



# THE DIE-HARDS

*The Journal of*  
THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
*(Duke of Cambridge's Own)*



# The Die Hards

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. XII No. 5

AUGUST, 1956

PRICE 1'4

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

(57th and 77th)

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

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

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

**Regular Battalion**  
1st Bn. (Amalgamated with 2nd Bn. 1948).

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

**Territorial Army Battalions**  
7th Bn. (1/7th Bn. and 2/7th Bn. amalgamated after 1939-45 War.  
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.).

**Affiliated Unit**  
H.M. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Unicorn.  
Regl. Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

**Dominion and Colonial Alliance**  
CANADA  
31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.  
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
50th H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery.  
102nd (Wentworth) Field Artillery, Royal Canadian Artillery  
The Royal Rifles of Canada.  
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. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.  
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt-Col. W. D. Ellis,  
O.B.E., T.D.

### CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
History of the Regiment . . . . .	207 and 209	Hong Kong Regiment Notes . . . . .	234
Editorial . . . . .	209	Newsletter by M.B. . . . .	235
1st Battalion Notes . . . . .	210	Officers' Club . . . . .	238
Depot Notes . . . . .	223	Extract from London Gazette . . . . .	240
7th Battalion Notes . . . . .	229	Obituaries . . . . .	244
11th Parachute Battalion Notes . . . . .	232	"The Duke of Cambridge" . . . . .	246
571 LAA Regiment RA Notes . . . . .	233	Roll of W.O.s and Sergeants . . . . .	252

### 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.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post free)





# 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

### CONTENTS

IX	The 9th Battalion
X	1st Battalion KOREA 1950-1951
XI	Post-War Reconstruction
APPENDICES I	Home Defence Units
II	The Allied Regiments
III	The Bands
IV	Regimental Charitable Trusts
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

## CITATION

*London Gazette, May 15, 1956*

Citation for posthumous award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to:

2/Lt. Roger Michael March Heming (433425)

1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment

At Mattighofen in Austria on March 11, 1955, a fire occurred close to two upstairs rooms in which some soldiers of the Regiment were sleeping. 2/Lt. Heming, who was outside and in no personal danger, at first tried to extinguish the flames. Finding he could not do so and realising the danger to the sleeping men, he entered the threatened building and succeeded in rapidly arousing many of the sleeping soldiers but was himself overcome before he could complete his task. He lost his life through his gallant disregard of his own safety and his endeavours to save others.

23056981 Pte. Gerald Simpson

1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment

At Mattighofen in Austria on March 11, 1955, a fire occurred close to two upstairs rooms in which some soldiers of the Regiment were sleeping. There was difficulty in awakening the soldiers who did not realise they were in danger. Pte. Simpson who was fully awake and knew that there was a fire did not seek his own safety but remained in the threatened room helping to arouse the tired troops. He lost his life whilst endeavouring to ensure the safety of his comrades.

With constantly soaring expenses we feel that the best service the Editor can render his readers is to be as brief as possible.

He must thank his contributors, however, and he takes this opportunity to apologise to them for the pruning he has been obliged to carry out.

We are sure that the 1st Battalion's account of their operations in Cyprus will be read with the greatest interest. In their arduous, and often difficult, duties we wish them the good fortune they so richly deserve.

## CORRIGENDUM

The copy number for the April, 1956, issue should read No. 4 and not No. 3 as printed.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Autumn Golf Meeting.** North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, September 22-23, 1956.

**Regimental Reunion.** Seymour Hall, London, W.1, Friday, October 26. Full particulars will be circulated to all members later.

**Regular Officers' Dinner.** United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, Friday, November 9, 1956.

**Remembrance Day Services.** Saturday, November 10, 1956, at Regimental Plot, Westminster Abbey, 10.45 a.m. Sunday, November 11, 1956, at Depot, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, at 10.30 a.m.

## REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Copies of the Regimental History are now available from the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association. Those desiring to purchase a copy or copies are requested to complete the form on pages 206 and 207 and forward with remittance as indicated. Orders can be taken also for the De Luxe copy, which will be ready later in the year.



# 1st Battalion Notes

Much has happened in Cyprus during the last four months. In February most people thought that a solution to the Cyprus problem was imminent and hopes ran high throughout the island when Mr. Lennox Boyd, the Colonial Secretary, arrived to take over the last stages of the protracted negotiations with Archbishop Makarios.

Although the breakdown of the talks on March 1 came as a surprise to many, the intransigence of the Archbishop throughout the negotiations, together with his active association with EOKA, could hardly have resulted in agreement. The break that took place was irrevocable and was followed shortly by the deportation of Makarios and three of his henchmen.

On March 5 H.E. The Governor summoned all District Security Committees to Government House where he explained the reasons for the failure of his talks with the Archbishop and said that the task was now to end terrorism and intimidation and to restore law and order.

On the afternoon of the same day the Chief of Staff held a conference at the Secretariat to consider the maintenance of essential services in the event of a general insurrection. As a result of this conference units in Larnaca Area were redeployed and plans for the evacuation of families and the maintenance of essential services were reviewed.

The news of the deportation came on March 9, the day of the visit of the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. Anthony Head, C.B.E., M.C., to the Battalion, who was accompanied by the Adjutant General, General Sir Cameron Nicholson, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. In attendance were Major-Gen. A. H. G. Ricketts, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Cyprus District, and Mr. A. C. N. Drew, a Director of Finance at the War Office.

The Secretary of State was received by Major Nolda, who was acting as Commanding Officer in the absence of the Colonel, who had left for England and who was away for six weeks. After inspecting the Main Quarter Guard, found by "C" Company and commanded by Cpl. Watson, Mr. Head met the Company Commanders and then visited the Sergeants' Mess. Later he and his party lunched in the Officers' Mess and in the afternoon he toured the camp.

No sooner did the Secretary of State leave for Nicosia by helicopter than plans were put into operation for the safe-guarding of families and the protection of vulnerable places. As an added precaution a restriction was placed on the use of motor cycles and bicycles in Larnaca, after dark, a measure to curtail bomb throwing by night by cyclists.

During the next few days Security Forces awaited the first reactions of EOKA and the civil population to the deportation of the Ethnarch. The feared general uprising did not take place. The only reaction was



*The Secretary of State speaking to R.S.M. Will*

jubilant on the part of the Turks, while the Greeks went about in stunned silence.

Here in Larnaca the only trouble makers were the school-children who, daily, met in Lazarus Square and tolled the church bell. On appearance of the Security Forces most of them dispersed quickly while a few took sanctuary in the church.

By March 14 the children, growing bolder, had erected a few barricades in the streets running into the Square. The town was put out of bounds but unfortunately this order did not get through to everybody and two vehicles from the Administrative Area Dhekelia, which were making their way through Larnaca, found themselves surrounded by screaming school-children who began to stone the occupants. The escort to the vehicles dismounted and, in order to restore the situation, fired a single shot which, unfortunately, killed a Cypriot boy aged 7 years.

A tense situation immediately developed so the District Security Committee imposed a curfew.

It was proposed that the child should be buried that evening before dusk while the curfew was still in force and the police were instructed to make the necessary arrangements. At the last moment, however, it was learnt that the Archimandrite had forbidden his clergy to bury the child while the curfew was in force.

It was not known whether this move had been inspired by EOKA or whether the church were trying to make a political issue out of the incident. The situation was fraught with so many dangers that the District Security Committee felt that they required

guidance and so at midnight they left for Nicosia, where they conferred with the Deputy Governor and the Chief of Staff.

After a protracted talk during which many proposals were examined, some of them extremely fanciful, it was decided to apprehend the Bishop of Kitium, the head of the clergy in the Larnaca area, and to "persuade" him to order the burial of the child. As a precaution, reinforcements of a Company of the 3rd Parachute Regiment, a Squadron of the Royal Horse Guards and a Police Mobile Column were despatched to Larnaca.

The next day the Bishop could not be found but fortunately during the morning the priest of St. Lazarus agreed to conduct the funeral under the curfew. The funeral took place without incident and in the early hours of the next morning the curfew was lifted. Larnaca remained quiet and in the evening the reinforcements were returned to their respective units. Information was subsequently received that the terrorists had not taken any offensive action on the day of the funeral owing to the precautions taken by the Battalion.

The anniversary of the Greek revolution of 1821 and Greek Independence Day passed quietly on March 25, although widespread trouble had been anticipated. The Battalion received information that a newly formed EOKA gang in Lefkara was planning an ambush on the road Lefkara/Kophinou. "Support" Company laid two counter ambushes which lay up in the hills for three days and nights. Nothing happened despite attempts by "Support" Company to provoke an ambush by blatantly running vehicles up the road at night.

The following week-end was the first anniversary of the outbreak of EOKA terrorism, but it passed quietly. Patrolling was intensified in Larnaca and in outlying districts, where a number of ambushes were laid.

April started with the cordoning and searching by "B" Company, supported by "D" Company and a Platoon from "C" Company, of the village of Ormidhia which lies two miles east of the Dhekelia Cantonment. The C.I.D. had reported that this village, which lies near the coast, was being used by the terrorists as a distributing centre for explosives which were being brought in by caiques. The operation, hampered by poor weather and inept interrogation proved disappointing.

Colonel Willoughby returned on April 11 and reassumed command.

On April 14 an auxiliary policeman who worked by day in the District Commissioner's office, was shot and seriously wounded in Old Larnaca. Information did not reach the Riot Company until nearly an hour later when a cordon was placed around the area and all houses searched. Seventy-four males found in the area were detained, brought into Alma Camp and given questionnaires to complete. Seven men were detained for interrogation but the result was negative. There is no doubt that the auxiliary policeman was an EOKA agent who had been shot for failing to carry out a mission which had been allotted to him.

The following day another auxiliary policeman was shot dead in the cinema at Aradhippou. Once again

the public failed to give information and no arrest was made.

In the early hours of April 23 the Communists, who had been detained in December, and who had started their detention at Dhekelia, and subsequently transferred to Nicosia, were brought to a new detention camp which had been built for them near Pyla, about a mile north of Alma Camp. The guard for this camp (a Platoon) is found by the Battalion which is assisted by three guard dogs and their handlers.

During the same night one of the Band Boys was reported missing and could not be found. Later it was discovered that the boy had broken out of camp and he was found by a British policeman on the Nicosia/Famagusta road about 15 miles away.

After a respite from bombs for many weeks, four were thrown in Larnaca on April 27. One of these was the fifth attack on the house of the Quartermaster.

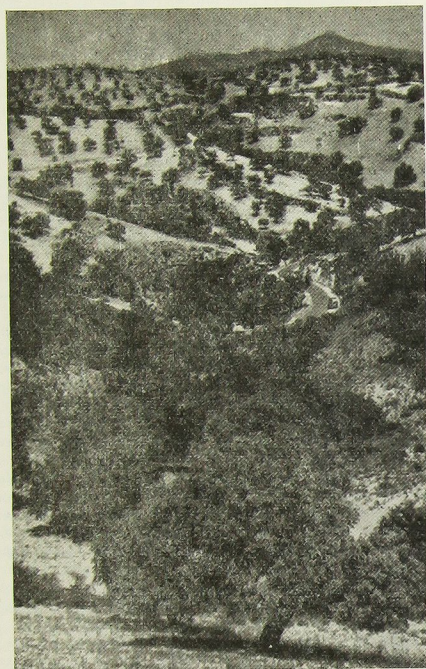
On the afternoon of April 28 a strongly pro-British Greek-Cypriot journalist was murdered in Larnaca in broad daylight. Previously there had been two attempts on his life. Although the outrage took place in a busy street and was seen by a large number of people, no witnesses came forward with information nor did anyone assist the dying man. Two suspects were arrested but were later released owing to lack of evidence. A curfew was imposed on Larnaca from 1800 hours by "C" and "S" Companies and two Companies from the Administrative Area. A large number of known terrorist sympathisers were detained and their houses searched. Two primed bombs were found and small quantities of ammunition.

The Battalion's first big success came early in May. During the night of May 1 a Turkish Cypriot driver reported that a bomb had been thrown at his lorry on the Lefkara/Skarinou road. A daylight search revealed 14 well-sited ambush positions and a quantity of expended cartridge cases. The ambush had apparently been laid for the British Police Sergeant at Lefkara but had misfired.

It was now apparent that the Lefkara gang, which "S" Company had previously sought in counter-ambushes, was responsible and it was decided to pull them in. At first light on May 2 a curfew was enforced on Kato Lefkara. The wanted men were arrested and a search began which lasted until May 5. A large number of arms and a quantity of explosives and ammunition were found, mainly in beehives. "D" Company, under Capt. Eales, assisted by elements from "B" and "C" Companies and a Troop of "C" Squadron 1st R.H.G. carried out the operation. The following day "B" Company found a serviceable musket, two shot gun barrels and a small quantity of powder.

