

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XI No. 4

DECEMBER, 1953

PRICE 1/-

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(37th and 37th)

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

"Mysore," "Seringapatam," "Albuhera," "Cludad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Pyrenes," "Vittoria," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme," "Albert, 1915," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume, 1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pickle," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Roslères," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrugg," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumania," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular Battalion

1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948).

Militia Battalions

5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia). } In suspension.
6th Bn. (Royal Middlesex Militia). }
Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.
Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

Territorial Army Battalions

7th Bn. (1st/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War.
8th Bn. Now 11 Bn. The Parachute Regiment (8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.).
9th Bn. Now 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regt. R.A.
(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, (D.C.O.) T.A.).

Affiliated Unit

H.M. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Unicorn.

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The Royal Rifles of Canada.

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Toku, Taranaki, New Zealand.

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Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn.
Officer Commanding Depot: Major P. D. H. Marshall.
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D.

Regtl. Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., 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 of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to Secretary, Regimental Association, and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Chief Editor: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C.
Asst. Editor (Business): Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

The Colonel of the Regiment wishes all Ranks a Very Happy
Christmas and all Good Luck in the New Year 1954

EDITORIAL

After this number Major Nolda is gallantly taking over the duties of Chief Editor.

The Journal must move with the times, and it is quite hopeless to believe that an old retired officer, living in the country, can possibly speak for or understand the needs and write of the present generation (in any case, a new brain and new ideas are needed periodically).

It is regrettable that we have not been able, once again, to pay our way. It is, however, an inevitable fact that we never can do so unless we increase the cost to readers, or increase our circulation to such an extent that we are really worth it to advertisers.

The third alternative is to reduce the scope and cut out photographs.

This is a problem I must leave to my successor, who will not have the same conservative bias as, unfortunately, I find I have, having been a far too frequent paper-waster for over 30 years.

Many journals have reduced their issues to three or two—or even one—a year. Others are issuing monthly or quarterly issues of the news bulletin type.

I met an officer recently detached from the Regiment, and who sees many regiments' efforts, and there was some consolation in his remark that our *Die-Hards* Journal compares favourably with most of these and is, of course, much cheaper than the best.

With these remarks we lay down our pen and wish our successor every success and even better support than we have had and in this respect we feel that whilst the Journal is really the history of the Regiment in peace, it is hard to expect the editor to go on accepting contributions from T.A. units costing probably £10 a time to produce, just for the sake of history, and six to ten copies only sold to the unit. We would suggest that

every T.A. unit should take at least 50 copies, if only to distribute to barbers' shops, etc., in their area for propaganda purposes, and charge it to recruiting.

Milocarians

This famous athletic club has recently circulated regiments appealing for more members. It is, indeed, a pity if it is not receiving the support it used to have and it is to be hoped that officers interested in athletics will join in large numbers.

In the past Dick Batten, John Willoughby and ffolliet Powell of the Regiment ran for the Milocarians and we hope that others will now take up the baton, and we do not apologise for this rotten pun.

Regimentalities

Complaints have been received that members purchasing regimental ties find they have been supplied with a tie of incorrect shades, and we would point out that ties of the correct colours can always be obtained from the Secretary of the Regimental Association, or from the tailors advertising in our Journal.

Pensions—

Officers' and W.O.'s Widows

The following extract from a letter received from Mr. G. H. E. Duffield is published for the information of those who are in receipt of the applicable pensions. "On December 16, 1952, it was announced in Parliament that

"(a) The Government had reviewed awards given in respect of Service pensions payable to the dependents of those whose death was due to service.

"(b) The widows' pension scheme which applies only to officers and W.O.'s was to be amended. It had been decided to increase the rates payable to widows and to cover those of other ranks who had 22 years' service."

1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:—LIEUT. B. H. MARCIANDI

In a period of three months a unit as large as a battalion must inevitably run through quite a large part of the gamut of military experience. To concentrate this into a few columns of print, to select and discard, to comment suitably and, at appropriate intervals, to point out lessons for the future, is not easy unless a peg can be found upon which to hang the whole. In this edition the problem is easily and obviously solved. For since the beginning of August all our lives have to a greater or less extent revolved around the Presentation of New Colours to the Battalion by Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, on Sunday, September 27.

Preparations for this historic occasion had indeed begun long before August. Many hours of concentrated study, much reference to manuals and ancient programmes and much discussion of precedent and tradition had finally given birth to a large sheet of graph paper covered with diagrams in black, green and red, which the uninitiated might well have been forgiven for identifying as the plans of a new atomic weapon. But this was the signal for the appearance of the first "instruction" for the parade and the start of the cycle of events which slowly gathered speed and grew to a climax eight weeks later on the square. Slowly, because at first there were many other commitments that demanded attention.

The question of leave loomed largely, and in order to ensure that the whole Battalion should be together for at least a month before the Colours' parade, large parties were sent off throughout July and August. This plan worked admirably, for which thanks are due to the "Q" Movements Staff, and by the beginning of September, when intensive preparations began, very nearly the whole of the Battalion had been away on leave and was entirely refreshed for the hard work ahead of them.

The first major outside event was the B.T.A. Command Rifle Meeting which was held at Warmbad Ranges during the first week of August. This proved to be a most successful occasion, and Major Battye and the shooting team are to be congratulated on walking away with the lion's share of the honours and some handsome "silver" trophies that are none the less welcome because their hallmarks have so far escaped detection. No sooner was this over than Capt. Flavell took away a large proportion of the Battalion to compete in the Command Athletic Championships at Klagenfurt. Once again the Battalion covered itself with glory. Both these events are fully reported elsewhere in this edition.

Back at Zeltweg the swimming pool came into its own. With very little time to practice for the Command Swimming Championships, even the most sanguine did not expect the overwhelming victory that the team scored. Both they and the R.S.M. deserve great praise

for their efforts. Now, alas, the pool is deserted as thoughts turn more to skating and curling rinks. Indeed at the last swimming event of the season, the inter-Company water polo tournament, held in mid-September, many of the competitors thought that the changeover was already overdue.

FIELD FIRING AT SCHMELZ

Among these sporting events training continued. On August 15 "B" Company handed over their duties as Garrison Company in Vienna to the 1st Battalion The Green Howards and returned to Zeltweg. After a stay of two nights in camp they moved up to the field firing range at Schmelz and raised the curtain on the Battalion's summer training. The sudden change from the delights of the "gay city" to carrying out exercises at 5,000 ft. did not appear to effect their enjoyment of life.

The camp at Schmelz was divided into two halves. Each rifle company, in turn, went first to the Winterleiten Hut, and spent four days' firing pistols, stens, and rocket launchers, and throwing grenades. It then moved back to the base camp and carried out section and platoon training on two other ranges for a further four days before moving back to Zeltweg.

The Mortar and Machine-gun Platoons spent the whole training period in the base camp, and fired their rather more lethal weapons on yet another range. They were available for demonstrations to the rifle companies, who were suitably impressed by the striking force and accuracy of their supporting arms, but who nevertheless observed the strictest safety precautions.

As a camp Schmelz lacks many of the facilities advertised in recruiting posters. What was once a well-appointed camp has in recent years been allowed to run to seed, not due to any negligence, but because the ever-present and ever-pressing demands of finance have made it impossible to carry out the necessary maintenance. But it still provides shelter and the essential services; and the efforts of companies, and individuals, with the helping hand of N.A.A.F.I. (also fortunately ever-present), combined to make life there very pleasant; whilst the magnificent scenery, and the splendid sense of isolation and other worldliness that Schmelz inspires can be said to have made it memorable. At any rate, we are looking forward eagerly to the ski-ing there this winter.

Specialist training cadres have also taken place. The Assault Pioneer Platoon spent three weeks in Trieste with 11th Independent Field Squadron, R.E., learning all about watermanship, bridging and rafting. The M.T. are maintaining a steady output of trained drivers, and from time to time the stentorian voice of Sgt. Beale is heard teaching junior and potential N.C.O.s the art of leadership and the mysteries of drill.

The Battalion has made full use of the courses run

in B.T.A. and England, and officers and men are constantly disappearing to study such diverse subjects as military law, tactics, boxing, cinematographic projection, and atomic warfare.

OTHER SUMMER ACTIVITIES

In July we welcomed six cadets from the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, for a two-week visit. The history of this goes back to the time when Major Battye was the Army representative at Cranwell, and a promise he made there that one day he would show some cadets how the Army lives and works.

The event was not without incident. It was arranged that the cadets should fly out to Klagenfurt as a normal training flight. But only a few days before their arrival it was decided to switch the flight to Udine in Italy. This minor alteration immediately set in motion a whole chain of events in which currency regulations, international movement orders, and problem of time and space of considerable complexity were involved. Notwithstanding gloomy prophecies from several quarters they arrived safely. A suitable programme was arranged and, very broadly, adhered to. It is believed that the cadets learnt quite a lot about Army life; it is quite certain that they learnt a great deal about Viennese night life. Towards the end of their stay we sent them off to Graz with some "compo" rations, and a few maps, and told them to find their way back to us; this they did very successfully, on the way seeing a good deal of Austria, and proving that the R.A.F. is, if necessary, quite capable of descending from the clouds, and coming to terms with the more prosaic earth.

The Band made further progress with its "goodwill campaign" in a tour of Northern Styria in mid-August. It is getting to be very well known within a large radius of the station, and has always been enthusiastically received by the Austrian population. The programme invariably includes the "Radetsky March" which has never failed to produce roars of applause. The Band has also given concerts in camp, and has played at various Austrian public functions.

PREPARING FOR THE PARADE

On September 2 field firing finished, and the whole Battalion was concentrated in Zeltweg. Immediately intensive rehearsals for the Presentation of New Colours began. The inter-Company drill competition was held, and the standard was very high. "C" Company won by a fairly comfortable margin, and thereby secured for itself the honour of being chosen as the Escort for the Old Colours. As a consolation prize for coming a good second, Support Company had the privilege of mounting a guard of honour on September 8 for Gen. Arnold, commanding the United States Forces in Austria, when he visited Klagenfurt.

Rehearsals were based on three major parades each week; on Mondays an R.S.M.'s parade, and Commanding Officers' parades on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays the 2IC and the Adjutant concentrated on the specialised parts of the parade, and individual rehearsals; and on Fridays there was general revision, and polishing of any weaknesses noted during the week.

In addition to these each company had a daily parade for its own guard, and every morning the officers paraded for foot and sword drill under the R.S.M.

The question of dress for the parade presented several problems. It had been decided to wear khaki drill. According to the calendar and local information about the weather this should have been suitable, and inspections and tailoring were carried out. Then about a fortnight before the parade, at a full dress rehearsal a sudden change in the weather caused grave doubts; a drop in temperature and a bitter wind nearly froze the guards to the ground, and made arms drill, and particularly sword drill, almost impossible. It was appreciated that while battledress might be a trifle uncomfortable on a hot day, it would not affect the smartness of the parade, whereas a repetition of that morning's conditions might prove disastrous if khaki drill was the order of the day. Therefore, it was decided that battledress would definitely be worn, and the tailor's shop responded nobly to the tremendous task that faced them in the following 10 days, altering uniforms and sewing on new flashes and medal ribbons; a system of priorities was rigidly enforced, and everything was ready in plenty of time.

Naturally the possibility of wet weather was envisaged, although strongly deprecated. A shortened form of parade was devised to take place in the largest hanger on the airfield, and this was rehearsed on Wednesday, September 23. Appropriately enough, this was the only wet morning of the month. The rehearsal was very impressive, and everyone felt that, deplorable though it would be if it rained, the alternative parade was eminently suited to the solemnity and splendour of the occasion.

The parade was widely advertised throughout Northern Styria and, remembering the crowds who had attended the Massed Bands display in June, it was anticipated that many spectators would have to be accommodated. Over 200 official guests, including many distinguished Austrians, were asked, and other units in B.T.A. were invited to send spectators. The arrangements this necessitated were on a fairly large scale and much thought was given to them. The Royal Military Police, and the local Gendarmes through the good offices of the Public Safety Officer in Judenburg, gave every assistance. On the day before the presentation a "spectators' parade" was held. Every available man was sent out of camp and from 9.30 a.m. onwards came streaming in according to a timed programme. Each person carried a small placard labelled "Austrian civilian," "Invited Guest," "Military Spectator," "1st Middlesex Spectator," "Austrian Press," "Times Correspondent" or some similar designation. Most came on foot, but some arrived in cars, on bicycles and motor-cycles. V.I.P.s were also represented, the most notable example being Lt. Kitchener's distinguished, if rather blasé, impression of a British Ambassador. The rehearsal proved very useful, showing up one or two minor snags in the reception arrangements, and was enjoyed by all.

As the day drew near the fruits of the rehearsals became increasingly apparent. The standard of drill

improved constantly; steadiness on parade, arms drill, marching, arms' swinging, the march past and every part of the parade approached a peak of excellence. Provided the weather held, the prospect of a fine performance seemed certain.

It was with very great pleasure that the Battalion welcomed the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., who arrived on Tuesday, September 22, and stayed until after the parade.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW COLOURS

Sunday, September 27, came at last. A misty and uncertain dawn caused momentary anxiety, but at about nine o'clock the sun broke through and, by the time the parade began to form up, the whole camp was bathed in the glory of full summer. This was a happy augury, and the setting was in keeping with the day.

Zeltweg lies in a broad valley, with green hills on either side, rising to a mountainous background. The parade ground runs parallel to the line of hills, facing north, and backed by two large hangers. In the foreground a vast expanse of grass gave brilliant colour to the scene; this was enhanced by the display of flags of all the members of the Commonwealth, Austria and Styria which flanked the square, culminating in the Union Jack and the Regimental Flag on either side of the dais.

The stands for the invited guests were gaily decorated, and roped enclosures extended round the ground for the general public.

Major Bailey and his teams of ushers, police, programme sellers, car park attendants and gendarmes were all in place by half past nine, but they were anticipated by the first Austrian spectators who had begun to trickle in an hour before. When the Battalion marched on at 10.35 there were nearly 3,000 already in place; by then the heat and the glare were tremendous.

By 10.40 the four guards were dressed in open order, with the old Colours and their escort on the left flank, with the Band and Drums in rear; the Sergeant-Majors of the guards marched to the front. The Officers' Call was blown and on the C.O.'s word of command the officers and W.O.s slow-marched across the parade ground and fell in on their guards. The parade stood at ease until at 10.54 the Colonel of the Regiment, and Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Urquhart arrived, when the Battalion was called to the position of attention. At three minutes to eleven the British Ambassador, His Excellency Sir Harold Caccia, K.C.M.G., arrived, escorted by a jeep and two outriders, and was received by a Royal Salute. At eleven o'clock precisely Field Marshal Sir John Harding arrived and was accorded a General Salute. During the inspection that followed the Field Marshal spoke to many men of the guards. Next the Band and Drums marched round to the right flank of the parade, trooped across the front in slow time and back again in quick time.

The escort to the Colours, with the ensigns, then marched behind the Band and Drums across to the left of the line, and halted before the old Colours. The ensigns marched forward and the R.S.M. handed the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour to each in

turn. After a Colour salute from the escort guard the ensigns rejoined them, and the Colour party, consisting of C.S.M. Firman, R.Q.M.S. Griffiths and C/Sgt. Redpath, marched to the rear of the guard.

The old Colours were then trooped for the last time through the ranks of the Battalion. The word of command, "March off the old Colours," was given, and the Colours were marched along the front of the parade in slow time to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." They were then joined by the Colour party and returned to the Officers' Mess.

The Battalion formed a hollow square and the new Colours were marched on, uncased and draped over piled drums in the centre. The officiating clergy came forward and the service of consecration was held, with the Battalion giving loud and clear responses. Field-Marshal Harding came forward and performed the ceremony of presentation, the climax of the day and the goal towards which the Battalion had devoted so much effort. It was a great and historic moment and one that no one who had the privilege to be present will ever forget.

In a short speech the Field-Marshal reviewed the history of the Regiment, praised the Battalion for the parade and ended with an injunction to guard the new Colours well. The full text of his speech is printed at the end of these notes together with the parade state.

When the Battalion had reformed line, the new Colours received their first salute and joined their escort (C.S.M. Pike, C/Sgt. Morgan and C/Sgt. Goodge) in the centre of the guards, which then formed close column for the march past. Finally the Battalion advanced in review order and gave a general salute. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the Ambassador, the Colonel of the Regiment and the G.O.C.-in-C. then left the parade ground and the Battalion marched off to the athletic ground to be dismissed.

The parade was over and perhaps the best praise that can be given to it is to set down what Field-Marshal Harding said afterwards on several occasions, "It was faultless." All who took part have good reason to look back with pride on that day. The Band and Drums deserve special mention, in particular Bandmaster Jackson and Drum-Major Padley. But there is one name without which no mention of the parade would be complete—that of R.S.M. Tarrant, who worked tirelessly and selflessly over a long period, and to whom much of the credit of the day's success must belong.

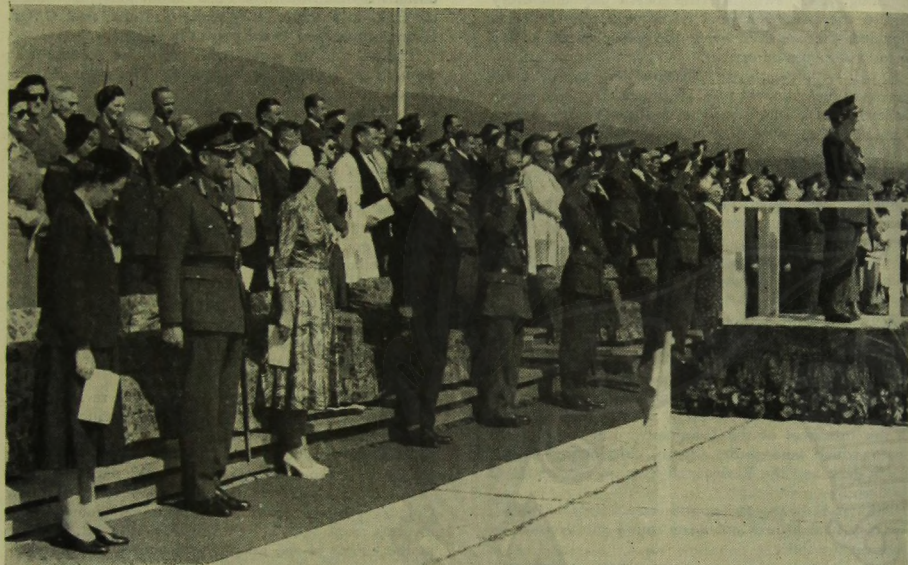
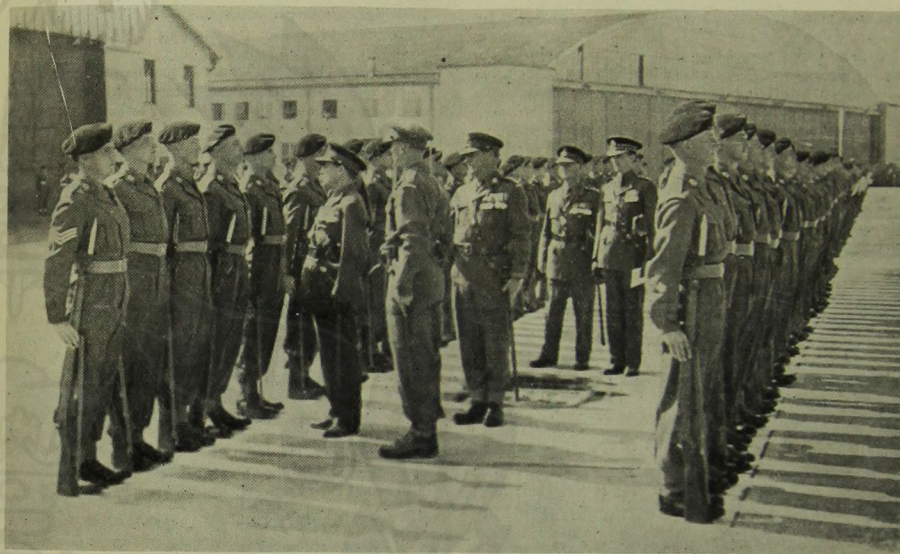
The spectators dispersed and the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes filled with their many guests. Before leaving by plane in the afternoon, accompanied by Gen. Bucknall, the Field-Marshal posed for group photographs with the officers and sergeants.

The following telegram was received from the C.I.G.S. the next day:

"Please convey to all ranks under your command my heartiest congratulations on yesterday's excellent parade. I was most impressed by your drill and marching, by your turnout and steadiness on parade. Well done the 'Die-Hards.' Thank you very much, too, for the excellent lunch you gave me and for a very happy and enjoyable day."

In its turn the Battalion would like to thank Field-

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

*Field-Marshal Harding receives the General Salute**The Service of Consecration being conducted by the Rev. L. V. Headley, O.B.E., B.A.**The Inspection. The C.I.G.S. talks to men of "C" Company (No. 1 Guard)**The Old Colours are saluted by the Escort*

Marshal Harding for the honour that he accorded it by his presence.

Although the guests had gone the day's events were by no means over. A special, indeed very special, tea was served to the men and in the evening there was a display of fireworks. The celebrations were long and hearty and more than one face was observed to be drawn and haggard the next morning.

BACK TO THE DAILY ROUND

The principal danger of a great event, successfully concluded, is that after it the sense of achievement, coupled with a feeling of anti-climax, may lead to a slackening of effort and a tendency to rest on one's laurels. The remedy, of course, is hard work and a shifting of interest. In this particular case there was no lack of either.

Support Company was due to take over the duties of International Guard in Vienna from the Americans on Thursday, October 1. The advance party left a matter of hours after the parade and the Company followed the next day. Intensive rehearsals on September 29 and 30 enabled them to carry out the ceremony of changing the guard with distinction. The Band and Drums accompanied Support Company and are remaining with them for their month's tour of duty. They are kept busily engaged with guards of honour and weekly beatings of Retreat.

"C" Company, too, was busy preparing to move to Vienna on September 29 in order to take over from the 1st Battalion The Green Howards as Garrison Company. They are now happily ensconced there.

In Zeltweg, Battalion H.Q. and "A" Company are preparing to take part with the U.S. Forces in Austria Fall Manoeuvres, in which the C.O. will command a composite battalion including Rifle Companies from the Green Howards and the Camerons. "A" Company have been carrying out their own manoeuvres and are obviously determined to play havoc with the enemy.

On October 9 a rather unusual ceremony took place. A comprehensive and simultaneous check of all accommodation stores in camp was held. Under the guidance of the Q.M. 13 separate checking teams each took one section of the camp and went through it from top to bottom. A printed paper supplied by the Q.M. listed every possible type of equipment that might conceivably be found in barracks. Officers with experience in solving crossword puzzles quite enjoyed trying to relate the enigmatic descriptions on the list with the homely articles found tucked away in attics and cellars; others were quite unable to decide exactly what was meant by "Exting. 2 Gall. S.A." and "C.W.P.s."

THE CAMP

The improvements recorded in the last editions have continued steadily. Its general appearance is most pleasing and the flower beds throughout the summer have been a blaze of colour. The Married Quarters, too, have emerged from their former quagmire and gardens, fences and roads give them a genuine village atmosphere.

Padre Fortune arrived in August and has made his presence and ebullient personality felt in every corner of the camp. The Garrison Church is now complete and is

drawing ever larger congregations. There is even an embryo choir, under the stalwart if not always very tuneful leadership of Lt. Pollard.

The new children's school is also functioning. Miss Gates and Miss Walsh have some 41 children between the ages of 6 and 11 in their hands and they discharge their terrifying duties with unflinching efficiency and apparent enjoyment. Cubs are flourishing and it is hoped to start a Brownie troop shortly.

Miss Bienvenue and Miss Nicholson of the W.V.S. have been, as always, a constant asset to the welfare of the Battalion. We must congratulate Miss Nicholson on her success in the B.T.A. tennis championships, from which she emerged as ladies singles and mixed doubles title holder.

The programme of improvements to the camp is by no means finished. First and foremost in our minds is the question of heating. Coincident with the arrival of cold weather at the beginning of October came the news that the camp steam heating system had broken down; at first it was feared that it might be many weeks before the necessary repairs could be made, but the latest news is more hopeful and in a few days all should be well. The squash court will be ready in a few weeks, and plans are in hand for improvements to the cinema and the construction of an ice skating rink.

CHANGES IN COMMAND

Early in September came the news that the command was to be reduced by two battalions with corresponding cuts in staff and services. For a short time "rumour, painted full of tongues," enjoyed a heyday. Then came the news that the Battalion was the one chosen to remain in Austria and that it would stay at Zeltweg. After five major moves in five years we were not sorry to hear this. Though details of our future role and duties here are still unformulated, it is obvious that the new position will present serious problems. The lack of competition with other battalions both in training and sport could lead to a lowering of standards. It will call for great effort and determination from all ranks to ensure that our present high standards are not only maintained but constantly improved upon. For the leadership required we are fortunate that for the first time in the history of the Battalion we are fully up to our war establishment in N.C.O.s and that nearly 80 per cent. of the Battalion are on Regular engagements.

The even more recent news of the withdrawal of British and American troops from Trieste does not greatly affect us here; apart from the fact that we had been looking forward to arranging sporting fixtures with the units there. Owing to the very rapid nature of the dissolution of BETFOR we are helping them out by storing large numbers of private cars which cannot be shipped from there to England in time.

CONCLUSION

Many of the Battalion are shortly going to experience the joys of winter sports for the first time, and there are now only some 70 shopping days to Christmas.

The Battalion has had a happy and busy three months. Our future programme appears to be quite as busy and we certainly intend to remain happy.

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

PARADE STATE

Colonel of the Regiment:

Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C.

Commanding Officer:

Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn

Adjutant:

Capt. S. E. Honess

Field Officers for the New Colours:

Major J. W. G. Ormiston

Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.

Officers for the Old Colours:

Lt. W. M. M. Deacock

Lt. B. H. Marciandi

Officers for the New Colours

Lt. J. I. D. Pike

Lt. I. S. Rutherford

No. 1 Guard

(Escort for the Colours)

Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

Capt. J. S. C. Flavell

Lt. B. K. Clayden

No. 3 Guard

Major G. O. Porter

Major H. N. MacL. Martin

Lt. J. S. B. Pollard

Quartermaster: Major S. G. Parry

Regimental Sergeant Major: R. Tarrant

Bandmaster: F. A. Jackson, A.R.C.M.

The Consecration Service conducted by:

The Reverend L. V. Headley, O.B.E., B.A.

(Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, British Troops in Austria)

assisted by

The Reverend E. M. Fortune (Chaplain to the Battalion).

ADDRESS BY FIELD-MARSHAL SIR JOHN HARDING, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1953

Col. Gwyn, and all ranks of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. It is a high honour and great personal pleasure for me to have been commanded by Her Majesty The Queen to present you with your new Colours today.

These new Colours, which have just been solemnly consecrated, have emblazoned on them the many battle honours your Regiment has won. Your Regiment has seen fighting in many parts of the world. Those names of famous battles and campaigns fought in many parts of the world during the past two centuries contain your Regiment's history—a splendid tale of service to Sovereign and country, of devotion to duty, and of courage and comradeship of which the Regiment has every reason to be proud. In that glorious story you will always find great inspiration and encouragement for the future, whatever it may hold.

In the Peninsula War your Regiment fought with great distinction and it was there at the battle of Albuera that you gained your famous name "Die-Hards." The Regiment next saw active service in the Crimea, where it again rendered distinguished service. In the First World War battalions of the Regiment fought in France and Flanders, at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia, playing their full part in that terrific struggle. In the Second World War, battalions of the Regiment fought again with great gallantry and distinction in Hong Kong, in the Middle East, and on the continent of Europe.



The C.I.G.S. handing the Queen's Colour to Lt. J. I. D. Pike

In 1950 this Battalion was hurried from Hong Kong to Korea, where it rendered splendid service at a time when the United Nations Forces were hard pressed, and added further lustre to the Regiment's famous name.

You have a glorious history and a magnificent tradition behind you which, I am confident, you will always maintain and uphold.

In years gone by, when Colours were carried on the battlefield, no sacrifice was deemed too great to bear them forward to victory, or to preserve them from capture. Now they are the symbols of that same indomitable spirit; they are to remind you of your splendid inheritance of fame and glory; they are to encourage you to emulate the achievements of your forebears; they are to inspire you in your duty to your Sovereign and your country.

