenth Middlesex, who may see this notice and wish to join the Club, should communicate with Major C. Jarrett, at 440, Strand, London, W.C.2. It is hoped that this dinner club will be the means of introducing many past officers of the disbanded battalions to the Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

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### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB.

AT a General Meeting of Officers of the Regiment, held in London on March 7th, 1923, the Colonel of the Regiment presiding, it was unanimously decided to form an Officers' Club.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, in addressing the meeting, emphasized the fact that the Club was being formed for the benefit of the Regiment as a whole, rather than for that of the individual officer.

Any officer who has held a commission in the Regiment (Regular, Territorial, Special Reserve or Service Battalion) is eligible for membership.

Objects of the Club are to promote social intercourse between past and present officers and their families, and to interest the county of Middlesex in the Regiment. To further this object, an annual dinner, a cricket week, and other social functions will be arranged.

Further details and the rules can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

The Annual Dinner this year will take place at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 25th, at 7.45 p.m. The cost of the dinner tickets will be 12/6 each and can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

#### REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK, 1923.

The cricket week will be held on June 27th to 30th, at the Depot. Members desirous of inviting relatives or friends to the "At Homes" can obtain invitation cards for them from the Hon. Secretary on payment of one shilling for each guest.

There will be a lunch tent for members of the Club. Price for lunch, 3/6. A limited number of Club guests are being invited to the "At Homes" by the Committee of the Cricket Week. All members attending the Cricket Week are requested to show their cards at the gate but *not* surrender them. Guests will be required to give up their cards to the gate keeper.

#### FIXTURES.

Wednesday, June 27th, Col. C. Disney-Roebuck's XI.

Thursday, June 28th, Cryptics' Cricket Club.

Friday, June 29th, Mr. C. W. Soman's XI.

Saturday, June 30th, Hampstead Cricket Club.

#### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will take place at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 23rd. The Old Comrades' Re-union Dinner takes place in the same building half an hour later.

#### PRE-WAR INJURY PENSIONS.

An Army Order provides that an officer, nurse or soldier who was invalidated from the Army before August 4th, 1914, in respect of injuries *sustained in time of peace* before that date and who is or may become qualified for an increase of pension under the Warrant

of August 16th, 1920 (Army Order 347 of 1920), may receive instead of the former pension so increased, an award assessed under the Pay Warrant (July, 1922) and based on the existing degree of disablement. If the award under the Pay Warrant of 1922 be variable according to the degree of disablement found to exist from time to time, it will be subject to such variation in the future, but in no event will it be brought below the rate applicable under the Warrant of August, 1920, nor will any pension be increased under the new Warrant by an amount greater than is sufficient to bring the total means of the pensioner up to £150 a year if unmarried or £200 a year if married. Awards under this Warrant will be made by the War Office or the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, as the case may be, without application by the pensioner, during the current annual revision of awards made under the Warrant of 1920.

#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE ARMY.

Vocational courses designed to equip soldiers for a return to civil life on the conclusion of their colour service have begun at the Army Training Centres at Hounslow and Catterick. Similar courses will in future assemble normally on the first day of each month, and each of the two centres has been equipped to receive 200 men at a time. Attendance at all the courses is to be regarded as a privilege for those who have shown themselves thoroughly efficient and well-conducted, and the courses are primarily intended for men enlisted for not less than six years with the Colours who are completing the last six months of their service. Men who have no reserve service to complete their engagement, or who are not qualifying for pension, will be considered only as special cases.

The subjects taught at Hounslow, though liable to variation according to the demands of the labour market, will be, in the main, private service, jobbing and market gardening, work on small holdings, woodwork, furniture renovation and upholstery, tailoring, boot repairing, building and allied trades; non-specialized engineering and electrical work. At Catterick, attention will be given primarily to farm work and work on small holdings, including the care and management of animals and tractors; market and

#### OBITUARY.

WE regret to announce the death of Major Franz Piens, which took place at Maidenhead on February 22nd, in his sixtieth year.

Major Piens joined the Regiment in 1881, was promoted Regimental Sergeant-Major, 2nd Battalion, in 1896, and during the South African War was present with the Battalion at the action of Spion Kop.

On the formation of the 4th Battalion in 1900 he was granted a commission and was appointed Quartermaster of that Battalion.

He retired in August, 1910, and took up a position with Messrs. Whitaker's, the publishers of the popular almanack, but on the outbreak of the Great War was recalled and served with the Suffolk Regiment.