A few days after this operation a report came in that two armed men with a wireless set had been seen in the village of Kornos, a few miles east of Lefkara. As a preliminary measure O.P.s and ambush parties were deployed in the area for three days but nothing resulted. At first light on May 14 a three-fold operation, under command of Major Nolda, started to search the area for wanted men and the villages for arms. The village of Kornos was cordoned and searched by "C" Company and that of Delikipo by "B" Company, while "D"





Typical Cyprus scenery in the Western Sector. The bend in the road was the scene of the Lefkara ambush

Company did a sweep through the mountainous area between Kophinou and these two villages. "C" Squadron 1st R.H.G. patrolled the roads containing the search area.

The operation resulted in four suspects being arrested and one shot gun and a small quantity of explosives were found.

Plans for Albuhera Day, had, of necessity, to be on a reduced scale this year. All went well until 1800 hours when the Colonel was informed that Grivas, the terrorist leader, was in Larnaca. All available troops were immediately rushed to the town which was cordoned off. Everybody was in high spirits, despite the inconveniences involved. Everybody was determined that, if it was at all possible, Albuhera Day would see the capture of Grivas. Unhappily this was not to be, for at 2200 hours it was found that the information received was incorrect.

The last few days in May were fraught with communal strife throughout the island. In Larnaca the Turkish population ran amok and caused considerable damage to Greek shops. This was a reprisal for the murder of a Turkish policeman. The Riot Company ("C" Company) was forced to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. In the tense situation that followed "B"

Company and a Platoon of "D" Company moved into the town and intensive patrolling preserved an uneasy quiet. Later the Commissioner of Larnaca arranged meetings between the local Turkish and Greek leaders, who published a joint proclamation enjoining their followers to live peacefully together.

On May 28 H.M.S. *Birmingham* arrived from Malta and anchored in Larnaca Bay, in order to take part in celebrations for the Queen's Birthday. Owing to operational commitments the Battalion was unable to entertain its personnel.

On May 30 the Commanding Officer and the District Commissioner were present when H.E. The Governor and Lady Harding dined on board. During H.E. visit "B" Company undertook the enforcement of strict security measures, when they took over control of the jetty, the Customs sheds, the police station and all the approaches to the harbour.

On the following morning, the Queen's Birthday, a large contingent of ratings came ashore to parade with the Administrative Services. The Battalion was fully occupied in the town and was only able to provide the R.S.M. as Parade Regimental Sergeant Major, together with the Band and Drums. 2/Lt. Tubbs was appointed A.D.C. to the Commissioner for the day.

In the evening the Commissioner held a reception at his house at which a large number of civilian and Service personalities were present. Once again "B" Company provided the security and Capt. Moore, with a strong team from the Officers' Mess, ran the bars and the buffet.

Towards the end of the evening the lights went out (later discovered to be due to sabotage) but nobody was unduly alarmed.

Under cover of the electric light failure a 36 grenade and a 77 grenade were thrown at a jeep patrol commanded by Sgt. Hook. Fortunately both grenades failed to explode; had the 36 grenade gone off it would undoubtedly have inflicted severe casualties to the crew of the jeep for, thrown with considerable accuracy it bounced off the head of the wireless operator. The area was immediately cordoned off by "B" Company and next morning a search of the houses was made without result. The bombs had to be demolished in situ resulting in a certain amount of damage to glass in the nearby cafes.

So ended the month of May, quite the most active the Battalion had so far spent in Cyprus. June was heralded in by a nasty ambush a few miles along the coast from the camp. On Sunday, June 3, two unarmed soldiers accompanied by an English youth were walking back along the coast from Cape Pyla when they were ambushed at close quarters by two terrorists armed with shot guns. One soldier was killed and the other got away and eventually gave the alarm some hours later. Immediately the Infantry Platoon under Lt. Humber was sent to the scene and at the same time the police and tracker dogs were alerted. The boy was found in a nearby church, badly wounded and later the body of the dead soldier was discovered. It transpired that the boy had run away when shot at but was later caught. He was led to a nearby church where his hands were tied behind

him and he was then shot in the back at close quarters and left for dead.

Later the boy called to a passing shepherd and also a party of boys for help but he was ignored. Despite his injuries he then managed to free his hands and crawl into the church where he waited for the arrival of the Security Forces. After his rescue he was brought into Alma Camp where he gave Capt. Moore an accurate description of his two assailants.

While rescue operations were going on steps were taken to curfew the nearby villages of Xylophagou, Avagarau and Leopetri. "S" and "D" Companies undertook the first and 1st Para. Battalion from Nicosia and 1st Leicesters from Famagusta took on the other two villages. In Xylophagou all males were screened and 160 who answered the descriptions of the two wanted men were taken to the B.M.H., Nicosia, where they paraded in front of the wounded boy, who identified the two men who had shot him. These men now await a charge of murder to everyone's satisfaction.

After this spectacular start June has settled down quietly and there is much speculation as to the cause. Most think it is due to the excellent results recently achieved by the Parachute Brigade in the Troodos Mountains.

The last four months here have been extremely strenuous and exacting and we have much missed "A" Company. A Battalion with only three Companies can easily find itself off balance and we all hope that before long another Battalion will take on the Aqaba commitment.

Despite the heavy call of internal security, training has continued. Whenever possible Companies have fired on the field firing and classification ranges. In addition, "Support" Company has run cadres for anti-tank, M.M.G. and mortars, while "D" Company perseveres with continuation training and N.C.O.s cadres. Individual training despite many handicaps goes on but the Battalion stands in need of collective training. This must be after EOKA has been suppressed. Signs of success are mounting each day and soon we hope that anti-riot drill, curfews and searches will give place to Company and Battalion exercises.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

The year 1956 has so far dispersed us widely. It was still quite young when we said au revoir to "A" Company, who left for a tour of duty with "O" Force, and it seems so long since we had the pleasure of the company of Sergeants Lemaitre, Callaghan and Clements. C.S.M. Thom returned in April from a spell of leave and C./Sgt. Dodkins flew back to assume the role of C.S.M. "C" Company. Congratulations, Ray.

Having—at last—welcomed C.S.M. McMillan to the embraces of "B" echelon, we are now standing by to surrender this stalwart to other clutches—sh! Don't ask where. R.Q.M.S. Griffiths is not untouched by rumour and whispers of postings. We'll certainly miss Fred—especially in the battle dress queue. If he is still with us when these notes are published any reference is a pure coincidence. C.S.M. Budden was recently evacuated to U.K. with an ulcerated tummy. We wish him well.

Mess functions have been few. We have held our monthly dinner nights although with a smaller attendance. We intended to celebrate Albuhera Day in the traditional manner. The customary games and sports were omitted but members were invited to the Officers' Mess at lunch time for the traditional drink and "natter". Unfortunately the evening functions were cancelled by kind permission of Digenis and a truly excellent Albuhera dinner was interrupted. A certain disappointed Sergeant was seen hunched in a "champ" gnawing at a Sten magazine while trying to force a succulent leg of chicken into the magazine housing. One recalls the old maxim—never sacrifice accuracy for speed.

We welcome Sgt. Ford back from civilian life and Sgt. Hartley, R.A.P.C., who although with us until August only, is already almost one of us.

Sgt. Clements joined us in Cyprus as Provost Sergeant, and Sgt. Pollecutt has left for civilian life. We wish him luck.

#### M.T. PLATOON

Since our last notes, the M.T. Platoon has been very active. Our mileage has been enormous, varying between 60,000 and 70,000 miles per month. Drivers and mechanics alike have been busy and the Platoon is proud of the service it has given the Battalion in the past four months.

So much hard work has created a splendid Platoon spirit and quite a local reputation, such that few units call upon Workshops in Larnaca area for recovery, but rather upon the Middlesex recovery vehicle and the familiar figure, with the ambling gait, of Cpl. Hobbs, accompanied by Capt. Turner or Sgt. Milner.

Capt. Turner has now left us. He must have been one of the most popular M.T.O.s ever. Such was the reluctance of the Platoon to lose him that his truck developed a mechanical fault on the way to Nicosia, and he missed his plane. His vocabulary on this occasion would have surprised an Irish labourer. We know he will succeed in civilian life, and our good wishes go with him.

Unfortunately there have been accidents, of which Pte. Denton's was the most serious. Denton, who is now in B.M.H., Nicosia, states he was doing 30 m.p.h. as usual and that his steering went! Be that as it may be we wish him a speedy recovery.

We congratulate Cpls. Hobbs, Humphrey and Jenner and L/Cpls. Barcock, Marrable and Blinko on their well-earned promotion. To Sgt. Simpson, our new technical stores Sergeant, we wish success in his difficult task, and hope his Irish contacts at R.S.G. continue to be helpful.

We shall miss Cpls. Carter, Copper and Humphrey, and wish them every fortune in civilian life.

Capt. Legge is the new M.T.O., and he is glad to meet once more the handful who were with him in Hong Kong and Austria. Now a married pad, he appreciates very much the sterling work of Sgt. Milner.

Finally a word about our R.E.M.E. section under Cpl. Ward including "Useless." Without their work few vehicles would remain on the road.



## BATTALION PERSONALITIES

Perhaps a suitable sub-title for this column would be "Kaleidoscope." There have been many changes—Major Kent has gone to a Public Relations post in Nicosia. He was closely followed by Major Allott who was appointed Port Security Control Officer under the Chief of Staff; this recently formed organisation has the important task of preventing the smuggling into the island of materials to assist the terrorists.

The most notable change that has taken place in the *dramatis personae* of the Battalion has been the appointment of Capt. Marciandi as Adjutant after many years of "Major" adjutants. Youth is once more in office and it is hoped that this change in policy will give encouragement and provide a spur to great endeavour among the Captains of the Regiment.

Major Bennett has handed over "C" Company to Major Pearce Gould, and taken the road to Nicosia, where he is D.A.A.G. at Headquarters Cyprus District.

Our representation in Nicosia is now very strong. Other losses have been more final. Capt. Turner has finished his short service engagement, and has returned to England for release. He worked wonders with the M.T., who have had to operate under the most difficult conditions since our arrival, and we wish him all good fortune as a civilian. 2/Lt. Olberry has also returned home at the end of his National Service.

Although he is still living with the Battalion, Capt. Moore has handed over "H.Q." Company to Capt. Bellers, and has taken over the duties of District Intelligence Officer, a rather difficult task to define, but a vital link in the anti-terrorist campaign.

To offset these departures, the new arrivals were led by Major Battye. He spent only a few days in Cyprus before flying down to Agaba to take over "A" Company. Capt. Cowan is now Battalion Intelligence Officer, and king of the operations room. Capt. Hodge and Legge arrived together and Capt. Hodge left for a four months posting to the Chief of Staff's Office as a duty officer in the Central Operations Room. Capt. Legge is back on familiar ground, as M.T.O., his former role in the Battalion. We congratulate him on passing the Staff College Entrance Examination. Two new arrivals from Sandhurst are 2/Lts. Gilham and Waite.

We occasionally see Major Chattey, now on the Staff of H.Q., Cyprus District, and Capt. Cain.

Having welcomed C.S.M. Budden in the last issue of the Journal, we now have regretfully to record his evacuation to England through illness, disappointing both to the Battalion and himself as he was about to become R.Q.M.S. We wish him a quick recovery.

Two who are awaiting posting are R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, who after many years of loyal service to the Battalion is going to a R.Q.M.S. appointment in England, and C.S.M. McMillan, who has been appointed R.S.M. of the 8th Battalion; we congratulate him on his well deserved promotion, and wish both these Warrant Officers the best of luck in their new spheres.

## SIGNAL PLATOON

It would be impossible to record all the activities of the Signal Platoon in the last six months, they are too

many. There are, however, many significant events peculiar to the Signals which must be mentioned.

Perhaps the most notable event is the rise of the B 44 wireless set in operations here. This is a simple VHF set with a good performance, which is used to all parts of our Area and for mobile communications in Larnaca as well. During a recent operation in our Western Sector these sets were effectively used for the Command net. They provided reliable communication throughout to both static and mobile stations, and were used with great success to direct an air O.P. Although ideal for these conditions, the sets are not suitable for normal infantry use, though they may be their forerunners and the beginning of a less harassing era for Signals Officers.

