

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysora," "Seringapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Afr ca 1900-02."
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Fresenberg,"
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albani, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Deville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume,"
 "Polygon Wood," "1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "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," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular Battalion

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

Militia Battalions

5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal Middlesex Militia). In suspension.
 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 571 L.A.A. Regt. R.A.
 (9th Bn. The Middlesex Regiment, (D.C.O.) T.A.).

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NEW ZEALAND.
 The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,
 Toku, Taranaki, New Zealand.

HONG KONG REGIMENT.
 British Army Post Office, 1, Hong Kong.
 Colonel of the Regiment: Lt-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B.,
 M.C., D.L.
 Officer Commanding 1st Battalion: Lt-Col. J. E. F.
 Willoughby, O.B.E.
 Officer Commanding Depot: Major A. R. Waller, M.C.
 Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt-Col. W. D. Ellis,
 O.B.E., T.D.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

1919—1952

Compiled under the direction
of a Regimental Committee

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY

Lieutenant-Commander P. K. Kemp

F.R.Hist.S., R.N. (ret.)

WITH A FOREWORD BY

General Sir Brian G. Horrocks

K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORY—

FOREWORD

CHAPTER I	1st and 2nd Battalions 1919-1939
II	The Territorial Battalions and Depot 1919-1939
III	The 1st Battalion in HONG KONG
IV	2nd Battalion 1939-1945
V	1/7th Battalion 1939-1945
VI	2/7th Battalion 1939-1945
VII	1/8th Battalion 1939-1945
VIII	2/8th Battalion and Resuscitated 1st Battalion 1939-45

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II	The Allied Regiments
III	The Bands
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V	Roll of Honour 1939-1952
VI	Honours and Awards 1919-1952

INDEX

The History contains approx 320 pages, exclusive of the index. There will be a Frontispiece, eight double pages of photographs and eleven maps.

The volume will be bound in maroon cloth with gilt lettering and Regimental Crest. The dust cover will show an action picture.

The price to past and present members of the Regiment will be 18/6 if ordered through the Regiment, and 25/- to the General Public on the Bookstalls.

DE LUXE EDITION—A special edition, bound in full leather with raised bands, gilt edges, gilt tooling and squares, a regimental ribbon bookmark, and in a cloth box will be available. The price of this will be Five guineas.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER BY USING THE ORDER FORM OPPOSITE



Chief Editor: Major G. W. Kempster

Asst. Editor (Business): Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

EDITORIAL

HENRY CLIFFORD, V.C.

We commend this excellent book, recently published, to our readers. It comprises the letters and sketches written and drawn by Henry Clifford during the campaign in the Crimea during which he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry while fighting side by side with the 77th.

The book contains frequent references to the 77th and its courageous commander, Col. Egerton, with a description of the gallant action in which he and Capt. Lempiere were killed.

A vivid account of war as fought a century ago, written by one who greatly respected the 77th for its fighting qualities.

RISHWORTH SCHOOL (Established 1724)

The Governors of Rishworth School are offering two Exhibitions annually to the sons of serving members of H.M. Forces. The value of each is £40 per annum. Candidates will be assessed on June Common Entrance Papers and interview.

Consideration will be given as much to the boy's character and all-round ability as to his academic results.

Rishworth, a small public school, is situated in the country about 6 miles from Halifax.

Detailed information from the Headmaster (M. W. Pitt, M.A.), Rishworth School, near Halifax.

G.W.K.

Regimental History

It is regretted by the Committee that due to circumstances beyond our control the publication of the Regimental History will be delayed for a little time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Golf. Spring Meeting—Hendon Golf Club, Thursday, May 3, 1956. Autumn Meeting—North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Saturday-Sunday, September 22-23, 1956.

Cricket Week. Saturday, June, 16 to Wednesday, June 20, 1956.

Officers' Club Dinner. United Service Club, Friday, June 29, 1956.

OPEN DAY AT THE DEPOT

12th May, 1956

To Commemorate the Bi-centenary of the 57th.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MAJOR J. P. BROMWICH, CAMBRIDGE:

"Dr. James Smalley, 96a Barton Road, Cambridge, late Senior Medical Officer, Hong Kong, would be pleased to hear from any fellow P.O.W.s from the pre-war 1st Middlesex."

G.W.K.

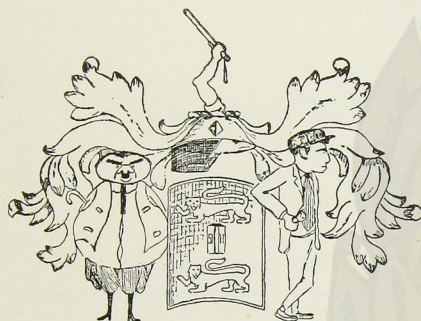
OFFICERS' CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

12th May, 1956, 6.30 p.m.

Officers' Mess, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

C

1st Battalion Notes



Floreat Kypros

EDITORIAL

The Battalion's New Station

Cyprus, for most of the year one of the loveliest islands of the Mediterranean, has more than 5,000 years of recorded history. Every civilisation that has controlled the Eastern Mediterranean has at one time held dominion over this island. Mycenae, Assyria, Persia, Egypt, Alexander the Great, Rome, Byzantium, Richard Coeur de Lion, Guy de Lusignan, Venice, Turkey, all these have in turn ruled and left behind their cities, their tombs and their descendants. It is an island of contrasts, contradictions and, when authority in the Eastern Mediterranean is in dispute, of conflict. The friendliest villages continue the vendettas of their forefathers so that the law must limit the length of a pen-knife blade. Villages that yesterday opened their doors to English visitors are today smeared with the blue-daubed incitements of E.O.K.A., because terrorism is amongst them. But tomorrow, when the secret fear has moved on, they will be as gracious and generous as they have ever been.

Those who do not know Cyprus and who try to assess the military problem of enforcing the law at the present time need to keep in mind several factors. Firstly, the effect of propaganda on the air is as dynamic here as it is in the Arab countries. The only station that offers a continuous broadcast in Greek is Athens Radio. Secondly, the majority of the education is controlled from Greece. Thirdly, when reading about the behaviour of schoolboys there is a danger of assuming that they are as young and as manageable as those in Great Britain. Fourthly, the fear of E.O.K.A. amongst the population is a very real one and their traitors are executed. Finally, this island is not so small as it appears on most maps. Many of the mountain areas are very difficult country by any standard. For

thousands of year the inhabitants have scooped out hidden caves to escape the invader; the 10,000 cave tombs recorded by the Department of Antiquities is only a fraction of those that exist; and, for as long as time, dwellers have dug deep wells so that their number is uncounted. Therefore, to search for wanted men and for arms can be literally as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack.

The professional terrorist has shown ability to plan deliberately and well. His tactics are in the main those of the shot in the back and the safe ambush. If there is immediate pursuit weapons are usually abandoned in flight. They are supported passively by the abject fear of the majority of peaceable citizens, and actively by the amateurs, the students, who seem to have ascribed to Digenis most of the attributes of Robin Hood and Robert Bruce. So long as their skins are not in danger they will stop at nothing, and when the headmaster will not expel the ringleaders for fear of being murdered, we must concede to him the hard fact that they are perfectly capable of it. Their weapon is occasionally a pistol, but more often a crude bomb.

To restore the rule of law the administrative subdivision of the island has been retained for the control of operations. In each district direction is by a committee consisting of the District Commissioner, the Army Area Commander and the Superintendent of Police. For the Larnaca District, our Commanding Officer is the Area Commander. The committees receive orders from and are responsible to the Chief of Staff to H.E. The Governor. Larnaca District Operations Room has been set up in the main Larnaca Police Station and is run by the Battalion Intelligence Officer, Lt. Lobb. The Battalion H.Q. itself is in Alma Camp, Dhekelia, 9 miles to the east, and frequently it is necessary to run two headquarters.

One important change in the Army's role here in Cyprus is that in disturbances they act as police, their primary weapon being the baton supported by tear smoke grenades, and in the last resort by fire. This has the great advantage of enabling the Army to go straight into action without waiting (in the past, so often too long) to be called in to take over from the civil police.

For police work the Army and the police act as one force, but it must be recognised that it is not altogether quite as simple as this, for the Cypriot police are frequently in an invidious position. For example, a policeman will naturally think very hard what his son's schoolmates will do to him when they see his father taking part in a baton charge against them. It is also a factor that Cyprus is a long way from England and the Cypriot police have a different way of going about things; time presses on them less urgently. Therefore, British troops guarding a police station so that the police may spend more time on their beat, need not be surprised to see them passing a great deal of the day at



New Modern Army

the nearest cafe drinking coffee and reading a newspaper; for the Cypriot this is being on his beat.

At the present time one Company is guarding police stations and vulnerable points; another is stationed at Horrocks Camp in Larnaca as Riot Company, and the balance of the Battalion is employed on searches, patrols, road blocks, anti-smuggling, work and sometimes training. Detached guards consist of a section of two N.C.O.s and six men, being the minimum that can maintain a double sentry by night and a single sentry by day. The tour of duty is for a maximum of two weeks. Companies take turns in finding the Riot Company in Larnaca, the detached guards at police stations, and being at call in Alma Camp.

The Story So Far

The Battalion's departure from England went smoothly. Col. Maurice Browne travelled to Liverpool, with Major Waller, Major Heywood and others, and came aboard the *Empire Clyde* to wish all ranks farewell. On the whole the journey was delightful. In the warm sun and the calm waters of the Mediterranean the miseries of sea sickness on the first two or three days were more or less forgotten.

Cyprus came into view during the afternoon of October 27 and the anchor was dropped off Famagusta early the next morning. The two Companies taking

over the police stations and vulnerable points guards from the 2nd Battalion The Green Howards disembarked first. After being played ashore by the Band and Pipes of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, they went straight off to their posts. The families landed next to the sound of tear gas grenades dispersing a riot in the town organised to celebrate the entry of Greece into the last war. They were driven to their rented accommodation in Larnaca 23 miles away, but here, too, there were disturbances and many had to wait at the outskirts of the town until order had been restored. This affair barely qualified as a riot. It consisted of youths urged on by Communists, on the direction of the mayor, and developed into a crowd of hooligans advancing down the Marine Front, arming themselves with large pebbles as they came. On the appearance of the Army they all ran away to a safe distance and continued to throw stones at maximum range as the troops advanced. The general public took no active part at all.

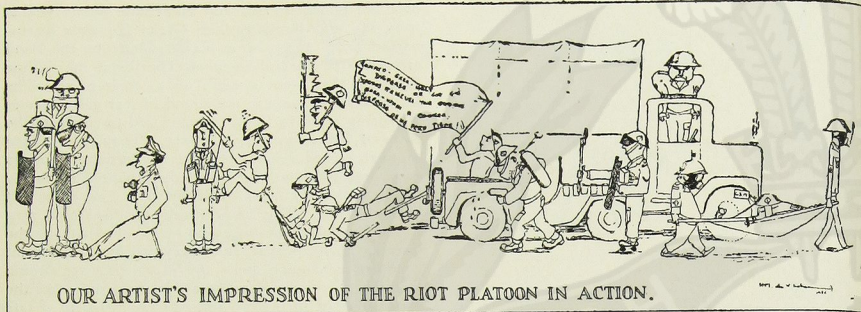
We were vouchsafed a quiet three weeks in which to settle down and find our way about. During this time E.O.K.A. activity was restricted to the distribution of leaflets.

At 10 p.m. on November 18 we were ordered to send a boarding party to a jetty at Zygi, 35 miles west of Larnaca, there to contact the Royal Navy at 2 a.m. At 4 a.m. a Naval launch came in and a Platoon under 2/Lt. Baker boarded the motor vessel *Trias* at anchor off shore. The ship, though flying the Red Ensign, carried an entirely Greek crew and for various reasons had come under some suspicion. The Platoon remained on board for three days, during which time *Trias* was moved to Dhekelia and searched. The crew were brought ashore and lodged in the guardroom in Alma Camp while they were interrogated. It was not long before the Greek Consul arrived to protest.

At 8 a.m., while the ship was being moved round to Dhekelia, the Greek school in Larnaca, the Commercial Lyceum, misbehaved without warning. The Police Riot Platoon turned out with one Platoon from "A" Company under 2/Lt. Mather in support. On turning a corner the police came under a rain of stones and before the troops could clear their trucks a British police officer had been given a black eye and knocked down. As soon as the force went into action the rioters, all girls and boys, ran for their lives to the sanctuary of St. Lazarus Church and its churchyard—all save one, a strapping young amazon who, in floods of tears, was rubbing her behind as hard as she could. The churchyard was soon surrounded by "A" Company, who arrived in hot pursuit.

For obvious reasons the temptations to enter the churchyard had to be resisted and the cordon remained outside to withstand a barrage of rubble and catapulted glass marbles—a deadly missile. At times it was necessary to drive the miscreants back into the church with tear smoke.

It was then communicated to those inside that the cordon would remain in position until they became hungry enough to come out; if necessary for hours, if necessary for days.



During the morning parents were allowed through the cordon to persuade their sons and daughters to come out, and many small boys and girls were led home. By midday a hard core of about 60 adolescents remained adamant.

The mayor of Larnaca then intervened and undertook to guarantee peaceful dispersal if the troops were first withdrawn. His proposal was rejected. He then intervened a second time to point out that shortly, between two and three thousand workers building the new Dhekelia cantonment would be arriving in the town having finished work. He considered that there would be serious trouble if they found the present situation in being. His proposal this time was that the troops should withdraw and he would guarantee that anyone wanted by the police would be available for arrest in their homes in two hours' time. He was told that if the workers wanted trouble, they could have it. None appeared.

At half-past one, as hot dinners were about to go out to the cordon, the youths began to come out in parties of sixes and sevens, amongst them many St. Trinians 1st XI, trying to look dignified in very undignified circumstances. Thirty-six youths and four girls were driven off in Black Marias to the police station.

The consequences of this exploit was that H.E. The Governor ordered the school to be closed indefinitely. On the Monday, two days later, it was occupied by "S" Company under Major Kent. A home-made bomb was found in the chemistry laboratory, and the sulphur, charcoal, and other explosively labelled jars were significantly empty. So much for "stinks."

The following morning it was evident that some counter-demonstration impended. At 6 a.m. two bus loads of youths from the Lyceum in Nicosia arrived unannounced, but they confined themselves during the morning to inciting the English School and the American Academy to come out on strike, while the younger members prowled about "S" Company with catapults and bows and arrows. Readers may rest assured that up to the time of writing no arrow has actually been seen in flight, and the last boy to have his bow and arrows taken from him and broken burst into bitter tears of abject misery.

As the morning went on adult agitators filtered into the town from other parts of the island.

It must be remembered that though only a small body of troops are necessary to scatter a riot here, the process of enforcing the law is not complete until those who have broken it have been arrested, tried and sentenced. The problem in Larnaca so far has not been to quell a riot but to detain those taking part. Cypriot rioters run very fast and escape quickly down side streets and through doors and alleyways. A small force can usually achieve little more than to scatter the crowd and is in danger of being assailed from behind and the flanks as soon as it begins to advance down the street. To catch a salutary number of offenders needs a great many police and troops.

From 7.30 a.m. four Companies and the police riot squad had been standing by in the outskirts armed chiefly with batons and shields. At 2.15 p.m. the workers of Dhekelia stopped work early and began to embus. At about the same time four busloads of men left the village of Kiti, 6 miles on the west side of Larnaca, for the town. Neither of these contingents contributed much to the afternoon demonstration. By 5 p.m. most of the Dhekelia representatives were still awaiting their turn to pass through a check point, while many thanks to the ingenuity of Capt. Carter, had been caught in two road checks and diverted in a way that resulted in their coming in at the back of the queue from which they had first escaped. Likewise, outside Kiti, Lt. Humber had been so thorough in his search of the buses that the occupants had given up and returned home, there to draw up a protest to His Excellency against the infringement of human rights.

The layout of most towns is such that the domination of one or two centres or streets tends to control much of the remainder. In Larnaca, these features consist of the Marine Front offering an unlimited supply of pebbles and giving direct access to the newer part of the town, and Schools Street which divides diagonally the newer part from Old Larnaca.

At 3 o'clock the bells of St. Lazarus rang out to summon the people. Shops on Communist instruction closed, and a crowd of about 2,000 began to assemble at the church, where they were addressed by the mayor.

"D" Company, under Capt. Evans, deployed down the sea front to bar it to any processions, and "S" Company based on the Lyceum School picketed Schools Street. The crowd began to move off and many attempted to reach the sea front, but being confronted with troops and wire at the exit of every street, remained passively at the barriers hoping that "D" Company would move off and away. The remainder moved on Schools Street. As they approached it "A" Company, on "champs" and armed with batons, were loosed from the police station. They caught the procession in front and rear and the whole affair was over in two minutes.

Since the previous night there had been a great deal of shooting in Famagusta. For the approaching night the main streets of Larnaca were picketed and the N.C.O.s' Cadre carried out training in night patrolling. Road blocks checked all vehicles in and out of the town. But everyone remained indoors and the town returned to normal the next day.

On November 25 H.E. The Governor arrived at the Government offices in Larnaca by helicopter, visited the Operations Rooms and then took off again for the Battalion at Alma Camp where he stayed for lunch. Very strict security measures have been instituted for all the Governor's movements and the information of his impending visit was not generally released until he had landed at Larnaca.

On Thursday, December 8, the Battalion took part in the island-wide search of monasteries which had become suspected of harbouring terrorists. Seven in the Larnaca area were selected, which included the famous monastery of Stavrovouni, built on a finger-tip of rock 2,000 feet above the sea. Amongst its treasures is a piece of the True Cross. A great deal of surreptitious reconnaissance and secret planning went into this operation, but in the event the only catch was a monk in the annexe building to Stavrovouni, at the base of the hill, who bolted with a small box under his arm containing two old pistols. For this he has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

It was an interesting day, particularly for the monks living in the annexe, who not only found a real life drama amongst them but had a golden opportunity of seeing each others kits.

At 2.30 a.m. on December 14 all the leading Communists in the island were arrested and their offices searched. This again required careful co-ordination and, as for the search of the monasteries, the operation was based on Alma Camp. At very short notice a special detention camp was set up by the Battalion, who had the additional responsibility of arranging for their reception, running the camp and guarding it. The whole operation was very successful in spite of a good deal of hide and seek in the night. To Capt. Carter fell the satisfaction of arresting the Mayor of Larnaca, and he and the worst of his friends are now inside.

In spite of many difficulties Christmas Day was celebrated everywhere. The festival opened with the Communists in their camp declaring a hunger strike and singing a very doleful Party dirge indeed as they walked up and down inside the wire. The strike was a protest against their arrest, though no doubt a surfeit



CHRISTMAS IN A TENT

Pte. Bartington, Pte. Potter, Pte. Hambley, L/Cpl. Maloney, Pte. Daw and Pte. Wright, all of "H.Q." Company

of Army-issued tinned herrings spurred them on. At the normal time for "elevenses" the Mayor of Larnaca was observed dipping into a big bag of goodies, and as the tent flaps parted to allow little parcels to be thrown from the secrecy of one tent to another, many crummy mouths were seen. Elsewhere, the outlying guards ate more turkey and plum pudding than was good for them. In most places the turkey was cooked by the village.

It was impossible to arrange any great celebrations for the Regimental bi-centenary. A drumhead service had to be cancelled because of a downpour. A service was instead held in the camp chapel and taken by the Assistant Chaplain-General, the Rev. Guy Whitcombe, who was until recently chaplain to the R.M.A., Sandhurst.

1955 ended with the Dhekelia workers again striking with the intention of demonstrating in Larnaca, but once more they met the difficulties of road checks and they abandoned their intentions. Early in the New Year "C" and "S" Companies move out to the hills north of Famagusta to take part in Operation Plum Duff, of which an account is given separately.

We were all delighted to see Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks again. He was met at the airfield by Major Chattey and visited the Battalion on January 13. The General lunched in the Officers' Mess and talked to many soldiers in the camp. Later he met the families at tea in the Welfare Centre in Larnaca. Mr. Williams, the District Commissioner, had very kindly asked him to stay and he left for Nicosia early next morning after only too short a visit.

On the night of Sunday, January 22, under the guise of being burgled, a great many Cypriots surrendered their shotguns to representatives of E.O.K.A. In Larnaca area over 80 were taken. Of this number, 32 disappeared from the village of Xylophagou. A sustained search has been made of the area of this village, spread over two weeks, with Major Bennett's, Major Doyle's and Capt. Eales' Companies. Every field has

been covered, every well descended, but only four new shotguns were discovered, though a very old muzzle loader and a home-made pistol were found amongst some boulders, and a collection of gunpowder, shot and caps picked up in an old boot. The remainder must be somewhere about, but as usual the area is pitted with Greek tombs, caves and wells.

At the time of writing "A" Company are preparing to move to Aqaba to do a tour of duty as part of the garrison. They will be away for two or three months. Most people seem to enjoy this short tour very much indeed. There is much to do and underwater fishing is excellent.

Battalion Personalities

The most notable departure has been that of Major Chattey, almost immediately after our arrival, to become Commandant of the School of Army Police Liaison in Nicosia. We see him and Mrs. Chattey occasionally, and congratulate him on his promotion to Lieut.-Colonel. Major Nolda has steeped in as second-in-command, and his penetrating voice has made itself heard in every corner of the Larnaca area. His most celebrated feat so far has been the deportation of the NAAFI strikers, who were picketing the main entrance to the camp with placards. They were transported some miles down the road, off-loaded, and told they were quite at liberty to strike and to parade their grievances, but not on our doorstep.

Capt. Evans has returned to the Depot as Adjutant, where we wish him success.

Capt. Wollocombe has been appointed A.D.C. to Major-Gen. Ricketts, G.O.C. Cyprus District, and from the heights we hear rumours of his doings from time to time; apparently he finds his duties congenial.

Major Doyle has returned to the Battalion after an absence of over five years, and now commands "B" Company. After an even longer absence Major Galvin has just arrived and is busy taking over "SP" Company from Major Kent. Capt. Eales has finished his tour of duty as A.D.C. to the Governor of the Sudan and is commanding "D" Company.

2/Lts. Ashton, Medlock and Sinclair all spent a short while with us at the end of their National Service, and have now returned to England. New arrivals have been 2/Lts. Murphy and Olbery.

C.S.M. Budden has rejoined after his period at the Depot, and is now in "D" Company. Sgt. Moran has gone to E.R.E., and C/Sgt. Thorogood is awaiting a posting to England. Sgt. Hull has transferred into the Band from that of the Green Howards; he is the son of a well-known Regimental character, ex-Sgt. "Busty" Hull, who is the Chairman of the Mill Hill Branch of the Old Comrades' Association.

Alma Camp

While we were still in Austria a plan of Alma Camp arrived. Those of us who knew the Middle East recognised the familiar shape.

On October 29 and 30 the main body of the Battalion arrived in this camp, which is to be our firm base and home for the next three years. Alma provided no surprise, and is just as we had imagined it would be.

The layout is simple. Drive in through the only entrance and on the left are the M.T. office and park, then the Signals office, while on the right the tented Guard Room, the Church, the P.R.I. and the R.S.M.'s office. That brings us to a T junction. In front is the cookhouse and dining halls; turn left from Battalion H.Q., all the Companies, and if you go to the end of the road the contractors' shops and the NAAFI; turn right for the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Beyond the road are the Company lines.

Except for a few privileged clerks and storemen—and, of course, the "married accompanied"—we all live in tents. Perhaps that is appropriate in the Middle East, but most of us regard it as a somewhat limited existence.

After several weeks of intermittent rain the camp has become green in places, but the generally barren appearance is still with us. The silver-coloured Nissen huts, E.P.I.P. tents, blue doors and fences, and the scarcity of trees are not a combination calculated to charm the observer. But the Battalion is accepting the challenge. Already tidiness is replacing disorder, gardens are being cultivated in unexpected places, the Sergeants have started a modest poultry farm, and we feel some progress has been made.

New huts are springing up, and the meagre amenities are slowly improving. No opportunity to make the camp more attractive or more comfortable is being missed. We are not despondent about the future, but sometimes we envy the lucky people who will live in the new barracks now being built by the sea only a short distance from Alma.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Our last journal notes ended with an optimistic anticipation of a fuller Mess life and, in particular, the opportunity to see more of other Messes. Such hopes, of course, were only natural after Mess life in Austria, where at least one Company were invariably on detachment. However, it was not to be. Our arrival in Cyprus coincided with the opening of a more intense phase of unlawful activities and the result is the deployment of the Battalion over a fairly large area, which means, of course, the deployment of Mess members.

In spite of the many handicaps a healthy and comfortable Mess is flourishing at Alma Camp, and although functions are limited they are organised and conducted with the same old enthusiasm. Having said farewell to our friends the Green Howards, we looked forward to the Christmas festivities which, this year, were to be enhanced by the celebration of the bi-centenary of the Regiment.

The entertainments committee, ably led by C.S.M. Perry, organised our Christmas Draw, and needless to say it was as successful as ever. It was to be noted that as the board filled up the standard of dart playing in the Mess soared to unbelievable heights. This was to stand the Mess in good stead later.

One often associates the period before Christmas with a determination to save those extra few coppers, but the majority of the Mess are convinced that Cyril Orme, "Mutt" Hazlewood and Basil Lemaitre are taking things a little too far. They are not so young as some



Scenes from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess New Year's Eve Ball

and we are sure their poor old bones do not get deep, restless sleep on those lumpy mattresses.

Commitments and duties demanded a rather unusual Christmas programme. The draw was held during the afternoon of Christmas Eve and so enabled a number of families to be present. For those who could remain a lively little social evening developed, and all agreed that a good start was made to the festivities.

Christmas Day commenced with the W.O.s and Sergeants affording the troops the luxury of tea in bed, and this old custom was maintained even in the most remote out-station. The Commanding Officer, accompanied by R.S.M. Wild, spent the day touring the various posts and police stations at which we have detachments, and

the R.S.M. assures us that nowhere was the Christmas spirit lacking. The families living in Larnaca were as generous as ever in their determination to entertain the living-in members, a number of whom managed to get into town after serving the troops' dinner.

On Boxing Day, the 200th anniversary of the Battalion, the W.O.s and Sergeants were entertained at lunch time by the officers. The programme of outdoor events was cancelled due to heavy rain, and all regretted in particular the cancellation of the Officers v. W.O.s and Sergeants comic football match.