In 1917 he attained his majority and was finally retired in 1919.

He leaves a widow and family of two boys and two girls.

A very old member of the Regiment also passed away on January 7th, Mr. E. Purton, at the age of 73.

Mr. Purton served as Band-Sergeant with the 1st Battalion and afterwards transferred to the Old Barrack Branch of the R.A.S.C., now known as Barrack Wardens.

He enlisted in 1867 and saw service on the Indian Frontier. His services were requisitioned during the Great War, when he again acted as Barrack Warden, thus donning the uniform up to his 72nd year.

The funeral, which took place at Dover, was attended by numerous relatives and friends, the Regiment being represented by Mr. S. Stephens.

Another Old Comrade, James Bridger, died of heart failure at Church End, Finchley, on February 25th, 1923, aged 54.

He enlisted in the Regiment in January, 1893, and was discharged to pension in 1914.

He was buried at Marylebone Cemetery, and leaves a widow and two boys.

jobbing gardening; fruit farming; poultry and bee-keeping; dairy farming; overseas settlement training; building and allied trades; boot repairing and upholstery.

The fact that each course will last for only six months will make it impossible to teach all that is required, except to those who, from a good general education, are able to benefit by lectures and demonstrations, and have a sound preliminary knowledge of the subject chosen. Consequently, except in specially recommended cases, only candidates holding Army Second-class Certificates of Education, will be considered. Certificates showing the degree of skill obtained will be given by the Training Centre, and every effort made to assist students to obtain engagements at the end of their course.

#### ARMY RESERVE TRAINING.

It is officially stated that during the twelve months beginning on April 1st, there will be no training for the Army Reserve.

#### THE OLD COMRADES' DINNER.

THE old Comrades' Annual Dinner will be held at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London, E.C., on Saturday, June 23rd, 1923, at 7 p.m.

The Colonel of the Regiment (Lieut.-Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O.) will preside.

All ranks who have served with either Regular, Special Reserve, Militia, Territorial or New Army Units of the Regiment, are cordially invited to attend. Dress optional.

Applications for tickets, price 6/-, exclusive of drinks, should be made to either of the following:—Major. L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O. (President, Dinner Committee), or R.Q.M.S. G. H. E. Duffield (Hon. Secretary, Dinner Committee), The Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

The Annual Meeting of the Regimental Association will take place at the Abercorn Rooms, at 6.30 p.m. same date.

## PINK NIGHTGOWN.

## A TALE OF MACEDONIA.

## I

THE fortune of war took me to Macedonia in November, 1915. Towards the end of that month the Division was camped on the inhospitable Lembet Plain, about three miles north of the town of Salonica.

We had just weathered a three-days' blizzard, when an order came for me to carry out a reconnaissance of Stavros and the Rendina Gorge (Gulf of Orfano). This order was very welcome, as it offered a change from trying to keep tents up in a Macedonian blizzard, and wondering what the Greek Army—lurking somewhere over the mountains—was up to.

As frequently happens in the Army, when one has to move, it has to be in a hurry, and there was no exception to this rule in my case. I was to proceed in a Corps car "forthwith" to G.H.Q. for instructions. The prospect of a Corps car pleased me greatly, as in our Division, cars—quite rightly—did not often come into the scheme of things of such small fry as Brigade Staff.

On arrival at G.H.Q. I found that my party was to consist of a Sapper Captain, and two R.N.V.R. officers, one of whom was an interpreter in Greek. Our job was, briefly stated, to select alternative landing places and pier sites, at or in the vicinity of Stavros, reconnoitre roads, report on the feasibility of flooding Rendina Gorge, and estimate the number of troops required to hold a certain line. Before leaving G.H.Q. I managed to touch the Intelligence Department to the extent of £50 for incidental expenses.

We were to sail in Monitor No. —, after I had seen the Admiral. My chief recollection of this latter interview is that I was enjoined not to delay His Majesty's ship longer than was necessary. In fact, it was evident that time was an important factor, and that an atmosphere of hush hush pervaded the whole business. We were also, in so far as we might be able, to foster the *entente cordiale* between ourselves and the inhabitants.

The officers and crew of Monitor No. — were as pleased as we were at the prospect of getting away from Salonica for a few days.

However, as will be seen, we were not destined to be ship-mates for long.

