

# The Die Hards



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

VOL. XI No. 5

MARCH, 1954

PRICE 1/-

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

(57th and 77th)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.  
 "Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"  
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1878," "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,"  
 "Bellevue, 1915," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"  
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"  
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Plickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "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,"  
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"  
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Muran, 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. (1/7th 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.).

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Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

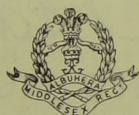
"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

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 TRIPPLICATE, 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: Major D. C. L. Nolda  
Asst. Editor (Business): Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

## EDITORIAL

When Brigadier Procter took over the Editorship of the Journal in 1949, he was faced with the problem of a dwindling number of readers, aggravated by the rising costs of publication. Despite these difficulties, the Journal has continued to appear each quarter and under his leadership, the quality has improved greatly. We are much indebted to Brigadier Procter for his determined efforts which have succeeded in keeping the Journal alive, but, at the same time, we must chide him for thinking that he is too old to continue to direct our lucubrations—we had hoped that he would have continued in office for many years to come.

A change of editor does not blow away the inescapable fact that the Journal carries a large overdraft. In the insidious manner of overdrafts, the longer it is allowed to remain, the more difficult it will be to throw it off. Our only hope of regaining solvency is to expand our number of readers. Unless our various Regimental Units emerge from their present apathy in this respect and greatly increase their sales, it will not be possible to continue quarterly publication of the Journal in its present form.

In the past, we have relied far too much on contributions from the older members of the Regiment. The time has now surely come for our younger members to show that they too are capable of writing articles of general interest.

Much can be done in the unit to encourage young new writers; this in itself should lead to increased sales. For the regular soldier faced with essay writing for promotion or Staff College examinations, we would suggest that he try his hand in the Journal. For the Territorial Army and National Service soldier we would say write for the pleasure of writing. Let us therefore institute Unit competition essay writing, if only to offset the monotony of individual training and to provide a ready source of material for the Journal.

Finally, the problem of the survival of the Journal, like so many other military problems, can be solved by leadership. If the officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers will only set the pace, the men will surely follow.

### Regimental Reunion October, 1953

In the present rapidly changing and bewildering world we are continually finding that the old order has often to be put aside to accommodate the new thoughts

and conditions of today. It is not however, easy to break with tradition and we are therefore especially grateful to Col. Roberts and his committee for their wise and bold decision to alter the old established form of the yearly Old Comrades' Dinner.

The October Reunion was a great success (the details are reported elsewhere in this number). It was a most heartening sight to see the record gathering of over 1,200 people, while especially gratifying was the fact that for the first time, a large number of ex-T.A. and National Service soldiers were present.

In the past it has always been difficult to attract the younger members of the Regimental Association. Now that we have captured their attention, we must ensure that future reunions follow on similar lines.

Congratulations to Col. Roberts and his committee for their wisdom and untiring efforts in setting a new standard for the Regimental Association.

D.C.L.N.

## Forthcoming Events

### Golf

Spring Golf Meeting: April 22, Hendon Golf Club.  
Home Counties Golf Meeting: May 6, Wrotham.

### Cricket. At Mill Hill, 11.30 a.m.

Saturday, June 19 v. Free Foresters.  
Sunday, June 20 v. Hampstead Heathens.  
Monday, June 21 v. Cryptics.  
Tuesday, June 22 v. Incogniti.  
Wednesday, June 23 v. I. Zingari.

Officers' Club Dinner and At Home: Tuesday, June 29, at the United Service Club (Senior), Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Full particulars of the above events will be circularised to members at a later date.

### WANTED

Required by the Administrative Officer, The Depot, one copy of *The Die-Hards*, Vol. VII, No. 1, for September, 1944.

Can anyone kindly supply the above, which is now the only copy required to complete the set?

### ALSO REQUIRED

by the Editor the following copies to complete a set which is to be sent to the Copyright Section of the British Museum:

September 1947  
June 1949  
June 1950  
March 1953  
June 1953

Anyone who can supply any of these copies is asked to send them to the Editor, *Die-Hards Journal*, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

# 1st Battalion Notes

BATTALION EDITOR:—MAJOR J. W. G. ORMISTON

## 1953—A REVIEW

The Battalion can, without undue complacency, look back on its first nine months in Austria with satisfaction and a sense of achievement.

All our visitors pay envious tribute to the transformation which has been wrought in Zeltweg. Glorious country as Austria is, our particular valley was not on our arrival one of its most salubrious resorts and our camp had a desperately unkempt and down-at-heel appearance about it. The facilities it offered, for work, play and everyday needs, were painfully inadequate. Now it is almost as though a rose had blossomed in the desert. Self-respect has been restored and in addition a very cordial relationship has been established with the local civilian community which had previously been alleged to be, if not hostile, distinctly unfriendly.

Tidily kept lawns and gardens, with flowers and shrubs and neatly laid out paths, have replaced areas of wilderness and quagmire. The more dismal-looking buildings have been repainted, thereby brightening the whole appearance of the barracks. A wealth of playing fields has been established. Tennis, squash and badminton courts, indoor hockey, basket ball and volley ball pitches, a swimming pool, skating and curling rinks have all been constructed. A derelict 25-yards range has been resurrected and a 100-yards range built. A riding school, a gymnasium and a children's playground with swings, roundabouts, see-saws, chutes and similar neck-breaking contrivances have made their appearance. A flourishing school keeps the little rascals out of mischief for all too few months of the year and all too few hours of the day.

A new church has been largely equipped through the acquisitiveness of the padre and now boasts communion rails, a lectern, a font, choir pews, a harmonium and other refinements. It is adorned by the banner recently presented to our local pack of wolf cubs and by a beautifully worked altar frontal kindly made for us by the Guild of St. Helena in Klagenfurt, to whom we are more than grateful. We are also indebted to the R.E.M.E. workshop in Klagenfurt for making for us a fine brass cross and a pair of candlesticks.

Our last essential requirement, a properly equipped 35mm. cinema, is well on the way to completion and should be in operation by the time these notes appear in print. In the meantime, 16 mm. shows are given in the "Kleine Kino"—a barrack room to which discreet modifications have lent much of the intimacy of the "Curzon."

It is the families who probably feel the remoteness and isolation of Zeltweg more than anyone. The area of the Married Quarters, so depressing and forlorn looking on our arrival, has been thoroughly tidied up and planted out with lawns and trees. Neat wooden

fences now enclose each garden. A well-stocked Families' Shop, a flourishing Wives' Club, a "Thrift" Shop, and a Y.W.C.A. bookshop and fancy goods store have all helped to fill a great need. In the same building a fish-and-chip shop, known locally as "The Frying Pan," had a regrettably short existence and a children's play room was established as an experiment.

Many of the above projects have been completed entirely as a result of the unaided efforts of the Battalion itself without any outside assistance whatever, either technical, material or manual. Lack of space prevents the payment of tribute to all those who have given so much of their time and ingenuity to the accomplishment of these many works, of which the above detail is by no means comprehensive. Suffice it to say that great credit reflects on all concerned and that the imagination and drive of the Commanding Officer, the energy and skill of the Regimental Sergeant-Major, and the patience and enthusiasm of their wives have been leading factors in converting Zeltweg into a very happy station, with occupations and pastimes at the disposal of the most catholic of tastes.

In less domestic fields, the Battalion has also had a satisfactory year. Judging by the complimentary remarks made by our own G.O.C.-in-C. at the final conference after Exercise "Blossom" in May, and by Gen. Arnold, the Commanding General U.S.F.A., at the critique after Exercise "Mudlark" in October, we acquitted ourselves with great credit on each occasion. These were the two major training events of the year in Austria. Our candidates on courses in the U.K. attained a high standard. Two "As" were obtained. The first by Sgt. Beale on a drill course at the Guards' Training Battalion was the only "A" to be awarded on the course—an outstanding achievement by a young N.C.O. whose fellow students were largely drawn from the Brigade of Guards. The second was awarded to Major Bailey on an atomic warfare course. He later played a leading part in a most interesting Command study period on atomic matters last December. Of our other 25 candidates on courses at War Office schools no fewer than 14 were graded "B," which represents a good dividend paid by our unit cadres. The inter-Company drill competition and the Presentation of New Colours ceremony in the autumn revealed drill and turn-out of a particularly high order. The B.T.A. shooting and swimming championships were both won by conclusive margins. For this much credit must go to the respective team captains, Major Battye and R.S.M. Tarrant, for their preliminary organisation and training with facilities which at that time were less than adequate. Our boxing team suffers from lack of opponents, but can seldom have contained more promising material or been possessed of greater keenness. Our cricket, soccer and hockey teams, though



showing good form generally, did not, on the whole, quite do themselves justice in competitive events.

It is inherent in our situation here that progressive training as a team, whether in the tactical field or in the field of sport, is almost impossible. The continual maintenance of a Company in Vienna, added to the perpetual absence of one or more Companies at Warmbad, Schmelz or elsewhere, inevitably proves a severe handicap to administration, training and sport. For less than one month of our stay in Zeltweg has the whole Battalion been concentrated. In addition, the absence of any other major unit, and of any Supporting Arms, in the Command deprives us of opponents at games and allies for combined training. This "remoteness," and the incessant merry-go-round, represent the only drawbacks to Zeltweg as a military station.

The situation has recently been aggravated by the run-down of troops in Austria as a result of which we have had to say goodbye to the 1st Battalions of the Green Howards and the Cameron Highlanders, and also to our old sparring partners from the Far East, 11th Independent Field Squadron, R.E., who for the past nine months have shared our barracks. To "Buster," his officers and men we wish the best of luck. To No. 60 Company, R.A.S.C., who have come to keep us company in their stead, we bid a warm welcome.

The Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen made 1953 a memorable year. For us, the Presentation of New Colours by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff made it even more momentous. None who attended the stirring ceremonies on June 2, either in London or in Vienna, or on September 27 here in Zeltweg, can fail to have been deeply moved and greatly inspired.

The year went out in a blaze, but not, unfortunately, of glory. On December 28 the results of months of effort were razed to the ground when the Wives' Club and the various "Shops" became a pile of ashes. Great gallantry was displayed by the occupants and by the fire fighters, and new homes were quickly found for most of the destroyed amenities. It will, however, be sometime before there will once again be "Frying Tonight," and the children's playground has been placed in permanently suspended animation. We doubt if we shall try this experiment again.

### TRAINING

The quarter opened with a series of preliminary "work-outs" for Exercise "Mudlark." Battalion Headquarters and "A" Company took the field on several occasions, while the Regimental Signal Officer refreshed our memories on the mysteries of procedure and a great deal of "How d'you hear me" and "Watcher Charlie" was to be heard. The exercise itself, which fortunately was a misnomer for we enjoyed glorious weather in wonderful surroundings, is described at length elsewhere. We were delighted to have attached to us for the duration of the exercise three French officers of the Chasseurs Alpins and to welcome as visitors at various times our own G.O.C.-in-C., who arrived by helicopter, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Martin, Miss Metcalfe (Y.W.C.A.) and Miss Bienvenue (W.V.S.),

who arrived in rather less luxury by p.u. bringing "comforts for the troops." It was a long and tiring journey for them and a very sporting gesture on their part. On the return journey our late Adjutant very nearly became the late Capt. Honess as he insisted on doing aerobatics in a jeep. Otherwise, there were few incidents and we both enjoyed and benefited from this contact with our American allies. Incidentally, we established a precedent as never before had "aggressor" been known to win the war.

The Command autumn exercise having been cancelled owing to the run-down of troops in Austria and its place taken by a study period to which reference has already been made, we settled down to a series of cadres, officers' days and the like. The potential N.C.O.s drill and duties cadre was Sgt. Beale's swansong. No more will his stentorian voice or the stamp of his sizeable boot reverberate across our square, for he now has the honour of representing the Regiment at the R.M.A. Sandhurst. He celebrated his departure by being the first to be married in the Garrison church. Sgt. Steward and Cpls. Edey and Muirhead so distinguished themselves on the N.C.O.s' weapon training cadre that they have been selected to undergo the rigours of Hythe. Of the third, and lengthiest, cadre we leave the Anti-Tank Platoon to tell its own story:

"The arrival of our new 120 mm. anti-tank guns gave us the opportunity for a change from ceremonial, and an eight weeks' conversion cadre began at the end of November. The first fortnight was entirely devoted to the rangefinder, and members of the Platoon gradually became indoctrinated with the perplexities of that excellent instrument for the first time. Great credit is due to both Sgt. Moyse and Sgt. Young (kindly loaned from the M.M.G. Platoon for the occasion) for the excellent results achieved. Immediately afterwards the actual conversion cadre started, and the foremost problem facing the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant was the eradication of previous 17-pounder knowledge, held so adamantly by various senior members of the Platoon! Another obstacle was the Austrian winter climatic conditions, for even the most hardened veterans found difficulty in doing gun drill in 2 ft. of snow. However, all these various drawbacks were gradually overcome and everyone soon settled down to learning about the varied intricacies of the British Army's latest weapon. In spite of the deep snow, the course concluded with various tactical exercises in which all and sundry (and more especially Lt. Pike) enjoyed themselves with a profusion of thunderclashes and 2-inch mortar smoke! The Platoon is now looking forward to extensive firing on the ranges later in the year."

Now that the snow has arrived in earnest, the miniature range has come into its own. In the first monthly shoot of the Command small-bore competition, "C" and "S" Companies ran out winners and runners-up respectively. In the second round, although they improved on their previous scores, they were short-headed by "H.Q." and "D" Companies. Competition is extremely keen and some really remarkable results are being achieved.

### WINTER SPORTS

We were unfortunate in that snow conditions precluded any ski-ing until December 20. Even then the snow was rather sparse until a good fall after Christmas. This late start prevented us from taking part in the Army Championships, for which entries had to be submitted by January 1. We hope, however, to participate to the full in the B.T.A. Championships in the latter half of February.

Whilst waiting for the snow a skating rink, where ice hockey can be played, and a curling rink were developed in barracks, but once again the weather was not particularly co-operative, though their condition improves daily.

Long before "wet shod" ski-ing was possible, "dry shod" classes were being held with the aid of a monumental ramp some 12 ft. high constructed with the help of the Field Squadron in one of the hangars. There were some terse comments from the cricketers at the unethical misappropriation of their mats, which cover the slope, but the only result is that there should be some interesting wickets next season.

There are very adequate nursery slopes within a mile or two of barracks, and recreational transport is run for anything up to a hundred all ranks on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, short cadres have taken place under an Austrian ski instructor, and the weekly route march is now a ski. The step is *not* called out, and we haven't yet been accompanied by the Band.

Seven more first-class instructors are available at Schmelz, which at over 5,000 ft. offers splendid ski-ing facilities, including a ski lift. Companies are spending three weeks in turn in the camp there while "S" Company finds a permanent holding party. The cable railway, reputed to be the longest in Europe, runs thrice weekly for two hours, the journey taking 50 minutes from top to bottom. It also runs for an hour early on Monday mornings, which enables "week-enders" to commute back to Zeltweg. All ranks have taken to ski-ing in a remarkable way and excellent progress has been made under the tutelage of Walter and his henchmen. The injury rate has not been unduly high, and on the whole injuries have not been of a serious nature. We trust these will not prove to be "famous last words." At least we have been spared the avalanches which have caused such tragic havoc in other parts of the country, although C.S.M. Budden and his family and those who accompanied them home on the Medloc would hardly agree!

Several visiting parties have been accommodated in our camp at Schmelz for a fortnight or so, including R.E., R.A.S.C. and R.E.M.E. teams from other parts of Austria and Trieste and 1st R.H.A. from as far afield as Hanover. We are certainly extremely fortunate to have these wonderful facilities at our disposal, and what is more, to be paid for making the most of them!

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

The rather limited rugby, soccer, hockey and boxing seasons are described elsewhere in this issue as are the jollifications which took place at Christmas. All proved

most pleasurable and there can have been few who did not genuinely enjoy their Christmas, albeit away from home, this year.

Styria offers some of the best fishing in Europe. Although some nice trout found their way into various creeks, we did not perhaps make the most of it last year. Now that the form is known, next season will certainly see more "Die-Hard" anglers on the rivers, time permitting.

The shooting has proved a little disappointing. Apart from a few hares, a covey or two of partridges on the airfield, and a gaggle of geese which paid us a short visit, small game seems conspicuous by its absence in the neighbourhood, though Majors Ormiston, Allott and Parry had one successful day with the pheasants near Graz. After several abortive stalks, our first stag—a fine 10-pointer—has at last been killed, and most appropriately fell to the Commanding Officer.

The proposed evacuation of Trieste resulted in our acquisition of several new horses, including some useful show jumpers. With "Springbok" cast and "Venture" destroyed, we now have a string of nine. A disused hut has been converted into new stables, which with the old ones afford stabling for 21, so that we are contemplating staging some hunter trials and perhaps a weekly paper chase. These, however, must wait for the spring. In the meantime, a very fine riding school has been constructed in a derelict hangar and this is proving invaluable for winter use. Its completion was a great triumph for "B" Company.

Fencing and archery equipment have been obtained and a number of societies, hobbies, etc., have been inaugurated. There can, in fact, now be remarkably few activities, either indoor and outdoor, which cannot be pursued by the enthusiast in Zeltweg!

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

We were delighted to welcome Major Clayton back to the Battalion after an absence of over two years sporting red flannel in the rarified atmosphere of S.H.A.P.E. Lt. Thomas has joined us from West Africa, and 2/Lt. Sibley on first appointment to a National Service commission. But our losses during the quarter have been severe. Major and Mrs. Hewitt have left us for H.Q. A.F.N.E., where he is now G.S.O.1 (Training), and we congratulate him most heartily on his promotion. They were hotly, if that is the *mot juste*, pursued to Oslo by Major Battye, Mrs. Battye and all the little Battyes which appears to presage the establishment of a minor edition of Gypsy Wood in Norway. Capt. and Mrs. Honess's departure to the Staff College left yet another gap in the ranks in "The Wood," which it will be hard to fill. Kim Honess was succeeded as Adjutant by Major Burrows, who burns even more midnight oil than his predecessor. Joan Honess's devoted and unselfish labours in connection with the Wives' Club, the "Thrift" Shop, the Church and every other good work will never be forgotten and it would be hard adequately to thank her. Capt. and Mrs. Flavell and Lt. Marciandi have left us for the Regimental Depot, Capt. Legge for Eaton Hall, and 2/Lt. Green to return to his parent Corps, the R.E.M.E.

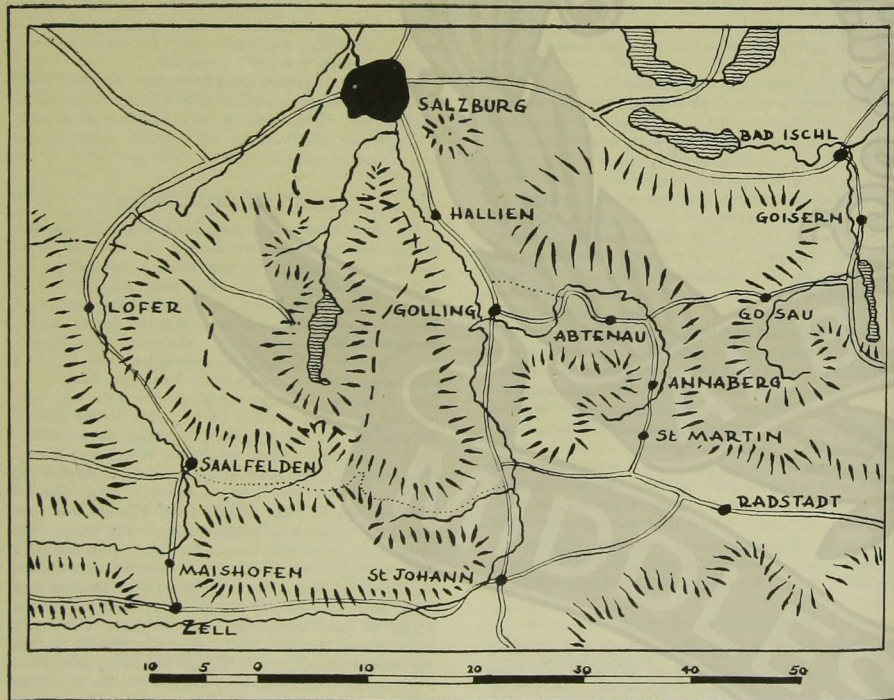


Miss Bienvenue and Miss Nicholson, who have so charmingly carried out their W.V.S. duties for the past months, are also no longer with us, their places being taken by Miss Lovey and Miss Ostle, to whom we extend a warm welcome. Miss Lovey has already made her mark in connection with the Christmas concert party. There have also been comings and goings

### EXERCISE "MUDLARK"

#### The Preliminaries

On Friday, October 23, a somewhat unusual force was gathered together at Zeltweg and camped for the night on the airfield. From the Garrison itself came Battalion Headquarters, "A" Company, and a troop of 11th Independent Field Squadron, R.E. From Graz came a Company of the 1st Battalion The Green Howards; from Spittal, a Company of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. A detachment of a Field Ambulance, a R.E.M.E. L.A.D. and a R.A.S.C. supply column completed the tally. This mixed bag represented the 58th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army, Battalion Headquarters being the Regimental Headquarters, each Company representing an Infantry Battalion.



amongst S.S.A.F.A. sisters—mostly goings!

C.S.M. Firman has left on posting to the 7th Battalion and C.S.M. Budden to the Depot. To the above and all others, too numerous to mention, who have left us since the last issue of the Journal we wish the very best of good fortune. We are the poorer for their going.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Commanding Officer addressed his new command in Hangar V, and outlined the course of the exercise as far as he knew it. His information had many gaps in it. Although we had known for some months that we were to take part in the U.S.F.A. Fall Manoeuvres, and had received administrative instructions for our assembly and move to the area of Bad Ischl in Salzburg, there had been no "G" instructions issued. Such information as we possessed had been gleaned by the Colonel and the Second-in-Command during two visits to Salzburg, when they interviewed the American officer under whose command we were to come, and made a quick reconnaissance of the ground. A few days before the exercise began we had been issued with a book that had "Maneuver" written large on every page; but this verbose document devoted so much space to the higher

aspects of psychological warfare, intelligence and disposal of simulated casualties that we learnt little of practical value from it.