We were determined to do full honours to the Old and New Years, and a most successful dance was held on New Year's Eve. 1956 was ushered in in no uncertain manner. All our thoughts, as is usual on such occasions, were with absent friends. We often speak of them and wonder how they are. We would indeed welcome any correspondence or contacts with old members and acquaintances, and would like this opportunity of apologising to those to whom we unintentionally forgot to send seasonal greetings.

The new cantonment of Dhekelia is partly occupied and included in the more fortunate are members of No. 1 and No. 2 Admin. Area Messes. They have established themselves as outstanding hosts and we less fortunate camp dwellers are always made most welcome—indeed, they cannot do enough for us. The most recent effort is the foundation of a Garrison Messes Dart League. The first match was a home for the "Middies" against No. 2 Mess on Friday, January 27. A very good evening was had by all and we are pleased to announce our first victory.

We have had the inevitable change of faces and we welcome C.S.M. Budden from the Depot and Sgt. Biggs. Sgt. Redmond has rejoined us from employment in Nicosia, but we had to surrender Sgt. Field to the clutches of E.R.E.

We congratulate the following on their promotion: C.S.M. Shrubbs and Sgts. Davies, Clifton, Giles, Pollecutt and Lloyd. We also congratulate and in the same breath say farewell to Sgt. Wheat, who leaves us in order to work for a living.

Before going to press we are delighted to announce the arrival of the new Mess silver. R.S.M. Wild has at last achieved one of his ambitions and is to be congratulated on the final result. The first Mess dinner with the new silver was held on Saturday, January 28, and most members managed to attend. We feel that such functions are so important in these difficult times.

We naturally look forward to more settled conditions and, as last time, we conclude our notes in optimistic anticipation of a fuller Mess life.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Signal Platoon

The most noticeable landmark in Alma Camp is the impressive array of weird aerials, beneath which cluster the new abodes of the Signal Platoon. To the "unclassified" this area is just another mass of dangerous guy ropes, but the initiated it proclaims some unusual and mysterious sets.

The takeover of the new sets and situations was

hurried, and the rather understrength Platoon was stretched to occupy every vacant chair. As a result, the trained signallers were hard worked for two months until their reliefs could be trained. In particular, stalwart efforts were made by Gallagher on the exchange, Lyons with his charging engines, and L/Cpl. Bovis in the police station at Larnaca.

The need for constant communications revealed unfortunate faults in most of the wireless sets, and, regrettably, some in the operators as well. Without wishing to tempt Fate we think the situation is better now. Two control rooms, at Alma Camp and Larnaca Police Station, are manned continually, while wireless from them to secret destinations is maintained. Cpl. Turner, with Temple and Wheat, have ridden hard to deliver the despatches, and Merton has ridden too hard, causing an unfortunate fall and a spell in hospital. Large quantities of cable have been strewn over the area, which has kept Cpl. Yates and every other available man busy with maintenance, as the locals have discovered it uses and defy the Security Forces to obtain a clothes line. L/Cpls. Taylor and Nelson have done much good work in the Stores, testing, repairing and painting, and when the Battery Shop is completed the increased space should solve their storage problems.

Training has had to continue incessantly since the Battalion arrived. Two cadres have been held, producing 20 new signallers. Cpl. Clarke has attended an R.S.I. course at Hythe and obtained a very good report indeed. Congratulations to him on this excellent result.

In the limited sporting activities Sgt. Mead and L/Cpl. Taylor play soccer for the Battalion, and Gallagher and Horrix are boxing for the Company. The Platoon soccer team, with L/Cpls. Cox, Brandford and Fierheller as stars, struggle through an impressive fixture list.

There is plenty of enthusiasm in the Platoon, although sometimes misplaced. We have survived Temple abandoning his set for a baton during a riot, and an unnamed operator feeding 24 volts into a 12-volt set, and confidently expect to survive whatever occurs this year.

M.T. Platoon

The Advanced Party of the Platoon arrived in Cyprus on October 6, 1955, and consisted of Capt. Turner, the M.T.O., Cpl. Carter and Ptes. Hobbs, Humphrey, Jenner, Collis, Adams, and Cfn. Tate. Work started straightaway on the arduous task of taking over 120 vehicles, 40 of which were in Workshops. However, all was ready for the arrival of the main party when they disembarked.

The Platoon was soon on the road and have been running almost continuously. Driving on the left-hand side of the road came naturally, despite our stay in Austria. Road conditions in the island leave much to be desired and great care has to be exercised at all times. We have unfortunately had several accidents, but luckily no casualties as far as personnel are concerned.

The mileage run each month has reached astronomical figures; during November it was 60,000 miles, and for December 70,000 miles. This imposes a great strain on the drivers and their vehicles, and maintenance has to

be carried out at peculiar times. Our proud boast is that we have only sought R.E.M.E. assistance on recovery on one occasion.

There has been little change in personnel, although we lost Cpl. Hisgrove to the Depot on compassionate posting in December. We wish him well. Cpl. Ward and L/Cpls. Hobbs, Humphrey and Jenner are to be congratulated on their well-merited promotion.

BAND

When the rumour that the Battalion's next station was to be Cyprus became fact, it was received with mixed feelings by members of the Band.

However, after a few weeks' leave in England, followed by a week or so in Colchester, we were glad to be once again on the move, in time to avoid the English winter.

News of our departure from Colchester will probably be given in detail elsewhere. Unlike our departure for Austria nearly three years ago, the Band strength, to say the least, was at this time sorely depleted, as during our stay at home we had lost five of our original members.

Sgt. "Bill" Grogan, who is now fully recovered from his operation, was posted to the Depot, Mill Hill, where he has launched a one-man campaign in recruiting new boys and bandsmen, which up to date is going very well, fully justifying his recent promotion to Band Colour-Sergeant.

Sgt. "Phil" Searle and Bdsman John Patrick were demobbed, having completed their term of service, as was L/Cpl. "Digger" Hiscock, who obtained his discharge by purchase. (Farewell to the golden tones of his euphonium, which used to echo round the washroom at Zeltweg.)

Cpl. George Beechy, having despaired of growing his own, has decided to cover his dome with a bearskin by transferring to the Grenadier Guards Band.

For a time we have also lost L/Cpl. Aburrow and Bdsman. Castle, as they both stayed in England to continue their studies at Kneller Hall.

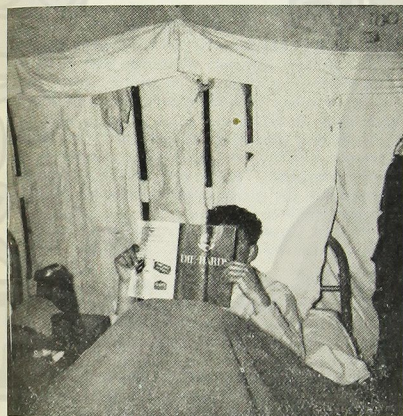
However, to help balance the effect of losing these staunch members, Bdsman. Grant and Cooper have joined us from the Gordon Boys' School, together with Boys Fairbrass, Groves, Hardiman and Pye straight from civilian life.

The sea trip out here to Cyprus was, to the older and more experienced members, comparatively calm, but there were days when the sea-sickness drove others hastily to the rail.

When we did finally reach Famagusta, where we were greeted by the Band of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, we entrucked and set off for our new abode—Alma Camp.

The camp consists of numerous rows of sand-blown tents, with here and there an occasional Nissen hut, which house those more fortunate individuals such as our Band Storeman, Cpl. Davies, who on our first day here set the seal on our fate by being nabbed for the Band's first guard duty out in the "wilds."

At first we had to provide guards, escorts, D.R.O.s, etc., at all-too-often periods, and we were given a course in weapon training to "tune us up" for these



unusual "engagements," but recently we have been taken off these duties roll and, with the exception of an occasional night patrol, we now perform our normal duties.

On the musical side we have given a number of military band concerts to the troops, which were warmly appreciated, and the Dance Band has been in great demand at nearby Messes.

In the sporting line the Band have been holding their own, and in a basketball match against the U.S. Navy they won by 26 points to 24 after a very hard-fought game.

On the same day we also fielded a softball team, but due to the fact that the Americans are born to it and their pitcher used a jet-propelled ball, we lost by a considerable margin.



Two days later the Band played the crew of a British ship, H.M.S. *Chieftain*, at hockey and just lost by 3 goals to 2. The scorers being Bdsman. Torrie and Andrews.

The latest promotions in the Band are: C/Sgt. Grogan (who hopes to be upgraded and rejoin us), Cpl. Davies, who has moved into the Sergeants' Mess lines, and Cpl. Ingram, who is now Band Storeman.

Before closing these, our first notes from Cyprus, I would mention that contrary to what was inferred in articles published in certain daily newspapers, the boys here are not in the midst of the riots; they do not do guards or patrols, but Band duties only.

However, as the saying goes, "boys will be boys," and one with a vivid imagination and an eager pen has been slightly too convincing in his description of what isn't such a terrible place.

As the "Old Uns" would say: "We've known worse!"

CORPS OF DRUMS

After a most pleasant and interesting voyage we disembarked at Famagusta in glorious sunshine and, without exception, we all welcomed the prospect of wintering in the "Med." Having "wintered" for three months or more there are those amongst us who will, in future, eye the attractive advertisements of the travel agencies with cynicism, to say the least.

The Band, Pipes and Drums of the Inniskillings were on the quayside to welcome us and we, of course, eyed the scene from a professional angle. We were most impressed with their turnout and playing, in particular their rendering of our Regimental March. In a very short time we found ourselves on desert-coloured trucks and were whisked away to commence our tour in B.F.P.O.53.

The tentage problem was by no means solved at the time we debussed in Alma Camp, and the Drums found themselves in "temporary" accommodation consisting of four hard-standings, four tents and little else—unless one includes the flotsam usually found in the wake of

Middle East contractors. We were at once reminded of our O.P. role when Cpl. Bennett and two Drummers were whisked away to strengthen the defences of Dhekelia Police Station. We were soon to be relieved of this commitment and were soon convinced that "drumming" was by no means to be our primary role. There is not space to include all our operational activities, but two in particular deserve special mention. Late November, 1955, saw the most intense riot yet in Larnaca, and although the Drums were standing by we were not actually committed to battle. We eagerly awaited the call, but had to be content with feasting on reports of the valiant deed of "A" Company. As a result of this disorder—mainly by students—the Commercial Lyceum was closed and occupied by troops of "S" Company. On December 1, 1955, the Drums were ordered to relieve these troops and all scrambled eagerly to prepare for a spell in such a "cushy" billet. Rumour has it that D/M. Lewis cunningly plotted to take advantage of a spell in such scholastic environment to introduce "Cymru" to the Corps.

Incident No. 2 was "Op. Blackbeard," which involved the searching of local monasteries. The intention was, of course, a very well-kept secret and speculation was rife as we drew our arms and ammunition at 0200 hrs. The next 12 hours were spent scaling precipitous approaches to imposing mediaeval buildings, each of us harbouring—wistfully—thoughts of caches of arms and bands of bandits. But although our particular hopes were not realised, we were assured that the operation was quite successful.

The Christmas festivities were anticipated with all the usual enthusiasm and we enjoyed our customary privilege of beating Reveille on Christmas morning. We sat down to a first-class dinner and each of the tents occupied by the Drums followed up with a well-organised Christmas party lusciously supplemented with parcels from home.

We have burst into 1956 with several route marches and glad we were of the chance to fill our lungs once more. We sadly miss our almost continual ceremonial role of Austria, but keep an eye on the future by filling camp with discordant sounds whenever possible. Our problems will shortly become more acute as, in the very near future, we say farewell to Cpl. Gifford and Dmrs. Davison, Morrison and Green. Replacements are always difficult to obtain and we welcome our latest "find," Dmr. "Makarios" Roadknight and wish him a speedy recovery from his ailment and subsequent disposal of his beard.

"A" COMPANY

Our last notes were written during our short stay at Colchester when we were looking back on the last days in Austria and wondering what was in store for us in Cyprus.

Before we arrived in Cyprus we said goodbye to 2/Lt. D. A. Prettyman and 2/Lt. K. C. Hayward, and in their places we welcomed Lt. J. M. Hewson from Sandhurst and 2/Lt. J. W. F. Bennetts. Also, while we were on the *Empire Clyde*, we were very glad to hear that Major R. K. B. Allott, M.C., was to return to command the Company.

The sea trip from Liverpool was a novel experience for many, as could be seen from the sparse attendance at meals during the first few days. But with the acquisition of sea legs and far calmer weather in the Mediterranean we thoroughly enjoyed the cruise.

Cyprus is certainly a long way removed from Austria, and seemed at first a very primitive island. However, we soon settled down to tent life in Alma Camp and were shortly doing our turn as Riot Company in Larnaca, where we had to revise our ideas on I.S. drills and learnt the baton and shield technique. Much interest was shown in the new method, and it was not long before the Company was called out to deal with an illegal assembly of students.

The first "action" ended in No. 1 and No. 2 Platoons, with police, besieging a horde of students in St. Lazarus Church, and we got our first taste of rocks and stones flying through the air. Ptes Davis and Bosson cheerfully received black eyes in this "engagement." Finally, after much ringing of church bells, exchanges of stones and tear gas, the rioters "surrendered" and over 40 were arrested.

A few days later we were again called out, and No. 1 Platoon, with the able assistance of a certain Sergeant-Major, dealt very summarily with a crowd in Schools Street. This was described by the local newspapers as "The swiftest anti-riot action yet seen in Cyprus." The effectiveness of this action can be realised when we say that (touch wood) there have been no further riots in Larnaca to date.

Much was learnt about the I.S. formations, co-operation with the police, and tear-gas drill during these two encounters. The morale of the Company was tremendous, though many were perhaps suffering from "baton happiness."

While in Larnaca we also started work on Horrocks Camp, which was to become the future base of the Riot Company.

After this eventful week in Larnaca we went out to Kophinou and the Western Sector police stations. The mountain roads seemed a little hazardous at first, but they were soon accepted as a normal part of the tortuous countryside.

The time passed rapidly, and we were soon back in Alma Camp in reserve again. We were almost immediately involved on the monastery searches, which gave us valuable experience in searching and dealing with civilians. We also began work on the Lobster Pot (detainees' camp) and mounted the first guard there before returning to Larnaca as Riot Company.

We spent Christmas in Larnaca, and even though we were bathing on Christmas Eve, the weather on Christmas Day tried to dampen our spirits. Platoons managed to get through their Christmas dinners at Horrocks Camp between rain and riot stand-tos.

We have since had another tour in the Western Sector and then returned once more to Alma Camp and have been involved on village searches, and spent four days giving Xylophagou a thorough going over.

Sport has naturally been very limited, but the Company is to be congratulated for a very fine effort in the Novices Boxing and for winning the seven-a-side Soccer Competition on Boxing Day. Pte. McCoubert

is to be congratulated on his regular inclusion in the Battalion soccer side.

We congratulate the following on their promotions: Cpls Goad and Killick and L/Cpls. Robinson, Ricketts and brothers Best (45) and Best (74). We welcome the following into the Company as Lance-Corporals from the last cadre: Grist, Howard, Shooter and Sparrow. We were sorry to lose the following to other Companies after the cadre: Cpl. Martin and L/Cpls. Eggleton, Adams and Hanson. We wish them well. We were also sorry to lose Pte. Dickie, who is now permanent escort to the Commanding Officer.

Finally, we hear two bits of news, one good and the other not so good. The Company is going to Aqaba before the end of February for a three months' tour which seems to have aroused much enthusiasm. The sad news is that Major Allott will be leaving the Company shortly. We shall be most sorry to see him go. We understand that Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., who is rejoining the Battalion shortly, will be taking over Able (or is it now Alpha?) Company in Aqaba.

P.S.—Extract from an I.S. Platoon Diary:

1629 hrs. Crowd dispersed Acropolis Square.
1635 hrs. One Baton Section moves off for crowd dispersal Gladstone Street.
1639 hrs. Sgt. Le M—angry, says get a grip."

"B" COMPANY

As these notes are being written the weather is cold, a sharp wind is blowing and it seems a long time since we arrived in sunny Cyprus.

We had a very comfortable voyage on H.M.T. *Empire Clyde*, all of the Company being in upper deck cabin accommodation. Some of our weaker members succumbed to a short period of rough weather, but otherwise everything went smoothly. We trained in the mornings on the boat deck and "relaxed" during the rest of the day.

On arrival at Famagusta only half of the Battalion disembarked and we waited until the following day before going ashore. Major Nolda and the Platoon Commanders went on in advance to visit Alma Camp. Major Nolda was able to see a riot in Larnaca at first hand within a few hours of disembarking. On October 30 we went into Larnaca and took over the duties of Riot Company from "B" Company of the Green Howards. This was not unexpected as we had received radio reports during the voyage of the worsening situation in Cyprus. Since then we have lived in nomadic fashion around the police stations, taking our turn at the various duties of the Battalion. Our operational activities will have been more dully recorded elsewhere.

Sporting activities have been few and social activities equally so. No. 4 Platoon spent Christmas Day guarding the "Lobster Pot" (a detainees' camp for 18B suspects). Their day was livened by a demonstration by visitors in the afternoon (hostile), because of a hunger strike by the prisoners. No. 5 Platoon were dispersed in police stations and No. 6 Platoon were in camp.

There have been some changes in the Company. Major J. W. Doyle, M.C., T.D., has taken over command from Major Nolda, who is now Battalion second-in-

command, and C.S.M. L. Shrubbs, M.M., has taken over as Company Sergeant-Major. 2/Lt. Lohan joined the Company just before we left Colchester, and Sgt. Bailey came to us from "H.Q." Company. 2/Lt. Brown has returned to the Company after a tour with "C" Company, and 2/Lt. Birch (very unwillingly) went to "H.Q." Company to be Battalion Messing Officer. Finally, we were very pleased to see Cpl. Westfall back the other day. He has now fully recovered from his recent illness.

"C" COMPANY

Our last notes were written in a flurry of packing and preparation for our move to Cyprus. That time now seems so remote that it is difficult to realise that only four months have passed. And while our stay in Cyprus so far has been far less eventful and exciting than a casual reading of the daily papers would indicate, there is much to record that may be of interest to past and present members of the Company.

The 2,000-mile journey began inauspiciously: Reveille at midnight, breakfast or late supper according to taste, and a parade at 0145 hrs. We arrived at Colchester Railway Station at 0250 hrs., and after a final roll call left at 0340 hrs. The train was heated and not overcrowded, and everyone slept until a ten-minute tea-break at Rugby. A haversack meal and the morning papers kept us occupied until we reached Liverpool Docks at midday. There was no delay in boarding the *Empire Clyde* and settling down in the excellent, indeed outstandingly comfortable, troopdecks. We sailed on the evening tide and almost immediately ran into foul weather, which prostrated most of the Battalion for 24 hours. After this ordeal the remaining nine days of the voyage were calm and enjoyable. A good deal of training was achieved, and though much of this was of necessity by lecture, daily P.T. kept us fit. In the only sporting event, the inter-Company tug-of-war, we were knocked out in the first round by "A" Company.

Arriving in Cyprus on a day that more than justified the wearing of K.D. we drove to Alma Camp for a quick lunch. We found C.S.M. McMillan, Cpl. Allen and Pte. Blay, our Advance Party, waiting for us, looking very fit and sunburned. We immediately took over the guards in eight police stations and a radar station from "C" Company of the Green Howards. We performed this duty for three days while the remainder of the Battalion unpacked, and then returned to camp to get ourselves settled in. We found a good deal to do for the following week, but we managed to fit in several afternoons bathing in the still very warm sea. Our three "married accompanied" members, Major Bennett, C/Sgt. Wright and Sgt. Simmons, all settled their families in private accommodation in Larnaca, though C/Sgt. Wright has since moved to a new house.

The Company then took its place in the cycle of duties which has been the pattern of our existence here, and which is described in the Editorial. It is a full routine, but not unduly exacting. In general the Western Sector has been the most popular task, and a very pleasant liaison has been built up with the police in the various stations. There have been breaks in the



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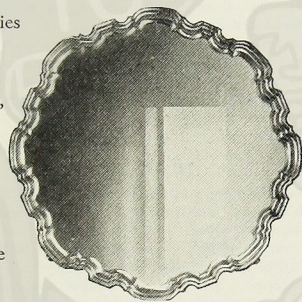
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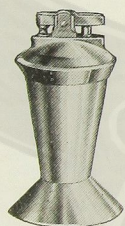
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Gen. Horrocks speaking to Sgt. Simmons, "C" Company, commanding the main quarter-guard.

cycle, notably Operation "Plum Duff," and constant variation in the details. On two occasions the Band have very kindly played for us. The first was on the evening of December 13 in Horrocks Camp; bad weather and the preparations for the rounding up of the island's Communist leaders, which took place in the early hours of the following morning, reduced the size of the audience, but a number of the Battalion's families attended, and the Band excelled themselves in a mixed programme of marches, selections from popular shows, light classical, and dance music. Their next visit was on December 28 to Kphinou Police Station. On this occasion the audience consisted of all the available men of the Company and a large crowd, well over 100 villagers, including many children. The villagers enjoyed the performance, as we did, and clapped each item loudly; they appeared to be very impressed by the smart turnout of the Band, and particularly by Mr. Jackson's frock coat. One of them remarked that if a Bandmaster looked like that, what must the Governor look like?

Until the Tuesday of Christmas week we expected to spend Christmas in Alma Camp, and to celebrate the festival under Battalion arrangements. A sudden change of plans, which involved putting the rotation of duties on a fortnightly basis instead of a weekly one, meant that we would have our Christmas dinners in the Western Sector. It is believed that Battalion H.Q. were rather worried about the reaction of "C" Company to this news; if so, they were soon reassured. Each police station immediately set about planning a bumper meal, and much energy and ingenuity was shown. The Battalion made great efforts to provide us with special fare, and, with some help from Company funds, but mainly by individual contribution, mammoth quantities of Christmas food were bought and prepared. Decorations, cards and Christmas trees adorned each small "outpost of Empire," and in every case the local police extended themselves to help us, particularly in providing facilities for cooking the

turkeys and chickens we bought. It is difficult to decide who achieved the most striking effects, both decorative and culinary, but 2/Lt. Brown and his two Sections of No. 7 Platoon at Pyrga certainly caught the traditional spirit of Christmas best by setting their celebrations in a manger. It was not possible to hold any religious services on Christmas Day, but on December 22 the Padre spent the day touring the sector with a portable harmonium and held a carol service in each station.

After all our preparations it was a disappointment that Christmas Day turned out to be cold and very wet. But our spirits were not damped, and very few who were there will fail to look back on the day with very happy memories. The Commanding Officer, accompanied by the R.S.M., visited most of the stations during the day, and conveyed the good wishes of the rest of the Battalion to "C" Company. Mrs. Bennett also braved the slippery and dangerous hill tracks to tour the area with the Company Commander and C.S.M. McMillan.

We returned to Alma Camp for the New Year, and ate our official Christmas dinner on New Year's Eve. We are grateful to the Messing Officer, and to Sgt. Medlock and his staff for the splendid meal they laid on. We then set off into the hills of the Panhandle for five days on Operation "Plum Duff," which is described elsewhere, and then back to camp for some administration and training. We made good use of the new 30-yard range, and had a six-mile route march with the Band and Drums.

Opportunities for sport are few in the present circumstances, and contests with other Companies are limited to occasional games with scratch teams. We were unlucky to be in the Western Sector when the Novices' Boxing Competition took place, as our numbers did not permit us to take me off duty for training. But our team acquitted themselves well, and provided some of the best fights of the tournament. Pte. Whiting was runner-up in the heavyweight series, and Pte. Allen administered one of the cleanest knockouts of the competition with a straight left in the first round. Pte. Welsh also won his fight well.

In the inter-Company boxing again we suffered from lack of adequate training time. Cpl. Watson stayed in camp with the team for three days when the Company moved down to Larnaca for riot duties; he distinguished himself by finishing as runner-up in the heavyweights. Ptes. Pearlman and Balfe were runners-up in the welter and heavy welter weights respectively. Pte. Tierney put up a good fight in the first round and was unlucky to lose. We should have liked to finish higher than 5th out of six in the Company placings, but hope for better luck next time.

Personalities

As those with only a short time to serve did not come to Cyprus with us there have been rather fewer "toings and froings" than usual. 2/Lt. Syers left us almost as soon as we arrived in Cyprus to enjoy the delights of specialisation in "S" Company, though we are never quite sure exactly what it is that he does there. He was replaced by 2/Lt. Pennycook, who now commands

No. 9 Platoon and has the reputation of being a great connoisseur of eggs. 2/Lt. Brown has returned to his first love, "B" Company, giving place in No. 7 Platoon to 2/Lt. Murphy. 2/Lt. Olbery has recently joined us from the Canal Zone and is spending the last few weeks of his National Service doing all the jobs that nobody else wants to do, but seems quite cheerful about it.

Sgt. Taylor came to us from "S" Company while we were on the boat to fill the vacuum in No. 8 Platoon. Cpl. Cheesman finished a long spell of duty with the Signal Platoon and has returned to ordinary soldiering in No. 9 Platoon. Cpl. Martin came to us from "A" Company with an excellent report from his N.C.O.s cadre. Other arrivals have been Ptes. Burgess, Pearlman, Tourlmain, Eales (whom we know well of old), Freeman, Gates, Haynes, Walczak, Grout and Tierney.

Departures include Pte. Blay, who is due for release; he has done excellent work as Company Storeman, and has a tower of strength on the sports fields. His place has been filled by Pte. Brown (52), who is already quite expert at counting laundry bundles and demanding signatures. L/Cpl. Adams, who had only just joined us, was unlucky enough to break his leg in slipping down the steps outside Kophinou Police Station, and has been sent back to England to convalesce; we hope to see him out here again before long. Pte. Kelley, too, has been medically evacuated, and we wish him a speedy return to health. L/Cpls. Sparrow, Grist, Shooter and Howard (91) all distinguished themselves on a N.C.O.s' cadre, and in accordance with Battalion policy were then transferred to another Company. L/Cpl. Ward left us to become Dining Hall N.C.O., and Cpl. Harper is now sampling the mysteries of the Intelligence Section. Ptes. Whiteland and King have gone off to be dog handlers and are occasionally seen leading ferocious-looking beasts around Larnaca. Ptes. Allen and Greatorex are now in "H.Q." Company. Although Ptes. Lines and Watkins are still on our strength return we have in fact lost them—as they are now permanently employed as boot repairer and groom respectively. Ptes. Purkiss, Thompkins and Mills have all successfully passed driving cadres, and we see them only occasionally.