The Presentation of New Colours marks the beginning of a new period in the life of a Battalion, and I am certain there are many people throughout the world who will be thinking particularly of you today and sending you their greetings and good wishes on this important occasion. I am sure I speak for all of them and those here when I wish you all good fortune in the future



The Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the Colonel of The Regiment, with the Old and New Colours and the officers of the 1st Battalion

Back row (left to right): 2/Lt. J. C. J. Grobel, 2/Lt. M. J. Beaumont, 2/Lt. W. G. A. Crumley, 2/Lt. M. S. Gedy, 2/Lt. D. E. C. Vince, 2/Lt. G. J. Riches, 2/Lt. J. W. Green (R.E.M.E.)
 Third row: Lt. P. G. Fildes (R.A.M.C.), Capt. N. F. Legge, Capt. R. A. Hodge, Lt. G. Kitchener, 2/Lt. D. E. Lobb, Lt. B. K. Clayden, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, Rev. E. M. Fortune
 Second row: Major H. N. MacL. Martin, Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C., Major J. H. Battye, M.B.E., Lt. J. I. D. Pike, Lt. I. S. Rutherford, Lt. W. M. M. Deacock, Lt. B. H. Marciandi, Major J. D. B. Bailey, Major S. G. Parry, Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C.
 Front row: Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., Major G. O. Porter, Major J. W. G. Ormiston, Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., Capt. S. E. Honess, Major T. W. Chattey, Major G. B. Ayre

and good success in all your undertakings in the years that lie ahead. I would like to congratulate you most heartily and warmly on such an excellent parade.

Guard closely your new Colours; preserve the great spirit and traditions of the "Die-Hards" that they symbolize, and may they always be to you a source of strength and courage, and a constant reminder of your duty to your Sovereign and your country.

OFFICERS' MESS

In August the Mess was almost empty. The Sappers were building bridges at Trieste and our officers were either training at Schmelz or on leave. Many took the opportunity to see something of Austria and the neighbouring countries. Major and Mrs. Battye made a long tour to Venice, the Italian lakes, Switzerland and the Austrian Tyrol. Major Ayre, who had his family out for the summer holidays, spent a very long 10 days' local leave on the Worthersee, at Vienna and at Glein, a pleasant village near Zellweg. Major Parry and his family camped in the lake district near Salzburg. Major and Mrs. Hewitt visited Venice, the Dolomites, the Tyrol and the Slazkammagent lakes. The Worthersee,

with the Golf Hotel on its shores, was always very popular for bathing and water ski-ing. Many officers drove over the Gross Glocknerstrasse, which takes you close to Austria's highest mountain, and are now proud owners of a Gross Glockner badge on the windscreens of their cars.

Others were often away playing cricket and Major Chattey and Capt. Hodge rode with some success in the B.T.A. Horse Show at Klagenfurt and at the Austrian Horse Show in Graz.

In September, however, the Mess was completely full and all the officers were concentrated in Zellweg for the first time since our arrival in Austria. Major Hewitt took over as P.M.C. from Major Porter, and the Mess Committee, Capt. Thomas, Lt. Clayden, Lt. Pollard and 2/Lt. Riches had a very busy time. On September 16 the bachelor officers gave a most successful party. On September 17 the Camerons were our guests to dinner.

The Colonel of the Regiment was our principal guest to dinner on September 25, when 41 officers sat down at the table. We were all very honoured and glad to have him with us.

Also as guests on this night we dined Col. Parry, Major Marshall, Major Hodding, Capt. Jordan and Capt. Forman, all of whom we were delighted to see. We admired very much the effort made by all these officers to come so far to attend the presentation of Colours, especially Col. and Mrs. Parry. Col. Parry is shortly to give up his appointment as Brigade Colonel and is to take over command of Sierra Leone and Gambia District. We wish them both a very happy stay in West Africa and were so glad that we were able to see them before they left. Also on this night dining with us were Capt. Jordan and Major Deacock, Lt. Deacock's father. It was a most memorable and enjoyable guest night, including the songs by Messrs. Kitchener, Marciandi and Deacock.

For a month before the presentation of Colours the officers were to be found on the square at eight o'clock each morning drilling under the R.S.M. We marched in squads endlessly up and down the square and spent hours on sword drill and we all enjoyed it thoroughly. On the parade itself Lts. Deacock and Marciandi carried the old Colours for the last time and Lts. Pike and Rutherford first carried the new Colours, which were uncased by Majors Ormiston and Hewitt. Major Hewitt was the only officer on parade who was with the 1st Battalion when the Colours were lost at Hong Kong. After the parade the old and new Colours were set up on the Mess lawn guarded by sentries dressed in scarlet.

On the day of the presentation of Colours the Mess gave a cocktail party and lunch to 200 British and Austrian guests and a special lunch to the C.I.G.S., H.E. Sir Harold Caccia, Lt.-Gen. Bucknall, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Urquhart, Col. and Mrs. Parker, Col. and Mrs. Parry, Rev. and Mrs. Headley, Mr. Goschen, Major Marshall, Brigadier and Mrs. Howard, Landeshauptman Kraimer and Major Steele. Much praise is due to the Mess staff who, with a number of batmen and general-duty men drawn in as waiters, worked very long hours, and our thanks are due to the Wiesler Hotel, Graz, the N.A.A.F.I. and Sgt. Medlock for their help. Also to 2/Lt. Riches, under whose efforts the Mess garden was almost completely relaid and replanted.

After the presentation of Colours there was a general exodus to Vienna by the officers of the guard and duty Companies and others, who went up to see the changing of the international guard on October 1. The guard was commanded by Major Ayre and Lt. Deacock carried the new Regimental Colour. It was an excellent guard, the same as had paraded as a guard of honour to Gen. Arnold at Klagenfurt in September. After the ceremony the officers were entertained to cocktails by the Americans in the Palace of Justice.

That evening the officers were invited to a very pleasant cocktail party given by Lt.-Col. Carruthers and the Military Police in the Park Hotel. Our Band played. The party was very international in character and for the first time in history, it is believed, Col. and Mrs. Gwyn were entertained afterwards to dinner by two Russian officers.

During September we were very glad to welcome Major Bailey, of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, Rev. Fortune and 2/Lts. Beaumont, Grobel and Vince to the Battalion. We were very sorry to lose

Lt. Kitchener, who has been with the Battalion a long time and whom we will miss very much, especially on guest nights. He goes away to learn Finnish.

Capt. Legge is to be congratulated on his promotion. We congratulate Capt. and Mrs. Flavell on the birth of their daughter in Vienna on September 12. She was christened Gabrielle Mary, in the Royal Chapel in Schönbrunn Palace on October 1. The chapel was built in the reign of the Empress Maria Theresa. Many officers and their wives attended the christening and the reception in the Park Hotel.

We are most grateful to Capt. Clayden for his kind gift of a presentations' book to the Mess and for the tremendous amount of work which he has put into it.

Altogether this has been a very busy time for the Mess, and also a most memorable period.

H.Q." COMPANY

We have had a busy time preparing for the Colour presentation parade. Some of the Company have been parading with No. 3 Guard, whilst others have been doing all manner of fatigues, sometimes to the detriment of their specialist employments, though this was unavoidable. We offer our congratulations to Lt. B. H. Marciandi and Lt. I. S. Rutherford on their being selected for the honour of bearing the old and new Colours, respectively.

The Adjt., Capt. S. E. Honess, is leaving us in December on his way to the Staff College. We shall be very sorry to see him go and wish him every success.

There have been several changes amongst the officer staff of "H.Q." Company itself. Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., our O.C., is due to go to Norway as G.S.O.1 (Training), for which we offer him our heartiest congratulations. Major J. D. B. Bailey, Q.O.R.W.K. Regiment, has joined us as 2IC and Lt. J. S. B. Pollard as Signals Officer. He did very well on his Signals course, being graded "B." Lt. B. K. Clayden is going to be Battalion I.O. in replacement of Lt. I. S. Rutherford, who has gone on an Intelligence course in U.K.

We shall be sorry to lose Sgt. Preston of the Q.M.'s staff, as he has been posted to the Depot for a forthcoming "disc" operation. We wish him a speedy recovery. Pte. Jones (42), our Company Storeman, is also leaving us to take up a post with the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate. We congratulate L/Cpls. Turner and Freeman on being made corporals, and we welcome back Sgt. Grogan to the Band from U.K.

In the world of sport the Company has done remarkably well. Cpl. Freeman is captain of the Battalion 1st XI and Cpl. Cheesman captain of the Battalion 2nd XI. We won the Battalion Inter-Company Seven-a-Side Rugby competition in May and the cricket in September, beating "A" Company in the final.

Major J. W. G. Ormiston and Capt. S. E. Honess both made big scores, while Pte. Colston bowled extremely well. We also won the water polo 3-0 against "C" Company, and finished second in the swimming competition with 40 points to "C" Company's 46, who thus share equal honours with us. Pte. Dickens won the pillow fight and the 100 metres free style and tied with Pte. Small in the Inter-Company

Diving Cup. Meanwhile, we are forging ahead with boxing training under Sgt. Moran, and also with rugger and football.

We congratulate the following:

Marriages

Cpl. Power (July 18); Sgt. Hannam (August 29); and BdsM Inwards (September 1).

Births

On June 16 to Mrs. Morgan, wife of C/Sgt. Morgan, a daughter, Geraldine Mary.

On July 31 to Mrs. Preston, wife of Sgt. Preston of the Q.M.'s staff, a daughter, Anita Clare.

On September 28 to Mrs. Weeks, wife of Cpl. Weeks of the Corps of Drums, a daughter, Christina Lorraine.

Tit-Bit

The other day H.Q. 2IC Staff made bold to inspect the doctor's G.1098. We were greeted on the threshold of the M.I. room by the genial Falstaffian figure of Sgt Bailey—a noted apothecary in these parts. He led us to an inner room where was displayed all manner of retorts, "flasche," lance and stay, but the 2IC Staff soon retreated in dismay before this strange array of items, many of which were seemingly unidentifiable with those listed in their ledgers. However, we were confident that some super effervescence will one day come forth from their medicaments wherefrom we may learn sweet content here in Zeltweg.

"Begone in flames Salamander!
Flow on and blend in noisome fire Undene!"

May we never scorn the noble art of alchemy and say, with Dr. Johnson, who was found on one occasion practising this art in his kitchen: "Sir, there are moments which will only admit of being soothed by trifles."

Signal Platoon

After seeing us through the rigours of Exercise "Blossom" and commanding the Platoon for over six months, at the beginning of August we said good-bye to Lt. B. K. Clayden, who left us to become a much harrassed I.O./W.T.O. prior to his departure to the Depot. He has taught us much both on the games field and on signalling matters, in spite of his six-year break. We wish him all good luck in his new appointment at the Depot and trust he will not forget all the new procedure we have taught him.

We have also had to say good-bye to Cpl. Jenkins and Pte. Carter on release and were very sorry to see them go. We welcome to the Platoon our new R.S.O. Lt. J. S. B. Pollard fresh from the rigours of a three-month course at Hythe, a month's leave in England and a week-end in Holland—yet another victim of the R.T.O. Liverpool Street—and Ptes. Alderman, Baker, Beckwith, Fulton, Moore, Rice, Small, Young and, of course, the Gould twins, who give the R.S.O. more headaches than the negative performances of his wireless sets.

Though not usually renowned for their ability on the drill square the Platoon played their part on the Presentation of Colours parade nobly, forming part of No. 3 guard with "A" Company—only two men did not

participate, one being the R.S.O.'s batman, Pte. Thornton, who it is rumoured, was seen at midnight polishing a Sam Browne and sword in his sleep. It was our privilege to supply the D.R. escort for the C.I.G.S. and H.E. the Ambassador, and we congratulate Sgt. Bailey, Cpl. Turner, Ptes. Taunton and Baker on a performance and turnout that caused even the R.M.P.s to complain of unnecessary "gimping" and use of white blanco.

The games record of the Platoon has again been second to none. We provided practically half of the Company XI that won the cricket and the R.S.O., Cpl. Freeman, Pte. Colston and Pte. Gould, 97, played occasionally for the Battalion. Pte. Small swam in the Battalion team which won the B.T.A. Championship and in the inter-Company water polo competition he helped the "H.Q." team to victory. With the cricket and swimming season now finished we are concentrating on building up the Platoon football XI under Cpl. Mead, the Rugby XV, under Cpl. Turner, basket ball under Pte. Small and hockey under Pte. McGorry. We are already well represented in Battalion teams: Cpl. Cheesman (capt.) and Cpl. Moss in the 2nd XI and the R.S.O., Cpl. Freeman, Cpl. Moss, Cpl. Turner and Cpl. Mead are on the short list for the Battalion Rugby XV.

With winter approaching we look forward to two schemes—one in October with the Americans when we shall endeavour to prove to the R.S.O. that our signalling is not as far removed from Hythe as he thinks. Towards the end of the year we look forward to our first attempts at ski-ing. "L" plates to the fore and a white Christmas with whisky at 12s. 6d. a bottle!

CORPS OF DRUMS

Following their well-earned leave the Drums re-assembled in early August for intensive training and practice for the Colour presentation parade.

Newcomers were drafted in (Ptes. Sweetman, Davison and Rose) while two old hands in the shape of Ptes. Bennett and Purdon were repatriated, as it were, from Rifle Companies.

A considerable amount of chopping and changing of positions resulted, therefore, before the final team could be selected. Observers agreed, however, that on the day of the parade the Drums were indeed close to their former very high standard. More experience is required yet in the flute section which is still the weakest part of the Corps of Drums. Nevertheless, it is hoped that during the comparative quiet of the winter months this fault, too, can be eradicated.

Immediately following the drill competition in early September the annual bugle competition was judged by the C.O., the Adjt. and Bandmaster Jackson.

L/Cpl. Humphries ran out a clear winner as C.O.'s bugler but the competition for Adjt.'s bugler ended in a tie between Ptes. Irving and Ottaway, the latter eventually winning after further bugle calls were heard. It is a matter for regret that Pte. Purdon, who was away on leave at the time, was unable to compete. One feels he would have given L/Cpl. Humphries a run for his money. Many congratulations, anyway, to the two winners.

Following a successful Colour Presentation parade the Drums have gone to Vienna for a month where they join the Band in a full round of Retreats, guards of honour and parades. We hope the fleshpots of Vienna will not reduce their capacity for work or practice.

Finally, we offer our sincere congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. Weeks on the birth of their daughter. The rumour that the new baby has already composed a drum part for the Radetsky March is unfounded, it was the Deutschmeister Regiment's Marsch.

BAND NOTES

We open the Band's diary again and find the pages filled to overflowing with interesting information. However, limitations of space debar us from dilating too much upon all the incidents which come to mind. The Editor's scissors will, no doubt, remove any unnecessary ornamentation from these notes so we shall endeavour to place the salient facts before you in as brief and lucid a manner as possible.

First, leave. Twenty-one days in "Blighty." Three weeks with nothing to do and paid for it, too. Ah! Fragrant memory of the days that are no more.

Sgt. Hannam and BdsM. Inwards enjoyed leave so much that they got married into the bargain. While we offer our good wishes to the happy couples we cannot help feeling sorry for the respective ladies concerned. As a footnote, Sgt. Hannam returned from his honeymoon in Jersey armed with a most formidable sheaf of photographs which he blackmailed us into examining. There were scenes from the wedding, and very pretty too, and of Jersey. We could not help remarking that there were at least three photographs of Sgt. Hannam to every one of his charming bride.

Whilst the two bridegrooms were away in England, enjoying their first taste of married life, the Band had returned and gone on a tour of towns in Northern Styria . . . the tourist resort of Mariazell on August 23, the neighbouring towns of Altenmarkt and Eisenerz on the 24th and 25th respectively. In each place the reception was very good and L/Cpls. Holt and Beechey are to be congratulated on their performances as solo clarinets.

The local scenery was remarkably beautiful and aroused the aesthetic sensibilities of the Band to such a degree that one emotional member was so overcome as to mutter: "Pretty, ain't it?" when he thought no-one was listening. The local social whirl attracted our more brass-necked-members, who wreaked havoc with the German language in the cause of international relations. Their efforts did not, we understand, go entirely unrewarded.

In the B.T.A. sports, Cpl. Stevens won the javelin-throwing event and L/Cpl. Holt came third in the 5,000 metres. He attributes his failure to win outright to the fact that he had just returned from leave. The Spartan regiment of Zeltweg has soon cured him of his alleged inclination towards obesity, and he promises to do better next time.

The matutinal peace of the Band quarters has been rudely shattered by the influx of a number of boys. The generic term for boys is, of course, a "Noise of boys," but they seem to have outdone themselves. We strongly

suspect that there are several boys, very noisy ones, who do not appear on our nominal roll. They hide somewhere around the billet all the time, appearing only very early in the morning and banging tins, etc. Anyway we welcome Boys Aburrow, Castle, Taylor and Jackson to join Boy Cahill, who has been with us some time. Cpl. Searle is earning his pay dearly—he is N.C.O. i/c Boys.

A concert was given on September 5, in conjunction with the local steelworks band under the joint direction of Mr. Jackson and Herr Augsten. The concert was a success, as was the hospitality extended to the Band afterwards by the people of Zeltweg. Beer flowed plentifully and lacked no throat to flow down. A concert given by the Band and Drums at Trofaiach also achieved some measure of success.

Inside the Battalion, we have had little time for sports recently. However, Mr. Pollard and his Signals were so unwise as to accept a challenge to a friendly game of hockey. Sgt. Bailey, in the Signals goal, guarded his charge zealously and well but, even so, he could not prevent a 7—1 victory. A football match produced much the same painful result, only this time the score was 6—2. Better luck next time, Signals!

The parade for the Presentation of Colours is over, after many rigorous rehearsals . . . the square no longer winces at the sound of marching feet . . . the Band no longer receives the solicitous attention of Sgt. Beale every morning, bright and early, teaching us the niceties of long-forgotten drill movements. Now, the Band and Drums have retreated *en masse* to Vienna, to rest their aching feet.

Before we bid you good-bye we must remember to congratulate L/Cpl. Ingram on his promotion.

And, so, from Vienna we bid you *Auf Wiedersehen* . . . note the nonchalant aplomb with which the German phrase is employed.

"A" COMPANY

The activities of the Company in the past three months have been somewhat restricted due to the low strength to which we have temporarily been reduced.

In the Battalion "Potted Sports," held in early August, we were only able to enter a small team. Those who did enter responded to the challenge and did very well; of these, Ptes. Scothern, Ratliff and MacGregor are worthy of special note. The latter also gained valuable points for the Company in the Battalion Athletics Meeting and later represented the Battalion in the B.T.A. Athletics Meeting at Klagenfurt.

At the end of August the Company moved to Schmelz for field firing. Only one full-strength platoon, under 2/Lt. G. Riches, could be formed. As this was, for many in the Company, their first experience of field firing many valuable lessons were learned, despite weather which varied from brilliant sunshine to snow blizzards.

In the week following the return from Schmelz a great deal of time was spent in rehearsing for the Inter-Company Drill Competition. Everybody tried very hard, but we only succeeded in gaining fourth place.

Also, upon its return from Schmelz the Company began training for the Inter-Company Water-Polo and Swimming Competition. Under the able captaincy of

Pte. Stanley the water-polo team did very well and came third. We were beaten by "H.Q." Company, who were the eventual winners. We also came third in the swimming competition. No doubt the rum and glucose had some effect on such a cold day!

The size of the Company once more affected us in the Inter-Platoon Football Competition and we were only able to enter two teams. The "A" team succeeded in winning through the first round, but in the second lost, after a well-fought game, to "C" Company. The second team came to grief in the first round against "D" Company. Inter-Company football is not yet in full swing. Our only game to date was against "B" Company and ended in a draw. Thanks must go to L/Cpl. Martin for leading the team, which, with a little more finishing punch, should do well.

The Colours Presentation! From the end of August most of the Company's energies were spent in preparing for the great day. All members of the Company feel proud that they were able to witness the making of such regimental history, and will doubtless always remember the occasion.

The Company did very well in the Inter-Company Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition, held in the first week of October. The Company seven reached the final, where they were only narrowly defeated by the favourites "S" Company.

We have now received the first of our promised reinforcements, in the shape of a new draft of recruits from Mill Hill. They are, at the time of writing, being trained in preparation for the forthcoming American exercise. In training for this the Company has recently been on a short scheme. Many valuable lessons were learned and we look forward to the five days with the Americans with great confidence.

It is inevitable that people come and go, but it is with regret that we have said good-bye to 2/Lt. J. Weil, Cpl. Anderson, Ptes. Tatterstall, Crawley and many others. We were also very sorry to lose Major Martin, who has taken over the Command of "D" Company, but congratulate him on his promotion. We welcome into our midst 2/Lt. M. J. Beaumont, who has taken over No. 2 Platoon from 2/Lt. Weil, and L/Cpls. Biggadike, Littlejohn, Muirhead and Hughes.

All in all the Company is experiencing a period of replenishment and training prior to returning to Vienna before Christmas. We anticipate that our stay in Vienna will make a fine start to the new year.

"B" COMPANY

The Company's tour of duty in Vienna duly came to an end on August 15, and we were relieved by a composite company of The Green Howards. There was an anxious period of some four hours when The Green Howards convoy was held up by the Russian frontier guard at the Semmering check-point, but eventually all arrived intact. The hand-over of duties went off extremely smoothly. Our main body returned to Zeltweg by rail, and the stores by road; both without incident.

At Zeltweg, we moved into temporary accommodation in the old school hut and the band practice room. This accommodation was very limited, but our stay was short as, on August 17, we moved up to the B.T.A.

Training Centre at Schmelz, for eight days' rapid company training. This consisted mostly of firing all the individual weapons of the Company, and platoon field training and exercises. The weather was extremely kind (we had only one wet day) and our time at Schmelz was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. We had one most instructive day with the Battalion mountaineering instructor, who gave some exciting demonstrations, and instructed us in the art of rock-climbing with the aid of ropes. Every man climbed a steep rock face. Our stay at Schmelz was all too short, and we were really very sorry to return to Zeltweg.

We then concentrated on ceremonial drill in preparation for the Battalion Drill Competition. The C.S.M. sweated "blood and tears," kit was checked, battle-dresses were changed, and many hours were spent on the square. The competition was held on September 5, and resulted in us gaining second place. This was a great credit to the Company, all of whom tried really hard.

From then on, our time was wholly spent in preparing for the Colour Presentation Parade. Much has already been written about this parade, and we would only say here that we were thoroughly satisfied with our part of it, and how much everyone enjoyed the enormous meal in the dining-hall afterwards!

Since then our time seems to have been taken up with innumerable fatigues, regimental duties, train guards, and so on. However, we are supplying a sizeable contingent for "A" Company and Battalion H.Q.s for the United States Army manoeuvres at the end of October. No doubt, this, together with the B.T.A. autumn manoeuvres in November, will give us enough "real" soldiering before the drastic Austrian winter sets in.

We welcome the following into the Company:—2/Lt. D. E. C. Vince, Sgt. Walden, Cpls. Sharpe, Meekins, L/Cpls. Spraggs and Williams, and Ptes. Howard (95), Burling, Gay, Moses, Bishop, Rogers, Skippon and Husband.

We also regret the departure of:—2/Lt. R. K. Collins to the Parachute Regiment, Cpl. Willmoth to the Q.M. staff, Cpl. Hawkins and Pte. Julians to National Service release, Pte. Sims to E.R.E., Cpl. Payne to "C" Company, and Pte. Bennett to "H.Q." Company.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Basing, Ebbage and Lowater on their recent appointments, and Cpls. Whittle and Baxter on their promotion.

In the sporting world, the Company goes from strength to strength, and is now making its presence felt in the Battalion in all games and sports. While we were in Vienna, cricket was our main game. We took part in the Vienna Garrison League, winning four games and losing two. In the Battalion Inter-Company Cricket Competition, we lost to "A" Company by 17 runs only, but won comfortably by 8 wicket against "S" Company. Pte. Miller is the Company's star bowler; in the latter match he had the excellent analysis of 7 wickets for 11 runs, which included two hat-tricks!

We also took part in the Vienna Garrison Athletic Meeting on July 25, in which Cpl. Edey secured a first in the javelin and second in the shot. L/Cpl. Lowater was third in this latter event. In the 5,000 metres, Pte. Dickson ran an excellent race to take second place, and 2/Lt. Green was third.

In the Vienna Garrison's Swimming Gala, Cpl. Edey was first in the back-stroke event, and "B" Company came second in the inter-unit medley relay.

The Company did well to enter a team in the Battalion Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition, and only lost three points to nil after an extremely strenuous, but slightly unlucky, tussle against a "C" Company side. In football, the Company has the makings of a well-balanced side, and we are confidently looking forward to a good season. We have already beaten "H.Q." Company 9—2, in our first friendly match of the season. We recently visited Knittelfeld to play a local "Electric" side, and it was only after having been beaten by 7 goals to 2, we discovered that we had played a semi-professional side, called "Red Star," in error, which only a few weeks before had beaten a Battalion side to the tune of 14—0.

In basketball, we have some young and enthusiastic talent which is in the capable hands of Cpls. Waldron and Edey. The Company hockey team is not a strong one, but the keenness of the players will stand us in good stead.

The Novices' Boxing Competition has been the Company's greatest success this year. The Company's entry of nearly 40 was by far the largest in the Battalion, and the spirit, fitness and determination with which the team entered the competition fully deserves the result to date, which is a finalist in every weight. The finals take place in Vienna, and we are confident of returning with the Novices' Boxing Shield.

"B" Company can indeed look forward with confidence to the future.

"C" COMPANY

Since the last edition of this journal the Company has seen an almost complete transition, for we have lost two N.S. groups, who had formed the backbone of the Company for eighteen months, and gained the majority of three drafts.

Of those who left we will remember Cpl. Milligan and his band of enthusiastic excavators on the swimming pool; Ptes. Parry and Woodward, the athletes; the inseparable trio, Ptes. Stayton, Bull and Wortley; the Peet twins; and 2/Lts. P. R. Young and H. D. Tymms. We wish them all the best of luck in their new undertakings.

Our new soldiers are ably upholding the standards set by their predecessors, and many have already distinguished themselves in Battalion events. L/Cpl. Simons at athletics, Pte. Abrams in the swimming pool and many others have helped the Company on to its victories.

The first success was at Warmbad, where we won the Inter-Company shooting, with Cpl. Hart gaining the individual honours by winning the Unicorn Cup. The whole team deserves praise for consistent shooting.

Our next victory was won in the swimming pool, where our team had to contend with icy water and a very cold wind as well as with stiff opposition. The team swam well to support fine performances by Pte. Abrams, Cpl. McIntosh, L/Cpl. Simons and L/Cpl. Lamony.

In due turn the Company moved up to Schmelz for

field firing, the first time most of us had handled weapons under battle conditions. A lot of ground was covered, in every sense, and much was learned from this enjoyable week. Light relief was supplied when Pte. Norris, ace mortarman of No. 9 Platoon, demonstrating to the Company, landed a smoke bomb in our midst. Never has the Company moved faster to cover, but Pte. Grew was unlucky to be hit a glancing blow on the heel. Pte. Gaylor also received a wound in a tender part when C.S.M. McMillan's warning shout failed to penetrate his earphones and a 36 grenade exploded before he was wholly protected.

We returned from this line to one of concentrated practice for the drill competition. C.S.M. McMillan, with determination and inexhaustible patience, coached, bullied and enticed the Company into first place. For this victory we were given the honour of being No. 1 guard and escort to the Colours on the presentation parade. None of us will forget this event, and Ptes. Norris and Mitchell will undoubtedly always remember their duties as sentries to the old Colours.

We congratulate especially Capt. and Mrs. Flavell on the birth of a daughter, L/Cpl. Montebello on his recent marriage, L/Cpl. Dyson, Ptes. Bentley and Redmond on their places in the Battalion soccer team and Pte. Barnard on gaining his freedom and home leave.

At the time of writing, the Company has just moved to Vienna for two months, and all ranks are enjoying life in a city which offers every entertainment and a barracks with all facilities for training and sport. We are pleased to share this life with "S" Company, against whom there is promise of many a struggle on the sports field.

"S" COMPANY

CEREMONIAL

Zeltweg

As far as "S" Company is concerned more ceremonial drill has been done in one month than in any other year since the Company was formed. It began with the drill competition on Saturday, September 5, when all Companies were severely tested on the square for half an hour. Running true to form, we started favourites for the "Hatch" Howell Shield, and at the end had no doubts whatsoever as to the result. However, we had not bargained for the C.O.'s interest in a certain well-known proprietary brand of underwear; at least, that is what it appeared to be to those who were watching! His inspection of each Company at the beginning of the competition was so thorough that we thought he was "looking for the name Morley." Unfortunately, we were drawn first and, in spite of the fact that the Companies to follow were forbidden to spy, it was quite obvious by the crouching figures behind several fire hydrants that "enemy agents were at work." Nevertheless, it was a close competition and we congratulate "C" Company on winning it. After all, it is about time they had a bit of luck. Our C.S.M. lost his voice a few days before the competition (the only person who was pleased was Mrs. Budden), but by conscientious gargling, not a difficult exercise for some, he was able to find it on the day. Because we were

really "terribly good," but not quite the winners, we were chosen to provide the guard of honour at Klagenfurt on September 10 for Gen. Arnold, the American Commander in Austria.