We knew that the exercise was to be a free manoeuvre, and that we were part of the "Aggressor Force." The latter had invaded Freiland from an unnamed country east of Austria and was making for objectives along the Austro-German border west of Salzburg, opposed by the U.S. Tactical Command, with two Divisions. The 85th Rifle Division, under the command of Col. Frick, consisted of an Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, regrouping in Mondsee, ourselves in the centre, and an imaginary Rifle Regiment in the south.

On Saturday, October 24, we began our long road journey to Bad Ischl at first light. The 120-odd miles, including a very steep pass, took a toll of our vehicles. The Assault Pioneer Section narrowly escaped serious injury when their truck overturned, and one despatch rider suffered a broken collar bone. But as darkness fell the last of the remaining trucks were pulled in by recovery teams. In this harbour area we were joined by "S" Company of the Camerons whose carriers had been sent by rail from Spittal. They were equipped with the new B.A.T., which we had not then previously seen but which we ourselves now possess.

We were not due to become operational until Monday evening, and there was to be no forward move before Tuesday morning, but the intervening period was not spent idly. On Sunday morning we moved some 20 miles to our forming up positions on the Gosau road. From here we could move forward and seal off the two vital road junctions at Abtenau and Golling, which would prevent interference from the southern flank with the main "Aggressor" thrust in the north towards Hallein.

We regretfully said goodbye to the Green Howards Company, who were attached to the Armoured Regiment in the north. In their place we were given an Armoured Reconnaissance Platoon, representing a Company, and a troop of 105 mm. S.P. howitzers, representing a battery. Other American units which joined us were a massive rear link, a P.W. interrogation team, and a battle simulation broadcasting unit.

There were a number of administrative problems consequent upon our unusual organisation. The staff of Battalion Headquarters had been increased to satisfy the dignity of our position as Brigade Headquarters by the addition of Major Hewitt as D.A.A. & Q.M.G., Major Martin as Camp Commandant, and 2/Lt. Green as Defence Platoon Commander. But after some trial and error it was found much easier to administer the formation as a Battalion in the normal way, with a few minor modifications for our additional units.

On Monday morning we received permission to move west along the road to the limit of the enemy F.D.L.s. Sgt. Raab of the R.A.E.C., who was attached to the Intelligence Section, put on civilian clothes and took a stroll into the enemy lines, returning with useful information. An O.P. in the hills overlooking the Annaberg valley kept us in the picture about the Freiland build-up.

At dawn on Tuesday the Middlesex Battalion launched our first attack along the Gosau road. From the very beginning we met with success, which continued with hardly a check until the end of the exercise. This must largely be attributed to the great mobility and the dash of our units. The opposition consisted mainly of small detachments with automatic weapons, sited round a bridge or some small natural obstacle. Whenever the enemy was bumped the technique employed was to send a Platoon haring up into the hills above the obstacle and coming down on top of the enemy or behind them. This form of attack invariably proved effective and our advance was very rapid. The longest delays were imposed by demolitions, which were numerous. But probably the biggest factor of all in our success was our communications. The country was extremely mountainous, and it was only on rare occasions that we were in satisfactory wireless touch with our Divisional Headquarters. This was not of major importance since we had been given our objectives and were able to carry on without any great need of outside assistance. But our wireless links forward to our own "Battalions," who were normally far apart in different valleys, were equally tenuous. We were able to overcome this difficulty by constant use of our D.R.s who worked tirelessly and faultlessly throughout the exercise. Our enemy, faced with exactly similar problems, had not got this solution available and consequently their communications broke down at all levels. This gave us a tremendous advantage which was exploited to the full, and gave the maximum value to our mobility. Some of our objectives were taken before the enemy even knew that we were approaching them, and many of their planned demolitions were not effected.

Broadly our advance was divided into three phases.

#### The Capture of Golling

The Middlesex advance on Tuesday morning went smoothly until they met heavy opposition at the road junction north of Annaberg. Rapid deployment and a brilliant outflanking movement soon resolved this check. The Middlesex turned south down the road, and firmly established themselves north of Annaberg, while the Camerons continued on their previous axis. They successfully brushed aside several enemy detachments, and by nightfall were astride the "Three Bridges." From there the road to Golling was strongly defended and prepared for demolition. Reconnaissance showed that the cart track running north of the road was jeepable, and the Camerons collected every available jeep to transport a Company to the outskirts of Golling during the night. At first light this Company marched into the town and found themselves involved with an utterly unprepared enemy supply column. After some hectic street fighting, the umpires decided that the Camerons had wreaked havoc among the enemy, but were themselves so reduced in numbers as to make them no longer effective. Just at that moment, a second Company of the Camerons came marching over the jeep track and burst into Golling with pipes playing, quite unaware of the great significance of their arrival.



After much discussion further heavy casualties were allotted to Freeland, and the Camerons were "umpired" back to "Three Bridges." Not the least amusing incident occurred when Gen. Arnold, C-in-C. U.S.F.A. and director of the manoeuvre, arrived in Golling in the middle of the battle, and soundly slated the enemy commanders for allowing themselves to be surprised.

#### The Advance to St. Johann

In the meantime the Middlesex had moved off at first light on Wednesday morning and were fighting a series of encounter battles in their drive towards St. Johann, with the dashing support of the Reconnaissance Company who never allowed any obstacle to stop their tanks advancing. By nightfall they had captured the road junction at Niederfritz, and were three-quarters of the way along the road to the junction of the Radstadt road with the north/south road from Golling to St. Johann.

At that stage it seemed almost as though we had reached the limit of our capabilities. The Camerons, sadly depleted, could not be moved from "Three Bridges" without giving up the gate to Bad Ischl. It was decided to go flat out for our final objective of Saalfelden with the Middlesex Battalion, with Head-

quarters, "B" Echelon, the Field Ambulance, the L.A.D., and the supply column all on wheels and following up closely behind so that at least our supplies could not be cut off. The track over the mountains from Bischofshofen to Saalfelden was reported to be impassable to vehicles, but it seemed our only hope and it was decided to get over the mountains somehow, even if it meant everyone walking and climbing for 20 miles.

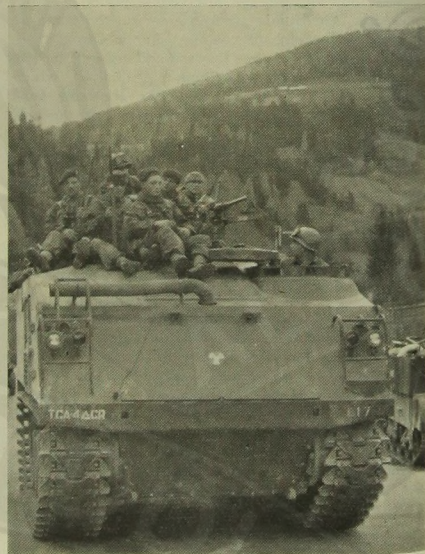
Then some welcome news arrived. The directing staff, having mulled over the attack on Golling, came to the conclusion that in actual war it would have been successful and that the Camerons should not have been "umpired" out of it. They were therefore restored to full strength and given Golling back again. In addition, the old maxim of reinforcing success was applied and an imaginary Battalion from the imaginary Brigade to the south was switched to our command.

This changed the whole picture, and turned a forlorn hope into a practical proposition. The "paper" Battalion (represented by our Pioneer Section!) was ordered to seize the road junction at first light, and the Middlesex Battalion then moved through them towards St. Johann. Their advance was strongly opposed and it became increasingly obvious that we were approaching the enemy main line of resistance. At about 10 o'clock,



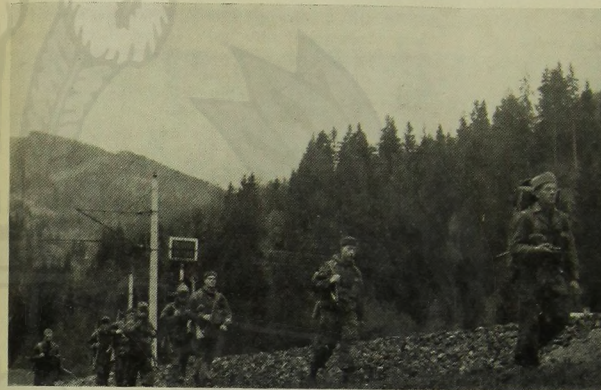
#### EXERCISE "MUDLARK"

No. 2 Platoon, "A" Company, by-passing a blown bridge. Pte. Major is on the covered pipe and Cpl. Boag and Pte. Yeams are watching him from the far side



#### EXERCISE "MUDLARK"

No. 1 Platoon, "A" Company, moving forward on a U.S. armored troop carrier  
Left to right: Sgt. Cubitt, Pte. Dixon, the Brazil twins and Cpl. Biggadike



#### EXERCISE "MUDLARK"

Company H.Q. advancing to new positions to dig in for the night. Left to right: Cpl. Martin, Ptes. Pritchard and Coppin, L/Cpl. Fulton, Ptes. Small, Harris, Newton and Kerr

just north of St. Johann, the advance came to a full stop. The enemy held a very strong position in great strength, and it was obvious that a major attack would be required to shift them. All now depended on the alternative route over the mountains. Permission was received to exchange our "paper" Battalion with the Camerons to allow this attack to be made with soldiers on the ground. While waiting for the Camerons to arrive the Adjutant took up a reconnaissance party in jeeps to examine the track. He probed far ahead and found the track defended. The reconnaissance party fought several sharp encounter battles, before the Adjutant confidently announced, "There are no enemy behind that bump," and advancing boldly to prove his assertion was promptly shot "dead." Fortunately, after 20 minutes in limbo, he was revived by a kindly umpire and permitted to continue his activities.

The Camerons arrived in the early afternoon, and with every available jeep and 4 x 4 vehicle started the long trek over the mountains. Their advance continued all night and was the most epic feat of the exercise. The track was practically non-existent, and led by the Adjutant, who virtually built a jeep-track as he went, they forced their way along. The jeep drivers, many of whom had had little sleep throughout the manoeuvre, responded magnificently, and by dawn they reached the entry to Saalfelden. At first light on Friday morning the attack was put in. Saalfelden being the main enemy supply base, the directing staff then decided that the Aggressor Force had achieved the unprecedented feat of winning the war, and the manoeuvre was called to a halt.

The exercise was over and our very tired composite forces planned the long return to their various camps. As the drivers, particularly the jeep drivers, were just about exhausted after a week of hard going, it was decided to do the journey in two stages: the first a short one of 50 miles to Stainach, and then on to Zellweg the next day. The wisdom of this decision was amply proved when on the first lap of the journey three accidents, luckily all comparatively minor, occurred. A good night's sleep and a not too early start on Saturday

enabled us to complete the journey without further mishap.

The Green Howards were less fortunate, and the terrible accident in which five men lost their lives cast a gloom over what had otherwise been a most enjoyable exercise. We extend our sympathy to them in their tragic loss.

It had been an enjoyable time, with plenty of movement and entertainment, good weather, and a week among some of the most majestically beautiful scenery in the world. Many useful lessons had been learned, and once more we had managed to prove that those old stand-bys, flexibility, mobility and surprise are more than a match for an enemy who is top-heavy with equipment. It was apparent at the final discussion of the exercise the following week that the Americans, too, had digested this lesson. We should like to end by thanking them for their co-operation and for enabling us to spend so pleasant a week in Salzburg.

#### Tailpiece

##### "B" Echelon or the Camp of Many Tents

I  
At the banquet table of "B" Echelon were wont to be served many costly meats: a chine of bully beef, chickens, jugged hare, cold tarts baked, a quart of ale, a quart of wine, whereof Sir Allott, the Quarterknight and the Commander of the goodly Company did partake.

One fair day, Sir Hewitt, whilst wearied of the fight at the Headquarters, did come to visit them in his equipage and after he had supped right royally did wend his way together with the other knights to fish with Fulminatum Americanum in ye nearby rivulet, so that many fishes were cast hind uppermost floating on the flood. One goodly knight, the Quarterknight, one over-eager in the search for provender, did nigh dive therein, plume foremost, in his endeavour, but was rescued by the fair Sir Allott ere half of him was wetted. Whereat the other goodly knights did make wassail and drink the heady brew 'til slumbers did them to their rest enjoin.



## II

Whereas two goodly fairies of beauteous mien, the Lady Hewitt (of ribald laugh) and Lady Martin through our tents did canter, with great plenty of rude literature ("Daily Looking Glass," etc.) to the great rejoicings of the people and after various repartees and interludes did depart to Castle Bady Ischl.

Whereunto, ere dusk did fall, so rumour hath it, the bold knight Sir Ormiston, in leather jerkin, shoes (no spurs), did thunder down the highway together with the goodly knights Sir Hewitt and Sir Martin, all choking in the dust from the bold knights' horses' hooves.

Wherein which aforesaid castles, these goodly knights and good dames did banquet and make merry 'til late the hour and high the moon, on viands and dry sherry.

## III

"But, Colonel, we can't put H.Q. here. The trains will keep us awake at night."

## "H.Q." COMPANY

Our whole attention has of late been focused on ski-training at Schmelz now that we have left the various post-"Mudlark" administrative problems in the background. As regards the latter, we almost got away with 20 miles of American signal cable. As it is, our most valued relic is the "space-man's" Aggressor helmet, kindly presented as a souvenir by our American Force Commander, with our Regimental crest and Roman fore and aft plume still in its pristine glory, the very sight of which makes us want to raise our hand and cry "Hail, Friends, Romans, Countrymen."

The first party of would-be skiers went up to Schmelz on December 2 for three weeks. In spite of there being no snow until two days before they were due to descend, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time going for long expeditions in the mountains or chopping wood for fuel. When Christmas came, many would have preferred to remain there, but it was decided to concentrate as many of the Battalion as possible for the general well being.

We welcome Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., back to the Battalion as Adjutant and congratulate 2/Lt. R. D. Fisher on being appointed to carry out the duties of Assistant Adjutant. Also L/Cpls. Sansom, Thickbroom and Wright on their appointments.

## Signal Platoon

There have been many changes in the Platoon since the last Journal. In particular, we have lost Sgt. Wright, Cpl. Moss and Pte. Taunton, all of whom have returned to Civvy Street. We wish them the best of luck. New-comers to our very high spirited Platoon are Ptes. Poet, Sparrow, Bishop, Askew, Newton, Scott, Cook, Lugg, Sullivan, and the R.S.O.'s batman, Pte. Coles, all of whom we are glad to say have settled in very well amongst the older members. We hope that they will be with us for some time to come.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Wheat, Forey, Colston, Fulton and Morley on their appointments and hope that they will be moving further up the ladder in time to come. At the end of October the Platoon participated

in Exercise "Mudlark," during which we worked in close conjunction with our very good friends the Americans. We are sorry to say that one of our D.R.s, Pte. Taunton, was involved in an accident in which he fractured his collar-bone, but he took it very calmly and recovered extremely quickly. During this most enjoyable exercise we managed to correct many little faults and on the whole things went smoothly. Our line parties had plenty to do and never had a dull moment, thanks to the good work of the line N.C.O.s, Cpl. Freeman and L/Cpl. Forey. The wireless section worked very well under the keen eyes and guidance of Cpl. Mead and L/Cpl. Colston, both of whom always had something interesting to transmit over the airwaves. Our congratulations to all who took part. Well done, lads!

At present we are very short-handed as so many of our number, including our Signal Officer, Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, are on leave in U.K. We hope that they are enjoying themselves and we eagerly await their return to hear their little tales.

We send our best wishes to all members, past and present, of the Signal Platoon and wish them all the very best of luck for the future. To past members we hope that we will be able to meet again some time to talk about "old times."

## Band

Much has been said and sung of Vienna. We find it difficult to add anything really original to the descriptions given in such cliché-ridden detail by some of our colleagues in this Notes business. Let us say that it is a nice place to be in (provided that one is in the super-tax class, likes garlic and has the constitution of a horse). Several of our members have at least two of these assets (the fabulous wealth of bandmen is common knowledge) and they enjoyed Vienna to its limit.

Our first job of work there (and we *did* work) was the changing of the International Guard. This we carried off with our customary élan, efficiency and profanity, but we were definitely overawed by the "plushiness" and size of the American band. They rolled up for rehearsal in large, sleek coaches, sported sunglasses and so on, and generally attempted to undermine our morale!

After the Changing of the Guard ceremony, we afforded the Americans the dubious pleasure of beating Retreat for them in their barracks. Our hosts gave us superb coffee and delicious apple-pie afterwards, claiming hypocritically the while that they had enjoyed the show. As a matter of fact, we think we had them thoroughly baffled all the way. Hymns, marches and anthems were played in such profusion that they were never quite sure whether they should be standing to attention or joining in the second chorus. This parade was later repeated for the benefit of the French Garrison. These charming people filled us with champagne afterwards, thus converting us to Francophiles in an amazingly short space of time.

During the remainder of our stay in Vienna we did several flag marches in co-operation with "S" Company, and gave a concert in the forecourt of the Schloss Schönbrunn.

## HANDING OVER THE INTERNATIONAL GUARD IN VIENNA, 31st OCTOBER, 1953



The Band and Drums march on prior to the ceremony

It was with regret that we said good-bye recently to Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., our well-respected Band President. He accompanied us on a tour to Mariazell and never missed a concert. Now he is a G.S.O.1 at H.Q., A.F.N.E., in Oslo, a well-merited promotion for him and a sad loss to us.

We welcome Sgt. Grogan, who has returned to the Band after a long absence. He has proved a tower of strength in our football and hockey teams. This opportunity may be taken to add that the Band is doing very well in the sporting world, although one Company did presume to claim the title of basket-ball champions while we were away in Vienna. This matter has now been dealt with. The game against "S" Company in Vienna was something of an occasion. It was the first time that our team has ever notched up over a hundred points in one game. The final score was 102-10.

Bdsm. Rose and Probert have returned from Kneller Hall, and in exchange we have sent them Bds. Christopher. Weight for weight, this was a fair deal, as "Podge" Christopher was laden with harmony books (as many as were not actually chained down).

Snow has definitely come to stay and many of us are practising assiduously on the nearby slopes of Spielberg. During the coming leave period, some of us are staying in Austria and several are hoping to try the steeper slopes of Schmelz. We hope the flowers won't be too expensive!

As we type these words, there is an odd feverish feeling in the air. Leave! We must go and think up a more convincing story to tell the Customs man.

## Corps of Drums

After completing the International Guard change-over in Vienna at the beginning of November, we returned to Zeltweg and became engaged once more in the trivial round of daily chores. The illiterates among us disappeared for a few weeks, only to re-appear with pseudo Oxford accents and brandishing large posters which proclaimed that they had satisfied an examining body that they were entitled to hold the honorary degree of 2nd or 3rd Class Army Education. All members except one who sat the exam. passed in their respective categories.

During this period of "Educating Archie" the remainder of us went to Schmelz. As Schmelz at that time represented the "Barren Rocks" (No. F Solo), we were forced to exercise our flabby muscles in cutting and hauling timber and climbing. However, the snow eventually put in an appearance and plenty of thrills (and spills) were experienced by all. Not content with an "Austrian Holiday," everyone then limped off to the U.K. for a spot of leave.

In our list of farewells we must not forget Drm. Ottaway, who in his short term of National Service not only passed as a 1st B Flute, but also attained the honour of being Adjutant's bugler. If he does as well in his present occupation of being articulated to a prominent firm of solicitors, we shall doubtless hear more of him in the future. We also bade farewell to Drm. Ilbury and Pte. Bennett, who have gone to the Depot, Cpl. Weeks has purchased his discharge, hoping that he will



do better in Civvy Street. For his sake we hope so, too, but we were sorry to see him go and wish him all the best in his new career.

Now we are back off leave and away to Vienna once more for another International Guard change. In conclusion we would like to wish all members of the Corps of Drums, past and present, all the very best in 1954.

#### "A" COMPANY

For "A" Company the principal events for the period October to December, 1953, have been Exercise "Mudlark," the Company's return to Vienna and, of course, Christmas.

On October 23 the Company moved to the Zeltweg assembly area and Exercise "Mudlark" had begun. In a message afterwards Gen. Arnold, C-in-C., U.S.F.A., spoke of the "outstanding performance" of the British element. In so far as he referred to "A" Company most praise must go to Major G. O. Porter and C.S.M. Wild for reinforcing with confidence the quite natural pride we already felt at being chosen, with valuable reinforcements from "B" Company, as the rifle company to represent the Battalion. To Major G. O. Porter for taking the Company on three preliminary schemes in which we were reminded how to deal with just the type of situation we later met on the exercise; and to C.S.M. Wild for his day-and-night-long cheerfulness and high spirits.

The tactical aspect of Exercise "Mudlark" has been reported elsewhere. While we learnt a great deal of value, "Mudlark" also had its lighter side, of which the U.S.F.A. Leaflet and Loudspeaker Unit unintentionally formed part. We were literally showered with opposition leaflets, one of which read "Don't be a sucker. Come over to the winning side while you can. Present this pass to the nearest Freeland and enjoy the rest of the manoeuvre in the sack." Fortunately no one was quite certain what the "sack" was. It is true that about this time 2/Lt. Beaumont and Sgt. Warner disappeared, but we found afterwards that they had been taken prisoner. There was, however, a tragic sequel to Exercise "Mudlark" when, on November 5, Sgt. Warner and three men of the Company represented the remainder at the funeral of those Green Howards who met accidental deaths whilst on their way back from the Exercise.

On December 1 the Company moved to Vienna, where "C" Company handed over the duties of Duty Company to us. Many of us had been to Vienna before, though for others this was a first tour of duty. Shortly after our arrival the Commanding Officer told us to prepare for the International Guard Changing Ceremony on February 1 and by the time these notes appear in print we shall have taken over from the Americans.