A large proportion of the Platoon is now permanently employed in various roles, leaving comparatively few for the extra requirements. L/Cpl. Temple has been promoted to command the D.R. section, while L/Cpl. Browning looks after the Signal's M.T. A permanent crew man the controls in Larnaca police station, and will soon be moving to most luxurious quarters in the new operations room there. The complexities of the camp wireless room are managed by six signallers, and since our last notes a further monster set has been installed which makes it possible for all subscribers on the exchange to use it. These inventions are beyond our comprehension, but we are impressed by their reliability and feel already the effects of being slaves to automation.

Sgt. Clarke has recently been promoted to Wireless Sergeant, and is doing well. His passion for enormous aerials has produced some frightening contraptions, but the results have justified the unconventional designs. Sgt. Mead is handling the stores, and all the paper that goes with them, with meticulous care. As only he understands it, it is impossible to comment further, save noting that the stores are there when wanted. Fuller occasionally appears outside his battery shop, an oil-covered and acid-burned figure, while Cook's raucous voice can be heard chanting within. Packer has the distinction of being our only casualty. He was the signaller to be hit on the head by a 36 grenade which left little impression on his skull but slightly more on his mind. L/Cpl. Wild, no relation to the celebrated Wild, has attended an N.C.O.'s cadre and done well. We congratulate him on his promotion.

The rest of us do all the other tasks required with varying degrees of success, and consider each more complex than the last. The situation was summed up by R.Q.M.S. Griffiths, who said, "It doesn't matter about the rest of the communications as long as you get the Test matches."

## CORPS OF DRUMS

Since our last notes we have been far from idle. Indeed, few operations proceed without our becoming involved. Our popularity with the rifle companies mounts as they use us.

We opened 1956 in a series of searches following the "stealing" of a number of shotguns in January. Three days of squelching around the quagmire marked on the maps as Xylaphagou did little to reconcile us to this troubled isle. More than one drummer was heard to

mumble curses on the head of Dighenis, D.M. Lewis, reverting to his native to gue, presumably did so too.

Subsequent weeks were employed in frequent road block duties and occasionally in assisting in the imposition of curfews. The latter has proved a popular, if tiring task, better than cordoning and searching a squalid collection of huts inaptly called villages. One such operation took place early in May in the Lefkara area with good results. Our part of the operation included a mountain ramble with "D" Company—picturesque for the first 15 miles, though our interest in the scenery palled later.

The official birthday of Her Majesty gave us the opportunity to "get on parade" once more. A ceremonial parade was held in Larnaca outside the Commissioner's office. It felt good to adopt our proper role again.

During the past three months most have done a first aid course at Nicosia. Do you recall those far-off days when the Band humped the stretchers? Shortly after the last course we found ourselves attempting the assault course at Dhekelia, some almost hoping for an accident in which they were not disappointed when Dmr. Phelps broke his leg. We are glad he is with us again although, as yet, not fully recovered.

Our games have suffered but we are delighted to have thrashed the Signal Platoon at both soccer and basketball. The warmer weather is now with us (phew!) and our spare moments are spent on the Dhekelia beaches. The acquisition of a quantity of sub-aqua kit has proved very popular and, duties permitting, masked and flippers drummers are not uncommon.

We regretfully report the all too common departures by wishing L/Cpl. Whiteley and Dmrs. Plowright and Chidlow good fortune in civilian life. This loss is offset by the posting to us of Ptes. Barnwell, Wreford, Tattershall and Copping. We wish them a happy tour with us. Congratulations to L/Cpls. Hart and Evans on their promotion. What about signing on you pair?

## BAND

It is just over eight months since we arrived in Cyprus and we have settled down to a somewhat peculiar routine of practice, concerts, searches, curfews, fire-piquet and a more recent innovation "Low Water." I have omitted "Standing Patrol" in the hope that it is dead and buried.

Musically we have helped by giving regular concerts. We started fortnightly shows in the Naafi at Alma Camp which proved very popular. Now that the warmer weather is with us we give lunch time programmes of light music outside the dining hall on Thursdays, and sometimes the dance band plays in the Naafi. We also play sometimes for other units, such as we did at the concert we gave to the troops at Dhekelia on Easter Sunday, followed by a church service and reception for the C.R.E. and more recently the church fete held in Richmond Village.

In April we started a series of massed band concerts with the Bands of the Royal Leicesters, South Staffords and Wiltshire Regiments. They will take place every fortnight, during which time we will be visiting Famagusta, Kyrenia, Nicosia and Dhekelia in turn.

Our one and only ceremonial parade since our arrival in Cyprus was the recent Queen's Birthday Parade held in Larnaca. Unfortunately our Battalion was far too busy with I.S. duties to take part but with the R.S.M. to give us moral (and vocal) support, we maintained the high standard of Austrian days.

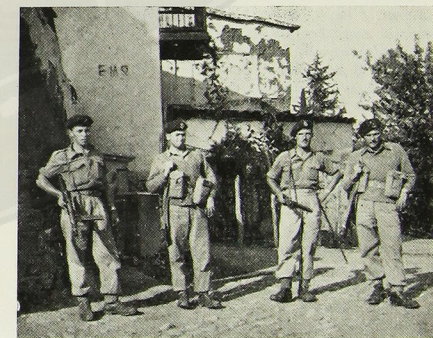
By far the most enjoyable of our engagements was the Jimmy Edwards Show. It was instructive playing with this well-known character, and the rehearsal (hurried though it was) was more fun than the actual show. He praised us highly and it will be long before we forget "Light Cavalry" and "Poet and Peasant" a-la-Professor Jimmy Edwards.

Swimming has now become our number one pastime. A minesweeper anchored off Dhekelia the other day, thought that Commander Crabb had turned up, but it was only "Our Ernie" trying out his flippers and goggles.

A few weeks ago we went to the Four Mile Beach (memories of Castle Peak, eh?). Sgt. Medlock provided us with generous rations augmented by a whip-round and C/Sgt. Burgess provided ice boxes (but alas not the soft drinks!). Lunch and tea was served on the beach by Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Barnacle and Mrs. Christopher. This, our first break from unusual duties, is an outing we hope to repeat monthly.

During the past two months we have taken part in three major operations, the first of which was in the region of Xylaphagou, a village about five miles from the garrison. The village had already been cordoned off and a thorough search carried out, so we had the monotonous but necessary task of searching the surrounding terrain for hidden arms. With the aid of a mine detector we discovered long since buried nails, old iron, tin cans, etc., but nothing incriminating.

A fortnight or so later we were called out at night and set off, hell-bent for Larnaca, where we joined forces with "C" Company. After sampling "C" Company's most excellent cooking we entrucked and at a leisurely ten miles per hour reached Kornos, which lies thirty miles inland (a journey which took four hours). Very



SEARCH PARTY AT KORNOS

Ptes. Sullivan and Davies, Bdsman. Lester and Cooper



early in the morning we arrived just outside the village where we were to envy L/Cpl. "Kit" Carson his task of cutting the telephone wires. His clambering up the poles encouraged such remarks as "Dr. Darwin would be delighted to see this".

In Kornos the Band were given the more interesting job of actually searching the houses (a task which two prominent members of the Band obviously enjoyed, as they always seemed to take longer than any else). Sgt. Davies it seems believes in promoting good relations between the races, especially if their dimensions are in accordance with his specifications.

With the more recent communal riots came our third operation, when we were organised into a platoon under the leadership of the amiable Sgt. Steward. From information received it seemed that EOKA Terrorists had been seen lurking in nearby woods, and our task was to flush them out. Unfortunately the birds had flown, but we were rewarded by the applause accorded us on our return through the Turkish sector. This operation occupied an exceptionally hot morning, so the excellent dinner meal provided by C/Sgt. Burgess was most welcome.

I have only given three examples of the other side of Band life here in Cyprus, but there are many others.

It was with deep regret that we said *au revoir* to Bds. "Lusher" Rose recently. Always a popular figure in the Band, he will be greatly missed. We wish him luck in his new career and trust that he will do well as a "semi-pro-bassist." If enthusiasm counts for anything he should succeed. On Boy Pye's departure I shall not comment.

C/Sgt. Grogan has done so well on his recent recruiting drive that Records have curbed him by sending two of our prospective Band Boys to the Royal Fusiliers. We congratulate him on having brought the Band up to strength so quickly, and hope he stays with us long enough to see the fruits of his labour.

We hear frequently from L/Cpl. Aburrow and Bds. Castle who are at Kneller Hall, and we are pleased they are doing well. We look forward to their return in October.

Bds. "Ben" Evans had a long spell of leave in England recently, but joins us shortly. We offer our sympathies on the loss of his father who had been seriously ill for some time.

Bandmaster Dennis Bayton (of the Royal Lincolns) wrote from Malaya recently saying he was anxious to get in touch with some of our ex-members, amongst them Don Street, Pete Stevens, Richard Le-Good and Sam Forsythe.

We hear that Musician George Beechey did not find life in the Brigade of Guards the bed of roses he expected, and that he is purchasing his discharge. Rumour has it that he literally "went to the dogs" and lost all his Zeltweg savings into the bargain.

Ex-Sgt. Ralph Cook has had his fill of life in Canada and is returning home to go into business—big business if his bank book is any guide.

Ex-Cpl. Stevens has deserted the "Hong Kong Bachelors' Club" and has married. Our hearty congratulations to the newly-weds.

Finally we are pleased to hear from Lt.-Col. Hewitt

(an ex-Band President) that he is returning to closer contact with the Regiment by taking over command of the Depot. Our good wishes go to him in his new appointment.

#### "A" COMPANY

A year ago the Company was preparing for its last visit to Vienna. Today we are nearing the end of our time in Aqaba.

At the end of February, the Company, which included attachments from "S" and "H.Q." Companies, embarked on the L.S.T. *Evan Gibb* at Famagusta and set sail for Aqaba in Jordan. The means of transport this time was hardly comparable with the *Empire Clyde*, and because of its flat bottom even the comparatively calm seas of the Mediterranean caused her to roll and toss. This took its toll! Two days later we docked at Port Said where we loaded a large amount of cargo. This settled the boat and consequently our stomachs. Then followed the trip down the Canal, through the Red Sea and on to Aqaba.

We disembarked and marched into camp where we met the Company of Irish Guards, whom we were relieving, marching out to the strains of a solitary bagpipe, whose mournful tone gave the impression that they were sorry to leave.

We were soon settled into a sandblown tented camp, and before we had time to unpack C.S.M. Thom had us drilling on the parade ground—an asphalt hockey pitch.

After we had been in Aqaba about three weeks, summer dress and summer times were introduced. Free afternoons were appreciated, but Reveille was somewhat unpopular at 0530 hours.

Aqaba is a relatively carefree posting after Cyprus. It is hotter, but this is offset by swimming parades each afternoon. However, even in the intense heat a progressive training programme was carried out. A week was spent on the classification ranges, where the shooting was good. This was followed by tank training, with various Squadrons of the 10th Royal Hussars. Education progressed, culminating in the A.C.E. 3rd Class. Physical efficiency tests followed, which we shall not forget.

A week had been kept for field firing, in which we fired Energas (including one without a detonator), rocket launchers, 36 grenades (Pte. Woodcock doing his best to "puncture his Platoon Commander"), 80 grenades and finishing up with an excellent Sten battle run.

By the time we return, the majority of the Company will have seen the Bofors of the 187 L.A.A. Battery in action, and some will have fired them. Pte. Saunders has already shown us how versatile he is with weapons, and we are wondering whether or not he is in the right Arm.

Several visits have been made to the ancient city of Petra, a wonderful experience, though the majority of the men seemed to enjoy the horse-riding rather more than the sightseeing. As the archeologist of the Company said, "It takes tired types to make a world." A few men climbed up the hill to El Deir, which is

thought to have been a monastery. It was worth doing so.

On several occasions we have visited the Navy, which has given all of us a chance to "have a ride on a destroyer." Each one demonstrated their weapons—H.M.S. *Undine*, we thought, nearly started a war.

One or two of the wealthier members of the Company have been to Jerusalem, bringing back their various tales of conquests and also some credible descriptions of Bethlehem, the Dead Sea and Jericho. They tell us that after their visit the walls are tumbling down even faster!

Entertainment in Aqaba, apart from the open-air cinema and the M.G. Club, devolves on the soldier himself. Remembering past efforts in Austria, the Company did not lack enthusiasm in providing it. During Albuhera Week the Company put on a variety show, produced by L/Cpl. Annett. The show was held in the cinema which was packed to overflowing. Cpl. Mahoney and his "Shack" act and L/Cpl. Munds excelled. They were well supported by L/Cpl. Robinson and Ptes. Wright and Jones (20). Cpls. Wadmore and Mimms and L/Cpl. Wall reminded us of Zeltweg with a short sketch from "Reluctant Heroes." The show ended with the appearance of a suitably painted donkey urged to enter the cinema by Cpls. Baker and Best, L/Cpl. Best and Pte. Briggs! The Company are now working hard to produce another successful show.