To all new arrivals we extend our welcome and hope they will enjoy their stay with "C" Company, be it long or short. To all departing members we say thank you for your work with us and all good fortune in the future.

Finally, we congratulate the following on their promotions: To Corporal, L/Cpls. Mundy, Kerr and Burton; and to Lance-Corporals, Ptes. Burnage, Turner, Grout and Hughes.

"D" COMPANY

In November, 1955, "D" Company was responsible for the six weeks' continuation training of the 32nd Intake from the Regimental Depot. This was the first time that the Battalion had carried out its own continuation training. Although the training was interrupted by internal security duties in Larnaca, it was completed successfully. The instructors, led by 2/Lt. Couch, were: Sgt. Eastap and Cpls. Wheat, Argent,

Redmond, Plumb and Langford. At the end of their training the draft were kept together and became No. 10 Platoon of "D" Company. The Battalion was asked to construct a detention camp for Cypriots Communists and No. 10 Platoon gained much practical experience in the use of barbed wire. After Christmas "D" Company took its turn in guarding this camp, which was known as the "Lobster Pot." This task was short-lived, because in the early hours of the New Year the detainees were transferred to another part of Cyprus.

In the middle of December, 1955, "D" Company entered the Novices' Boxing Competition with a very game team of ten. Nine of the team won their first fight—they were Ptes. Bennett, Dixon, Dare, Ing, Moss, Sullivan, Willis and Wallington, and 2/Lt. Couch. The only loser, Pte. Ward, gave a very fine performance. Seven of the team reached the semi-finals, and Ptes. Dixon and Moss reached the final. Ptes. Ing and Willis are to be congratulated on winning their weights.

His Excellency Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, Governor of Cyprus, visited Alma Camp on November 25, 1955, and showed great interest in the continuation training and the N.C.O.s' cadre.

One dark night in November some home-made bombs were thrown just inside Alma Camp, two exploded without causing any damage. "D" Company was called out to search and establish road blocks around the nearby village as a deterrent.

No. 10 Platoon, commanded by 2/Lt. Couch and Sgt. Lloyd as Platoon Sergeant, took part in a large searching operation in the north-east range of hills. The Platoon enjoyed this experience, especially the fine views of the Mesoria plain of Cyprus spread out before them like a map. The Taurus mountains of Turkey could be seen about 40 miles away.

In January and February the Company were engaged on many searching operations of villages and fields for arms and ammunition. Although small quantities of shotgun ammunition have been found, the Company's greatest success so far has been the discovery of four very serviceable shotguns which were hidden in a field of barley. An unserviceable shotgun and an ancient pistol were discovered in a cave. In this particular operation the Company was given the services of a remarkable mine-detecting dog, which was trained to sit on any buried metal. Although the dog worked well it only succeeded in discovering some old buried tins.

Within a fortnight of the Battalion arriving in Cyprus the Potential N.C.O.s' Cadre No. 5 had started. The cadre was attached to "D" Company and 2/Lt. K. C. Hayward was the officer in charge. The weapon-training instructors were Sgt. Da Costa and Sgt. Clements, both of whom have had plenty of experience of N.C.O. training behind them. This course lasted for five weeks and was frequently interrupted by internal security duties. However, there was a fair percentage of successful students, who were immediately promoted to Lance-Corporal.

A few days before the end of the course Sgt. Da Costa was promoted Colour-Sergeant, and sorry as "D" Company were to see him go, we congratulate him and

wish him luck with his new Company. He was replaced by Sgt. Smith from "A" Company, and Cadre No. 6 settled down to a slightly longer and rather less interrupted course. This course was of a very high standard and a large portion of the students passed out successfully.

Now "D" Company are preparing for Cadre No. 7. Sgt. Clements has been posted to "A" Company and is going to Aqaba with them. He is replaced by Sgt. Martin, M.M., from "C" Company.

Indoor training is carried out in our "training room," a converted dining-hall—and the camp cinema. The students spend one or two days of each course on Goshi Field Firing Range—a beneficial, but usually rather wet visit at this time of the year.

In December an island-wide search of the Cyprus monasteries took place. Cadre No. 5 was given the task to search the monastery at the top of Stavrovouni on the Cross Mountain; it is 2,260 feet above sea-level. The foundation of the monastery is attributed to the Empress Helena, and holds a fragment of Christ's Cross or that of the Penitent Thief, which the Empress is said to have presented in gratitude for her escape from a storm at sea.

Some days before the operation took place, two reconnaissances were carried out by Lt. M. V. Hayward and 2/Lt. K. C. Hayward. As there was a subsidiary monastery at the bottom of the hill, connected by telephone to the top, a route had to be carefully chosen, so as to achieve surprise. This route took the reconnaissance party over some very bad ground and caused much inward cursings. A second reconnaissance took place during the hours of darkness—this time with more difficulty and more black thoughts.

However, the party managed to plan their approach route and fix their landmarks on this very difficult cone-shaped hill.

The afternoon of "D Day" the cadre were informed that they would be leaving camp at 1900 hrs. in order to carry out a search. Hasty preparations took place, and at 1800 hrs. the men were informed of the true nature of the operation. The cadre reached "de-bussing" point on schedule at 2100 hrs. and started their scramble to the top. The first obstacle was a deep gully, which had become more difficult to cross owing to recent heavy rain. The second man across, the wireless operator, also named Hayward, slipped and broke his ankle—a good start. He was wrapped up and left with one man in the gully and told to remain there until morning.

The cadre continued their march until they reached the top of the first summit. The most difficult part of the route was to the front of them. The descent on to the road proved to be very slippery and painful. Somehow the cadre arrived at the bottom without further injuries, apart from superficial bruises, cuts, and a distinct lack of breath. Here they rested and were rewarded and warmed by a tot of rum.

The remainder of the route to the top of Stavrovouni was not difficult to navigate, as the cadre had only to follow the rough road. At approximately 0445 hrs. the cadre arrived in sight and hearing of the monastery

—very tired, even more cold. Here they had to wait, quietly and patiently until "H hour"—0610 hrs., when they were to surround the building, knock on the door and inform the inmates of their intentions to search. The hour or so they had to wait was very unpleasant. The minutes went by slowly, and the cold crept in quickly. At 0605 hrs. the cadre ran forward, surrounded the monastery, and Lt. Hayward knocked on the door. The monks peered at them through the window but took no further action. After repeated knocks and without any reply from within it was decided to break open the door. This was done without any difficulty by two or three stalwarts. The priest and the monks were put in one room and searched. A quick look through the building ensured there were no more occupants. The search then started. Every single part of the building, outbuildings and surrounding area was searched without result. The Intelligence Officer, Lt. Lobb, took statements and photographs of the inmates, who were rather reluctant to pose before the camera at such an early hour.

The search over, the cadre washed and shaved, and changed from their "night kit" into more respectable battledress. Each man of the cadre was searched, despite the protests of the priest who asked the officers to thank the soldiers for the way they had carried out the search. A certificate was signed declaring that the cadre had caused no unnecessary damage. Pte. Hayward was recovered from the hillside and carried to the main road. He was admitted to hospital, and is now well on the way to a complete recovery.

The whole operation had lasted 24 hours, and although the cadre had found nothing, it has been invaluable training for the potential N.C.O.s.

"S" COMPANY

Since arriving in Cyprus the Company has, for operations, acted on a Rifle Company basis and taken its share in the roster of operational duties. Searches, road blocks, guards on V.P.s, etc., have left little time for training. Many has been the time when training in camp has suddenly terminated, and stores locked away when the Company has been rushed down to Larnaca because of an imminent riot.

The M.M.G. Platoon supported "A" Company in quelling the Lazarus Square riot, and the whole Company took part in the occupation of the Lyceum School and in dispersing the crowds, which subsequently marched on the school.

In the early hours of New Year's Day the Company moved some 120 detainees from Larnaca to Nicosia. Elaborate precautions were taken to prevent any interference with the move and the big convoy of vehicles presented an imposing array of lights as they wended their way through the night.

In early January the Company took part in a Brigade operation in the north-east of the island. The country was very mountainous and weather conditions could not have been more unfavourable—rain, cold and wind.

In the field of sport the Company was second in the Novices boxing and first in the inter-Company boxing. This was a remarkably good performance considering

the absence of time for training. At Christmas the Company was second in the sports.

The Company was lucky to be in camp for Christmas and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. "S" Company dining-hall was very attractively decorated and it was awarded the first prize.

The Company was the first to occupy Horrocks Camp as a complete sub-unit, and was visited there by Gen. Horrocks. On January 22 the Band gave a concert on the beach by the camp which was very well attended and enjoyed by everybody.

Many changes have taken place in the Company. Major Hutchings left at Colchester, Lt. Hayward embarked the Company, and Major Kent took over the Company aboard the *Empire Clyde*. 2/Lt. Lloyd now commands the M.M.G. Platoon and 2/Lt. Syers the Assault Pioneers. Capt. Wollocombe, shortly after promotion, became A.D.C. to Gen. Ricketts, who is General Officer Commanding Cyprus District. C.Q.M.S. Shrubbs took over from C.Q.M.S. Dive, but left after a very brief stay to become C.S.M. C.Q.M.S. Da Costa then took over.

We have said farewell and wished good luck to Cpls. Cromack and Plumb, L/Cpls. Goode, Armstrong and Commander, and Ptes. Bunton, Hoy, Fennelly, Karaolis, and Herd, and Cfn. Smith.

We welcome all who have joined us and who include Ptes. Endersby, Finn, Fricker, Frewin, McGuinness, Maule, Price, Reeve, Smith, Sutherland, Street, Taylor, Watson, Webb, Hutchins, Slade, Turrill and Cfn. Harrison.

The following are to be congratulated on their promotions: To Corporal, L/Cpls. Webb, Dyer, Marshall and Greenland; to Lance-Corporals, Ptes. Denning, Ayto, Bracey, Chamberlain, Hayford, Charles, Love and Seabridge.

M.M.G. Platoon

On September 2 we left Austria, but we brought with us many memories. Of those who were pleased to leave almost all wish we were there again. After five days spent settling in at Colchester the whole Platoon went on leave. We arrived back at Meeanee Barracks exactly one week before embarking at Liverpool.

We sailed from Liverpool in the *Empire Clyde* on October 18. The first day at sea put most people in their beds. The Irish Channel was very rough, but as we got nearer Gibraltar the weather and sea became much kinder. On board a certain amount of weapon, gas and wireless training was carried out. We disembarked at Famagusta on October 28, and within three days found ourselves guarding police stations in both the Western and Eastern Sectors. During that period Sgt. Young, the Platoon Sergeant, was attached to Company Headquarters at Pano Kophinou, where he had the misfortune of getting burnt while working a No. 1 cooker. He is now back with us again after spending several weeks in hospital.

On leaving the police stations we returned to Alma Camp, but only for a short while. The Platoon was called out to go to Lazarus Square in support of "A" Company who were dealing with 200 rioting schoolboys

and girls who were in the church. We then had to occupy the Commercial Lyceum School which was closed by the Governor. During this period another riot took place in an attempt to move us from the school, the crowd, however, were dispersed with batons before reaching us.

Early in January we went with the remainder of the Company and "C" Company on Operation "Plum Duff" in the north-east of the island. Our task was to cordon off an area of mountainous country while it was searched by another unit. On the fourth day we carried out a search of the highest point in the area and found a recently occupied terrorist camp.

We recently had a visit from Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks in Horrocks Camp, and he spoke to several members of the Platoon during his short stay. We also had a visit from the P.R.O., who spoke to Ptes. Hartley and Lawrence at the police station and Pte. Harris at the Commissioners' Guard. Photographs were also taken.

2/Lt. Lloyd had arrived from Netheravon and has taken over command of the Platoon. We said goodbye to L/Cpl. Commander and Ptes. Clayton and Smith before leaving the U.K. We welcome Sgt. Eastop who has taken over Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. Redmond, and Ptes. Cluderay, Harte, Boxer, Turrill, Hutchins, Higgins, Haines and Harris.

Mortar Platoon

The Platoon was split up during the move from Austria. Some were in the advance party to England, whilst the remainder took part in the various ceremonies which marked the end of British occupation. Soon after the main body arrived in England we went our separate ways on embarkation leave.

Only after about two days aboard *Empire Clyde* did one or two members appear from her more remote parts for muster parade. After four days we were able to take enough interest to realise that everyone was present and rolling nicely with the swell. Some very basic training was achieved in the calmer waters of the Mediterranean.

Life in Cyprus started energetically and has been that way ever since. We are now very much the Rifle Platoon, but still trundle our mortars from place to place in the hope of being able to train with them. We have, in fact, had a large measure of success and would now be capable of giving a good account of ourselves if employed in our specialist role. The four new members, Ptes. Fricker, McGuinness, Taylor and Webb, whom we welcome, are learning the job quickly in between "stags."

One achievement was a day of live firing out to sea from Cape Kiti, which practised all members thoroughly, including our drivers who, deprived for the time being of their vehicles, have grudgingly accepted second best and are now proficient mortar members. We are now to have two clear weeks of training undisturbed by riots, road blocks, guards, and hope by the end of it to have covered all the finer points of mortar work.

Sports news is that we have at last beaten the M.M.G. Platoon in a game of football; L/Cpl. Seabridge and Pte. McGuinness also play for the Battalion.

Anti-Tank Platoon

After training on the B.A.T. in Austria we are now equipped with the 17-pounder in Cyprus. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get down to any real form of training.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members in the Platoon, Cfn. Harrison and Ptes. Frewin, Lawrence, Finn, Street and Maule, and say goodbye to our Platoon Commander. Capt. Wollocombe.

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Unfortunately since we have been out in Cyprus training has almost been impossible due to outside commitments. Besides this, it has been necessary to split up the Platoon, due to the Company's operational role. This has meant that it has only been possible to train on a sectional basis, but we hope in the near future to rectify this and settle down to a more extensive programme.

Our sporting activities have also been restricted, but, however, we had a good entry in the Novices boxing and congratulate Ptes. Hughes, Kelman, Finch, Hossack and Crisp on their performances. At the moment Ptes. Finch and Hossack are training hard for the inter-Company boxing and we only hope they will be equally successful.

Before leaving England we said goodbye to quite a few of the leading lights of the Platoon, including Sgt. Rock, Cpl. Edwards, L/Cpl. Armstrong, and Ptes. Fennelly, McGregor and Miles, and we wish them all the best in civilian life. We also said goodbye to Lt. A. E. McManus who left the Platoon a week after arriving in Cyprus, and extend a welcome to 2/Lt. J. N. A. Syers who takes his place. Besides this, we welcome six new members of the Platoon: Ptes. Sutherland, John, Leach-Walton, Reeve, Finn and Freeman, and hope they will enjoy their stay with us. Sgt. Biggs returns to the Platoon after his course in England, and we congratulate him on his results. We also congratulate Pte. Love on his cadre result and his subsequent promotion to Lance-Corporal.

Finally, it is hoped that in the future we will be able to return to our normal Platoon basis and settle down to a continuous cadre. There will even be a chance to continue our watersmanship, which seems to be so popular throughout the Platoon.

SPORTS

Owing to the operational situation in Cyprus it has not been possible for the Battalion to take part in any major games. However, the Companies have managed to play friendly football matches with the Cyprus police and neighbouring Cypriot villages.

The United States naval tanker, *Pecatonica*, visited Larnaca on January 23, 1956, and played the Battalion at softball and basketball. As most of the Battalion was away from Alma Camp the teams were provided by the Band and Drums.

The Battalion softball team, led by Cpl. Christopher, was soundly beaten by the American Navy, the score was 35 runs to 8 runs. The basketball team led by Cpl. Ingram succeeded in equalising with the Americans at one match each.

BOXING

Although no outside fixtures have yet been possible, we have seen plenty of the right spirit and rather more than a grounding in the "noble art" during the Novices and inter-Company competitions. Nobody could envy the judges' task of selecting the best losers.

The final evening's boxing in the inter-Company competition provided a close finish with "H.Q.," "A" and "S" Companies level on points at the start and finishing only one point between places.

NOVICES BOXING, DECEMBER, 1955

Won by "A" Company. The individual results were as follows:—

Lightweight: Winner, 23244089 Pte. Ing ("D" Company); Runner-up, 23113868 Pte. McCoubrie ("A" Company).
Light Welterweight: Winner, 23126743 Pte. Underwood ("H.Q." Company); Runner-up, 23098064 Pte. Jones ("S" Company).
Welterweight: Winner, 23159886 Pte. Willis ("D" Company); Runner-up, 23072283 L/Cpl. Munds ("A" Company).
Light Middleweight: Winner, 23201285 Pte. Sherlock ("S" Company); Runner-up, 23160468 Pte. Dixon ("D" Company).
Middleweight: Winner, 22709093 Cpl. Miles ("S" Company); Runner-up, 2/Lt. Mather.
Light Heavyweight: Winner, 23098537 Pte. Burton ("B" Company); Runner-up, 23221314 Pte. Dewing ("H.Q." Company).
Heavyweight: Winner, 23146407 Pte. Tate ("H.Q." Company); Runner-up, 23012545 Pte. Whiting ("C" Company).

INTER-COMPANY BOXING COMPETITION, FEBRUARY, 1956

1st	"S" Company	28 pts.
2nd	"H.Q." Company	27 pts.
3rd	"A" Company	26 pts.
4th	"B" Company	18 pts.
5th	"C" Company	17 pts.
6th	"D" Company	14 pts.

The individual results were as follows:—

Bantamweight: Winner, 23210243 Pte. Butterfield ("B" Company).
Featherweight: Winner, 23244514 Pte. Trott ("A" Company); Runner-up, 2202260 Pte. Hanley ("S" Company).
Lightweight: Winner, 23244514 Pte. Ing ("D" Company); Runner-up, 23072283 L/Cpl. Munds ("A" Company).
Light Welterweight (1st string): Winner, 23057906 Cpl. Wadmore ("S" Company); Runner-up, 23064228 Pte. Poland ("A" Company).
Light Welterweight (2nd string): Winner, 23235996 Pte. Moss ("D" Company); Runner-up, 22928646 Pte. Bishop (best loser) ("A" Company).
Welterweight (1st string): Winner, 23012542 Pte. Rawlings ("H.Q." Company); Runner-up, 22978670 Pte. Pearlman ("C" Company).
Welterweight (2nd string): Winner, 22012122 Pte. Hutchins ("S" Company); Runner-up, 22980015 Pte. Balfe ("C" Company).
Light Middleweight: Winner, 23201285 Pte. Sherlock ("S" Company); Runner-up, 22843287 Cpl. Blackwell ("A" Company).
Middleweight: Winner, 22506673 Cpl. O'Rave ("B" Company); Runner-up, 22978150 Pte. Gallagher ("H.Q." Company).
Light Heavyweight: Winner, 23082907 L/Cpl. Cockerill ("H.Q." Company); Runner-up, 23056062 Cpl. Sullivan ("S" Company).
Heavyweight: Winner, 23146407 Pte. Tate ("H.Q." Company); Runner-up, 23026831 Cpl. Watson ("C" Company).
Best Loser: 22928646 Pte. Bishop ("A" Company).

HOCKEY

Due to the internal situation our hockey fixtures have been restricted to matches in Larnaca and Famagusta, and we have been unable to field our strongest team on occasions. However, we have managed to break even by winning three of our seven matches and drawing one.

Our first fixture was against a very strong team from 40th Field Regiment, R.A., at Famagusta in November. We lost 2—0, the game being marred by an injury to Bds. Torrie, our left back. He had to leave the field early in the game to have a few stitches in a nasty cut just below his right knee-cap.

In our second venture we were a lot more successful

and severely trounced Larnaca Hockey Club 7-1. In subsequent matches we drew with them 4-4, and beat them 9-1.

They had two games against the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers before they left Cyprus. On the first occasion they won 7-3, but we turned the tables on them, at our second meeting, winning by the same score (7-3).

Our only other match was against the youthful American Academy team from Larnaca, and they gave us a nasty shock by beating us 2—1. Our team were thoroughly ashamed of themselves and have promised to do better next time!

As we go to press we await, with eagerness, our meeting with 40th Field Regiment, R.A., in the first round of the Group Major Units Knockout Competition. We are thirsting for revenge.

OPERATION "PLUM DUFF"

In an anti-terrorist campaign routine security measures play a large part; and so it is that we spend much of our time guarding vital points against possible attacks. But no purely defensive action can achieve final success, and the activities of E.O.K.A. will not be suppressed until its members have been rooted out from their lairs and destroyed. To this end a number of large-scale searches have been carried out during the last few months. Most of these have been in the mountainous western parts of the island. A good deal of information, however, from various sources began to focus interest on the area between the Kantara Forest and the sea to the north, at the western end of the Panhandle. Unidentified aircraft had been reported over the area on a number of occasions, and a man detained as a suspect terrorist told a story which indicated that a mountain group of terrorists, perhaps 35 to 40 strong, was using that area as a winter training ground.

On December 29 "C" and "S" Companies received a warning order that they would shortly be required to take part in an operation. "S" Company was at that time in reserve in Alma Camp, and "C" Company returned from duty in the Western Sector on the following day. Major Bennett, who was appointed to command the two Companies, attended an "O" Group at Brigade H.Q., who were responsible for the operation on New Year's Eve. At his "O" Group in Alma Camp on January 1 he gave the outlines of the operation, although no details could be given to the troops taking part for security reasons.

The aim of the operation was to kill or capture any terrorists found in the area, and to search for arms, ammunition, and stores. It was due to start on the morning of January 3 with 1st South Staffords surrounding Phlamoudhi, and the 1st Royal Leicesters Dhavlos. Both villages were to be searched and the inhabitants screened. A cordon was to be established by 1200 hrs., composed of "S" Company 1st Middlesex from the coast north-west of Phlamoudhi, following the line of the road west of the village to the road junction by the forest hut, where "C" Company was to establish a road block, and continue the cordon along the northern slopes of Sina Oros to the road junction at

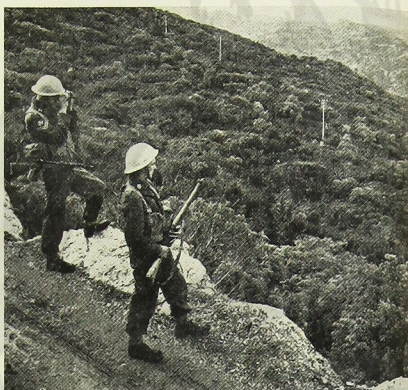


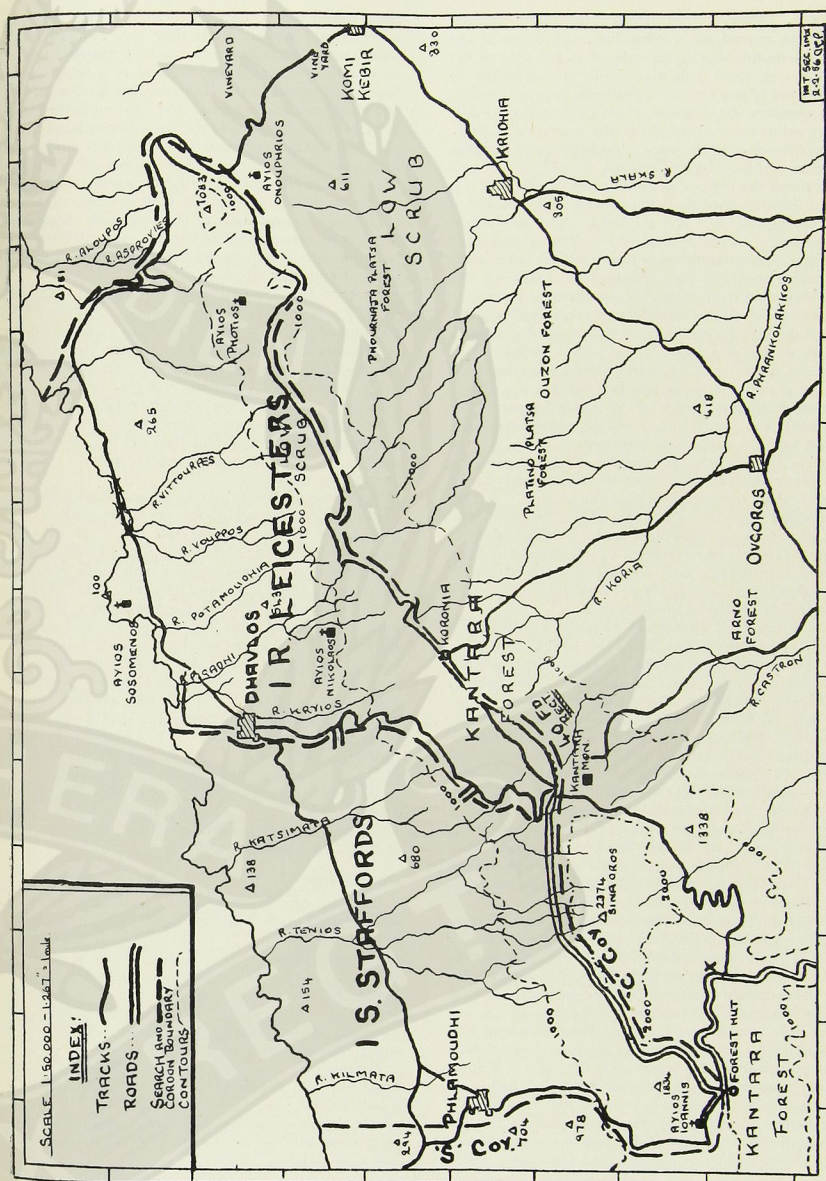
Photo: Central Photos Ltd.
Cpl. Baker and Pte. Homes of "C" Company
studying the cordoned area

Kantara. At that point the 40th Field Regiment, R.A., with one squadron of R.E. under command, was to set up another road block and cordon off the eastern sector of the area as shown in the sketch map. The cordon was to be commanded by Lt.-Col. Rundle of the 40th Field Regiment, R.A., and its task would be to prevent any movement in or out of the area by day and night.

The cordoned area was divided in two, and was to be searched by day and ambushed by night. The 1st South Staffords were to be responsible for the western half, and the 1st Royal Leicesters for the eastern half. The whole area would be under a cordon throughout the operation, and as all ambush parties were to be in position by last light daily, any movement by night would be assumed to be hostile. A naval minesweeper was to patrol the coast and a spotter plane would be available.