December passed as quickly as a week-end and Christmas was soon upon us. Greetings messages were exchanged between the Company and the Battalion, and on Boxing Day we kept the Battalion flag flying by beating the R.M.P. 2-0 at comic football. On Christmas Day there was a less decisive mêlée on the football pitch between some people calling themselves the "Woes and Joes." In the evening the Garrison

held an All Ranks Ball. On Boxing Day the C.S.M. and Sergeants gave a party (organised by the visiting Sergeant Steward) for the officers and N.C.O.s of the Company, and afterwards the N.C.O.s were the guests of the R.M.P. at a stag party. Later the Company was host to the rest of the Garrison and many civilians at a New Year's Ball. Our sincere thanks were given to the Cook Sergeant and his staff for the particularly high standard of their meals throughout Christmas.

At the end of October Lt. I. G. Thomas arrived from West Africa and took over the duties of Company 2IC, which appointment had been long vacant. On October 15 we took on strength another draft from the Queen's. When they exchanged the Paschal Lamb for our dual-coloured flash, ducal coronet, feathers and victor's laurels we found that we had not merely increased our numbers, but that the Company had received new talents and abilities and had added to its strength and character. On December 6 we received a well-trained draft from the Depot, always a welcome event. Apart from the comings there have also been goings. "A" Company and C/Sgt. Burgess had seemed inseparable. When he finally left us we felt things would just not be the same and the only relief to an otherwise mournful occasion was that he left us in the capable hands of Sgt. Breame. On the same day Sgt. Steward was posted to "D" Company. We were sorry to see him go. Sgt. Steward has long been a pillar of strength—or perhaps a flying buttress—in the Company and we were delighted when he remembered this at Christmas and paid us a visit. We have also lost Cpl. Boag, Ptes. Elliott, Owen, Riley, Skinner and Quinn, the latter to the Green Howards, and a substantial group of National Servicemen. Our best wishes go with them.

L/Cpl. Spenceley was recently graded "B" on an Assistant Instructors' P.T. Course at Aldershot, and Cpl. Muirhead took second place in a Battalion Weapon Training Cadre. These are two very good results, and Cpl. Partridge recently made a third, when he was graded "B" on a Hythe Platoon Weapons Course. While handing out bouquets, we congratulate C/Sgt. Breame, Sgt. Warner, Cpls. Biggadike, Littlejohn, Muirhead, Martin and Redmond on their promotions and L/Cpl. Peck on his appointment.

In the realm of sport, the Company was placed only fourth in the seven-a-side Rugby competition held on November 25, in spite of the fact that we have three very good players in 2/Lt. D. E. Lobb, Cpl. Martin and Pte. Evers, all of whom played for the Battalion.

Our boxing, too, was rather erratic. Partly owing to a bad run of injuries in training (including a broken nose for Cpl. Lagden) the team for the Novices boxing competition was not as strong as we had hoped, and again we only came fourth. In the inter-Company boxing competition we were more fortunate. Pte. Rogers had put in some hard work as the team's trainer and star, and preliminary injuries were kept to a minimum. Pte. Butcher (lightweight) and Ptes. Finch and Rogers (welterweights) were all champions in their class. As a result we took second place, five points behind "B" Company. Ptes. Finch, Reading and Rogers afterwards trained and fought for the Battalion team.

The highlight of the Company's basketball was No. 3 Platoon's easy victory in the inter-platoon basketball competition. The Company's strong players are C.S.M. Wild, Cpl. Martin and, the latest addition, Cpl. Redmond. These three helped the Company in its Vienna victories against the R.M.P. and Royal Signals.

Cpl. Martin retained his position in the Battalion 1st football XI. Ptes. Wheat and Drewett have also represented the Battalion. Pte. Drewett took over the captaincy of the Company team, and led it to victory in three out of its five soccer fixtures in Vienna, when we beat the Garrison, F.S. Vienna, R.A.F. Schwechat (revengeing ourselves for 5-1 and 5-2 defeats last summer) and were in turn beaten by the R.M.P. (6-2) and the Royal Signals (2-0).

Major G. O. Porter has played back, and Pte. Drewett has kept an almost impregnable goal, for the Battalion hockey team. Our only hockey fixture in Vienna was against Intelligence Organisation, who beat us 3-0 in a game which was not so one-sided as the score suggests.

2/Lt. G. J. Riches, the Company Sports Officer, arranged a series of inter-platoon matches for the Company, with the object of finding an over-all winning platoon for the Company sports cup. So far the hockey and football have been played off and Company H.Q. and No. 1 Platoon share first place. But the over-all competition will remain undecided until the Company returns to Zeltweg and the basket-ball and .22 shooting are completed.

Heavy snow has now shut down most sports. The Company has therefore been concentrating on ski-ing and indoor activities, such as basket-ball and musketry. By the end of January every member will have taken a really first-class ski course and most of us will have done some serious ski-ing on the slopes at Ober St. Veit, on the edge of the Vienna Woods. We are looking forward eagerly to winter training at Schmelz soon after our return to Zeltweg in early February.

Over the last three months C.S.M. Wild and the Company Sports Officer have concentrated on turning every member of the Company into at least an average sportsman. It has been ensured that every soldier has made full use of the excellent sporting facilities that exist here in Vienna and at Zeltweg. We hope later to reap the benefit of this diligent training. We are also fortunate in having one or two outstanding all-rounders, such as Cpl. Martin and Pte. Drewett, and specialists, such as Lt. Thomas (hockey) and Pte. Rogers (boxing). At present we lie third in the race for the Albuhera Shield and we are confident of our chances in the final outcome.

#### "B" COMPANY

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards*, the Company has spent a varied three months.

The Colour Presentation filled most of our time in the previous quarter, so in the current one we did something very different. First we put our brains and hands together and built an indoor riding school in one of the hangars which surround the airstrip. Everything had to be "acquired" and eventually the thing was successfully built, since when Major Chattey and Capt.

Hodge have spent much of their time inveigling all sorts and conditions of persons to try the hazards of riding.

While we were engaged in this project our Company boxing team were training like mad for the Novices and inter-Company competitions. The amount of subterfuge and hard work put in by the team were well worth the effort, as we ran out winners in both competitions, thereby winning the Boxing Shield and gaining valuable points towards the Albuhera Shield.

Our next endeavour was Exercise "Mudlark," the American Autumn Manoeuvre, for which we supplied a large contingent for "A" Company, and also the Battalion (or rather Brigade) H.Q. defence platoon. 2/Lt. Vince went off to umpire and although the exercise only lasted five days, he somehow managed to spend over a fortnight with the Americans!

From then on, thoughts turned to Christmas and "an enjoyable time was had by all." In the somewhat hilarious "winter sports" on Christmas Eve, C/Sgt. Perry was excellently portrayed in snow, and the Sergeant-Major managed to hit Capt. Hodge 35 times in three minutes in the snowball duel. Admittedly the range was only ten yards.

At the time of writing, the Company is at Schmelz and all ranks are learning to ski with varying degrees of success. So far the Company Commander holds the record for making "sitzmarks" and is an acknowledged expert in regaining his feet! We hope as a result of our three weeks here to enter a team in the B.T.A. ski competitions.

An item of interest to all ex-members of the Company is the reintroduction of the "B" Company Bell. The original bell which was lost in Hong Kong in 1941, has been replaced by a magnificent brass one which was polished and turned by 2/Lt. Green, and now adorns the entrance of the Company Office for all the world to see.

During this quarter, we have lost two stalwarts of the Company, Sgts. Colebeck and Breame, who have both left on promotion to C/Sergeant. 2/Lt. Green has returned to the R.E.M.E., and in his place we welcome 2/Lt. Sibley.

To all those who have left us we wish the best of good fortune in all their endeavours wherever they may be.

#### "C" COMPANY

At the end of November our two months' stay in Vienna as Duty Company drew to an inevitable close and we returned, albeit somewhat reluctantly, to the familiar mountain isolation of Zeltweg. Our memories of Vienna are as varied as they are colourful. Such places as the Tuxedo Club and various other establishments around the Mariahilfer Strasse placed a serious drain upon our pockets. Although some well-known figures were seen driving up to barracks in taxis, and even a venerable fiacre perhaps, they soon learned to their discomfort that the Viennese taxi driver does not respond to the same treatment as a Chinese coolie.

Several conducted tours were arranged by the Company Commander to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, and transport was also made available for trips to the thickly-forested Wienerwald to the west of the city.



Unfortunately, however, owing to the time of the year, we were unable to arrange a circular trip on the Danube by motor boat, as we had hoped, or visit the sewers of "Third Man" fame. Nevertheless, our nearness to Schloss Schönbrunn and the Inner Town made it possible for us to visit most of the principal places of interest before we left.

In November, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell left the Company to become O.C. Training Company at the Regimental Depot. Capt. Flavell was a very keen organiser of the Company athletics and his departure is also a serious loss to the Company hockey team, of which he was one of the stalwarts. Capt. M. F. Leonard became 2IC of the Company on his return from a Company Commanders' course at the School of Infantry.

Whilst the rest of the Battalion were occupied with Exercise "Mudlark," the Company peacefully took part in the sporting life of the Vienna Garrison, meeting many new opponents. Among others, we played hockey and soccer against the Royal Signals, Intelligence Organisation, Field Security, the R.A.F. at Schwechat, and the Garrison Adjutant's XI. Whilst in Vienna 2/Lt. Gedye enthusiastically coached the Company boxing team who, it may be added, much to their embarrassment, were provided with a daily pint of milk out of Company funds. Despite the fact that we secured second place in the Novices competition, we came only fourth in the inter-Company boxing. Although we had no individual winners in any weight in the latter competition, we congratulate the following on being selected to train for the Battalion boxing team: L/Cpl. Simons, Ptes. Cooper, Blackwell, Harrison and Gaylor. In the Albuhera Shield Competition for boxing we tied with "A" Company for third place.

2/Lts. Gedye and Crumley and Pte. Shipway were selected to represent the Battalion in a friendly Rugby match against the 1st Green Howards at Graz on November 14, which the Battalion won 17-9. On November 21 several members of the Company played for Vienna Garrison in the Rugby match against the Battalion 1st XV, which Vienna Garrison lost 9-0. By November 27 we occupied second place in the Albuhera Shield competition.

A number of the Company attended dry shod ski courses in the garrison gymnasium and discovered that ski-ing was not one of the easiest of accomplishments. One figure in particular, renowned for his smart and soldier-like manner on the drill square, collapsed into intricate knots on the ski ramp.

On Remembrance Day the Company attended a service of Remembrance in the garrison gymnasium. The Last Post was sounded by Dmr. Ottaway, who also attended the service in the British Embassy Church. H.E. Sir Harold Caccia, K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador and High Commissioner in Austria, was present. Shortly after the service an American lady telephoned the Company to thank us for what she described as "a moving and inspiring service." Towards the end of our stay we were visited by the G.O.C.-in-C., Maj.-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, C.B., D.S.O., who inspected the Company block and watched an internal security demonstration by No. 9 Platoon.

Several weeks of hard work followed our return to Zeltweg whilst taking over the Company accommodation, and we were soon furnishing men to meet the innumerable garrison needs. The Company was called upon to build an ice skating rink for the Battalion out on a flooded part of the tarmac near the airfield, and we have been doing our best to maintain it ever since.

It was with the greatest regret that on December 18 we saw the departure of our Company Commander, Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., to take up an appointment with H.Q. A.F.N.E. at Oslo. All ranks enjoyed a pleasant farewell social on the evening of the 17th to mark the occasion and to express our best wishes to him on his new appointment. Major Battye, himself an excellent shot, will be remembered for his captaincy of the Company shooting team, which he led to victory at Warmbad in the inter-Company shoot, and also for his captaincy of the Battalion team which did so well in the B.T.A. Rifle Meeting. He was a keen and hardy swimmer and swam for the Company team when we won the inter-Company swimming relay trophy and the swimming shield. He also excelled as a hockey player, normally at left back, in the Company teams at Vienna and Zeltweg. Capt. M. F. Leonard has assumed command of the Company until the return from the School of Infantry course of Major A. J. de S. Clayton, who is to be our new Company Commander.

With the arrival of some long-awaited snow we have been able to do some ski-ing on the more gentle slopes near the airfield. Some rather original winter potted sports were organised on a Battalion basis on Christmas Eve and Pte. Day and a group of willing helpers worked hard to build a huge "Abominable Snowman." The afternoon ended in a huge snowball fight. Ski-ing has already caused a considerable number of injuries in the Company. L/Cpl. Melton was unfortunate enough to break his leg and Mrs. Bartle, the wife of our C.Q.M.S., broke her wrist. We wish them both a speedy recovery. All and sundry seem to be suffering from sprains and bruises of some kind or another. Under the supervision of the C.S.M. we have been building a curling rink outside the NAAFI buildings, and all we now need is some tuition from the Austrians in how to play the game.

In Vienna the Company .22 shooting team was able to make full use of a miniature range and obtained some valuable practice. Under 2/Lt. Grobel's coaching the Company gained first place in the B.T.A. Miniature Range competition for December. We congratulate the following who formed the team: 2/Lt. Grobel, C/Sgt. Bartle, Cpls McIntosh, Hart and Dyson, L/Cpl. Lamony, Ptes. Warrington and Coleman. When all our teams are back from leave we hope to do even better in the future.

We have taken part in several Battalion hockey matches and in the six-a-side competition. The most vigorous games were the three which we played against the C.O.'s team when we won the first match but lost the other two 1-0. The Company team was composed of Capt. M. F. Leonard, C.S.M. McMillan, C/Sgt. Bartle, Sgt. Potter, Cpl. Dyson, Ptes. Bentley, Coleman, Snutch, Redmond and Fullman.

Christmas was spent in the traditional way, and

notwithstanding our remoteness the Company had a most enjoyable time at Zeltweg. Capt. Leonard and Pte. Shipway read two of the selected lessons in the garrison Church service. Several sporting events took place during the Christmas holidays, but what the results were nobody seems to remember. Those who "volunteered" for carol singing gave a lusty version of the well-known songs, and a group full of the Christmas spirit serenaded the Sergeants' Mess.

A serious fire which broke out in the NAAFI buildings occupied the Company for several hours, and some over zealous fire fighters overcome by the smoke had to be dragged out of the blaze.

The Company is now looking forward to three weeks' ski-ing at Schmelz and, in a few months, to spending another period in Vienna.

### "D" COMPANY

With the arrival of the Battalion in Austria it was decided that "D" Company should become the home of the "attached." In other words, it was to administer all the minor sub-units of the Garrison. In addition, the Company was given the responsibility of "fathering" the civilian labour, administering cadres, operating the cinema, looking after the church, maintaining the miniature range and many other of the odd jobs that develop in an isolated station such as Zeltweg.

At present the Company includes the staffs of the G.E., R.T.O., Army Post Office, Army Fire Service, Army Guard Dog Unit, F.S.S., an Ammunition Section of R.A.O.C., a R.E.M.E. Recovery Section and the Education Centre. A very mixed Company, but one which has in the last few months welded together well, and has taken a more active part in the affairs of the Battalion than in the past. Hence this contribution to the Journal.

The Company was first commanded by Capt. R. A. Hodge who, on his departure to "B" Company, handed over to Major N. MacL. Martin, our present Company Commander. C.S.M. Firman, an original member of the Company, has now handed over to C.S.M. Goodge and will shortly be leaving the Battalion to join the permanent staff of the 7th Battalion. The Company is very grateful to him for his hard work, and wish him the best of luck in his next appointment. We welcome C/Sgt. Colebeck, who joined us on promotion from "B" Company in September. Mention must also be made of Pte. Sacker, the Company Clerk, a well-known character in the Battalion for his photographic activities, and of L/Cpl. Wallen and Pte. Berrill, who have so successfully operated the camp cinema.

Sport in the Company began with the entering of a team for the inter-company seven-a-side hockey competition, in which we were only narrowly defeated by a strong "A" Company side, which eventually reached the finals. A team was also entered for an inter-platoon football competition which, unfortunately, was not completed. Of the three games we played, however, we won two and drew one. Cpl. Rudd of the A.F.S., L/Cpl. Aird of the G.E. staff and Pte. Ilbury of Company H.Q. contributed towards these successes, and Pte. Ilbury has also represented the Battalion on more than one occasion.

We are now competing in the six-a-side indoor hockey league and results so far have been generally satisfactory, though it is fair to say that were it not for leave they would have been even better.

In the enthusiastic and very capable hands of C.S.M. Goodge the Company .22 shooting team is achieving most encouraging results. In the first month's shoot we secured third place in the Battalion. We have now obtained our own rifles and have great hopes of the future. The team in the first shoot comprised C.S.M. Goodge, Sgt. Frost, R.E. (R.T.O.), Cpl. Bunnage, R.E. (A.P.O.), L/Cpl. Aird, R.E. (G.E.), Pte. Sacker, Mx., Pte. Gibson, Mx., Pte. McLeary, Mx. and Pte. Bockhart, Mx.

In the inter-platoon basket-ball competition (won by "A" Company) Sgt. Raab, R.A.E.C., and Ptes. Bockhart and Ilbury, Mx., played for the winning team, as for certain sports we are eligible to play for the numerically weakest rifle company. In the rugby inter-company seven-a-side competition Sgts. Raab, Perrins and Lewis, R.A.E.C., played for "A" Company (who were runners-up) and they also represented the Battalion in the few games played before Christmas.

In conclusion of this, our first contribution, may we wish all past and present members of "D" Company every success in 1954.

### "S" COMPANY

The most important period covered by this issue of the Journal was the time we spent in Vienna as the International Guard Company. The Band and Drums were attached to the Company and contributed enormously to the success that was achieved. We started our public duties on October 1, when we, as the British Guard, took over from the Americans outside the Palace of Justice. Our duties ended on October 31, when we handed over to the French outside the Hofburg Palace. On both these occasions the Guard was commanded by Major G. B. Ayre and Lt. W. M. M. Deacock carried the Regimental Colour. Excluding the Band and Drums under Bandmaster Jackson and Drum Major Padley, there were almost one hundred rank and file on parade, in addition to Lt. J. I. D. Pike, C.S.M. Budden and C.Q.M.S. Kenrick. Sgts. Dive, Walters and Moyse provided the Colour Escorts. During our month of guard duties we found ten guards of honour, beat Retreat on four occasions, gave a band concert at Schönbrunn Palace, held two parade services, and carried out two flag marches through the British sector. These were in addition to the guards which were mounted daily in the Hofburg Palace, Palace of Justice, and the Allied Control Building. Our time was therefore fully occupied, but in spite of the strain on N.C.O.s, who were almost continuously on one duty or another, it was a most profitable and pleasant experience, and one which we should welcome again. Some of these occasions are worth recounting in some detail, the first being the beating of Retreat in the American Barracks. This took place on October 7 in the presence of a number of soldiers from the Regiment and a company of Americans drawn from their Police Battalion which is the equivalent of our Corps of Royal Military Police. The



American General Officer Commanding Vienna was present with some of his staff, and after the ceremony we were all entertained in the American canteen, where we supped on large quantities of apple tart and coffee.

The next day we repeated the performance in the French Barracks in front of an audience consisting of the French General Officer Commanding Vienna and a number of families. Afterwards, we were most generously entertained on champagne and petit fours, something of a novelty for most of the young Middlesex soldiers who were present. They thought it was an excellent idea, and one with which the NAAFI might experiment with undoubted success.

On October 9 when the Band beat Retreat in Schönbrunn Barracks the spectators included the Foreign Office Mission which was spending 10 days in Austria studying international problems, many British families among whom were Major and Mrs. Nash, he being an officer in the Regiment now on the staff of the Intelligence Organisation, and about 100 American soldiers. The following day we provided a full guard of



The "Old Guard" ("S" Company) presents arms in a Royal salute

honour for the retiring French General Officer Commanding Vienna, and were congratulated by the four Allied Commanders on our drill and turnout. The greater ordeal was struggling in schoolboy French at the reception which followed, and, as on many other occasions in Vienna, we discovered that there is a limit as to how long one can converse about the garden or the pen of one's aunt not being black! The flag marches which we carried out on October 13 and 17 were very popular with the Austrians, who cheered loudly when the Band played the Radetzky, Kaiserjäger and Deutschesmeister Regiments marches. We invariably timed

these marches to coincide with thickly-populated shopping centres, and even the tram drivers were prepared to accept a little delay in their timetables.

Our final public duty was on Saturday, October 31, when we handed over the International Guard to the French. This ceremony was held for the first time outside the Hofburg Palace, and in spite of inclement weather during the week the sun rose and shone on this occasion. The whole ceremony took approximately one and a half hours and started with the Band and Drums marching and counter-marching in front of the Palace. The British Guard marched across the front of the Palace to take up its position. The French Guard followed, being led by their Band and Drums. They were all drawn from a battalion of Chasseurs Alpins and looked very smart in their large black berets and white spats. They were commanded by an officer with an amazing fighting record. He was highly decorated and had been wounded four times, each time by a different nation—the Germans in Italy, the Americans



ANTI-TANK PLATOON CADRE. November, 1953—January, 1954

Back row (left to right): Ptes. York, Green, Owen, Kent, Downey, Reynolds, Riley, Joyce  
Third row (left to right): Ptes. Wright, Falcini, Prestidge, Jenkins, Evans (13), Skinner, Evans (37)  
Second row (left to right): Ptes. Lipscombe, Walters, Hayden, Chandler, Hawkins, Brown, Dunkley, Bishop  
Seated (left to right): L/Cpl. Dixon, Cpl. Bourke, Capt. J. I. D. Pike (Platoon Commander), Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C.  
(O.C. "S" Company), Sgt. Moyse, Cpl. Bunce, Cpl. Forcey

The all-round standard was high.