Klagenfurt

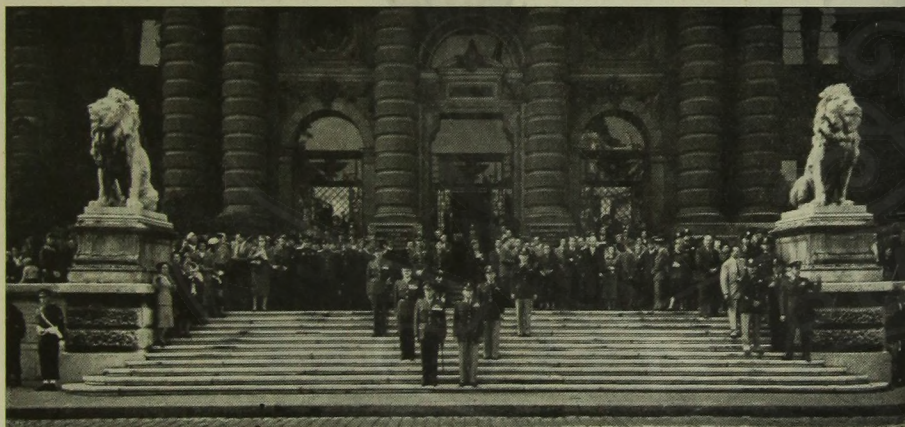
The guard of honour was drawn up outside H.Q., B.T.A., Klagenfurt, under the command of Major G. B. Ayre, with Lt. W. M. M. Deacock carrying the Regimental Colour. A General Salute was given, which was followed by a second one after the inspection, and the guard then marched off to the Regimental March.

On the following day a letter was received from Maj.-Gen. Urquhart, G.O.C.-in-C., Austria, which read:

"I would like to thank you for, and congratulate you on, the excellence of the guard which was provided yesterday for Lt.-Gen. Arnold, the Commanding General of the United States Forces in Austria. The guard and the Band performed most efficiently and their drill and turnout were everything that could be desired for such an occasion.

"I would be glad if you would convey my appreciation to all concerned."

"S" COMPANY TAKING OVER THE INTERNATIONAL GUARD IN VIENNA



The British and American commanders, their staffs, and distinguished visitors on the steps of the Palace of Justice

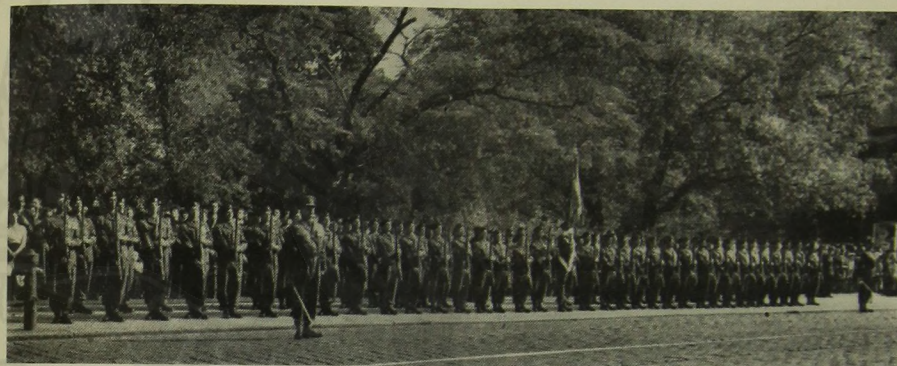
When Sunday, September 27, drew to a close some men in the Battalion might have said to themselves: "Back to the old routine on Monday," but if they did they were not in this Company. Already we were hearing a million violins, gipsy guitars and feeling the magic of Viennese breezes. It meant an early start on Monday morning, grey passes, packs and kit-bags ready for loading, and the fact that we were lucky enough to continue on the crest of the ceremonial wave for another month as the International Guard Company in Vienna.

Colour Presentation

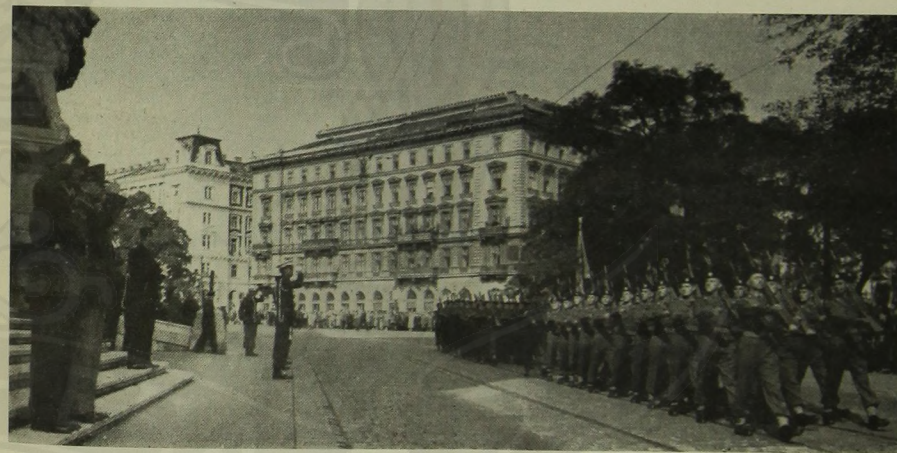
The next phase was officers' sword drill, and had either Gilbert or Sullivan been present it would have inspired them to write another opera. Casualty lists were not actually published, although Capt. N. Legge was wounded in the ear, Major Ayre was pricked in the shoulder by Lt. D. Pike and many other officers had peculiar marks on the backs of their left hands. Numerous pieces of wedding cake were seen lying on the ground when swords were drawn for the first time.

Then started the Colour rehearsals and they were great fun. Firstly there was the gamble as to whether one was wearing the same order of dress as the rest of the Battalion and, secondly, the eerie feeling, similar to blind man's buff, caused by several reminders to look up when one's cap was pulled well down. Several officers considered fitting driving mirrors in the peaks of their caps so that they could at least see what was going on behind them. At last the great day came, and another page of history was written in the annals of the "Die-Hards." All of us in "S" Company feel very proud that we were able to share in the pride of our Regiment on this great occasion.

We arrived at Schönbrunn Barracks, Vienna, on the afternoon of Monday, September 28, and by 1030 hrs. the following day had already carried out a full rehearsal for the changing of the International Guard. The Band and Drums were with us and, together, we were at concert and fever pitch. The ceremony took place between 1015 to 1145 hrs. on Thursday, October 1, outside the Palace of Justice, and in the presence of the ambassadors, commanders-in-chief, and the senior civil and military officials of the Four Powers. The Ameri-



The New Guard Presents Arms



THE MARCH PAST

"S" Company taking over the International Guard in Vienna

cans, who had provided the guard during September, started the ceremony by their band playing for 15 minutes on the square outside the palace. Then our Band and Drums followed for a further 15 minutes. By that time both guards, each of a strength of three officers and 62 other ranks, had formed up with their respective Colours, ready to march on. The American Guard was the first to take up its position opposite the Palace of Justice, followed in a few minutes by "S" Company, led by the Band and Drums. The ceremony which followed was simple but impressive, and consisted in the main of four salutes. The first one was between the two guards, and the respective Guard Commanders, Capt. Pell of the American Army, and Major Ayre, marched

to the centre of the parade, exchanged salutes and shook hands. Shortly afterwards the two Sector Commanders appeared on the steps of the Palace, and were greeted with a general salute. Then followed a salute to the American flag as it was lowered, and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. As the British flag was raised the fourth salute was given and our Band played The Queen.

Both guards then marched off, before marching past and saluting the two Commanders. A reception followed, given by the Americans, and a guard of honour was mounted inside the Palace under the command of Sgt. Dive. Throughout the whole ceremony the Colour was carried by Lt. W. M. M. Deacock.

The duties of the guard, apart from guards of honour, are divided into three.

There is a small night guard at the Palace of Justice, another at Hofburg Palace, and a 24-hour guard at the Allied Commission Building. All are day-and-night guards at week-ends, and are administered from a central guard-room in the middle of Vienna. Every week we provide a number of guards of honour and one of them in the first week is for the retiring French Commander-in-Chief. We hope very much to strengthen the *entente cordiale* between the Four Powers, and so far have arranged to beat Retreat in the American Barracks as well as in the French. The Russians have not accepted our offer, as yet, but have agreed to study the suggested programme, and if Rachmaninoff and Rimsky-Korsakov are given preference over Strauss and Sousa we think they will accept our offer. The Band and Drums are also Beating Retreat each Friday evening in our own barracks, and on Sunday, October 11, are giving a morning concert in the forecourt of Schönbrunn Palace.

Vienna

We are therefore looking forward to an extremely pleasant and interesting stay in Vienna. Unfortunately, Lt. G. Kitchener left us immediately after the Colour Parade to take a course in Finnish at Hull University. It is yet to be disclosed whether he considers that this will be the diplomatic language of the future, or whether he intends taking a civilian appointment as an importer of Icelandic cod. Nevertheless, we wish him the best of luck. Major R. Allott, M.C., has joined the Company from Eaton Hall, and on the Colour rehearsals he understudied almost every part from the C.I.G.S. to right marker.

SPORT

Cricket

Considering the fact that the Company possessed three members of the Battalion XI, the results of the Company matches were disappointing. Five matches were played, two victories recorded, and the remainder lost. Rather too much depended on the "stars" of the side and, when they failed, the rest of the side seemed to lose heart and were disappointing. However, several younger members showed great keenness and the Company should do better next year.

The best match of the season was undoubtedly the first round of the Battalion Inter-Company Knockout Competition, when the very strong H.Q. side were the opponents. Thanks to a very good knock of 84, not out, by Lt. Pike the Company managed to score 147 for 4 against extremely hostile bowling. Hopes were raised when H.Q.'s fourth wicket fell for 67 runs, but then Major Ormiston and Sgt. Bailey got together and "S" Company's total was passed a few minutes before the end of play. Eventually H.Q. went on to win the competition with ease and it is pleasing to record that "S" Company provided them with the best game.

Of the other matches, a weak H.Q. side and "A" Company were beaten with ease, but "C" and "B" Companies were able to beat us by a similar margin.

With regard to personalities, Lt. Pike proved the mainstay of batting and bowling, and Capt. Legge, although too often lacking in concentration, played one or two good knocks. Pte. York proved invaluable as a steady bowler towards the end of the season, and Cpls. Clarke and Pearce could generally be relied upon to score a few runs when required. Mention must also be made of Pte. Smith (98) for trying valiantly at wicket-keeping and Pte. Evans and Lt. Kitchener for displaying great keenness at all times.

Athletics

Several extremely good athletes were found in the Company ranks during the summer. At the trial Battalion Athletic Meeting held prior to the B.T.A. Command Athletic Meeting on August 28, Pte. Smith distinguished himself by winning the pole vault by a clear margin. Others who did well were Pte. Evans in the high jump and Sgt. Wright, who obtained three second places in the 220, 440 and 880 yards. All these soldiers, with the addition of Lt. Deacock, had the honour of representing the Battalion in the B.T.A. Athletic Meeting, and Lt. Deacock, in particular, is to be congratulated on winning the 120 metres hurdles and in obtaining fifth and sixth places respectively in the discus and shot.

Potted Sports

A Battalion Inter-Company Potted Sports Meeting was held on July 18 and "S" Company were judged winners by a clear margin. Four individual Company teams were entered and each team worked extremely hard to achieve this creditable victory.

Swimming

In spite of the extremely cold weather, the Battalion Inter-Company Swimming Competition was held on September 14. Although possessing very few swimmers, the Company put up a good show in being judged fourth in the final result, and in particular, Cfmn. Peachey is to be congratulated on winning the 50 metres breast stroke, and Pte. O'Rawe for obtaining second place in the 400 metres.

The Journal

*We ask readers to pass the order form
at the end of this Journal to a friend
... Thank you*

TRAINING

Battalion Rifle Meeting

After annual classification the Company was able to select and train a team for the Battalion Rifle Meeting which was held at Warmbad. In this the Company was slow to get started and, although placed third in the final results, might well have done better. None the less the black flag was kept flying and it became apparent that there was definite talent waiting to be developed for the coming Command Rifle Meeting. Lt. Deacock tied for second place in the Unicorn Cup. Cpl. Gibbs and Cpl. Clarke shot well, as did some of the younger soldiers. The value of elementary drills was proved again and again on this day, especially with regard to L.M.G.

Command Rifle Meeting

Although a Battalion commitment, the Company trained hard and early for this meeting and had quite a good representation in the Battalion team. Pte. Dunkley was unlucky not to win the S.M.C. competition, but will do better next year. C.Q.M.S. Kenrick and Lt. Deacock teamed together on the L.M.G. and came second in the individual competition. The C/Sgt. will be wearing a Bisley hat at all future meetings. Cpl. Clarke did well in the Young Soldiers' practices and will certainly improve with experience. Lt. Deacock was in the Battalion Shooting Eight and also won the 400 yds. application practice. Lt. Deacock, Cpl. Gibbs and Ptes. Turton and Dunkley shot in the Battalion S.M.C. teams. The Company Young Soldiers' team was unfortunate not to shoot due to an injury to one of the team. The falling plate team was defeated in the earlier rounds by very superior opponents; the team consisted of Cpls. Clarke and Gibbs, L/Cpls. Burrow and Gaylor and Ptes. Turton, Storey, Leggett, Dunkley, Evans and Sgt. Moyses.

The lessons learned from the season's shooting are many and valuable, and in the main are: train hard and early and try to develop that match temperament which only comes with practice.

Field Firing, Schmelz

In July, M.M.G., 3-in. Mortar and Assault Pioneer Cadres were run. These proved of immense value, since not only were the Support platoons able to train new men and make up their full establishments but also the older trained specialists could be refreshed, and the platoons worked as an entity, a situation which arises far too infrequently nowadays.

In August the Company moved up to Schmelz for three weeks, with the exception of the Anti-Tank Platoon, to do their field firing. Due to the presentation parade we were rather hit by leave commitments, so that some of our latest young soldiers must wait until next year to fire their weapons under service conditions. However, much useful work was done, including a demonstration for Rifle Companies. The M.M.G.s practiced their fire control well, which was of great value to the up-and-coming N.C.O.s. The 3-in. Mortar Platoon fired a lot of bombs in a short time and had one very valuable weekend on the mortar line

where much was learned not only about mortars but also about living out. Base plate positions are very bad at Schmelz, but Pte. Tappin will go down in history as the No. 1 who always struck soft earth. Sgt. Walters was to be seen beaming with joy as he shouted his orders down a black pit where No. 1 mortar was rapidly heading for Australia. Nevertheless, this ground proved of value to everybody in selection of good positions and quick changes of position. The Company Carrier driving improved immensely, even if it cannot be said that the carriers benefited much.

During this time the Assault Pioneer Section went to Trieste, under Sgt. Dive, to train with 11 Field Squadron, who were in wet bridging camp. By all accounts the time was well spent and Sgt. Dive said that towards the end of the camp his section were "out-sapping" the Sappers.

Good specialist training has been done and not only has the Company benefited technically, but platoons have found that spirit essential to the existence of a "happy ship."

SERGEANTS' MESS

Due to a variety of reasons, this quarter remained an extremely quiet one for the Garrison W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess—quiet that is until about the second week in September, after which things livened up considerably, and the third quarter of 1953, which undoubtedly came in very much like the proverbial lamb, is leaving us like the also proverbial lion.

The fact that 11th Independent Field Squadron, R.E., were summering on the sunny shores of Trieste throughout the months of July and August toned down the activities of the Mess so much that it was positively genteel, and we were certainly extremely glad to see their bronzed faces appear in our midst again early in September.

The quarter had its first reportable event in the cricket match arranged between the W.O.s and Sergeants and the reputedly formidable Officers' Mess team. This took place on Wednesday, September 16, and provided an excellent afternoon's entertainment for all who could spare the time to watch. The Sergeants did extremely well to get the Officers out for a meagre 103 runs, Sgt. Fry, R.E., taking 7 wickets for 45 runs. When our turn came to bat, we found that our batsmen were not up to the same standard as our bowlers, since by the time that our tenth and eleventh men were due to go in our score was only in the mid-fifties and, of that total, Sgt. Potter had scored almost half. However, our last two were a pair of stalwarts from the old brigade and did their best to pull us out of the mess that we had got into. In case you have not already guessed, the stalwarts were the R.S.M. and the Bandmaster. Rather contemptuously, I fear, the Officers changed their bowlers and the R.S.M. and the Bandmaster found themselves facing the vigorous, if somewhat erratic, bowling of the C.O. and the Adj., and between them they managed to knock up a tidy old 35 or so before we died an honourable death with only 11 runs separating us from the victor's crown.

It is thought that, had the R.S.M. and Bandmaster,

been allowed to play with their hockey sticks instead of the rather more conventional cricket bat, I could have reported a far more successful end to this game.

Of course, the talk throughout the quarter has been of nothing but the presentation to the Battalion by the C.I.G.S. of our new Colours and, if we ever needed an excuse for a most glorious binge, this was it, and we grasped the opportunity with both hands. Since the date of the ceremony had been fixed as Sunday, September 27, it was necessary that the dance that we had so laboriously planned be held on the Saturday week prior to that date, in order that we could be reasonably sure that at least someone of us would be there to collect the Colours on the following Sunday week. Needless to say, the dance was a tremendous success, and went on merrily till the wee sma' hoors of Sunday morning, when very hot and extremely good chicken soup was ladled out to all and sundry to ward off the chill winds that are apt to permeate even the very thickest of Mess dress at this time of the year.

Following the dance came a week of intensive and soul-searing practice in preparation for the parade the following Sunday. Nobody seemed to mind this in the least, probably because they were thinking not of the inspiring list of notabilities that would be present to watch them, but rather of the more impressive and far more inspiring array of bottles that would be lined up (neatly dressed by the Mess caterer) waiting to be relieved of their contents at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Came Sunday, September 27, 1953, and with it a brilliant sun in an almost cloudless sky to herald the presentation of the new Colours, the spectacle of which can be passed over in the knowledge that it will be fully reported in the general notes, and so on to 1230 hrs.—when "Operation Bottle Cap" began in real earnest.

Some 250 members and guests, with their wives and lady friends, crowded into a Mess which at one time was thought to be quite a large Mess as Garrison Messes go, but which now took on the appearance of a well-packed sardine tin. A number of guests from 1st Camerons were shown into the ladies' room by mistake, but made an extremely hurried exit when the female fraternity began asking the age-old question. I am not quite clear as to how long the free drinks lasted since a friend of mine (my wife) mixed gin and orange with my beer, and I was forced to retire "hurt" for a few hours to recuperate. When I reappeared, the Mess was only slightly less crowded, a few members having been put out of sight under the table, but even those revived later on when an Austrian four-piece band arrived to liven up the proceedings. Dancing and drinking went on until 0230 hrs.

We are yet to hear the comments of the Officer i/c Sergeants' Mess Accounts when he finds out that we exceeded the grant, so graciously given by the C.O. for the occasion, by a mere 120 per cent. Christmas comes but once a year, but thank goodness that a Colour Presentation comes but once every 25 years or so, otherwise Mess fees would be weekly entitlement plus emoluments and then some.

In addition to all the necessary drills and parades that have been our lot during the quarter, many of us have

taken a varying degree of pains over our gardens and fences, only to have to stand by helplessly and watch the fences removed and our gardens trampled on by workmen erecting Army Issue fences—still, as I believe I have remarked before, we should have the whole place looking fairly shipshape by the time we are asked to move on; which seems to be the general idea. Having upset the ego of the more enthusiastic gardeners by the erection of the fences, the powers-that-be then decided to have a go at our long-suffering wives by the issue of linoleum which is a beautiful shade of sea green and does not match either the carpets or the furniture. For five and a half hours at a stretch our good ladies had to watch, equally helplessly, while G.E. labourers strolled through the lounges, coffee rooms, dining-rooms and what have you, busy measuring and cutting the linoleum so exactly that they could tell to an inch just where the bumps were going to be when they had finished. Not content with their present multi-coloured scheme, however, the powers-that-be have also decided to help brighten our drab existence by the addition of bright blue chair covers, which are guaranteed to clash mightily with green linoleum, red carpets and light brown furniture. There is, however, no truth in the rumour that we are to be issued with red, white and blue curtains, although they would certainly help to create the illusion that the British are determined to paint Austria red.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Sgt. K. Beale on the occasion of his forthcoming wedding to Miss Hermine Steinbruger of Zeltweg on Saturday, October 10. It is not expected that the wedding will interfere in any way with the drill cadre that Sgt. Beale is at present conducting. Parades as usual at 0745 hrs. Monday, October 12.

SPORT

Football

We started the football season in early September in preparation for our first scheduled match with the Camerons on September 19. This did not actually take place because they were too busy packing up to leave Austria in conformity with the general run down of the Garrison. We did, however, manage to get a match with The Green Howards in Graz on September 23. The team arrived for a late kick-off at 3.50, having taken part in intensive practice for the Colour Presentation Parade during the morning with their respective guards. They did not settle down well during the first half and generally lacked cohesion but, after a while, they got into their stride and had the mastery of the other side; too late, though, to avoid a decision of 4—2 against them. A B.T.A. commentator remarked that we had the makings of a fine team but that they lacked training. Our lack of success may perhaps be attributed in part to the fact that we have concentrated more on getting the whole of the Battalion out playing inter-platoon or practice games rather than on the periodical gladiatorial shows to which we are committed in the B.T.A. "A" League. Cpl. Freeman of the Signal Platoon as right back has set a fine example as Battalion captain, well supported by Pte. Van of H.Q. at left-half. Pte. Wright of H.Q. and L/Cpl. Martin of "A" Company have done some

good work in the forward line. The team have now begun regular training on three afternoons a week, preceded by half an hour's strenuous P.T., under the able direction of "Albert," the Austrian storeman, who is really first-class as a trainer. Although two companies are away in Vienna the Battalion managed to raise a 2nd XI, and were due to play Knittelfeld "Red Star" 2nd XI on October 1, with an invitation to a "social evening" afterwards. However, this did not take place as we were informed that there had been a disturbance on the football field with a team from Leoben, a neighbouring town. We hope to have better luck with Knittelfeld "Electric" Company's 2nd XI, due to play us here this afternoon, October 3.

Cricket

The full results of the Battalion 1st XI matches were as follows:

Played 10 Won 6 Lost 3 Drawn 1

MATCHES WON

May 25. 1st Middlesex, 116 (Sgt. Bailey 43, Lt. Clayden 23); 11 Field Squadron, R.E., 54 (Lt. Pike, 4 for 10; Sgt. Potter, 4 for 6).

June 7. 1st Middlesex, 192 for 8 (Capt. Legge, 75; Major Ormiston, 35); 1st Green Howards, 103 (Sgt. Potter, 5 for 30).

July 26. R.A.S.C. (Austria), 67 (Lt. Pike, 4 for 24; Lt. Clayden, 3 for 17); 1st Middlesex, 71 for 4 (Major Ormiston, 26 not out).

August 19. Vienna Garrison, 77 (Lt. Pike, 4 for 46; Pte. Bentley, 4 for 11); 1st Middlesex, 81 for 2 (Capt. Legge, 41 not out; Capt. Honess, 32 not out).

August 30. Graz Garrison, 13 (Lt. Pike, 4 for 4); 1st Middlesex, 56 for 9 (Capt. Legge, 32).

September 6. R.A.S.C. (Austria), 70 (Lt. Pike, 6 for 19); 1st Middlesex, 73 for 4 (Capt. Legge, 30).

MATCHES LOST

July 28-29. 1st Middlesex (first innings), 150 (Major Ormiston, 73); 6th Armoured Division, 188 (Lt. Clayden, 4 for 60); 1st Middlesex (second innings), 84 (Major Ormiston, 28); 6th Armoured Division (second innings), 49 for 4 (Lt. Pike, 2 for 16).

August 16. 1st Middlesex, 118 (Major Ormiston, 49); B.T.A., 122 for 2.

August 24. 1st Middlesex, 109 (Capt. Legge, 22; Lt. Pike, 21); Royal Signals (Austria), 110 for 3.

MATCH DRAWN

August 29. Graz Garrison, 120 (Lt. Pike, 6 for 12); 1st Middlesex, 80 for 7 (Capt. Legge, 21).

As can be seen from the match results, the Battalion had a most successful and enjoyable season. With the exception of the Royal Signals (Austria) fixture, defeats were only suffered at the hands of much stronger opponents—namely 6th Armoured Division and B.T.A. Command—and the Battalion definitely achieved a cricketing reputation throughout Austria.

Unfortunately, owing to training and duty commitments it was seldom possible to field a settled eleven, but many cricketing enthusiasts were found in the Battalion and the standard maintained was always a high one. It was especially pleasing to note how many young soldiers were willing to turn out for a net or fielding practice after parade hours, which should prove a happy augury for the future.

Of the actual matches played, undoubtedly the best game was against the very strong 6th Armoured Division from B.A.O.R. Although the Battalion lost, the play was extremely even and the result might have been a different one if our batsmen had found their customary form in the second innings. In addition a satisfactory

and pleasing win was recorded against our old friends, The Green Howards, earlier in the season, and late in the summer Graz Garrison, who fielded a very reasonable side were dismissed for 13 runs, after scoring 120 off the same bowling the day before.

On the reverse side was the B.T.A. Major Unit Knockout Championship Semi-Final game, against the Royal Signals (Austria) on August 24. For some unaccountable reason everyone seemed completely out of form, which was a great pity as the Battalion had been considered likely winners of the championship. However, the Royal Signals proved themselves to be the better team on that day, and we were sorry to hear that they were beaten by the R.E. (Austria) in the final.

With regard to personalities, Major Ormiston, as expected, proved the mainstay of the batting. It is difficult to pick out individual examples from such consistently good scores, but his 73 against 6th Armoured Division and 49 against B.T.A. were magnificent efforts, on each occasion scoring nearly half of the side's runs from his own bat. Capt. Legge and Honess also gave invaluable assistance with the bat on more than one occasion, but were never consistent until nearing the end of the season. Others who deserve mention in the batting department of the game were Lt. Clayden and Sgt. Potter, not forgetting Sgt. "Butcher" Bailey, who could usually be relied on to hit at least one six during his knock.

Lt. Pike carried the brunt of the bowling on his shoulders and invariably, when he failed to find his form, the Battalion failed to win. However, until his injury, Lt. Clayden and Sgt. Potter gave him good support, and Ptes. Bentley and York showed very excellent promise for the future. Special mention must also be made of the splendid slip fielding of Major Martin and Capt. Honess. Many impossible chances were accepted by these two, which helped considerably in winning our matches, and they set a splendid example in the field at all times.

In conclusion, Major Ormiston, Capt. Honess, Capt. Legge, Lt. Pike and Lt. Clayden are to be congratulated on being selected to play for B.T.A. on several occasions during the summer.

Averages were as follows:

Name	No. of		Total	Highest	Average
	Innings	Not Out			
Major Ormiston	7	2	235	73*	47.0
Capt. Legge	10	1	241	75	26.77
Sgt. Bailey	3	—	53	43	17.66
Capt. Honess	8	1	101	32	14.5
Pte. Cruikshank	4	—	49	23	12.25
Sgt. Potter	5	—	53	25	10.6
Lt. Clayden	7	—	63	23	9.0
Lt. Pike	8	1	46	21	6.57

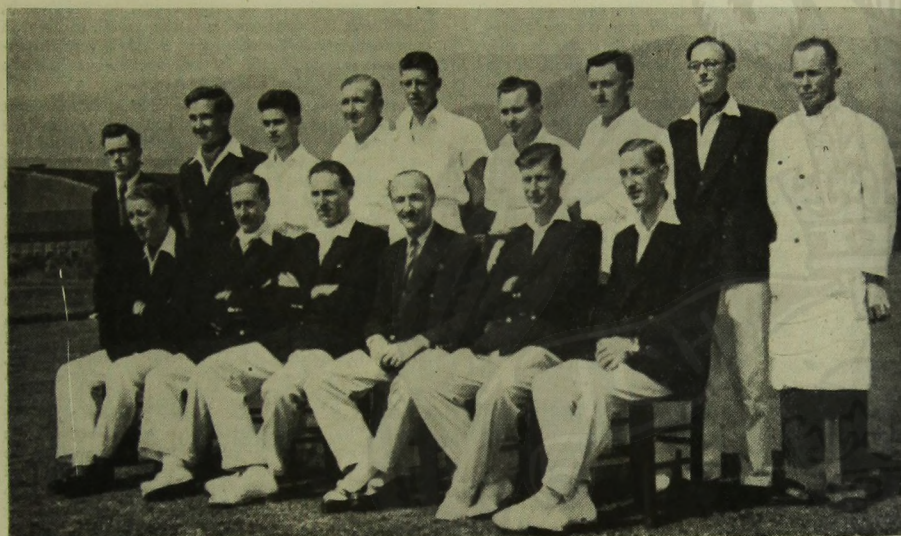
Also Batted: Pte. Gould (10, 0, 2*, 1* and 7); Major Martin (3, 2, 2*, 3, 13 and 5); Pte. Hearne (16 and 12); Pte. Alexander (4).