On Monday, January 2, was a day of intensive preparation. Major Bennett visited Famagusta and received final instructions. At 1530 hrs. he held a final co-ordinating conference and then he addressed a N.C.O.s taking part and described their tasks, omitting only the exact time and area of the operation. In view of the great length of the line to be cordoned, which would obviously extend the Companies to their utmost capacity, the Commanding Officer decided to attach No. 10 Platoon of a "D" Company, commanded by Lt. Couch, as a reserve. A minor crisis arose at 1700 hrs. when the R.A.S.C. vehicles allotted for the operation arrived and proved to be cargo trucks and not T.C.V.s as promised, and quite inadequate to carry the numbers of men involved. Some rapid telephoning by the M.T.O. solved this problem, and two more 3-tonners arrived to make the force mobile, albeit overcrowded. The loading of the stores was complete by 1900 hrs., and everyone retired for what promised to be for many their last night's sleep for some days.

The Companies paraded at 0730 hrs. on Tuesday,



SCALE 1:50,000 - 1:267,000

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КНИЖКА

ROADS...

SEARCH AND SEIZURE BOUNDARY

CONTOURS-----

January 3. After a short briefing by Major Bennett the column moved off at 0800 hrs., and followed the somewhat roundabout route ordered to the area of the operation. A short halt was made at Lefkoniko to allow the tail of the 1st South Staffords to pass through, and to absorb a detachment of the Civil Police Mobile Reserve who were attached for the operation. From this point the pace of the convoy slackened, and frequent halts were imposed by the column ahead.

As a result the debussing point at the Forest Hut was reached behind schedule. Fortunately this was not of any great significance, and the cordon was established by 1220 hrs. As no ground recce had been permitted the siting of ops. and section positions had been made from maps and air photographs. Naturally it was found on arrival that many adjustments were necessary, and these occupied the whole afternoon. Section posts were established in positions commanding the possible exits from the area; by day ops. were manned at or near these points, and by night there were sentries at each and continuous patrolling between posts. Owing to the mountainous nature of the ground most of the posts were not inter-visible, and in some cases ops. were set up in intermediate positions.

The first night was uneventful. In the morning more minor changes were effected, and all posts began to search their own areas behind the cordon. A visit was received from His Excellency The Governor, who drove round the cordon and spoke to a number of soldiers. The weather, which up to then had been dull and threatening, now became actively hostile; a steady downpour set in which, with the cold, made conditions decidedly uncomfortable.

At 1930 hrs. Sgt. Taylor was patrolling in the centre of "C" Company's line when he heard sounds of movement to the south of the road on the precipitous and rocky northern slopes of the Sina Oros feature. Illuminating cartridges and para-illuminating bombs were used without success, and the sounds of activity continued. The nature of the ground made a search in the pitch darkness pointless, but a fighting patrol from No. 10 Platoon moved to No. 8 Platoon's area, and a patrol under 2/Lt. Murphy, with a party of police, moved to the road and track junction marked X to cut off anyone who might have escaped over the mountain. When the moon, in its last quarter, rose soon after midnight, the fighting patrol made their way to the crest of the feature and concealed themselves until dawn, when a search revealed nothing.

Inside the cordon area the searching Battalions were meeting with no success. It was by now becoming apparent that the most likely enemy area was behind "C" Company's lines on Sina Oros. All posts were ordered to watch south as well as north, and local searches continued. The patrol at the junction X was permanently manned, and No. 10 Platoon moved into No. 8 Platoon's area which they used as a patrol base for the remainder of the operation. The rest of Thursday was uneventful; the weather remained bad, culminating in a violent thunderstorm in the evening.

On Friday morning, by arrangement with the 1st South Staffords, the M.M.G. Platoon was relieved from cordon duties and moved to the Sina Oros area, where

they conducted a detailed search of the many re-entrants and caves. Both they and No. 10 Platoon found definite evidence of recent occupation; in one cave, among other things, the end of a telephone was found and traced to the Kantara Civil Exchange. The operation was due to end at first light on Saturday; but in view of the finds made the Brigadier ordered that the 1st Middlesex detachment should remain until midday and conduct a comprehensive sweep of Sina Oros. The weather improved greatly during the day, and the troops were able to dry out their sodden clothes.

During the last night of the operation there were a number of alarms and excursions, and all Platoons at one time or another opened fire at movement heard, but without apparent effect.

At 0700 hrs. on Saturday morning "S" Company withdrew from their cordon positions, and after breakfast moved to Sina Oros. The Anti-Tank Platoon took the eastern slopes, the M.M.G. Platoon the centre, and the Assault Pioneers the west. A thorough search was made, while "C" Company and No. 10 Platoon again swept the areas immediately south of the road. Nothing further of interest was found, and both Companies concentrated for lunch and then set out on the return journey to Alma Camp, where a bumper meal was waiting for them.

This account would not be complete without a brief description of the administrative arrangements. Both Companies set up shop at the Forest Hut. Comparisons were issued, and it was intended to cook centrally and to supply the sections with meals in insulated containers, using jeeps and trailers. "C" Company were fortunate in that all the posts were alongside a fairly sound road, and the system worked admirably for them. "S" Company were not so well served by roads, and after the first day abandoned the attempt; they issued pressure cookers and section cooking was successfully employed. Water was available in sufficient quantities at the Forest Hut, and ample supplies of G.O.L. were carried. Each Company brought a medical orderly, and a R.A.P. was set up at Brigade H.Q. Mail and newspapers were forwarded.

Wireless communications were difficult owing to the terrain, but never actually broke down. Battery charging was only permitted by day, to ensure silence at night for listening purposes.

Conclusion

The aim of the operation was not achieved, in that no terrorists were killed or captured, and no arms or ammunition found. Nevertheless, a certain amount of useful information was obtained, and it is hoped that the group who were undoubtedly using the Sina Oros feature have now been dispersed and discouraged from returning. The operation was undoubtedly most valuable training for the Companies taking part, and many lessons were learnt, some of them the hard way.

Despite the very bad weather conditions everyone remained very cheerful and alert throughout four and a half days of almost continuous activity. A change is nearly always acceptable, and the operation provided an interesting and instructive break in the routine cycle of Battalion duties.

Depot Notes

EDITORIAL

Finding a quiet place in which to don a thinking cap and produce notes for the Journal has proved more difficult than ever recently at the Depot. The peace and quiet of the Officers' Mess has been shattered by the noise of pneumatic drills and persistent hammering of the builders and plumbers who have started putting in the long promised central heating which is to be installed throughout the barracks, whilst high above Training Company Office workmen are busily retiling the roof, not caring whether they throw the tiles.

From our own point of view one of the major items to record in this quarter is the change of Adjutants. We welcome Capt. H. J. Evans from the 1st Battalion and we wish him a successful tour. Capt. Ken Clayden left us on February 7 to enjoy a well-earned rest before taking up a Grade III Staff appointment. His tour at the Depot has covered a hectic and momentous period and he has shouldered his responsibilities with inexhaustible energy. He has not treated us lightly and there are few who at some time or other have not felt the lash of his tongue. His mark will be seen in the Depot for some time to come. We are all very sorry to see him go and join in wishing him and his family every success in the future.

The last four months have proved extremely busy ones. On October 22 the ceremony of the Presentation to the Regiment of the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon was followed by a most enjoyable dance given for the Regiment by the Borough in the Gymnasium. This was attended by members of the Depot, the T.A., Home Guard and Old Comrades—all of whom agreed that it was a grand evening. On the following Friday the Regimental Reunion was again held at Seymour Hall and was attended by over a thousand people, including many Old Comrades and Recruits.

On November 5 the Regiment was well represented at the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey. Remembrance Sunday was marked at the Depot by a service in the Gymnasium conducted by Rev. D. J. Smith, followed by a short ceremony at the War Memorial. Detachments from the Depot, the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) T.A. and Home Guard units of the county formed three sides of a square round the Memorial and wreaths were laid by Major A. R. Waller, M.C., on behalf of the Depot, Major R. D. Hutchings for the 1st Battalion, Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, T.D., on behalf of the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex), Col. E. W. C. Flavell, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., for the Home Guard, Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., on behalf of the

Regimental Association, Mr. H. Hull, M.M., on behalf of the Old Comrades' Association, Mr. H. A. Clelland for the 3rd Battalion, Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., for the Uxbridge "Die-Hards" (ex-8th Middlesex) and Major A. W. Clark on behalf of Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O.

In lighter vein, also on November 5, Guy Fawkes night was celebrated with a bonfire and fireworks display in the area of the Assault Course. The Guy had previously toured camp collecting from the quarters over £6 towards the cost of the fireworks. The weather was kind and each of the three stands produced a brilliant firework display with no injuries to the directing staff. It is intended that this should become a regular annual event.

Visits to the Depot were plentiful in November. On November 4 Col. G. R. Stevens, O.B.E., the Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade, inspected training at the Depot. On November 14 Q.M.S.I. Sinclair travelled up from Hythe with the new 7.62 mm. S.L. rifle and spent four days instructing us in its many characteristics and assisting with general weapon training. Then on November 24 Major-Gen. G. F. Johnson, G.O.C. London District, and his staff carried out the Annual Administrative Inspection of the Depot.

Christmas was celebrated in traditional style. A party was given in the Gymnasium for all children in married quarters on December 17, and thanks to the efforts of the Wives' Club and the conjurer it proved a great success. The following Tuesday evening a Carol Service was held in the Chapel and was attended by all ranks; six lessons were read by the Commanding Officer, Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, C.S.M. Firman, Sgt. Muirhead, Cpl. Andrews and Pte. Baldock. On December 23 the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants served dinner to all the other ranks in the Dining Room as a prelude to Christmas leave—Sgt. Nicholson tried his utmost to sing some heathen song from the North. A further party for the children was given on January 7 by the Cambridge Club in the Crawford Hut and was enjoyed by all—the film show was especially popular.

The bi-centenary of the 57th Regiment was marked at the Depot by a church service, which all ranks attended, on January 7.

Throughout January the Depot provided the ushers for the Exhibition of Services Silver at the Royal Academy at which Regimental silver was exhibited. A full account of this Exhibition, the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon, the Field of Remembrance Service and the visit of a B.B.C. Television Film Unit appear in greater detail in the following pages.



The Mayor of Hendon, Councillor Dudley A. Davis, presenting the Casket containing the Scroll of Freedom to the Colonel of the Regiment

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH OF HENDON

Saturday, October 22, 1955, was yet another landmark in the history of the Regiment when at a civic ceremony the Mayor and Corporation of Hendon granted the Regiment the Freedom of Entry to the Borough to mark the Regiment's bi-centenary.

The ceremony took place in the main hall of the Technical College ablaze with the colourful pageantry of civic and military ceremonial. In the body of the hall were seated representatives of community life and voluntary service, whilst above them in the gallery were the men of the Regiment. The Mayoral party, which included Lord Latham, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, and Council members were seated on the stage.

The ceremony began when the Mayor, Councillor Dudley A. Davis, received the Colours of the 7th Battalion, the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) and the 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Middlesex), placing them on either side of the stage. In his address the Mayor said he hoped that "news of this historic occasion will spread throughout the world and strike a chord in the hearts of the men of the Middlesex Regiment, past and present, wherever they may be. Formally requesting the Mayor to present a casket containing the scroll to the Colonel of the Regiment, Alderman A. W. Curton recalled that it was now fifty years since the Regiment made its home in the

Borough. Seconding him, Councillor S. E. Arridge summed up all our feelings with his words, "This is a proud day for the Regiment and Borough."

The Town Clerk administered the Freeman's Declaration to the Colonel of the Regiment, who then accepted the casket containing the Scroll of Freedom from the Mayor and signed the Freemans Roll on behalf of the Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment then addressed the meeting:

"Your Worship, My Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Chairman of Middlesex County Council, Your Worships, Ladies, Gentlemen.

"As Colonel of your County Regiment, I am privileged to express our deep appreciation of the great honour which the Borough of Hendon is paying to us by the gracious grant of the Freedom of the Borough, with all that this entails.

"For fifty years we have enjoyed the happy relationship with your Borough. Many of our Officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers come from this neighbourhood. Many from here have given their lives in numerous wars in our Regiment.

"We have deep-rooted community of interests. I am glad, therefore, your Worship, of this opportunity once more to tell the distinguished representatives of the Borough of the gratitude of our Regiment for the



The presentation scene

generous help contributed on numerous occasions to our various activities and interests.

"I thank you also for your kind remarks today.

"Our 1st Battalion, after its successful tour of duty in Austria, has this week sailed for Cyprus, and for that reason is, regrettably, unable to take part in this happy and historic ceremony.

"For us and our friends it is highly significant that this event should fall at the bi-centenary of our 1st Battalion, the old 57th Regiment, to be celebrated in the coming winter.

"Rest assured your Worship, that all ranks of the Middlesex Regiment will do their best to cement the close ties with your Borough, and to uphold the firm traditions of loyalty and devotion of our County and Regiment, whether at home with you, or abroad on their Imperial duties."

The Casket Party entered the hall and Capt. J. S. C. Flavell received the casket from Gen. Bucknall. The ceremony ended with the playing of the National Anthem and the handing back of Colours.

After the ceremony the Mayor took the salute at a march past headed by the massed bands of the 7th

Middlesex, the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) and the 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Middlesex), comprising elements from the Depot, T.A., Home Guard and Old Comrades' Association—a number of branches throughout Middlesex were represented. The column marched round Hendon before returning to the Technical College for tea.

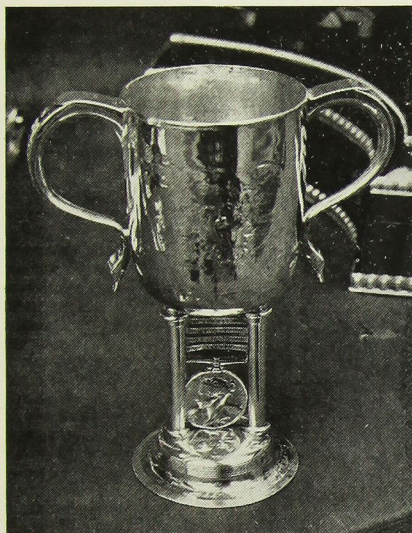
A great occasion for the Regiment, and a ceremony which no one present will ever forget.

EXHIBITION OF SILVER

Throughout the month of January an Exhibition of Officers' Mess Silver of the three Services was held in the Diploma Gallery of the Royal Academy in aid of S.S.A.F.A. The Regiment exhibited the Colours of the 2nd Battalion, and three pieces of silver:

(a) *Centrepiece*.—Presented to the officers of the 57th as a memorial to Capt. George Herman Norman, mortally wounded in the attack on the Redan at Sebastopol, June 18, 1855, by his father, George Wardle Norman of Bromley, Kent.

(b) *Albuthera Loving Cup*.—The cup was made in 1809 but was not then in its present form. It is probable



THE ALBUHERA CUP

A picture taken at the S.S.A.F.A. Silver Exhibition and published in the "Daily Telegraph"

that the double stem and handles were added when the Colours were chased. The medal is that of Pte. Henry Holloway, 57th Foot, who was the last survivor of the battle of Albuhera, May 16, 1811. On May 16 every year a silent toast is drunk from this cup "to those who fell at Albuhera."

(c) *Centrepiece*.—This is a modern centrepiece of the 3rd Regular Battalion of the Regiment in memory of the officers of the Battalion who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War.

The Depot supplied the ushers throughout the duration of the Exhibition. To quote from the letters of appreciation that followed the close of the Exhibition they proved "a very great credit to the Regiment," and many comments were made on their "smartness and soldierly bearing, courtesy and helpfulness." L/Cpl. Robinson and Ptes. Homer, Dean, Clarke, Holt and Clarvis are to be congratulated on their fine efforts.

To coincide with the Exhibition, Spink & Son Ltd. of St. Jame's Street displayed in their window a map of the world with a surround of medals won by the Regiment, each campaign being indicated on the map. We are indebted to Spink's for their display and the picture which we publish.

B.B.C. TELEVISION

On January 2 a B.B.C. Television Film Unit visited the Depot and spent three days collecting material for a Special Enquiry feature on National Service. Prac-

tically the entire camera and production staff had some previous military experience, and it was not long before the whole unit was working with military precision.

Artistic licence allowed recruits of the 35th Intake, then in their sixth week of training, to re-enact the awe-inspiring process of joining the Army and completing basic training. Pte. Weston was selected as "the man in the street," and his career was followed from the moment he left the footplate of his railway engine to visit the National Registration Office.

The programme was televised on January 24 and received a mixed reception from the Press. Material was also collected from other units, but the Depot seemed to monopolise a large part of the 45-minute programme. Pte. Weston appeared perfectly at ease, and Major Waller, Lt. Pollard, R.S.M. Donovan and Ptes. Peck and Banham figured prominently. The film sequences of training—drill, rangework, P.T. and Assault Course—must have brought back memories to many viewers and given others some idea of what to expect.



Brigadier D. G. Moore presenting the Medal for the Best All-round Recruit to Pte. G. Haynes, November 11, 1955

TRAINING COMPANY

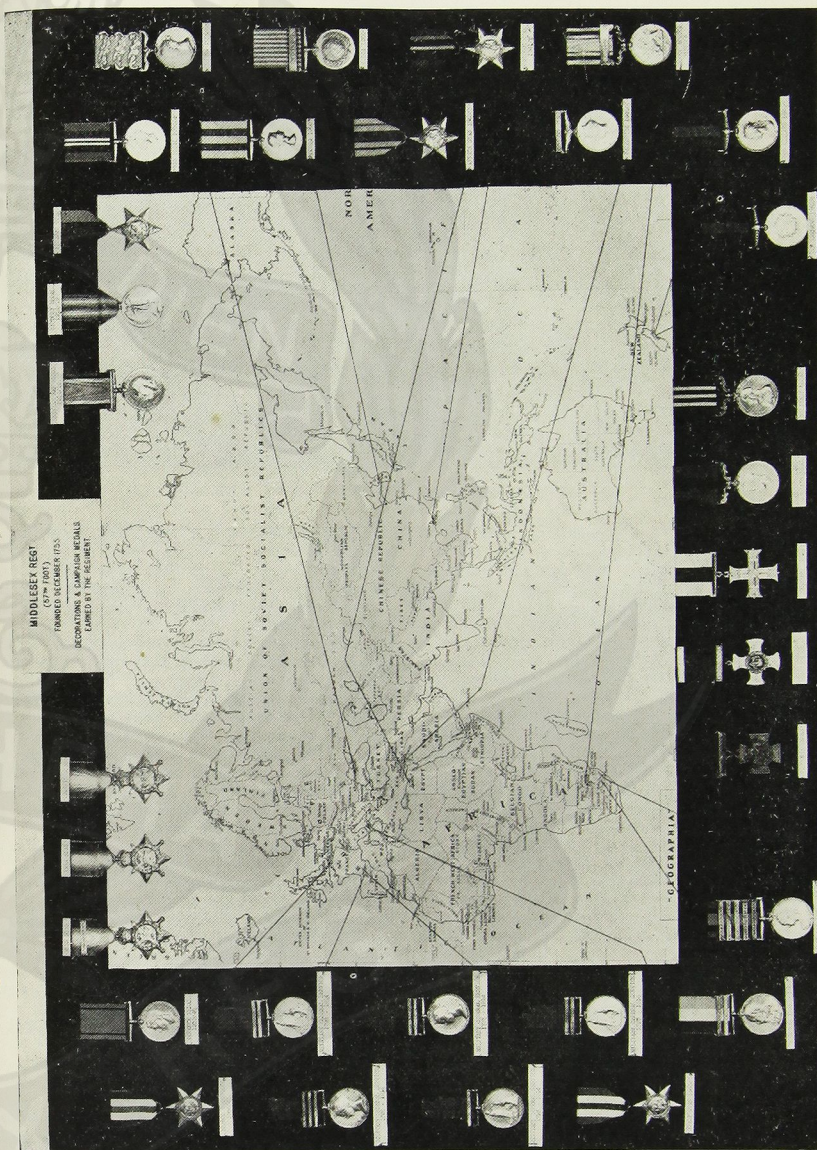
On Friday, November 11, 1955, Brigadier D. G. Moore, Brigade Commander, 47th Infantry Brigade (T.A.), took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 33rd Intake of Recruits. The Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards was also on parade.

The Brigadier presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-round Recruit	..	23251801	Pte. G. Haynes
Best Rifle Shot	..	23170713	Pte. R. Jones
Best L.M.G. Shot	..	23170720	Pte. B. Swan
Highest Physical Efficiency	23171128	Pte. A. Risley	

Over 100 relatives and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

During October all other ranks of the Depot Per-





Brigadier Moore inspecting the 33rd Intake

manent Staff and the Holding Platoon came under the command of the Company.

The daily routine was put somewhat off balance during the initial stages of the reorganisation, but was soon to settle down and work extremely well.

Recently the Recruit Basic Training Syllabus was rewritten. The syllabus now incorporates the familiarisation and firing of the 7.62 self-loading rifle, better known perhaps as the "F.N. Rifle," practical first-aid and lectures on nuclear warfare.

During the past four months the Company has played a full part in the many and varied activities of the Depot.

Best remembered will be the day on which the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon. This historical event is reported fully elsewhere in the Journal. Supplying butt-parties for a Territorial Army Rifle Meeting; the Administrative Inspection; the Remembrance Service Parade, and last but not least giving our wholehearted assistance to the B.B.C. Television Service who recently televised the major part of a "Special Inquiry" feature on National Service at the Depot were just few of the varied activities.

The second passing-out parade during the period covered by these notes was that of the 34th Recruit Intake on Friday, December 30, 1955. All N.S. soldiers of this intake were to be posted to the Royal Sussex Regiment; it was therefore fitting that Major N. H. Ormerod, E.R.D., Officer Commanding The Depot The Royal Sussex Regiment, should take the salute. The Pipe Band of the Harrow County School was also on parade.

The inspecting officer presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-round Recruit	..	23251927	Pte. C. Roberts
Best Rifle Shot	..	23251927	Pte. C. Roberts
Best L.M.G. Shot	..	23188688	Pte. M. Dicker
Highest Physical Efficiency	23251927	Pte. C. Roberts	

Over 80 relatives and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

Recent arrivals in the Company are Cpls. Hall and Makins and L/Cpl. Savery from the 1st Battalion; L/Cpls. Dempsey and Argent both from the Infantry Boys' Battalion; C/Sgt. Powell from darkest Africa; and C.S.M. Firman from the 7th Battalion.

Sgt. Muirhead, Cpl. Ebbage and L/Cpl. Stamp are now civilians again. C.S.M. Budden, having completed his term at the Depot as C.S.M. Training Company, is now with the 1st Battalion. All ranks will remember with respect his unfailing energy and enthusiasm in all matters connected with the Company and the Regimental Depot. We wish him and his family the very best of good fortune.

We congratulate the following on their promotions: To Sergeant, Cpl. Davies; to Corporal, L/Cpls. Raffael, Long and Linzell; and to Lance-Corporal, Pte. Brewer.

On Friday, February 3, 1956, Col. G. R. Stevens, O.B.E., Brigade Colonel, Home Counties Brigade, took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 35th Intake of Recruits. The Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards was also on parade.

The Brigade Colonel presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-round Recruit	..	23199457	Pte. E. Polden
Best Rifle Shot	..	23199457	Pte. E. Polden
Highest Physical Efficiency	23199457	Pte. E. Polden	
Best L.M.G. Shot	..	23199475	Pte. R. McKenna

Approximately 40 parents and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade.

OFFICERS' MESS

Although the Journal now appears only three times a year, it always seems a remarkably short time between the appearance of that forbidding instruction that "notes for the next issue will be submitted by —." Why is it? It has always been so. I remember some years ago my Company Commander, who, to the best of my recollection, was almost invariably caught napping (over Journal notes only, of course) getting hold of one of his subalterns—a brainy young man—and telling him to write up the Company notes. He did so, but in Latin, which rather fixed the whole issue! *O, tibi tute tati, tibi tanta, tyranne, tulati.*

However, I suppose something must be done about it, so let's get on.

On October 10 we were very pleased to have Gen. Bucknall, Gen. Urquhart, Brigadier Vandeleur, Col. Stevens, Lt.-Col. Willoughby, Major Bennett, Major Pearce Gould, Capt. de Gaye and Capt. Marciandi as our guests at dinner. Col. Browne and Capt. Jordan also dined in. The Band of the 7th Battalion very kindly provided the music. This occasion was really our "farewell" to the 1st Battalion before they left for Cyprus. A contingent from here did go up to Liverpool on October 18 and saw them on board, but unfortunately had to catch a train back before the ship actually sailed.

The monthly dinner on the first Thursday in each month continues unless unusual circumstances prevail. It was at this dinner on November 3 that the Town Clerk of Hendon, Mr. R. H. Williams, was our guest. Col. Stevens, the Brigade Colonel, and Lt.-Col. Sutherland and his son lunched the following day.

The C.R.E. London District, his successor, and Lt.-Col. Roche, our local Garrison Engineer, came to lunch on November 22. On that day several officers and their wives came to tea, having attended the ceremony of the presentation of the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon to the Regiment.

The Administrative Inspection took place on November 24, when we entertained the Inspecting Officers to luncheon.

Col. Browne, Major Waller and Major Heywood were guests at the Home Postal Depot, Royal Engineers, Annual Reunion Dinner on November 29. It was on this occasion that Col. Browne was asked to accept on behalf of the Mess an extremely nice silver biscuit barrel as a gift from the officers of the Home Postal Depot. The inscription reads: "Presented to the Officers of the Depot, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), on 29th October 1955, by the Officers of the Royal Engineers (Postal Section) Army Emergency Reserve, in appreciation of the hospitality enjoyed while training at the Depot at Mill Hill."

We have for a long time been in need of another biscuit barrel and this most pleasing gift is in daily use.

The Colonel of the Regiment brought a guest to lunch on December 15. That evening Major Waller and Capt. Clayden were guests at a dinner in the 7th Battalion's Mess in Hornsey.

The Mess Christmas Party was held on December 21, and all voted it a most pleasant evening—or should one

say morning? Our thanks are due to the Committee responsible for the evening's entertainment. Those who attended were: Major and Mrs. Waller, Capt. and Mrs. Flavell, Capt. and Mrs. Clayden, Lt. and Mrs. Weller, Lt. Pollard and friend, Major Heywood, Major and Mrs. Marshall, Major Burrows, Major and Mrs. Martin, Capt. Deacock and friend, Capt. Rutherford and friend, Capt. and Mrs. Pielow, Capt. Mieville and friend, Major Hutchings and friend, Major and Mrs. Dawson, Major Clayden and friend, and Capt. Evans and friend. After dinner we were joined by Percy Newman, and Stan Fothergill and his fiancée.