We sailed in the early afternoon. Our first destination was Libiada Bay, as I had decided to start the reconnaissance from that point. About 10 p.m. the commander of the Monitor made a good suggestion, which was that, as he would be on the bridge all night, I should occupy his—the only—cabin in the ship. This sounded a very much better way of spending the night than anything Lembet Plain had offered, and I accepted with almost indecent haste.

About 1 a.m. I was awakened by an appalling din—hoarse shoutings of sailors, and heavy bumpings on the deck. I did not get up, as it seemed to me that it was a naval rather than a military affair, besides which I was very comfortable in the commander's bunk. After a time the noise subsided, and I went to sleep again, to be awakened later by, if anything, a worse hullabaloo than before. I was just going to get up, when the commander came into the cabin to report officially that the ship was disabled, but that there was not much danger as there was a lee wind. There was also, fortunately, little risk from submarines owing to our shallow draught. It appeared that the boilers had been on fire twice, and that the bumpings were caused by moving the 9.2 shells away from the fire. I reflected that if any one of them had gone off, it wouldn't have mattered much whether one had been on deck or below. We sent a wireless to Salonica explaining the situation, and in due course a reply came to the effect that a destroyer was being sent at once, and that the military party was to tranship at sea and proceed.

Meanwhile the sailors had been working like beavers at the boilers, and had got one of them to function more or less, so we steamed on towards our destination at about four knots. It was not long, however, before we saw the smoke stack of a destroyer in the distance, and shortly afterwards our second warship came tearing along. We transhipped to the destroyer, and watched with mingled feelings the Monitor paddling away like a wounded duck towards Salonica. We were all four of us very sorry to leave our Monitor, as even in the short time we had been aboard, a strong *entente cordiale* had sprung up between our hosts and ourselves.

Later in the morning we arrived at Libiada

Bay, and landed in boats without difficulty. The country all round the foreshore consisted of tallish scrub, with mountains in the distance. We saw no inhabitants. The sapper, being the expert, got busy over a pier site, whilst the rest of us hunted about for suitable landing places, camping grounds, etc. We also bottled samples of water for alleged analysis by the R.A.M.C. I noticed that woodcock were plentiful, and added that to the report as a lighter item of intelligence.

The plan I had made was that the sapper and one R.N.V.R. officer were to reconnoitre the coast road, while the other R.N.V.R. officer—the interpreter—and I took the inland road via the village of Varvara, and over Sugljani mountain to Stavros. Meanwhile the destroyer was to go to the Gulf of Orfano, lie off Stavros, and await our arrival.

The coast road was the shorter of the two routes, and the sapper completed his reconnaissance during the afternoon, and got comfortably on board the destroyer in daylight. My interpreter friend and I had the walk of our lives. As the crow flies, the distance, according to our map, was only about twelve miles; but by road, or rather by indistinct track, it panned out to be considerably farther, in fact it took us about ten hours of steady going. I was not in the best of walking trim, owing to a wound received earlier in the war; and as a pedestrian tour, I had had enough of it long before we got to the end of our journey. My companion was a first-rate walker.

The inhabitants, I was glad to find, seemed friendly. Before reaching Varvara, we were overtaken by a well-to-do-looking man, his wife and small boy, with whom, having passed the time of day, we joined forces. In accordance with the custom of the country, the gentleman was riding a pony, while the lady and child trotted alongside. Later my companion heard the man say to the woman, "The British are coming to occupy our country," to which the woman replied, "Thank God if it is so." This remark boded well for the *entente* with the inhabitants, but rather queered the hush-hush idea. Shortly afterwards the man offered me his pony, for the couple of miles on to Varvara. Adhering to the custom of the country I then rode the pony, the lady and the rest of the party ambling alongside. Then the man seemed

struck with a brilliant idea, which being interpreted was, that he wished to send his son on ahead to announce our arrival to the good people of Varvara, and get them to ring bells of welcome. I nipped that project in the bud, as, apart from any other consideration, it meant heaving the hush-hush idea overboard altogether. On our arrival at Varvara the entire village turned out, and manifested a friendly interest in us. My knowledge of the Macedonian language enabled me to say, "Good morning," after which, conversation flagged as far as I was concerned—my linguist companion, however, came into his own, and saved the situation.

Sugljani Mountain looked rather formidable, and we were told the going was difficult. We therefore procured a guide, and were very glad afterwards that we had done so, as without him we should either have got lost, or anyhow not have reached Stavros that night. The track disappeared before we got to the top of the mountain, and thereafter we relied on the guide. Sugljani is a desolate sort of place, and as far as I can remember, the only signs of life we saw were wolf tracks. During the last hour and a half of the journey we scrambled down the bed of a mountain watercourse in the dark, and finally arrived at Stavros at 10 p.m.