*Not out

BOWLING

Name	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average
Lt. Pike	110.3	26	34	205	7.7
Sgt. Potter	27.5	2	10	78	7.8
Pte. Bentley	34	8	9	77	8.5
Lt. Clayden	56	10	13	150	13.8

Also Bowled: Major Martin (1 for 7, 1 for 19); 2 Lt. Tyms (3 for 19, 1 for 12); Pte. York (0 for 16, 0 for 20); Lt. Pollard (0 for 17).



THE BATTALION CRICKET TEAM

Back row (left to right): Pte. —, Lt. Pollard, Pte. Gould, Sgt. Baily, —, Cpl. Freeman, —, 2/Lt. Tymms, C/Sgt. Burgess
Front row: Lt. Clayden, Major Martin, Lt. Pike, Major Ormiston, Capt. Honess, Capt. Legge

Shooting

With the many other Battalion activities and leave in full swing, the time for selecting and training a team for the B.T.A. meeting—one week—was desperately short. Firing stens *en masse* in the gathering gloom of the damp, still evenings gave an impressive display of smoke and flame, much appreciated by the local Zeltweggian audience, which assembled for free entertainment.

However, fairly ruthless pruning and concentration on the maximum amount of actual firing possible on the 100-yds. range produced good dividends. We went down hoping not to disgrace ourselves and came out top, which provided a good example of how even in shooting it is the enthusiasm and ability to work as a team which produces results.

Our victory in the Sten Cup team by a substantial margin caused mutterings in the camps of our rivals, as it wiped out their lead in the rifle. By just getting home in the L.M.G. team cup we had also won the fine-looking Steele Cup for the best aggregate.

The backbone of the team were C.Q.M.S. Bartle and Sgt. Harris, whose experience and long hours on the range were invaluable. Individually we would congratulate the following: L/Cpl. Dyson, who came second in the Young Soldiers' rifle; Sgt. Harris, third in the Sten; Lt. Deacock and C.Q.M.S. Kenrick, second in the L.M.G. pairs; and Major Battye, second

in the individual rifle after surviving the ordeal of a re-shoot. With the keenness that there is and some promising material the Battalion should improve its shooting, providing it starts hard practice in ample time next year.

Swimming and Water Polo

Warning arrived very suddenly in early August that the B.T.A. swimming and water polo championships would take place on August 28 and 29. We had battled against time to build a pool of our own at Zeltweg and finally we had a hole dug some 27 metres by 13 metres; the deep end 9-ft. deep and the shallow 4 ft. We shored up the side with wood, sewed together six large tarpaulin sheets and finally the water began to trickle in. The pool took some 24 hours to fill, as we had to be careful not to take the camp's reserve of water. It was very cold at first, but, after a few days' sunshine, began to warm up. The Battalion team then started training under R.S.M. Tarrant.

In the B.T.A. water polo we lost to the Camerons after having played extra time; they finally won the competition. The game was acclaimed by many of the spectators as the best game of the competition; no quarter was asked or given. We had a very young and inexperienced team except for the R.S.M.

In the B.T.A. swimming we did exceptionally well and won the competition with 70 points, our nearest



THE BATTALION SWIMMING TEAM

rivals, the 1st Battalion Camerons, having a total of 48 points. Pte. Abrams set up a new record for the 800 and 400 metres in the time of 13 min. 5.4 sec. and 6 min. 10.4 sec., respectively. Final results are shown below:

RESULTS OF B.T.A. SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

800 Metres Free Style: Pte. Abrams, 1st.
400 Metres Free Style: Pte. Abrams, 1st; Pte. O'Rawe, 2nd.
50 Metres Free Style: Pte. Dickens, 4th.
Diving: Pte. Dickens, 3rd; Pte. O'Rawe, 4th.
100 Metres Free Style: Pte. Dickens, 1st.
100 Metres Breast Stroke: Pte. Peachey, 2nd; Pte. Blackwell, 5th; R.S.M. Tarrant, 6th.
200 Metres Relay (team of 4): Pte. Dickens, Pte. Small, L/Cpl. McIntosh, Cpl. Anderson, 1st.
200 Metres Relay Medley (team of 4): Cpl. Eady, Pte. Dickens, Pte. Peachey, Pte. Small, 1st.
100 Metres Back Stroke: Cpl. Eady, 2nd.

Inter-Company Swimming

Owing to the pool not being ready and one Company away in Vienna, Inter-Company swimming points for the Albuhera Shield did not take place until September 15. The weather by that time had deteriorated and the water was very cold.

There was keen competition and a grand battle resulted in the inter-rank relay, which consisted of one officer, one W.O., colour-sergeant or sergeant, one corporal or lance-corporal and one private, with the honours going to "B" Company.

In lighter vein the pillow fight on the greasy pole created a good laugh with Ptes. Dickens and Stanley the longest stayers on the pole.

Unfortunately it got very cold during the afternoon and the obstacle race and diving for plates were cancelled. Despite this, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, the swimmers taking nips of rum between races.

RESULTS

WATER POLO

Company	Position	Notes
"H.Q." Company	1st	Winners
"C" Company	2nd	Runners-up
"A" Company	3rd	
"S" Company	4th	
"B" Company	5th	

INTER-COMPANY SWIMMING

Company	Position	Points
"C" Company	1st	46 points
"H.Q." Company	2nd	40 "
"A" Company	3rd	32 "
"S" Company	4th	25 "
"B" Company	5th	17 "

INDIVIDUAL

400 Metres: 1st, "C" Company (Pte. Abrams); 2nd, "S" Company (Pte. O'Rawe).
200 Metres Inter-Company Relay: 1st, "C" Company (L/Cpl. McIntosh, L/Cpl. Lamonby, Ptes. Abrams and Carter); 2nd, "H.Q." Company.
50 Metres Back Stroke: 1st, "C" Company (Pte. Simons); 2nd, "A" Company (Pte. Butcher).
50 Metres Breast Stroke: 1st, "S" Company (Pte. Peachey); 2nd, "H.Q." Company (R.S.M. Tarrant).
Plunging: 1st, "C" Company (C/Sgt. Bartle and L/Cpl. Lamonby); 2nd, "A" Company.
100 Metres Free Style: 1st, "H.Q." Company (Pte. Dickens); 2nd, "C" Company (Pte. Abrams).
200 Metres Inter-Rank Relay: 1st, "B" Company (2/Lt. Vince, C.S.M. Thom, Cpl. Eady, Pte. Ely); 2nd, "H.Q." Company.
Diving: 1st, "H.Q." Company (Ptes. Dickens and Small); 2nd, "A" Company.
200 Metres Medley Relay: 1st, "C" Company (Ptes. Abrams, Simons and Blackwell and L/Cpl. McIntosh); 2nd, "S" Company.

Athletics

As reported in the last edition of the journal, training began in preparation for the B.T.A. championships immediately after the conclusion of the Battalion Individual Athletic Meeting.

A total of 42 all ranks trained hard early morning and evening under the direction of Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, and three days before the B.T.A. championships held at Klagenfurt on August 21, 22 and 24, the Battalion team was finally selected.

The four weeks of hard and organised training paid dividends and the effect of this was clearly seen in the high standard of physical fitness and the excellent team spirit that prevailed.

The standards in a number of the events were low in comparison with those set by the Battalion team in Hong Kong in 1952. However, the expert coaching of S.S.I. Law and Sgt. Potter did an infinite amount of good, especially with the pole vaulters.

We knew that the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders would be our chief opponents—all reports showed they had a very strong team.

Throughout the three days at Klagenfurt the team struggled valiantly against the Scots and, although we realised at the end of the first day we could never make up the points advantage they had gained, we continued the struggle until the very last event of the meeting.

The final placings of the major units competing were as follows:

First	..	1st Camerons	..	113½ points
Second	..	1st Middlesex	..	69 "
Third	..	Royal Signals	..	47 "
Fourth	..	1st Green Howards	..	39½ "
Fifth	..	R.A.S.C.	..	10 "

Members of the Battalion team who must be congratulated are those who gained first places: Cpl. Stevens ("H.Q." Company), who threw the javelin 149 ft. 9 in.; 2/Lt. M. S. Gedye ("C" Company), who, although slightly "off form" during the preliminaries, pulled 109 ft. 7 in. out of the hat in the finals of the discus; Lt. W. M. Deacock ("S" Company), who did a steady 18.9 secs. to win the 110 metres hurdles; and Pte. Woodward ("D" Company), who cleared 5 ft. 7 in. in the high jump and only just failed in an attempt to beat the B.T.A. record of 5 ft. 7½ in.

Cpl. Eldridge ("A" Company), who only rejoined the Battalion about a week before the meeting from Mill Hill, did extremely well and gained third place in the pole vault with a vault of 8 ft. 9 in.

Our 5,000 metres runners, L/Cpl. Hart ("C" Company) and L/Cpl. Holt ("H.Q." Company), ran a very fine race, gaining second and third places, respectively. L/Cpl. Thomas was third in the long jump and also ran the first 200-metres "leg" for the Battalion team in the 1,600 metres relay in which we were third.

Sgt. Lewis, R.A.E.C. ("D" Company) gained third place in the 400 metres, which was a very fast and thrilling race. One member of the team who must receive a very special mention is Pte. Scothern ("A" Company), who, though unplaced, ran so gallantly in the 800 metres and 1,600 metres races.

Cycling

After our success in the 25-mile time trial, we proceeded to confirm our obvious superiority in the North Zone in the 50-mile race. This was held over a tough, windy course and, of the 20-odd starters, only eight managed to finish "in the saddle." The results were identical with the previous race:

1st	..	Pte. Sacker, "D" Company
2nd	..	Pte. Moses, "H.Q." Company.
3rd	..	Pte. Johnson, 12 Wireless Squadron

Winning Team: 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Ptes. Sacker, Johnson and Moses).

Due to other more important Battalion activities, we have been unable to continue our club runs, but we have been fortunate enough to acquire five brand-new Hercules roadsters from B.T.A. Welfare, and the loan of cycles to individuals has shown a marked improvement.

The last cycling event of the season was a 36-mile massed-start race for all B.T.A. at Klagenfurt. We entered a rather weakened team and came up against very stiff opposition riding on their home course. Our best was Pte. Sacker, who came in fifth.

Motor-cycling

After one or two rather unsuccessful attempts in command trials down in Klagenfurt, we decided to run a B.T.A. motor-cycle trial at Zellweg. We received 33 entries, a command record. The course, a timed stretch of varying road surfaces over 113 miles, went through some of the most picturesque mountain country around here, and one control point was situated at the top of Prebil (4,000 ft.), well remembered from "Exercise Blossom."

The trial was won by the 21 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., with A.S.M. Lodder of their team winning with a score of 1. One of our team unfortunately took leave of his machine halfway round, and so the ambulance with Sgt. Bailey i/c. was not altogether wasted.

The major incident of the meeting was the failure of the recovery vehicle containing the officials on the course to return. It was eventually towed in the next day, containing a very dispirited group who had spent 32 hours out in the hills on two cookhouse sandwiches.

Due to excessive damage caused to our machines in recent trials, we have had to withdraw from the big B.T.A. meeting to be held in October.

Boxing

We are starting off the boxing season with a Battalion novices' competition which will count towards the Albuhera Shield competition.

In all ten weights 124 entries have been received. Due to the fact that the Battalion is split with two Companies at Vienna, eliminating rounds are being fought off in the two garrisons concurrently. The Battalion finals are to be held in the very capacious and well-appointed gymnasium in Vienna.

Next month we will hold the inter-Company team competition, trusting that the "novices" will have uncovered some good talent for us.

Equitation

The Battalion took over five horses when they arrived in Austria and, on first acquaintance, their potential was nothing. After some six weeks of rest and proper management, we got the horses into a reasonable state of fitness, and riding started.

The wide expanse of the airfield and the ideal hacking country which surrounds Zellweg offer excellent opportunities for riding generally. With the benefit of unlimited hay from the airfield and some corn supplied by a local farmer in return for certain facilities, the expenses are really moderate.

Throughout the summer months the horses were in great demand by officers, their wives and children. In addition, it was encouraging that several O.R.s became interested and made use of the horses.

In August, the B.T.A. Saddle Club, in conjunction with the Austrian Riding Club, ran a two-day horse show at Klagenfurt and the Battalion entered three horses in various jumping events. Their selection and training was undertaken by Major Chattey and Capt. Hodge. Many difficulties were encountered, especially as both these officers were at Schmelz, the B.T.A. Mountain Training Centre, for part of the time, which meant travelling up and down approximately 3,000 ft. from the mountains every evening for the jumps! However, practice jumps were built, the weather was kind and some degree of fitness and improvement in both horses and riders was achieved.

Eventually the day arrived, and our horses were despatched by road; their mode of transport was somewhat unusual, but they arrived without mishap and in good shape.

The show itself was excellently run and thoroughly enjoyable; the C.O. was a steward. Jumping was held under F.E.I. rules and we were able to compete in Classes "A," "L" and "M," although we were unplaced in all events, mainly because we were competing against the best Austrian, BETFOR and Trieste police horses and riders. Our horses did several excellent rounds, and we were by no means disgraced. Major Chattey had one bad fall, but was luckily unhurt.

Three weeks later we sent two horses by rail to the two-day International Horse Show at Graz. Major Chattey and Capt. Hodge again represented the Battalion.

Here the competition was even tougher, with German and Yugoslav international teams as well as the best Austrians competing.

However, Capt. Hodge managed to obtain a rosette (fifth place) in Class "A," having jumped a clear round and being beaten only on time. This was most encouraging but after that our luck failed. Capt. Hodge had a nasty fall on "Venture" in Class "M" due to a bandage slipping and Major Chattey had "Brown Jack" going beautifully in the same event until the horse was put off by an imprudent photographer, which resulted in his going straight through an "in and out."

The second day it rained a bit and the ground was very sticky and slippery, and many horses were put off. Although there were no mishaps we had no luck. Both horses completed the course in the Class "L" events,

and Major Chattey only spoilt an otherwise clear round by one refusal in the Farewell Jumping Competition.

In a closing speech the president of the Austrian Riding Club welcomed the Battalion entry (we were the only military unit represented) and complimented both horses and riders on their showing. However, it was realised that our horses are well over 15 years old and did well to compete against younger and better-schooled horses.

Even so, the name of the Battalion has been made in the riding world of Austria and we are now hoping for better horses, and after this moderate but encouraging start for better success next year.

During the winter months we will make use of an indoor riding school which, at this moment, is under construction and will be used to school the horses and teach people to ride.

Our crying need is equipment. We have only a limited amount and most of that is privately owned. If any of our readers have any saddlery or stable equipment that is not in use, the Battalion would be very grateful for it and great care will be taken of it.

DEPARTURE OF FRENCH COMMANDER

Letter from Brigadier E. A. Howard, British Commander, Vienna Inter-Allied Command, to the Commanding Officer, dated October 12, 1953.

"As you will know, we held a short ceremonial parade in Schönbrunn Barracks on Saturday morning in honour of the departing French Commander, Vienna Inter-Allied Command. I had previously invited the American and Russian Commanders and their staffs to attend, and both attended with a number of their officers.

"The parade consisted of a guard of honour provided by "S" Company, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, with Regimental Colour and Band on parade. The parade was commanded by Major Ayre.

"The turn-out and drill of the guard was quite excellent. It was a brilliantly fine day and the whole parade was most impressive.

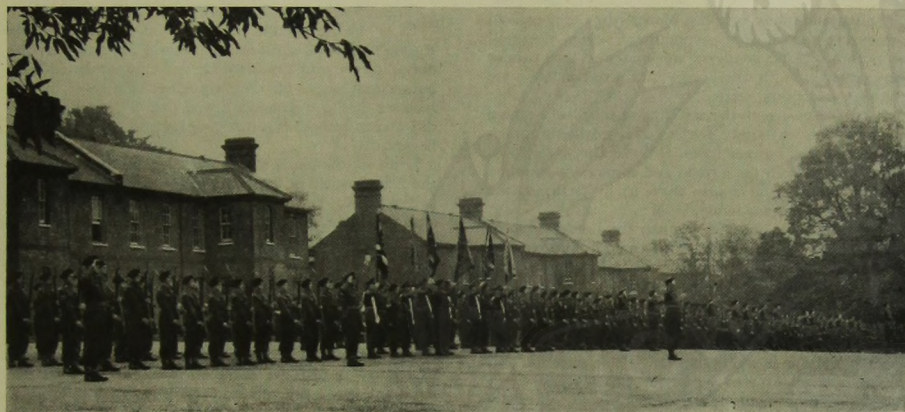
"The French Commander was quite overcome with the excellence of the ceremonial and the precision of the drill and the honour accorded to him; he commented freely to this effect. The American Commander also made favourable comments. The Russian Commander, himself an infantryman, was most impressed and paid your Regiment the compliment of saying 'the drill and turnout was as "exact" as we would have done it in the Soviet Army!'

"After the ceremony we all went to the Mess for a glass of sherry, where Brinley Ayre presented Col. Faure with a cap badge of The Middlesex Regiment as a small souvenir of the occasion.

"I only wish you had been able to be present."

A REQUEST

If any of our readers who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea have any photographs taken there, the Commanding Officer will be very grateful if the owners would send him a copy for record purposes.



[Ralph Sheffield, Edmonton.]

The Parade receiving the Colonel of the Regiment with a General Salute

Depot Notes

The Depot, unlike the Battalion with its constant changes of station, still carries on in the same old routine. As these notes go to press Mill Hill is once more cloaked in smog and dampness and all hands are on deck clearing the seemingly endless fall of leaves. Apart from the normal routine of training or regimental affairs, there is always something new which the Depot is called upon to carry out or organise.

The outstanding event of the quarter was, of course, the parade held in our barracks on Sunday, October 18, to mark the affiliation of the Home Guard of the County of Middlesex to the Regiment. The Colonel of the Regiment addressed the parade and took the salute. The parade consisted of detachments drawn from the Depot, 7th Battalion, 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) and 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment (9th Middlesex), together with the Colours of the three T.A. units representing the Regiment and commanded by Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D. The Home Guard contingent, which was commanded by Lt.-Col. C. A. E. Henson, T.D., was composed of detachments drawn from 17 Battalions. The parade was commanded by Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C. T.D., D.L., J.P., and the service conducted by the Rev. D. D. Lloyd-Evans, O.B.E., C.F., A.C.G. Eastern Command. The 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment provided their Band. The parade was honoured by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Lord Latham, J.P., and a large number of his repre-

sentatives. Other guests included the Director of the T.A. and Home Guard, G.O.C. London District, Deputy Director Home Guard, B.G.S. Eastern Command, the Chairman of the M.C.C., the High Sheriff of Middlesex and the Mayor and Town Clerk of Hendon. The Regiment was represented by the Hon. Colonels of T.A. units, together with their Battalion Commanders and many serving officers.

Two intakes have completed their courses. The 16th intake was passed out on August 19 when Maj.-Gen. J. G. Cowley, C.B.E., A.M., Chief of Staff Eastern Command, took the salute. Some 30 recruits under Lt. Cain and Sgt. DaCosta paraded. Maj.-Gen. Cowley presented medals to the following.

Best All-round Recruit, Best Rifle Shot and Highest Physical Efficiency: Pte. H. Lakin.

Best L.M.G. Shot: Pte. I. Richards.

The 17th intake was passed out on September 30. Maj.-Gen. F. R. G. Matthews, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Infantry, took the salute. There were 25 recruits on parade under Lt. Evans and Sgts. DaCosta and Nicholson. Maj.-Gen. Matthews presented to Pte. B. Rayner (N.S. man) medals for being the best all-round recruit, rifle and L.M.G. shot and having the highest physical efficiency—an outstanding achievement.

The Hendon show on August 6 was devoted to the Services, and the Recruit Intake under Sgt. DaCosta gave a short demonstration of drill and bayonet fighting. This proved particularly successful, the recruits giving a



The Home Guard contingent marching past the Depot and T.A. contingent

polished display (quoting the *Hendon Times*). Capt. Clayden gave an eloquent commentary on the public address equipment, despite Drum-Major Holdford's efforts to drown him.

A representative of the evening paper the *Star* was entertained at the Depot for a day, during which time many questions were asked and an equal number of answers were given. Assurance was given that no names would be mentioned. The result appeared in the *Star* of Wednesday, August 26, under the heading of "Call-up Boys in Love." No comments.

On August 14 Lt. Wollocombe and a few boys from the Boys' Infantry Battalion visited the Depot; a programme was laid on for them which included a tour of the barracks and a good lunch and tea. We hope to see them again in the near future.

On August 29 and again on October 10 the Depot was thrown open to the parents of the recruits under training, and a number of parents arrived to see their sons training after five weeks in the Army. No complaints either verbal or written were received so one can only assume that they were satisfied.

During the summer the numbers of N.S. men decreased but we are glad to say that we are nearing our old figures once more. Regular recruiting is going well. The Regiment holds No. 1 position in the Army for the highest percentage of N.S. men converting to a Regular engagement. Regular enlistment is also good, the Regiment lying 13th in the whole Army. We hope the good work will continue.

Before the next Journal is published a number of changes in the staff will have taken place. Capt. C. N. Clayden goes to the Staff College in January. We offer our belated congratulations and wish him luck. We shall

be sorry to see him go. We are grateful for what he has done during the short time with us. The new Training Officer is to be Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, who is expected from the 1st Battalion in the near future.

Other changes are Lt. Cain with Lt. Marciandi. Lt. Cain has been at the Depot for over two years. We shall miss him and so will the Purfleet Ranges and the Angler Inn.

Cpl. Marable and L/Cpl. Males, those stalwarts of the Q.M. Stores, having been found out by Records, are off to the Battalion. The Depot will not be the same without them. The Battalion is keeping it dark as to whom is to replace them.

To conclude our notes we wish all ranks of the Regiment a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OFFICERS' MESS

It has become the custom now to hold our monthly guest nights on the same day as the passing-out parades, when the inspecting officer is invited to remain for dinner, and so it was on August 19 when Maj.-Gen. Cowley took the salute. Officers of the Depot, The Royal Fusiliers, also dined with us that evening.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, Lord Latham, all the Mayors of Boroughs and Chairmen of the Urban District Councils of Middlesex and their respective Clerks were invited, with their wives, to a cocktail party at the Depot on August 28. Unfortunately quite a number were unable to come as they were away on holiday, but despite that we numbered 120. It was a very successful party and for many it was their first introduction to the home of their County Regiment.

There was another passing-out parade on September

30, but Gen. Matthews could not stay for dinner. Our guests that evening included, amongst others, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk of Hendon.

Many officers continue to pass through here either going abroad or returning for release at the end of their National Service.

2/Lt. Powell went off to the K.A.R. in Nairobi, Lt. Thomas to the 1st Battalion in Austria and 2/Lt. Milne to the Mauritian Guard, M.E.L.F. 2/Lts. Humber and McManus have come to us from the R.M.A. and are awaiting to go on courses before joining the 1st Battalion. Lt. Baker and 2/Lts. Blacktop, Lee, Mitchell, Weil, Wollocombe and Tymms all appeared to collect their final release papers and disappear into civilian life.

It is difficult to recall all visitors, but Lt.-Col. Lerwill, Major Burrows, Father Quinlan, Lts. Marciandi, Wollocombe, Crampton (late M.O.), Major Marsh and Lt.-Col. Overell are amongst those we do not see very often; the latter has not been to the Depot since the war ended, but has now decided to amend his ways and we shall see him at Regimental functions in the future.

Some of the more recent moves include Major Doyle from the School of Infantry to a Staff appointment in M.E.L.F., Major Allen from the Staff in Hong Kong to H.Q. Eastern Command with the rank of Lt.-Colonel, and Lt. (Q.M.) Badham from Japan to the Transit Camp in Hamburg.

Capt. Thomas has now replaced Capt. Sweetman as our Medical Officer here.

There have been changes also in the Home Postal Depot staff living in the Mess. Capt. McDonald has gone to Korea and has been replaced by Capt. Plank (from Korea) who, before these notes appear in print, will have joined B.A.O.R.

Capt. Butterfield has decided to try his luck in civilian life and we wish him every success. He can turn his hand to many things and should have no difficulty in making a go of it.

CRICKET

The Depot has enjoyed a fairly successful season this year due to the fact that we have been able to keep together a nucleus of regular players. Cpl. Marable and Pte. Musk bowled consistently well and Major Marshall, Major Heywood and Lt. Evans have had a good share in making the runs.

The summary of the matches is as follows:

East Surrey Depot, 165 for 6 (dec.); Depot, 98 for 6	Drew
18 Company, R.A.M.C., 155 for 7 (dec.); Depot, 65	Lost
Royal Engineers, 125; Depot, 129 for 5	Won
R.A.E.C. Depot, 196 for 4 (dec.); Depot, 73	Lost
10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., 91; Depot, 108	Won
"A" Company R.A.M.C., 142 for 4 (dec.); Depot, 103 for 4	Drew
Queen's Depot, 68; Depot, 75 for 5	Won
London Assembly Centre, 54; Depot, 77	Won
7th Bn. Middlesex Regt. (T.A.), 203 for 2 (dec.); Depot, 90	Lost
Won 4 Lost 3 Drew 2	

SERGEANTS' MESS

In the past quarter the outstanding feature has been leave, lovely leave. All the senior ranks have been jockeying for position, striving to get the promised summer sunshine for their leave. The R.S.M. was found on the Norfolk Broads, where he was captain of the local bowls team (seven ladies). C/Sgt. Dodkins

popped his way to Harlech in North Wales on his powerful motor bike. He stayed for 14 days within 200 yards of Sgt. Jock Snell (7th Battalion) in the original one-horse town without sighting him. C/Sgt. Taylor made a real hog of himself with no less than three weeks' leave. This was to celebrate the arrival of a baby daughter. Both C/Sgt. Taylor and the Depot were very relieved when the child arrived, we had been waiting and sweating so long!

An old C/Sergeant, "Bunny" Steadman, paraded on the passing-out parade on September 30 to receive his M.S.M. We all congratulate this old "Die-Hard." Another old C/Sergeant, Jack Christie, M.M., has returned to the fold after a serious illness. We were very glad to see him fit again and feel we must warn him to keep away from Halifax. Ex-W.O.2 Alf Mason has opened a pub called the White Hart in Saffron Walden. All Sergeants' Mess members are invited to drop in and try a drop of Benskins.

The Depot Married Quarters have gone M.T. minded. Sgt. DaCosta and C.S.M. Bignell are screaming around in cars and a certain Sergeant, who shall be nameless, has sent his wife out to work in order to raise the "ackers," we believe, to enable him to join the elite.

All work was brought to a standstill in the Depot recently by the sight of O.R.Q.M.S. Waldron in boots and anklets, belt, sidearm, sash and medals. He deserved to go as evidence on the court-martial, for he miscalculated on a man's character and signed his Draft Warning Order. He now delegates this job to somebody else. "Once in boots and anklets in 20 years is enough," he says.

Word has reached us that C/Sgt. Redpath has volunteered in almost the same way and was seen in the same order of dress on the Presentation of Colours. That was a first-class parade so we were told, and all at the Sergeants' Mess at the Depot take pride in the fact that they helped to train the escort to the Colours to such a high standard of drill whilst they were here as recruits.

All Sergeants' Mess members of the 1st Battalion are warned not to miss looking in at the Depot Mess when they are on leave. It is well worth while, just to see Sgt. Markham in his new glasses. His "bicycles" (as he calls them) makes him look ten years younger and extremely learned. Last time he visited the Mile End Road gym they thought he was the new manager. The effect of the glasses is not to be ignored, for he got four subjects of his First last March and it is in the bag for the final subject as we go to press.

R.Q.M.S. Etheridge is very busy in the garden with something called a "compost heap." Whilst not sure what this is, we do know what it smells like. Somebody wheeled a barrow across the cricket pitch but the powers that be could not prove who it was.

"Airman" Wilson stayed with us for a few days whilst waiting demob. We wish him the best of luck in the future, but if he flies a plane as successfully as he repairs punctures he will not last long.

That Sgt. Walsh is still hanging on. Why he cannot take a hint and go we cannot understand. We did try poisoning him again, but he is now immune. We did not even get him put into hospital this time.

The "Q" department took great pleasure in issuing

Middlesex titles and cap flashes to Sgt. Turner on his return to the Regiment. He did not need a badge, he had his own extremely well-polished old soldier's badge.

The A.C.C. are now represented by Sgt. Stubbings in our Mess. We congratulated him on his promotion. We are about to lose W.O.2 Till of the R.A.E.C. He has landed himself a steady number in Fontainebleau or some such place. "Horseshoe Till" he had better be known as. We will miss him and his family at the Depot. In fact things will be very quiet without Miss Valerie Till (just started school) whooping it up.

We had a darts match against ex-Sgt. Jack Sibley's "Archers" in August, but the following day we could not remember who had won! Never mind, we can always have a return match.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM NOTES

During the past six months the following presentations have been made to the Regimental Museum:

Mess kit jacket by Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.