The Mess itself was closed for Christmas and everybody seemed ready for a holiday, especially, no doubt, the Mess Staff. We are grateful to them for all their good work.

The S.S.A.F.A. held an Exhibition of Silver at the Royal Academy recently, and the following Regimental items were displayed: 1st and 3rd Battalions' Centre-pieces, and the Albuhera Cup. The last 2nd Battalion Colours (presented in 1925) were also exhibited.

The New Year passed quietly and was followed by a Guest Night on January 5 when we entertained the Chairman of the Middlesex County Council (County Alderman S. Graham Rowlandson, M.B.E., J.P., F.C.A.) and Mr. R. Moore (Headmaster of Mill Hill School). Fog had persisted for several days and travelling was a complete gamble. For our guests to appear at all was heroic, and we were much relieved to hear that Mr. Graham Rowlandson in particular, who had so far to go, got back home safely and without undue delay.

Many officers have stayed with us or paid visits during these last few months. These include: Capt. Carter, Lt. Hewson, Capt. Pielow, Lt.-Col. Worton, Capt. de Gaye, Lt.-Col. Allen, Lt. Gilham, Capt. Moore, Lt. Highton, Major Ironsi (West Africa)—who had the honour of accompanying Her Majesty on her Nigerian tour—Lt.-Col. Fox, Brigadier Rackham, Lt. Hayden, Major Hardcastle, 2/Lt. Kent, Roger Latham, Capt. A. R. F. Smith, Major Marsh, Col. A. M. Man, Capt. Eales, Major Clayden, Major Battey, 2/Lt. Close, 2/Lt. Murphy, Capt. Hodge, Major Kempster, Capt. Deacock, Lt. Bryson, Major Newman, Lt. Medlock, Lt. Leak, Major Howat (A. & S.H.), Lt. E. B. Thomas (The King's Regiment—late 1st Middlesex), Lt. Lloyd and 2/Lt. Ashton. We again offer our apologies if some names have been omitted. Major Hutchings and Lt. Leak now live in the Mess. Capt. Mieville answered for Major Heywood whilst he was on the sick list.

We are very sorry to have to record the death of Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., on Christmas Day. His obituary and an account of his memorial service appears in this number.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In our last notes we made mention of a social "get together" with members of the 1st Battalion, and this welcome home from B.T.A. and farewell for their move to Cyprus took place on October 15. With the 1st Battalion Mess, members from the 7th Battalion and the Depot, the Gymnasium was filled to almost bursting. Many members who have left our ranks turned up for the "do" and cries of "Welcome home," "Glad to

see you," etc., could be heard all evening. As is usual on these occasions, the party took some time in warming up, but I feel sure that a good time was had by all.

Events since the hectic night of October 15 have been few and far between. The Christmas festivities were the first on the agenda and Sgt. (now C/Sgt.) Grogan volunteered to assist with the main attraction, i.e. "The Draw," and duly became the purchaser of all prizes. All members, and many visitors to the Mess on that night, commented on the assortment and usefulness of the prizes, and C/Sgt. Grogan was accordingly congratulated. According to the number of heavy heads the following morning a number of members are to be congratulated also!

During the first week of January the Depot was invaded by a B.B.C. Television Unit for the purpose of making part of a film for the "Special Inquiry" series. As can be imagined, things were a little hectic with interviews, parades, lectures and all points dealing with the life of a N.S. man in the Army, and after the film was shown on television on January 24 a number of members were claiming their rights as TV stars.

The change of faces is continuing as always, and we welcome to our midst C/Sgt. Grogan, who is endeavouring to make all Mess members potential band boy recruits; Sgt. Simpson, who has ended his period of constant leave with Klag Admin. Unit; and Sgt. Davies, who was recently promoted. We wish C.S.M. Budden, now with the 1st Battalion, all the best in his new appointment, also Sgt. ("Joe") Bream who is now at Eaton Hall O.C.S. To Sgt. Walden, who returned to that arduous civilian life, we wish every success.

Cricketer Flash: There is a standing invitation to supper for Sgt. Clements.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since the last edition the Club has lost many old faces and we bid farewell to "Tich" Townsend and Ken Ebbage. We welcome to our ranks Cpl. Makin and L/Cpl. Savery, Cpl. Hall and numerous Lance-Corporals who are awaiting W.O.S.B. or Eaton Hall.

Our congratulations go to Cpl. Davies on his promotion to Sergeant and we wish him the best of luck in his job as Platoon Sergeant.

During the last three months the Club has seen very little social life, but we hope to rectify this in the coming year.

On January 21 the Corporals' Mess was invited to a Corporals' Mess Dance by the Royal Fusiliers. Members of the Mess who attended had a most enjoyable evening in spite of being in the Tower of London.

Our three stalwart Lance-Corporals, namely, L/Cpls. Linzell, Long and Raffael, have at long last got their second stripe, and to these we give our heartiest congratulations.

Since Christmas we have seen a lot of the 1st Middlesex N.C.O.s who were awaiting demob., and to those we say "the best of luck in civvy street."

We say congratulations to Cpl. Ebbage on joining the happy band of fathers and hope he enjoys his new full-time job of keeping his baby amused by teaching it drill, weapon training and other interesting subjects.

SOCCER

After a disastrous start to the season, during which the team was beaten in five games, the standard of soccer has improved immeasurably throughout the Depot and the team has played consistently well to win six of its last seven matches. There now seem to be far more players to select from and the teamwork has greatly improved.

The first win of the season was against H.Q. Eastern Command, whom we defeated by 4 goals to 2 at Mill Hill and confounded the critics. This success was due to a great extent to S.I. Morris, A.P.T.C., who had spent a lot of time and energy discovering all the football talent of the Depot and building up a team. Five consecutive victories followed and the team with its tail now well up looked as if it might have an unbeaten run to the end of the season. However, at Mill Hill on January 25, we entertained 20th Company, R.A.S.C., from Regent's Park, who beat us easily by 4 goals to 2 and gave our team that beginning of the season look once more. Such is the price of over-confidence.

S.I. Morris has proved as invaluable a defender on the field as he has been coach and talent scout during training. He has been well backed up by L/Cpl. Sharp in goal and L/Cpl. Wright and Pte. Dooler. The last named is a pillar of strength in the defence. Pte. Green has shone in the forward line and at present is the leading goal-scorer. Others who have played in the team are: Cpls. Speakman and Whithread, L/Cpl. Goodman, Ptes. Green, Lack, Vardy, Cadwallar, Blair, Bagley, Carter, Sturman, Barnwell, Street, Millson, and Palmer, and Cfn. Ryder.

Results of matches played so far this season:—

Depot v. London Assembly Centre	Lost 3-8
Depot v. 20 Company, R.A.S.C.	Lost 2-3
Depot v. London District F.C. (friendly match)	Lost 1-3
Depot v. Guards Depot "B"	Lost 1-6
Depot v. 12 Vehicle Depot Workshops, R.E.M.E.	Lost 0-10
Depot v. H.Q., Eastern Command	Won 4-2
Depot v. Household Cavalry Cadre	Won 4-0
Depot v. Kneller Hall	Won 5-0
Depot v. R.H.Q., Grenadier Guards	Won 7-3
Depot v. R.H.Q., Grenadier Guards	Won 6-2
Depot v. London Assembly Centre	Won 5-4
Depot v. 20 Company, R.A.S.C.	Lost 2-4

The Depot is lying fifth out of the ten teams in "C" Section of the London District Mid-Week League.

HOCKEY

On a cold and wet afternoon in October the team journeyed to Hendon to play their first match of the season. Unlike previous years, the R.A.F. fielded a poor XI and although four members of the Depot team were otherwise engaged we won comfortably enough.

The Schoolmasters at Beaconsfield proved a different proposition, and after a hard, tough and often dangerous game Pte. Lakin and the "Doctor" proved too much for them. In this game the forwards combined well, but the half-backs were all at sea.

Against the R.A.F., Hillingdon, we fielded a strong side and well as we played the R.A.F., with two county and three trial players, proved too much. Pte. Lakin and the "Doctor" again scored our goals.

This game was followed by a match against our next door neighbours—No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. The Workshops did not play as a team and the Depot won handsomely.

In November No. 12 Vehicle Depot Workshops, R.E.M.E., visited the Depot for the first time. On an atrocious day, with the field at Whetstone resembling a quagmire, we won a close, and surprisingly enough, an enjoyable game.

Our annual match with H.Q. Eastern Command proved a great disappointment. The forwards lacked drive, whilst the halves, apart from C/Sgt. Grogan, were yards too slow. We deserved to lose, and it was only due to L/Cpl. Ambler in goal and Lt. S. C. W. Weller at full-back that the Depot was not beaten by a dozen goals.

At Kneller Hall we played on a pitch more suited to Australian Rugby Rules Football. Lakin again scored his typically opportunistic goal, then the rot set in. For once the halves, Capt. Evans in particular, played well and the forwards were plied with a stream of passes all afternoon. The pitch and the quick tackling of Kneller Hall brought most of our movements to a grinding halt. Although we won the team did not play together. Spirit and much improvement was needed if we were to beat H.Q. Eastern Command in the semi-final of the London District Knockout Competition.

A week later, on a partly frozen pitch, the Depot came within a foot of entering the final of the Knockout Competition. Within a quarter of an hour of the bully-off the Depot were two goals up and hammering away at Eastern Command goal.

The Depot played splendidly and were quite unrecognisable from the sloppy and disorganised team of the previous week. Wild hitting from the usually immaculate team of the Headquarters told its own tale.

At half-time the Depot were unlucky not to be four goals to the good. Full of confidence we relaxed, and too late the scores were level. Casual covering and over-confidence were our undoing. After this disappointment we again settled down, the "Doctor" had a goal disallowed, Lakin shot and the ball hummed past the upright with the goalkeeper yards out. The last five minutes saw the maroon shirts of the Depot swarming round the Command goal. With an open goal C/Sgt. Grogan drove hard, the full-back with stick high and foot firmly planted deflected the ball, the umpire was unsighted and our last chance was gone.

The standard of umpiring in this match was quite excellent, very firm, impartial and a lesson to all.

The replay will take place shortly at Hounslow. The less said about the return match with R.A.F., Hillingdon, the better. C/Sgt. Grogan flicked an admirable goal and there the match ended as a game. Although we were no less guilty, the Depot would have been opposed by a mere handful of R.A.F. players long before the end of the game if the match had been controlled by a firm and strong umpire.

Results of the matches are:

Depot v. R.A.F., Hendon	Won 3-1
Depot v. R.A.F., Hillingdon	Lost 3-5
Depot v. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.	Won 8-3
Depot v. R.A.E.C. Depot, Beaconsfield	Won 3-2
Depot v. 12 Vehicle Depot Workshops, R.E.M.E.	Won 4-2
Depot v. H.Q., Eastern Command	Lost 1-5
Depot v. R.M.S.M., Kneller Hall	Won 4-2
Depot v. H.Q., Eastern Command	Drew 2-2
Depot v. R.A.F., Hillingdon	Lost 1-3

The following have played regularly for the Depot

team: Cpts. Flavell, Clayden, Evans and Williams Lt. Weller, C/Sgt. Grogan, L/Cpls. Ambler and Starkey, and Ptes. Lakin and Polden. Lt. Pollard, Cpl. Tarry and Pte. Chappell have also played.

As we go to Press we learn that the Depot, having beaten H.Q. Eastern Command in the semi-final replay by 3 goals to 2 at Hounslow, lost to the Depot The East Surrey Regiment by 5 goals to 1 in the final of the London District Knockout Competition.

OTHER SPORTING EVENTS

Under a new system recently introduced at the Depot all recruits are taught the basic principles of basketball, boxing and hockey all the year round, with rugby in the winter and field events in the summer as the fourth game. Provision is still made, however, for plenty of cricket or soccer to be played during training.

There being no rugby team as yet at the Depot, we have been supplying quite a few members of the London District team which plays various police divisional teams, and other Army units and university mid-week teams on a Wednesday afternoon. Normally the rugby is of a high standard, but the home ground being at Blackheath travelling is always a problem. The following have played during the season: Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, Cpls. Tarry, Whithread, Raffael, Harrison and Griffin-Smith, L/Cpls. Savery and Simons, and Ptes. Thompson, Saunders and Medland. We hope to be able to enter a unit team in the London District Seven-a-side Competition.

Ptes. Wadham and Devonshire, who are entered for the L.D. Individual Boxing Championships, are both boxers of some repute. We wish them every success in the forthcoming competition.

S.I. Morris trained a surprisingly good team for the London District Inter-Unit Knockout Basketball Competition. In the first round the Depot defeated the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards by 19 points to 16 points, and were unlucky to lose a close semi-final to the Guards Training Battalion by 24 points to 32. The team, S.I. Morris, Sgt. Warner, Cpl. Speakman, L/Cpls. Wright and Simons, and Ptes. Feather, Wadham and Dooler, are to be congratulated on a fine effort.

News Flash.—Both Ptes. Wadham and Devonshire won their weights in the London District competitions, and brought back to the Depot the individual welter and lightweight challenge cups which were held by us in 1952 and 1953. Congratulations. They now go forward to the Eastern Command championships and we wish them the best of luck.

MUSEUM

On January 24, 1956, Mr. Smith, our Curator, was seen by perhaps many thousands of Television viewers leading into barracks a batch of "new" recruits. Our fears that he will leave us for Lime Grove are groundless, or so he says.

During the early part of December the Keystone Photograph Agency took many excellent photographs of the Museum. Only the proofs so far have been seen, but it is hoped that at least one will be published in the summer edition.

Major Sutherland, back from Malaya for a short holiday, visited the Museum and very kindly donated a sum of money to the Fund.

The Military Medal and campaign medals of the late Pte. A. A. Bennis (G.35481) were presented to the Depot by Mr. L. N. Hyams on behalf of Pte. Bennis's sister, Mrs. C. Barnard.

On Tuesday, October 25, 1955, Mrs. H. G. Chesters had tea at the Depot and presented the medals of a close friend, Major E. J. Langford-Garstin, M.C., to the Depot Museum. Mrs. Chesters was accompanied by Mr. L. T. R. Shergold.

In March the Museum will be completely redecorated and it is hoped that when this has been completed a representative from the Ogilby Museums Trust Fund will be able to visit the Depot and give expert advice on a more attractive layout for the exhibits.

CHURCH NOTES

The Chapel has been redecorated and is now quite unrecognisable from the dismal hut of four years ago. Padre Scott has completed the staining of the window panes that were broken in the late autumn, and a number of items have been sold to the Chapel very cheaply by Mr. Henham of Finchley.

These include a splendid brass cross, two vases studded with semi-precious stones and two magnificent sets of altar frontals. Two brass candlesticks are now required to match the cross and vases.

CEREMONIAL DRESS

The following items of ceremonial dress are held by the Adjutant of the Depot:—

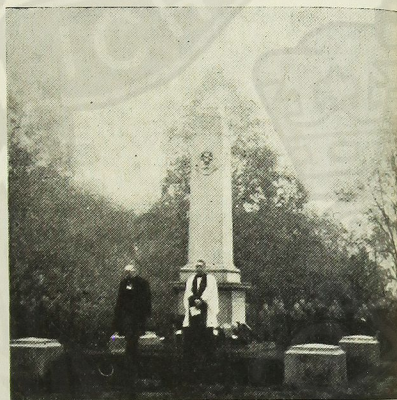
- One dress sword and knot.
- Two crimson sashes.
- One dress sword sling.
- Dress epaulettes.



Sgt. Muirhead and Sgt. Buckley with the Regimental Flag at the Field of Remembrance, November 5, 1955. (Picture taken by W. J. Overton, Esq., an Old Comrade)

Officers of the Regiment who wish to borrow any of these items should apply to the Adjutant.

On Saturday, November 5, the annual ceremony was held at the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. The Rev. R. A. W. Hambly, S.C.F. London District, read the prayers, and Col. Browne, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, laid the Regimental wreath and planted the first cross. The following were present: The Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff of the County, Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, the Mayors of Hendon, Chiswick, Wood Green, Harrow, Southgate and Ealing, the Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the Depot, and a number of other members of the Regiment, serving and retired.



Mr. Hull, M.M., after laying a wreath on the Memorial at the Depot on November 6, 1955

OLD COMRADES

We did not hold our customary monthly meeting in the Crawford Hut during October as we met twice during the month at Regimental functions—the Freedom of the Borough and the Reunion.

Fifty-two Old Comrades were on parade at Hendon and it was good to see so many branches represented, and to meet so many old friends. "Busty" Hall, who commanded the detachment, proved in the March Past that his voice has not been affected by the passage of time. It was good to be on parade again and there were many kinds remarks made concerning our smartness and bearing. The Borough provided an excellent tea after the parade and many of us attended the memorable dance at the Depot which completed the day. There was a good attendance at Seymour Hall, too, and all agreed that it was an enjoyable evening. It was especially good to meet some of the recruits.

The November meeting was held on the 26th, but fog prevented a large attendance. However, most of the "old faithfuls" braved the weather and enjoyed a

game or two of dice. This was the first meeting attended by Percy Newman in his capacity as vice-chairman—we all welcome him to the club and look forward to the improvement he will no doubt make in our social life.

The Christmas Party was held in the Crawford Hut on December 17 and was attended by over fifty members and their wives. Many raffles and a sing-song round the piano gave the evening a good start, and it was not long before we were all engaged in "Knees up Mother Brown" and other exhausting ballroom dances. Everyone left rather late but well filled with Christmas spirit. Our first monthly meeting in the New Year was on January 28 and proved something of a disappointment, only 18 members attending though this may have been due in part to the weather.

As those who receive the monthly newsletter will already have realised, the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary are very worried by the failure of members to support the club of late and by the complete lack of any young soldiers who show any interest in the Old Comrades' Association. To make the club all that it should be demands greater effort from present members and considerably more interest from those who have recently left or are about to leave the Army. We meet on the last Saturday of every month in the Crawford Hut, Inglis Barracks. May we look forward to seeing you on one such occasion.

CAMBRIDGE CLUB NOTES

On November 24 we went by coach to see "Kismet" at the Stoll Theatre, Kingsway, and after the show we had supper in town and got back to Inglis Barracks by midnight, having enjoyed the evening very much.

A successful Christmas Draw was held, the prizes being a hamper, dolls and whisky.

The Club closed for two weeks over Christmas.

On January 7 the Children's Party was held. Father Christmas arrived with presents and sweets, and after tea the children (and I think most of the parents) were entertained by a film show.

We have now got back to normal and are holding our monthly whist drive on the second Thursday in the month and attendance has been very good.

We are sorry to lose Mrs. Clayden, and wish her well wherever she may go.

THE DEPOT POST-BOX

As some readers may know, much non-official correspondence comes to the Depot, and some of it is used for this Journal. Often it is sent for this purpose, the sender perhaps thinking that it will be published in its entirety. That is what the Editor normally would like to do. Confronted though with a volume of correspondence that far exceeds the available space, he is obliged to precis the contributions hoping that writers will understand the need for curtailment.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks has sent us a copy of the broadcast he made recently on behalf of the Officers' Families' Fund. Would we could print his forthright appeal in full for surely no more deserving charity exists today. If any reader feels he would like to sub-

scribe to this good cause his donation, large or small, will be gratefully received by Sir Brian Horrocks, Officers' Families' Fund, 104 Gloucester Road, N.W.7.

The Officers' Pensions Society Ltd., 171 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, have sent us further particulars of their activities and have forecast a "brighter outlook." Maybe the Increased Pensions Bill now before Parliament owes something to their efforts, and it is surprising to learn that their present membership represents only about a quarter of all retired officers and officers' widows. Naturally, the Society is pressing for a greater membership and invites application for such from non-members.

The Forces' Motoring Club (headquarters—2 Charterhouse Mews, London, E.C.1) has sent us further particulars of their activities. This club, started recently, exists primarily for road-users, serving and retired. Further information can be obtained from the above address.

Correspondence from the Army Ski Association, The War Office (A.S.C.B.), Stanmore, Middlesex, arrived too late for any effective action through the medium of these pages. Cortina is now a memory, but readers interested in winter sports might well be advised to contact this Association. The subscription is modest and the advantages of membership many. They include reduced terms for equipment, travel, insurance and hotel expenses.

The National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, 62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, continues to remind us of their existence. Despite present full employment no doubt there are some they might assist. If so, be sure they will play their part.

More than a few members of the Regiment served in Africa during the late war, and will be interested to learn that recently Gen. Sir Alan Cunningham, G.C.M.G. K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., unveiled the East Africa Memorial in Nairobi to the 2,402 members of the East African Force who were killed in the East African campaign and during the liberation of Madagascar. The picturesque ceremony must have recalled memories of the brilliantly conducted campaign that swept the Axis powers from Somaliland, Ethiopia and Eritrea in one of the swiftest pursuits in military history. Several members of the Regiment were present at the unveiling, including Major "Roddy" Sword, to whom we say gratefully for supplying most of these details—*misuri buana*.

On the evening of October 22 the London Branch of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Association held its annual reunion dinner at Chatham Rooms, Victoria. The Regiment was honoured by an invitation and was represented by Capt. and Mrs. B. A. M. Pielow.

We learn that Major M. P. Weedon, now a barrister with a mining house in Salisbury, was largely responsible for the recent gallantry citation in the *London Gazette* in respect of L/Bomdr. John Bullen, who died heroically in Hong Kong on Christmas Eve, 1941. Bullen became attached to Weedon's Company during the fighting so he witnessed the amazing bravery which, unfortunately, cost Bullen his life.

G.W.K.



H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Lt.-Col. G. Lerwill, O.B.E., M.C., and Major A. Ironsi, inspect the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Nigerian Regiment

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS TO THE 2nd BATTALION THE NIGERIAN REGIMENT BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

We all listened to and watched with interest the part played during the Royal Tour of Nigeria by Lt.-Col. Godfrey Lerwill, O.B.E., M.C., our senior substantive Lieut.-Colonel at present commanding the 2nd Battalion The Nigerian Regiment. As may be seen from our photograph, the turnout of his Battalion on the occasion of the Presentation of New Colours by H.M. The Queen is of the high order expected of any unit under his command, and reflects great honour on both him and his Battalion. Col. Lerwill's speech to the Queen on this historic occasion was broadcast by the B.B.C.; delivered in characteristic manner it again proved a great personal success, of which both Col. Lerwill and the Regiment may be justly proud.

Many will also recognise from the photograph a visitor to the Depot, Major Ironsi, who was recently appointed Equerry to the Queen and has accompanied

her throughout the Royal Tour. We congratulate him on this great honour.

31 Hamilton Terrace,
N.W.8.

To the Editor of *The Die-Hards*.
Dear Sir,

There must be many former officers of the 8th Battalion (T.A.) who will have been grieved to see in the Journal of last December the notice of the death of George Mullaley.

"Sergeant Mullaley" was an institution in the 8th and many of us will remember the genial and kindly way in which he presided over the Orderly Room. He was a guide, philosopher and friend to the officers and was always ready to help and advise the citizen soldier in any difficulty. George Mullaley will not soon be forgotten by his old comrades.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) RONALD SHERBROOKE-WALKER.
December 12, 1955.

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



On October 22, 1955, the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour of the Battalion were carried by Lt. G. L. Blacktop and Lt. M. J. Beaumont respectively, when the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon was granted to the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). Also on parade were Bandmaster W. J. Gilyatt, Drum-Major C. Holdford, B.E.M., and the Regimental Band and the Corps of Drums.

The Battalion was represented at the Field of Remembrance in Westminster Abbey on November 5 at the Regimental Memorial Service, and a cross was planted in the Memorial Space.

On November 6 the Battalion, headed by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums and in company with a detachment of Old Comrades and also of the 16th (Indep.) Cadet Company, marched to the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Hornsey, to take part in the Civic Act of Remembrance. Wreaths were laid in the Battalion's Memorial Chapel by the Commanding Officer on behalf of all ranks of the Battalion; by the Honorary Colonel, Col. J. K. Maitland, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., on behalf of the 7th Battalion Officers' Club; and by Mr. (ex-R.Q.M.S.) Raddom on behalf of the Hornsey Branch of the Old Comrades' Association.

After the service the parade marched past the Honorary Colonel, who was accompanied on the saluting base by the Mayor of Hornsey, Alderman Herbert La French-Norman, J.P. Amongst the large congregation was Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. E. Pringle, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., and Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, T.D. The service was conducted by the Rector of Hornsey, Rev. O. R. Fulljames, V.R.D., M.A., who had recently become Honorary Chaplain to the Battalion.

Buglers from the Corps of Drums sounded Last Post and Reveille at the service in Hornsey and also at St. Matthew's, Bayswater, and St. Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead, where the Rev. W. M. Masters, O.B.E., who knew the 1st Battalion recently in Vienna, is the Vicar.

During October we were pleased to have 2/Lt. N. D. Blackburn of the Wellington Regiment (T.A.) of the Royal New Zealand Infantry attached to the Battalion. He will remain attached for the period of his stay in U.K.

Two successful social events have been the New Year's Eve Dance and the Children's Party. Attendance at the Dance surpassed previous years and we were very pleased to see the increased numbers of former members of the Battalion there. The Children's Party on January 7 was the usual "every-man-for-himself" success. Films were shown before tea, and afterwards Father Christmas Goodge did his stuff magnificently.

Since the announcement by the Prime Minister of the impending changes in the Reserve Army there has been much speculation in the Battalion as to what the future holds. Unfortunately not a great deal of detailed information has been forthcoming, but the major changes are set out below.

No N.S. man who has completed one 15-day camp will be required to do any further training. This means that the bulk of N.S. men in the Battalion will not be available for evening or week-end training or for camp. As a result the Battalion will go to camp this year (at Shorncliffe) with only the T.A. and N.S. Volunteers and N.S. men who have not yet attended annual camp. This means a total camp strength of under 250. As this is an individual training year we hope to have the time to persuade some of our N.S. men to become Volunteers.

As we are no longer able to call up N.S. men for evening training or week-ends our out-of-camp training activities are restricted to the Volunteer element and we concentrate on officers and N.C.O.s. There are indeed very few Volunteers who are not N.C.O.s, but we hope that the increased bounty and the fact that the Volunteer element now predominates will help to increase our numbers. Also, of course, any increase in Regular Army pay will be reflected in the pay of a T.A. Volunteer in camp and on week-end training.