Swimming has become very popular. Occasionally small parties are taken further round the coast to swim and fish in the coral reef.

Some weeks ago our old friend the *Evan Gibb* came into Aqaba. There is a story to be told concerning one who went to visit her. Some hours later he decided to climb the rigging. Seconds afterwards there was a loud splash and all that could be seen was a bald head floating above the surface.

The Company has done extremely well in the various Garrison sporting events. The hockey team has had a very successful "tour." We have challenged all Units within the Garrison and have only lost one game in 20 played. Revenge was taken against the R.E.M.E. a week later by 5 goals to 2. We must congratulate 2/Lt. Kent in particular on his fine performances. L/Cpl. Munds has been in excellent form, scoring well. Pte. Thompson (46) has discovered a "knack" of doing so from the narrowest of angles. In Cpl. James, now demobbed, we lost an old stalwart. His place has been taken by Major Battye who claims he has lost weight with every game—his primary intention perhaps! We were also sorry when Capt. Bellers left; his presence in the side will be missed. Pte. Poland, after only two games, has shown his talent in yet another sport. Several matches still remain to be played in the new Garrison league in which we hope to do as well.

We have also won all three cricket matches to date, beating "B" Squadron 10th Royal Hussars by 6 wickets, 626 Ordnance Depot by 35 runs, and "A" Squadron 10th Royal Hussars by 6 wickets. Ptes. Harris and McCoubrie are still playing well, and L/Cpl. Lawrence from "S" Company has been a very useful addition to the side, scoring 47 in the first game and 41 in the last. 2/Lt. Kent has shown us what a good

cricketer he is, scoring 50 very good runs against the R.A.O.C., after going in to bat with the score at 9 for 3!

We have also played several games of basketball under the guidance of 2/Lt. Bennetts. Pte. Armes distinguished himself by being selected for the Garrison team. Cpl. Baker and Ptes. Armes, Harris and Adams have been regular members of the side.

The Company had a most successful Albuhera Week. On the day itself the Company paraded on the square to be inspected by Col. M. B. Jenkins, D.S.O., Commander "O" Force, who congratulated them on their drill and turnout. After the parade a church service was held in the Garrison Church of St. George. During the service a plaque displaying the Regimental Badge was presented to the Church by the Company, on behalf of the Battalion.

On Thursday, May 31, the Company took part in the Queen's Birthday Parade, held on the airstrip. Representatives from all the Units in "O" Force were on parade—we were a bit doubtful as to the success of the parade when we saw the "57 Varieties" of drill techniques that were being used. After some "indifferent" performances during the rehearsals, the Company excelled itself in the march past in line. The parade ended with each unit marching past General Sir Charles F. Keightley, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces, to their own Regimental March. The remainder of the day was observed as a holiday.

There have been several changes in the Company since our move to Aqaba, the most notable that of the Company Commander. Shortly after we arrived Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., took over from Major R. K. B. Allot, M.C. We wish them both good fortune.

Capt. Bellers has now left us, having been our 2IC for nearly a year, and on several occasions our Company Commander. We were sorry to see him go, but wish him good fortune. We congratulate Lt. Hewson on being appointed second-in-command in his place. 2/Lt. Hayward returned to the Company, and took over No. 3 Platoon.

We have said goodbye to C/Sgt. Dodkins, and congratulate him on his promotion to W.O.2 and subsequent appointment as C.S.M. of "C" Company. His place was taken by C/Sgt. Morgan, now one of us.

Sgt. Clements has returned to Cyprus as Battalion Provost Sergeant. We were very sorry to lose him, even sorer for those he detains in the Guard Room at Alma Camp. Cpl. (now Sgt.) Blackwell has taken over Platoon Sergeant of No. 2 Platoon. We congratulate him on his promotion and can already see that he means to do well.

Cpl. James and Pte. Bassett have left us for demobilisation. We wish them the very best in their new employments. We welcome Cpl. Burton back to the Company, but owing to an injured leg we have not yet seen him "in action."

We congratulate L/Cpls. Best (45), Mimms and Ricketts on their promotion to Corporal, and Ptes. Finnis, Skinner, Wall, Heissl, Hayden and Davis to Lance-Corporal. The last named was lost to "C" Company.

We have one more month in Aqaba, and by the look



of the training programme it looks like being a busy one.

We have enjoyed Aqaba and living up to the good name of the Regiment in which we think we have succeeded.

#### "B" COMPANY

For a few weeks now there has been speculation as to when the hot weather will start and how hot it will be. Several days ago it seemed that the summer had already arrived, and now, apart from those engaged on operations or on guard duties, there is little activity between noon and the evening meal at 5 o'clock.

The routine changes every fortnight from Riot Company to Western Sector, and then back to Alma Camp in reserve, continue to form the basic pattern of our life. The Company bookmaker, like Dighenis, has not been identified but anonymous information has been received that immediately on arrival in camp as Reserve Company the betting is heavy on how many hours we will be there before the next operation.

Although Larnaca, by comparison with other parts of the island, is fairly quiet; a curfew has been imposed three times since Christmas, and on each occasion the Company has been employed, and now the deployment drill is known by all ranks better than normal battle procedure. Our base on these occasions has been the old Quarantine Kennels, which have been nick-named the "dog house."

On February 1, acting on information, the Company was employed in a search operation for hidden shotguns in the Xylophagou area, which entailed providing a cordon, while "D" Company carried out the search, which lasted three days. On the final morning four shotguns were found in the middle of a cornfield, wrapped up in the inner tube of a motor-car tyre and sacking. The maintenance of the cordon at night by patrolling was excellent training. Investigation the following morning proved that the flashing lights were the homing beacons for the lost patrols and not members of EOKA removing their warlike stores.



A "B" COMPANY PATROL TAKING TIME OFF FOR A SWIM

On April 30 it was most fortunate that a party from the Company returning to Lefkara police station did not become casualties in the carefully planned but badly executed ambush on the mountain road. This led to the subsequent successful search when considerable quantities of arms and ammunition were found hidden in beehives. The terrorists are clever at concealing arms.

Life in the Western Sector, although living conditions are rough, is generally popular. The mobile camp patrols, that have to be found by day and night, are always over-subscribed with volunteers seeking excitement or relaxation, as is amply proved by the photographic evidence of the patrol having a quick dip somewhere near Zygi.

Due to I.S. commitments that remain as high as ever, there have been no games, except for a most enjoyable and hard-fought volley ball match against the local team at Kophinou, which is the headquarters of the Western Sector Company, and the odd game of football against the local team at Pyrga when it had a detachment of about Platoon strength.

During the Queen's Birthday celebrations we were called upon to provide the guards for His Excellency The Governor's visit to H.M.S. *Birmingham*, the official parade at Larnaca and the District Commissioner's reception.

After our six months' stay here, the run down due to National Service release is being felt. It really started in March with the departure of Cpl. Brain and Pte. Briggs, two excellent footballers, followed by Pte. Bradley (Capt. Carter's batman), by Cpl. Aylward, so long associated with the Company arms store, and Ptes. Harris and Rann. Sgt. Steward has been for some time attached to "D" Company, teaching our new arrivals, and is presently to go to "H.Q." Company. Cpl. Young, who departed suddenly for the Depot, will by now have arrived ready to advise on Cyprus.

Congratulations to C.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Moyses on the

birth of a daughter, and to Cpl. and Mrs. O'Rawe on the birth of their son.

#### "C" COMPANY

Since our last notes so many changes have occurred in the Company that it is difficult to know where to begin. Major Bennett has left after 18 successful and, we hope, happy months as Company Commander, and his place has been taken by Major Pearce Gould who has at last been unleashed from the Adjutant's Office.

We congratulate Capt. Marciandi on his appointment as Adjutant. Capt. Legge spent a transitory month with us between rejoining the Battalion and becoming M.T.O. and Lt. Lobb has moved up to 2IC. 2/Lt. Olibery has left for N.S. release, 2/Lt. Tubbs to become Assistant I.O., and 2/Lt. Pennycook for "B" Company.

We welcome Lt. Perkins, R.A.S.C., who is doing a short attachment to the Battalion, and 2/Lt. Gilham from R.M.A.S. and numerous courses.

Perhaps the change that is most noted by the members of the Company (we are not sure whether with remorse or relief) is the departure of C.S.M. McMillan for long-awaited promotion. He was by far the "oldest inhabitant" in the Company and he will be greatly missed by one and all. His loyalty to the Company and the manner in which he worked for us are shown by the times we have won the inter-Company drill competition and our present possession of the Albuhera Shield. His place has been taken by C.S.M. Dodkins whom we congratulate on his promotion, the birth of a son, and the remarkable timing with which the latter coincided with the former.

Operationally, the Company has continued to carry out the same duties as we described in our last journal notes, the only difference being that since the departure of "A" Company for Aqaba our "rest" period in Alma Camp has become shorter and more active than ever. The Company has taken part in searches of several villages, notably Xylophagou, Ormidia (where Pte. Barnett discovered the only weapon to be found in the village), Lefkara and Kornos. We have so far been on duty on every occasion when a curfew has been imposed on Larnaca, and now consider ourselves adept at placing ourselves between crowds of Turks and Greeks who are trying to cut each other's throats.

Ptes. Holdstock and Tipple are stained in green paint preparing our G1098 stores for our forthcoming trip to Aqaba, and Pte. Wood appreciates the folly of standing behind a diesel burner when lighting it. Sgt. Ford has returned to us from civilian life; Sgt. Martin from instructing "D" Company; and Cpl. Hersant has joined us from "A" Company. We congratulate Cpl. Turner on his promotion and Sgt. Elston on his excellent result at Hythe.

Of necessity our sporting activities have been cut to a minimum by our I.S. duties and the accent has been mainly on swimming. While Riot Company in Larnaca we had the sea on our doorstep, and when in the Western Sector the number of patrols which have entailed a visit to the beach were suspiciously high. Good training, though, for the aquatic sports in Aqaba.

#### "D" COMPANY

The Company has had a varied existence in the past few months. Although our main role is training, we have taken part in all the Battalion's major internal security operations and in between time have continued to train potential N.C.O.s and recruits.

In early March Archbishop Makarios was deported and increased terrorist activity threatened vulnerable points throughout the island. No. 10 Platoon, commanded by 2/Lt. Couch, with Sgt. Lloyd as Platoon Sergeant, was deployed on three of these vital points and guarded the oil tankers when they arrived with fresh supplies of fuel for the petrol depot at Larnaca. This duty was enjoyed by all and proved a welcome relief from the ordinary guard duties.

Mr. Anthony Head, Secretary of State for War, paid a visit to the Battalion and found time despite his full programme to inspect the N.C.O.s' cadre and the Continuation Platoon who were carrying out their normal training programme.

A drainpipe type of bomb was thrown into the house of Cpl. Plumb. His wife, who was slightly injured, and his son had a lucky escape. Cpl. Plumb has now been posted to the Depot as an instructor. C/Sgt. Thorogood also returned to England and his place was taken by C.S.M. Budden who arrived from the Depot. Unfortunately his stay in Cyprus was shortened by illness. We wish him a speedy recovery. Sgt. Smith was selected as an instructor with the Boys Battalion and Sgt. Steward took his place as a cadre instructor. We congratulate Cpls. Beadle and Bryant and L/Cpls. Bell, Dare and Davies on their promotion. C.S.M. Perry is now with us—a popular and well-known figure.

On March 19 the cadre had the interesting task of removing all the shotguns of Larnaca district, which had been handed in by the Cypriots, to safe storage in Kyrenia Castle on the north coast of the island. They also paid a visit to the ruined castle of St. Hilarion which stands on a projecting rock 2,400 feet high among the hills above Kyrenia. This was once one of the strongest fortresses in Cyprus, commanding the road between Kyrenia and Nicosia. The enclosing walls are well preserved and its towers and houses extend in terraces over the whole surface of the mountain. The upper chambers afford a magnificent view of the northern coastline of Cyprus and the snow-clad Taurus mountains in Turkey 40 miles across the Mediterranean.

During the weekend of Greek Independence Day, when the Battalion imposed a curfew on Larnaca, "D" Company had the task of manning road blocks on all the main routes leading in and out of the town.