4th Middlesex flag by Maj.-Gen. O. M. D. Osborne. Mess kit complete by Col. W. W. Jefford.

Sword, gold lace slings and sashes by Col. C. W. Warden.

Buttons, badges and photographs by Gen. Hall.

Selection of clothing and uniform by Capt. Vivian Holt.

A number of pictures by Mrs. C. H. Hall, Broadstone, Dorset.

Sash, gold knots, gold sword belt and gold shoulder cords by Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C.

Book, "The Early History of the 17th (North) Middlesex Volunteer Rifles (formerly 29th), 1859-1889," by F. A. Rowell, Esq.

Copy of letter of commendation from Gen. Wavell

We publish the following article with the kind permission of "The Star" and are really too old to comment. Times change and no doubt recruits change with them.

Call-up Boys in Love

Under the Army's new policy of seeking personal contact with mothers and wives of serving soldiers, a senior officer of a training depot introduces himself to the womenfolk of recruits through the post.

This applies to National Servicemen as well as Regular Army recruits and some regiments already have a well-organised procedure.

Let us take the Middlesex Regiment, who train at the Inglis Barracks at the top of Mill Hill.

Soon after a National Service recruit arrives a letter is written to the parents or guardian or the wife giving his address and explaining what he will do during his 10 weeks' preliminary training.

Parents are invited to visit their son, to watch him training, inspect the living accommodation and the catering and to meet the officers.



The new Regimental Museum sign board which has been designed and painted by Pte. Sherrington, the Depot sign writer

to Capt. R. E. Guest on his escape from the Japanese, also some foreign currency.

Reputed letter of Duke of Wellington and envelope containing his seal.

Copy of the *Sun* newspaper, dated June 28, 1838, with an account of Queen Victoria's Coronation.

Regimental cane of Col. Barker, late 6th Middlesex, Dorset.

Box of buttons and badges, etc.

Two mounted infantry officers' badges.

Pair of spears, one helmet plate, one Regimental tunic, one pair overalls, one frock coat, two sashes, one silk scarf (maroon) and one jacket, by ex-R.Q.M.S. G. Duffield.

Pair of Wellingtons.

They are also invited to the passing-out parade at the end of the 10 weeks.

Family Parties

Members of the family and friends can join in these visits. Family parties are encouraged. On passing-out day there is tea for all and the officers make a point of talking to the visitors.

The officers assure parents personally that they can be seen at any time by arrangement to discuss their boy's welfare. Letters, too, are welcomed.

Does this sound a little too naive and facile? Just another sop to welfare work?

It must be confessed that many parents ignore the approach from the start. Some mothers are quite content to see their sons on leave and to hear about the Army from them.

But generally the response is admirable. The families do turn up. The contacts are made. The visitors are interested.

The mothers especially notice that officers take a keen and intelligent interest in their men.

They learn of the work of selection officers and the placing of the young soldiers in this activity and that.

At the last passing-out at Mill Hill there were 33 National Servicemen who had completed training and the ceremony was seen by 30 parents with mothers and sisters. Only three of the men had nobody there.

The letter-writing which develops is a more personal matter. Most frequent letter is from the anxious mother.

The Home Letter

"I have not heard from my son for a fortnight," it says, "and I should like to know that he is all right."

Generally the young man is called in and it is explained to him that he ought to write home regularly.

"Now you go away and write telling your mother what we are doing and bring me the letter sealed and stamped in the next 48 hours," instructs the officer. "I will post the letter."

It is the most fatherly commonsense and the lesson has its reward when the temporarily thoughtless son keeps up his letter-writing in Hong Kong or Austria, where the Middlesex men are.

The officer, too, has in this way a channel for personal information about his recruit, especially those set down as "difficult."

Some young men are curiously awkward and unable to respond to orders quickly. They cannot concentrate easily.

"Just Bone Lazy"

To some extent their incapacities can be detected during games at off-parade times when recruits are more their natural selves. Or the officer may find out what is wrong in an off-duty conversation.

If he is puzzled he writes to the young man's father or mother and experience has shown that the replies are appreciative and informative.

One parent wrote that his son was not being given useful training in a cookhouse and that he wanted him to take an advance course in cooking.

"I am sorry to tell you," ran the burden of the officer's reply, "that your son is bone lazy. Can you help us?"

The young man is now taking his higher course.

A good proportion of National Servicemen undertake Regular service for three years during the first six weeks of their training. A year ago 60 per cent. of Regular recruits were being found among National Service entrants.

His Prospects

Here the officers have to be circumspect. They must satisfy the parents on the young man's prospects.

Clearly they can hardly hope to attract into the Regulars a man who has a good post awaiting the end of his National Service.

Past attempts to interfere with such an expectation have sometimes impelled a sharp parental letter to the local M.P. and the inevitable War Office inquiries.

The Select Committee of M.P.s examining the Army Act have discussed very thoroughly a suggestion that recruiting a minor for the Regular Army without his parents' consent should be made illegal.

The M.P.s have set aside the proposal as administratively unworkable. You might get one parent agreeing and the other objecting. The boy might be

keen to get into the Regular Army. Should he have the right to appeal to a magistrates' court over his parents' heads like a minor who wants to marry?

Telling the Parents

All the same the Select Committee have proposed that when a minor intends to change over from National Service to the Regulars, his Commanding Officer should tell the parents and give them 28 days in which to object.

For the present there is no new rule. The officers use their own judgment.

The Army has recognised the significance of protests sent to M.P.s. The authorities realise that they must play fair with parents.

A Possibility

A Regular enlistment is a possibility if the parents and the young man are alike satisfied. Provided, that is, there is no employer influencing the National Serviceman against taking a three-year commitment, as some employers certainly do.

"Mum" for her part is often very much influenced by the money-earning value of her son in civilian life.

But where a youth has drifted from job to job before doing his National Service his mother has an attentive ear for any promise of a training while in the Army in a trade which will afterwards mean a good and steady civilian post.

After she has been round a depot surveying the catering, inspecting the kitchens and the beds, peering into the cinema and the club rooms, a visiting mother will often ask questions about trade training.

Army Bargaining

Can anyone blame the Army for straightforward bargaining here? It amounts to this: a technical trade training generally requires a three-year engagement rather than two.

If the parent appreciates the point the Army and the man can benefit. "Thanks for the chat," says "Mum," as she leaves. "We'll talk it over during his next leave."

Nothing could be fairer than that.

There remain the girl friends. They are the enigmatic quantity in the Army's efforts to strike out for personal relationships with the women folk.

To begin with, the pen friends are unknown. Three-quarters of a Regular Army officer's task is looking after his men, but he cannot break into confidences and understandings which they may have with sweethearts. He has no status for correspondence with a soldier's girl friend, though he may know from the man that he is engaged to her. In this case personal acquaintance must come through proper introduction by the soldier.

Her Future Home

Engaged or not, he is encouraged to bring his girl friend to unit dances, to invite her to be present at regimental functions, to meet his officers and companions. At least the young woman begins to lose misconceptions about the modern Army.

If the man has taken a three-year engagement she can discover for herself what the scope of his work is and what his promotion prospects are.

The opportunity does not usually occur in civilian

life but the Army's new attitude is to put its cards on the teatable or on the buffet during a dance.

Any girl's reasonable questions are answered without equivocation. If she volunteers an interest in the married quarters she is taken round. She can see the new quarters being built—as they are being built in many places.

She's Rarely Shy

Scores of Army officers now engaged on carrying out the new policy have found that the soldier's girl friend

is rarely shy. She is shrewd behind her quizzical eyes. Questions on how it is possible to enjoy a happy family life in the Army will not convince her unless the answers are frank.

The really forbidding hazard is separation and there is more discussion of that by prospective soldiers' brides than anything else.

But Regular soldiers do marry and their wives are a special responsibility to which the Army devotes an immense amount of attention.



PASSING-OUT PARADE, BOYS' INFANTRY BATTALION

NEWS LETTER FROM TUXFORD

DEAR EDITOR,

The strength of our regimental gathering up here, tucked away in the Midlands, is gradually increasing. We now have a round dozen boys and two instructors on the staff (Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe and Sgt. Palmer).

Last term we had to contend with two important occasions—one was our annual administrative inspection taken by the District Commander, and the other was parents' day just before our summer holidays. The gaiety and lightheartedness of the latter made up completely for the long, sombre (so it seemed) minutes of the inspection. Yet both went off well in their own way. Many letters were received by the C.O. from parents who wished to say how much they enjoyed themselves and to voice their views on the smartness of the boys on parade.

The Band of The Royal Lincolns came over for the day and played almost without ceasing. In the morning, Lt.-Gen. Sir Colin B. Collander, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.G.M.T., took the salute in the first passing-out parade to be held here. The drill and turn-out were extremely smart and most complicated movements were performed with the utmost precision.

After the parade it was time for food. Parents and boys alike filled themselves to capacity—Mother and Father entering into the spirit with great gusto; one might almost say relish!

Prize-giving was next on the list. Gen. Collander presented the prizes and afterwards made a speech which was, perhaps, too flattering for the ears of the young—no ill effects have been felt yet. This was followed by

some team competitions, such as inter-Company tug-of-war, followed by a very fine P.T. display.

Then came the climax—buns and tea, with the comforting thought that all that remained was the dance in the evening. It was a hard day for those who had to run it, but it was a job well done and, therefore, satisfying. The dance was on a scale hitherto unknown here. Local girls' schools were tapped to provide "talent" for the entertainment of their hosts and no doubt, many useful acquaintances were made.

It seemed only a few days later that we were back again for the Christmas term although we all enjoyed a month's holiday.

So far the only excitement has been the performance of our P.T. display at the Nottingham Searchlight Tattoo. The boys made a very good name for themselves and were loudly applauded each night.

At long last we have two good football pitches in the camp and all platoons are preparing hard to produce their best team for the coming league matches. There are too many "dark horses" about at present to prophesy on the winner but speculation is rife amongst "those in the know."

These notes end as the cold midland fog begins, once more, to close down upon us. Soon we will expect snow, but that means Christmas and more leave.

The next time you hear from us you will learn how we survived these wintry terrors, refreshed by the comforting sigh of the buds breaking out of their shells once again.

Yours sincerely,

BOY "SCRIBE"

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



Activities since annual camp have kept the "loyal volunteers" of the Battalion extremely busy. On return from Bodney a fortnight was spent in the checking, cleaning and inspection of the extraordinarily large numbers of weapons and amounts of stores and equipment that we now possess. The fact that our deficiencies and barrack damages on final checking proved to be so small must almost entirely be credited to our Q.M., Major Percy Newman. His 37 years' service serve him in very good stead when dealing with barrack officers and camp commandants.

The Honorary Colonelcy of the Battalion passed from Brigadier H. A. D. Murray to Col. J. K. Maitland on August 14. We were very sorry to see Brigadier Murray retire, for he has been a sincere friend to the Battalion for many years. We now take this opportunity of thanking him for all that he has done for us. A record of his service appears later in these notes.

We need hardly welcome Col. Maitland to the Battalion, for he is a past C.O. and joined us many years ago. We hope that he will enjoy his new appointment.

Our three T.A. Centres were closed down from August 10 to 31 and no training took place during this period. However, the Battalion competed in the Home Counties District and 44th Infantry Division Rifle Meeting held at Shorncliffe (Hythe Ranges) on the weekend of August 22-23. We were represented by the following teams:

MAIN COMPETITION		CHINA CUP	
C/Sgt. Colbourne ..	"D"	Major Creighton ..	"B"
Sgt. King ..	"H.Q."	Lt. McDavid ..	"D"
Sgt. Brooks ..	"S"	C/Sgt. Colbourne ..	"D"
Cpl. Humphreys ..	"S"	Sgt. King ..	"H.Q."
Sgt. LaRoche ..	"S"	R.Q.M.S. Howes ..	"H.Q."
Cpl. Charge ..	"B"	Sgt. LaRoche ..	"S"
L/Cpl. Green ..	"H.Q."	Sgt. Brooks ..	"S"
Pte. King ..	"H.Q."	Pte. King ..	"H.Q."

Both teams did well, in spite of the very bad shooting conditions. In the main competition, in which some 37 Regular and T.A. teams competed, the Battalion was placed eighteenth and was fifth amongst the T.A. units. In the China Cup, Hong Kong Tankard, shoot we were unlucky to be placed fourth—mainly due to faulty magazine filling by the Bren gun team.

However, both teams are to be congratulated.

There have been a great deal of changes in personalities recently and, in order to record the present officers', W.O.s' and sergeants' appointments, a list of them is included in these notes. In future, promotions and appointments will be published each quarter.

On September 13 the Battalion Rifle Meeting was held at Pirbright. Companies appeared to have difficulty in producing teams, but the competition was none the less successfully "fired off." The weather was ideal and it was a very enjoyable day. On the same occasion the 1952-53 T.A.R.A. Decentralised Competitions were

fired. Individual and team winners for the Battalion Rifle Meeting were as follows:

Officers' Competition ..	Major T. W. Creighton
W.O.s' and Sergeants' Competition ..	Sgt. R. King
Cpls. and Ptes. Competition ..	L/Cpl. I. McGlashan
Champion Shot ..	Sgt. R. King
Inter-Company Rifle Competition ..	"H.Q." Company
Inter-Company Rifle and L.M.G. Comp. ..	"H.Q." Company
Champion Company ..	"H.Q." Company

Results of the T.A.R.A. Decentralised Competition are still awaited.

As a result of their showing at the Divisional Rifle Meeting, Major Creighton and C/Sgt. Colbourne were selected to shoot for the 44th Infantry Division in the T.A. Kolar Cup competition on September 20.

Company activities have been few. "A" and "S" Companies fired their annual classification range course at Pirbright on the weekend of September 26-27, and "C" and "D" Companies fired the same course at Pirbright on the weekend October 3-4. In both cases the shooting was not of a high standard and will have to be improved.

The Middlesex T.A. Association Rifle Meeting, "Exercise Bullfight," took place at Pirbright on October 11. In this competition we were most unfortunate to be beaten to second place by the 11th Parachute Battalion (8th Middlesex). Although we could not have been more fairly beaten by a better team, the result provides a good object lesson. Our position was achieved in spite of the fact that three members of our selected team failed to attend and three gallant last-minute reserves had to fire.

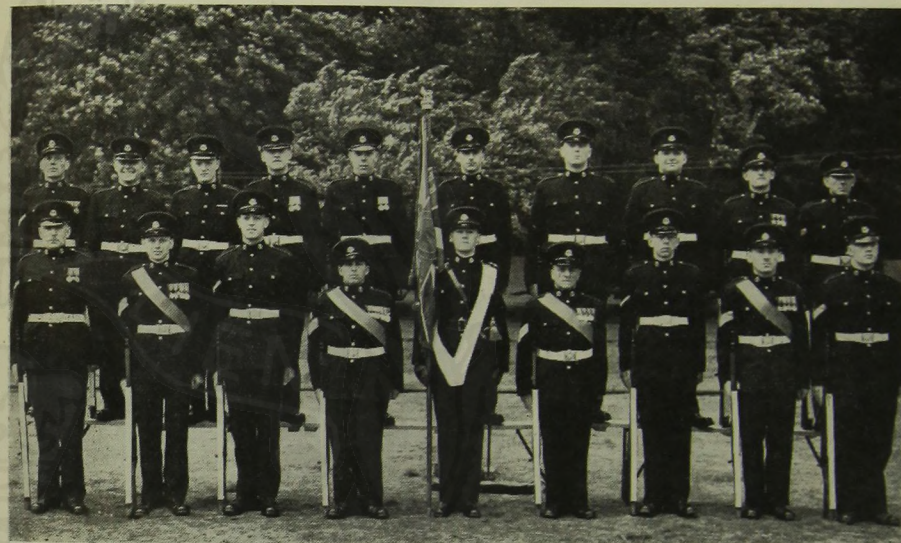
The most recent event that we have attended was the Home Guard affiliation parade at the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill, on Sunday, October 18. The Battalion was represented by a contingent of three officers and 19 other ranks. This party included the full Colour party and both Colours were on parade. The parade, which was the first of its kind, marked the affiliation of the Middlesex Home Guard Battalions to the Middlesex Regiment as a whole. The parade will be fully reported in the Regimental Depot Notes and so no more mention will be made of it here. It was interesting, however, to see that many of the Home Guardsmen on parade were past members of the Battalion.

The winter training season has now commenced and it will be of interest here to mention that training this winter is to be run in a new, and we hope, practical fashion. In brief, the aim is that all ranks should only attend for their own specific training on those occasions when they are called to do so. Training will only take place on Tuesday evenings and, by careful planning of attendances, it is hoped to reduce the number of uneconomical calls on volunteers' time and in this way to ensure that what (we hope, not little) is done is good. Training drills will now take place as follows:

First Tuesday in month ..	Company all ranks' training
Second Tuesday in month ..	N.C.O.s' training
Third Tuesday in month ..	Company administration
Fourth Tuesday in month ..	Officers' training

Potential N.C.O.s' training will take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month.

Thursdays will be social evenings for .22 shooting, badminton, basket ball and drinking. Interesting lectures by outside speakers will be arranged during the winter.



7th MIDDLESEX CORONATION PARTY—STREET LINING DETACHMENT

Back row (left to right): Cpl. R. Burnett, Pte. E. Bass, Pte. F. Miller, L/Cpl. R. Oliver, Cpl. A. Richardson, Pte. R. Jordan, Pte. D. Clarke, Sgt. J. Webb, Sgt. L. Leighton
Front row (left to right): L/Cpl. G. Derbyshire, Sgt. F. Carter, L/Cpl. J. Hughes, C/Sgt. E. Leggett, Lt. J. D. Blackler, Sgt. F. Gribble, L/Cpl. D. Burt, Sgt. E. Payne, Sgt. F. La Roche

Finally, it is worthy of mention that on the evening of Wednesday, September 16, our M.O., Capt. M. P. Ward, R.A.M.C., who was a member of the successful 1953 Mount Everest expedition, came to Hornsey and gave an informal talk about his adventures. His talk, originally intended to last for half an hour, was prolonged (by avid questioning) to last for an hour and a half. It was intensely interesting.

We have included in this issue of the journal a picture of the Battalion Coronation street-lining detachment. This was omitted from last quarter's notes as it was not available at the time of going to press.

SHOOTING

Since the beginning of the year the Battalion has entered for several .22 and .303 competitions, and it is now worthwhile reviewing the results of our efforts.

Firstly, let us review our "internal" .22 competitions, the .22 Ladder and the Inter-Company League. In the first, three members of the Rifle Club, R.S.M. Tostevin, Sgt. Rider and Cpl. Wimbleton, tie for first place with scores of 99.6. As this competition ends at the end of November, all the keen shots are hoping that the elusive "100" will come their way, but on present form it looks as though they will be unlucky.

In the Inter-Company League, "B" Company are

the red-hot favourites, with "A" and "S" fighting for second place. "H.Q." Company are at the bottom, but some very knowing customers say they have a "wonder team" ready for next year and will clean the board!

However, there is one more round to go in this competition and, although the result may be a foregone conclusion, perhaps "H.Q." Company will get a brilliant score in their final shoot.

On the open range the Battalion entered teams for the Divisional Rifle Meeting and the Middlesex T.A.F.A. Rifle Meeting, accounts of which appear elsewhere in this journal. A Battalion Rifle Meeting was held on September 13, and the T.A.R.A. competitions were fired off as well. "H.Q." Company won all the Company events, with Sgt. King well to the fore as champion shot.

In the T.A.R.A. competitions the Battalion failed to win any events, but hope is strong that the Battalion's name will appear in the T.A.R.A. programme book with places in three events—not high placings, it is true, but nevertheless "in the book."

In the outside .22 competitions we have fired off for the B.S.A. Guns, Ltd., Challenge Bowl and got a score of 1,482. This compares favourably with last year's scores and we hope to gain a place in this competition.



BAND, 7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

South Bodney Camp, 1953

Bdsm. Raybould, Bdsm. Tamer, Drm. Duckworth, Bdsm. Williams, Bdsm. Stanford
 L/Cpl. Caddis, Bdsm. Clarabut, Bdsm. Clegg, Cpl. Lewis, Bdsm. Ledwith, L/Cpl. Chessum, Bdsm. Thomas
 Bdsm. Pontin, Cpl. Plumpton, Band/Sgt. Whitewood, Bandmaster Gilyatt, Sgt. Lee, Sgt. Thomas, Bdsm. Smith

The team and scores for this event were as follows:

Sgt. R. King	192
Lt. P. A. Stocken	191
Sgt. F. LaRoche	187
Major T. W. Creighton	185
Cpl. C. Wimbleton	185
C/Sgt. R. Colbourne	183
Sgt. A. Richardson	183
Sgt. J. Webb	176
Total	1,482

Highest possible score: 1,600

"H.Q." Company and "B" Company have tied in the final round of the N.S.R.A. small-bore match. "H.Q." Company scored 693 (h.p.s. 800) and "B" Company 661. Compared with last year's scores "H.Q." might get into the second round—our fingers are permanently crossed!

Finally, there is the T.A. Small-Bore League. The Battalion has entered two teams in this, an "A" team and a "B" team. They both fired the first round recently, the "A" team against the 5th Northants and "B" against the 5th West Yorks. This is a postal shoot and we are awaiting the results of the match with the 5th Northants in which the "A" team scored 566, an average of 94.3. The results of the match with the West Yorks are to hand—"B," 7th Middlesex, 549; West Yorks, 412. A very good effort for "B" Company, as the "B" team is supplied solely by this Company.

BAND

We are glad to report that the Band is in a very healthy state, thanks largely to the hard work and enthusiasm of Bandmaster Gilyatt. Our strength is now 21, but a few vacancies exist for clarinet players. Boys are now allowed to enlist in the T.A. and applicants will be welcome.

This spring and summer saw our first civilian engagements, of which the most successful was probably the evening concert given in the bandstand in Priory Park, Hornsey. This concert was very well attended by the local residents.

The demand for the Band at military functions continues and we hope soon to appear in our new blue uniforms.

An immense amount of good work was done at camp

and our services were much in demand. Each morning we carried out drill under the Drum Major and followed that by some good solid practice. Performances were given in the men's dining hall and N.A.A.F.I. on several occasions and we played for the officers and sergeants.

For the first time for many years the Band and Drums combined to beat Retreat at the officers' cocktail party.

A successful social evening was held together with the Corps of Drums, at which all members were present. We were honoured by the presence of the C.O., Adj. and "H.Q." O.C.

We welcome Major Waller as Band President and hope his tour will also be one of pleasure. We congratulate those members who were promoted during the recent months.

To close, we extend an invitation to anyone interested in the Band to visit us at practice at Hornsey on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* annual camp has come and gone and we are now looking forward to the winter season with its usual social functions.

We have welcomed several new members to the Mess (Sgts. Bates, Richardson and Jones) and we hope that their membership will be long and happy. We have also lost several of our older members who have left us for various domestic reasons. We wish them luck and hope that they will find time to visit us whenever opportunity occurs.

Despite the advice of his older and more experienced colleagues, C/Sgt. George Hills decided to forego his freedom and was married shortly after our return from camp. We extend to George and his bride our heartiest congratulations and hope that we shall see both at Mess functions during the winter months.

We also congratulate Sgt. R. King for proving himself the champion shot of the Battalion. He is in excellent form both on the open range and on the miniature range and, with that other shooting stalwart, C/Sgt. Colbourne, is the mainstay of a very promising Battalion team.

Owing to the heavy training programme our social activities during annual camp were rather restricted, but even so we had a very enjoyable Mess outing to Hunstanton and we also held a very successful dinner night. The success of the latter was due mainly to the efforts of our good and invaluable friend, Mr. Whitcombe, and the Mess staff. After dinner we entertained the C.O. and the officers. As usual, Sgt. Marshall was in good form and was ably assisted by members of both Messes.

We were honoured one evening by an invitation to visit the Officers' Mess, where we were entertained in regal fashion and spent an extremely pleasant evening.

During our first week in camp we were fortunate enough to have that cheerful character from the Depot, Sgt. Nicholson, attached to us. We would like to see him, and other members of the Depot Sergeants' Mess, whenever they can find time to come and see us.

We close these notes with our best wishes to other "Die-Hard" Sergeants' Messes wherever they may be.

PROMOTIONS (JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1953)

To Band Sergeant: Sgt. F. T. Whitewood.
 To Sergeant: Cpl. L. Jones.
 To Corporal: L/Cpls. A. Fraser, D. Burt, R. Oliver, G. Rogers and R. Carter and Pte. R. Tanner.
 To Lance-Corporal: Ptes. P. Tuffnell, A. Beauchamp, K. Durham, P. Rann, B. Stenning, W. Prescott and V. Ledwith and Bds. M. Levett.

OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

C.O.	Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D.
2IC and Training Major	Major A. R. Waller, M.C.
Adj.	Capt. K. J. Carter
Q.M.	Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
I.O./Admin. Officer	Lt. P. J. T. Lane
Assistant Adj.	Lt. A. H. Catchpole
R.M.O.	Capt. M. P. Ward, R.A.M.C.
Padre	Rev. J. H. Fuller, R.A.Ch.D.
R.S.M.	W.O. L. J. Tostevin
Bandmaster	Bandmaster W. J. Gilyatt
R.Q.M.S.	R.Q.M.S. N. J. Howes
O.R. Sergeant	Sgt. C. J. Minds

"H.Q." COMPANY

O.C.	Major R. J. P. Cummins
M.T.O.	Lt. P. A. Stocken
Signals Officer I	Lt. D. J. Blackler
P.S.I.	2/Lt. G. R. Chadwick
C.Q.M.S.	C.S.M. V. Corner
Drum Major	C/Sgt. E. C. Leggett
M.T. Sergeant	D/M. C. Holdford, B.E.M.
M.T. P.S.I.	Sgt. J. E. Moran
Signals Sergeant	Sgt. W. Snell
Intelligence Sergeant	Sgt. D. Jackson
	Sgt. J. A. Stammers

"S" COMPANY

O.C.	Capt. L. F. Baker
Mortar Platoon Commander	Capt. R. G. Garrett
Mortar Platoon 2IC	Lt. J. F. A. Weil
M.M.G. Platoon Commander	Lt. M. A. B. Clutson
M.M.G. Platoon 2IC	2/Lt. H. D. Tyms
Anti-Tank Platoon Commander	Capt. R. J. Leighton
Assault Pioneer Commander	Lt. G. R. Fox
P.S.I.	C.S.M. A. Cooper
C.S.M.	C.S.M. F. Hutchings
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. W. Payne
Mortar Platoon Sergeant	Sgt. W. Payne
M.M.G. Platoon Sergeant	Sgt. F. Simmonds
Assault Pioneer Platoon Sergeant	Sgt. F. Hollis, M.M.
Anti-Tank Platoon Sergeant	Sgt. A. Brooks

"A" COMPANY

O.C.	Capt. J. D. Gunnell
2IC	Lt. M. McDavid
Platoon Commander	Lt. J. W. Scott
Platoon Commander	Lt. J. F. Willmer
P.S.I.	C.S.M. S. W. Blacknell
a/C.Q.M.S.	Sgt. R. Carter
Sergeants	Sgts. L. Montague, W. Sexton

"B" COMPANY

O.C.	Major T. W. Creighton
2IC	Lt. J. M. Phillips
Platoon Commander	Lt. A. R. K. Hardcastle
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. G. L. Blacktop
P.S.I.	Sgt. M. Eastap
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. M. Leahy
Sergeants	Sgts. J. Webb, F. Rider and L. Leighton

"C" COMPANY

O.C.	Capt. P. J. A. Pielow
2IC	Lt. O. G. Richards
Platoon Commander	Lt. N. C. Berry
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. S. J. Carter
P.S.I.	2/Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe
C.Q.M.S.	C.S.M. G. Bignell
Sergeants	C/Sgt. G. Hills
	Sgts. F. Carter and R. Bates

"D" COMPANY

O.C.	Lt. M. E. Baldwin
2IC	Lt. P. S. Liddell
Platoon Commander	Lt. F. Holm
Platoon Commander	2/Lt. R. M. Fox
P.S.I.	Lt. R. D. Wilson
C.S.M.	C.S.M. A. Burrell
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. R. Colbourne
Sergeant	Sgt. A. Richardson

Not on Strength of Companies: Lts. B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C., I. N. Henderson and E. Clarke.

BRIGADIER H. A. D. MURRAY, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Brigadier Murray enlisted on November 4, 1912, and was posted to the Highgate Company. After embodiment in 1914 he served continuously with the Battalion in France and Flanders from 1915-18, taking part in many actions, including the Somme, Arras, Mons and Ypres.

He was commissioned as 2/Lieutenant on October 9 1918, spending the last months of the war with the Battalion. He then remained with them for occupational duties as part of the British Army of the Rhine.

On the reforming of the Battalion at Hornsey in 1920 he was appointed Signals Officer, but by 1924 went to command the Enfield Company with promotion to Captain. Early 1928 found him in command of the Highgate Company following which he was promoted Major, and on June 13, 1929, was appointed 2IC of the Battalion.