Two events have combined to make the last few months very pleasant ones for the Officers' Mess. The first was the Regimental Guest Night held on December 15. Among the guests were Brigadier D. G. Moore, the Brigade Commander, Major W. E. Brooks, M.C., and his successor Major R. D. Hutchings of the Regiment. Also we were very pleased to have with us our Honorary Chaplain, the Rev. O. R. Fulljames, V.R.D., M.A. (Rector of Hornsey). The Honorary Colonel and former officer of the Battalion, Major Sir Harold Gillett, M.C., sat down to dinner with us, as did Major L. F. Baker and Capt. M. A. B. Clutson, both of whom were dining for the last time before transferring to T.A.R.O. A most pleasant evening ensued.

On January 7 the Mess held a Cocktail Party. Unfortunately, as appears to be our practice, we chose a day in which fog figured predominately in the weather forecast, but despite this a fair number of officers and guests arrived, bringing with them tales of hair-raising escapes on the roads as and additional source of conversation. About 60 people were present and we like to think that they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them.

Following a somewhat lengthy period of sleep following annual camp, the Sergeants' Mess aroused itself for the winter with a very successful Social on November 10, 1955, at which we had the pleasure of meeting many former members.

On December 20 the Annual Christmas Draw was held; unfortunately it seemed that many members had already disbursed their bounty and the tickets sold were less than might have been hoped.

The Annual Dinner was held in the O.R.s' Club on January 21. The Mess had the pleasure of entertaining the Col. and Mrs. Ellis and of hearing one of the Colonel's usual entertaining speeches, as this contained

a number of reminiscences regarding the R.S.M. (Mr. Pike) it was heard later that he was receiving a number of urgent enquiries for enlightenment from his wife. It is also believed that C.S.M. Goodge was acting as M.C. for the social following the Dinner and trying to persuade Mr. (late C/Sgt.) Colbourne to organise dancing classes for members.

We have to welcome a number of new members to the Mess—C.S.M. ("Chick") Etheridge who has come from the Depot as P.S.I. for "H.Q." Company in place of C.S.M. Corner, who has, however, returned to us as a member of the Territorial Army and has been promoted C.S.M. of "C" Company. Also Sgt. Dive who has taken the place of C.S.M. Firman at Highgate. Our congratulations go to C.S.M. ("Dick") Payne, C/Sgt. Payne and C/Sgt. Moran upon their promotion, and to Sgts. Spencer, Stapleton, Wood, C. Burnett, McGlashon, Eyre and Fox who have joined the Mess.

In conclusion we would congratulate C.S.M. Payne and his wife and C.S.M. Goodge and his wife on the birth of their latest children.

At the time of writing these notes the Battalion .22 team have won their way into the semi-finals of the Middlesex Challenge Shield, of which we are the present holders. It can be seen that the team are doing their utmost to retain this trophy for the Battalion.

Our opponents in this round being the runners-up last year, namely, 3604 Fighter Control Unit, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, they are, if reports are correct, a much improved team from last year, so it should prove a battle royal.

This is the "close" season for Band engagements, but practices continue under the direction of Band-Sgt. Whitewood. The Bandmaster, Mr. Gilyatt, has been seriously ill for several months but is now convalescing and hopes to be back on duty sometime in March. The good wishes of all his friends in the Battalion go out to him to speed his recovery.

The credit squeeze seems to have reached the Entertainments Department of the local councils, and so far we have only had four engagements offered for the summer season, but we live in hope.

Sgt. Moran, who has been M.T. Sergeant for the last six years, has left the M.T. Platoon to become Colour-Sergeant of "C" Company, and we are sorry to see him go.

A M.C. Trials team was entered for the Talmag Trophy at Pirbright on January 15, 1956, which consisted of Cpl. Organ, Cpl. Ricketts and Pte. Durrant. This team will be entered for the 44 Home Counties Divisional Trial on April 23.

Pte. Durrant has been appointed Lance-Corporal.

Since the last notes were written Autumn Camp was held and the P.S.I. and several other members of "B" Company attended.

Lt. G. L. Blacktop had the honour of carrying the

Queen's Colour when the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the Borough, and Sgt. Walters was included in the escort. We congratulate them both on their selection and on the many complimentary remarks afterwards received.

In early November Capt. A. R. K. Hardcastle relinquished command of "B" Company upon posting to Divisional H.Q., and we welcome in his stead Capt. R. J. Leighton. Capt. J. M. Phillips has also left us on transfer to T.A.R.O. Both Capt. Hardcastle and Capt. Phillips have been with us for a long period and we would like to wish them well and place on record our appreciation of the time and work they have put in for the good of the Company.

Bounty Night at the end of November was made a social occasion and was an unqualified success. We were pleased to see several members of the Company and their ladies at the Drill Hall, and were particularly glad to welcome the C.O. later in the evening. Sgt. Walters had arranged a long and varied evening's entertainment which, coupled with some first-class refreshments, made the evening something to remember. Apparently there is no justification for the rumour that the attendance of the P.S.I. on a recent first-aid course was the result of Bounty Night.

The following are to be congratulated on their promotion: To Corporal, L/Cpls. Simmons and Brack; to Lance-Corporals, Ptes. Melton, Slater and Herbert.

The policy changes mentioned earlier have considerably reduced the strength of "D" Company, and therefore we shall return largely to Volunteer training. In this connection it is pleasant to note that the following have elected to "soldier on" as Volunteers with us: Sgt. Hughes, Cpls. Eyre and Fordham, L/Cpl. Young, and Ptes. Sadler and Chesson. Thus we have a cadre on which we can build the Company in the future.

Our departure to the Drill Hall at Tottenham was about to take place when the Government's edition, the "Territorial Army," was first issued and this move was postponed until the position became clearer. We hope now that the time is not far distant when "D" Company will return to Tottenham.

On January 11 C/Sgt. Colborne left the Service. He has served for a great many years with the Regiment, seeing service all over the world, and he has been with the Battalion since it reformed in 1947 and with the Company since 1951. We would like to put on record the appreciation of all those who have served with for his loyalty, good humour, and the hard work he always put into anything he undertook. He crowned his service with us by a fine piece of shooting on the Bren when, in the Middlesex T.A. Association Meeting last autumn, he snatched the Champion Unit Trophy from under the noses of our nearest rivals and at the same time gained the best individual score of the day.

Annual camp seems a long way away as we write this, but outline training plans have already been drawn up.

11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

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

The Christmas season of dances and other social events is now over, and despite the uncertainty over the future of the Battalion as a result of the reorganisation of the T.A., the new training year is well under way. One Company is classifying in the snow as these notes are being written.

The officers again had a most enjoyable evening, with their ladies, at the "Mayfair" on December 10, 1955; they were particularly glad to welcome the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, and Mrs. Baker. They also had a party in the Mess at Hounslow on December 30, 1955, before proceeding in a body to the Sergeants' Ball. The success of the ball, organised by R.S.M. C. Lawrence, was only equalled by the magnificence of the buffet arranged by Sgt. J. J. Hearn.

"A" COMPANY

"A" Company are still hoping to obtain their own Drill Hall, meanwhile continuing to enjoy the hospitality of the Middlesex Regimental Depot in Inglis Barracks at Mill Hill.

"B" COMPANY

"B" Company had a social month during December. On the 3rd the Company was at home to the children of all members, as well as to 20 children of the Ealing County Council Home. To judge from the noise from the party, a good time was had by all 60 guests. Especially good work was done by Sgts. Bowditch and Reynolds and L/Cpl. Barker, who bought and packed the toys; Major Lee, who was a fruity Father Christmas; Mr. Bubb, the Company's Storeman Clerk, who obliged on the piano; and again Sgt. Bowditch who provided a running entertainment throughout the party. Mrs. Muirhead, of the W.V.S., and her workers organised the food, and Sgt. Furness showed the cartoon films.

The Christmas Dance was held on December 17, 1955, in the Drill Hall, and was attended by many friends of the unit in Ealing, including the Lady Mayor, Mrs. Ainsley, and Alderman Lynch. Public opinion prevailed upon the band, a quintette led by Cpl. Devonshire, from our own Regimental Band, who played an extra half hour.

C.S.M. Tucker is to be congratulated on his award of the M.B.E., announced in the New Year's Honours List. He joined "B" Company in 1947, having originally served with the 5th (Scottish) Parachute Battalion as Platoon Sergeant in North Africa, Italy, South of France and Greece.

In January Lt. A. Holmes left the Company to take over the post of I.O. in "H.Q." Company. Lt. K. R. Minford joined the Company in November and took over No. 6 Platoon.

In the sports field the Company has been represented both in the T.A. and Combined Old Boys' rugby teams.

Lt. Holmes played for the victorious Old Boys against the T.A. team, in which Lt. Lindsay was playing.

"C" COMPANY

The Company had another successful Christmas party and equally successful children's party. Capt. D. W. Price is to be congratulated on his third pip.

"D" COMPANY

Like "B" Company, "D" Company's winter activities have been mainly social. The Company Dance was held on December 3, 1955, when, undeterred by the non-appearance of the band, Cpl. Lansdell's radiogram supplied the music and the Company had a very enjoyable evening.

A further dance was held on New Year's Eve, when the band did appear to aid the festivities well into 1956. The proceeds of the above two dances helped to provide a present for every child at the children's Christmas party, held at the Drill Hall, when a film and puppet show added to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Training has been mainly confined to weapon training, in preparation for the pending Weapon Training Competition, and to .22 shooting, to keep the eyes in for the Bisley season. All members of the Company are keenly awaiting the coming of better weather so that they can get on with other activities. Cpl. Hurdwell won the Battalion cross-country run, coming in a good 800 yards ahead of the rest of the field, placing the Company second in the event to the amazement of non-participating members of the Company.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The relaxed atmosphere of the Company after camp was shattered by Bounty Night and Christmas parties, but the uncertain future of the Company has, however, created a restless spirit which has pervaded every function and planned programme.

The children's Christmas party, after a shaky financial start, was the usual hilarious success, due largely to the excellent food prepared by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Wales. Major F. C. Barber, less clean shaven than usual, made an effective Santa Claus.

Sgt. Fullman, who took over the stores at an awkward time just before camp, has now completely settled, and received the Brigadier at the Administrative Inspection with confidence.

The officers of the Company have played General Post and we now have Major G. Webber, fit and enthusiastic after his convalescence, in command. Lt. Holmes has taken over the job of I.O. and is seen shrouded in maps. 2/Lt. Medlock, who was recently with the 1st Middlesex Battalion in Cyprus, is now with the Company as Assistant M.T.O. Major Barber has relinquished the Company as he is going down to the West of England.

The greatest change in the Drill Hall since the last issue is the appearance of gleaming jeeps which appear to be permanently parked on the basketball pitch. We suspect that Sgt. Woods, who is largely responsible for their pristine appearance, has put them there to prevent the rain from spoiling his handwork.

SUPPORT COMPANY

When the Company held their first children's party in the Hampton Hill Drill Hall on December 17, 1955, the party was organised by C.S.M. Hobbs and his wife, with C/Sgt. Henry Ray, who, as a bearded "Uncle Henry," kept the party moving at great speed. R.S.M. Lawrence was asked to act as Father Christmas.

Lt. Peter Lawrence has left the Company and is now tin mining in Nigeria, and his place as O.C. of the M.M.G. Platoon has been taken by Lt. Frank Tomlin. L/Cpl. Blything is to be congratulated on his recent marriage.

RECRUITING

As these notes are written, there is much uncertainty about the future of the Battalion. Whatever the colour of our hats in the future, whether we are the 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, or whether we continue as a Parachute Battalion, one thing is certain, we shall need all the recruits of good quality that we can get. With the reduction of the National Service commitment the Battalion will soon consist entirely of volunteers, as indeed all Battalions should, and, although our numbers may for a time decrease, the quality of the Battalion and the training and fun that the members get out of the T.A. should greatly increase in the coming year.

571 L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A.

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

TRAINING

Training after camp is rather half-hearted, and after a belated start we are settling down to a programme that should bring us to a pitch of efficiency for our annual camp, August 11 to 25, at Weybourne, Norfolk. Several week-end dates have been earmarked for June and July at 110 W.E.T.C. This will give us sufficient time to blend the Regiment for training purposes before camp.

Major Waddingham, R.A., serving at present in Gibraltar, joins the Regiment in April, 1956. He will be very welcome and will, no doubt, take a worry from 2IC, who has more than enough work in administration.

ANNUAL RIFLE COMPETITION

A most successful Rifle Competition was held at Purfleet on October 22-23, 1955. The winners were:

Capt. Hughes	.. Harris Bowl
Sgt. D. Martin	.. Sergeants' Mess Cup
Gnr. Goodchild	.. Harrow Rifle Club
Gnr. Goodchild	.. Duncock Cup
Gnr. Gammon	.. Harrow Rifle Club (Recruits)
Mr. R. Compton	.. O.C.A. Championship
Edgware Cadets	.. Cadet Rifle Competition

Col. Lamont presented the trophies after the shoot, and congratulated the winners on good shooting. "Thanks must go to the O.C.A. in providing once again the butt party. Little do they realise how difficult it would be without them during our Rifle Competitions.

COMPETITIONS

The 571 Rifle Club is now in the semi-finals of the Middlesex Association .22 Rifle Competition.

ARMISTICE DAY

The attendance at this parade was well over 300. Lots of old faces were seen that had not appeared for years. The Rev. Kingston took the service, and the lesson was read by Col. Lamont.

Wreaths were laid on the War Memorial by Col. Beach, Lt.-Col. Brabble and the Cadet Officers. After the service all ranks adjourned, with their ladies, to the different Messes for light refreshments.

DEPARTURES AND RELIEFS

Major W. E. Adams (Q.M.), R.A., has left for another appointment and he has been succeeded by Major J. Townsend (Q.M.), R.A.

R.S.M. Hunt has left to join a Regular unit, and his relief, R.S.M. Garfitt, arrives in March, 1956.

Both Major Adams and R.S.M. Hunt will be missed from this Regiment. However, we are delighted to welcome the newcomers.

BEREAVEMENT

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P. He commanded this Regiment from 1928. During his command, and after, he worked untiringly for the Regiment.

CHRISTMAS

Several Christmas functions were held, including Officers', Sergeants' Mess Ball, Other Ranks Dance and several social evenings. The children's Christmas parties were attended by many, and thanks are due to the P.S.I.s and Sergeants for decorating the two T.A. Centres for all events.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

"P" BATTERY

The Battery under the command of Major E. C. Hawkins, T.D., has now completed its first camp and virtually its first year's training.

Starting as a unit whose members are drawn from many sources, the Battery has maintained a consistently high standard.

Since camp the Battery shooting team has distinguished itself in the Brigade League—much credit being due to the efforts of Lt. R. J. M. Willoughby.

The season's social events have included Officers' and Sergeants' Mess parties and a very successful Children's Christmas Party.

Recent changes have brought two new P.S.I.s in succession to W.O.2 J. Deighton, who has returned to Woolwich Garrison. The Battery owes so much to his hard work for its success at camp.

A comprehensive training programme has been arranged for the ensuing months with the object of "blooding" the many young soldiers who will be joining the Battery on completion of their full-time National Service commitments.

"Q" BATTERY

It is always difficult to write about the post-camp period—particularly the present one. Current sayings in the Battery are:

"Where do we go from here?"
"Never drive when you're overloaded!"
"Why don't they send away the old 'Die-Hards'?"
"So this is the eternal triangle (Middlesex, R.A., Fusiliers)."

The Battery ran a most successful social in November. Preceded by a cocktail party, it had a strongly nautical flavour—the R.N.A. President presenting the Battery with a ship's bell—duly rang like h— by the B.C. (Oh, this poetry). A good time was had by all, the senior Service relaxing in traditional style.

We were hosts to the Regiment and guests on the occasion of the Armistice Parade. Padre Kingston conducted a sincere and impressive service. Many Old Comrades were present and the Honorary Colonel laid a wreath on the War Memorial. As usual, the proceedings ended with some conviviality in the various Messes. A great annual opportunity for reminiscence and old soldier tales.

Christmas brought its spate of parties—the children being well to the fore. Father Christmas, as ever, turned up with lots of good things—we hear we shall have to find a new one next year. The All Ranks' Social and the Officers' and Sergeants' Ball will be long remembered as great occasions by all—although, no doubt, one member's memories of the latter ball will be somewhat painful.

"R" Battery now share our T.A. Centre. Welcome to them—may this Fusilier/Middlesex union flourish and prosper.

Finally, may we dare hope that the War House will give us the opportunity of having some notes to write for the next issue of *The Die-Hards*.

J.R.D.

"R" BATTERY

Since our last report we have suffered a simple translation from our Wembley hutments to the higher civilisation of the T.A. Centre, Honeypot Lane, Kingsbury, where "Q" Battery have given us a warm welcome.

"Q" Battery were no more anxious to move over and make room for us than we were to be deprived of a home of our own, but we do not protest at this quite natural move, realising that the T.A. is now throwing off the surplus flesh put on by National Service and resuming the lean and hungry look of the pure volunteer.

"Q" Battery have been extremely kind to us and have shown a most co-operative spirit, which is enhanced by the fact that the P.M.C.s are now Major Bond as O.C. in the Officers' Mess and our B.S.M. Vaisey in the Sergeants' Mess.

We received one week's notice to quit Wembley, although our successors, 7 Armoured Division Workshops, had been measuring gateways and hard standings for a year or so, and our Officers' Mess Christmas party had to be rearranged in our new home. With the assistance of "Q" Battery's B.S.M.s Lockyer and

Hughes this was achieved, and we were very glad to see our old comrades Lt.-Col. Edgar Eldred, Major Peter Richards, Major "Spider" Webb and Capt. Peter Clifford with their wives. We hope to see more old comrades next time. This was a good party which should not be passed over without applauding the culinary arts of Capt. Jerry Wynne and B.S.M. "Jock" Ware.

The other event was our children's Christmas party, which was much more easily arranged with the amenities of our new home. Thanks to the organisation of B.S.M. (Santa Claus) Vaisey and B.S.M. Ware, the programme ran very smoothly and, thanks to Lt. Alan Sparke and his fiancée and Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Hansen, the messing was first class. Our numbers were considerably lower than in recent years owing to the loss of so many elder members in last winter's reshuffle—which brings us to the current situation which is so similar.

In common with the majority of the T.A., we are feeling a bit unsettled just now and finding it hard to approach training programmes with our accustomed zeal. Perhaps by the time this appears in print we shall know our fate. In the meantime our fingers are crossed.

9th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) O.C.A.

The passing of our President, the late Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., has come as a great blow to all members of the Association. He always gave his support and encouragement to us and we mourn the loss of a real "Old Comrade." A more eloquent pen will have written of our great friend's life of service to country and Regiment, but the 9th Battalion O.C.A. would wish to be associated with that tribute to his memory.

With regret I have also to report the death of "Wally" Hemmington, who has been always a keen member, and he will be missed at our Battalion parties.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will take place on Saturday, May 12, at Kingsbury T.A. Centre at 6.30 p.m. Particulars from J. K. Taylor, 40 Becmead Avenue, Kenton, Harrow.

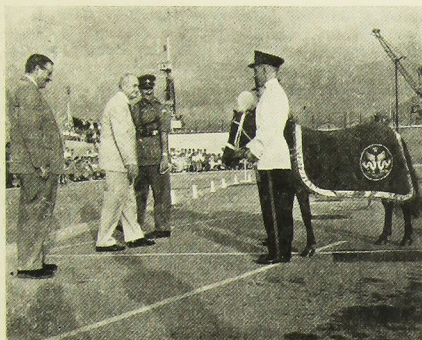
I have just received a letter from Capt. Vyvian Holt, C.M.G., M.V.O., our distant Old Comrade in San Salvador, who wishes to be associated with our tribute to Col. Beach.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The last four months covering the period since our last notes have been extremely full and busy.

The new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), arrived on October 1 and took over command from Lt.-Col. S. L. A. Carter, M.B.E., M.C., The Sherwood Foresters, on October 21—it is rumoured that the handing-over certificate was signed in the bar of R.M.S. *Carthage* ten minutes before sailing time, and that it finished up in the harbour a few minutes later.

On October 7 the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums beat Retreat for the first time ever on Queen's Reclamation Ground. During the parade, which was excellently attended, the Regimental mascot, "The



Appointment of the Regimental Mascot, "The Little Giant," to the Hong Kong Regiment by Col. J. D. Clague during beating Retreat on Queen's Recreation Ground, Hong Kong, on October 7, 1955
Left to right: Col. J. D. Clague, C.B.E., M.C., Col. The Hon. Cedric Blaker, M.C., E.D. (Honorary Colonel The Hong Kong Regiment), Lt.-Col. S. L. A. Carter, M.B.E., M.C. (The Sherwood Foresters, Commanding Officer The Hong Kong Regiment)

"Little Giant," was appointed by Col. J. D. Clague and accepted on behalf of the Regiment by the Honorary Colonel, Col. The Honourable Cedric Blaker, M.C., E.D. The mascot was in full regalia and behaved perfectly throughout the parade. The Band and Drums are now practising for our next Retreat Parade, which is to be held on February 20 in Kowloon.

On October 8 a monster Regimental Chinese Chow was held at Regimental Headquarters, Happy Valley. Some 400 all ranks sat down to dinner, during which Col. Carter spent most of the time going round saying goodbye and drinking "Yam Shing" with everyone.

The Band and Corps of Drums were present on the quayside on October 21 to help give Col. Carter a great farewell. Fully 50 officers of the Regiment and friends came to see him off, and as the *Carthage* pulled out to the strains of Auld Lang Syne we all felt we were losing a real friend and a magnificent Commanding Officer. With his great personality, character and drive he has served the Regiment so well and welded us into an efficient and happy unit with all the Regimental spirit that goes with it. He was the driving force that raised the Band and Drums, despite every possible difficulty; he insisted on beating Retreat for the public, and his was the brainwave that conjured up "The Little Giant." Our best wishes go with him wherever he serves, and we are looking forward to the day when, as will be inevitable, he returns to the Colony as Commander British Forces! We also keep our fingers crossed on his behalf as we hear that he is now attending Arabic classes at London University prior to taking up his new appointment as Head of the Military Mission to Libya.

The Regiment took part on November 12 and 13 in a full Colony Exercise—named, most appropriate, "Exercise Diehard"—which was the first opportunity for our



Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton and Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. Hong Kong, 1956

new Commanding Officer really to get to grips with us. The Exercise was very successful and the Regiment broke all previous records in getting out to battle stations in two hours under the most optimistic forecast.

Camp was held in two fortnightly periods, each culminating with a Regimental Exercise. The weather was bitterly cold, and the Exercises were appropriately named "Exercises Brass Monkeys I and II." The Commanding Officer admitted that the name was borrowed from the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), but that he could think of no better name, and anyway there would be no infringement of copyright.

Our visitors during camp included H.E. The Governor, Commander British Forces, the Colonial Secretary, the Deputy Commander and the Defence Secretary.

We are now busy with weapon training, zeroing, and annual classification, and rehearsals for the Annual Review.

An experimental fortnight's camp was held at R.H.Q. in the latter end of January for 53 recruits. The results were most gratifying, and the experiment has come to stay. The Commandant Royal Hong Kong Defence Force took the salute at the passing-out parade on January 29, and were very pleased to welcome Major I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., to our Regimental Headquarters as a spectator. We were also delighted to see Lt. R. J. Tarrant on February 7, although, alas, his visit was too short.

By the time *The Die-Hards* appears Capt. C. H. Mievill will have arrived to take over as Adjutant, and we wish him a successful term of office. We know that it will be happy because the Hong Kong Regiment makes all Regular Officers welcome. He must, however, insist that he has at least three pink tickets per week.

We recall a memorable swimming match between the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) and the Regiment in 1950—in fact it took place the very night before the Battalion was ordered to Korea. To those who remember that night it will be of interest to



R.S.M. W. J. Matthews, The Sherwood Foresters (Hong Kong Regiment), Capt. G. F. Doggett, K.S.L.I. (Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment), Mrs. G. F. Doggett, and Lt.-Col. Aymar Clayton (commanding Hong Kong Regiment) at the Sergeants' Ball held at the Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon, on November 11, 1955

hear that we still maintain our swimming standards. We swam against the Land Forces in Hong Kong on September 27 and, after a most exciting evening, we lost by 34 points to 40.

The two Regimental teams improved their positions this year in the H.K. Bisley. The "A" team were 13th and the "B" team 24th out of 40 teams, of which 36 were entered by the Regular Forces in the Colony.

Pte. E. M. Rosario did particularly well, winning the En Tang Sen Cup and being well placed in the Governor's Twenty and the Services' Sixteen. Cpl. Souza was placed in the Governor's Twenty.

The Regiment has also done well at .22 shooting and provided two of the four who represented the Colony in the Inter-Colony Competition.

NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

In all my long life I have never received so many letters and cards from all over the globe as in the 1955-56 period of goodwill to all men. I have tried to answer all, but would be grateful, as would Major Clark, if in future years writers would add their addresses. Space must hold back many things I would wish to say, but one stands out in my gratitude for the kindness, which so often as we grow old and lose touch



"ALBUHERA DAY," HONG KONG, 1955

Party moving to Cenotaph. Left to right: Col. The Hon. Cedric Blaker, M.C., E.D. Behind him is Major A. Peasley (Middlesex Regiment) and Lt.-Col. S. L. A. Carter, M.B.E., M.C. (C.O., Hong Kong Regiment). Obscured behind him is Mr. Howell, then Mr. G. E. Marden, M.C. Behind him is Col. Dowbiggin, O.B.E., E.D., Mr. Green (ex-Middlesex Regiment), two drummers of the Hong Kong Regiment, Major B. C. Field, M.B.E., M.C., E.D., Capt. G. F. Doggett, M.C. (Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment), Lt.-Col. H. Owen-Hughes, O.B.E., and Major E. G. Stewart, O.B.E., M.C.

with the young, we miss. That has never been my fate and young people are as good as the older and never show weariness at listening to stories of events over 50 years out of date.

Pearce Gould, Adjutant of our 1st Battalion on January 18, tells me how his C.O. was rushed off his feet and has at last been able to go on short leave at Kryenia. All know the heavy responsibility resting on a C.O. when the unit is scattered in small detachments, and all ranks are subject to attack, not in battle but usually shot from behind by outwardly ordinary people.