At the end of April the Company was engaged on another curfew in Larnaca as a result of the shooting of Mr. Wideson (reported elsewhere). During the curfew, searches were made in the town and members of the N.C.O.s' cadre found some bombs and rounds of pistol ammunition.

The Company's greatest success was the search of Kato Lefkara. Following the discovery of a prepared ambush position for 14 men on the Skarimou-Lefkara road on May 1, a Platoon of "C" Company cordoned Kato Lefkara, a nearby village, and arrested suspects. It was then decided to thoroughly search the village





SGT. GREEN AND PTE. DAVIES OF "D" COMPANY SEARCHING BEEHIVES IN THE LEFKARA OPERATION

and "D" Company was detailed for the task with two Platoons of "C" Company under command.

The Company, consisting of the N.C.O.s' cadre and the Continuation Platoon, arrived at dusk and set up a bivouac camp before taking over the cordon and curfew duties. Next day a search began of all houses and the surrounding area, during which the usual civilian problems of feeding animals, collecting water and delivering bread were dealt with.

Information kept coming in about possible hiding places for arms, including a message that the numerous beehives in the village might contain weapons and ammunition. Acting on this, a search of all beehives began, but angry bees repelled the searchers, including C.S.M. Perry, who retired to nurse his stings. Some face veils and masks were found and armed with these Detective-Sergeant Willis of the C.I.D., Sgt. Martin and Pte. Davies started prising open the hives while on-lookers kept at a respectful distance. First some empty shotgun cartridges were found and then in rapid succession the beehives revealed what was to be the Battalion's greatest find in Cyprus. This list included 22 lb. of high explosives, an automatic pistol, a revolver, over 300 shotgun cartridges, safety fuse, shot and 82 sticks of dynamite.

Between searching, ambush and foot patrols, lengthy cordon duty and sheltering from the rain, time was found for such pastimes as donkey racing and singing. On May 6 the Company left almost as abruptly as it had arrived after completing a wide sweep of some nearby country, leaving a very shaken and thoroughly searched village pondering the meaning of a new British slogan scrawled in familiar blue paint on the side of the school, which said, "Birmingham for the Cup."

As a follow-up to this operation about a week later the Company patrolled and searched a vast area of mountainous country near Lefkara.

#### "S" COMPANY

Throughout the period covered by these notes "S" Company has been engaged on I.S. duties alongside the Rifle Companies. In addition, we have tried to do some specialist training.

In mid-February Major Kent left the Company. We wish him the best of luck in his new appointment. Major Galvin has taken over command of the Company. At about the same time the M.M.G. and Anti-Tank Platoons sent detachments to Aqaba with "A" Company.

On February 24 the Company took over the duties of Larnaca Riot Company for about three weeks. Much time was spent standing by to deal with disturbances, most of which in the event did not warrant action. During this period we also staged a demonstration. This was designed to show to the students of the Joint Police Army Staff College a Riot Platoon in action in support of a police baton squad. The demonstration had to be laid on at very short notice. At equally short notice we were informed that no less a person than the Director of Infantry, Major-General C. L. Firbank, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., would attend. He showed great interest and carried out a thorough inspection of the combined riot force. The demonstration went off very well and the Mortar Platoon, temporarily commanded by Lt. Lloyd, dealt firmly with a mob led by a notorious local agitator (Sgt. Higgins), aided by a well-known Irish rebel (Sgt. Redmond). Shortly after this we took part in imposing a curfew—the first in Larnaca.

On March 20 the Company moved out to the rural sector with Company H.Q. at Kophinou and detachments at Athienou, Kalavassos, Lefkara and Pergamos Pumping Station. In addition to providing guards at these places, much patrolling was carried out and an M.M.G. cadre was run. Lt. Lloyd with a small party of "veterans" lightly equipped took to the hills for several days. They returned with nothing more to show for their efforts than several days' growth of beard. Easter was celebrated by more activity. Road blocks and vehicle searches became the order of the day. It appeared that some Units in the area had been granted Easter leave. This was evident from the number of Servicemen's cars which passed through our road blocks and from the cryptic comments of the tired and dusty "Die Hards" manning them. After three weeks in the rural sector we returned to Alma Camp for a fortnight in reserve.

On April 27 we returned once more to Larnaca as Riot Company. Before the Company debussed a disturbance started, but Lt. Humber and the Mortar Platoon quickly had the situation in hand. This was followed by four bomb incidents during the day and the murder of Mr. Wideson, a prominent pro-British Larnaca business man, the following day. Part of the town was placed under curfew. This was imposed jointly by "C" and "S" Companies. The curfew area was quickly wired off from the rest of the town by the Assault Pioneer Platoon under 2/Lt. Syers. Throughout this period there was much to do and too few people to do it comfortably.

On May 18 the Company moved once again to the rural sector. Ptes. Denton and Bowell were injured in a road accident, but are recovering. C.S.M. Kenrick also went to hospital but fortunately is back with us.

Organised games have suffered, but swimming has become popular. The Company now owns a good stock of under-water swimming gear, which is in great demand. One wag has suggested that we should raise an undersea Support Platoon! Perhaps we may. We are not without experience of doing the impossible here in Cyprus.

#### MORTAR PLATOON

Ours is a monotonous story of duties of every kind, but the Platoon has surpassed itself in good humour in every new frustrating situation. We almost had a one-day holiday for winning a Company tent and garden competition, but the day ended abruptly at 0930 hours when we were recalled from bathing at Dhekelia to deal with a riot in Larnaca. We are still looking forward to the holiday!

Since February we have managed two weeks' valuable training at Pyrga, we have also fired twice at Goshi range. On the first occasion two or three Cypriot shepherds must have thought their last hour had come; Sunray, call-sign 5, certainly did and retired to the B.M.H. the next day for three weeks' recuperation!

The remainder of this period has been spent at Larnaca, at the Western Sector stations and at the present time Pyla detainees' camp. Larnaca provided the Platoon with its first chance of getting close to a student riot, which took place on the morning of our

arrival and touched off over two weeks of trouble which lasted our stay. The riot was great fun and accounted for one or two scalps (theirs) and a few arrests.

At Kophinou it was reported in the early hours of the morning that terrorists had burned down Pyrga police station. A strong patrol was sent out, but found nothing more than two very frightened auxiliary policemen and a slightly charred door.

On our return to Alma Camp we had a comparatively peaceful stay, apart from both Sunday nights which were spent on mobile patrols in Larnaca.

The move to Horrocks Camp was not so uneventful, for the following morning the Wideson incident occurred.

Albuhara Day fell during this period and we celebrated until about 1830 hours, when the Company was sent out to cordon Larnaca. When we returned to Horrocks Camp our Albuhara evening was ruined. Pte. Cludera became the Platoon's first casualty when hit on the head by a large stone outside St. Lazarus Church. Fortunately he has now fully recovered. On the next move round the Platoon split up between Lefkara and Kalavassos police stations. At Lefkara L/Cpl. Bracey distinguished himself as chef, making "compo" almost unrecognisable. He also horrified the remainder of the guard by keeping his pet snake in the guardroom. During this period Pte. Denton had an unfortunate accident with his "champ," resulting in the loss of one finger. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to health.

The only sporting activity has been swimming, and most of the Platoon have become adept in the use of underwater masks and breathing tubes. We have recently lost, temporarily, quite a large proportion of the Platoon. L/Cpl. Lawrence and Ptes. Boxer, Field, Garvey, Harwood and Murray being attached to "A" Company in Aqaba, and L/Cpl. Smallbone to "D" Company as an instructor.

Sgt. Young has left the Platoon, but we still hear his familiar voice as he is now with Company H.Q. Pte. Carey has left us for "H.Q." Company to become Officers' Mess waiter. Sgt. Redmond, Cpl. Brooks and Pte. Turrill have all returned to civilian life and we wish them all the best of luck in their respective jobs.

#### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

At last we are operating as an Assault Pioneer Platoon, and the arrangement whereby a Section was attached to each of the other three Platoons for operational purposes has ended. However, from time to time we have had to provide mine detector teams to assist other Companies in the searching of particular areas. The people chosen for these tasks seemed to have enjoyed themselves, some with success. First Pte. Hughes found a shotgun in a field near Xylaphagou on a search with "B" and "D" Companies; followed by Pte. Tree who found six rounds in a tin on a search in Larnaca with the Company. L/Cpl. Love found one bag of gunpowder (without the use of his detector) on the search carried out by "B," "D" and "H.Q." Companies at Lefkara. More recently Pte. Hobbs found a 2-inch mortar bomb whilst carrying out a search of



Kornos. The detectors have been effective despite certain difficulties.

At the moment the Platoon has become interested in underwater activities, and snorkel outfits have become popular, though we are not yet experts in this form of sport.

On a more serious note, we congratulate L/Cpl. Charles on his promotion to Corporal, and Ptes. Hyam and Hossack on their cadre results and subsequent appointment to Lance-Corporal.

In the middle of May Cpl. Marshall went home. We wish him the best of luck in civilian life.

We were sorry to lose Pte. Bowell again after his injury in a road accident; especially after the famous arm, which has now been in plaster for 12 months, had nearly healed. We only hope his stay in hospital will be short, and that soon he will rejoin us.

#### ANTI-TANK PLATOON

After the operation "Plum Duff" the usual round of duties continued, and shortly afterwards the Platoon was reduced in numbers by the departure of a Section under Cpl. Wadmore to Aqaba. They will be permanently attached to "A" Company for operational purposes, and we hope that during their stay they will be able to continue their training. They certainly seem to be enjoying themselves.

Here in Cyprus we have completed a three-week cadre, the highlight of which was the sub-calibre firing practice on Richmond Range whilst the Company was in Larnaca.

Recently, the Platoon has been split up amongst the other three Platoons to make up their numbers for I.S. operations.

In early April we welcomed our new Platoon Commander, Capt. Hodge, but almost immediately after he arrived he was posted to the Secretariat in Nicosia, where we gather he will remain until early September. We hope that by the time he returns the "famous" carriers will be in good order after the hard work put in on them by Ptes. Wigzell and Bicknell and Cfn. Harrison.

Finally we congratulate Pte. Strickland on his cadre result and subsequent appointment to Lance-Corporal.

#### SPORT

Opportunities for organised sport have not been many and it is only through the determination of Mr. Jackson that the Battalion has been able to field a hockey XI on a number of occasions. For the rest it has been basketball and swimming, with excellent facilities for the latter.

#### Hockey

Under present conditions in Cyprus hockey fixtures are difficult enough to arrange, and fulfilling them even more so. Nevertheless, in our first season we managed to play 13 Battalion matches, only two of which were played at Dhekelia as our ground has not yet been built.

Our record for the season (played 13 matches, won 6, drew 2, lost 5) is not up to our usual standard as we

have not been able to field our strongest team. Every game showed two or three changes from the previous team.

We did, however, have three "ever-presents" in our Battalion XI. They were Cpl. Maloney (who was our leading goal scorer with 19 goals) and our reliable pair of backs, Cpl. Ingram and Bds. Torrie.

The departure of C/Sgt. Thorogood meant that we had to find another goalkeeper. Pte. Elford, Bds. Hazell and C.S.M. Shrubbs all played in various matches. The latter was the most successful as he covered the largest area!

Of our other players: Capt. Carter still shouts "On, on, on" (and several other things) when we start pressing. The Quartermaster still plays a very steady game (in spite of his advancing years and arduous job). Capt. Marciandi still has the longest stride and reach in the game.

L/Cpl. Wisson is the most improved player; Sgt. Taylor has "had it" when the temperature goes above 75° F.! Lt. Hayward still falls over the ball from time to time and says the most rude things. C.S.M. McMillan makes all too rare appearance these days (far too busy!). Bandmaster Jackson is still responsible for organising the 11 players on the field for each game.

Sgt. Davies and L/Cpls. Carson, Rose and Hossack have been admirable reserves, turning out frequently at short notice.

The most important of our fixtures was our match against the 40 Field Regiment in the first round of the 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Major Units Knock-out Competition. Unfortunately we were soundly beaten 6—2 in a rough match. (The Gunners eventually reached the final in an island-wide continuation of the tournament, only to lose to the R.A.F.)

For our return match against the American Academy we fielded a young soldiers' team who won 4—2.

We concluded the season with two matches with the Royal Leicesters. Here honours were even as we each won our away fixture. At least we have tried to play hockey despite difficulties.