With the double aim of imparting a certain amount of knowledge and at the same time ensuring that officers spent at least two nights of the month in barracks, two campaign studies were run for officers, W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s of the Guard and Duty Companies. The first was on El Alamein, the producer being Lt. W. M. M. Deacock; the second was run by Lt. J. I. D. Pike and covered the "D" Day landings and the "break out" battle in Normandy. Both were very well organised, and full use was made of the sand model which was most suitable for the desert battle, and cleverly adapted for Normandy. The object of these evening studies was not so much to criticise the lessons from each, but to demonstrate exactly what happened, and a considerable amount of reading and research was required by the officers responsible for running them.

On the lighter side we had two most successful socials. The first was given by the Mortar Platoon in a Viennese pub, where the guests were C.S.M. and Mrs. Budden, Mrs. Walters and Major Ayre. Talent

was unlimited and everyone was ordered to sing or recite. A large glass boot was acquired from somewhere by L/Cpl. Osborne, and eventually paid for and presented to the Mortar Platoon as a souvenir. The second was a combined "S" Company and Band and Drums social held in the NAAFI and the guests included Brigadier E. A. Howard, the British Commander in Vienna, Major G. C. Dawson, who until March was serving in the Battalion and is now Garrison Adjutant, Vienna, and Major Nash of whom mention has already been made. Brigadier Howard very kindly presented the prizes for the inter-platoon American tournament and the .22 shooting competition. Great credit was due to C.S.M. Budden and C.Q.M.S. Kenrick for running such a successful evening, but it was not long before they lost control and the evening ran itself. Each platoon produced and acted in a small sketch, the funniest of which was "The Buzzing Bee" in which the stooge was played by the C.S.M., the tall bee by L/Cpl. Dunn (Company pay clerk) and the short bee by Pte. Bell (Company office clerk). Once again every-



one, including the guests, had to sing, and there was keen rivalry between the Privates and the Sergeants in the inter-rank competition.

We were fortunate enough to be able to hold two parade services, at which the Band played. On both occasions the service was conducted by the Rev. Masters, Chaplain to the British Embassy.

So ended a most pleasant month in Vienna and with our morale high but pockets empty we returned to Zeltweg on November 4. However, they were waiting for us, and no time was lost in getting down to the usual duties and fatigues, the most interesting being that we are caretakers of the Battalion Ski-ing School at Schmelz.

Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., who as M.T.O. is also part of "S" Company, is staff officer ski-ing and skating, but one feels that his main reason for putting so many men on ice at the Winterleiten pool is so that he can start fishing a little earlier than otherwise might be possible. Lt. W. M. M. Deacock led the advance up the mountain, and he and his "sherpas" at once got down to the job of organising and equipping the Winter Sports Camp.

On return from Vienna rumour had been rife that the Mortar Platoon would be going to Schmelz to start the ski-ing camp. Having been assured that we would be leaving on December 10 it was no great surprise to find ourselves on the move on November 23. The composition of the party was basically the Mortar Platoon with all other available members of the Company less the Anti-Tank Platoon. The administration party duly arrived and eventually the snowmobiles arrived, too! Clad in every stitch of winter clothing it took little time to discover that in spite of the temperature being below freezing point the sun was so brilliant that shirt sleeve order was the dress during daylight. The work to be done was comprehensive and varied, and often at the outset work continued out of Union-hours and until seven or eight o'clock. Experience was gained of the dependence of the forward troops upon the administration and stores at base, and on the whole we were well looked after. Provision of quarters for the expected visitors from rifle companies, sorting of accommodation stores, ferrying and stacking of wood and a host of other details had to be attended to plus, of course, the preparation and writing of many orders.

On December 10 the first men from "H.Q." Company arrived and since there was no snow and the weather was still kind, a programme of alternate days of mountain walking and wood scavenging was adopted. Suffice it to say that many soldiers experienced the joys of climbing mountains, an activity they had formerly viewed with mistrust; and some soldiers and officers developed into quite hopeful lumberjacks judging that vertical timber as compared to horizontal timber is quite irresistible. Our fitness prospered, our wood supplies increased and our appetites knew no bounds.

Quite soon Schmelz camp opened separate Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and these "houses" were appropriately "warmed." The soldiers' recreation room, run by the P.R.I., got into its stride under the

able guidance of Sgt. Dive, and apart from "char" and "wads" occasional beefsteak, egg and chip meals found their place on the menu, usually as a result of Lt. Deacock's periodical liaison/food foray expeditions to Zeltweg.

On December 14 Lt. Deacock departed to the Low Country for Christmas leave and Lt. Hayward was welcomed as the new Camp Commandant. Perhaps it was the effect of Lt. Hayward's undoubtedly "ski-worthy" clothing as opposed to Lt. Deacock's "walk-worthy" kit that worked the oracle. In any case the snow came. Simultaneously transport returned to base at 2359 hrs. one night and snow mobiles made their appearance.

Schmelz is now in full swing for ski-ing and most of the original pioneers have returned to the so-called comforts of Zeltweg.

During the first month at Schmelz many visits were paid, and one whom we were most pleased to see was Lt. Weller from the Depot. From Mill Hill to Schmelz is not only a long way but also a great transition.

Many of the administrative party and ski pupils expressed a desire to spend the Christmas period at Schmelz. Subsequently permission for this was given and quite a large party remained for the festivities. A true seasonal effect was obtained by the snow and the many local Christmas trees, and the traditional Christmas fare, in spite of some difficulties, finally arrived to complete a memorable celebration. This was probably the first time any of the participants had Christmas-tide at over 5,000 ft.

We close on the inevitable note of hail and farewell for C.S.M. Budden has just left Zeltweg for England to take over the duties of C.S.M. of the Depot, and we congratulate C/Sgt. Kenrick on his promotion to C.S.M. of the Company in his stead. To both we wish the best of luck.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Before embarking upon the "Tales of Zeltweg Garrison Sergeants' Mess, October to December, 1953," we must, on behalf of the members of the Mess, welcome C/Sgt. Goodge and Sgt. Turner from the U.K. and Sgts. Grogan, Power, Callaghan, Warner, Gibbs and Haffenden on their promotion. We also congratulate C/Sgt. Goodge on his promotion to W.O.2 and Sgts. Bream and Colebeck on theirs to C/Sergeant. During the quarter we have also had to say our fond, or otherwise, farewells to Frank Redpath who, unfortunately, had to be repatriated on medical grounds, to Sgts. Preston and Beale, also to the U.K., to Sgt. Wright 77, who has gone to face the rigours of Civvy Street, to Sgt. Stone, who somehow managed to obtain an E.R.E. posting in Graz and, last but not least, to C.S.M. Budden and his wife who left us for the Depot early in the New Year. It seems that Austria just had to have a last dig at C.S.M. Budden since the train on which he was travelling to the Hook was held up for some considerable time by an avalanche of the "white death" somewhere near Salzburg. No doubt a fatigue party was soon organised to dig them out as, in spite of the snow, the train was no more than a few hours late in arriving at the Hook.

The weather has, of course, been absolutely atrocious. No London smog could have been worse than our own particular brand which plagued this area during October and November, bringing with it the colds and chills so prevalent at this time of the year. By far the luckiest were those who were chosen to be the advance party for Schmelz. At that height they were well above the fog level and could spend most of their days in the sun, whereas at Zeltweg we were lucky if the sun managed to break through at all. With December came the snow—a little at first just to get us all accustomed to the look and feel of it, and then in ever-increasing falls till now we are about 2 ft. under. Naturally, everyone looked forward to the snow and now we are amidst skiing, skating, curling, sledging, snow fights and a host of other fine things.

Several sergeants, including Sgts. Walters, Dive, Stone, Gibbs, Walden, Steward and Smith have already spent some time at Schmelz and have either returned as fairly competent skiers or have decided, in view of their inability to remain on their feet, to give up the bottle for good. C.S.M. Thom, who was thoroughly enjoying his stay there has unfortunately sprained his knee and ankle and has had to return to base camp, where he spends all day in bed reading. On his return a rumour that wolves had been seen at Schmelz went the rounds, but in view of the lack of female company there this seems highly improbable.

Sport in the past quarter has been curtailed due to the weather, but Sgt. Grogan soon found his place in the Battalion soccer team, and Sgts. Thorogood, Lewis, Perrins and Raab have played several times for the Battalion Rugby XV. The Sergeants' Mess hockey team has so far done very well in the six-a-side tournament which is being played on the indoor pitch laid out in one of the hangars. Sgt. Ellis entered for the inter-Company boxing competition and was awarded the cup for the pluckiest loser. We all congratulate him on a very good, clean fight and hope that no permanent damage was done. This little paragraph would not be complete without some mention of the Battalion dancing classes which were organised in November partly for the troops and partly for the benefit of those of us who, until then, found a dance a perfectly good excuse for a "session." C.S.M. Thom has proved himself to be a forceful dancing master and several sergeants have been to classes (possibly the wives had something to do with the large number of married men who put in an appearance) and can now manage quite successfully to "get round the floor" without too many accidents.

As usual, no quarter can be said to have been a good one unless some excuse is found for a "binge," and this last quarter has given us even more opportunities than usual.

The first was instigated by 11th Independent Field Squadron R.E., who said that rather than go about dewy-eyed for a week or two before their departure they would rather have one evening set aside when everyone could cry on everyone else's shoulder and tell them what good chaps they all were. The R.E.s' farewell party was a terrific success, everyone shedding so many tears that they had to resort to drink to put some liquid back into their systems. Not to be outdone,

the Battalion members then said that they, too, must have a farewell party to say good-bye to the R.E.s, and the following week, on November 28, another "occasion" took place. The R.S.M. made a short speech, saying how pleasant had been our association and how sorry we were to see them leave, and to commemorate the occasion a shield with miniature silver shields round the edge was presented to the S.S.M., Mr. Crozier. S.S.M. Crozier replied with a few well-chosen words.

Next came what is known as the Christmas period. Anything from December 1 to February 1 is recognised as falling in this period, although the Mess was quite content after their recent indulgences to let things slide until December 24, when the annual Christmas draw and dance was held. In between pints C.S.M. Pike pulled out the odd number here and there and with annoying frequency another member of the Entertainments Committee announced that the prize had either been won by one of the Committee or by C.S.M. Pike himself. The evening was a great success. Those of us who could still walk set off on a tour of the Married Quarters on the following morning, before going to the cookhouse to serve the men's dinner, after which we all went our separate ways since all living-in members had been invited out to have Christmas dinner with the married members. In the evening a circular tour operated again, and the poor wives found that as fast as they pushed one lot out of the back door, another lot came hammering at the front.

The one other thing of major importance at this time was the fact that, rather ironically, the R.Q.M.S., who is so used to "receiving," was chosen to play Father Christmas at the annual children's parties and had to do the thing that breaks the hearts of all R.Q.s—that is to *give something away*. All the same, he must be congratulated on doing a fine job. We had no sooner got over our Christmas festivities than the New Year was upon us, and in the usual way we celebrated by holding a dance on New Year's Eve. This was a great success and, once again, the Cook Sergeant, Sgt. Medlock, must be congratulated on the excellent buffet he prepared. In recognition of his services the Colonel, on behalf of the members of the Sergeants' Mess, presented him with a bottle of whisky. It did not last very long. . . . Another highlight of the evening came when Mr. Perry of Knittelfeld, an Englishman domiciled in this area, presented the Mess with a splendid clock. The presentation was given, he said, in view of the many kindnesses he had received from the Mess. Any kindness shown to him in the Mess has, however, been amply repaid many times over as, on almost every occasion on which Mr. Perry visits the Mess with his wife, he brings some valuable little piece of jewellery to be given as a "spot prize," and on New Year's Eve everyone in the Mess received a little lucky charm with which to start the New Year.

Apart from the burst pipes in some of the Married Quarters that have been left unoccupied since the departure of the Field Squadron, there is very little to report, except that the snow has made all the gardens look exactly the same, whether cultivated or not. Those of us who are not gardeners therefore have a little respite



from the taunts of those who are, at least until such time as the thaw comes. We do, however, extend a hearty welcome to the wives of the W.O.s and Sergeants of 60 Company R.A.S.C., who have now nearly all arrived. Let us hope that we shall be seeing them all at the whist drives, etc., with their husbands in the very near future.

The Mess has recently bought a new radio, 10 record gramophone player, loudspeaker and pick-up, which has cost us about £54. This is a change from all the second-hand radios we have bought in the past, and our only worry is whether or not we can stay out of England for the next 18 months and so avoid paying the purchase tax on it.

## SPORTS

### Rugby Football

Opportunities for playing rugby are limited in Austria by the weather, and this necessitates the season being played in two halves. So far we have completed the first half of the season most successfully, losing only one match and winning four.

The season started late in September with an inter-company seven-a-side competition, won by "S" Company, which served as a useful talent-spotting trial. Throughout October, the absence of "C" and "S" Companies in Vienna handicapped our training for the first round of the B.T.A. knock-out competition, although our "A" XV in Zeltweg played two friendlies against 11 Independent Field Squadron R.E. On November 7, after only a week's training as a team, we played The Royal Signals in Klagenfurt in the B.T.A. knock-out and lost a disappointing match 3-11; it was a matter of experience and fitness triumphing over enthusiasm and good individual play. L/Cpl. Martin scored our only try and played a good game throughout, but on the whole the three-quarters were outclassed. Amongst the forwards Lts. Deacock and Pollard, 2/Lt. Lobb and Pte. Pride broke through on occasions only to find themselves without support.

With no further interest in the knock-out competition, the team has recovered from what can only have been a fit of nerves and has gone from strength to strength, defeating The Green Howards 17-9 in Graz and Vienna Garrison in Vienna 9-0. The most promising of this year's additions to the team are Pte. Tate at scrum-half, Pte. Kent (fly-half) and Ptes. Butters and Elliott amongst the forwards. Leave, however, is a constant drain on our resources and we were never able to field the same team for any two matches. L/Cpl. Martin was unfortunate in having to give up rugby in favour of soccer, and his place has been filled by Pte. Dixon.

A fitting end to the first half of the season was the Albuhera seven-a-side competition played at Zeltweg on a very hard pitch, but in exceptionally fine weather. It was won by "H.Q." Company, who defeated "C" Company in the final. The standard throughout was high and it is most encouraging to note the number of people playing rugby in the Battalion this season without detriment to the soccer XI. One reason for this has been the inter-platoon novices ten-a-side league introduced in Vienna and now a favourite at Zeltweg.

Only three rules are enforced—offside, passing forward and handling in the scrum. The other reason is the enthusiasm shown by Company representatives in getting their men out and showing them the game. "H.Q." Company proved in the sevens how easy it is to learn the game, their two outstanding players being Cpl. Freeman, the Battalion soccer captain, and Cpl. Stevens, one of the gladiators of the basketball team.

The following have played for the Battalion this season:

**Full Back:** Lt. B. K. Clayden, Sgt. Perrins (R.A.E.C.)  
**Threequarters:** 2/Lt. W. G. A. Crumley, Sgt. Lewis (R.A.E.C.), L/Cpl. Martin, Ptes. Dixon, Jones and King.

**Forwards:** Lts. W. M. M. Deacock, I. S. Rutherford, J. S. B. Pollard, 2/Lt. M. S. Gedye, Sgts. Thoroughgood and Raab (R.A.E.C.), Cpls. Bourke and Turner, L/Cpl. Dixon, Ptes. Elliott and Pride.

The captaincy has been shared by Lts. Deacock and Pollard.

We now look forward to the start of the second half of the season and hope that our winning spell will continue on our proposed tour of Trieste in March, when we hope to play the Suffolks, Loyals, and Lancashire Fusiliers.

### Association Football

The Battalion's 1st XI had a good game against the Royal Signals at Klagenfurt in October. L/Cpl. Martin of "A" Company and Pte. Cooper (A.C.C.) of "H.Q." Company each scored good goals. Our defence was strong, but the forward line showed some weaknesses. Sgt. Grogan of the Band and Cpl. Freeman of the Signal Platoon, the team captain, both put up sterling performances as usual, but the final score was 4-2 against us. The Royal Signals played a fast game and were very quick on the ball.

The match against the R.A.S.C. in November was not a success, for we lost 6-2. The ground was partly waterlogged and our players seemed ill at ease, whilst the R.A.S.C. showed good ball control throughout, though not possessed of any brilliant players.

Our contest with the R.A.O.C. at Zeltweg gave us our first victory, the score being 6-1. We passed well, and L/Cpl. Martin proved a far greater success at right half than in his usual position of centre forward.

Wednesday, November 18, brought us a signal victory against the R.E.M.E., who at that time were leading the "A" League. Everyone played well; Pte. Colston the goalkeeper and Pte. Mercer (A.C.C.) the inside-left being outstanding. We were two goals down early in the game but after the Adjutant had taken the team's photograph at half-time they seemed to go into the game with renewed energy. Whereas early in the game the R.E.M.E. were definitely quicker, in the second half the Battalion team always seemed to have a second player well within range when the ball was being fought for.

We had an interesting game against the students of Sechau Monastery the score being 5-4 in our favour. The monks entertained everyone in royal fashion and even provided a band.

The most satisfactory contest of this pre-snow half of the season was that with the Royal Signals (Austria) in the B.T.A. knock-out competition. They drew with us at Zeltweg on November 28, 4-4. We were rather lucky to achieve this draw for although we made several breakaways, leaving their backs well up the field, our opponents played a fast, co-ordinated game. The return match was played near Graz on a broader field than our own, which was thought initially would favour our opponents, but in the event it was we who were able to set the pace and won 4-1. The team played better than ever before.

We are now all set for the semi-finals in March with a really promising team. In our last match the line up was as follows:

Pte. Colston ("H.Q."); Pte. Bentley ("C"), Cpl. Freeman ("H.Q."); L/Cpl. Martin ("A"), L/Cpl. Longman ("B"), Pte. Sullivan ("H.Q."); Pte. Ilbury ("D"), Pte. Mercer ("H.Q."), Pte. Wells ("H.Q."), Sgt. Grogan ("H.Q."), L/Cpl. Wright ("H.Q.).

### Hockey

Towards the end of September, while the officer in charge of cricket was in Vienna, S.S.I. Law and numerous soldiers busily and happily tore up the precious cricket square and relaid it with turf, and by the first week in October our hockey pitch was ready.

On October 8 a friendly six-a-side competition was arranged. "A," "B" and "H.Q." Companies fielded two teams each, while "D" Company and 11th Independent Field Squadron fielded one apiece. The Field Squadron and the first teams of "A," "B" and "H.Q." Companies played themselves into the semi-finals, in which "H.Q." Company easily defeated the Field Squadron 5-1, and "A" Company after a very hard fight defeated "B" Company. In the final "A" Company after an early lead eventually lost 2-1 to "H.Q." Company for whom R.S.M. Tarrant very suitably scored the winning goal.

During the latter part of October and throughout November the Battalion XI played several games against the Field Squadron. Although we won all three matches convincingly, the older members of our team must have realised that good stick work and hard hitting alone are not always the answer to fast and aggressive forwards.

On November 9, the Over 35s played the Under 35s, the Commanding Officer leading the former and Lt. B. K. Clayden the latter. After a fast and slippery game the Under 35s just managed to hold the older gentlemen to a 3-3 draw. On the Over 35s' side, the Colonel, Major Porter and the R.S.M. particularly distinguished themselves, while Pte. McCorry, "H.Q." Company, played a brilliant game for the young entry.

During November and early December the Colonel's XI went from strength to strength. They played the hitherto undefeated Band in three games, the scores being 2-4, 5-5, 4-2. In the second game Pte. McCorry distinguished himself by scoring all five goals.

Emboldened by their successes, the Colonel's stalwarts challenged "C" Company on its return from Vienna at the beginning of December. They lost the first game, but won the second and third only a single goal being scored on each occasion.

For the long winter months an enclosed pitch was marked out in one of our numerous hangars, and by December a League competition was under way.

In this competition the plan was for "B" and "C" Companies to produce two teams each, "H.Q." and "S" Companies four teams each, and the Officers, Sergeants and "D" Company one team each. Unfortunately, two of the "H.Q." Company teams, the Signal Platoon and the Drums, the entire "S" Company contingent and the Officers' team proved unable to play owing to Schmelz commitments and training.

At the end of the first week "C" Company 1 were in the lead, but by the end of the second week the Sergeants went to the top of the table, a position which they have held ever since.

On Boxing Day there was an inter-company six-a-side knock-out competition. "B" Company were not represented in this competition as their team was wanted for rehearsals for the Christmas concert. In the first round the Band easily beat "C" Company. In the second "S" had a hard-won victory over "D" Company, whilst the Band had no difficulty in beating "H.Q." Company. In the final the Band beat "S" Company.

After the six-a-side hockey league has finished, it is proposed to have a series of inter-platoon knock-out competitions, in order to keep our hands in until the snow disappears and we can start eleven-a-side games out of doors in earnest.

### Boxing

The first competition of the season, the individual novices, was held during the week ending October 17. One hundred and thirty-four entries were received and a very high standard of boxing was displayed. The finals were held in Vienna, the results being as under:

	Winner	Runner-up
Bantamweight ..	Pte. Cooper ("C")	Pte. Jones ("B")
Featherweight ..	Pte. Matthews ("B")	Pte. Redmond ("C")
Lightweight ..	Pte. Howard ("B")	Pte. Spurge ("S")
Light ..	L/Cpl. Teer ("B")	Pte. Page ("S")
Welterweight ..	Pte. Blackwell ("C")	Pte. Rock ("B")
Light ..	L/Cpl. Lowater ("B")	Pte. Fennelly ("S")
Middleweight ..	Pte. Kent ("S")	L/Cpl. Longman ("B")
Light ..	L/Cpl. Simons ("C")	Pte. Newlands ("B")
Heavyweight ..	Pte. Jones ("H.Q.")	2/Lt. Gedye ("C")

The cup for the best loser was awarded to Pte. Page. Particularly plucky performances were put up by Ptes. Cooper, Page and Fennelly and L/Cpl. Simons.