He tells me how splendidly the Band has kept up the spirit of the Battalion and by many methods has collected money to aid unfortunate Cypriots and Turks suffering from infirmity. The Bandmaster has copied Greek melodies so that the local people can enjoy hearing their national music. He refers to the recent visit of General Sir Brian Horrocks, whose forthright words on National Service in Cyprus were heard by so many on January 24, when asked whether the quality of self-reliance was learnt in the 1st Battalion. He countered the question by reminding the speaker that this quality became soon automatic when you were moving in the mountains of Cyprus to round up guerrillas and search for arms, with people all around ready to kill you if you erred in your plans and moves.

On December 27 I heard from Lt.-Col. Godfrey Lervill, commanding 2nd Nigerian Regiment, who gave us excellent news of the success of R.Q.M.S. Cooper in the 3rd Nigerian Regiment. He told me he had been on a command exercise in Accra and, although he

missed Major Gilbert, had the good fortune to see his wife at a polo match. Readers will remember Lerwill's Battalion was on January 30 presented with new Colours by H.M. The Queen on a parade in Lagos, which will be historic. I heard Godfrey's well-known voice ring true as a bell when he addressed the Queen after the presentation, and it was a proud moment for me thousands of miles away to hear that voice ring out from Lagos.

On January 14 I heard from Major Lionel Bengough, who was sad to learn of the death of Col. Passingham at 75½ years, and sent his sympathy to his wife and daughter. He referred to Gen. Kent, his godfather, and to a visit to him with his brother Douglas at the lovely home in Wimbledon. He tells me that an old "Die-Hard," G. T. Brain, died in this hospital (the Veterans Hospital). He saw service in both former Regular Battalions (before the South African War) in India and South Africa.

I sent Major Bengough a photograph showing the 1st Battalion mounting guard at Buckingham Palace when Prince Charles was born, and Major Chattey was guard commander. He was most interested in that memory and our prayers that one day Prince Charles will take over the post of Colonel-in-Chief, held by Prince Edward, later to be Edward VIII.

On January 10, 1956, I heard from George Hodding, now at H.Q., West Africa Command, Giffard Camp, Accra, Gold Coast, who had recently concluded a tour of all West Africa where he is S.O.P.T. His visits included Sierra Leone and the Gambia. He has met Brigadier F. W. B. Parry, formerly our Brigade Colonel. He also met R.Q.M.S. Graham with the Sierra Leone Regiment at Daru, some 250 miles from Freetown, a small bush station 18 hours' journey normally by the narrow single-gauge railway, and sometimes lasting 36 hours.

He next visited Nigeria from north to south, meeting Godfrey Lerwill at Abeokuta, and saw his Battalion win the District cross-country championship. He saw C/Sgt. Shrubbs on first arrival in Gold Coast, who has now left to join the 1st Battalion. He received many enquiries after Dick Smith, formerly at Kumasi (now in Malaya), a post popular West African figure, as he is wherever he goes. It appears West African Command is to close on July 1, 1956, and then each Colony is to run its own affairs. George Hodding anticipates to finish in May, 1956, and then move via U.K. to Hong Kong to take up a similar post. He often sees Nerman Gilbert in Accra, where he is secretary to the Prime Minister.

On January 18 I heard from Col. Davy, who is well, but suffering very much from rheumatism—always at its worst in the cold, damp winter-time.

Brigadier Stumps Green in a letter (January 4) condoles with me over the loss of my very dear friend, Col. Mervyn Passingham, and of Col. Beach, with whom I lived for 10 years and had known for 43 years, but met during the early 33 years only on a few rare occasions. Stumps has had an anxious and strenuous time over the visit of the C.I.G.S., as many of us well can realise, and also due to the unrest between Jordan and Israel of which we read so much in the Press. A

temporary government does not encourage a stability. I am glad to say his letter ends in a calmer note, but moving with an armed escort is not a comfortable experience. He was sad to hear of Bill Heywood's illness, our mutual friend.

On January 9, Roddy Sword wrote from Nyeri, Kenya, and was surprised to learn from my letter that the 1st Middlesex were in Cyprus. He feels that is worse than the Mau Mau trouble in Kenya (now coming under control).

He laid the Regimental wreath on the memorial on January 21, at which he was accompanied by Lt.-Col. Eric Sadler, now both retired officers. Sword has the post of staff officer to Mau Mau detainees' works camps, six in number (each 500 strong). All his camps are near good trout streams, so life for him is sometimes very pleasant, for he loved fishing.

Hervey del Court writes (January 6) to say he had a good trip back to Hermanus, visiting St. Helena and seeing Napoleon's house and a turtle 165 years old. Food there was poor, and the passengers on his ship did not come up to his taste. Hermanus teems with parties, and cocktails abound at all of them. He trusts to be again in this country in 1957.

Bill Clayden wrote on January 15 to ask for news of Ken Clayden's future post after vacating the Adjutancy here (taken over by Hugh Evans). We all trust that Ken will be rewarded for his excellent service here and his aid at all games, for he is very excellent at cricket and hockey. I shall miss hearing him dealing with school children for chalking the walls, and hearing dire threats of offenders spending the night in a cold guard-room, which never happens, for he is the kindest of fathers. Uncle and nephew are very much akin, I find, having known them both very well.

I saw sorry to learn that Lord Latham, our Lord Lieutenant, had been suffering from bronchitis, but glad to learn from his letter of January 11 that he was better.

After some severe cross examination, I have at long last managed to get some information from Col. Desmond Ellis about his military life. From Brigadier Green, to whom he was 2IC in the 7th Middlesex for some three years, I have learnt what an excellent officer he was, and how he has shown his ability as O.C. the 7th Middlesex from March 16, 1953, to date in an outstanding manner. He came into our Regiment on May 8, 1937, and served in both Battalions of the 8th from 1937-42. He served in the 1st Middlesex from 1942-46 and with the 11th Battalion from 1947-52 as a parachutist.

In the campaign in N.W. Europe he was wounded on June 26, 1942. Mentioned in Despatches, 1945, awarded the 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence and War Medals, Coronation Medal, Territorial Decoration with two clasps and the O.B.E. in 1954. A distinguished record of 18 years. His career in the gas profession has been rapid and he became a Divisional Manager in S.W. District in 1955 after some 23 years' experience. He is a member of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association and chairman of the Regimental History Committee, and we shall before long see the results of his hard and ex-

perienced work over that volume which will stand like a beacon.

I had letters from Major Dick Smith on September 20, October 5, October 22, November 9, November 23 and December 14, all field with Regimental information and news from Malaya, where he knows every member of the Regiment. I was sad to note the recent death of C. T. Abbott, a pious judge in Malaya, who joined our Regiment in 1915 and died aged 58. He was a strong supporter of the Malayan O.C.A. and appeared at dinners always. He had also served in legal posts in Africa.

Dick Smith is always a sure help to me in all historical Regimental affairs, and an expert on medals, and I owe much to his unfailing aid.

On December 19, Geoffrey Kitchener wrote from H.Q., Singapore Base District. He has married a very clever girl not yet 21, who graduated in social science and is a qualified shorthand typist—a somewhat difficult record to live up to as a husband, but does so. I never cease to be said I can do neither of these things, which would help me enormously, but I am now too old to learn. He tells me that Major John Bailey, of the Royal West Kent Regiment, is in Singapore. He (Geoffrey) hopes to see both Chris Mievile and Ian Burrows passing through the port to Hong Kong—the latter has already gone, I think.

On December 12 I heard from Roly Gwyn from Washington. Mrs. Gwyn has already left (September) for Scotland. Roly had recently spent three weeks with 1 (British) Corps in Germany attending trial organisation manoeuvres, which were most instructive. He has met Maj.-Gen. Firbank, recently appointed Director of Infantry. Roly has also attended very extensive U.S. Army manoeuvres and trials of modern and secret weapons. He was much impressed with all he saw. He is still without news of his next post, and that is very disappointing for him and his friends, for we expect great things of him.

On December 20 I answered a Christmas letter from Miss Dorothy Longe in which she showed her sorrow at Col. Passingham's death, who had known her as a child. Her journey back to Tangier took her round Africa and she visited Kenya and Tanganyika for six days, and saw some 2,000 head of game, but no lions; also a visit was made to St. Helena, which seemed unchanged since her father wrote from the island in 1902. I have already mentioned del Court's visit to this island where mails reach only once per month, and no planes call in. What peace!

In October, 1955, I heard from a very old friend, Col. Rapson, who sent me two photo groups of a Hong Kong Regimental Rifle Team, which in about 1921 defeated the local Armed Regular Forces, Dockyard personnel and Police Force. The other groups was of officers taken at their first camp in Shamshui. These were sent to Col. Aymar Clayton, who was able to obtain the names from Col. Dowbiggin and place the photos in care of his Regiment. He had recently been visited in Gloucester by Brigadier Tidbury, who knew him well in the 3rd Battalion as a young Colour-Sergeant. Thus Rapson attended our Reunion on

October 28 last year and promised to visit the Depot more often.

On October 27 Lt.-Col. John Herepath wrote from H.Q. North Army Group Headquarters to warn me he was retiring on November 13, 1955 (his birthday), and taking a job as a retired officer in Hanover. We hope to continue to hear from him.

Col. Clayton has been an excellent correspondent and is full of praise for the Hong Kong Regiment, which Col. Carter had so excellently commanded and cared for previously. Soon Ian Burrows and Chris Mievile will have increased our strong Regimental group in Hong Kong, and we look for closer touch than ever before.

I was most grieved to hear of the death of Gen. Bonham Carter, our beloved 4th Divisional Commander at Colchester, 1931-34, and I expressed to Lady Bonham Carter our sympathy and sense of her loss at his passing after 44 years of happy married life. She agreed his photo in the *Times* was a very inadequate representation of a great soldier and gentleman.

M.B.

H.M.S. "UNICORN"

On January 28, 1955, I had the pleasure of meeting at Col. Roylance's flat in Lower Sloane Street Capt. Hopkins, who commanded H.M.S. *Unicorn* when the 1st Battalion went to Korea in that ship. He sent his best wishes to all who sailed under him. He sails about mid-February to Rhodesia. Col. Roylance knows several of our officers, namely, Lt.-Col. "Tony" Hewitt and Major Ian Battye, whom he met at Oslo. Earlier he knew Lt.-Col. Lerwill. He has a high opinion of all of them, which I can heartily endorse.

I have sent Capt. Hopkins the address of Major Martin Weedon in Rhodesia.

31st Field Regiment, R.C.A. (M.),
Sarnia, Ontario.
January 19, 1956.

The Editor, *The Die-Hards*.

The 31st Field Regiment is pleased to report to its Imperial affiliation something of its activities during the year 1955. It was a good year for our unit, as evidenced by the splendid showing at the annual camp at Petawawa in July; and also at the Fall Shoot at Meaford Ranges in November. It is interesting that at Meaford we fired as a Regiment (Mike targets) for the first time since the war; and we organised R.H.Q., two Battery command posts, and four Troop command posts. These camps were accomplished by gathering the three Batteries from Sarnia, London and Watford, and proceeding as a Regiment.

In order to prepare for camp we conducted numerous exercises and schemes during the year, stressing Battery deployment, signal procedure, and engaging in "Reg" shoots. Also the recreational aspect of the soldier was not overlooked, and we ran organised sports parades and indoor rifle competitions. The annual turkey shoot was a great success, and several members solved the problem of Christmas dinner by their skill with a small bore rifle.

The courses conducted by Area H.Q. gave valuable instruction to many Gunners desirous of improving their proficiency. Recruiting, while a little slow in Ontario, was rewarding for our unit, and we gained quite a number of excellent young soldiers during the year.

The Regiment was most fortunate in welcoming your Major P. L. Crutchfield, D.A.A. and Q.M.G., of the U.K. Army Liaison Staff, to our Armouries for a brief visit. He came with Brigadier E. C. G. Page, D.S.O., O.B.E., the Senior U.K. Liaison Officer in Canada, and they spent the evening watching our training and gave us some valuable assistance.

The 31st Field Regiment, R.C.A. (M.), is both proud and pleased to remain affiliated with The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), and we hope the alliance will last in the years to come. In peace, or in war, it is comforting to realise that one of Canada's Militia Regiments is with one of the Regiments of the Mother Country.

(Sgd.) Lt. OSBORNE W. BROOKE, C.D.,
Intelligence Officer, 31st Field
Regiment, R.C.A., C.A. (M.).

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1956, AT 2.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollicombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.M., R.S.M., P. Donohoe, C. F. Duffield, C/Sgt. G. Hockley, Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., R.S.M. E. Pike, Drum-Major C. Holford, B.E.M.

Major Waller (Vice-Chairman) informed the meeting that Lt.-Col. Fox had recently undergone an operation and was, therefore, unable to preside at the meeting. He expressed the wishes of the Committee that Col. Fox would have a speedy recovery.

Major Waller informed the Committee that he had several reports to place before them and he felt he could better carry out his task if he did not occupy the Chair. He asked the Committee to invite Lt.-Col. Roberts to take the Chair for this meeting.

The Committee agreed and Lt.-Col. Roberts took the Chair.

Deaths. The Chairman paid a tribute to the memory of two distinguished and devoted members of the Regiment who had recently died: Col. Anwyl Passingham and Col. Gerald Beach. As a gesture of respect the Committee stood in silence for a brief period.

Resignation. Lt.-Col. Roberts reported that Brigadier Procter had informed Lt.-Col. Fox that he was very seldom in town and was unable to attend Committees regularly; he therefore reported that his resignation be accepted. He resignation was accepted with regret.

The Chairman stated that Lt.-Col. Fox had asked Lt.-Col. Worton to fill the vacancy, and Lt.-Col. Worton had agreed to do so. Lt.-Col. Roberts, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed him to the meeting.

1. Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct, subject to the following addition being made to paragraph 2 of Minute 1 of the meeting of September 28: "Mr. Duffield, as the oldest serving other rank serving on the Committee, associated himself with Col. Browne's thanks to the retiring Chairman (Lt.-Col. Roberts)."

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

Report

Grants. During the year ending December 31, 1955, the sum of £1,918 8s. 8d. was dispensed in assisting 258 cases of distress.

Regimental History. 3,000 copies of the prospectus have been circulated to ex-members of the Regiment inviting them to subscribe for copies which will be available for distribution in the near future.

3. Finance Committee's Report. In the absence of Lt.-Col. Fox the Chairman explained the Regimental Association Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1955.

He explained to the meeting that the Colonel of the Regiment and Chairman of the Committee had recommended to the Finance Committee that a grant of £50 be made to the Victory Hall Trust Fund as a donation to the extension of the Victory Club which would be beneficial to past and present members of the Regiment in the future.

The Committee approved of the grant.

Lt.-Col. Roberts stated that after consultation with stockbrokers, Lt.-Col. Fox and he recommended that investments should be changed and others initiated in order to have a portfolio consisting of:

- (a) Short-term investments so that cash would be readily available if capital expenditure became necessary.
- (b) Long-term investments so that the Association would benefit from the increased interest rates now available and from the depressed prices at which stocks now stood, but which would be repaid at any future date.

The Chairman also pointed out that no grant had been received in 1955 from the Army Benevolent Fund (compared with a grant of £500 in 1954) as the Regimental Association accounts were in a sufficiently sound condition.

Lt.-Col. Ellis proposed, and Major Hardcastle seconded, the adoption of the accounts.

Major Hardcastle moved that a note be added to the War Memorial Account to the effect that the unwanted land north of Alubhera Close had now been transferred to the Middlesex County Council.

4. Journal Committee's Report. Major Waller informed the Committee that it was recommended that the Journal revert to quarterly publication for the following reasons:—

- (a) A tri-annual publication is neither topical nor is it a satisfactory historic record (five months out of date).
- (b) A bi-annual issue would mean a much increased size for each edition, but little or no increase in advertising to offset the cost.
- (c) The quarterly issue is sufficiently frequent to provide topical news of interest to the constantly changing Regular and N.S. soldier in the Regiment.
- (d) The additional cost of four editions is not considered sufficient to merit the retention of the undesirable tri-annual issue.

The Sub-Committee considered that a saving could be made in printing without sacrificing the quality of the contributions, if the Editor has *carte blanche* to rewrite contributions where he considers necessary, thereby avoiding repetition.

The Committee approved the recommendation that the quarterly edition be re-introduced.

5. War Memorial Committee's Report. The Chairman thanked Brigadier Rackham for accepting the chairmanship of this sub-committee in place of Col. Beach (now deceased). Brigadier Rackham said in reply that he was only too pleased to undertake these duties on behalf of the Association.

Two reports of the last meeting, having been circulated, were accepted by the Committee.

Brigadier Rackham stated that (a) further grant of £250 had been received from the Middlesex County Council for estate improvements, (b) each cottage was to be provided with its own gate, and (c) the estate's appearance was improving steadily.

Major Hardcastle informed the meeting that the case for the eviction of Mr. Barber is being considered by Counsel and that it will come before the Court in the near future.

6. Regimental History Committee's Report. Lt.-Col. Ellis informed the meeting that a further postponement in production of the History was unavoidable due to the Printers' dispute. Page proofing was still awaited.

7. Revision of Association Rules. In the absence of Lt.-Col. Allen, Major Waller informed the meeting that the final draft of the new rules had been completed and was now in the hands of Major Hardcastle for final proofing before the next meeting.

The Chairman asked Major Waller if he would arrange for draft copies of the proposed new rules to be distributed to all members of the Committee well in advance of the next Association meeting so that members might study the details carefully. Major Waller agreed.

8. Reunion for 1956. It was approved by the Committee that the Reunion for 1956 be similar to that held last year and that it should take place at Seymour Hall on Friday, October 26, 1956, or another Friday in October, the Secretary to arrange the date with the Seymour Hall authorities before the next meeting.

9. Other Business. On the motion of Mr. Duffield the Secretary was instructed to arrange for a Memorial notice to appear in *The Times* annually on November 11 in memory of members of the Regiment who had lost their lives while serving their country.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 30, 1956, at the Middlesex Guildhall, S.W.1.

Finance Committee Report. Subsequent to the Association Committee meeting, a letter was sent to all members advising them that the Finance Committee had invited the Association Committee to consider initiating a reserve fund for the amortisation of the cost of

the four Boer War Memorial Cottages at Bittacy Hill, Mill Hill, which eventually will have to be reconstructed. Lt.-Col. Roberts proposed that a sum of £100 per annum from the Association Charitable Fund be set aside for this purpose. Brigadier Rackham seconded the proposal. As there was no objection to the proposal the scheme was adopted.

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

Inghs Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
March 7, 1956.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1956, AT 4 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. J. R. S. Worton, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.M., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollicombe, M.C.

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

2. Secretary's Report. The Secretary's report, circulated with the Agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

Membership. The paid membership of the Club for 1955 was 416.

Regimental History. All members of the Club had been sent a prospectus in respect of the History, and the number who have applied for copies to date is 93.

At Home. All members were invited to notify the Secretary of their opinion as to the venue where the At Home should be held for 1956. Of the proformas returned:

45 were in favour of the At Home being held at the Depot

Officers' Mess on June 30, 1956.

22 were in favour of it being held at the United Service Club

on June 29, 1956.

8 replied showing no preference.

3. Adoption of Officers' Club Accounts for 1955. Lt.-Col. Roberts examined the Audited Accounts for 1955 and informed the meeting that an additional grant of £10 is. 7d. was made to cover the expenses of Cricket Week, in addition to the grant authorised at the meeting held on February 23, 1955.

Lt.-Col. Roberts moved that the Accounts for 1955 be adopted. Major Hardcastle seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. Grants for 1956. The Committee approved of the following grants for 1956:—

Cricket	£	150
At Home	40	
Golf	50	
Tennis	25	
Dinner	100	
	£365	

It was agreed that the Club funds were not strong enough to justify a band for more than two days of Cricket Week.

5. At Home for 1956. The Committee unanimously approved that the At Home be held at the Depot Officers' Mess on Saturday, June 30, 1956, at 3.30 p.m.

6. Officers' Club Dinner, 1956. The Committee approved that the Dinner be held at the United Service Club on Friday, June 29, 1956.

7. Cocktail Party. The Committee approved that a Cocktail Party be held at the Depot Officers' Mess in the autumn at a date to be notified later, and approved of a grant not exceeding £50 against this function.

8. Application for Grant from O.C. Depot. Major Waller applied to the Committee for an increased grant from the Club funds towards the maintenance of the Depot Officers' Mess and headquarters of the Officers' Club. After a short discussion the Committee approved of a grant of £40 for 1956. It was regretted that the Club could not afford a larger grant. It was agreed that the grant for 1957 be considered at a later date.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

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

Inghs Barracks,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
March 7, 1956.

BIRTHS

PIKE.—On November 18, 1955, at Singapore, to Doris, wife of Capt. J. I. D. Pike, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (attached The Malay Regiment)—a brother for Rosemary (Robert David Phillip).

HODGE.—On November 28, 1955, at the Military Families' Hospital, Woolwich, to Mary (née Gibbs), wife of Capt. R. A. Hodge, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)—a daughter (Susan Mary).

ST. CLAIR.—On December 7, 1955, at Ten Masentop, Dennenlaan, Pulle, Belgium, to Netty, wife of Capt. G. E. St. Clair, R.A.S.C., a third daughter (Susan Carol Angeliqne).

ENGAGEMENT

POLLARD—NICHOLLS.—The engagement is announced between Lt. John Stanley Brian Pollard, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), elder son of Mr. R. G. W. Pollard, of Ealing, and Mrs. G. M. Pollard, of Littleton Road, Harrow, and Christine, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Nicholls, of Pinner Hill.

DEATHS

KERRIGAN.—Ex-R.S.M. W. Kerrigan, D.C.M. AND BAR, died at Birr, Eire, on August 30, 1955. We were not informed in time for the Regimental to be represented or send a wreath. He served 25 years with the Regiment, enlisting in March, 1895. He was 74 years of age.

BUSHBY.—Ex-Sgt. W. Bushby, of the 8th Battalion, died on October 21. A wreath was sent from the Regiment and Capt. F. G. Ashby attended the funeral on behalf of the Association.

TUCKER.—On October 16 Mr. D. Tucker died, he served in the Regiment in both World Wars. His funeral was attended by a Sergeant from the Depot, and a wreath was sent on behalf of the Association.

ROBERTS.—On October 21, 1955, suddenly in the street near his home, ex-Pte. Arthur Roberts, who was wounded during the 1914-18 War whilst serving with the Regiment, and who had unfortunately been in ill-health for many years. A letter of condolence was sent to the widow and a wreath from the Association.

MARLING.—Ex-Pte. J. F. Marling, who served during the last war with the Regiment, died at his home on November 11. Unfortunately we were not informed of the passing of this Old Comrade until too late to send flowers or be represented. A letter of condolence was sent to the widow.

CUMMING.—Mr. A. H. Cumming, who was secretary for many years of the 2/10th Branch of the O.C.A., died on November 14, 1955, in hospital. An obituary appears elsewhere in the Journal.

ROSS.—On November 19, 1955, at Friars Croft, Guildford, Surrey, Frances Celia Caroline, widow of Brigadier-Gen. R. J. Ross, C.B., C.M.G.

PASSINGHAM.—We regret to announce the death on November 22, 1955, of Col. A. M. O. A. Passingham, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., at his home, Orchard Lea, Priory Road, Ascot, at the age of 75. An obituary appears elsewhere in this Journal.

SMITH.—Ex-R.S.M. C. E. Smith, who served with the 8th Battalion, died on December 7, 1955, just a few weeks before his 85th birthday. A letter of sympathy was sent to his son and daughters.

BEACH.—We regret to announce the sudden death on Christmas Day, 1955, of Col. Gerald Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., at his home in Hendon. An obituary appears elsewhere in the Journal.

REDRUPP.—Mr. J. L. Redrupp, who served with the Regiment, passed away on January 4, 1956, and a letter of sympathy was sent to the family. A wreath in Regimental colours was also sent from the Association.

OLDHAM.—John Oldham, who was a Bandsman with the Regiment, died on January 13, 1956, and was buried in St. Pancras Cemetery, Mill Hill, on the 19th, where a wreath was placed on behalf of the Association.

PHILPOTT.—C. H. Philpott, who served with our Regiment, died on November 3, 1955, after a very short illness, but unfortunately we did not know of this until too late to send a wreath or be represented at the funeral. A letter of sympathy was however sent to the widow.

NORTHAM.—Mr. C. Northam, late of the 3rd Battalion, died on February 22, 1956, and his funeral on the 27th was attended by ex-R.S.M. Furniss. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Association.

HYDE.—We regret to announce the death recently of Capt. Albert E. Hyde, who served with the 1st Battalion in the 1914-18 War. He also served as a Sergeant with the 2nd Middlesex Regiment in the Boer War and was wounded in June, 1900.

COLONEL MERVYN ANWYL-PASSINGHAM, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.

This officer died at his home at Orchard Lea, Ascot, early on the morning of November 22, 1955. His passing has brought sorrow to many hearts in the Regiment and to a vast circle of friends he made as Secretary of the Territorial Army Association which he held for many years after the First World War until 1945.

He was appointed a Commander of the British Empire Order in 1942 and held important posts in the Order of St. John and Jerusalem, in which he finally became a Knight of Justice dating from May, 1940.

He was a Justice of the Peace for Middlesex County from 1940, where he was well known for his strong sense of justice, and a desire to help those who had fallen into sin and needed help. He was placed on the Supplementary List in 1955. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant for the County and held the high appointment of Sheriff in 1938.

He joined the Middlesex Regiment on September 14, 1901, from the Militia, being promoted Colonel in the Army on August 7, 1922, when he retired.

He fought with the 2nd Battalion in the South African War (1900-02), and serving in the Mounted Infantry also participated in the Sokoto and Hadeija expeditions in Northern Nigeria. An unfortunate accident in Ireland cut short his more active Army career

and prevented him reaching far higher rank, but he became Inspector of Recruiting at the War Office in 1916 and Director of Recruiting for Wales in 1917. In 1940-45 he was second-in-command of a sector of the County Home Guard.

He was my oldest friend in the Regiment from 1903, and I valued his warm friendship and his shrewd advice over all matters in which I dealt, especially so after my retirement, and during the time I commanded the Regimental Machine Gun Training Centre from 1939 to 1942.

I look back now on the joyful weekends I often spent with him at Ascot from 1915 until his death, which came just before I was to have visited his home there.

He married in 1909 Margaret, the daughter of the late C. V. Radcliffe, D.L., J.P., of Hyde Wareham, Dorset, and Foxdenton Hall, Lancashire, and his wife and daughter Lucy survive him, and have the deep sympathy of all ranks of his Regiment.

I feel sure that the trumpets sounded for him as he crossed into Peace with the Saviour he had ever served faithfully and as a true "Die-Hard."