In June 1932 he was chosen to command the Battalion, and on June 22 promoted Lt-Colonel; during this time he did much to uphold the traditions and prestige of the Battalion. On completion of his tenure of command he was promoted Bt-Colonel and on November 13, 1936, was transferred to the T.A.R.O.

It was not long that Col. Murray was to remain inactive for in early 1939 when the war clouds were growing he was appointed to raise and command the 90th H.A.A. Regiment, which was embodied as with other Territorial Army units at the outbreak of hostilities. By November 1940 he was appointed to command the 37th A.A. Brigade and promoted Brigadier with responsibilities for the defence of the area north of the Thames Estuary. In February 1943 he moved to command the 69th Brigade in the West Country, and by March 1944 to assume command of the South-West Seaboard during the preparation for the Normandy landing. Subsequent to this operation he served on the staff of A.A. Command until his release in July 1945.

In 1943 Brigadier Murray's services were recognised by the award of the Order of the British Empire.

In August 1948 Col. Sir Edwin King relinquished the Hon. Colonelcy of the Battalion and Brigadier Murray's appointment was approved by the late H.M. King George VI. He served in that capacity until August of this year.

During his service Brigadier Murray was elected to serve on the Middlesex Territorial and Auxiliary Forces' Association, and on December 31, 1941, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex.

RECORD OF A BRAVE SOLDIER SERVING 60 YEARS AGO

By COL. M. BROWNE

Lt.-Col. Desmond Ellis, T.D., O.C. 7th Battalion of our Regiment, has brought to my notice the story of No. 3904 ex-R.S.M. Worthy Willcox, D.C.M. This truly worthy soldier celebrated his golden wedding on August 1, 1953, at a family reunion, himself 80 years

old and his wife, Florence, 75, on which date his family presented him with a television set.

Before I mention his service as a "Die-Hard" I must relate that in 1922 he was awarded a silver medal for gallantry at Brentford gas works. This award was made to him by the chairman and directors of the former Brentford gas works. In all the history of that company only five of these medals were awarded, and he is reputed to be the sole survivor of those recipients. He possesses in addition to the medal a framed address that the medal was presented for his "courage and promptitude" in going under the loaded hoppers when the subsidence of the foundations took place on July 21, 1922, and opening the shoots. By releasing 1,700 tons of coal the subsidence was stopped and the hoppers saved. He was a foreman at these works and retired in 1937. Even then he became a member of the Home Guard during the 1939-45 War, being at one time over 70 years of age. (Extracts taken from *Middlesex Independent* of August 7, 1953.)

Now to relate the story of his service in the "Die-Hards." Pte. Willcox joined the Regiment at Hounslow on November 28, 1892, that station being then the Depot. He was awarded a 3rd Class Certificate of Education on March 13, 1895, and his 2nd Class on May 5, 1896. He passed a regimental course in drill, manual firing, bayonet and physical training with arms on August 24, 1897, and on September 16 that same year he passed a horse transport course. He also passed a course as an assistant instructor of signalling on August 25, 1898.

He was discharged after the South African War, on February 10, 1903, in which he served in that campaign with the 2nd Battalion (77th). Gaining the D.C.M. and the Queen's South African Medal with six clasps and King's Medal with two clasps, he served under Capt. H. Woolwright and Cols. R. D. Longe and Norie as Company Commanders and they signed entries in his record book.

After discharge from the Colours in the 2nd Battalion on February 10, 1903, with 10 years and 76 days' service in the Regiment, he joined Section D of the Army Reserve on February 2, 1905, and remained therein four years.

He was 5 ft. 3 in. on first joining in 1892 and was 5 ft. 5 in. at his completion of Colour Service.

He then joined the Territorial Army, serving in the First World War in the 8th Battalion from May 29, 1912, and served in that force five years, 224 days, being embodied in the First World War (1914-18) for one year and 236 days, and left with an exemplary character, having served in the Somme and Arras offensives, reaching the rank of R.S.M.

In the recent war (1939-45) he served in the Home Guard. It is a story of a gallant and faithful soldier, and worthy of mention in our Regimental Journal. All the officers whose names I have mentioned were known personally to me. Col. Longe was my first C.O. in the 1st Battalion. Brigadier Lumley, his C.O. in the 2nd, was my first C.O. in the 2nd Battalion.

M.B.

11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

(8th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.)

Our notes this time cover only the short period from September 1 until October 18. Undoubtedly the main event of that period was annual camp at Stanford P.T.A. We were in Buckenham Tofts Camp in 160-lb. tents. The weather was very kind to us. The only rain we had fell during a night when we were in camp. The companies worked very hard and got in a lot of useful training. The first week culminated in a Battalion exercise, "Hopton Hill," when "B" Company was chased round the training area by the rest of the Battalion. The night was spent on Frog Hill with "B" Company in Waterloo Farm. There was considerable patrolling between the two points and at dawn "B" Company launched a spirited attack.

The exercise finished with a Battalion attack on Tommys Belt, using live ammunition. Over the weekend the majority of the Battalion went to Great Yarmouth under Major Booty, where, we gather, a good time was had by all. The C.M.P., to their surprise, and perhaps disgust, were given no work to do.

Week two started with a rehearsal exercise. Then, on Wednesday, we were briefed for "King's Joker II," the biggest Airborne exercise ever done by Territorials and the biggest done by anyone since 1947. We were to land first and secure the DZ. Thereafter, we were to cross the river Wissey by night into the bridgehead made by 10th and 14th Battalions and then break out of it.

When we planned it was blowing hard and scarcely looked parachuting weather. However the drop went off well with very few casualties, the wind having dropped during the flight. All went according to plan and even the umpires praised us. We secured the DZ and held it. We crossed the River Wissey at dead of night through a nightmare jungle-cum-bog. We could then have gone on to our final objective, Frog Hill, and have been in position by dawn. That was not the exercise, however, and we were restrained. We launched our break-out attack before dawn and before the enemy were in position and made good progress. It was a very successful attack and went entirely to plan.

Other events at camp included the inter-Company Lines competition which was won by "B" Company, who earned thereby a bottle of beer all round.

The Guard competition was won by "D" Company with a very good all-round performance. "C" Company were a close second. Their guard, under Sgt. Underdown, and trained by him, put up a quite outstanding show of drill. "H.Q." Company's guard also deserve special mention.

The Band at camp contracted a highly successful "marriage" with the Corps of Drums and produced a rousing version of "Marching Through Georgia" to the delight of the Officer's Mess and, we believe, the rest of the Brigade in the camp.

On October 11 the Middlesex T.A. and A.F.A. held a Rifle Meeting at Pirbright at which all T.A. units in the country were to compete. The solid practice put in

by the Shooting Club at Bisley this summer paid a dividend and the Battalion shooting team, led by Lt. Buck, won the competition by a wide margin of points. This was a most satisfactory climax to a year's intensive effort by the Shooting Club and is a feather in the caps of Major Boys, Lt. Buck, R.S.M. Pestell and all those who have spent so much time practising. The Officers' Mess Staff are not so pleased, they have that monster shield to clean again. The C.O. won the Cheylesmore Cup for the highest individual aggregate at the meeting. The Battalion team consisted of: Lt. Buck (capt.), "H.Q.," Lt.-Col. Corby, Major A. Lee, "B," Sgt. Russell, "C," L/Cpl. Furness, "B," L/Cpl. Dean, "C," Pte. Nelson, "B," and Pte. Young, "C."

The last important event was the parade on October 18 at Inglis Barracks marking the affiliation of the Home Guard to the Middlesex Regiment, both Regular and T.A. This was an impressive parade. Major Brotherton commanded the 11th Battalion detachment and the Band and Drums played during the parade.

They played very well and Gen. Bucknall sent them a personal message of congratulation after the parade.

We now look forward to the winter. Weapon training, miniature range shooting, boxing and basket ball will come into their own again. Christmas and the Companies' children's parties will soon be here and the Companies will all be running socials and dances. A new T.A. year is just starting and we hope it will be as successful as last year.

"H.Q." COMPANY

This training period commenced with continuation Parachute Training (Ballooning) at Agers Plough, Eton. The occasion was the Eton and Slough Carnival Week, and on Monday, August 3, a strong contingent from the Company performed parachute descents on to a pocket billiard DZ to the entertainment and, oft times discomfort, of a large number of spectators.

After the ballooning, and during the day, many members mingled with the large Bank Holiday crowds and enjoyed "all the fun of the fair," which included various stalls, side-shows and acts, including a high-wire trio (kids' play!).

On the second day, after our stalwart P.J.I., Sgt. Humphries, jumping in a strong wind, landed off the DZ amidst some trees, jumping was cancelled. The rest of that evening was spent searching for a little boy who was missing. Fortunately he was found and everyone dispersed quite happily.

The rest of the week the balloon was transferred to our "home ground," Wormwood Scrubs, which offered more scope for training. There the week was successfully concluded with equipment jumping.

Thursday, August 13, heralded the world premiere of the film "The Red Beret." The Band and Corps of Drums turned out at full strength and headed the march of the Battalion from Waterloo Place via Piccadilly Circus to the Empire, Leicester Square, where all the parade were given free seats to this performance.

The Company were well represented at this including a large number of wives and lady friends.

On August 15/16 the 2IC Major Boys, the Adj.,

Capt. Mievile, the I.O., Lt. Coulson, the Regimental Police, D.R.s., "I" Section, cooks and Defence Platoon took part in the Brigade signals exercise "Warm Up." This exercise covered a large part of the Reading area and proved enjoyable and instructive to all concerned.

The culmination of the year's training was now at hand, annual camp. This was held at Buckenham Tofts Camp, Norfolk, in the Stanford Practical Training Area, which offered much scope for battalion and sectional training, in which the Company played its full part and learnt much.

On the Brigade Airborne Exercise "King's Joker II," "H.Q." Company parachutists dropped from C119s, not without casualties, unfortunately. Sgt. Beale sustained a broken leg. We send our wishes to him for a speedy recovery. Our 2IC, Lt. Latham, and Pte. Tester landed in trees but quite safely. More "lines" to shoot!

One of the main features that helped to make camp so successful this year was the magnificent weather enjoyed for the 15 days. One wonders how our "rugged, bronzed 'Terriers'" felt as on Sunday, (20th) they wended their way homewards, back to civilian life.

The film "The Red Beret" is now being shown locally and the Company have placed displays to aid recruiting in the foyers of local cinemas. The Band have also had successful engagements playing at these theatres.

We close our notes with heartiest congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Riordan on the birth of their son, David.

"B" COMPANY

Perhaps the most pathetic sight witnessed at our camp this year was the spectacle of Sgt. (P.J.I.) Reynolds suspended 200 ft. from the ground in a balloon cage. From the ground one could dimly recognise that moustache fluttering in the breeze and a pair of eyes morbidly deciding that the balloon was just too low. The same gentleman still owes all the officers and W.O.s of "B" Company some money from the night out when he appointed himself N.C.O. i/c cash, but still adheres to the view that the last penny contributed went on C.S.M. Tucker's fish and chips.

Pte. Cooper unfortunately missed camp through attending a parachute course at Abingdon. He has now requested that he be given a driving course with the view of a "cushy number" next year at Folkestone.

Since "B" Company were photographed in their place taking them to the DZ on Exercise "King Joker II," Ptes. Crowden and Kelly and L/Cpls. Slattery and Few have been (confidentially) rather unbearable, and again (confidentially) if they had their way Alan Ladd would never have been given the lead in the "Red Beret."

Cpl. Furness accidentally fell off his motor cycle at camp and therefore was unable to take part in the major exercise. This fact, however, did not in the least way deter him from conversing about the "drop" and idle spellbound listeners must surely have decided that parachuting was far too "dicey."

For all these good humoured remarks, largely built up to make better reading, the Company had a highly successful camp, and may the one at Folkestone next year be still better.

"C" COMPANY

At the time of issue we are enjoying a month's well-earned rest from parades, which is the usual procedure after annual camp. Since our last report the Company has excelled itself in the world of sport by winning for the second year running almost every event in the Harrow Sports Day. Our team's mainstay was without a doubt Pte. Blaxnall, a wonderful athlete whose remarkable performances cannot be praised enough.

We said goodbye with sorrow to Major Booty, our old Company Commander, on his transfer to Battalion H.Q., and at the same time wish Capt. Spencer all good luck on his taking over command of "C" Company.

Another ballooning week has taken place (from August 3 to August 7). The first three days were spent jumping at Eton during its carnival week and proved more popular than the sideshows.

Annual camp went off quite successfully with all members having a chance to do an aircraft descent from an American C119 aircraft, which was really enjoyed. Just our luck that the only night it rained had to be our night scheme.

All Company, and indeed Battalion, members will wish to congratulate Pte. Haines, one of the hardest little boxers in the Battalion, on his recent marriage.

The Company turned out in good strength, both in members and their families, for the world premiere of the film "The Red Beret" at the Empire, Leicester Square. One of our members, Sgt. Underdown, was lucky enough to be photographed with the leading lady, Miss Susan Stephens. He has not been the same since.

We are also training a small unit to represent the Battalion at the Middlesex Regimental Depot on October 18, when the Regiment welcomes into its ranks the Home Guard battalions.

We congratulate our newer members who have just recently earned their wings and are sure they will uphold and maintain the very high standard of "C" Company.

"D" COMPANY

"D" Company, at Edmonton, have had a busy and varied time during the summer months. Now at full strength, the training has been broadened and such activities as judo and canoeing have an enthusiastic following, in addition to the more orthodox military activities.

Of all the Companies of the Battalion, "D" is the nearest to open country, and full advantage has been taken of this. Several enjoyable week-ends have been held and on these, as on all training, the pipes which the Company possess have been well in evidence. Only once, in fact, have they failed; at camp, on exercise "King's Joker II" the piper, Pte. Goodbody, was dropped in the advance party with his pipes to mark the rendezvous, but unfortunately he had a very heavy landing and was not able to get there. The Company reached the rendezvous in the end, but missed the skirl of the pipes on the dropping zone.

For the rest of camp "D" Company was well in evidence, winning the inter-Company guard mounting competition and showing keenness and enthusiasm in all their undertakings. Now, of course, winter training is approaching, but as memories of camp begin to fade so will we start looking forward to next year's outdoor training.

595 L.A.A./S.L. REGIMENT, R.A.

(9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.)

Annual camp this year was at Stiffkey in Norfolk, and although the season was autumn, the weather was warm and fine. All the hard preparatory work put in by so many proved well worth while, as results have shown.

Camp records for the year were either equalled or, in most instances, beaten, and the final summing up by the Chief Instructor in Gunnery was one of which we can feel justly proud.

The standard has now been reached below which we must never fall.

Whilst at annual camp competitions were held for guard mounting and lines. Adjudication for the guard mounting was carried out by Lt.-Col. F. J. H. Nelson (Camp Commandant), R.S.M. Jarvis (Tower Hamlets) and B.S.M. Joyce (camp staff), and nothing was missed by their very strict scrutiny. We congratulate "Q" Battery on winning quite comfortably with 820 pts. out of a maximum of 1,000. "P" Battery were second with 625 pts. and "R.H.Q." third with 610 pts.

The lines competition was judged over two weeks by the 2IC, Major J. Mayhew, and R.S.M. T. Hunt. "S.L." Battery held the lead at the end of the first week, but at the end of the second week "R.H.Q." went ahead, final points being: 1, "R.H.Q." 475 pts.; 2, "S.L." Battery, 455 pts.; 3, "Q" Battery, 387 pts.

We were very privileged to have at our Officers' Mess guest night our Hon. Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., the Mayor of Wembley, Alderman C. H. Smith, O.B.E., J.P., and also Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

On Saturday morning, September 5, 1953, at 1100 hours, our Hon. Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., carried out his annual inspection of the Regiment. At 1030 hours 24 officers and 186 other ranks marched on parade with the Band playing the Middlesex Regimental marches. In the centre of the parade were the Queen's and Regimental Colours, and flanking the saluting base were two 40 mm. guns (our artillery Colours). The Hon. Colonel spent a long time over his inspection and talked with every man, and was particularly impressed with the standard of turnout and discipline of all ranks. The inspection was followed by a march past with the Band playing "The British Grenadiers."

R.H.Q.

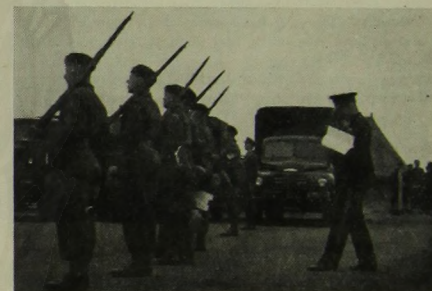
During the last few months we have all again been working at high pressure and adding our contribution to the long list of successes achieved by the Regiment, both before and during annual camp. We especially congratulate:

Lt. R. A. J. Champion (Asst. Adj.), Sgt. P. Simmonds (R.A.P.C.) and the guard on the high standard set when mounting the first guard in the Regimental Guard-mounting Competition and on getting third place. (We say to "Q" and "P" Batteries, "Look out next year.") (R.H.Q. Guard consisted of two clerks, one driver, and one R.E.M.E. vehicle mechanic.)

All O.R.s, and particularly our Bandmen, for the



Lt. Bussey, Sgt. Biddlecombe and "Q" Battery Guard (winner of Guard-Mounting Competition)



R.S.M. Jarvis gets down to details when inspecting "Q" Battery Guard

extra pride they took in their kit layout during second week at camp, which awarded us the extra points necessary to win the Devereaux Cup for the lines competition.

Sgt. R. C. Holder, B.E.M., on recognition of loyal and unstinting service to the Regiment since 1935, and the award of the B.E.M., which was presented at the Tower of London on September 28, 1953, by Lt.-Gen. G. K. Bourne, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Command. Mrs. Holder and one son

were able to be present and shared the pride with Sgt. Holder on this memorable occasion.

The following on well-earned promotion: Bdr. Hayes (M.T. Clerk), L/Bdr. Turnbull (Signaller), L/Bdr. Clerk (Ration Storeman), also, although not R.H.Q., we especially congratulate two young National Servicemen (Volunteers) who we promoted Sergeant at annual camp—Sgt. Whicker (ex-Royal Fusiliers) and Sgt. Leete (ex-1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, D.C.O.).

Our R.S.M. and the four P.S.I.s for 15 months' hard work between camps, helping junior officers, W.O.s and sergeants, in particular, towards their military efficiency, which they crowned at camp with first-class reports.

Well done, and thank you, R.S.M. Hunt, B.S.M.s McCarthy, Hughes, Strange and Packer.

We say farewell, with regret, to our Assistant Adjutant, Lt. R. A. J. Champion, on his posting to "P" Battery to take up duties as a Gunner Troop Officer.

Thank you for your hard work, always carried out so cheerfully and efficiently, and good luck to you in the future.

We welcome Lt. Stevens as Assistant Adjutant, and hope your stay will be as long and as happy as your predecessor's.

True Story

Our new Commanding Officer is rapidly absorbing the traditions and title of his new command, and on the occasion of the ceremonial parade on Saturday, September 5, 1953, at camp, he took a deep breath and gave the following order:

"595 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, Duke of Cambridge's Own, Territorial Army—ATTENTION."

After the parade had been dismissed and the troops had left the parade ground, one young member of the Regiment, an ex-member of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), was heard to say: "The only thing the Colonel left out was 'T.A. Centre, Honeypot Lane, Kingsbury, N.W.9'."

BAND

For the first time since the Regiment was reformed, our Regimental Band came to annual camp for the 15 days and were able to get in plenty of practice with the newly-purchased scores from the latest musical comedies.

Band rehearsal proved a novelty to the R.A. camp staff, especially to our I.G., who remarked that in all his years of service he had never before heard an orders group taken with musical accompaniment.

During camp the Band played in a marquee outside the Officers' Mess on four occasions, including guest night on Friday, September 4, and a cocktail party on Sunday, September 6. This was much appreciated by not only our own Officers' Mess, but the neighbouring Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

They also provided the music at the Regimental Drumhead Service on the Sunday morning, when 60 officers and O.R.s attended a service conducted by the Chaplain from a unit in camp with us.

"P" BATTERY

After a very full summer of social engagements and ceremonial parades, we made preparations for annual camp at Stiffkey. As there were no "Z" reservists this year, we knew that we should have no "unknown element" to train on arrival.

The results at camp were outstanding and the Regiment equalled the record for the number of hits obtained. As we obtained 43 per cent. of the Regiment total, using a new type of equipment, we did not feel quite so disappointed at losing the guard-mounting and the lines competitions, although we did come second in the former.

The Mayor of Wembley honoured us with a visit on the first Friday, and no sooner had he arrived on the firing point than "A" Troop hit the sleeve. He was informed that that particular round had been kept especially for his arrival, which amused him rather.

As Lt. K. Dennis could only spend the first week with us we were very pleased to have the assistance of Lt. J. Benwell, an attached National Service Officer, who commanded "A" Troop during the second week.

Officers were allowed to fly in the night co-operation aircraft and the Commanding Officer decided that the senior officers should fly first. Major Hughes spent 2½ hours in a Mosquito, as a result of this decision, trying to establish the location of his stomach, which seemed to move rather rapidly from a position between his boots to one between his ears, and vice-versa.

The officers concluded camp with a quiet evening at the Manor House Hotel at Blakeney, to which the Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant were invited.

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on Sunday, October 4, and though we lost some of the trophies in our possession we retained the Inter-Battery Rifle Cup and Gnr. Garwood won the recruits' trophy. Major Hughes tied with Lt. Locket, of "R" Battery, for the officers' bowl. This was awarded to Lt. Locket, under N.R.A. Rules, and as he went on to become the regimental champion shot, he thoroughly deserved it.

Congratulations are offered to those who obtained promotion at camp. Sgt. Vincent and Sgt. Graham, were promoted B.S.M. and B.Q.M.S. respectively.

"Q" BATTERY

Camp: First round in the air—Langham defended—O.C. takes wing—"Busty"—Successful scheme—Air-craft recognition—A hit for the Mayor—Cricket before the Sheik—Lady Jane—The Langham Lament—McCarthy in armour—General gratified—Brigadier satisfied—C.O. cock-a-hoop—"Q" Battery win the guard mounting competition by a clear 200 points.

Thus, in a nutshell, camp 1953! We could scarcely hope for a happier or more successful camp. Stiffkey certainly knew that "595" had arrived. Regimental lines looked smart and business-like and this was reflected in the activity that went on there. A well-organised firing point and the stand-easy positions were not just b.s.) made for more workman-like drill.

No less successful than the work was the play! Men, N.C.O.s and officers took advantage of off-duty hours to explore Norfolk—Wells, Blakeney and Sheringham were



By gad, Sir! Well padded, Sir!
B.S.M. McCarthy proceeds to the wicket to defend the honour (?) of the Sergeants' Mess in Officers v. Sergeants Cricket Match

invaded in some force and generally to enjoy the sea air. B.S.M. McCarthy played cricket well protected against the foe, whilst Capt. Pughe did a ceremonial and very "Eastern" inspection of game and pitch.

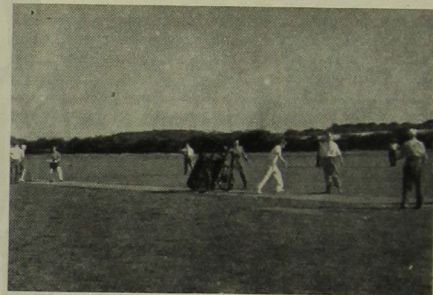
The Langham deployment gave food for thought, valuable experience, a chance to fly by night and provided inspiration for the "Langham Lament." With "Q" Battery running the show comparative success was assured. Even "Busty" ended the show with no comment.

The end of camp brought several promotions. B.Q.M.S. Biddlecombe, Sgt. Leete, Bdrs. Sale and Cornes and L/Bdrs. Farmer and Gutteridge are to be congratulated on their well-earned elevation. Sgt. Biddlecombe, L/Bdr. Williams and the Battery guard, under Mr. Bussey as Orderly Officer, are to be highly commended for a brilliant win in the guard mounting competition. A clear lead of 200 pts. tells its own tale. We relinquish the "Lines" Cup to R.H.Q. with sorrow, we only achieved second place. Well done R.H.Q.!

Just prior to camp the Inter-Battery Athletics Meet was won by "Q" Battery, largely due to fine performances by L/Bdr. Cornes, Sgt. Biddlecombe and Gnr. Perkins—not forgetting Lt. Cooper's valuable contribution.

Post camp the normal recess has been foregone. The Regimental shoot brought "P" Battery to the fore with "Q" a gallant third. Our first Battery training day of the new session looms ahead. In the meantime "Q" Battery are hosts at the first Regimental social on November 6. More of that in our next contribution.

Next quarter we hope to continue the tale of "Q" Battery's progress from strength to strength.



"Ten to make and the last man in..."
Fair means or foul—that wicket must now fall!

"R" BATTERY

It is a special pleasure to report, in two consecutive contributions, the birth and heartening progress through infancy of a new battery. On January 1 our first "R" Battery saw the light of day, being the newly formed searchlight battery. On May 1 it took its present and proper title of S/L Battery, and the present "R" Battery was born as the third gun battery of the Regiment. In its first six months of life it has proved to be a vigorous infant despite certain difficulties attending its case history.

The bulk of the Battery is composed of young N.S. men, comparative newcomers to the Regiment, who have already given promising signs of welding into a strong sub unit. But this means, of course, they come together only on training days and in such conditions progress is bound to be relatively slow. However, the Battery gave an excellent account of itself at annual camp; apart from collecting three hits (not necessarily the yardstick of success), all detachments improved considerably during the course of practice. Gnr. McGuinness is probably still wondering what hit him when he was dragged out of his detachment to act as No. 1, but the results—two hits—were real enough and apparent to all. In other directions, in general turnout and guard mounting, the standard was high and everybody showed willingness to learn and improve.

We were particularly pleased to see Sgt. Whicker

promoted to his present rank. Congratulations are also due to Lt. Locket, who won for himself and for the Battery both the Officers' Cup and the Regimental championship for rifle shooting at the meeting held at Purfleet on October 4, and to the Battery team (Major Hill, Capt. Harris, Lt. Locket, Sgt. Griffiths, Sgt. Whicker and Bdr. Price) who won the inter-Battery Bren shoot for the Passingham Cup (our first trophy) and were second in the inter-Battery rifle shoot.

SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY

Camp this year for the S/L Battery was a smash hit, except on paper, for everyone concerned. We say "on paper" because the book shows that we did not win the guard mounting competition, we did not win the lines competition and, owing to the disappearance of half the result papers, we could not claim distinction in aircraft recognition.

In practice, however, the training was hard and progressive, the language was as lusty as ever, moaning was sub-normal and there were many incidents conducive to hilarity.

One of the best of these was during a night shoot in the second week. The right flanking 90 cm. light had been positioned (for what earthly reason nobody discovered) on the edge of a large, neat rectangular hole the size of an open grave, in such a manner as to bring the long-arm operator, Gnr. Cotter, just to the brink at the stand-by position. At the first engagement, east to west, Cotter vaulted the abyss, wheel in hand, yelled "Expose," picked up the plane after a fashion, vaulted backwards again and disappeared into the grave. The No. 5 quickly appreciating the situation, struggled valiantly to continue the engagement from the other side by throwing his arms round the projector with willing and energetic inaccuracy.

B.S.M. Hughes was on the spot and stood by on the long arm for the next engagement while the No. 4 recovered himself from his untimely burial. This time, from W. to E., when the Tannoy roared "Engage," B.S.M. Hughes whipped the light round to the left, swinging the No. 5 round and ordering "Expose." Simultaneously No. 5 brought down the knife switch and himself disappeared into the grave, taking the handle with him.

From Control we signalled mild criticism of the unsteady lay of these engagements, which must have sounded like harsh and unreasoning abuse over the Tannoy, and I walked over to the site to investigate. They told me their story with appealing indignation. Only feelings were hurt, however, and no bones broken and I had the dark night to cover my broad but sympathetic smile.

The exercise and the night air co-operation provided some valuable lessons and some good drill, much of which led to the promotion of some of our N.C.O.s.

One of the most instructive aspects was, for those of us who were lucky, the night flight to observe, from the aircraft, the effect of our own equipment, and this we owe to the persuasive powers of the C.O., who got more of us "up" than we could have hoped.

Finally, when nothing goes wrong and when supply

and administration run smoothly and uneventfully, one usually forgets that this is fundamentally due to the efficiency of the Q.M. and the Adjt.

Congratulations to the following: a/Sgt. O'Brart to Sgt.; Bdrs. Arrowsmith and Silvester to Sgt.; L/Bdr. Gilbert to Bdr.; and Gnrs. Jabelman, Woolnough, Edwards, Grave, Little, Greig and Elmes on their appointment to E/Bdr.

ATHLETICS

Although the Regimental Sports Meeting was held during Bank Holiday week when most people were away, it went off very well and we saw some keen rivalry.