We could see the destroyer lying off the beach, but she was not within hailing distance and we could not be seen in the darkness. We therefore routed out the occupants of a wooden house near the beach, on the assumption that they would be fishermen of sorts. This assumption proved to be correct, and in a good natured way they turned out and rowed us to the destroyer. We were—to say the least of it—tired, but after a tot of Navy rum and something to eat, we revived, and, before turning in, discussed our plans. The destroyer had to go to Mudros next day, but would be back by 8 p.m. the same evening if all went well. So it was arranged that we should be put on the beach at 7.30 a.m.

## II

Next morning as we watched the destroyer steaming away, I, for one, felt a sort of marooned feeling. In the light of what happened, this feeling was more or less justified.

Except for some sandwiches with us, and my Burberry, we had nothing but what we stood up in. All that day we explored the

beach and part of the Rendina Gorge. The former lent itself to landing places and piers, the latter was primeval forest, and in places the scrub was very dense. There appeared to be nobody living there, but occasionally we saw travellers—who we tried to avoid, as we did not particularly want to advertise our presence. There were remains of barbed wire entanglements in certain places—evidence of previous wars. Towards evening we made our way back to the beach to await the destroyer, anticipating with considerable keenness the prospect of a pleasant evening with our naval hosts.

Eight o'clock came and no destroyer—nine o'clock and still no destroyer. It was getting rather chilly and lonely on the beach, so we migrated to a block of two or three buildings, just inland from the beach, which seemed to be a combined store and lodging house. The occupants were all men—about seven or eight of them. I may be wronging them, but I formed the opinion, that they were possibly smugglers as well as storekeepers, as their store was some distance from the village; there seemed to be an unnecessary number of shop assistants to deal with any possible influx of customers in that part of the world. However, they appeared quite friendly and made us welcome. It was the queerest kind of store—a large barn-like building, store, kitchen, and eating room all combined. The chief articles exposed for sale were rope, dried herbs, putrid fish, mastic, and tin pots. We were to get to know this store pretty well.

About 11 o'clock, as there was still no sign of the destroyer, we broached the subject of being put up for the night. This led to a regular pow-wow amongst our hosts, the upshot of which was—that the sapper and the two R.N.V.R. officers were to occupy the adjacent lodging house, whilst I, by virtue of being the head of the party, was to be the guest of one of the debaters, who was by way of being the Customs official. This gentleman apparently resided alone, in a detached house, some distance along the beach. Although the lodging house was totally unfurnished and bug-ridden, I should have preferred staying with the rest of my party, to going off into the blue with this unknown official. However, I thought it better to fall in with the plan suggested, and keep up the *entente cordiale*. Let me say now that my host turned out to be a real good fellow. He went off at once to prepare

his house, saying he would be back for me in half an hour. The lodging house contingent settled down as best they could, and in due course my host returned.

It was rather an eerie walk along the beach at midnight, and we were handicapped as regards interchange of ideas, as neither of us spoke a single word of the other's language, moreover my friend knew no French. It was an odd looking house, a ramshackle wooden affair of two rooms, perched on high piles and entirely alone—a rickety stairway leading up to the door. The furnishing of the living room was Spartan. There was an extraordinary number of bunches of dried herbs and grasses hanging from the walls, whether for decorative or utility purposes I never ascertained.

When we got to the bedroom a crisis arrived. There were two beds of sorts at either side of the room, and hanging over the back of a chair alongside one of them, indicated by a bow from my host as being mine, was a pink flannel nightgown. A pink flannel nightgown is unattractive even under the most favourable circumstances, and in this case there were no such circumstances. It was a singularly unprepossessing garment.

The situation was a little difficult, because one realized the feeling of hospitality which prompted a man to offer his one *robe de nuit* to a perfect stranger. I felt that I would not have given up my pyjamas under similar circumstances. My sense of *noblesse oblige* was not strong enough to enable me to accept the offer gracefully; in fact, I made up my mind that *entente* or no *entente* I would not wear that nightgown, so I bowed to the nightgown, trying to convey in the action a mixture of appreciation of kindness and a disinclination to deprive a fellow creature of a valued possession. I evidently conveyed the first part of the mixture too well, because my host bowed again more profoundly to the wretched garment—after that we continued bowing in turn for about ten minutes without a word. At last to my relief my host removed the thing and began to undress.