The inter-company boxing, in teams of eleven, took place on November 13. It proved to be a very tough contest with plenty of spirit shown by all. Winners in the various weights were:

Bantamweight ..	Pte. Jones ("B")
Featherweight ..	Pte. Matthews ("B")
Lightweight 1 ..	Pte. Howard ("B")
Lightweight 11 ..	Pte. Butcher ("A")
Welterweight 1 ..	Pte. Rogers ("A")
Welterweight 11 ..	Pte. Finch ("A")
Welterweight 111 ..	Cpl. Ford ("B")
Middleweight 1 ..	Pte. O'Rawe ("S")
Middleweight 11 ..	Pte. Kent ("S")
Light Heavyweight ..	Pte. Newlands ("B")
Heavyweight ..	Drm. Stannard ("H.Q.")



Sgt. Ellis, "H.Q." Company, with 26 years' service behind him, put up an exceedingly plucky performance against the eventual welterweight winner and was deservedly awarded the cup for the best loser. The Commanding Officer asked Sgt. Ellis to present the trophies. Ptes. Matthews, Rogers, Finch and O'Rawe are to be congratulated on their good victories in close contests.

The points awarded as a result of the above competition were:

Novices Coy.	Inter-Company Coy.	Total Coy.	Albuhera Shield Coy.
"B" .. 10	"B" .. 15	"B" .. 25	"B" .. 5
"C" .. 8	"A" .. 12	"S" .. 15	"S" .. 4
"S" .. 6	"S" .. 9	"C" .. 14	"C" .. 2½
"H.Q." .. 4	"C" .. 6	"A" .. 14	"A" .. 2½
"A" .. 2	"H.Q." .. 3	"H.Q." .. 7	"H.Q." .. 1

On November 27 the Battalion team boxed Knittelfeld Boxing Club, a local Austrian team. Although the opposing team was studged with numerous champions, we won comfortably by 19 pts. to 10. A novelty of the competition was that international rules were observed and an Austrian referee operated inside the ring. L/Cpl. Longman put up a particularly plucky performance against the 1953 Austrian light-heavyweight champion. Results were:

Bantamweight ..	Pte. Matthews beat Moser.
Featherweight ..	Pte. Hayden beat Toreiter.
Lightweight ..	Pte. Howard, walk over.
Light Welterweight I ..	Cpl. Ford beat Gferrer.
Light Welterweight II ..	Pte. Finch, walk over.
Welterweight I ..	Pte. Rogers, walk over.
Welterweight II ..	Pte. Pettie beat Friessnig.
Light Middleweight ..	L/Cpl. O'Rawe beat Gutsche.
Middleweight ..	L/Cpl. Lowater lost to Pasener.
Light Heavyweight ..	L/Cpl. Longman lost to Kindler.
Heavyweight ..	Drn. Stannard lost to Wolf.

Best performance cups were awarded as follows:—

Knittelfeld team ..	Herr Kindler.
Battalion team ..	L/Cpl. Longman.

The success of the novices and inter-company competitions was due to the hard work put in by 2/Lt. Gedye and S.S.I. Law, coupled with the help and co-operation of all concerned.

At the moment, the team is rather stricken by Christmas leave but we hope for several matches early in the New Year, notably with the R.A.S.C. (Austria) and the U.S. Forces, Austria.

Our aim is to enter the B.A.O.R. Championship and thus have a try at the Army Team Championship in April.

#### Basket-ball

Owing to the large number of other outside activities at Zeltweg this quarter, basket-ball has rather retired into the background. However, two knock-out competitions did take place during the period. The first was an inter-platoon knock-out in the autumn, which was won by 3 Platoon of "A" Company. The second was an inter-company knock-out played off on Boxing Day, when "C" Company and the Band met in the finals. The Band, in their usual style, romped home easy winners.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS

Great efforts were made in the past quarter to arrange a wide variety of entertainments for the winter months for it was clear that we should have to rely largely on our own ingenuity to keep ourselves amused. The Band has been tireless in providing concerts. A wide range of handicrafts has been sponsored by the education staff. Ice skating and curling rinks have been laid out. Squash and badminton are available, and, last but not least, a dance club, under the able administration and tuition of C.S.M. Thom, has made its mark.

The lateness of the snow reduced the demands for these activities to some extent for we were still able to go about our more normal pursuits. However, two successful dances for the rank and file were held in camp, both with the Regimental Dance Band in attendance. The first took place in the NAAFI and the second in the corporals' dining-hall. Some intensive preliminary propaganda had been put about in the neighbourhood by means of posters and the loud hailer mounted on a jeep, with Sgt. Moran's presence to enhance the scene and encourage recruiting. Both were most enjoyable occasions.

The new cinema, which should be ready by the end of February, and which we are led to believe will be the best in the Army with plush seats and such refinements as 3D, should go far to solve our problems. Perhaps the best example of self-help and initiative was shown by two members of "H.Q." Company who applied for recreational transport to go to see "Die Fledermaus" in Judenburg, and much enjoyed the show.

A comprehensive Christmas programme was arranged, starting on December 21, when a party was held for all the children living in the garrison. Over 60 attended. A splendid time was had by all. R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, who acted as Father Christmas, astounded everybody by actually giving away presents without demanding a signature in return. The following day the dose was repeated for the children of the Austrian civilian employees.

Much to everybody's relief snow fell during the week-end before Christmas and on the afternoon of December 24 a potted winter sports meeting was held. Everybody hurled a large amount of snow at everybody else and much surplus energy was worked off. On Christmas Eve itself some 30 stalwarts of all ranks collected at the guard room and toured the married quarters, Gypsy Wood, the NAAFI and the Sergeants' Mess singing carols. Owing to the repeated requests to move on, accompanied by bribes in the form of liquid refreshment, the choristers' words rapidly became more and more slurred. Nevertheless, they did trojan work and collected over £3 for charity.

The following day the sergeant master cook, Sgt. Medlock, and his minions really excelled themselves, and Christmas dinners were unsurpassed. According to the Battalion the officers, W.O.s and sergeants were slower serving the meals than the average Lyons Corner House waitress, but eventually all were fed, the more crafty characters having secured at least four helpings. There was plenty of beer for all, and after a few words

from the Colonel, followed by the refrain of "Auld Lang Syne," the gathering tottered away to a well-earned sleep.

Boxing Day saw the Corporals' Club dance, which was its usual success. Between 50 and 60 people attended. A carol service with nine Lessons, each read by a different rank, took place on the Sunday. In the evening the Battalion concert party performed in the old cinema. The building was packed and, much to everybody's surprise, the show was a great triumph. At times the audience felt that they were becoming too much part of the show, as a large amount of sticky dough found its way into the front rows, and even the Adj. was slightly taken back when he caught a long burst from a soda syphon in the right eye. Our grateful thanks are due to the cast who rehearsed steadily throughout the Christmas holiday and thoroughly deserved their applause.

We feel we cannot conclude the Battalion's contribution to this quarter's journal on a note which more aptly combines the ridiculous with the sublime than by reproducing verbatim a "special report" translated by our (erstwhile!) interpreter from one of the local papers on the subject of the Austrian children's party:

#### "Children's X-Mess Party in the British Barracks in Zeltweg"

"The Commanding Officer of the 1st, Bn. The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) Lieut. Col. R. A. Gwyn invited the children of the camp-employees and children of the paupers of Zeltweg in the age between five and eight years to a little party in the barracks of Zeltweg airfield.

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE IN MALAYA

Major Stewart Sutherland, Chairman of our O.C.A. in Malaya, placing a wreath on behalf of the Regiment on a Memorial at Taiping, Perak





# Depot Notes

For some time we have been having reduced numbers of National Servicemen for training. We were delighted, however, when they were doubled, but alas, it was but for only two intakes. On the other hand, a steady flow of Regulars are enlisting into the Regiment. In addition a good average of National Servicemen converting to Regular engagements is being maintained.

Two passing-out parades have taken place during the period under review. Owing to the increase in numbers we were able to form two Platoons on each occasion. The Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards and the 2nd Battalion The Grenadier Guards took part.

On November 11 Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., who is A.Q.M.G. H.Q. Eastern Command, took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 18th Intake. No doubt he remembered the time when he, himself, was on the training staff of the Depot before the war.

His Worship The Mayor of Hendon, Councillor A. V. Sully, M.C., J.P., F.C.A., took the salute of the passing-out parade of the 19th Intake on December 22. He was accompanied by the Mayoress.

On both occasions C.S.M.I. Carruthers and his india-rubber men gave demonstrations of recruits' P.T., fencing, ground and bar work, and weight lifting during the tea in the gymnasium.

The following were presented with medals:—

18th Intake		
Best Recruit .. ..	Pte. Radley.	
Best Rifle Shot .. ..	Pte. Laban.	
Best L.M.G. Shot .. ..	Pte. Hyam.	
Physical Efficiency .. ..	Pte. Hutchins.	
19th Intake		
Best Recruit .. ..	Pte. Craddock.	
Best Rifle Shot .. ..	Pte. Craddock.	
Best L.M.G. Shot .. ..	Pte. Mynors.	
Physical Efficiency .. ..	Pte. Westfall.	

Parents' Days, which occur at "half-term" during an intake, continue to be most successful, and without exception it has been found that parents are most interested to see the training and living quarters and to speak to the training staff. They also see the Regimental film of the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion on our rear projector ably worked by Cpl. Turner.

## REGIMENTAL EVENTS

On October 30 the Regimental Reunion was held at the Seymour Hall. It had been decided that the Reunion should replace the Old Comrades' Dinner. Nearly 1,200 members of the Regiment, together with their wives and lady friends, attended, and from all accounts it was acclaimed a great success. Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, chairman of our Association, is to be congratulated on the thoroughness with which he directed and organised the Reunion. Music was provided by the Band of the R.M.A. Sandhurst under the

direction of Capt. Thirtle, who unfortunately was unable to be present. It will be remembered that he combined the two Regimental marches, "Sir Manley Power" and "Paddy's Resource," into the present Regimental march when serving with the 1st Battalion.

During the evening recruits of the 18th Intake performed in a tableau depicting life in the Regiment throughout the ages. The script was written by Lt. Evans, who was assisted in the commentary by Capt. Clayden, Moore and Carter, R.S.M. Donovan, and C/Sgt. Dodkins. The crowning scene was "Steady the Drums and Fifes." So convincing were the presentations that many a man had a lump in his throat bringing back poignant memories of bygone days.

Among many distinguished members of the Regiment were Gen. Sir Brian and Lady Horrocks. Gen. Bucknall addressed the assembly.

Our Brigade Colonel, Col. F. W. B. Parry, paid the Depot a farewell visit on October 12, 1953. He spoke to all officers and N.C.O.s. During his tour he has seen a lot of the Regiment and we were very sorry to see him go. We wish him the best of luck in his new appointment as Commander Sierra Leone and Gambia District. The new Brigade Colonel is to be Col. J. Sykes-Wright, D.S.O., O.B.E., who takes over in February.

On November 7 the Commanding Officer accompanied Col. Browne, who deputised for the Colonel of the Regiment, at the ceremony which takes place annually at the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance, Westminster. An escort carried the Regimental flag and our padre, Rev. J. M. Scutt, M.A., read prayers and Laurence Binyon's famous lines from "To the Fallen." Col. Browne laid the Regimental wreath and planted the first cross. The following were present: Lord Lieutenant; Chairman Middlesex County Council; Mayors of Acton, Chiswick, Ealing, Edmonton, Hendon, Southall, Twickenham, Willesden and Wood Green; and Chairman of Hayes and Harlington Urban District Council.

The service on Remembrance Sunday was held in the Gymnasium followed by a ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Col. Browne, who took the salute in the march past.

Wreaths were laid by Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., on behalf All Ranks Middlesex Regiment; Capt. C. N. Clayden, on behalf of the 1st Battalion; Major P. D. H. Marshall, on behalf of the Depot; Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., on behalf of Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., 5th Battalion, and by the following units who sent representative parties: 11th Parachute Battalion (8th Middlesex), T.A.; Home Guard; Mill Hill "Die-Hards" Club; and several by individuals. We were pleased to see the Home Guard; eight Battalions were represented, each party consisting of one officer and six other ranks.

It was noted with regret that even fewer Old Comrades were present this year, although a number paraded with the Home Guard.

On November 7 recruits of the 19th Intake, with Sgt. Clements and Cpls. Turner and Gifford, took part in the moving spectacle of the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. They represented men of the Light Infantry Brigade. Several rehearsals were held in the Gymnasium under the dynamic direction of Ralph Reader.

At the beginning of the month the Depot provided a display of Regimental activities in the Recruiting Office at Acton. A W.O. and Sergeant and two newly joined Regular recruits attended each evening. The results for the first attempt at such an undertaking were encouraging.

A telegram welcoming home H.M.S. *Unicorn* was despatched November 17. The following reply was received: "The Captain, Officers and Ship's Company greatly appreciate your kind telegram. They are happy to be home and reciprocate your good wishes."

Capt. Clayden represented the Depot at the presentation of trumpets and drums to the Lascelles Secondary School Cadet Company by Alderman Craig. He reported that it was encouraging to see such a flourishing and enthusiastic Cadet Company.

A carol service was held in the Gymnasium on December 18. Rev. Scutt brought his choir along from his parish church, All Saints, Edgware.

The men's Christmas Dinner was held on December 23. Lt. (Q.M.) Weller spared no efforts to make the dinner one of the best ever served at the Depot. Sgt. Stubbings and his cooks did a good job and their cooking was greatly appreciated. Sgt. Stubbings is very proud of his modernised cookhouse; he has gas stoves and boilers, the floor is now tiled, and a number of new labour-saving gadgets have been installed.

A successful dance was held in the Gymnasium on New Year's Eve. The efforts of Lt. Evans and his committee made it one of the jolliest parties for some time.

The Children's Christmas Party this year was a combined affair with the Cambridge Club. It was held on January 2. Major Dick Smith performed the duties of Father Christmas. The wives organised the tea, and altogether it was a very good party.

## PERSONALITIES

### Arrivals

We welcome Capt. Flavell and Lt. Marciandi. Both have served with the 1st Battalion for some years now, including service in Korea, and their experience will be of great value in training recruits for the Regiment. Also Cpls. Pryor, Buckley and Meekins as instructors, Cpl. Robinson as Provost Corporal and Cpl. Willmoth as Q.M.'s storeman, and Drummers Bennett and Ilbury. We hope their tour will be a happy one.

### Departures

Capt. Clayden and Honess have gone to the Staff College at Camberley. All ranks of the Depot wish them the best of luck and every success throughout the course.

Lt. Cain has been at the Depot for some two years and is one of the oldest members. His influence is largely responsible for the procuring of many Regular soldiers. It is hoped that as the M.T.O. of the 1st Battalion he will reduce the number of traffic accidents considerably, not perhaps by example of how to change gear or by careful driving.

Sgt. Weller has been a great asset at the Depot. He has produced some of the smartest and most efficient Platoons to pass out at the Depot. He has interested himself in sport, shooting, and particularly aircraft recognition, producing some excellent silhouettes. We wish him and Cpl. Poulter, who has had a long spell at home, the best of luck on their posting to the Battalion. Others who have joined the Battalion for winter sports are Cpl. Marable who has been at the Depot for a long while. The stores will not be the same without him. Pte. Baker, who will be missed from the Officers' Mess; also Pte. Barnes and Drummers Murray and Palmer. We wish them the best of luck.

Those who have elected to go out into civvy street are: Sgt. Nicholson, who it is rumoured is about to join the Foreign Legion; L/Cpl. Martin bought himself out unaided by a football pool dividend; and Pte. Cole, the gentleman's gentleman, has joined British Railways and is shunting madly at Hornsey—score, two derailments.

### In Passing

Pte. Wood, ex-batman of Major Dowse, "A" Company, Korea, was seen at 0915 hours sauntering across the North Circular road at Epping. Either going to work or breaking for morning coffee.

Major Dick Smith was seen in Church End, Finchley, with wife and son shopping on December 10, the day after his return from Africa.

Ex-Cpl. Perkins, 1st Battalion 1948-51, arrived at the Depot in November. He is now fit again and is considering rejoining the Colours.

Pte. Shaw, ex-carrier driver of "S" Company 1st Battalion 1950-52, paid a visit to the Depot. He is now married and appears to be well under control.

Pte. Lloyd, ex-Battalion boxer and N.C.O. of the 1st Battalion in Korea and Hong Kong, is working as a shop assistant in Bexhill.

Mr. Pemberton, who served in the 2nd Battalion in 1943, visited the Depot. He was a Platoon Commander under Major Marshall when the Company was stationed at Hemel Hempstead.

Lt. Mason, who was with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong in 1952 and has since received a Regular Commission in the East Surreys, is now serving in the Middle East with the 1st Battalion of that Regiment.

Capt. Livemore arrived back in U.K. with his family aboard the troopship *Asturias* on December 13. He is retiring. Capt. Livemore served with the 1st Battalion from 1947 to 1951, when he left to become Training Officer to the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit. In this job he did sterling work and greatly influenced the training and general status of that unit.

Major P. D. ff. Powell is now in B.A.O.R. He is Station Staff Officer at Hamelin.



Lt. Fothergill has been invalided out of the Army. He is about to enter the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital for further operations on his leg.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

Remembrance Sunday, November 8, brought us, as usual, a number of visitors for the church service and laying of wreaths at the Memorial.

On November 11 we had a small guest night, when Lt.-Col. Allen dined in after taking the passing-out parade.

On November 24 Col. Browne, on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment, received from Major F. C. Hallows, the Welch Regiment, the decorations and medals of his uncle and godfather, 2/Lt. R. P. Hallows, V.C., M.C., who was killed at Hooze whilst serving with the 4th Battalion of the Regiment in September, 1915.

Major F. C. Hallows, in the course of a short speech, explained that he felt sure that the correct place for his uncle's decorations was with the Regiment with which he was serving when they were awarded, and it gave him great pleasure to offer them to the Regiment.

Col. Browne accepted this splendid gift with our most sincere thanks and read out to the assembled company the citation concerning the award of the Victoria Cross to 2/Lt. Hallows.

The decorations and medals have been suitably mounted, and now hang in a prominent position in the Ante-Room.

On December 23 the members of the Sergeants' Mess visited us before lunch, members of both Messes then going off to attend Christmas dinners.

That evening we had a mixed party in the Mess. Capt. Moore and Lts. Evans and Marciandi made all the arrangements, and their labours were well rewarded. Considerable thought and ingenuity had gone into many of the presents distributed from the tree. The party included Major and Mrs. Bellers, Major and Mrs. Waller, Major and Mrs. Newman, Major and Mrs. Marshall, Capt. and Mrs. Mieville, Lt. and Mrs. Weller, Lt. Cain and guest, Lt. Kitchener and guest, Capt. and Mrs. Pielow, Major and Mrs. Rendell, Capt. Clayden and guest, Capt. Moore and guest, Lt. Evans and guest, and Major Butler (R.E.), Major Heywood, Capt. Flavell, and Lt. Marciandi.



Presentation of the V.C. and other medals of the late 2/Lt. R. P. Hallows, V.C., M.C., by his nephew, Major F. C. Hallows

Our thanks are due to the Mess staff and others, who put in a tremendous amount of work and made the evening such a success.

There was a further somewhat late session after the New Year's Eve All Ranks' Dance on December 31, which was another very successful affair.

On January 8 the Mess entertained the Mayor of Douai and four other civic dignitaries from the same city to luncheon. Other guests included the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, Mayor of Hendon, Mayor of Twickenham, Deputy Mayor of Twickenham, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker and Col. M. Browne. L'Entente Cordiale was duly cemented.

One of the French visitors remarked that "la gastro-nomie des officiers est excellente: la meilleure gastro-nomie de la France n'est pas meilleure."

Movements during the quarter include the departure of Capt. Clayden and Lt. Cain and the arrival of Capt. Flavell and Lt. Marciandi. Lt. Cain had been taken on by the Q.M. as a permanent fixture, and his departure has caused considerable complications.

Gen. Bucknall, Cols. Anwyl Passingham and Walden, Lt.-Cols. Overall, Willoughby and Allen, Majors Ormiston, Cummins, Nolda, Hutchings and "Dick" Smith and family, Capt. Deacock, and Lts. Barry Reed and Lane have all visited us. We were glad to see that Major Smith had made a good recovery from his accident.

2/Lts. McManus and Humber left early in November to attend courses at the School of Infantry, Hythe, and Warminster. 2/Lt. Sibley arrived shortly afterwards, and was only here for a few days before going off to the 1st Battalion. Lt. Berry, 7th Battalion, did an attachment for two weeks. 2/Lt. Walden, son of Col. Walden, reported here on January 25, and will no doubt be with the Battalion when these notes appear.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

This quarter started on a good note with the "Die-Hard" Reunion which was held at the Seymour Hall. Many old Sergeants' Mess members were present and the wine and tales flowed freely. The Depot Sergeants' Mess were well organised with a coach to and from, which was just as well. There was a Veterans' Bar, intended to keep the old and infirm away from the crush of the main bar. Several younger members, veterans only in the American meaning of the word, drifted in for a quiet drink and after a few hectic minutes with the Pensioners in their scarlet were glad to escape to the peace of the main bar.

The usual Christmas Draw was held with all visitors putting their names down, week by week, with practically no arm twisting at all. Those who were in the know nodded when some youngster remarked on how well the tickets were going. The old hands said: "What about last year when the Battalion was home." The Depot Sergeants' Mess will long remember that party in 1952 when the 1st Battalion Mess members were buying 20 tickets at a time, and when pressed another 10.

The festive season opened when invitation arrived for the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Dodkins to visit Australia House. There, they renewed their acquaintance with R.S.M. Harrison, who served with the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade in the 3rd R.A.R. The evening started early and our Mess representatives were greeted with, "It'll be a bad night, look who's here." It was.