M.B.

COLONEL GERALD BEACH

We regret to announce the death of Col. Gerald Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., who died on Christmas Day at the age of 74, after an association with the Regiment covering half a century.

Col. Beach was educated at Cheltenham. He was granted a commission in the 5th Middlesex Volunteers, and later in 1908 became an officer in the 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment. During the 1914-18 War he served in India with his Battalion and took part in the third Afghan War as a Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff. He was given command of the 9th in 1922, mentioned in dispatches twice for his enterprising training methods, and became a Brevet-Colonel in 1926. This rank was made substantive in 1929 when he became Colonel Commandant of the Middlesex Army Cadet Force, a post he held until 1943. During the last war he was County Army Welfare Officer.

Col. Beach's activities, both military and civic, were numerous and varied, and included much valuable service on the committees of the Regimental Association and Officers' Club. The War Memorial Homes at Enfield, of which project he was chairman, owe much to the drive and initiative he displayed in its early days.

At the memorial service his coffin, draped with a Union Jack, was borne for the last time into his parish church, St. Mary-at-Finchley. His bearers were six soldiers led by the Adjutant of his old Regiment of which he was Honorary Colonel, the 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A.). The service which followed was attended by representatives of the many organisations to which he belonged and by members of the Regiment. These included Col. Browne, Lt.-Col. Lamont, Majors Waller, Heywood, Newman and Clark (the secretary of the Regimental Association on whose behalf a wreath was sent). Wreaths were also sent by the Regimental Depot and the Old Comrades' Association of the 9th

Battalion, whose tribute to his memory appears in this number.

His familiar figure at Regimental functions will be missed by the many who knew him. His numerous friends will mourn his passing.

G.W.K.

A. H. CUMMING

Died November 14, 1955, aged 59 years

In 1914 two young brothers, Percy and Archie Cumming, enlisted in the 2/10th Battalion and served with that unit in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. They were such a good pair of happy brothers that it is the most natural thing in the world, when recording the passing of Archie Cumming, to recall the memory of Percy who died some years ago. Pride in the Regiment was an influence to each of them throughout their lives.

During his service with the 2/10th Battalion, Archie Cumming was one of a stalwart band of stretcher bearers to whom many a wounded man had cause to be grateful. Doctors Paul and Bateson both believed in having their aid posts as close to the firing line as possible, and under them Cumming was present at most, if not all, of the major actions in which the Battalion was engaged.

For more than 21 years Archie Cumming was secretary of the 2/10th Battalion Branch O.C.A., and to his quiet enthusiasm and untiring work on their behalf the members of the Branch owe much. Nothing that would help any of his old comrades was too much trouble for him and their sympathy goes out to his relatives.

At Putney Vale Cemetery on November 18 the scarlet poppy wreaths from the Regimental O.C.A. and the 2/10th Branch marked the passing of an old soldier. Among those who were present were many who had memories of those old campaigns of 40 years ago and who were now bidding farewell to a faithful man of the Middlesex Regiment.

MEMORIAL TO A FAMOUS SOLDIER

Major Lawrence, who read Col. Browne's account of Gen. Sir George Willis in the last issue of *The Die-Hards*, resides close to Sopley where this distinguished soldier was born and where now he lies buried in the 800-years-old Parish Church. He sends the following interesting description of the General's last resting place:—

The General is buried in the churchyard, and the memorial plaque, erected to his memory, is on the eastern wall of the church. It sets forth his date of birth, November 11, 1822, and death, November 29, 1900, and the numerous honours conferred on him. The lines that follow clearly identify him with the church and village of Sopley, where his grandfather, the Reverend James Willis, was both Vicar and squire:

"Not far away a boy was born to fair prosperity,

But grew up struggling hard with full adversity,
Then entering in the World's rough race

He won at length a foremost place."

Flanking the memorial are two flags, one is the personal standard of Arabi Pasha, the C.-in-C. of the

Egyptian Army at Tel-el-Kebir. This was captured by Willis's 1st Division, the other was his personal standard when he commanded Southern District and was Governor of Portsmouth.

In the year that he died he presented the present church organ "In memory of old friends," thus showing his deep attachment to this ancient church. This is not surprising, for anyone travelling in the neighbourhood would be well repaid by a visit to this peaceful place, overlooking an old water-mill on the River Avon flowing below, and near where Sir Walter Tyrell, the alleged slayer of William Rufus, is said to have crossed the Avon on his way back to obtain sanctuary in Christchurch Priory.

G.W.K.

OBITUARY

Many old comrades of the old 3rd Battalion (St. Helena, South Africa and China) will be sorry to hear that after a long and painful illness our old friend, "Barney" Sharpe (6605), passed away on December 20, 1955, at his home at Herne Bay.

I visited him practically every week for the last five years, and attended his funeral. He never forgot the old "Mids" and often recalled many of the old friends.

From Mr. R. North, 17 Goodwin Avenue, Whitstable, Kent.

EXTRACTS FROM "LONDON GAZETTE"—

REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

October 4, 1955

The undermentioned Cadets to be 2/Lieutenants, July 16, 1955:

23083557 Harold Edward Couch (443057).

23069788 John Richard Edward Kent (443057).

23072993 John William Floyd Bennetts (442047).

23083568 John Vaughan Marriott (442078).

REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

October 7, 1955

23077213 Cadet Paul Thomas (443720), to be 2/Lieutenant, July 30, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

October 18, 1955

Lt. A. W. Ramsay (412276) is granted the acting rank of Captain, August 3, 1955.

October 25, 1955

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned in recognition of distinguished services in Malaya during the period January 1 to June 30, 1955:

22221392 Sgt. (Acting) Jim Saul, Middlesex Regiment (att. S.A.S. Regiment).

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

Major E. F. Thompson, M.C. (103723) (now Regular commission).

REGULAR ARMY

October 28, 1955

2/Lt. J. M. Hewson (440025) to be Lieutenant, October 27, 1955.

November 1, 1955

Capt. G. Kent (85451) to be Major, December 7, 1954, with an antedate for seniority purposes only to May 13, 1954. (Substituted for notification in *Gazette (Supplement)* dated April 22, 1955.)

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Capt. C. U. Sayers (248098) (Emp. List) relinquishes his commission on completion of service November 1, 1955, and is granted hon. rank of Major.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

23098109 Cadet Peter Sinclair Bryson (444177) to be 2/Lieutenant, September 3, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major C. F. Russell, O.B.E. (145175), from Active List, to be Major, November 2, 1955, retaining his present seniority, and is granted hon. rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following name be posthumously mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services at Hong Kong in December, 1941:

3770355 L/Bomdr. John Bullen, 1st Hong Kong Regiment, Royal Regiment of Artillery.

REGULAR ARMY

November 8, 1955

Capt. P. W. Galvin (353213) to be Major, October 24, 1955.

November 15, 1955

Lt.-Col. L. D. J. de la M. Herepath (38715), Emp. List (1) (late Middlesex), having exceeded the age limit for retirement, is placed on ret. pay, November 14, 1955.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

November 18, 1955

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants from Regular Army National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenants on the dates shown:

A. G. Milne (431009), July 11, 1954, with seniority, June 25, 1953.

F. G. Powell (429920), October 25, 1954, with seniority, July 25, 1953.

G. B. Hall (429526), October 25, 1954, with seniority, July 11, 1953.

P. A. Walden (432810), February 8, 1955, with seniority, January 9, 1954.

P. A. Whitcher (433408), July 18, 1955, with seniority, February 6, 1954.

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants are granted the acting rank of Lieutenant on the dates shown:

A. G. Milne (431009), January 27, 1955.

G. B. Hall (429526), February 20, 1955.

F. G. Powell (429920), February 27, 1955.

P. A. Walden (432810), July 14, 1955.

P. A. Whitcher (433408), October 16, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. (Acting Capt.) C. A. Lamb (393422) to be Captain, November 17, 1955, with seniority, June 24, 1955.

ARMY CADET FORCE

November 22, 1955

Lt.-Col. A. Pritchard, M.B.E., M.C., D.L. (159428), having exceeded the age limit, retires October 31, 1955, and is granted the hon. rank of Colonel.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

November 25, 1955

2/Lt. R. G. W. Fardon (427280), from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenant, August 8, 1954, with seniority, February 28, 1953.

2/Lt. D. J. Langford (429531), from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenant, October 25, 1954, with seniority, July 11, 1953.

2/Lt. R. G. W. Fardon (427280) to be Lieutenant, November 7, 1954.

2/Lt. P. J. Langford (429531) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, February 20, 1955.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

December 2, 1955

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenants on the dates shown:

J. Broom (426096), April 16, 1954, with seniority, December 20, 1952.

J. D. Chynoweth (426777), September 1, 1954, with seniority, February 14, 1953.

H. M. Kitchen (428807), September 27, 1954, with seniority, May 30, 1953.

A. M. C. Baker (432788), November 29, 1954, with seniority, January 9, 1954.

C. R. Armstrong (429502), January 29, 1955, with seniority, July 11, 1953.

M. F. J. Sibley (431730), February 8, 1955, with seniority, October 24, 1953.

M. P. Easton (433996), February 12, 1955, with seniority, May 13, 1954.

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) J. Broom (42096) to be Lieutenant, November 4, 1955, with seniority, August 12, 1954.

2/Lt. J. D. Chynoweth (426777) to be Lieutenant, November 11, 1954.

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants are granted the acting rank of Lieutenant on the dates shown:

J. Broom (426096), August 12, 1954.

H. M. Kitchen (428807), January 30, 1955.

C. R. Armstrong (429502), February 20, 1955.

M. F. J. Sibley (431730), June 5, 1955.

A. M. C. Baker (432788), June 9, 1955.

M. P. Easton (433996), December 1, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

December 6, 1955

Major L. F. Baker (220396), from Active List, to be Major, October 11, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

December 9, 1955

Lt. (Acting Capt.) M. A. B. Clutson (407168), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, August 29, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY

December 13, 1955

Capt. M. F. Leonard (268188) to be Major, December 13, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

23072283 Cadet David Nicholle Hamilton Pennycook (444960) to be 2/Lt., October 15, 1955.

December 16, 1955

Lt. C. K. Lawrence, M.C. (407942) to be Captain, December 16, 1955.

Lt. P. A. S. Wollocombe (408083) to be Captain, December 16, 1955.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

December 27, 1955

2/Lt. B. Kelleher (433734), from Reg. Army Nat. Serv. List, to be 2/Lieutenant, August 15, 1955, with seniority, May 29th, 1954.

2/Lt. B. Kelleher (433734) to be Lieutenant, December 25, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

CLASS III

January 6, 1956

Capt. P. A. Mead (304971), from Res. of Officers, Class I, to be Captain, January 1, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

January 10, 1956

Lt. P. W. Birch (426250), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, January 10, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

January 24, 1956

Capt. C. D. L. Brereton (62136), from Active List, Scaforth, to be Captain, May 19, 1955, retaining his present seniority and is regranted the hon. rank of Major.

Lt. (Acting Capt.) J. M. Phillips (412774), from Active List, to be Lieutenant, October 18, 1955, retaining his present seniority.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

January 27, 1956

2/Lt. (Acting Lt.) P. A. Whitcher (433408), from Army Emerg. Res. of officers, National Service List, to be Lieutenant, November 30, 1955, with seniority, October 16, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY

January 31, 1956

Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O. (338931) to be Major, January 31, 1956.

REGULAR ARMY

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

February 10, 1956

23129977 Cadet James Ulick Hubert Burke (445495) to be 2/Lieutenant, November 26, 1955.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2319835 Cadet Denis John Murphy (445483) to be 2/Lieutenant, November 26, 1955.

23129892 Cadet Anthony John Close (445465) to be 2/Lieutenant, November 26, 1955.

REGULAR ARMY

February 14, 1956

2/Lt. I. M. E. Lloyd (433176) to be Lieutenant, February 12, 1956.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. P. J. Leahy (359905) relinquishes his commission, February 15, 1956, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain.

R.M.A. Sandhurst

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT

Vacancies for ex-soldiers with long service occur from time to time at R.M.A. Sandhurst. Employment is guaranteed until age of 65.

Duties are not of an arduous nature and include General Duties, waiting at table and batting.

The basic salary is £6.18.0 per week with opportunities for overtime. This, together with gratuities, works out at about £10.0.0 per week.

Write

SECRETARY,

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSN.,

INGLIS BARRACKS, MILL HILL, N.W.7.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

Total 1954 £	EXPENDITURE			Total 1954 £	INCOME			Total 1954 £
	Renny Fund £ s. d.	Association Fund £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.		Renny Fund £ s. d.	Association Fund £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS:					INVESTMENTS per annexed Schedule:			
Balance, January 1, 1955	22,058 2 9	25,715 5 7	47,773 8 4		(a) At mid-market price on December 31, 1938	2,740 7 11	45,698 16 6	
Less: Loss on Investment Realised	778 13 10		778 13 10	46,478	(b) At cost	21,838 13 6		
	21,279 8 11	25,715 5 7	46,994 14 6		(Mid-market value December 30, 1955, £37,330)			
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	8 0 4	27 11 9	35 12 1		FURNITURE AND FITTINGS:			
47,773	21,271 8 7	25,687 13 10	46,950 2 5		At nominal value	1 0 0	1 0 0	
CREDITORS:					STOCKS AT COST:			
Audit Fee	15 15 0	22 1 0			Badges	3 16 0		
Grant due to <i>Die-Hards Journal</i>		190 11 11		2,764	Regimental Ties	13 12 0	17 8 0	
Sundry		123 15 3	352 3 2		CASH AT BANKERS on Deposit and Current Accounts	167 8 6	2,369 4 4	2,536 12 10
PROVISION FOR MAINTENANCE— MILL HILL AND ENFIELD:					MRS. M. RENNY LEGACY:			
Balance, January 1, 1955	450 0 0				Lloyds Bank Ltd.			
Less: Expenditure during year:				2,182	Investment at cost per annexed schedule	2,200 0 0		
Chapel	100 0 0				(Mid-market value, December 30, 1955, £2,155)			
Houses, Enfield	122 0 0					2,263 8 0	2,263 8 0	
REGIMENTAL HISTORY:								
Balance, January 1, 1955	719 11 6							
Less: Expenditure during year	4 19 3							
720		714 12 3	714 12 3					
MRS. M. RENNY LEGACY:								
Balance, January 1, 1955	2,182 7 3							
Add: Interest on Investment	79 11 1							
Deposit Interest	1 9 8							
2,182		2,263 8 0	2,263 8 0					
£51,433	£21,287 3 7	£29,230 1 9	£50,517 5 4	£51,433	£21,287 3 7	£29,230 1 9	£50,517 5 4	

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February, 1956.

HALL, WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

The Die-Hards

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUNDS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

Total 1954 £	EXPENDITURE			Total 1954 £	INCOME			Total 1954 £
	Renny Fund £ s. d.	Association Fund £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.		Renny Fund £ s. d.	Association Fund £ s. d.	Total £ s. d.	
GRANTS AND ALLOWANCES:					GRANTS AND DONATIONS:			
50 Regular Forces Employment Association		50 0 0	50 0 0	500	Army Benevolent Fund			
55 Sundry Charities and Donations		95 6 3	95 6 3	690	1st Highland Division Trust Fund			
Victory Hall Trust Fund		50 0 0	50 0 0		M.C.C. Sunday Entertainments Fund	690 0 0		
1,730 Individual Cases	540 2 8	1,378 6 0	1,918 8 8	40	O.C. Depot, Middlesex Regiment	43 18 6		
1,844	540 2 8	1,573 12 3	2,113 14 11	136	P.R.I., 1st Battalion ditto	186 13 0		
40 Wreaths		49 3 0	49 3 0	10	P.R.I., 5th Battalion ditto	10 0 0		
131 O.C.A. Reunions:				1	O.C., 7th Battalion ditto	10 0 0		
50th Anniversary		92 10 0	92 10 0		O.C., 505 L.A.A. S.L. Regiment, R.A., T.A. (9th Battalion)			
Seymour Hall		152 18 1	152 18 1		Wood Green Comforts Fund	172 0 10		
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:								
43 Postages	16 10	40 4 0	56 10 10	1,402		1,112 12 4	1,112 12 4	
67 Printing and Stationery		50 1 7	50 1 7	2	"DIE-HARDS" CLUBS AND O.C.A.S:			
623 Salaries and Expenses	178 4 0	497 10 8	676 3 8	2	Uxbridge			
71 Travelling and Office Expenses		40 10 4	40 10 4	1	Mill Hill	1 0 6		
38 Audit Fee	15 15 0	22 1 0	27 16 0	5	Ealing	12 0 0		
184 Grant, <i>Die-Hards Journal</i> (deficiency for year)		190 11 11	190 11 11		9th Battalion O.C.A.			
450 Provision for maintenance, Cottage Homes and Chapel, Mill Hill, and Houses, Enfield				463	Subscriptions and Donations	1 13 6	3 8 0	
84 Expenditure incurred on Regimental History in excess of original estimate				1,589	Interest on Investments (gross)	614 10 0	614 10 0	
				3	Profit on sale of Regimental Ties	839 6 4	1,566 4 6	
				29	Interest on Deposit Account	2 17 5	2 17 5	
				46	Income Tax recovered on Covenants	48 7 6	48 7 6	
				33	Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	8 0 4	35 12 1	
£3,575	£734 18 6	£2,705 9 10	£3,440 8 4	£3,575		£734 18 6	£2,705 9 10	£3,440 8 4

REGIMENTAL REUNION, OCTOBER 28, 1955

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
By Subscriptions	£ s. d.	Hire of Seymour Hall	£ s. d.
Expenditure over receipts	152 18 1	Orchestra's Fee	68 5 0
		Stationery and Publicity	115 0 0
		Commissionaires and M.C.	22 4 0
		Postage	8 8 0
		Prizes, etc.	45 0 5
			9 11 5
	£268 9 7		£268 9 7

The Die-Hards

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE		1954	1955
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED CAPITAL FUND:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	34,892 19 9		
Add: Donations ..	50 13 3		
Interest on Investments ..	21 16 8		
Less: Legal Expenses ..	34,965 9 8		
	35 9 9		
34,893		34,929 19 11	
LOAN ACCOUNT:			
Enfield Urban District Council ..		6,753 12 5	
198 LOAN REDEMPTION RESERVE MAINTENANCE FUND:		246 7 7	
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	65 0 0		
Add: Donation 2/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment ..	35 0 0		
		100 0 0	
41,958		42,029 19 11	
ACCUMULATED INCOME FUND:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	586 11 8		
587 Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	196 18 8		
		783 10 4	
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	247 1 11		
Add: Housing Grant ..	335 0 0		
	582 1 11		
Less: Interest on Loan ..	203 14 1		
Amortisation Provision ..	48 11 1		
	252 5 2		
247		329 16 9	
SITE IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	316 18 9		
Add: Grants received from Middlesex County Council during year ..	500 0 0		
	816 18 9		
Less: Expenditure during year ..	550 16 10		
317		266 1 11	
CREDITOR:			
16 Audit Fee ..	15 15 0		
£43,125		£43,425 3 11	

INCOME

1954	1955
£	£
FREEHOLD PROPERTY, 1-20 Albuhara Close:	
At cost ..	41,655 13 10
(Note.—The land on which the houses are built was formerly held on lease from the Middlesex County Council. The freehold reversion has been donated to the Association during year. The Enfield Urban District Council hold a charge on the lease as security for the loan <i>per contra</i> .)	
250 INVESTMENT AT COST per annexed Schedule (Market value, December 31, 1955, £250)	250 0 0
52 CASH AT BANK ..	124 6 1
41,958	42,029 19 11
400 INVESTMENT AT COST per annexed Schedule (Market value, December 31, 1955, £400)	400 0 0
(Note.—Income from this investment is credited to Capital Fund)	
DEBTORS:	
11 Tenants—Net amount re Rates, Gas and Electricity	13 16 10
Enfield U.D.C.—Housing Grant ..	160 0 0
	173 16 10
34 INSURANCES PAID IN ADVANCE ..	33 15 0
768 CASH AT BANKERS on Deposit and Current Accounts ..	787 12 2
14 CASH IN HAND ..	—
£43,425	£43,425 3 11

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

1954	1955
£	£
45 Insurances ..	45 0 0
25 Salary—Housing Manager ..	25 0 0
16 Audit Fee ..	15 15 0
2 Postages and Sundries ..	2 18 6
1 Ground Rent ..	1 0 0
46 Repairs and Maintenance ..	41 4 10
177 Balance, Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	196 18 8
£312	£327 17 0

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February, 1956

HALL, WINDER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

COTTAGE HOMES ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE		1954	1955
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land Agent, Eastern Command, for Rent ..	24 0 0		
7 Water Rate ..	7 1 8		
14 Insurance ..	14 0 0		
2 Audit Fee ..	2 2 0		
32 Repairs and Maintenance ..	—		
Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	33 10 10		
£80 14 6		£99	£80 14 6

INCOME

1954	1955
£	£
Grant from Eastern Command in aid of Rent ..	22 0 0
59 Interest on Investments (gross) ..	58 14 6
18 Excess of Expenditure over Income for year ..	—

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE		1954	1955
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	3,609 11 9		
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	33 10 10		
3,610		3,643 2 7	
PROVISION FOR FUTURE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	166 10 0		
Less: Expended during year ..	144 15 0		
	51 15 0		
166		51 15 0	
CREDITOR:			
2 Audit Fee ..	2 2 0		
£3,778		£3,778	£3,696 19 7

INVESTMENTS PER ANNEXED SCHEDULE:

1954	1955
£	£
(a) At Mid-Market value, December 31, 1938 ..	678 3 9
(b) At Cost or Par Value ..	1,195 13 3
(Mid-Market value, December 30, 1955, £1,437)	1,873 17 0
1,053	1,653 0 7
DEBTOR:	
Eastern Command ..	11 0 0
251 CASH AT BANKERS ..	159 2 0

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February, 1956.

HALL, WINDER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB CHARITABLE FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE		1954	1955
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20 Grant ..	—		
Donation—Officers' Families Fund ..	5 0 0		
2 Audit Fee ..	2 2 0		
24 Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	40 17 8		
£46		£47 19 8	£46

INCOME

1954	1955
£	£
43 Interest on Investments (gross) ..	43 7 0
2 Interest on Deposit Account ..	4 12 8
1 Donation ..	—

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE		1954	1955
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:			
Balance, January 1, 1955 ..	1,472 8 7		
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ..	40 17 8		
1,472		1,513 6 3	
CREDITOR:			
2 Audit Fee ..	2 2 0		
£1,474		£1,515 8 3	£1,474

INVESTMENTS at Cost per annexed Schedule (Mid-Market value, December 30, 1955, £1,184)

1954	1955
£	£
CASH AT BANKERS:	
Current and Deposit Accounts ..	246 2 7

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February, 1956.

HALL, WINDER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

OFFICERS' CLUB ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
DONATIONS:				Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	458	4	473 11 1
5 Royal School for Daughters of Officers	5	5 0		Interest on Investments (net)	77	13	77 13 1
P.M.C., The Depot	25	0 0		Interest on Investment held in Trust for 3rd Battalion (net)	10	7	10 7 1
25 Depot Chapel Fund			30 5 0	Profit on Sale of Officers' Club Ties	2	2	2 2 1
Expenses of Cricket Week	189	12 7		Interest on Deposit Account	4	2	4 2 1
Less: Receipts	29	11 0	160 1 7				
148 Golf Meeting			46 10 6				
51 Dinner	132	15 3					
Less: Receipts	59	6 0	73 9 3				
61 At Home	31	18 0					
Less: Receipts	8	5 0	23 13 0				
9 Tennis Meeting			11 16 2				
38 Cocktail Party			10 0 0				
10 M.C.C. Season Ticket			6 18 0				
5 Wreaths							
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:							
60 Salary and Expenses	60	0 0					
34 Postages, Printing and Stationery	19	17 5					
9 Audit Fee	9	9 0	89 6 5				
2 Income Tax on Bank Interest			12 6				
94 Excess of Income over Expenditure for year			113 6 2				
£551			£565 18 7	£551			£565 18 7

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:				INVESTMENTS AT COST per annexed Schedule (Mid-Market value, December 30, 1955, £3,880)	3,987	4	4,155 7 1
Balance, January 1, 1955	4,151	16 7		148 CASH AT BANKERS			103 15 1
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	113	6 2	4,265 2 9	20 STOCK OF TIES			10 1 1
4,152 CREDITORS:				9 STOCK OF CRICKET BALLS			8 8 1
10 Audit Fee	9	9 0		HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:			
2 Income Tax, 1955-56			9 9 0	Investment at Cost per annexed Schedule (Mid-Market value December 30, 1955, £488)	510	10 4	509 10 4
12 SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE			3 1 0	2 Cash not re-invested			2 6 3
FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR 3RD BATTALION:							
512 Balance, January 1, 1955			511 16 7				511 16 7
£4,676			£4,789 9 4	£4,676			£4,789 9 4

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

4 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4.
February 8, 1955.

HALL WINDER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

"THE DIE-HARDS" JOURNAL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of printing and distribution (3 issues)	594	11 6		280 Advertisements			233 13 3
Salary and Expenses	60	0 0		240 Subscriptions			240 6 7
Sundries	5	16 3		184 Grant from Association Charitable Fund, being excess of Expenditure over Income for year			190 11 11
Audit Fee	4	4 0					
£704			£664 11 9	£704			£664 11 9

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1955

1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	1954	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
ACCUMULATED FUND:				25 MUSEUM at Cost			25 0 0
Balance, January 1, 1955	72	18 3		DEBTORS:			
173 BANK OVERDRAFT	196	13 5		75 Advertisements			72 10 0
34 SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID IN ADVANCE	31	6 3		1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment			13 6 8
4 CREDITOR:				— STOCK OF JOURNALS			85 16 8
Audit Fee	4	4 0		ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND:			3 13 4
£284			£305 1 11	184 Grant due for year			190 11 11
				£284			£305 1 11

We have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account from the books, vouchers and information received and certify them to be in accordance therewith and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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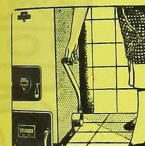
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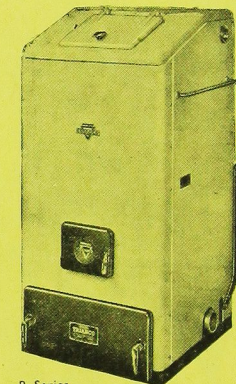
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