Looking back on the incident it seems to me that my subsequent behaviour was perhaps unnecessarily cautious—but war teaches caution. Anyhow, as I was undressing, I reflected that, if there was going to be any trouble in that house, I should be better in a scrap with my breeches on, so I got under the blankets minus only my coat,

boots, and leggings; moreover, I put my revolver in a handy position. Meanwhile my host had undressed as far as his under-clothing, over which he put the pink nightgown before turning in. I felt that the pink nightgown was at last satisfactorily disposed of, as far as I was concerned.

On all subsequent nights my host slept with his breeches on. He evidently thought it was the thing to do. I have since wondered whether this uncomfortable practice became fashionable with the good people of Skala Stavros. I hope not.

### III

I slept like a log until dawn, when I awoke on hearing my host moving about in the next room. In a few minutes he appeared with a glass of cold water and a spoonful of jam, which he gave to me. Every morning he brought either this somewhat unsatisfying form of "chota hazri" or else a cup of laurel leaf tea. I preferred the cold water and jam.

On the Sunday and Monday there was still no sign of the destroyer. We busied ourselves with the reconnaissance and lived in the store. One good point about it was, that we had plenty of time for our work, without having it on our consciences that we were delaying any of H.M. ships. Our hosts were kindly, but their larder was meagre to say the least of it. The foundation of all meals was putrid fish. After the first trial we all felt that it had to be ruthlessly cut out of the menu. One day we got a duck, and had quite a dinner party.

I think we must have begun to look a little untidy, not having so much as a comb, far less a razor between us. Our hosts did not possess duplicate toilet outfits, even if they had original ones, which I very much doubt.

On Tuesday morning I decided that if there should be no sign of the destroyer by 4 p.m. I would send a telegram to Salonica, as for all we knew G.H.Q. might be in ignorance of the situation, both as regards the fate of the destroyer and of ourselves. Moreover, I knew that our report would be wanted, and by that time we felt we had had enough of Stavros for a first visit. The only way of sending a telegram was through my particular host, who, as Customs official, had some means of tapping in to a cable. The drawback to the business was, that any such telegram would have to go via

Constantinople, which was rather advertising our predicament far afield. As there was no appearance of the destroyer by 4 p.m. I drafted a telegram which the linguist officer translated into French before despatch. I forget why we decided to send it in French—less likely to attract attention en route perhaps. It is interesting to know that the telegram arrived at G.H.Q. without delay or mutilation.

By Tuesday evening we had completely finished the reconnaissance, and, that interest gone, we really began to be anxious to get back to Salonica—a curious desire under any circumstances. At dawn next morning I was awakened by a banging on the door, and a cheery voice shouting, without much respect for the French language, "*ou est les Anglais?*" The voice belonged to the Sub-Lieutenant of the destroyer, which had just returned after various adventures. It appeared that she had broken down, shortly after leaving us, and had had to take refuge in a small bay along the coast calling up a repair ship by wireless.

It did not take us long to collect our few belongings, settle our account with our hosts with them, and get on board, where we had a much needed clean up. It was quite a balmy day, and we much enjoyed lounging about the deck of the destroyer as she raced to Salonica. We got a particularly good view of Mt. Athos, a part of the world inhabited by an unsociable brotherhood as far as the feminine sex is concerned. It is said that the embargo on the sex extends even to hens. This must complicate the breakfast menu. Mt. Olympus was at his best, as we steamed into the Gulf of Salonica. We arrived at Salonica late in the evening. There was nothing more to do but say "Good-bye" to our sailor friends, hand in

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the report to G.H.Q. and make our way to the Hotel Splendide for a bath and dinner.

A few months later I had the opportunity of going by road to Stavros, and the Rendina Gorge, after it had been occupied some time. It was hardly recognizable. An assortment of roads, dumps, camps, barbed wire entanglements, piers, etc., had come into existence. The place had been changed from a bit of jungle to an up-to-date corner of the war. Luckily for all concerned it had not been found necessary to flood the Gorge. I was pleased to see that one place was named Woodcock Point. It is no doubt all dismantled and deserted now. There is something rather pathetic about Rendina Gorge; it only comes into its own when there is a war on.