The following evening the Mess had their Christmas dinner. We've many renowned trenchermen amongst the members, but most of us admitted defeat. It was a grand meal and our thanks to the Mess Caterer and the Cook. It was a terrible thing to have to push plates away whilst there was yet some food remaining, but to make matters worse our new Schoolie, who comes from Yorkshire or Lancashire, or some such place, put away two plates of turkey, roast spuds, etc., and still managed his share of Christmas pudding and mince pies.

By about 8.30 p.m. the members managed to move without groaning and the ladies arrived. After suitable refreshment all round, the draw commenced. This proved quite lively and everybody enjoyed the youngest Miss (C/Sgt.) Taylor winning two bottles of liquor for the 3 a.m. feed. We've said before how this infant had the Depot standing by at "Instant Readiness" for some months before she appeared. We (poor fools) congratulated the proud father and thought it was all over. Not a bit of it, we still have all the "gen" on 3 a.m. feeds. There's not a single member (or a married one) who couldn't administer to the young un, day or night.

David Markham did remarkably well, winning gin and rum, which his Dad promptly confiscated. He cut up so rough that Dad had to take him to the Victoria Palace to keep him quiet!

The Sergeants paid the traditional visit to the Officers' Mess, prior to serving the troops' Christmas dinner. This dinner was the best well-organised and well-served that this young soldier has ever seen. The troops were served the meal whilst it was hot, in the correct order, with a minimum wait and plenty of "Bucks." Readers, just think back over your Army Christmases. How many times did you find that one man waited three-quarters of an hour, had two mince pies, three soups, and then left in disgust because the man at the other end of the table had already had four dinners? After the troops had given the C.O. "three rousing cheers," the Mess members retired to get down to the serious business of lowering the bar stock. One Mess member, after a very rough motor-bike ride from the NAAFI to the Sergeants' Mess, had to tour the Mess to find somebody to drive him home. It is a good job that Christmas comes but once a year, because this happened at 5 p.m.! Once again the Schoolie—S/Sgt. Roskell—gets into the story, for he was judged to be in good enough condition to drive.

To help us through the festive period we've had four newly promoted members—Sgts. Hook, Clements and Mason on the training side and Sgt. Beeslee, who is the man who removes broken pullthroughs with denim blouses attached to them from rifle barrels.



We're going to say goodbye for a time to several members who are soon on their way to lap it up in Austria. They want to know if they have to book in advance to learn ballroom dancing from the expert. Does the expert remember the time in Hong Kong when a gum-chewing Yankee maiden said to him, "Hey you! Want to dance Baldy?"

**Stop Press:** The R.Q.M.S., jealous of the O.R.Q.M.S. who wore boots, anklets, sash, sidearms and medals for a court martial, turned out in the same order to carry the Douai flag at Twickenham when the Mayor of Douai visited the Regiment and that Borough recently.

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

Well! After a long absence the Corporals' Club has at last risen to the dizzy heights of having its own notes in *The Die-Hards*.

What better way could we begin than to look back over the past year. Firstly, we had our annual outing on September 5, 1953, when we graced Brighton with our presence. Our party headed by Cpl. "Jimmy" Marable gave "Ye Olde Chinese Gardens" an evening they will long remember.

On December 12, 1953, a number of us attended a Christmas party at Totteridge Lodge—never before have there been so many volunteers for a Regimental function. What gorgeous Princesses from the NAAFI world we found there. Why is it we never have any serving in our Club?

We are still recovering from our Christmas dinner here at the Depot; we had a lovely turkey served by the C.O. and his then very merry men. Three cheers were called for the C.O., and Sgt. Stubbings is still being congratulated.

After this hearty meal the Corporals slipped away to have their own social in the Club. This I am very pleased to say was a great success and we were honoured by the presence of R.S.M. Donovan. Highlights of the evening were Cpl. Mitchell's "3-speed gears" dancing (Oriental style) and the stories from the R.S.M. and C/Sgt. Taylor.

We have had many changes in the Club this year. We have proudly watched Cpls. "Jack" Stubbings, "Jerry" Beedle, "Bob" Hook, "Clem" Clements, "Sailor" Mason, and last but not least, Cpl. Beeslee, R.E.M.E., who served with the K.O.S.B. in Korea, and spent a short time with us before his talent was recognised and he was snapped up by the Sergeants' Mess with our friends above. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Cpls. Buckley, Pryor, Meekins, Willmoth, Moss, James, Robinson and Rawlinson, and L/Cpl. Butler from the Battalion, some of whom have already left us for the horrors of Civvy Street.

We were very pleased to see some Battalion N.C.O.s who visited us during their leave and gave us the latest scandal and news from Austria. We are always glad to see them and they are always assured of a hearty welcome.

#### DEPOT

##### Stop Press

On January 25 a bombshell arrived in the Adjutant's office in the guise of a telephone call that we were, at 24 hours' notice, to prepare a range and lecture hall for a demonstration. The object was to show the Secretary of State for War and about 100 Members of Parliament the new Belgian FN .300 calibre self-loading automatic rifle. Luckily it was not until February 1 that they came, by which time all preparations were made. It was extremely cold and snowing when at about 10 o'clock the Secretary of State came alone and the Small Arms Wing team from Hythe demonstrated. After the Secretary of State had fired, an unsquashed recruit, Pte. A. Gallager, who had never fired a rifle before, demonstrated how simple it is to learn and fire accurately. Before the depleted party of M.P.s, some 14 in number, arrived, we were inundated by members of the Press. Nevertheless the demonstration was soon under way and all members had a shoot. To restore frozen hands and feet to normal we entertained those members who stayed on to sherry in the Mess before the party hurried back to the House of Commons to attend the debate on the new rifle. To those of us who took part in the demonstration it was a most instructive and enjoyable morning.

#### CAMBRIDGE CLUB

We have once more completed a very good year in the club with many outings and activities which, it is hoped, catered for the tastes of most members. The Club Room, which we share with the Old Comrades, has been repaired, altered and redecorated and is now very nice and comfortable. We are most grateful for the loan of the NAAFI Reading Room which we have used for the last four months, but we are delighted to be back in our own club room and we will be once more holding our monthly whist drives which are open to the public. We are always very pleased to see old comrades and their wives and would like to welcome back all our old friends who have supported us so well in the past. We have been very pleased to welcome a number of new members during the last quarter and very much hope that many more will join us now that the weather looks like getting better.

We had theatre tickets this year in place of the usual birthday party as we felt that there was so much on in this Coronation year. The majority of members spent a very enjoyable evening at the Crazy Gang show.

We held a most successful sale of work with a clear profit of £9 odd. Our children's Christmas party was held jointly with the Depot children's party and the club members prepared and served tea. As well as this we treated ourselves to a Christmas party, which was a great success, with a Christmas cake, tea and games and competitions with prizes. Everyone enjoyed it to the full.



M.P.s testing the new Belgian F.N. rifle at the Depot, Mill Hill

#### REGIMENTAL MUSEUM NOTES

The Museum continues its function of keeping alive Regimental tradition and providing a focal point of interest for the recruits, the parents and friends, and for the general public who from time to time visit it.

The highlight of the quarter was the visit of the Mayor and official party from Douai, which is recorded elsewhere in this issue. They appeared extremely interested in our history and Lt. B. H. Marciandi's translation of "Napoleon's camel saddle" was masterly.

At this time of the year there is the annual problem of dampness. The gas radiators, although working overtime, do not prevent the accumulation of water on the walls with a consequent verdant growth bearing, we are assured, no resemblance to the dignitaries whose pictures adorn the walls. The picture casualty rate is excessively high as even the heaviest of chains appears to rust and break within a few weeks. Thus Mr. Smith, the Curator, is kept exceedingly busy on running repairs. In this connection it would not be amiss to point out that the Museum has no regular income of its own and depends on the generosity of other Regimental funds and those individuals who are kind enough to give their financial support.

It is much regretted that acknowledgment was not

made in the last issue of the Journal of a collection of most interesting exhibits presented to the Museum by Mr. R. E. Evans, D.C.M., a distinguished "Die-Hard." These include a Queen Victoria chocolate box, iron rations, field dressing, small book, three pictures in wool, 2nd Battalion master roll 1899, and the Talbot Coke address photograph.

Donations this quarter, for all of which we are most grateful, include:

Certificate of Mention in Dispatches to 2/Lt. R. P. Hallows, V.C., M.C.; his identity discs and photographs of his grave. Presented by Major F. C. Hallows, The Welch Regiment.

A selection of North Korean currency. Presented by Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

The pay book of 3349 Pte. James Green, who served in the 77th from 1854 to 1861. Presented by his son, Mr. C. J. Green.

Paymaster's wallet of the Middlesex Militia in use over 150 years ago. Presented by Mr. L. A. Pepin, of Sandbach, Cheshire.

Full dress tunic (pre-1914), overalls, sash, sword belt and slings. The property of the late Major C. J. Jarrett, 10th Battalion.



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



The winter training period started in October last year and during the past few months the training "cycle" mentioned in the last edition of these notes has started to rotate. It is early yet to comment on its success, but the officers', warrant officers' and N.C.O.s', and the all ranks' training have been progressing favourably and attendances have been well above the average for the corresponding months last year.

The Battalion Rifle Club has been meeting regularly and has been very successful in several outside small-bore competitions. R.S.M. Tostevin, who has worked very hard to build up our teams and coach them to success, deserves a very warm vote of thanks for his efforts. Shooting events are recorded in detail later on in these notes.

It was with special pleasure that we learnt in November that R.S.M. Tostevin had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He has been a great asset to the Battalion in its many and varied activities, and the award, although covering the whole of his 24 years' service, comes at a very fitting time.

On Sunday, November 8, the Battalion attended the Remembrance Day Service at Hornsey Parish Church. This took the form of a short service in the Parish Church followed by the laying of wreaths and the two minutes' silence. Our buglers played the Last Post and Reveille at this service. After this act of remembrance the congregation moved into the church. During the service our Colours were marched in and received by the Rector and wreaths were laid in the Battalion Memorial Chapel on behalf of the Past Officers' Club, the Hornsey Die-Hards' Club and all ranks of the Battalion. The Colours were carried on this occasion by Lts. Blackler and Stocken. After the service the Battalion and Old Comrades marched back to Battalion Headquarters. As is customary, the Old Comrades led the Battalion and the salute was taken by the Honorary Colonel and the Mayor of Hornsey, Alderman Sir William Grimshaw, J.P.

The Band and Drums played extremely well on this occasion and a word is due here about the fine work put in by Bandmaster Gilyatt and Drum-Major Holdford in training and keeping "fine bodies of men" together. On Remembrance Day Drum-Major Holdford, with his outstanding and always astonishing mace work, was a fitting figure to lead them. After arriving back at Hornsey the Band gave a concert in the main hall and showed that they had greatly extended their already creditable repertoire.

On Thursday, January 7, a Regimental Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess. Unfortunately, the Honorary Colonel, who was to have been "dined in,"

was taken ill and was unable to come. We hope that he will soon be fit again. The evening was a success and the Mess Committee and Sgt. Carmie and his staff are to be congratulated.

The annual children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, January 9, and was a great success. Major Percy Newman and Mrs. Newman worked very hard to bring this about and on the day valuable assistance was given by Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. McDavid, Mrs. Tostevin, Mrs. Chittock, Mrs. Holdford, Mrs. Bignell, Mrs. Snell, Miss McDavid and Miss Dowling, and the Permanent Staff. A conjuror entertained the children (and parents) before tea.

After tea C.S.M. Cooper made a jovial Father Christmas, and the children (some 106 of them) were well disciplined and marched about in squads under the orders of the Q.M. and R.S.M.

On Saturday, January 16, the Sergeants' Mess held a dinner at Hornsey. It was well attended by both Mess members and their ladies, and an account of it appears elsewhere in these notes. The Sergeants' Mess hope to run several more social functions this year.

The season for "Les affaires militaires" is now commencing and in the next edition of these notes we will be able to record a number of training weekends and events. At the moment the first event that we are awaiting is the Brigade Officers' T.E.W.T. to be held at Dorking on February 13-14. We hope that the weather will have improved by then.

On this same weekend the N.C.O.s' cadre, which has been running successfully under C.S.M. Cooper's capable supervision, will go to Pirbright for a training weekend. Attendance on this cadre has been good and it is hoped to make several promotions as a result of it.

There have been a number of other promotions made during the past few months and our hearty congratulations go to those who have been advanced. A list of promotions and present appointments is shown later.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* Journal we have to congratulate C.S.M.s Montague and Simmonds and C/Sgt. Brooks on their recent promotions, and we welcome Sgts. Stewardson and Humphries as new members to the Mess.

Unfortunately we have lost one of our most popular members. The ever cheerful Sgt. "Bill" Sayers has had to give up T.A. service for health reasons, but we sincerely hope that as an honorary member we shall have the pleasure of his company in the Mess for a long time to come.

Our two main events recently have been a social evening, when we entertained Hornsey Police, and our annual dinner. The social evening was in the form of an indoor sports meeting—the chief contest being fought on the miniature range, whilst several minor engagements were hotly disputed on the darts board, tennis table and the badminton court. We can't remember who won, in fact, that wasn't very important anyway, but someone was heard to remark that, in view of the practice that our members have in pitting their wits against the police it should have been a "walk-over" for us. However, everyone agreed that it was

a very pleasant evening and we hope that it will prove the forerunner of many such occasions in the future.

Our annual dinner this year was held on January 16, which was the first anniversary of the opening of our present Mess. We were honoured by the presence of our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D., and Mrs. Ellis, Major and Mrs. Newman and two members of the London Scottish Sergeants' Mess. After an excellent meal the C.O. addressed a few words to us, and to the ladies in particular. R.S.M. L. J. Tostevin, in replying, expressed the pleasure the Mess felt in having the opportunity to entertain our guests. Commenting on the fact that this was our first Mess function in 1954, the R.S.M. voiced the hope that the happy atmosphere prevailing at the time would set the pattern for our relations together both at work and play throughout the year. A sentiment that was obviously shared by all present. Before we adjourned from the dining hall Mrs. Ellis very kindly presented the "Chilli-Carter" Cup to Sgt. King for proving himself without doubt the most successful shot in the Sergeants' Mess in 1953. The evening continued with party games which provided quite a lot of amusement, and it will be a long time before our members lose their awe and admiration for the way in which one of our Scottish guests sank a bottle of beer after having successfully "fanned a kipper."

However, the highlights of the evening's entertainment were provided by the R.S.M. with some very apt lightning sketches, Sgt. King with his impressions of a laughing policeman, and principally by Drum-Major Holdford, ably assisted by Mrs. Holdford, C.S.M.s Cooper and Bignell, and Sgts. Marshall and Eastap. They presented two sketches, the "Nervous Break-down" and the "Dis-Orderly Room," which were both great successes. Our thanks are due to all these artistes and lastly to our P.M.C., C.S.M. Burrell, for a really grand evening. This is surely a good moment to echo again the R.S.M.'s hope that this may set the pattern for the whole year.

We would like to close these notes by sending our usual good wishes to all "Die-Hard" Sergeants' Messes wherever they may be, and expressing the hope that all our friends in the 1st Battalion, and elsewhere, will look in to see us whenever they are on leave or when any opportunity occurs.

### RIFLE CLUB

The Winter .22 Shooting Club programme has almost finished and we are now eagerly awaiting the better weather to start training for the T.A.R.A. Decentralised .303 Competitions, in which we hope to have successes that will compare with those we had in the small-bore shooting this winter.

Within the Battalion the .22 ladder ended with the R.S.M. at last getting a "100" (a 100.7 points to be exact) and so being the top scorer. The highest aggregate went to Cpl. Wimbleton with an average of 97.6 points. Sgt. King joined the select band of "ninety-niners" and a number of members turned in scores of 98 points.

The Inter-Company League ended with "B" Com-

pany, under the able leadership of Major Creighton, finishing top with the maximum points.

In competitions outside the Battalion we have made satisfactory progress in making our name felt in T.A. small-bore shooting. In the B.S.A. Challenge Bowl (mentioned in our last notes) we came 7th. This was a little disappointing but we understand that competition was much keener this year. "H.Q." Company did well in the N.S.R.A. Match, finishing 5th with scores of 688 points and 696 points, and so their name will appear in the T.A.R.A. Programme Book for 1954—not, we hope, for the last time. In the A.R.A. Challenge Cup, competed for by the aggregate of the B.S.A. and N.S.R.A. Match, we came 5th; again a little lower position than we had hoped to attain. Both the Battalion teams in the T.A. Small-Bore Leagues have had outstanding successes and have yet to lose a match. To date they have fired seven matches each and have to fire two more to complete the season.

The Middlesex T.A.F.A. .22 Knock-Out Competition is well under way and the Battalion team has got as far as the 3rd Round. In this we have had some luck for during the Christmas period we could only find scratch teams, but now we have the best team we can muster training hard for this competition and we hope to win through to the final.

At the end of March we intend to leave .22 match shooting severely alone and concentrate on Service calibre competitions. We are sure that under the guidance of our new president, Major A. R. Waller, the club will have an enjoyable and successful season on the open range.

### PROMOTIONS (October 8 to November 27, 1953)

#### OFFICERS

To Major: Capt. L. F. Baker.  
To Captain: Lt. M. E. Baldwin.

#### OTHER RANKS

To C.S.M.: Sgts. F. Simmonds and L. Montague.  
To Colour-Sergeant: Sgt. A. Brooks.  
To Sergeant: Cpls. E. Stewardson and G. Humphries.  
To Corporal: L/Cpls. G. Leggett and L. Stapleton, and Pte. D. Rodbard.  
To Lance-Corporal: Ptes. E. Bass, D. Jeakings and N. Spencer.

### OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer	..	Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, T.D.
21C and Training Major	..	Major A. R. Waller, M.C.
Adjutant	..	Capt. K. J. Carter
Quartermaster	..	Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.
Intelligence Officer	..	Lt. P. J. T. Lane
Assistant Adjutant	..	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. Munds

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

Company Commander	..	Major R. J. P. Cummins, T.D.
M.T.O.	..	Lt. P. A. Stocken
Signals Officer	..	Lt. G. R. Chadwick
P.S.I.	..	C.S.M. V. Corner
C.S.M.	..	C.S.M. F. Simmonds
C.Q.M.S.	..	C/Sgt. E. C. Leggett
Drum Major	..	D.M. Holdford, B.E.M.
M.T. P.S.I.	..	Sgt. W. Snell
M.T. Sergeant	..	Sgt. J. E. Moran
Signals Sergeant	..	Sgt. D. Jackson
O.M. Steward	..	Sgt. A. Carmie



**"S" COMPANY**

Company Commander	Major L. F. Baker
Mortar Platoon Commander	Capt. R. G. Garrett
Mortar Platoon 2IC	2/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 Pl. Commander	Lt. G. R. Fox
P.S.I.	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. Laroche

**"A" COMPANY**

Company Commander	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. F. Pirmann
C.S.M.	C.S.M. L. Montague
C.Q.M.S.	C.Q.M.S. G. Hills
Sergeants	Sgt. R. Carter (R)
	Sgt. W. Sexton

**"B" COMPANY**

Company Commander	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.Q.M.S. M. Leahy
Sergeants	Sgt. J. Webb
	Sgt. J. Leighton

**"C" COMPANY**

Company Commander	Capt. P. J. A. Pielow
2IC	Lt. O. G. Richards
Platoon Commander	Lt. N. C. Berry
Platoon Commander	Lt. S. J. Carter
Platoon Commander	Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe
P.S.I.	C.S.M. G. Biennell
C.Q.M.S.	C.Q.M.S. A. Brooks
Sergeants	Sgt. F. Carter
	Sgt. R. Bates

**"D" COMPANY**

Company Commander	Capt. M. E. Baldwin
2IC	Lt. P. S. Liddell
Platoon Commander	Lt. F. Holm
Platoon Commander	Lt. R. M. Fox
Platoon Commander	Lt. R. D. Wilson
C.S.M.	C.S.M. A. Burrell
C.Q.M.S.	C.Q.M.S. R. Colbourne
Sergeants	Sgt. J. Stammers
	Sgt. A. Richardson

Not on Strength of Companies: Major A. J. Hands, Lt. B. St. G. A. Reed, Lt. I. N. Henderson, Lt. M. D. C. Watkins.

## 11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

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

**"H.Q." COMPANY**

The Company take this opportunity to welcome our new Training Officer, Major D. O. Appleton, and also our new R.S.M., Mr. Stroud. We wish them every success in their new appointments.

Mr. Pestell has now left us to take over R.S.M. of the AB Forces Depot, Aldershot; with him go our best wishes.

Since our last notes we have many and varied activities to report. On November 19 the annual bounty was paid out at the Drill Hall. This was followed by a social and dance, held in aid of the Children's Christmas Party, which was very successful and much enjoyed by all ranks.

The annual children's party was held at the Drill Hall on Saturday, December 19. This was a combined "H.Q." and "S" Company do, as was the dance. About 90 children plus respective parents attended.

Much hard work had been put into decorating the hall by members of the permanent staff. Coloured parachutes, balloons, streamers and lanterns, etc., were hung from the walls and rafters, and by the stage were two 7 ft. Christmas trees illuminated by fairy lights.

The children were entertained by a conjuror and ventriloquist. This was followed by tea and later a film show. Then came the great moment, the arrival of Father Christmas, Major Hide of S.S.A.F.A. Each child received a present and a bag of sweets.

Our P.S.I., A.P.J.I. Sgt. Phillips, was on duty at the Schoolboys' Exhibition, Westminster. At the Army stand there was a 36-ft. tower with two "fans," parachute descent training apparatus, from which schoolboys were permitted to jump. The sons of our Training Officer, Major Appleton, and Adj. Capt. Mievill, Jeffrey aged 9 and Amedee aged 5, both successfully completed descents—two budding paratroopers!

In the Division "B" miniature range competition our team did very well, being placed 7th with a score of 329 points.

After the Christmas recess the Company are now hard at it, for with the boxing competitions looming up and a hard year's training ahead, we hope to do even better in all events this year.