#### Results:

FIXTURES (1955-56) CYPRUS				
Versus	Home or Away	Result	Goals For	Goals Against
40 Fd. Regt., R.A.	Away	Lost	0	2
Larnaca Hockey Club	Away	Won	7	1
2 R. Inniskillings	Away	Lost	3	7
Larnaca Hockey Club	Away	Drew	4	4
American Academy	Away	Lost	1	2
2 R. Inniskillings	Away	Won	7	3
Larnaca Hockey Club	Away	Won	9	1
American Academy	Away	Won	4	2
Larnaca Hockey Club	Away	Won	3	2
40 Fd. Regt., R.A.	Away	Lost	2	6
2 Wels. Regt., R. Sigs.	Home	Drew	3	3
1 R. Leicesters	Away	Won	4	1
1 R. Leicesters	Home	Lost	2	7
Total			49	41

#### BATTALION ATHLETIC NOTES

No official athletic meetings have been possible owing to the situation, but Dhekelia Garrison kindly invited the Battalion to enter individuals for their sports, held on Whit Monday, May 21, 1956. On the day only four members competed, but they did well.

#### Results:

100 yds.	1st	Cpl. Ayto	"S" Company
1 mile	3rd	Pte. Hennebury	"H.Q." Company
High Jump	1st	Pte. Balfe	"C" Company
Long Jump	4th	Pte. Balfe	"C" Company
220 yds. Relay	2nd	Pte. Hennebury	"H.Q." Company
		1st Middlesex	

Middlesex married families were represented among the prize winners too, with a win in the girls' race by Caroline Bellers, five-year-old daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Bellers.

The afternoon was a great success despite everything.

#### LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Cyprus, once the holiday island of the Middle East, can now hardly be considered the ideal place for Servicemen to spend their leave. When leave outside Cyprus is mentioned thoughts at once turn to the U.K., though many are prevented from going home by the cost and length of their leave.

Recently we had the opportunity for ten days' leave and decided to spend it by visiting some nearby countries. We sailed, very cheaply, to Beirut in the Lebanon and spent several days there. Being the chief resort of the Eastern Mediterranean, it sports large numbers of American cars, modern hotels, night clubs—a welcome break from Cyprus, despite its high prices.

## Depot Notes

#### EDITORIAL

For once the effort required to compile these notes has been lessened by the amount of material available. A great deal has happened at the Depot during the last few months to disturb its traditional peace, which, as all know, is pure fantasy.

Firstly, and by far the most important, are the changes in command which have taken place. We are awaiting the arrival of our new C.O., having very recently bade farewell to Major Waller. His comparatively short tour of command contained many memorable events in the history of the Depot: the Presentation of the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon, the fiftieth anniversary of the Depot at Mill Hill, the bicentenary of the Regiment, to mention only three, all of which were highly successful, largely due to his efforts.

Naturally, we also bid farewell to Mrs. Waller, to whom the thanks of all members of the Cambridge Club are due for the amount of work that she has done since her arrival. We wish Major and Mrs. Waller and their family every success in the future.

The next on our list of "Ave, adque vale" of this edition is to bid farewell to Capt. "Jimmy" Flavell, who is leaving his post as O.C. Training Company to join the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. His enthusiastic approach to training, particularly to shooting, was appreciated by all the Depot staff. We are sorry he is leaving, and wish him and his family every success in the future. Meanwhile, we extend a cordial welcome to Major Jeffcoat and his family who, although he has come to take the place of Capt. Flavell, is at present

Our trip then took us to Dasmascus in Syria, reported to be the oldest city in the world; certainly one which provides the greatest contrasts—magnificent modern streets and buildings, the famous bazaar stretching for miles, and encampments of poverty-stricken Arab refugees on the outskirts of the city. Swarms of troops in modern uniform and equipment mixed incongruously with veiled women who might have stepped out of another century, while posters and slogans demanded war with Israel.

By desert taxi we crossed the Jordan border, manned by the colourful troops of the Arab Legion, and passed through the capital of Amman to Jerusalem. We spent several days visiting the holy places and getting permission to cross "No Man's Land" into Israel. After three days of Anglo-Arab-Israeli disputing we finally entered Israel. Again, a contrast with Arab countries—a busy, modern state with vast agricultural schemes in progress and buildings rising rapidly in the towns and cities.

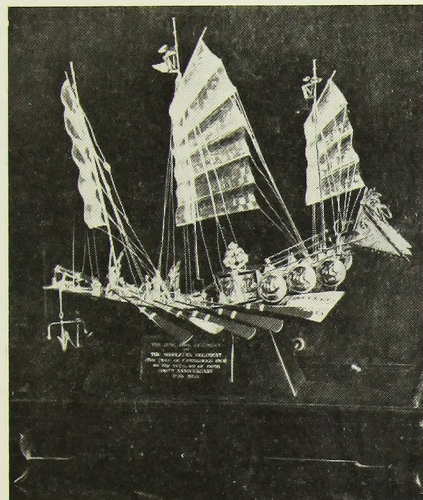
We finally sailed back from Haifa after a most interesting and pleasant leave, which we recommend to others.

J. A. BIRCH  
J. P. BAKER

"wearing both hats" while we await the arrival of Major Hewitt from Oslo. We wish him a pleasant and enjoyable tour.

Again, these last few months have been full of "onces," chief amongst which was the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Regiment on May 12. The celebration was used as a good excuse to give the hallowed establishment the spring-clean of its lifetime, and everything positively glittered on the day. The celebrations actually consisted of the passing-out parade of the 37th Intake of Recruits, which was taken by a well-known Regimental figure in the shape of Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston. Col. Ormiston, in a short address, congratulated the recruits on an excellent performance and welcomed the many visitors and friends to the Depot. The parade was followed by a Drum-head Service on the Square, which was conducted by the Rev. K. C. Oliver, the A.C.G. London District, and the Depot Padre, the Rev. J. Melville Scutt. Large marquees had been erected on the football pitch, where tea was provided for the 900 or so visitors, and all parts of the Depot, as well as a special demonstration of the weapons taught in the recruit syllabus, were open to their inspection. A large number of the very Old Comrades carefully inspected the places where their bed cots had been many years ago, and gravely announced that "times had changed." The celebrations ended with the massed Band and Drums of the 7th Battalion and the 11th Parachute Battalion (8th Middlesex) Beating Retreat on the Square. The weather throughout had proved kind.





The Chinese War Junk presented by the Hong Kong Regiment to mark the Bicentenary of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

Albuhera Day was celebrated in the traditional fashion, with sports in the morning, when the recruits of the 38th Intake showed the remainder of the Depot how to play basketball, despite some cunning substituting, and the Corporals did much the same with indoor hockey. This was followed by the Albuhera Dinner, at which the Commanding Officer read out the many telegrams of "Albuhera Greetings" from many people and places all over the world. The Depot were then allowed to walk out, leaving the field clear for the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes to celebrate their traditional Albuhera evenings.

An event of note on February 16 was the addition of an exquisite piece of work to our already very fine Regimental silver. This was in the shape of a magnificent model of a Chinese war junk, which was presented to the Regiment by the Hong Kong Regiment to mark our bicentenary. It was presented during a small ceremony in the ante-room of the Officers' Mess by Lt.-Col. S. L. A. Carter, M.B.E., M.C., late of the Sherwood Foresters, who had just returned to U.K., having handed over command of the Hong Kong Regiment to Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton. Col. Browne gave a short speech, during which he outlined the great friendship and affiliation between the two Regiments. Col. Carter then handed over the model on behalf of the Hong Kong Regiment to General Bucknall. The Colonel of the Regiment, in his reply, said that he had never seen such an exquisite example of the silversmith's art. He said that the Regiment were honoured to receive such a wonderful gift and that we would always treasure it. The model is retained in the

Officers' Mess, and is shown to every recruit intake on their normal tour of the Regimental Silver.

Before the bicentenary and Albuhera Day, we had a very busy time for a few days, as at the beginning of May we acted as an R.V. and control centre for the large-scale Eastern Command exercise "Try Out," which combined the Civil Defence Corps with the military. For three days the Depot was filled with troops and vehicles, and although we did not take part in the exercise ourselves we were given plenty of examples of what would happen if London came under atomic attack.

We have had many visitors during the last few months, including two parties of young men from large industrial concerns who visited us in April as part of pre-National Service courses run by their firms. We were visited by Lt.-Col. Dickson, the D.O.P.T. Eastern Command, and the officers and senior N.C.O.s of the Depot and 7th Battalion had another in the series of lectures on land/air warfare by Wing-Commander D. W. Edmonds, D.F.C., A.F.C.

The Regiment have supplied many exhibits for the V.C. Exhibition in London from June 15 to July 7. Seven of the Regiment's eleven V.C.s are actually in the exhibition—those of Ensign Down, Pte. Ryder, C/Sgt. Gardiner, Pte. Wright, 2/Lt. Hallowes, A Capt. Toye and Dmr. Stagpoole—and we are expecting Pte. Edwards to be on the actual parade when Her Majesty reviews all the surviving holders of the highest gallantry award.

Looking ahead at the time of going to press, we have before us the immediate prospect of the Regimental Cricket Week, followed very shortly by the At Home and Regimental Tennis Weekend, which is preceded by the Officers' Club Dinner, this year to be held at the United Service Club. We hope to see many old friends at these functions.

#### TRAINING COMPANY

On Thursday, March 29, 1956, Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, M.C., The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), took the salute at the passing-out parade of the 36th Intake of recruits. The Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards were also on parade.

The inspecting officer presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-Round Recruit	Pte. A. Rankine
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. P. Barrett
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. H. Seldon
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. M. Voss

In his address Col. Man complimented the recruits on their drill, bearing and turnout and wished them good luck in Cyprus. Over 100 relatives and friends of the recruits attended to watch the parade, and afterwards inspected the Museum and Barracks. This intake had braved the rigours of the English winter throughout their training and suffered many inconveniences.

On Saturday, May 12, 1956, as part of the bicentenary celebrations, Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), took the salute at the 37th Intake's

passing-out parade. He presented medals to the following recruits:—

Best All-Round Recruit	Pte. J. Sullivan
Best Rifle Shot	Pte. J. Sullivan
Best L.M.G. Shot	Pte. J. Sullivan
Highest Physical Efficiency	Pte. G. Snook

The Band of the Royal Artillery were also on parade and some 700 spectators attended. The weather was extremely kind.

Recent arrivals in the Company have been Cpls. Moran, Young and Plumb from Cyprus. Cpl. Moran is firmly installed at the Guard Room, Cpl. Plumb is a training N.C.O., and Cpl. Young is on an education course prior to going to Hythe. We have said goodbye to Sgts. Nicholson and Davies and Cpls. Sharpe, Savery and Rawlinson. Sgt. Davies is working for the Q.M. before joining the 7th Middlesex, Cpl. Sharpe is awaiting drafting to the 1st Battalion, Cpl. Savery has gone as an officer cadet to Eaton Hall, and Cpl. Rawlinson, we are sorry to say, leaves the Army. Sgt. Nicholson rejoined the Battalion after two tours at the Depot and is missed. All ranks remember with respect his energy and enthusiasm in all spheres of recruit training and his sense of humour. Sgt. Shinn is the next to rejoin the Battalion—he, too, will be hard to replace and we wish him good fortune in Cyprus.

We congratulate the following on their appointment to Lance-Corporal: Ptes. Wollin, Morris, Davies, Friedlos, Kemp and Brown.

The London District Rifle Association annual meeting was held at Pirbright from April 17 to 20, 1956. The Depot fielded a team with the following results:—

Household Cavalry and Special Reserve	
Challenge Cup	3rd
Company Fire and Movement Competition	11th
L.M.G. Challenge Cup (Pairs)	3rd
Unit Challenge Cup	1st
Machine Carbine Team Competition	4th

A total of £32 15s. in prize money was won by the team. This was an excellent performance by the Depot.

The Home Counties Brigade Rifle Meeting took place at Hythe on May 29. Considering that we were one of the unlucky Depots with only one intake of recruits to select from, and that in its third week, the results were satisfactory if a little disappointing. Results were:

Inter-Unit Recruits Match	6th
Depot Open Match	6th (equal)
Face at the Window (Sideshow)—1st Cpl. Linzell	
Pte. Tatton is to be congratulated on being runner-up to the best recruit shot of the meeting.	

Finally we welcome to the Company Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, who has relieved Capt. J. S. C. Flavell. We wish him the best of good fortune during his stay here.

Capt. Flavell's departure has already been mentioned, but the Company join in wishing him especial luck in Cyprus.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

Our account this number opens in mid-February, when the Colonel of the Regiment lunched here on the 16th. He was also here for dinner on March 1,

when we entertained the Mayor and Town Clerk of Hendon and Lt.-Col. Carter, the late O.C. The Hong Kong Regiment.