Fate, I am sorry to say, has not brought those sailors and myself into contact again. We were as ships that pass in the night. I have even forgotten their names, but my recollection of their kindness is very vivid. It is a curious and kindly dispensation of Providence, that one's recollection of an experience is always most vivid about the pleasant and ridiculous parts. In the experience narrated my clearest recollection is of the kindness of the Sister Service, and of the incongruous appearance of the pink nightgown.



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENCE.

C.Q.M.S. S. (1st Battalion).—Candidates for Barrack Wardens can only be registered at the Headquarters of the Command in which the applicant desires to reside. You can only register when you have completed twenty years' service. Conditions are: Rank not below Sergeant; Pensioner; and a 1st Class Certificate of Education. Apply through your own C.O. Army Order 483/1920 gives full details.

CORPL. G. (2nd Battalion).—Regimental Association registration forms for employment can be obtained from your Orderly Room, which you should complete and forward to the Secretary, Regimental Association, Mill Hill, N.W.7. For Post Office employment, registration should be made at least one year before leaving the Colours.

## "LONDON GAZETTE."

THE following items are extracted from the *London Gazette* :—

### COMMANDS AND STAFF.

Colonel on the Staff, General Staff: Col. W. D. Wright, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., and to be temporary Colonel on the Staff while so employed.

G.S.O., 3rd Grade, at War Office: Brevet Major O. H. Tidbury, M.C.

Special Appointment, Class FF: Lieut. A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C.

Deputy Assistant Director of Docks, Class BB, Inter-Allied Navigation Commission: Capt. A. L. Cooper-Key.

### THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. W. Y. Miller, D.S.O., to be Lieutenant-Colonel and to Command a Battalion of the West India Regiment (4/2/23).

Capt. L. F. Sloane-Stanley is seconded as an Adjutant, Territorial Army.

Capt. H. B. W. Savile, M.C., relinquishes the appointment of Adjutant.

Major W. H. Samuel, retires with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

The following officers of the Regiment have been transferred to Units as follows :—

Major G. L. Oliver to The King's Regiment.

Capt. E. L. O. Baddeley to Oxfords. and Bucks. Light Infantry.

Capt. A. W. W. Row to The Essex Regiment.

Capt. H. W. B. Warneford, M.C., to K.O.Y.L.I.

Capt. C. H. Morris, D.S.O., M.C., to Bedfs. and Herts. Regiment.

Capt. M. Thorne to The Loyal Regiment.

Capt. T. C. Sharp to the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Capt. G. S. Hughman, O.B.E., to the Cameronians.

Capt. R. H. C. N. Fearnside Speed to the Royal Sussex Regiment.

Capt. R. H. Brodie to the Cameronians.

Capt. T. J. Townsend to the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Capt. E. Rushton to the D.C.L.I.

Lieut. W. M. Garner to the King's Own Regiment.

Lieut. R. D. E. S. Warren to the South Wales Borderers.

## COMPETITIONS.

### LUCKY NUMBER COMPETITION.

EACH copy of this issue bears a separate number (which will be found on the inside of the front cover) from ONE to the number of copies of the publication. Two numbers will be chosen before issue of the Journal. These numbers will be published in our August issue, and the holders of the Journal bearing these particulars will be entitled to the following prizes :—

Drawer of Lowest Number	...	...	...	...	£1.
Drawer of Highest Number	...	...	...	...	10s.

These will be published in the November issue.

The owners of the winning numbers must apply to the Editor.

This Competition will be a standing feature in the Journal.

*ORDER YOUR COPIES EARLY TO SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.*

### ESSAY COMPETITION.

Open to readers of THE DIE-HARDS not above the rank of Private or appointment of Lance-Corporal.

#### SUBJECT OF ESSAY.

"What is the ideal Regimental Institute, i.e., Library, Wet Canteen and Supper Bar." State your ideas how such an institution should be organized, furnished and served, bearing in mind :—

1. Accommodation.
2. Size.
3. Funds.

#### RULES.

Essays to be confined to 500 words or under. They must be clearly written or typed and signed by the Competitor.

This Coupon must be cut out, completed and forwarded with the essay to The Editor, THE DIE-HARDS, The Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7, England.

The decision of the Editor is final. The prize-winning essay will be published in our November issue, and selected extracts from others. All essays to reach the Editor by October 1st, 1923.

#### PRIZES.

1st prize, £1.

2nd prize, 10s.

### COUPON.

"THE DIE-HARDS" ESSAY COMPETITION.

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