At basket ball we have played and beaten "B" Company, 19—14, and after a very hard game lost to "C" Company, 28—20.

**"S" COMPANY**

Since last going to press we have had a very quiet period, wrapped in the depths of winter. Whoever said "All seasons are alike" is no doubt wishing he had kept quiet a little longer.

The attendances of the staunch and true have kept the roll books looking fairly healthy. Others, no doubt, will unroll themselves from their cocoons when the weather is warmer.

We have not yet started our round of weekend training, but hope to make a good start on the first weekend of February with Platoon training, when the M.M.G. and 3-in. Mortar Platoons will be firing their own Platoon weapons. Ropes are being taken by the Asst./Pioneer Platoon to lower the 3 in. Mortar Platoon into their pits after they have blown the pits.

It is rumoured that the mainstay of "S" Company Cookhouse (L/Cpl. Sprules) has now joined the Married Club. His sidekick, Pte. Burgin, officiated as best man.

We don't intend to tell you what we hope to do during the coming training season, but in later notes we will tell you what we have done.

So all the luck to the remainder of the "Die-Hards," especially to our opposite numbers.

**"B" COMPANY**

Since our last issue the Company have settled down to normal winter routine. While there is little of

interest with regard to the training schedule, the social life of the Company has not remained dormant.

The children's party held at the Drill Hall on December 12 was a success. Sgt. Corboy, adequately equipped (or better, disguised) as Father Christmas, wearing four denison smocks and four jumping smocks, was such a success that even his own son failed to recognise him. There were 56 children present from "B" and "C" Companies.

The Company Dance held on December 19 developed into an enjoyable social event, with Pte. Kelly acting as unofficial M.C. in no small way. He awarded C.S.M. Tucker a bottle (some kind of cocktail (Molotov)) and to Cpl. Bosditch and his wife cigarettes. Sgt. Reynolds (the never fails to get his name in) was severely reprimanded by his wife for carrying her around the Drill Hall. He was also at the receiving end of a rocket launched by Major Lee.

Capt. D. F. Reckitt is to be congratulated on his recent promotion and the writer looks forward to meeting him at Warnes Hotel, Worthing, in the coming weekend where the officers from the rest of the Brigade will also be there to congratulate him.

We are sorry to lose the services of Lt. Alistair Forsyth, who is "retiring" to T.A.R.O. We look forward to seeing him at camp this summer.

**"C" COMPANY**

The winter training programme, though not promising items of outside interest, nevertheless has us in its very necessary grip. The consolation would appear to be that during this phase of our training some energy remains to be expended; naturally it is directed into the social channel.

A very successful Christmas party for the children was run in conjunction with "B" Company at Ealing on December 12, at which the combined junior strength of the two Companies, totalling 56, gave every indication of having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On the evening of December 19 an equally successful social and dance was held at the Wealdstone Drill Hall, complete with cabaret. The outstanding achievement of the evening was the effort of the organising staff, culminating in the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. Corby, winning a bottle of whisky. Excellent staff work, "C" Company!

C.S.M. Roberts is at present enjoying a well-earned rest at Abingdon on an A.P.J.I.'s course, getting his strength up for renewed efforts on his return to the Company at the end of the month.

Terminating on a very sobering note, our Company Commander, Capt. J. Spencer, during his absence on business in America, has, it is reported, contracted what is suspected to be polio. Until personal contact is again possible we shall not be fully in the picture, and meanwhile the whole Company, together with his friends in other units in Harrow, wish him a very speedy recovery to complete health again.

**"D" COMPANY**

"D" Company at Edmonton have continued their winter training, and apart from direct military training,

have had a lot of boxing, judo, basket ball, and other physical recreation. On the social side, an excellent dance was held shortly before Christmas, and just after that, the usual children's party, for all children of members of the unit. This, too, was a great success.

Our Darts Club have also excelled themselves, managing to beat a local Old Contemptibles' Association team, and are quite prepared to take on all comers.

Now all work is in preparation for the spring, and particular emphasis is being laid on weapon training. Already holders of the Battalion Shooting Cup, we were runners-up last year in the Weapon Training Competition, and this year propose to win it.

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

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

**SERGEANTS' MESS**

This past quarter has seen a very great deal of social activity and training has taken second place.

**Ceremonial**

The Regimental Contingent to the Middlesex Affiliation Parade, largely consisting of Sergeants' Mess members and the affiliated Middlesex Home Guard, went off in spanking manner. All ranks conducted themselves extremely well on parade.

On Sunday, November 8, 1953, as in former years, our Regimental Armistice Parade took place in our Drill Hall. All who took part did very well, which resulted in a first-class service, of which we felt justly proud.

Special mention must be made of B.S.M. Vincent, and Sgts. Simmons and Penny, whose bearing, turnout and drill were exceptional.

**Training**

Our parades during the winter have been made up of normal training, finishing off with recreational training, the latter taking the form of handball in the Main Hall. The intense enjoyment by all concerned—lookers-on as well as those who played—really had to be experienced to be believed. B.S.M. Jenkins, after five games in one day, talked of turning professional! The Sergeants' Mess has decided to form a handball team of its own now.

Major Doyle is to be congratulated—it is believed he joined in all seven games one afternoon.

**Social Life**

Our Regimental Christmas social period commenced on Friday, December 18, 1953, with a bang in the shape of our Regimental All Ranks' Ball. This commenced and finished on a very high note—thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Music was provided by our Regimental Band. The Band were warmly congratulated on their playing continuously throughout the evening.

On Monday, December 21, we held our Regimental Children's Christmas Party which, due to the hard work and planning of the Sergeants' Mess Entertainment





OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' BALL, DECEMBER 31, 1953

Seeing the New Year in with the "Die-Hards" song

Committee and members' wives, was a resounding success.

December 31 found us ready in all respects for the annual "highlight" of our Mess life—the Officers' and Sergeants' Ball. This function was attended by some 250 people—made up of members of both Messes, their wives and lady friends and personal friends. The Ball, lasting from 2000 hrs. December 31 until 0100 hrs. January 1, 1954, was much enjoyed by all concerned. We have all congratulated B.S.M. W. E. Lockyer on his "Buffet."

We held Mess Socials on the following dates, and we congratulate the Entertainments Committee on their success: October 25, November 15, and December 6, 1953.

The following friends of our Mess have, with the approval of the Commanding Officer, been elected honorary members of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess: Mr. L. (Hon. B.Q.M.S.) Spivey, Mr. C. R. Maggs, Mr. J. Hindley, Mr. Hall, Mr. F. Hutson, Mr. J. Breeze, Mr. A. Todman, Mr. F. Fennimore, Mr. J. Stone, Mr. B. Barnett, Mr. F. Reeves, S/Sgt. Baker (Army Cadet Force), and B.S.M. Gorman (Army Cadet Force).

#### Congratulations

To B.S.M. and Mrs. R. W. J. Hughes on the birth of a son—Ian Ronald—on December 29, 1953, at 124 Heath Street, Hampstead.

To Major J. R. Doyle, R.A. (T.A.), O.C. "Q" Battery, on his recovery to good health from his recent illness.

#### Thanks

We sincerely say "Thank you" to Mr. C. R. Maggs for those 20 lovely toys which he made himself and presented for the Regimental Children's Party.

#### 1954

We now look forward, with reasonable confidence, to 1954, during which we hope to attain even greater heights than those of the past year.

#### CHRISTMAS DARTS TOURNAMENT AND "GOOD LUCK" SHOOT

A very successful Darts Tournament was held in conjunction with the "Good Luck" Shoot on Monday, December 21, 1953, at H.Q. 595 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A.)

In the Darts Tournament there were 40 entries and the darts boards were kept busy. The semi-finalists were B.Q.M.S. Biddlecombe and Sgt. Oakley, and Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Ambrose.

B.Q.M.S. Biddlecombe emerged the winner, with Mr. Ambrose as runner-up.

Bdr. Cordaroy reached the highest score of 123 for the men, and Mrs. Anderson highest score for ladies, 105.

In between the matches the "Dartists," or should it be "dartophiles," visited the miniature range to try their skill at the .22 "Good Luck" Shoot. Highest score on the range was by Capt. G. Stanhope-Gant and B.S.M. R. Packer, who both scored 65. Capt. Stanhope-Gant won the "shoot-off." L/Bdr. Milsom was a close 3rd.

The evening closed with presentation of prizes. It was undoubtedly a good evening, and our thanks go to Bdr. Cordaroy and (Hon.) B.Q.M.S. Spivey for organising and planning so successful a meeting.

#### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The New Year has been rung in and with it a full programme of training and social activities has been put into operation.

The dates for annual training have now been confirmed for the first two weeks in August at Stiffkey, in Norfolk, so we must ensure last year's successes are repeated.

The usual Christmas entertainments proved most successful, and included a Children's Christmas Party when 120 children had a most lively time. Presents were distributed by Father Christmas, ably portrayed by S/Sgt. J. Davies, and our thanks go to all those who spent so much of their spare time to ensure this success.

The All Ranks' Dance on Friday, December 18, was well attended and was the occasion of the first performance of the Regimental Dance Band. Then came New Year's Eve and the Officers' and Sergeants' Ball, again with music played by the Regimental Dance Band. Greetings were exchanged between our Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., and His Worship The Mayor of Wembley, Alderman C. Smith, through the medium of B.44 sets positioned,

one in the centre of our dance hall and the other 2 miles away at Wembley Town Hall.

We welcome most cordially two new officers to the Regiment: Lt. P. W. Hammond and 2/Lt. N. T. Neal.

Congratulations to Lt. R. F. Waters on the occasion of his recent marriage, and to B.S.M. R. Hughes on becoming the proud father of a son. (Are there any others?) My remarks, not his.

#### AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS TO THE 1st AND 2nd BATTALIONS

During the course of well over a hundred years many presentations of silver, glass and other property have been made to the Officers' Messes of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The history of these presentations has recently been re-examined, and the Presentations Book of the 1st Battalion (57/77th) has been rewritten. The investigations leading up to the writing of this book showed, however, that our knowledge of this aspect of the story of our Regiment is in many respects incomplete.

Many of the cups, goblets and other items bear inscriptions recording the donor's name with the date and circumstances of the presentation. Many other items, however, lack one or more of these essential details, and in some instances it is not even clear whether an item was presented, won as a trophy or purchased. It is felt that at least some of the information we require can probably be supplied from memory by readers of this Journal, and especially by our older readers. The questions to which we require answers are therefore, published below:—

1. (a) The Albuhera Loving Cup was made from the silver gorget-patches of officers who fell in the battle. Who arranged for the cup to be made, and what was the date of presentation? (b) Similarly who arranged for the Albuhera Snuff-box to be made from the silver breastplates, and when was it presented?

2. What was the occasion of the presentation of (a) a silver inkstand, with two ink bottles to the 77th (2nd Battalion) by Capt. Percy Kire in 1865 and (b) two silver jugs with ball feet to the 77th by S. Y. Cooper Fisher on December 7, 1870?

3. Who was Major E. S. Gordon, R.A., who presented a silver goblet to the Officers of the 57th Regiment in recollection of their kindness in 1877 at Colombo, Galle and Kandy in Ceylon?

4. Nine officers of the "Garrison Class, Dover" presented a silver table bell to the Regiment in 1885. Two were Captains and seven were Lieutenants. None belonged to the Regiment, eight belonged in other Infantry Regiments and one to the 8th Hussars. What was the "Garrison Class" and what was its relationship to the Regiment?

5. What was the occasion of the presentation of a Silver Bowl to the 1st Battalion by Lt. James Finch of 1st Surrey R.V. in May, 1886?

6. A silver cigarette-box presented by Major and Adjutant R. E. G. Campbell to the 2nd South Middlesex V.R.C. was made available to the 2nd Battalion by the 10th Battalion (formerly 2nd South Middlesex V.R.C.) on disbandment after the First World War. It is now

held by the 1st Battalion, as a result of the amalgamation of the two regular battalions. What was the date of the original presentation?

7. (a) An officer's breastplate mounted on black wood is now in the possession of the 1st Battalion. It is believed possibly to have been presented by Lt. A. F. Skaife, perhaps about 1905. Can any reader confirm this? (b) Similarly can anyone confirm that it was Capt. H. P. R. Anson who won the silver goblet for sword v. sword at the Burma Divisional Assault-at-Arms at Mandalay in 1906?

8. A silver snuff-box in the form of a jockey-cap was presented to the 57th Regiment by a Capt. Healey. When was the presentation made, on what occasion and who was Capt. Healey?

9. What is the history of the so-called "Tranter-Jermyn Ivories" presented by Major J. W. Elgee in January 1917?

10. A plated goblet held by the 1st Battalion is inscribed "J. Burlington-Smith's Prize." Who was J. Burlington-Smith and when and why did he make this presentation?

11. The 1st Battalion possesses a "Turkish" coffee-pot bearing an inscription in a foreign language (?Arabic) for which no translation is immediately available. It is believed that the coffee-pot may possibly have been presented by two Arab Legion Officers attached to the Battalion at Aldershot in 1925. Can any reader confirm this?

12. On what occasions and dates did (a) Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel present to the 2nd Battalion the silver cigarette lighter formerly owned by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and (b) Capt. N. H. B. Lyon, M.C. and Capt. B. B. Rackham, M.C. present to the 1st Battalion three silver match boxes?

13. Can any reader say whether any of the following items were presented (as opposed to being purchased or won—except in instances where the winner presented his prize to the Regiment) and if so, by whom, and on what date and occasion?

(a) A three-handled silver cup inscribed "Intersection Challenge Cup, Hockey, "B" Company 57 Albuhera" (within a wreath) re-allotted in 1931 for inter-platoon Hockey "Knockout" Tournament.

(b) A Burmese silver bowl with heavily chased figures of Burmese scenes.

(c) A Burmese miniature silver bowl—a miniature of (b) above.



- (d) A plated inter-company shield, with ebonised back, inscribed "Figure of Merit Inter-Company Shield" and with entries for 1910, 1911 and 1912.
- (e) A plated metal ice-hammer (not the New Zealand Hammer).
- (f) Three silver bayonet sheaths.
- (g) Four silver bayonet tops, on an ebonised plinth, with Regimental badge engraved on each.
- (h) Three silver crossed signaller's flags.
- (i) Eight silver wine labels and chains, of grape vine pattern (4 port, 2 sherry, 1 Marsala and 1 Madeira).
- (k) Two wine funnels, one in silver with 57th Badge.
- (l) Two electro-plated brandy-saucepans, with handles of blackwood.
- (m) Six silver mustard pots, of round barrel shape with raised fluted bands and flat lids, inscribed "57 Peninsula Albuhera" (There were originally ten but four were lost in Hong Kong in 1941).
- (n) Three egg-shaped silver pepper pots with weighted bases (four more similar pepper pots were lost in Hong Kong in 1941).
- (o) Four silver salt-cellar oblong with four feet, inscribed "Peninsula West Middlesex Regiment 57 Albuhera" (four more similar salt cellars were lost in Hong Kong).
- (p) Two oval silver entrée dishes and covers, with two oval silver hot plate stands, with lamps, to match. All pieces are marked "LVII."
- (q) A silver coffee-pot, of bamboo pattern.
- (r) Two twelve inch oblong plated meat dish covers with fluted corners and gadroon and shell

### NOTES BY M.B.

On January 20 Hervey del Court wrote to say he was not fishing, shooting and sailing in Cape Town, but doing much the same in Hermanus where there are many parties and much golfing and sailing. Weather is lovely there and they breakfast and dine on the stoop of their home. He expects to arrive home in 1955 for the June Regimental festivities, having visited Lisbon, Madrid, Paris and Holland en route to London.

Mrs. Appelbe writes from near Salisbury on January 18 to say all is well. She continues to keep a horse and rides and teaches riding and dancing in many schools around. She met Col. George Brown playing golf and he is now quite well, so we shall hope to see him at the Spring Regimental Golf Meeting this year. She has learnt to weave and gets her wool on the downs. I look forward to a warm winter scarf next winter.

Sidney Emery was to have visited London in connection with cement products, but a sudden attack of gastric 'flu laid him abed, and we have this pleasure to look forward to.

Lilian Anson, widow of Major Anson (my first Adjutant in the 1st Middlesex in early 1906) and father of our young Anson who gave his life for us all at Arnhem in the recent war (1944)—we call it recent, but

- borders, inscribed "57th" and with all Peninsular battle honours.
  - (s) A plated cigar-lamp, with two side dippers, inscribed "LVII" within a wreath (not the Grenada cigar lamp).
  - (t) Five silver ash-bowls with a shaped edge inscribed "57th."
  - (u) A nine-inch oblong silver pen tray, with gadroon and shell border and with 57th Badge and Peninsular battle honours.
  - (v) Four ten-inch chased plated candlesticks inscribed "Albuhera LVII."
  - (w) Two nineteen-inch plated candelabra each with two arms inscribed "57th" (with badge) "Sevastopol 1856."
  - (x) A plain twelve-inch electro-plated salver and a large chrome salver Chippendale design (not the Phillips, Powell or Brown Salvagers).
  - (y) The wooden Albuhera Shield.
  - (z) The George Regan Peninsular War Medal and the Captain Stainforth Peninsular War Medal.
  - (aa) Two Japanese wooden cigarette boxes (not the Garstin-Newnham or Saigon-Rosil cigarette boxes, nor the Hodge Cigar Box).
  - (bb) Two silver kneeling riflemen statuettes, belonging to the 2nd Battalion and now in use by the 1st Battalion.
14. Any readers who can provide any information are asked to communicate with Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), B.T.A.5. The Battalion will be most grateful for help on this subject.

it started nearly 15 years ago—writes on January 6 from Deerfield Beach, Florida. She is there visiting relatives, but returns from New York, sailing on May 7. Her home is still in Alderney. She has travelled 20,000 miles, and been in 20 states of U.S.A., three Canadian provinces, and Columbia. Temperature on Christmas Day was 82. Her heart has gone out to Michigan with its lakes and trees.

I spent a happy family Christmas with the Tidbury family. Included was a motor visit to Cambridge to King's Chapel to hear the carol service—a very moving and lovely ceremony in a beautiful chapel, of which the roof soars up to heaven in candle-light. The voices were truly angelic. There I met David Man, a member of the Colonial Office and brother of our two Mans, with three children, sometimes angels, and sometimes the reverse. Brigadier Tidbury is now an expert colour film photographer and I saw some lovely films of his garden, the children (grand) and even myself on previous visits.

On January 9 a letter came from Jackie Jacob in Co. Kilkenny, where he seems very happy. He had seen the Porters over in Eire.

On December 31 last I had a letter from Sir Richard Gale, now a General, and I had written from Bill Heywood and myself to congratulate him on the Queen's reward to him of the G.C.B. I reminded him of

Ahmednagar days in 1926 to 1928 when he often dined in our Mess, where he met Phil Wray, once a co-member of the M.G.T.C. at that station. He loved to catch the unwary officer who did not know the story of the Worcester Cup presented to the 2nd Middlesex by his former Regiment. He was then an elderly subaltern of some 16 years' service, thin and somewhat cadaverous. Promotion has filled him out, as well as elevated him, but he remains the same kind friend.

The Archie Stewarts have moved to an ancient home in Saffron Walden at Clavering (period 1590), full of character.

Last December we heard from Major Newton in Galway, Eire. He seems to be a sufferer from many ills. His son, Carruthers, is now at Kampala, Uganda, but has been ordered back to Nairobi.

Dobbo wrote on December 13 (my birthday, he did not know) to send best wishes and to lament the end of my former news letter, to which these notes succeed in some degree. He is happy and well.

I have a letter from General Ramsay on December 12. He is somewhat handicapped by rheumatism, but otherwise is remarkably well and young for one who is some 80 years old. How well I remember that handsome figure and splendid horseman of 50 years ago—a captain in the 77th at Portsmouth.

Archie Stewart writes on November 6, 1953, that his son Duncan (Lt.-Col.) in the Black Watch is now Military Attaché in Dublin, and has visited all Regiments and Corps in that Army. He and his wife, a very lovely lady, lead a gay social life. I gather he may retire to life in the city in a year or so. Archie himself still reigns as chairman of his local bench, but has given up all his other public life and has retired after long service in Benskin's Brewery.

### REMEMBER THE REGIMENTAL MILITIA

*Account by Col. M. Broome, formerly Ensign in the 2nd Battalion Royal Guernsey Light Infantry Militia for a brief period of two years.*

Our historic "Militia" Battalions were suspended shortly after the close of the 1914-18 World War and were finally disbanded by Army Order No. 47 of 1953, and have ceased to exist. Let us never forget what they achieved during their long history, and what our Regiment owes to them.

The Army Order, following normal procedure, makes no comment on their distinguished traditions, and expresses no regret at their death.

The Regiment must not and many cannot be oblivious of their Militia, which together with the two Regular Battalions (former 57th and 77th Foot) in 1881 formed "The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)."

In the Regiment the Militia element existed long before the Volunteer Forces—raised to meet the threatened Napoleonic invasion of our Island shores. These Volunteer Forces were later re-constituted as the Territorial Force by that famous Secretary of State for War, Lord Haldane in 1907.

Today few members of the Regiment either realise or have been taught what we all owe to our own Militia, and hence this story.

The Militia was once the primary land force of our nation, established by King Alfred in the year 878, more than a thousand years ago. Edward I in 1285 ordered that every Freeman of ages 15 to 60 was bound to serve in his local Militia. Thus the Force existed long before a Regular standing Army, which came into being in 1661, owing to a dispute between Charles I and Parliament as to whom should control the constitutional Force, The Militia.

Prior to 1661 there was no permanent army under the Monarch. In the event of unexpected foreign invasion or threat thereof—such as the Spanish Armada of 1588, or internal rebellion to wit, The Irish Rebellion of 1599,—previous sovereigns, before the Martyr King, found no difficulty in calling out, and raising Militia levies at short notice, and thus to form an army.