Thanks to having all the keen athletes, "Q" Battery won the Challenge Cup, with "P" Battery as runners-up. R.H.Q., led by the C.O. and supported by the overwhelming combined weight of the Permanent Staff, won the tug-of-war. "P" Battery, having the more athletic officers (I) won the "chain of command."

At the end of an afternoon of perfect, and very hot, weather the prizes were presented by Mrs. MacFadden.

It must be noted that all present were impressed by the Olympic champions of the future who were seen competing in the children's races, even though the majority of these budding athletes got lost or lost interest before they reached the tape!

The times and heights achieved, etc., were not very impressive, but this was due to the races being held on grass. On the whole, the afternoon showed promise of even better meetings in future years.

CRICKET

Our cricket programme this season consisted of three matches, plus a sort of circus at annual camp which was labelled "Officers v. Sergeants."

To deal with the serious games first. We played Roxeth Mannor C.C. at Mill Hill one delightful Saturday afternoon, and won by 124 to 81. Sgt. Mitchell, as always, bowled splendidly and returned the figures of 8 for 31, though he was overheard to observe that he was not used to being knocked about to that extent. Not the least interesting feature of the day's play was the spectacle of a small army, headed by three majors and two sergeants, trying to coax boiling water for tea out of an unwilling wood fire (with, eventually, complete success). Incidentally, both sides fielded 12 players on this occasion, which proves, if nothing else, that the age of miracles is not past.

We played the London Stone Co. C.C. on a ground "somewhere in North London," known only to B.Q.M.S. Biddlecombe, who carefully misdirected the rest of the team and arrived in solitary state. When we did eventually hit the right spot we concluded that those whose duty it was to prepare the wicket had also been unable to find it, as it was an outfield wicket in an L.C.C. park. Our opponents apologised for what was certainly no fault of theirs, proceeded to beat our depleted team by 40 to 27, and entertained us to a regal tea. We hope to see them at Mill Hill next year.

On the last Sunday in September we braved the elements to play Hatch End C.C. in a whole-day match

arranged by Lt.-Col. MacFadden, whose home club it is. Heavy dew prevented play until after lunch. We batted first and mustered 80 against steady bowling, thanks almost entirely to a fifth wicket partnership of 39 between Major Hughes (23) and Sgt. Mitchell (19). Our bowling attack opened strongly by taking 3 wickets for 7 runs, but later the Hatch End innings developed in exactly the same way as ours, a good partnership bringing them within reach of victory and, though we captured another batch of late wickets, we were beaten by three wickets. There was a fine gathering of relations and friends, despite the unattractive weather, and we should like to record our gratitude to the Hatch End Club for their lavish hospitality. It is necessary only to add that "The Die-Hards" was sung before the end of the evening!

As for the affair at camp, the only kind of writing that could really do justice to it would be one of Lt. Locket's calypsos. No form of deceit was too low for either side, and there were added complications such as batsmen being delivered at the wicket by motor-cycle, troops being marched through the middle of the game, and unlicensed premises being opened at frequent intervals. Both sides had a well-briefed umpire, whose decisions might have been thought, by interested on-lookers, to err on the side of partiality, though this hardly mattered, as nobody took any notice of either. Perhaps the highlights of the "game" were B.S.M. McCarthy coming out to bat arrayed in several pairs of pads, back and front, high and low, with a box-guard round his head as well as two others more conventionally sited, looking for all the world like a baseball catcher; and Major Mayhew being bowled on all three stumps, which for some reason best known to B.Q.M.S. Biddlecombe behind the wicket fell the wrong way, by a ball which never left Sgt. Mitchell's hand, to a unanimous appeal by the entire Sergeants' Mess. The number taking part in the game fluctuated considerably from time to time. The Officers, though in a minority, held a certain advantage while batting, due to the publication on the spot by the C.O. of a Part I Order converting all their fours into sixes. The dignity of the noble art of cricket was preserved, barely in time, by the arrival, in full court dress of the "Sultan of Baksheesh" (a distant relative of Capt. Pughe), who insisted on meeting the teams and taking part in the game. At one point in the ceremonial march past, which ended the proceedings, the "Sultan" remained attached to his chariot (a handcart) only by the grace of his spurs. We humbly thank "His Excellency" and all who contributed to this completely spontaneous carnival afternoon.

Regimental Rifle Club

The Club's activities have been quiet since our return from annual camp, but we came to life with a "bang" on Sunday, October 4, when we held our Sixth Annual Rifle Meeting at Purfleet Ranges with over 80 officers and other ranks attending, a record broken to start with. Although the weather was fair it was definitely tinged with a touch of autumn, and dull sky, although threaten-

ing rain, did not in any way mar what was voted by all our most successful meeting so far, and for this we tender thanks to the Club Committee under the Chairmanship of Capt. Stanhope-Gant, ably assisted by Mr. Spivey (Hon. Secretary) and some co-opted members who volunteered, under Capt. Pughe, to form an advance party and make the necessary preparation on Saturday for a good and early start on Sunday for the actual shooting. Last, but by no means least, we thank those old stalwarts of the 9th Battalion Middlesex O.C.A., friends of the Regiment and friends indeed, who turned up with a strength of 14 members to man the butts and operate as behoves them in this day and age—not only telephones as a means of communication but *wireless sets*.

The programme arranged was varied and interesting and quite early it was plain to see that the standard of shooting was higher than in previous years, and by lunchtime old champions had fallen and new champions found for the officers', Sergeants' and other ranks' competitions, and particularly keen was the shooting amongst the officers for the "Harris" Silver Challenge Bowl. The final scores showed Major Hughes and Lt. Locket to have tied for first place with a score of 48 out of a possible 55, but under N.S.R.A. rules Lt. Locket was proclaimed by the Committee to be the winner. Well done, "Young Adam," on your first appearance at our rifle meeting, but beware next year for I believe the senior officer who tied with you and the two who ran into second place are taking care of your rifle next year!

Unfortunately it was late in the afternoon, with the light fading, when the 12 officers and other ranks with the highest scores for the day went to the firing point to decide the Regimental champion rifle shot. But light made no difference to the officers' champion, Lt. Locket, who this time left his nearest rivals three points behind. So congratulations to a worthy Regimental champion, and may we say we hope one day he will take our team to Bisley and see his name and our Regiment inscribed on one of their trophies.

The day's meeting is never complete without a competition for our Cadets and the O.C.A.—"The young and the not so old." Keen shooting again for the Cadet trophy with Cadet B.S.M. Piper showing us that in a few years' time when he comes to us as a Territorial we shall have yet another champion in our midst, and what can one say about the O.C.A. except, "My G—, well done," as they dumfounded everybody with their steady and accurate shooting.

By 5 p.m. anxious eyes were looking at the gathering clouds—the array of trophies yet to be presented—the marquees to be taken down and packing up to be done, but we know willing hands make light of work when they have enjoyed themselves, and so after another glass of beer and a snack at the well-equipped buffet, the presentation of prizes was performed by the Hon. Colonel, Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., who had a special word of congratulation for all the winners (to the accompaniment of cheers and jeers!) as he presented them with their silver cups and inscribed plaques as a memento of the meeting. After a word of thanks to our Hon. Colonel, and those who had helped at the meeting, another glass of beer and down came those marquees

efficiently as ever done by any circus hand. Transport was loaded and yet another meeting had come to a close.

We hope that all those who came to Purfleet will come along on winter evenings and see us on our miniature range. A very full winter programme has been arranged, including league and challenge cup matches.

The following are the competitions, trophies and the winners at the Regimental Rifle Meeting at Purfleet on Sunday, October 4, 1953:

Competition	Trophy	Winner
Recruits' Cup	Harrow Rifle Recruits' Cup	Gnr. Garwood
O.R.s' Cup	Danocks Cup	Bdr. Anderson
Sergeants' Cup	Sergeants' Mess Cup	Sgt. Arrowsmith
Officers' Cup	Harris Bowl	Lt. Locket
Cadet Rifle	Thurston Cup	Cadet B.S.M. Piper
Bren	British Legion Cup	B.S.M. Strange (B.E.M.)
Inter-Bty. Rifle	Scholl Cup	"P" Battery
Inter-Bty. Bren	Passingham Cup	"R" Battery
Regtl. Rifle	Harrow Rifle Cup	Lt. Locket
O.C.A. Championship	Pewter Mug	Mr. A. Brown

SERGEANTS' MESS

Coincident with the end of Summer Time and the commencement of the dark evenings, our members unanimously agree that we all enjoy a "warm feeling" when thinking about our Regimental life generally over the past year, culminating in a practice camp.

The proof of the hard work put in this year prior to camp, by officers and other ranks, on those one-day trainings we have had, was evident at camp where, from the start, it was quite plain that success was assured.

Those who have been sceptical about our Government's policy regarding N.S. men and their training would certainly have been confounded had they been present.

The drive and "sense of urgency" shown by all ranks from start to finish is really something we shall remember for a long time to come.

Our Mess social life in camp went outstandingly well. On Sunday, September 6, commencing at 1400 hours, we played the Officers' Mess a game of "silly cricket." The state of dress in which some of the officers and our Mess members turned out caused roars of laughter, and this, combined with their antics, prostrated 95 per cent. of the onlookers. Truthfully it had to be seen to be believed—a huge success. During the evening of the same day we invited our C.O. and all officers to a social in the Mess. Both from the point of view of drinking and the singing of "stag songs," the officers, I'm afraid to say, more than held their own with us. It was during the early part of this particular evening, and long before the "stag songs" session commenced, that we were fortunate enough to have the C.O.'s wife and the wife of Major Hughes visit us. After a very pleasant period the ladies left us to our own devices.

The evening of Wednesday, September 9, found the officers and Sergeants together again, holding their annual "get together" outside camp in a local hotel. Drink flowed freely and, judging by the noise, enough breath was used to fill all the barrage balloons that were ever made. The only complaint came from B.S.M.

Packer when he found the mussels eaten before he realised they were included in the buffet.

Our Mess during camp ran extremely well, in the way of bar service, messing (all right B.S.M. McCarthy, the spuds were hard on one occasion) and entertainment generally.

We were fortunate enough to have the following O.C.A. members join us for the fortnight: B.Q.M.S. L. Spivey, Mr. C. R. Maggs and Mr. Reeves.

Due to the work put in by B.Q.M.S. Spivey continually watching accommodation, stores, etc., our breakages and losses were negligible. Mr. Maggs ran our bar very successfully for eight days.

Our recent "out of camp" social life included a social in our Mess in Kingsbury, held on Sunday, September 20, to which the C.O. and Mrs. MacFadden, Major (Q.M.) G. Wickers and our Adj., Capt. C. H. T. Barber, were invited. This was a resounding success from start to finish and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

We have a comprehensive winter social programme worked out, the highlight of which will be the Officers' and Sergeants' Ball scheduled for New Year's Eve, about which we will tell you more in the March, 1954, issue.

Our annual day on the rifle ranges took place on Sunday, October 4, 1953. B.S.M. Strange is to be congratulated on winning the "Best Bren Gun Shot" Cup and Sgt. Arrowsmith the "Best Rifle Shot in Sergeants' Mess" Cup. Well done, to both. Both cups will, for the coming twelve months, take "pride of place" in our new trophy case.

Congratulations

To the following on the recent and well-earned promotion to ranks as shown: Sgt. Vincent to W.O.II; Sgts. Graham and Biddlecombe to B.Q.M.S.; a/Sgt. O'Brart to Sgt.; Bdrs. Oakley, Leete, Whicker, Halls and Arrowsmith to Sgt.; and Bdr. Silvester to a/Sgt.

To B.S.M. McCarthy on losing half of his garden to allow for the building of more married quarters.

Annual Reunion Dinner

23rd (FOOTBALLERS' BATTALION), MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

The 23rd (Footballers' Battalion), Middlesex Regiment, formed during 1916 and disbanded in 1919, held their Annual Reunion Dinner on October 10 at the Prince of Wales Restaurant, Drury Lane, W.C.2. Seventy members attended, including Old Comrades from Birmingham, Cornwall, Leicester, Norfolk and Sunderland, and a very pleasant and enjoyable time was spent. During the evening a telegram of thanks was received from Her Majesty The Queen for loyal greetings sent. The 1954 Dinner is arranged for Saturday, October 9, and a cordial invitation is extended to all ranks who served in the 23rd or 17th "Footballers' Battalion." Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, W. J. Sygrave, 36 Herbert Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1953, at 2.15 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., R.S.M. P. Donovan, C/Sgt. R. Dodkins, Sgt. R. A. Bullock, C.S.M. F. Jacques, Mr. G. H. E. Duffield and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

1. Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., Major P. D. H. Marshall, Mr. J. Bell, M.B.E., and R.S.M. L. Tostevin.

3. Secretary's Report. The Secretary's report, having been circulated with the agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

Charitable Funds. During the quarter ending June 30, 1953, 75 cases were assisted, making a total of £508 10s. 10d. Answering a question by Mr. Duffield, the Secretary explained the method adopted in investigating applications for assistance.

Reunion. 4,950 circulars have been distributed to members of the Officers' Club and Association; 45 newspapers have been written to with a request that they publish a notice in their weekly papers in support of the Reunion. This letter was approved and signed by the Chairman.

The T. & A. F. Association has kindly consented to distribute posters to the Drill Halls under their jurisdiction.

"Die-Hard" Clubs have been asked to exhibit posters and state the number of tickets they can dispose of.

Town Clerks and Clerks to Councils in all Boroughs and Urban District Councils have been asked to exhibit posters and in most cases have agreed to do so.

Memorial Cottages—Mill Hill. During the current year the sum of £49 ss. od. has been expended on essential interior repairs to the cottages.

4. Tenancy of Mr. P. Stevens in Bittacy Hill Cottage, Mill Hill. Col. Browne explained to the committee that when he was Colonel of the Regiment he approved of Mr. Stevens occupying No. 1 Cottage, on account of his good and long service and as it was and still is in the interest of the Regiment that Mr. Stevens should be in close proximity to the recreation ground where he was employed.

After a short discussion it was proposed by Lt.-Col. Fox, seconded by Mr. Duffield and approved by the Committee that Mr. Stevens' tenancy was justified and that he should remain in occupation.

The rules affecting the future allocation of these cottages will be reviewed at a later meeting.

5. Finance Committee's Report. The report of the Finance Committee was distributed at the meeting. The Chairman explained to the meeting that, as there were no major business matters on the agenda and as the members of the Finance Committee had been on holiday, it was not possible to distribute the minutes at an earlier date.

The Committee approved, as recommended by the Finance Committee, that donations to other charities be made as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Regular Forces Employment Association	50	0	0
Family Welfare Association	5	0	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters Homes	5	0	0
S.S.A.F.A.	10	10	0
Forces Help Society	10	10	0
Gordon Boys Homes	5	5	0
TOTAL	£80	18	0

The Committee also approved of a total donation of £5 ss. od. to the Chairman General's appeal towards the furnishing of a chapel in Christ Church, Naples, in memory of the officers and men who lost their lives in the Salerno landings in 1943.

It was reported that Lt.-Col. Robbins was arranging for a donation from the 27th Battalion to be included in this sum. (It has now been ascertained that the trustees of the 27th Battalion Funds have kindly contributed the sum of £5 ss. od. in response to this appeal.)

The Committee considered an application from the Secretary and Secretary's Assistant for a cost-of-living bonus for 1953. After discussion it was proposed by Major Nolda, seconded by C.S.M. Jacques and approved by the Committee that the Secretary's salary remain at £378 per annum with £50 expenses and that a cost-of-living bonus of 12½% (less Income Tax) be made for 1953, and that the Secretary's Assistant's salary should remain at £200, plus travelling expenses, plus a bonus of 12½% (less Income Tax) for 1953.

Lt.-Col. Fox moved that the finance report be adopted. This was agreed.

6. Journal Committee's Report. In the absence of Brigadier Procter the Chairman informed the meeting that the financial position was unchanged and that the journal account would require assistance from the Regimental Association of approximately £200 for the current year. The Chairman welcomed Major Nolda to the meeting and thanked him on behalf of the Committee for accepting the Chief Editorship vice Brigadier Procter who, unfortunately, had expressed his wish to resign at the end of 1953.

On the minutes of the meeting held on May 28, 1953, Mr. G. H. E. Duffield moved that Minute (4) *Journal Committee's Report* (a) be amended to read:

"Mr. G. H. E. Duffield stated that on December 16, 1952, it was announced in Parliament that

(a) The Government had reviewed awards given in respect of Service pensions payable to the dependents of those whose death was due to service.

(b) The widows' pension scheme which applies only to officers and W.O.s was to be amended.

It had been decided to increase the rates payable to widows and to cover those of other ranks who had 22 years' service.

"Mr. Duffield suggested that this should be published in the Regimental Journal and this was agreed to."

7. War Memorial Committee's Report—Names for Cottages. The Committee considered the list of suggested names compiled by Major Marshall and circulated with the agenda. The following names of battle actions were approved: El Boden, Inkerman, Ladysmith, Spion Kop, Mons, Le Cateau, Neuve Chapelle, Marne, Ypres, Loos, Somme, Suva, Cambrai, Dunkirk, Hong Kong, El Alamein, Sicily, Anzio, Normandy, Korea.

Arrangements would be made for the cottages to be named accordingly.

8. Regimental Reunion. Col. Roberts explained the present situation for the arrangements in connection with the Reunion. The Secretary was instructed to take up the question of price reduction of certain drinks with the Marylebone Council.

9. Regimental History. In the unavoidable absence of Lt.-Col. Ellis, Major Waller reported that the manuscripts for phase two of the History would shortly be available.

10. Remembrance Day Service. Col. Browne explained the arrangements for the Remembrance Day service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, November 7, 1953, at 10.45 a.m.

The Lord Lieutenant and several Mayors of Boroughs and Chairmen of Urban District Councils and the Middlesex County Council have intimated that they would attend and he hoped that many members, past and present, would also attend.

11. Other Business—Regimental Ties. Mr. Duffield reported that many incorrect shades of the colours of the regimental tie were being sold in shops and requested that some action be taken to prevent this.

It was agreed that the Association had no jurisdiction over shop sales, but that a notice should be published in the Regimental Journal warning members that incorrect ties were being sold in the shops and advising them that the correct way of obtaining a tie was to buy it through the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association at Mill Hill.

12. Next Meeting. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 25, 1954, at the T. & A. F. Association H.Q., 59 Green Street, Mayfair, W.1.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
October 7, 1953.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1953, at 4.20 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major D. C. L. Nolda, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

1. Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Apologies. Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C., Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., and Major P. D. H. Marshall.

3. Secretary's Report. The Secretary's report, having been circulated with the agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

During the quarter ending June 30, 1953, seven new members were approved for membership. To date ten members have not paid their subscriptions. Reminders will be sent to these members.

The Officers' Club "At Home" and Dinner for 1954 have been arranged for Tuesday, June 29, at the United Service Club (Senior).

	Expenditure during Cricket Week, 1953	Authorized by Committee
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cricket	135 6 6	150 0 0
Dinner	48 11 9	75 0 0
"At Home" ..	16 11 3	25 0 0
	£200 9 6	£250 0 0

No grants have been made from the Officers' Club Charitable Fund to date.

The Committee approved that a donation of £5 5s. od. be made to the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army for 1953.

3. *Other Business.* There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

A. W. CLARK, Major,
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.
Inglis Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
October 6, 1953.

Autumn Golf Meeting

We were mighty lucky with the weather for our autumn gathering at North Hants. Golf Club on September 19-20.

The forecast was gloomy and rain threatened occasionally, but it only came down heartily at night after the dinner. It was a truly autumnal occasion since practically all taking part have passed the spring and summer of their years and only a flock of Wollocombes supplied any skittish lambs to spring lightheartedly from bunker to rough and rough to bushes. Many of the elders followed similar routes but with groaning lamentations and heavy feet.

Satorially, Roger Latham succeeded in introducing a spring-like atmosphere which would have been good camouflage in spring, mingling well with the gorse and broom. At this time of the year it did not merge but was a useful landmark and guide as to how the players were progressing—against time, of course, only.

It was a small gathering but one of great interest, and without long waits for the last to come in, and whilst the results give all the details needed one or two comments may be excused.

To mark the Coronation year Major Arthur Cooper had very kindly offered to present the mementoes for the winners of his cup. The money usually expended on mementoes by the Club was, therefore, used to provide a Coronation aggregate prize for the Saturday and Sunday medal rounds.

In accordance with Brigadier A. E. Green's wishes at the last meeting a greensome competition was added. Owing to Battle of Britain Sunday this round was played in the morning and the second round in the afternoon. This might be all right for the young, but was too much for the yellow leaves who tried to play all four rounds. We are grateful to Col. Anderson of the North Hants. Golf Club for volunteering to make up our number for the greensome, and regret he was off form.

On Sunday, in recognition of the hospitality of the North Hants. Golf Club over several years, a special prize was offered which was open to members of the golf club as well as the Society. We are relieved to say that Maj.-Gen. Vulliamy of the Club with 70 net won, although Major Worton ran him fairly close with a 73. Maj.-Gen. Vulliamy attended the prize-giving and

expressed his thanks and that of the members. His handicap was dealt with by the golf club.

Enough of golf and on to the social side.

On Saturday Major and Mrs. Jay very kindly invited all taking part and supporting to a cocktail party. This was most emphatically appreciated not merely as a gesture but as a gathering. To mark the occasion Major Jay had invented an Albuhera Cocktail. We understand that it was an excellent one and that it was a pity that the Duke of Wellington did not know of it. Administered in small doses it would have sped the tardiest ally into battle like a Hawker Hunter.

Despite the distance and attraction of Derby Green House, everyone arrived for the dinner very promptly. This year Mr. C. W. Neate and Mrs. Neate were our guests and on this occasion Mr. Neate was there in his own right as Captain and Hon. Secretary.

After dinner the A.G.M. took place and, thank goodness, someone had a copy of the Journal for last December because no Minutes are recorded in a book and the Journal is our only guide.

A.G.M.

(1) Major J. R. B. Worton, the Captain, was in the Chair.

(2) The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee and members of the North Hants. Golf Club for the privilege of using their course once more, and to the staff for the assistance in making the meeting a happy and successful one. Carried.

(3) The Chairman also proposed a vote of thanks to Brigadier Procter for making the arrangements. No one objected audibly to this proposal.

(4) Col. Brown proposed, and Capt. St. George seconded, a very hearty vote of thanks to Major and Mrs. Jay for their hospitality. Carried with vigour.

(5) It was agreed that, subject to the clubs agreeing, the Spring Meeting be held at Hendon Golf Club and the Autumn Meeting at North Hants. The latter, if possible, on September 27/28 to avoid Battle of Britain Sunday.

(6) The Secretary was asked to check up the exact position regarding challenge cups and whether they are for spring only or both meetings. (This does not include the Cooper Cup which is autumn only.)

(7) Proposed by Col. Brown, seconded by Capt. Guest, that a challenge cup be arranged for the aggregate each autumn. Major Jay at once offered to present a cup for this purpose and his offer was accepted with acclamation.

(8) Proposed by Capt. Guest and seconded by Col. Brown that there should be a sweep on each medal round but that prizes should only be given for the aggregate. Carried in principle.

(9) Proposed by Major Worton and seconded by Brigadier Procter that Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., be the Captain for the coming year. Carried.

(10) The meeting then adjourned to join the ladies and guests.

(11) In the course of discussion it was asked that the Committee consider whether one round could be open to ladies. It was intimated that at least five ladies would

OBITUARY

Major Pierce Grove-White died in hospital at Canterbury, aged 70, on August 8, 1953. His funeral was attended by Lt.-Col. E. T. Pain and Major E. S. M. Ayscough and took place at Charing, near Canterbury, on August 13. He had been ill for some two and a half years, suffering from high-blood pressure and kidney disease, and on June 8, 1953, mental disease compelled him to be placed in an asylum at Chartham, near Canterbury. This long-drawn-out and tragic end brought great sorrow to his wife, who was living at Hythe, where he settled after retirement.

Born on October 13, 1882, he joined The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) on July 4, 1903, and attained the rank of Major on July 4, 1918, retiring on January 9, 1929, after some 26 years' service, spent always in his Regiment.

He served in 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions, but the majority of his service was in Burma Lebon, Allahabad, Dinapore, Dum Dum and Aden with the 1st Battalion, which he had first joined and remained with till the early part of 1914-18 War. He was severely wounded whilst in action at Radingham on October 22, 1914, during the retirement to a position occupied by the 19th Infantry Brigade just beyond the Le Maisnil-La Boutillerie road, where the Brigade took up a position about a large convent building held by the Middlesex Battalion in the centre up to a country lane where it was joined on the right by a Royal Welch Fusilier Battalion. The Scottish Rifles were on the left of the Brigade, with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in reserve.

Later in the war he also served with the 4th Battalion and on October 21, 1918, assuming command near Cawdrey, but handed over to a senior officer at Neuville early in November. During his command the Battalion was in reserve.

After the 1914-18 War he joined the 2nd Battalion and served in Egypt, Singapore and at Ahmednagar in the Deccan, which was his final Army station before his retirement on January 9, 1929.

Many of us vividly remember him as a cross-country runner in 1st and 2nd Battalions, in which sport he was always well to the fore and in the first 20 to reach home. He continued to run up to his retirement, thus competing at the age of 47, and was the oldest competitor running.

As a boy Pierce Grove-White was continually with the Regiment as his father, Col. James Grove-White, C.M.G., J.P., D.L., had commanded both the older Regular Battalions (57th and 77th).

Pierce was educated at Hailebury, a famous public school, which has provided many Regular officers for the Regiment.

His family was Irish and as the eldest son it was ever a matter of bitter sorrow that he was unable to keep up the ancient family home, Kilbyrne, Doneraile. His younger brother by five years was Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice Fitzgibbon Grove-White, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., a famous A.A. Corps Commander, whose early service was in the R.E. He took over the family home for a

like to take part and might well help to make the greensome a larger event than it is likely to be in future.

The Hon. Secretary undertook to let the Committee know at once so that the matter could be decided at the Spring Meeting.

Meanwhile the Hon. Secretary would be glad of any information which would assist the Committee to get this through, and hopes that golfing wives of idle husbands will write to us direct on the subject.

RESULTS

	Handicap	Saturday	Sunday	Aggregate
Col. G. L. Brown ..	8	78	78	156*
Capt. R. E. Guest ..	14	77	81	158
Major S. C. Jay ..	13	81	81	162
Major G. W. Kempster ..	12	86	—	—
Capt. R. D. Latham ..	10	70	86	162
Capt. N. B. McIvor ..	20	90	—	—†
Brigadier N. P. Procter ..	8	73	—	—†
Capt. W. A. W. St. George ..	11	88	81	169
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe ..	18	80	93	173
Lt. M. Wollocombe ..	22	83	—	—
Lt. P. Wollocombe ..	14	82	—	—
Major J. R. B. Worton ..	15	75	73	148§

* Second (b) and (c).

† Diehard Divot winner.

‡ (a) Scratch and Handicap winner.

§ Winner Coronation Grand Aggregate and (b); second in (a).

COOPER CUP

	Points
9th Battalion ..	29*
2nd Battalion ..	27†
Depot ..	24
1st Battalion ..	18
17th Battalion ..	17
7th Battalion ..	15

*Winners. †Second.

GREENSOME

Major Jay and Capt. Guest ..	..	..	..	2 down
Capt. Latham and Capt. McIvor ..	..	..	..	4 "
Brigadier Procter and Capt. St. George ..	..	..	..	5 "
Major Kempster and Lt.-Col. Anderson ..	..	..	..	7 "

*Winners.

OPEN PRIZE

Maj.-Gen. C. H. H. Vulliamy ..	..	78	—	8 = 70
Major J. R. B. Worton ..	..	88	—	15 = 73

Births

COLLINS.—On September 22, 1953, at R.A.F. Families' Hospital, Abayd, Egypt, to Daphne (nee Chasmar), wife of Major Patrick Collins, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a son (Roger Laidlaw).

Christening

The infant daughter of Capt. and Mrs. James Flavell, of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Austria, B.T.A. 5, was christened Gabrielle Mary in the chapel of Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna, on Thursday, October 1, 1953, by the Rev. L. Ungar, D.C.L., L.I.D., O.C.F. The godparents were Mr. Arthur Russell and Mrs. Yvette Huchon (for whom Major and Mrs. Gerard Porter stood proxy).

Deaths

DICKS.—Late L/Cpl. J. F. Dicks died at his home in Mill Hill on August 8, 1953, aged 71. He was buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on August 13 when a wreath was sent on behalf of the Regimental Association.

while from Pierce, but found it too expensive to maintain, and it was sold. The General's son, 2/Lt. I. D. Grove-White, also joined the Regiment at the start of the 1939-45 War, and, to our sorrow, was killed serving with the 1st Battalion during the retreat to Dunkirk.

Thus the last link with our Regiment of the Grove-White family has passed with the death of Pierce Grove-White.