Col. Browne, Major Waller, Major Marshall, Major Hutchings, Major and Mrs. Thompson, Major Heywood, Capt. and Mrs. Flavell, Capt. and Mrs. Pielow, Capt. and Mrs. Clayden, Capt. Evans, Lt. Pollard and friend attended the wedding of Lt. Fisher on February 11, and Major Waller and Lt. Pollard attended the wedding of Capt. Rutherford on March 3.

Brigadier Green, having been recalled from Jordan, stayed the night of April 5-6. Col. "Fanny" Walden returned from the same part of the world under somewhat similar circumstances, also paid us a visit.

Major Jeffcoat arrived on April 29, and Lt.-Col. Hewitt, as he was then, stayed one night early in May en route for Norway.

The bicentenary celebrations are reported in other columns. As far as the Mess is concerned the Cocktail Party went off well, and the number attending was in the region of 150.

Albuhera Day was celebrated in the customary fashion. The members of the Sergeants' Mess visited us before lunch, and we went to their Mess in the evening before dinner.

The Colonel of the Regiment had luncheon here on May 26.

A coach left the Mess early on June 6 for Epsom. Heavy rain started just before the Derby. The bookies, I think, did quite well out of us, but neither that, nor the rain, damped the spirits of the party.

We were very glad to have with us on this occasion Col. "Jimmy" Reid and his wife, who were over here on a short visit from America. Chris Lawrence was another member of the Regiment who, with a friend, joined us for the day. Altogether it was very enjoyable and it is intended to make it a permanent fixture.

We followed this up with a Guest Night the next evening, when Col. Browne, Lt.-Col. Reid, Lt.-Col. Brinley Ayre and Major Hodding dined in. We were quite a large party for us, as we had seven subalterns here at the time awaiting drafting to the Battalion and East and West Africa.

It is well nigh impossible to recall all our visitors, but there have been many. Lack of space prevents us mentioning them by name.

Improvements in the Mess include basins with hot and cold water in officers' rooms, and the installation of central heating, which we hope will work next winter. Officers' rooms, the hall and passages have also been redecorated.

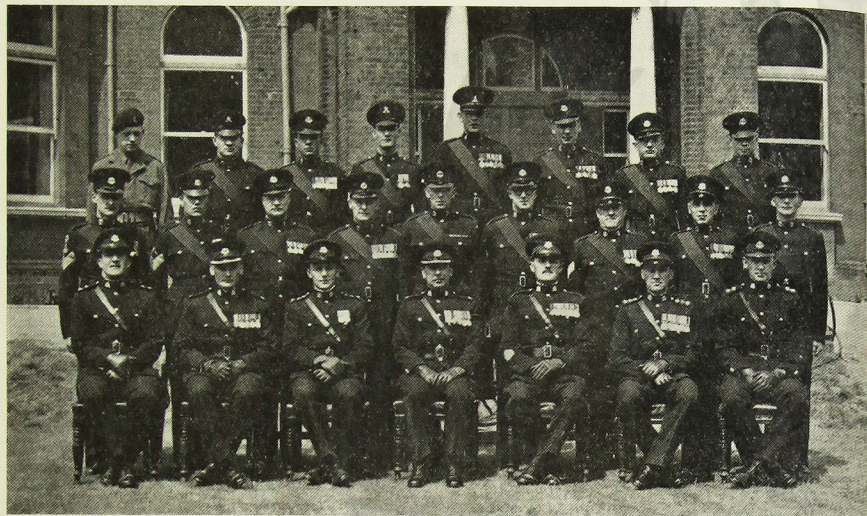
The tennis courts have been relaid with turf and should be fit for play for the tennis tournament at the end of June.

As these notes are written we are just about to embark on Cricket Week, but "Stop Press" news will no doubt give some details concerning this.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

The first event of any note in our calendar for the quarter was the bicentenary celebrations. After the events of the day, which will be described elsewhere,





THE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS. DEPOT THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), MAY, 1956

Back row: Sgt. Chesters (R.A.E.C. att.), Sgt. Inst. Morris (A.P.T.C. att.), Sgt. Partridge, Sgt. Milburn (R.A.P.C. att.), Sgt. White (R.W.K. att.), Sgt. Turner, Sgt. Warner, Sgt. Buckley  
Middle row: C/Sgt. Grogan, Sgt. Simmonds, C/Sgt. Powell, C/Sgt. Hockley, B.E.M., C.S.M. Firman, C/Sgt. Taylor, Sgt. Markham, Sgt. Hope, Sgt. Davies  
Front row: Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Capt. H. J. Evans, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., R.S.M. Donovan, Capt. S. C. W. Weller, M.M., Lt. R. D. Fisher

past and present members of almost every Battalion of the Regiment assembled in the Mess where a hearty session was soon in progress. Many were the cries of distress when it was noticed, "That bus has gone!" It was a good evening and very pleasant to see so many old faces again.

Albuhera celebrations are of necessity usually much quieter in the Depot. We took part in the games during the morning, but with little success, unfortunately.

We paid the traditional visit to the Officers' Mess at lunch time where we toasted "The Regiment," from where we proceeded to the dining hall to join the O.R.s in a toast to "The Regiment." The afternoon was spent by all but a few stalwarts sleeping it off. The evening commenced with a visit by the Commanding Officer and officers, which unfortunately had to be curtailed. But we met later. Someone challenged someone to a game of indoor hockey, to be played at the stroke of midnight. It had everything: Thrills, spills, medicine balls, footballs, mobile collapsible goals. Many a battle honour has been awarded for lesser "engagements," and "those unruly girls behind behind the goals?" So passed Albuhera Day.

Last but not means least in our social events was the farewell to the Commanding Officer, Major A. R.

Waller, M.C. This commenced as a sad event so had to be drowned. The trouble was it was very buoyant. Nevertheless, it sank and after a short delay we escorted the C.O. to the Corporals' Mess Social. Let us take this opportunity to thank the Corporals for a very enjoyable evening. It was rumoured that Carroll Lewis will be visiting us, then the War House and Depot will be losing a brilliant Staff Officer and R.S.M. respectively and the stage gain a song and dance team.

It has again been a period of changes. We extend a hearty welcome to Sgts. Palmer and Simmons. Hello and cheerio to C/Sgt. Martin and Sgt. Reynolds, wishing them well in civilian life and with the 1st Battalion. To Sgt. Nicholson and Sgt. Shinn now with the 1st Battalion we wish "All the best."

In closing we would like to wish every success to Major A. R. Waller, M.C., in his new appointment and to welcome our new Commanding Officer.

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

Since the last edition the Club has lost many old members, and we say farewell to Cpl. "Steve" Savery who left us for the Officer Cadet School, L/Cpl. Goode who is now enjoying the delights of civilian life, and to Cpl. Jack Sharpe, our ex-secretary, who has finally

caught up with the draft (or has it finally caught up with him?). To all those people leaving and to all those we have mentioned we say "Farewell and the best of fortune."

We congratulate the following on their appointments and promotions: L/Cpls. Wollin and Hedgecoe, and we wish L/Cpl. Foster good luck at the Officer Cadet School.

The two latest arrivals are from the Battalion, Cpls. "Les" Plumb and "Gig" Young. They have already made their presence felt in the Mess and I am sure the R.S.M. will be grateful for two more to add to his nearly empty Duty Book.

We note that "Les" Sharp has left the band of the "Happy Free" to embark on what we hope will be a very happy marriage.

While on the subject of marriage we must mention that Bruce Tarry has at last lost that worried look and is now the proud father of a baby son, and I might add that the baby was nine days absent but it is now settling down to military life.

In April we held the first of our social evenings, although a lack of the female species held up proceedings, but not for long for within a short time the Band had dancers on the floor and with the beer flowing freely the evening ended happily.

Our social in May, however, was a much more ambitious affair with a delightful band provided by one of the recruits. There was a no less delightful cabaret which sang the well-known song "Frankie and Johnnie," which was repeated whenever there was a lull in the proceedings. If the future socials reach this standard we shall have a merry time.

We are now faced with the Annual Administration Inspection, which will doubtless give members of the Permanent Staff the chance to show their wings. Any apprehension caused by this fear should be quickly dispelled by anticipating the annual outing which falls shortly after the "Admin."

P.S.—We are very interested to hear about the strange noises reported to be issuing from the Guard Room. I believe that the root of this hubbub is a new personality called "Jim." Welcome home, Jim, and may your days at the Depot be happy ones.

#### OLD COMRADES

We continued our meetings on the last Saturday of each month throughout the winter, but with disappointing results, partly through the weather. The A.G.M. held in the Crawford Hut on Saturday, March 24, was attended by seven members. It was decided that due to the rare attendance at meetings of the committee the running of the Club should be vested in the Chairman (Mr. H. C. Hull, M.M.), Vice-Chairman (Major P. Newman) and the Secretary. A dance and a Sunday coach outing, during the summer months, were also approved.

On May 12 a parade was held at the Depot to mark the bicentenary of the 1st Battalion, and over 60 Old Comrades attended as spectators. After a most enjoyable tea on the football pitch, and a quick inspection of Barracks, many adjourned to the Crawford Hut for

the evening. Thanks largely to the generosity and effort of the Commanding Officer, the Secretary and the R.S.M. (not to mention the prisoner) this has all been redecorated, the bar redesigned, all the pictures rehung, new curtains made and a new carpet and some new chairs provided. The whole Club is now far more cosy and hospitable, and a print of the new picture of H.M. The Queen, painted by Pietro Annigoni, reigns majestically over the room. Many have admired this portrait, including General Bucknall, who visited us on May 12. Our May meeting held on May 26 was poorly attended but none the less amusing—the ladies present seemed to enjoy themselves and were not to be outdone at poker dice and darts. They seemed to win most of the prizes in the raffle, too.

"Old Bill" Cox celebrated his golden wedding early in April and many Old Comrades attended his excellent party. He is one of our most regular members and rarely misses a meeting.

We end on a sad note. At our June meeting we shall be saying farewell to Major A. R. Waller, M.C., who has completed his tour at the Depot. He has taken a keen interest in the Club throughout his two years as our President and has attended many of our meetings. He has been largely responsible for the improved amenities of the Club, especially the recent redecorating. We wish him every success in his new appointment and hope he will accept our open invitation to our monthly meetings.

#### SOCCER

The start of the second half of the season saw the finish of our run of victories and proved nearly as disastrous as our start of the season record of five defeats in a row. In four games we lost four times. However, before the end of the season the team improved sufficiently to win four matches in a row and finish 6th out of the ten teams in "C" Section of the London District Mid-Week League. Had we had sufficient time to play our outstanding fixture with Kneller Hall we might have finished 4th. Non-league fixtures seem to produce the best results from the team as we managed to defeat C.I.D. Hendon twice and R.A.E.C. Beaconsfield. Perhaps our players are overawed by the league atmosphere and black-clad referees.

S.I. Morris was unable to play regularly in the latter half of the season and was sadly missed, and L/Cpl. Wright's captaincy was beyond criticism—he was given admirable assistance by the rest of the team, especially Pte. Dooler whose rustic language on the field savoured more of Tidworth than Arsenal. L/Cpl. Sharp spent most of his time in goal, but occasionally entered the half-back line to allow Pte. Baggle to practise his acrobatics there. The recruits have been well represented throughout the season—Ptes. Lenihan, Leece, Snook and Warren doing well.

Results of the season's later matches were:

Depot v. 12 Vehicle Depot Workshops, R.E.M.E.	Lost	1-8
Depot v. Guards Depot "B"	Lost	1-7
Depot v. "H.Q." Eastern Command	Lost	1-5
Depot v. Guards Independent Parachute Company	Lost	0-2
Depot v. C.I.D., Hendon (friendly match)	Won	5-3
Depot v. Household Cavalry Cadre	Won	13-1
Depot v. C.I.D., Hendon (friendly match)	Won	9-0
Depot v. R.A.E.C., Beaconsfield	Won	5-3



## HOCKEY

The second half of the season was marred by appalling weather, snow causing many fixtures to be cancelled, and non-availability of players on both our own and our opponents parts. But for the replay of the semi-final of the London District Knockout Competition, when the Depot beat H.Q. Eastern Command at Hounslow by 3 goals to 2 and the final when we lost by 5 goals to 1 to Depot The East Surrey Regiment at Burton Court, only one of our remaining ten fixtures was played—a bitter disappointment.