These "occasional soldiers" as Lord Macaulay somewhat sneezingly called them, upheld the honour of England on many fields of battle, and earned the admiration of one of our greatest historians Sir Walter Raleigh.

In later wars such as the Peninsula and Crimean Campaigns the Militia drafted hundreds of thousands of trained soldiers into the line, as was later to be done in the 1914-18 First World War.

Since 1757 the Militia was embodied on the following specific occasions:—

- (a) Seven Years War (1756-1763) Prussia against Austria, France and Russia.
- (b) American War of Independence 1778-1783.
- (c) From 1792-1803 against rebellion and the threat of invasion.
- (d) 1803. The threat of immediate invasion by Napoleon (as also arose in early stages of 1914-18 War, and in the first years of 1939-45 Second World War).
- (e) Renewed war against Napoleon after his escape from Elba.
- (f) Crimean War 1854.
- (g) Indian Mutiny 1857.

During the South African War both Militia Battalions proceeded overseas as units.

Shortly after the formation of the Territorial Force in 1907 by Lord Haldane the name Militia was changed to Special Reserve much to the sorrow of all ranks.

This force was now intended solely to provide officers and other ranks for the Regular Army during war time.

It could no longer go overseas as separate units as did the Militia. However, I vividly remember when carrying out annual training in the 5th Battalion at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe, hearing Col. Charles Collison our C.O. telling all ranks on parade, just before we returned to the Depot, that he had offered to take over the Battalion to war; and how honoured we felt to serve under him. Later he was to command a battalion in France and Flanders and to win a D.S.O. in another regiment. This incident took place in August 1914.

Special Reserve recruits were trained in companies of their own Battalion at the Depot and later in camp



in their Battalions. Many of these recruits before they completed training joined as Regular soldiers in the Regiment.

To meet this duty the number of Regular Officers and other ranks serving in the Special Reserve Battalions was greatly increased.

This Regular personnel belonged to either the 5th or 6th Special Reserve Battalions as well as forming the Regular Depot establishment.

By the time the S.R. recruit had completed recruit and Battalion training he had done more training than the modern national service soldier.

I should here remind my readers that during the South African War two new Battalions had been formed, the 3rd and 4th and the then Militia 3rd and 4th Battalions became the 5th and 6th Battalions.

This alteration often leads to members of the Regiment thinking that silver cups and trophies belonging in fact to the Militia are the property of the two new Regular Battalions and vice versa.

Another point is that both Militia (or S.R.) Battalions had Bands, and part of these Bands were Regular soldiers. These formed a combined Regular Depot Band.

In the 1914-18 War our two S.R. Battalions provided the personnel needed to train and command the personnel not at once required to bring the four Regular Battalions up to strength, and later to train personnel called to the Colours under the Kitchener Army or Compulsory Service acts of Parliament.

In addition the Battalions had to provide the Forces required to man the Thames and Medway Defences (covering the Nore Naval Command of that area) with H.Q. in Chatham under General Mullaey, a distinguished senior R.E. officer. In his command was the Special Reserve Brigade of the 5th and 6th Battalions under B./General Lumley, C.B., a former commander of the 2nd Regular Battalion in the South African War and later in Hounslow and Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth.

After embodiment the two S.R. Battalions moved from their Depot at Mill Hill (now called Inglis Barracks) where the Depot had been since April, 1905, and where it is now. The S.R. Battalions took with them besides their own ranks all spare Regular Reservists, who then were posted to the S.R. Battalions. Both Battalions were stationed in forts and barracks in the Chatham area. From thence personnel of all ranks were drafted to Regular Battalions as needed. Training was continuous and defence schemes were planned and executed frequently.

It is now necessary to explain in some detail the changes in the Militia and Special Reserve and the many alterations in their titles.

Before the Cardwell plan produced in 1881 and the change caused in numbers of Units by the raising of the two fresh Regular Battalions terminating in the 5th and 6th S.R. Battalions, those units had very different titles. The 5th Battalion (then 3rd Battalion) was the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry, which as a modern unit dates from June, 1853. The Battalion, however, claims ancestry far before that date, and its Royal title justifies that claim.

The 6th Battalion (then 4th Battalion) was called the Royal East Middlesex Militia and was once called the Royal Eastern Regiment. Although junior in precedence to the 5th Battalion this unit claims ancestry back to Saxon times.

It is also well to recollect that the title Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) only dates from 1881 when two separate Regiments 57th West Middlesex and 77th East Middlesex became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of that Regiment. That title after the First World War (1914-18) was again changed to the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), a change causing sorrow to many older members.

Much has been said about titles and numbers, but due honour must be paid to our Militia or Special Reserve for the fact that in the 1914-18 War the 5th Battalion gained the following awards, one C.B.E., six D.S.O.s, two O.B.E.s, 15 M.C.s, and one D.F.C. The 6th Battalion gained two D.S.O., two O.B.E. and eight M.C. awards. These details can be verified in the June 1920 Army List. Many more decorations were undoubtedly won but would not appear in this list as many officers had left the army, or had been killed in the war, neither does this list take any account of the decorations won by Militia Other Ranks, who were serving in all Regular Battalions.

## Correction

On page 148, Journal September, 1953, an error appears in paragraph 7. The March "Lass of Gowrie" was used by the 4th Regular Battalion. The 3rd Regular Battalion used the March "Sir Manley Power." This correction was made by ex-C.S.M. H. A. Clelland and is appreciated by Col. M. Browne.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Major A. W. Clark,  
Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill,  
London, N.W.7.

December 18, 1953.

Dear Sir,

In the name of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster may I thank you most warmly for the generous donation of £60 sent by The Regimental Association of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) to the Abbey Appeal Fund.

Your gift is a great encouragement to us in our efforts to make the Abbey structurally and financially secure for the future, and we deeply appreciate your interest and help.

Yours faithfully,  
ADAM FOX,  
Archdeacon of Westminster.

The Chapter Office,  
The Sanctuary,  
Westminster Abbey, S.W.1.

December 10, 1953.

Dear Mr. Editor,

I am sorry to have made a foolish error in referring to the death of 2/Lt. I. D. Grove-White during the retreat to Dunkirk in stating this ensign was serving in our 1st Battalion. It should have read "1/8th Battalion." He could not have been serving in the 1st Battalion as the 57th was then in Hong Kong. The new 1st Battalion was not reconstructed to the 2/8th Battalion until after the capture of the original 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, Christmas Day, 1941, and came long after his death in action.

A very simple amendment is necessary by replacing 1st Battalion by 1/8th Battalion, and I shall be glad if that may be done.

Inglis Barracks,  
Mill Hill,

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE BROWNE.

## RETIRED OFFICERS' PAY

All retired officers should be grateful to the Members of both Houses of Parliament for the very active interest they have taken in the important matter of the retired service pay of officers of the Armed Forces.

The Prime Minister stated in the House of Commons on November 24 last, when referring to the case of those older retired officers whose retired pay was stabilised in 1935 at 9½ per cent. below the 1919 level, that while the Government recognise the hardship which in the light of later events, the pre-war stabilisation has created, they had, after much consideration, come to the conclusion that it would not be possible to treat this problem as a special case at a time when so many other demands are pressing. This raised strong protests in both the Lords and the Commons, and more no doubt will be heard of this later.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence stated later than 359 retired Service officers were receiving at least £787 10s. a year, and that their average retired pay was £950 a year. Mr. Birch was, of course, referring to officers of and above the rank of full colonel in the Army, and of equivalent ranks in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. On December 8, however, Mr. Birch disclosed the true picture that some 16,550 officers are affected, of whom 8,300 are receiving less than £400 a year, and the lowest only £140, or even less in certain cases. The interests of these officers are being closely followed.

A considerable amount has been achieved regarding the problems of retired officers' pay now that there is the Officers' Pensions Society, whose primary object is to represent the interest of these officers, and of their widows and dependants. The Society is the only organisation comprising officer members from all three Services whose policy is controlled solely by its members, and which carries out its work by means of a Council, elected annually.

It was largely due to the efforts of the Society that widows' pensions were reviewed and increased with effect from December 1, 1952. Previous to this, they had remained basically unchanged for over 100 years.

The necessity for such a Society has been clearly

shown, and the membership has greatly increased recently. It is hoped that all who are eligible will become members, in order that a majority opinion may be represented.

Membership is open to retired officers, to wives of serving or retired officers, and to officers' widows of any of H.M. Forces.

Full particulars as to membership and all details may be obtained from the General Secretary, Officers' Pensions Society, 79 Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

## Extracts from "London Gazette"

October 30, 1953

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Malaya during the period January 1 to June 30, 1953:—

*The Military Medal:* No. 22249439 Cpl. (Acting) David Frederick Clark, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), attached The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

The Queen has been pleased to grant unrestricted permission for the wearing of the following decoration which has been conferred on the undermentioned officer in recognition of gallant and distinguished services during the operations by the United Nations in Korea:—

*Legion of Merit, Degree of Legionnaire:* Col. Andre Morrice Man, D.S.O., O.B.E. (44909), late Infantry, Middlesex Regiment.

The undermentioned officer relinquishes his commission October 31, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank as shown:—

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) J. W. Redford (174737), Major. November 3, 1953

22685962 Cadet Alan Guthrie Milne (431009) to be 2/Lieutenant, September 5, 1953.

Lt. (Acting Capt.) J. D. Gunnell (370679) to be Captain, October 30, 1953, with seniority October 1, 1951.

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) E. Clarke (406401) to be Lieutenant, November 2, 1953, with seniority June 3, 1951.

2/Lt. E. Clarke (406401) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, June 3, 1951 (substituted for the notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated October 19, 1951).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration on the following officer:—

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) A. F. Lockwood (31222), ret'd. November 6, 1953

The undermentioned officer relinquishes his commission November 7, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain:—

Lt. C. A. Watney (278392).

## REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

November 13, 1953

Lt. Dan Kingston Cattell (349632), from Emergency Commission, to be Lieutenant, November 14, 1953, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain.



November 17, 1953

The undermentioned officers relinquish their commissions, November 18, 1953, and are granted the hon. ranks as shown:—

- Lt. J. F. R. Kinnane (262482), Captain.
- Lt. J. Maroulis (303032), Captain.
- Lt. D. G. Landells (330287), Lieutenant.

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants (Acting Lieutenants) to be Lieutenants on the dates shown:—

- 2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) M. A. B. Clutsom (407168) to be Lieutenant, November 17, 1953, with seniority July 5, 1951.

2/Lt. M. A. B. Clutsom (407168) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, July 5, 1951 (substituted for notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated February 29, 1952).

November 20, 1953

Major (Q.M.) P. F. Newman, M.B.E. (114308), having reached the age for retirement, is placed on ret'd. pay, November 19, 1953.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major (Q.M.) P. F. Newman, M.B.E. (114308) (ret'd. pay), to be Major (Q.M.), November 19, 1953.

November 24, 1953

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. L. F. Baker (220386) is granted the acting rank of Major, October 8, 1953.

December 1, 1953

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the 2nd Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration upon the following officer:—

Major (Q.M.) C. F. Denton, T.D. (50435), ret'd. (now Captain-Adjutant and Q.M., Home Guard).

December 8, 1953

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea during the period January 1 to June 30, 1953:—

Major (Temp.) H. C. Pond, M.C. (255225).

#### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

December 11, 1953

- Lt. W. F. Turner (334277) to be Captain, July 6, 1953.
- Lt. L. E. B. Adamson (303038) to be Captain,

August 17, 1953.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. P. C. Kay (383348), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, September 22, 1953, retaining his present seniority.

December 15, 1953

The undermentioned officers relinquish their commissions December 16, 1953, and are granted the hon. ranks as shown:—

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. C. H. Tanner (113635), Major.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe (423050), from T.A. Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenant, October 27, 1953, retaining his present seniority.

December 22, 1953

Lt. H. J. A. Moore (370286) to be Captain, December 20, 1953.

#### ANNUAL BREVETS

The undermentioned Major to be Brevet Lieutenant, July 1, 1953:—

- J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E. (58173), Middlesex.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) P. A. Stocken (407190) to be Lieutenant, December 17, 1953, with seniority July 31, 1951.

2/Lt. P. A. Stocken (407190) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, July 31, 1951 (substituted for notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated November 16, 1951).

December 29, 1953

Lt. S. H. Fothergill (407831) retires on account of disability, December 30, 1953.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. (Acting Major) A. J. Hands (172117) to be Major, December 22, 1953, with seniority September 1, 1951.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. G. L. Blacktop (424967), from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenant, October 12, 1953, with seniority September 20, 1952.

January 1, 1954

2/Lt. R. K. Collins (418232) to be Lieutenant, August 3, 1953.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

January 5, 1954

Capt. (Acting Major) T. W. Creighton (164436) to be Major, December 30, 1953, with seniority January 8, 1953.

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

January 12, 1954

22759902 Cadet Michael Francis John Sibley (431730) to be 2/Lieutenant, October 24, 1953.

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) C. H. Benbow (407474) to be Lieutenant, January 9, 1954, with seniority August 9, 1951.

2/Lt. C. H. Benbow (407474) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, August 9, 1951 (substituted for notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated February 29, 1952).

#### REGULAR ARMY

January 19, 1954

Capt. J. B. Matthews (371323) resigns his commission January 19, 1954.

January 29, 1954

The undermentioned officer to be Colonel on the date shown:—

- Lt.-Col. (Temp. Brigadier) A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E. (41130), from Middlesex, June 18, 1953.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

January 29, 1954

Lt. M. E. Baldwin (377236) is granted the acting rank of Captain, October 8, 1953.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

### RESETTLEMENT

What does "Resettlement" mean? This is a word constantly in use but one which probably conveys a number of different meanings according to the particular problem in the mind either using or confronted with it. It means, of course, settling all over again but may apply to the making of a home or to employment. The National Association uses this word constantly as regards employment. Resettlement in that sense does not mean just a job. The man who on leaving the Service says he wants a job as a driver, for instance, is merely thinking of getting a job and is not resettling himself.

Why re-settling? Perhaps to many nowadays this is a misleading word because they have never yet been "settled" in any way. In the days when most Servicemen enlisted for long periods their Service became their settled mode of living and so on their return to civil life after 12 or 20 years they were faced with the problem of starting all over again. Today, perhaps, the majority have not been in any Service long enough to have regarded it as a mode of living, but even so their return to civil life equally with the long Serviceman means a beginning again.

This means a looking ahead, a careful consideration of a number of things and a sense of values. What has a sense of values to do with it? Simply this. The size of the pay packet is important, but it is certainly not all that matters. There are some jobs which require little or no skill or knowledge and offer very high rates of pay. When that happens the common-sense thing to do is to wonder why. Employers are not benevolent institutions; they have to earn their living just as much as the people they employ, so why the high rate of pay? Almost always the answer is that the job will not last. It is for a few months only.

The man with responsibilities—a wife or family—or the man wishing to undertake such responsibilities should take the long view and seek employment which will lead somewhere. To get a job with prospects usually means having something in the way of ability to offer. Today there are many opportunities for acquiring or developing ability through training. There are many and varied Government Training Courses, most of them at Training Centres (in some of which there is hostel accommodation) and some with farms. There are also many employers who are quite prepared to take on men and train them in their particular processes, but it is quite obvious that during

training the trainee cannot expect to receive a very high rate of pay.

This is one of the things well worth talking over with your local National Association Jobfinder.

### DEATHS

PEARSON.—On November 17, at Hove, Lilian Julia Pearson, widow of the late Brigadier V. L. N. Pearson. Cremation took place at the Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton, on Monday, November 23, and was attended on behalf of the Regiment by Col. M. Browne, Lt.-Col. E. T. Pain, and Major B. K. Cattell.

ROFFE.—Mr. R. H. A. Roffe passed away in Grove Road Hospital, Richmond, early Christmas morning and was buried on Saturday, January 2, 1954. His funeral was attended by a representative from the Depot who also took a wreath from the Association. The late Mr. Roffe served with the Regiment in the South African War and also in the First World War. Prior to entering hospital some two years ago because of blindness, he was a member of the Die-Hard Club at the Depot and was to be seen regularly at all meetings and functions.

FORD.—On Christmas Day ex-Pte. W. Ford passed away. He was a veteran of the South African War and first joined the Regiment in 1891 and served for 12 years. He rejoined the Army in 1915 and served with the Royal Engineers until the end of the First World War. He held the Queen's S.A. Medal and five clasps, the King's S.A. Medal and two clasps, and the three First World War Medals. In addition he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 30 years' postal service.

HUNT.—We regret to announce the death on January 23 of Major J. G. P. Hunt, late of the 11th Battalion. Prior to cremation on January 29, at Golders Green, a funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, Northwood. Major R. W. J. Smith attended the funeral as representative of the Regimental Association and Officers' Club, and a bugler from the Depot sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Among those who attended the service was Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, who commanded the 11th Battalion. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Association and Officers' Club.

Major Hunt was an active member of the Association and Officers' Club, and gave the Association invaluable help with the launching of the War Memorial Appeal.

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**"THE DIE-HARDS" CLUB**

Mill Hill Branch, Inglis Barracks, N.W.7

Greetings to you all from all our members, especially to those who are still serving and preserving the glorious traditions of our Regiment. We assure you that wherever and whenever "Old Die-Hards" meet our pride and love for the Regiment are attributes very dear to the hearts of all.

Our "Club Room" at Mill Hill has recently been redecorated and furnished, and is now so comfortable one may safely call it home at last. A hearty welcome awaits all who have ever worn our badge, and we do very earnestly ask you to pay us a visit on any last Saturday in any month, and this invitation is especially extended to those who have served in recent years. Ours is not an "Old Man's Club," so please come along and we shall be pleased to cater for you as you desire, if you let us know your desires and become a regular visitor. Forward your name and address, together with a postal order for 2s. 6d., to the Secretary, "The Die-Hards Club," Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, when your membership card will be forwarded and your "Club" letter assured to keep you in touch with what is happening.

These notes are written at very short notice, and therefore are very incomplete, but we promise you a more detailed account of ourselves in the next issue of the Journal. Meanwhile, our kind regards and very best of luck to you all from all at the Crawford Hut.

OLD COMRADES.

**THE MILITIA CLUB**

The club was started in 1905 to provide Militia officers of different regiments opportunities to meet together for social intercourse. The club has no quarters, but the members meet together at least twice each year, at one of the Service Clubs, for lunch or dinner.

The present membership is 120, and there are representatives of almost every regiment in the Army.

Our President is Brigadier-General The Earl of Gowrie, V.C., P.C., G.C., M.C., C.B., D.S.O., who started his Army life in the Militia Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry.

Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Major A. S. Bredon, Derry Gariff, Camberley, Surrey.

The subscription is 10s. a year.

**King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers**

An Appeal from Sir Jameson Adams, K.C.V.O.  
January, 1954.

Dear Sir,

Will you allow me, through your Journal, to make known the additional facilities now available in King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, W.1.

The extension to the hospital has been completed,

the original building has been brought up to date and the hospital is now provided with the very latest equipment.

As is already known the hospital has a consulting staff of eminent physicians and surgeons, and patients who desire to avail themselves of their services are charged in accordance with their means, on a scale agreed by the Council. Patients may, however, still make their own arrangements with any physician or surgeon of their choice if they so desire.

A number of ward beds are set aside for serving officers, who are entitled to free bed, nursing and maintenance. Extra charges are cut down to a minimum and are constantly reviewed, and the ability of the patient to pay is always considered. We have recently introduced a Samaritan Fund to assist those in financial need.

The hospital is mainly for surgical and medical cases and has its own Medical Officer (from whom preliminary advice can be obtained without charge) a physiotherapist and an x-ray apparatus.

The hospital has been disclaimed by the Minister of Health, and is therefore entirely dependent on voluntary support. Subscribers, who are entitled to special rates, are asked to pay £1 yearly by banker's order, which can be obtained from the Honorary Appeal Secretary, 15 Ormond Yard, Duke of York Street, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

All officers, serving and retired, permanent and temporary, are eligible for admission.

Yours very truly,

J. B. ADAMS.

15 Ormond Yard,  
Duke of York Street,  
London, S.W.1.

**Kingsbury Calling!  
Kingsbury Calling!**

The 9th Battalion O.C.A. is still a very live body with H.Q. at the centre in Honeypt Lane. Thanks to the C.O., we are given the use of the club room every Friday evening, with free facilities for billiards, snooker and darts, and television and a drink if you so desire.

The arrangements for the Annual Dinner are well in hand and will take place at the centre on May 15, when we hope to see about 200 present. Full particulars can be obtained from Mr. Frank Fenimore, 565 Kenton Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

The Regimental spirit of good comradeship still exists and after 40 years we are still able to muster a good gathering for the Annual Dinners and Remembrance Services.

There are, however, some with whom we have lost contact and it is our hope that this brief account may catch the eye of you who would like to renew your friendships made in 1914 and 1939.

We welcome any "Die-Hard" when in the locality to give us a look up and be assured of a warm welcome.

Just jot down the address and remember: Club nights Fridays and the Annual Dinner, May 15.

FRANK FENIMORE, *Hon. Secretary.*

Subscriptions for the Journal from June, 1954 to March, 1955, are now due in many cases.

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MILL HILL,  
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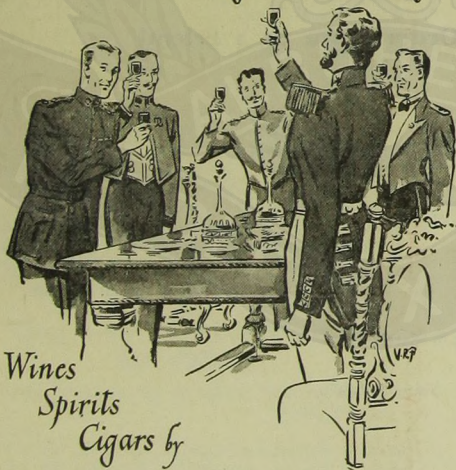


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