Our sympathy and our sorrow at his tragic end have been conveyed to his widow.

M.B.

I regret to announce the death of Lt.-Col. Charles Alexandra Shaw Page on August 19, 1953, at Point House, Norwich Road, East Dereham.

He was born on March 2, 1880, and during the South African War served in a Volunteer Ambulance Corps, being granted during the war a Regular Commission in The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) on June 26, 1901. He was awarded the Queen's Medal and three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps. He served in the 2nd Battalion during the years preceding the Great War, 1914-18, in which in the later war stage in France he commanded the same 2nd Battalion during desperate actions on the river Somme, especially at Eterpigny and Villers-Brettonneux, where the casualties were 13 officers and 530 other ranks. That fearful casualty list was no uncommon result in operations, and we have much to be thankful for that they seldom arose in the 1939-45 War in spite of the heavier air attacks and more frequent use of tanks and other modern weapons. For his constant bravery in the 1914-18 War he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O. and M.C. In 1919 he was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. On the conclusion of the war he attended and passed a staff course at Camberley, but soon afterwards, in 1920, retired from the Army and entered Holy Orders after studying at Jesus College, where he became a M.A. He also studied at Westcott House, Cambridge. He ministered at Farnham, Abinger, West Wickham, Hawkinge, Lausanne, Stockland and East Dereham. From 1931 to 1940 he was also Chaplain at Bethlehem Road Hospital.

Many of his contemporaries will remember him as a robust, sincere and devout Christian throughout his life in the Regiment, culminating, as it did, in devoting himself in the service of his Master.

M.B.

"Die-Hards" Return to Mons

Mons, August 22.—Men of the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment—"The Die-Hards"—commemorated today the Battalion's stand of August 23, 1914, at Mons. At Obourg, near Mons, where today's main ceremony was held, a bronze plaque recalls that the first rifle shots of the Battle of Mons were fired there. A delegation of the London area "Old Contemptibles Association" also attended today's ceremonies, which included a reception by the civil authorities at Mons Town Hall.—*Reuter*.

We are indebted to Lt.-Col. L. F. Sloane-Stanley, O.B.E., for a more detailed account which appears elsewhere in this number.

MONS REVISITED

Sunday, August 23, 1953. How vividly we recalled Sunday, August 23, 1914! Major B. W. Allistone, Messrs. Bird, Corby and myself were the remnants present, of The 4th Middlesex, of that fateful Sunday 39 years ago. There were some 20 Middlesex Regiment Old Contemptibles, in addition, but they were all 1st, 2nd or 3rd Battalion men. All kindly and efficiently shepherded by Mr. Rogers. The way in which the people of Mons and Obourg received us was an object lesson in that very rare virtue—gratitude. They could not have been kinder, more generous or hospitable, and they really have taken our grand old "Die-Hards" into their hearts. We spent Saturday, August 22, in the Mons Museum. One of the first objects I saw was a battered old range-finder, found near the Asylum at Obourg. This can only have belonged either to my M.G. Section, or that of the Royal Irish Regiment, whose M.G. Section was near mine at that place. I next saw a battered drum, belonging to Drummer Peck. I remember him perfectly well. A grand type of old soldier in 1914. He now rests in St. Symphorien Cemetery. The Museum is most interesting and beautifully arranged. M. Licope, a Belgian, showed us round and proved to be a mine of information about all the battles fought at Mons, back from the days of Marlborough to 1944! We owe him a debt for his very clear account of The 4th Middlesex action, practically down to platoons in some cases. Commandant Le Pape was another good guide, as he was at Nimy when Deane and Godley, 4th Royal Fusiliers, won the first V.C.s of the war. These two Belgians were boys of about 14 when Mons was fought.

Saturday afternoon. Visited Casteau on the Mons-Brussels road, where the first shots of the war were fired by Cpl. Thomas, 4th D.G.s, and where Capt. Hornby made the first Cavalry charge with "C" Squadron, 4th D.G.s, on August 22, 1914.

Sunday, August 23. We met in the Place of Obourg, near the church, where Major Glass, myself, L/Cpl Cooper and Dmr. Connolly were carried after being wounded, together with men of the Royal Irish Regiment, Royal Scots and Gordon Highlanders and also scores of Germans. We lay on the straw there for three or four days.

After a short ceremony and an extremely well-delivered speech by Major Allistone we laid wreaths beneath the plaque at Obourg station. Thence to the Hotel de Ville, where we were all given wine, and drank healths, after a welcome from the Burgomaster. We then proceeded by cars to the War Memorial in Mons itself. A beautiful and artistic monument perched on a hill, with a fine view of the surrounding country.

After this we were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon, in the Vauxhall Gardens, near Mons. A few short speeches, more healths, including that of H.M. The Queen, and we were off, once more. First stop the Asylum (not as possible inmates), where "C" Company, 4th Middlesex, and my own M.G. Section, were posted. Pte. Corby ("C" Company) and I wandered off on our own, dropped 39 years, and yarned about the battle without end. Bird ("D" Company)

met again an old lady who went out to pick up his cap under heavy fire—Pte. Bird very wisely had decided to let it lie! The old lady was over 80 and must have been over 40 when she rescued the same cap in 1914.

We then visited the cemetery of St. Symphorien—beautifully kept and tended by the Belgians. It gave a tug at our heart-strings to read the names. Major Abell, Capt. Roy, Lts. Henstock, Wilkinson (Wilkie Bard), Dmr. Peck, Pte. Goldberg, C.S.M. Downes, Capt. Knowles, C.S.M. Sinton—all of whom I remembered so well and, alas, many others. Forty-six unknown Middlesex men were buried by the Germans in a communal grave and a headstone erected by them. The turf here all comes from England—a happy touch.

A curious incident happened that evening. We had been told how Major J. S. Maidlow, 49th Battalion, R.F.A., had come down from his position on Panisel to see the Royal Irish Regiment, fighting a rearguard action, to find out how he could best assist them. He was killed before he could rejoin his battery.

That evening Allistone, a young Belgian and myself were trying to sort out the German line of advance from Obourg. The Belgian mentioned that in his family was a British sword, picked up after the battle. I asked to see this. I found that it was a R.A. officer's sword—faint initials, "J.S.M.," were still decipherable and it was undoubtedly Major Maidlow's. This information I sent on to the R.A. Association to try and trace the family. Space will not permit further reminiscences.

I cannot sufficiently stress the kindness and hospitality of all the good people of Mons and Obourg. They were wonderful.

Major Allistone ("D" Company, 4th Middlesex) proved a most capable ambassador. A "D.Litt.," a polished French scholar, and a wonderful personality, did much to endear us to our hosts. My French is, alas, kitchen French, and I can just manage the *polite*. But Allistone did all the needful for us; and more. It was a wonderful visit.

Tom

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Applications to Bandmaster
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writing or in person on Tuesday or
Wednesday evenings

FROM THE "BROWNE" CORRESPONDENCE

(1) For many months all minds here have been centred on the presentation of Colours to our 1st Battalion on September 27; secondly, on the Home Guard and Regimental Parade on Sunday, October 18 (to cement our friendship and affiliation with that Guard); and, thirdly, on the Regimental Reunion on October 30, in Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, W.1. All these events will be figuring in the Journal from more competent hands.

(2) On July 20 David Eales wrote from the Palace in Khartoum, where he is Assistant Private Secretary to the Governor and his A.D.C. In that post he was thrilled to meet and talk to the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret as they passed through Khartoum *en route* from Rhodesia to U.K. He was just about to fly to Cairo with His Excellency on the invitation of Gen. Neugib to be present at their national fete day and would see Egyptian troops on parade.

(3) Brigadier A. E. Green writes from Jordan on July 23 to say his family have arrived to encounter a heat-wave, which has six times removed the Brigadier's nose skin and prostrated his family. On the 22nd the Arab Legion Sports were held and their young king was present with his Prime Minister. He (Brigadier Green) was chief judge and he found that duty hard as few Arab officers can judge field or track events or have any conception of judging. The Arab T.C., commanded by Col. Walden, an old friend, won by most points, and the Brigadier felt that it was perhaps due to having 2,500 ranks to select from and, no doubt, many instructors are equally good at athletics, and that quality enters into selection. He finds he has to initiate almost all improvements in training and long patience is needed. However, I am confident he will succeed for he never gives up.

(4) I have had two letters from Hervey Del Court, dated July 27 and September 2, 1953. He appears to have given a cocktail party to meet the Governor of the Rhodesian Federation, Lord Llewellyn, *en route* to his country. Amongst the A.D.C.s was a cousin of a Governor of Bermuda (Lt.-Gen. Sir Dennis Bernard, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.) who was G.S.O.(1) to Lord Montgomery-Massingberd, commander of the 1st Division at Aldershot in 1923-25 when the 1st Middlesex was in the Guards Brigade. We all knew him as Col. Bernard and were very fond of him. Mrs. Del Court was then in training for a golf championship. Hervey, in the second letter, had partnered a celebrated South African lady golfer and had won. He now talks of returning home in the spring of 1955, a year later than promised.

(5) I have had a letter (August 14, 1953) from Major T. R. Condron, who had served many years in the Regiment. He related with sorrow his transfer to the Royal Army Pay Corps. That was due to age, 45 years, and was the only way of remaining in the Service. He mentions three former officers in our Regiment, Major R. Cheffins, M.C. (now in the R.A.P.C.), Capt. Charles

Clenshaw (now in the R.E. Movement Control) and Dick Taylor, still in the Regiment and S.S.O. Munster.

(6) We have been in close touch with Major Pierce Grove-White's widow. He died recently after a long illness and in tragic circumstances, as for some six months he had been certified and was in a mental asylum. Lt.-Col. Teddy Pain attended his funeral. Mrs. Grove-White had recently met his sister, Gwendoline, who was Col. Collison's wife. Col. Collison commanded the 5th Militia Battalion at the commencement of the 1914-18 War and later commanded a battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in France. Col. C. P. Rooke was his 2IC and later took over command of a battalion.

(7) Mr. Shrager, a member of our 1st Battalion, wrote on August 20 to inform me about his Civil Service appointment in the Colonial Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Victoria, S.W.1. He has recently passed a further examination for promotion to Grade 1 Executive Officer. He has yet to pass the oral part of the examination but hopes he will be successful and obtain a rise. He was an excellent member of our Regiment for many years.

(8) I am sorry to say that Lt.-Col. Stanley Mirams has been ill after a heart attack, but wrote on August 12 to say he is better though still has to be careful.

(9) Col. Crawford wrote on August 28 to say he is always very busy about his extensive farms. He has to keep five major accounts himself, so is not so well served as he was as a C.O. of the 1st Middlesex with a Q.M.L., Adj., P.R.I., etc. to help him. He was asking me to give him notes about a Col. Allan whose family live nearby and who served in command of the 57th in Australia. I was able to do so. He did not command for long but fought in Serangapatam and became a Brigadier-General.

(10) I am sorry to relate that Major Dick Smith, formerly a very faithful correspondent from West Africa, has had an accident, injuring his shoulder, and may have to return to the U.K. I have been surprised by his letters ceasing but assumed that it was due to his family out there taking up his spare time.

(11) I am sad to say that Group Capt. Dore died on August 10. He had suffered with his heart and also with bronchitis. Many ranks of the 1st Battalion will remember him meeting the Battalion at Southampton at the end of November 1952. He spoke very well to all ranks in the H.M.T. *Dunera*, and he then represented Lord Latham, Lord Lieutenant. He also was present on the parade in December, at the bugle presentation and at the Abbey service and county lunch. He has been a great friend and aid to me over the past ten years and more and I shall miss him. He had a varied career after obtaining a degree at Cambridge. He was private secretary to Lord Baldwin in the great steel firm bearing that name. At the start of the 1914 War he was a Captain in the Worcester Regiment T.A. In 1916 he entered the R.F.C. and was an observer and pilot in that war, winning a D.S.O. He raised and commanded 604 (County of Middlesex) Bomber Squadron in 1929 and commanded it until 1935. This squadron, thanks largely

to his devoted work, won the Esher Trophy five times, and in the 1939-45 War was a first-class night fighter squadron. He was Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the T.A. Association after Sir Edwin King, and was Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff for Middlesex. He was awarded a C.B. for his distinguished service to his country.

In the 1939-45 War he went as Air Attache to Norway with the rank of Group Captain in 1940 and escaped after the German invasion and became Deputy Director Allied Air Co-operation and Foreign Liaison.

In 1952 he flew in a Meteor VII at the age of 69. He was a gifted and essentially lovable character and we can ill afford to lose such men.

(12) Col. Mervyn Anwyll-Passingham celebrated his 73rd birthday on August 31. I am glad to say he is much better but has still to take things easily and not strain his heart. He has gone to Rappallo via Jersey and St. Malo and is spending a holiday sun and sea bathing in Italy, being accompanied by his daughter, Lucy, who is to drive him home on September 23 next.

We have known each other and have been close friends for over 50 years since we served in the 2nd Middlesex, he as a subaltern and I as a 2/Lieutenant in the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry and training with the battalion. He was then, of course, unmarried and very youthful in appearance and, no doubt, I was the same.

(13) Col. Andrew Man wrote on September 4 to say how much he misses not serving in the Regiment. He completes his tour at Caterick as Colonel on the Northumbrian District Staff in August 1954 and hopes to obtain a post in the south.

(14) Major Roddy Sword, commanding the 5th Army Defence Unit in B.A.O.R., wrote on September 8 to say how sorry he was to be unable to attend Regimental functions more often, but that it was due to family calls demanding his full attention. On September 28 he moved 200 miles to Munchen-Gladbrook to guard a newly-formed H.Q. and could not thus attend the 1st Middlesex Colour presentation on September 27 in Austria. He looks forward some day to visiting the Battalion, and also getting some fishing in Austria.

(15) On September 19 Col. Jefferd wrote from New Zealand in reply to a letter of sympathy to him over the death of his sister who was married to Lloyd Jones. He was very interested in the news I sent him about the Regimental activities. He has been a very old friend for 43 years.

Have you ordered

your copy of

"The Die-Hards" ?

Disbandment of 5th and 6th Militia Battalions, 1881-1953

The Duke of Cambridge's Regiment was constituted in 1881 by the union of the 57th (West Middlesex) and the 77th (East Middlesex) Regiments as 1st and 2nd Battalions; with the two Militia Regiments, The Royal Elthorne Light Infantry and The Royal East Middlesex Militia, as the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Regiment. Their H.Q. and regimental home was the Depot. It is with regret that we record the final disbandment of these two Militia Battalions, namely the 5th Battalion, formerly 3rd Battalion (The Royal Elthorne Light Infantry) and the 6th Battalion, formerly 4th Battalion (The Royal East Middlesex Militia) by Army Order No. 47 of 1953.

HISTORICAL— THE REGIMENTAL MILITIA

BY A DISTINGUISHED REGULAR MILITIA OFFICER

Edited by Col. M. Browne

It was in 1873, my year of birth, that the 57th West Middlesex and 77th East Middlesex Regiments were, much against their will, linked, and it must not be forgotten that the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry—a militia battalion—and The Royal East Middlesex, also a militia battalion, were brought into association with these two Regular Regiments of the Line on the same date.

The final step was taken in 1881. The 57th and 77th were then very protestingly united to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment).

The Regiment was completed by the addition of the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry and the Royal East Middlesex Militia as the 3rd and 4th Battalions, and so they have remained, and were always so described in the Army Lists, bracketed together; with their H.Q. at the Regimental Depot (formerly Hounslow, and from 1905 at Mill Hill). The militia battalions changed to 5th and 6th Battalions respectively when the 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions were created during the South African War. As yet the Volunteer Battalions (now T.A. Battalion) did not form part of the Regiment, but in 1882 there were three Battalions of the County Volunteers attached to the Regiment, namely, 3rd Middlesex Volunteers, the 8th or South West Middlesex Volunteers and 17th or North Middlesex Volunteers. Subsequently the 11th Middlesex Volunteers were also attached.

So much for the Middlesex regimental history claim of their militia to have their Colours laid alongside those of the four Regular Battalions in the Middlesex Guildhall in Westminster.

The other claim is based on the number of officers and men their militia has fed to the Regular Battalions ever since its two Battalions formed part of the Regiment.

In my Depot experience, before the militia were converted into special reserve (to be again called militia later in the 1914-18 War) it was customary to have so

many militia officers up according to the number of militia recruits, to assist to train them.

Each militia battalion trained its own recruits; the Adjutant and R.S.M. and certain N.C.O.s were the only serving Regulars in the militia battalions and so the Regular recruits were trained by their own officers, warrant officers and N.C.O.s.

(My correspondent concludes by promising later to send me notes about our 6th Militia Battalion, formerly The Royal East Middlesex Militia. He continues):

As to the decorations in the 5th Battalion gained in the war (1914-18) by their officers, I do not think any one has bothered to enumerate them or trace them where then serving. You see the senior officers in the 5th Battalion were always changing and were generally not originally 5th Battalion officers; in fact, there were very few belonging formerly to the Battalion in it in 1917 when I returned to it and took over 2IC from Major F. E. Swainson. However, in the Army List of June, 1920, the 5th Battalion had actually living five with D.S.O., 16 with M.C., one C.B.E., two O.B.E. and one D.F.C. Two of the D.S.O.s do not appear in that Army List, namely, Charles Collison and Freddy Baker (later O.C. 8th T.A. Battalion and a Brigade Commander in the 1939-45 War), who had left the Battalion, and there may be many others who had left the Battalion or been killed by 1920, who may also have been decorated. I suppose they could be easily traced by me, and also the number killed, but what does it matter? According to the regimental histories I have read, the only mention of the 5th and 6th Battalions is that they did not go overseas as units. The summary of awards is six D.S.O.s, 17 M.C.s. one C.B.E., two O.B.E.s and one D.F.C.

Over all, of course, was the O.C. Depot in those years, an officer of mature ways and age.

But the point was that the R.S.M.s saw to it that any likely men in the militia as recruits ended up in the Regular Battalions and did not come to swell our Militia Battalion ranks. This was understood. In short our recruiting was most valuable to the line and was indeed one of our chief duties and a big "raison d'être" at that time and we in the militia got quite a number of ex-Regular other ranks and, as late as 1906, there were quite a number of bemedalled South African War ex-officers and ex-soldiers in our ranks.

Of course, after August 4, 1914, all the Special Reserve work was providing officers and men for the Regular and Service Battalions at the front from anyone coming along, including the militia, but recruiting duty had existed since the militia battalions had formed part of the Regiment.

The number of officers that the militia has provided for the Regular Army is enormous. When we had to pass a preliminary literary examination for Sandhurst, and a competitive Military Army Examination to join the Regular Army, I have known 1,000 up for only 150 vacancies, which entailed a high educational standard to be successful. Officers flocked into the Regular Army through the militia. The 5th Battalion was raised as the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry under Col. the Hon. F. W. Villiers with H.Q. at Uxbridge in 1853 and the

Colours were presented by Lady Lumley on Uxbridge Common on September 13, 1855.

There was a 5th Battalion of The Middlesex Regiment raised in 1798 for a short time, and then known as The North Middlesex Regiment of Supplementary Militia, which is claimed as being ultimately reborn in The Royal Elthorne Light Infantry or 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

Note by Colonel M. Browne.

I, myself a Regular officer, served at the Depot from December, 1912, to August, 1914, being sent from our 1st Battalion. I thus served in the 5th Battalion with the writer of this article, who wishes to be anonymous. Before I entered the Regular Army, on November 29, 1905, I served in the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry Militia from March, 1904, and, apart from service in Guernsey in the summer of 1904 and 1905, I also carried out some six months' service with the 2nd Battalion at Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, then in my father's Brigade. Readers will remember that after the Great War the regimental title was changed to The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) as the then Colonel, Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse, felt that was the title thousands of our ranks knew and talked of in their service, and so had 12,000 odd given their lives for that name in the 1914-18 War.

I have always loved the older title, although I realise our distinguished Colonel was right in his conception of what the men felt when they spoke of their Regiment.

11th BATTALION OFFICERS' REUNION

At a luncheon held at the Connaught Rooms on October 21, Lt.-Col. Wollocombe, the last C.O. of the Battalion, presented a silver cigarette box to Major J. G. P. Hunt, on behalf of the officers of the Battalion, in recognition of his great work in organising our six-monthly luncheons and keeping in touch with all our members over a period of 30 years. He has now retired from his job in London but has promised to carry on the good work, and for this we are very grateful to him.

These luncheons were originally started by H. L. MacIlwaine, a war-time adjutant. He collected a few of our officers, who were working in London at the time, for an informal luncheon at a central restaurant. On that first occasion it was decided to make this a twice-yearly event. A wider field was searched, more officers were collected and the gatherings have continued regularly ever since. We still have about 20 members who turn up occasionally and of these a dozen or so may be called regular attenders.

On this occasion the following were present: Col. H. Peplow, D.S.O., Lt.-Cols. W. H. Samuel and T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Majors G. B. Anderson, M.C., and J. G. P. Hunt, Capt. A. F. E. Robinson, H. L. MacIlwaine, G. Chipperfield, H. Stuart Cook, M.C., H. R. Strong, M.C., and Lt. D. McDonald.

This Battalion of the Great War vintage was dis-

banded 35 years ago at the time when, in February, 1918, the divisions in France and Belgium were cut down from 12 to nine battalions.

For the past 30 years, however, including the years of the Second World War, officers of the Battalion have met twice a year and we are wondering if this is a record for a Kitchener battalion. In any case, we intend to keep it up a bit longer.

As a matter of interest Col. Wollocombe told the gathering that when he was Adjutant of the 4th Battalion in 1913, he was asked by Gen. Kent, who was then Colonel of the Regiment, to the Old 77th Regiment's dinner in London. The diners were mostly Crimean veterans and the date of that dinner was 58 years after the end of the Crimean War. We can hardly be expected to compete with an old Regiment of Foot, but, who knows, for they say: "Old soldiers never die."

Correspondence

The Editor, *The Die-Hards*.

Dear Sir,

I thought perhaps ex-8th Battalion members would be interested to hear of their old friends serving with the 11th Parachute Battalion.

Ian Brotherton, the signal officer, is now a Major and commands "S" Company and for his benefit the Signal Section is under his command. He had a bad accident in May on a parachute descent at the Scrubs, but I'm happy to say that he has now fully recovered.

I have only recently discovered that Russell, who was also a member of the Signal Section, is with "C" Company at Harrow and is a very good platoon sergeant and a stalwart T.A. volunteer. The twins Sharp and Warner are now Corporals in the Drums and still going strong; Warner has a wasp-like waist of about 46 in. but still gets around, and last time I saw him he was armed and equipped to the teeth and taking up a defensive position at Langford Farm, Stanford P.T.A.

Frank Barber, who left us for the R.A.F. where he eventually became Air Liaison Officer and reached the rank of Squadron Leader, now commands "H.Q." Company. Unfortunately, his wife has been very ill and he is now on a year's leave. We all hope that she will soon be fit again.

"Drummy" Wales, of the 2/8th, is still going strong and, as well as being C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company, trains the Corps of Drums and turns out as Drum Major. He is very short of flute players and would like to get hold of some of first and second 8th Battalion drummers.

Pat Fulham, who was in the original "B" Company at Ealing, is still with us. He served throughout the war with the 2/8th which, of course, became the 1st Battalion, and finished his Regular career in Palestine with the 2nd Battalion. He is now our Transport Corporal and the right-hand man of both the Q.M. and M.T.O.

"Busty" Chant has recently joined us and has taken up his old "Q." job as Ration Corporal and "general lifter." He has, I think, swollen a little more, but when I saw him at camp (half naked as usual) he looked

remarkably fit and still lifts anything up to 3 cwt. He quickly fitted into his old niche and I quite expected either Bill Ward or Charlie Misso shout for him.

Bill Crump, the old P.S.I. of "B" Company and C.S.M. of "C," came to camp with us and took charge of the Sergeants' Mess and, as a result, we are all very much over-weight. He is the caretaker and canteen manager at Edmonton Drill Hall, and "D" Company all hope that he will go on for ever, and so do we.

Frank Hart and "Cack" Harris of Alf Groves' Band are both Band Sergeants here and doing very well. Frank still plays the "praying mantis," which emits noises something like a raucous crow. "Cack" had a spell of illness this year, but is now quite fit.

We are all very happy here in this very good Battalion and "kid" ourselves that we are indispensable. However, I think the Battalion likes to have us around and would welcome a good many of the old boys back. We should like to see them at any of our Drill Halls, and to have the pleasure of quaffing a jug of ale and talking over old times.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL ASHBY.

11th Battalion Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex (D.C.O.)), T.A.,

T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex.

October 15, 1953.

From: W.O.1 E. A. Wright, M.B.E., R.A.P.C.,
Hon. Secretary, R.A.P.C. Regimental Association,
North-West Sub Area,
c/o Army Pay Office (Officers'Accounts),
Stockport Road,
Manchester, 13.

To: The Secretary,
The Middlesex Regiment Association,
The Barracks, Mill Hill,
London, N.W.7

DEAR SIR,

THE LATE W. H. DAVIS, M.M., LATE MIDDLESEX
REGIMENT AND ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS

I regret to inform you the above-mentioned died on Saturday, October 3, 1953, and was cremated at the Manchester Crematorium today.

I attended as the representative of your Association as I understand the late Mr. Davis, M.M., was a member of your Association.

He was awarded the Military Medal whilst serving with the "Die-Hards" in the 1914-18 War.

When he was discharged from H.M. Forces he joined the Civil Service and was employed in various pay offices prior to his transfer to the Army Pay Office, Manchester, in June 1940, where he was employed until his death.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. WRIGHT,
W.O.1, R.A.P.C.

A.P.O.,
Manchester, 13,
October 6, 1953.

Extracts from "London Gazette"

August 18, 1953

Capt. P. L. Crutchfield to be Major, August 19, 1953.

Col. J. K. Maitland, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L. (7741) to be Hon. Colonel of a T.A. unit, August 14, 1953, vice Brigadier H. A. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L. (7738), tenure expired.

August 21, 1953

Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E. (41130), on completion of period of service in command, remains on full pay (supernumerary), August 21, 1953.

August 25, 1953

Capt. H. N. M. Martin (171749) to be Major, August 24, 1953.

September 1, 1953

22725982 Cadet T. R. Smith (429369) to be Second-Lieutenant, June 27, 1953.

September 8, 1953

2/Lt. (a/Lt.) I. N. Henderson (406141) to be Lieutenant, September 9, 1953, with seniority May 24, 1951.

2/Lt. I. N. Henderson (406141) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, May 24, 1951 (substituted for the notification in *Gazette* (Supplement) dated June 18, 1952).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officer:

Lt. (Hon. Capt) J. N. Woodbridge (91179).

September 15, 1953

2/Lt. J. Gilbert (390384) to be Lieutenant, November 19, 1951.

September 18, 1953

Capt. P. L. Pearce Gould (117329) to be Major, September 18, 1953.

Lt. N. F. Legge (364570) to be Captain, September 17, 1953.

September 22, 1953

The undermentioned Cadets to be Second-Lieutenants, July 11, 1953:

22726842 C. R. Armstrong (429502).

22726006 S. de M. Enthoven (429511).

22726009 G. B. Hall (429526).

22725955 P. J. Langford (429531).

The undermentioned Officer Cadets from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be Second-Lieutenants July 31, 1953, with seniority July 31, 1953:

A. E. McManus (430374).

T. J. Humber (430336).

September 29, 1953

Short Service Commission 22823247 Cadet R. W. Augood (429930) to be Second-Lieutenant, July 25, 1953.

The undermentioned Cadets to be Second-Lieutenants July 25, 1953:

22725938 M. J. Beaumont (429523).

22725950 J. C. J. Grobel (429956).

22725971 F. G. Powell (429920).

22724784 D. E. C. Vince (429942).

2/Lt. J. F. A. Weil (425741) from Regular Army National Service List to be Second-Lieutenant, September 18, 1953, with seniority November 15, 1952.

October 6, 1953

Major G. Lerwill, O.B.E., M.C. (388278), to be Lieutenant-Colonel, August 21, 1953.

2/Lt. S. J. Carter (383395) to be Lieutenant, October 6, 1953.

2/Lt. S. J. Carter (383395), from Reserve of Officers, A. & S.H., to be Second-Lieutenant, July 13, 1953, with seniority March 14, 1952.

October 9, 1953

Capt. R. D. Hutchings (204413) to be Major, October 9, 1953.

Short Service Commission Lt. (Q.M.) G. H. J. Drury (356114) to be Captain (Q.M.), July 15, 1953.

October 13, 1953

2/Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe (423050), from Regular Army National Service List, to be Second-Lieutenant September 15, 1953, with seniority June 7, 1952.

OMISSION

It is regretted that the following announcement was omitted from the Extracts from the London Gazette published in the September issue:

May 19, 1953

The following officer is awarded the 1st clasp to the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) C. G. Webber (99748).

The following officer is awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) C. G. Webber (99748).

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