We were lucky to defeat Eastern Command by the odd goal in the replay for it was a very close match. Capts. Weller, Clayden, Evans and Williams all played extremely well and were well supported by C/Sgt. Grogan, Pte. Lakin and L/Cpl. Ambler. The score in the final does not do us full justice, for it was a very close game played on a rock hard pitch with a cricket ball—not ideal conditions. However, it was an enjoyable match and the team fully appreciated tea afterwards, our opponents preferring to return to Kingston for their celebration. We lost our remaining match v. London District by 3—5 at Whetstone with a scratch team.

## OTHER SPORTING EVENTS

After much canvassing and scraping of the proverbial barrel the Depot produced a rugger XV on February 29 for a friendly match with H.Q. Eastern Command on their ground at Hounslow, which was enjoyable if not successful. The Depot scored first but were beaten by 31 pts. to 9. However, from this match we were able to select a good seven for the London District Sevens, but we were beaten 14—0 by "D" Division of the Metropolitan Police, the eventual winners and the reigning police champions.

Ptes. Wadham and Devonshire, having won their weights in the London District Boxing Competition, went forward to the Eastern Command Championships, Wadham winning his weight and Devonshire losing a good fight in the semi-final. In the Army Championships that followed Wadham did all he could to knock out his opponent in the final and lost a close fight on points.

On Albuhera Day S.I. Morris introduced us to his six-a-side indoor hockey, which everyone played with considerable vigour and thoroughly enjoyed. An excellent wet weather game for the winter.

The newly-laid hard tennis court beside the Sergeants' Mess has not yet been used, but we are hoping for at least one entry in the Army Championships.

## THE DEPOT POST BOX

From the 31st Field Regiment, R.C.A., C.A. (M.), from its headquarters in Sarnia, Ontario, comes greetings and an announcement of a change of command, Lt.-Col. S. H. Coleman, M.B.E., E.D., is now retiring after some 35 years in the Canadian Army. His successor is Major Buchner, M.C., C.D.

The R.H.Q. with the 12th Battery will be located in the Dundas Street Armoury in London, Ontario; the 26th Battery will remain here, and the 48th Battery will be in Watford, Ontario.

The Army Art Society is holding its 25th annual exhibition in London during October, 1956. Intending exhibitors are invited to apply for particulars to the Honorary Secretary, The Army Art Society, 1 Durham Place, London, S.W.3.

The fourth post-war Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo takes place at Woolwich Stadium from September 12 to 15. Enquiries to Artillery House, 58 Woolwich Common, London, S.E.18.

The Army Cycling Union (The War Office (A.S.C.B.), Stanmore, Middlesex) invites applications for membership from keen cyclists at present serving. For information reference its activities please apply to the Hon. General Secretary.

The Officers' Pension Society informs those interested that the 1956 Pensions-Increase Bill is not yet law, but it has passed its second reading in the House and is now in its "Committee stages." As matters stand at the moment, only those officers over 60 years of age will benefit. The Society is far from satisfied with this restrictive age limit and the 6 per cent. increase for those who retired with less than 20 years' service, and have made strong representations to the Minister of Defence regarding these points. At the time of writing the matter rests there.

Major Peasley writes from Hong Kong, and the photograph taken on Albuhera Day, when the O.C.A. branch to which he is secretary dined together, shows how well it was attended. Following his suggestion, we are prepared to use this "Post Box" as a means of putting in touch those who are separated by such a great distance, and who in the past knew one another. In the meantime, Major Peasley's address is Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, Lyemum Barracks, B.A.P.O.I. Oh! and we send him our good wishes.

G.W.K.



Photo: South China Morning Post, Ltd.

## REUNION DINNER, HONG KONG, MAY 16, 1956

Left to right: Mr. W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., J. Bull, L. Rowlands, Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Mr. H. M. Howell, J. Lapsky, Major H. A. de B. Botelo, M.B.E., T.D., Major A. E. Peasley, Capt. C. H. Mixville, M.C., Mr. F. J. Wakefield, T. W. Carr.

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

## EDITORIAL



The Annual Administrative Inspection of the Battalion took place on March 1. Brigadier D. G. Moore carried out the inspection. The Battalion received a very satisfactory report.

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden passing of Mrs. Poulter on May 7. Drum-Major

Poulter was caretaker at Hornsey from 1949 to 1953, and many officers and Sergeants will remember Mrs. Poulter with affection and gratitude for the way in which she catered at Hornsey on many occasions. The Commanding Officer was represented at the funeral by the Adjutant. Drum-Major C. Holdford, B.E.M., attended, as did Mrs. E. J. Pike, the R.S.M.'s wife.

On May 12 the Band and Corps of Drums took part in the bi-centenary celebrations at the Depot. Both combined with the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex) to Beat Retreat, and the Band afterwards played for the Cocktail Party in the Officers' Mess.

On June 2 a ceremony was held at "A" (Highgate) Company to celebrate the official return to the Battalion of a Commemoration Stone set in the Old Drill Hall of the 14th Middlesex (Highgate) Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1859. This drill hall was demolished in November, 1955, and Sir Roger Cholmeley's School at Highgate, the owners of the site on which it stood, offered the Stone to the Battalion. Our thanks go to Major G. A. H. Bower, M.C., T.D., for arranging its return through the offices of his brother, Mr. Christopher Bower, who is Clerk to the Governors of the School.

Brigadier S. H. Longrigg, O.B.E., D.LITT. (Chairman of the Governors of the School), formally handed over the Stone, recalling how, as a small boy, he often passed the Stone without realising its significance. "I never realised that more than 50 years later I should be handing it over to where it rightly belongs," he said. He also recalled the association which the staff and the boys of Highgate School had had with the Middlesex Regiment since a cadet corps was formed at the close of the last century, when all the officers of the corps were also officers of the Regiment.

The Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, Col. J. K. Maitland, M.B.E., M.C., T.D., receiving the Stone on behalf of the Battalion, said that when the 14th was raised it used Highgate School's cricket field for drills and the pavilion as its headquarters. Later, through arrangements with the governors of the school, it took over the premises in Castle Yard. After 20 years, more commodious accommodation had to be found, and the present drill hall was secured.

Referring to the distinguished service of the Middlesex Regiment, Col. Maitland said that the 17th Battalion

had seen as much active service as any Battalion in the British Army, and that the Stone will serve as a reminder to all those who visited the hall of the close connection between the Regiment and Highgate School.

After the ceremony at Highgate the Band and Drums Beat Retreat in the Priory Park at Hornsey in front of a large gathering of official guests, friends and ex-members of the Battalion, as well as many local people.

The day concluded with a Cocktail Party in the Officers' Mess. The Sergeants' Mess and the Canteen were both open and very full, many ex-members of the Battalion having adjourned there.

The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. H. C. Montgomery-Campbell, M.C., D.D., The Lord Bishop of London, honoured us with his presence. He was our Chaplain from 1926 to 1934 and we were very pleased to see him again.

Other guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey, Alderman and Mrs. N. Muldoon, Col. M. Browne, Alderman M. W. Burns (Lord Lieutenant's representative for Hornsey) and Mrs. Burns, Rev. O. R. Fulljames (Rector of Hornsey and Hon. Chaplain to the Battalion) and Mrs. Fulljames, Brigadier and Mrs. E. E. F. Baker, and Lt.-Col. A. Field (O.C. Highgate School C.C.F.) and Mrs. Field.

Lt.-Col. W. E. Pringle, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and Col. S. Cedric Smith, T.D., former Commanding Officers, attended.

On June 10 the Corps of Drums played the St. Marylebone Branch of the British Legion to a Drum-head Service on the occasion of the Dedication and Presentation of their Standard. The Drum-Major was congratulated after the parade by Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B., M.P.

The Commanding Officer and the Adjutant attended the Annual Inspection of the Highgate School C.C.F. on June 12; Major-General M. M. A. R. West, C.B., D.S.O. (Director, Territorial Army), was the Inspecting Officer. The School's R.S.M., Mr. G. B. A. Chittock, is also the caretaker of our Drill Hall at Highgate and he is assisted in his work with the School contingent by the "A" Company P.S.I.—Sgt. P. Dive.

Annual camp is coming and, though with reduced numbers, everybody is looking forward to the first step towards the return to an all-volunteer camp.

Recent promotions are as follows:—  
C/Sgt. G. Hills, promoted W.O.2 and appointed C.S.M. of "A" Company on June 8, 1956.  
Cpl. C. Robbins, "H.Q." Company, promoted Sergeant on May 15, 1956.  
L/Cpl. A. Sills, "H.Q." Company, promoted Corporal on February 1, 1956.  
L/Cpl. A. Durham, "H.Q." Company, promoted Corporal on June 12, 1956.  
Pte. L. Leighton, "B" Company, promoted Corporal on May 5, 1956.  
Pte. C. Parodi, "H.Q." Company, appointed Lance-Corporal on June 12, 1956.  
Pte. A. Bell, "H.Q." Company, appointed Lance-Corporal on June 12, 1956.

New arrivals include 2/Lt. Hornsby, who joins us after service with K.A.R. on June 26, 1956.

Since the last issue of this Journal the reduction in





Photo: Hornsey Journal, North London Press

#### BRIGADIER S. H. LONGRIGG, O.B.E., D.Litt., SPEAKING DURING THE CEREMONY

From left to right: Capt. J. D. Gummell (O.C. "A" Company); Mr. H. Bedale, O.B.E. (Town Clerk); Alderman N. Muldoon, J.P. (Mayor); The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. H. C. Montgomery-Campbell, M.C., D.D. (Bishop of London); Col. J. K. Maitland, M.B.E., M.C., T.D. (Hon. Colonel); Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D. (Commanding Officer)

part-time service of N.S. men has now become apparent. Training during the out-of-camp period is restricted to volunteers only and attendance at weekends has been small. Nevertheless, the hard core of volunteers have done well.

Attempting to make the evening training periods more interesting, the officers and N.C.O.s joined the Depot on two occasions for lectures by the Wing-Commander Land/Air Warfare from Eastern Command. Lectures and demonstrations have also been given by the Civil Defence Officer for the Borough of Hornsey as an introduction to 3rd Echelon duties. Capt. C. A. Lamb attended a short course on Radiac Instruments and can talk learnedly about tolerance doses and roentgen per hour.

In the Divisional Boxing Championships the Battalion shared the cup with 257 Field Regiment, R.A. Pte. Painter of "D" Company also boxed for the Division in the T.A. Boxing Championships and was unlucky to box in a closely-fought contest.

Two classification weekends were held this year. We now have to use the Purfleet Ranges.

On the weekend April 28-29 several officers attended the 47th Brigade T.E.W.T. held in the Goring area. Saturday was devoted to patrolling, and on Sunday problems of 3rd Echelon duties were studied with the local C.D. and police forces.

Battalion H.Q. in skeleton form took part in the much publicised exercise "Try Out," and some new tricks were learned.

On May 26-27 a very successful W.O.s' and N.C.O.s' T.E.W.T. was held in the Shorncliffe area. Fine weather and comfortable living conditions pleased the 20 who attended.

The Battalion goes to camp on June 23 at Digbait, near Hythe, at a strength of about 230 all ranks.

Since the winter social activities, the Sergeants' Mess has taken to Darts. This game has proved very popular. C.S.M. ("Chick") Etheridge scored a possible of 180, and when asked how he did it replied that he "didn't have his glasses on and could hardly see the board."

Several of the Battalion officers when visiting the Mess were taught the game of "Cricket" on the dart



Photo: Kenneth Prater

#### THE REGIMENTAL BAND AND CORPS OF DRUMS DURING THE CEREMONY OF BEATING RETREAT IN THE PRIORY PARK

board, but their bowling, like R.Q.M.S. Howes and Sgt. ("Sam") Weller, was sub-standard!

The general topic in the Mess at the moment is annual camp, this year at Folkestone, and one of the major social events will be the assault landing in France on the Calais beaches by members of the Mess on Sunday, July 1.

Several ex-members have visited the Mess lately, namely, ex-C.S.M.s Harris and Baker, C/Sgt. Leggett, and Sgts. Leggett and Seymour. Through this column we extend an invitation to all ex-members to pay a visit on any Thursday evening, where they will be most welcome.

We congratulate our newly-promoted member, Sgt. Robbins.

The .22 rifle team retained the Middlesex Challenge Shield for the second year running. The team, as the scores suggest, were on top form in the finals against the 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex).

Score: 7th Middlesex—569. 11th Parachute Regiment—545 points.

The team consisted of R.S.M. E. J. Pike (captain), R.Q.M.S. N. Howes, C.S.M. J. Webb, C/Sgt. M. Leahy, Sgt. D. Weller, Sgt. R. Wotton, Sgt. I. McGlashan, and Pte. J. Bavester.

The shield and individual silver medals were presented by Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, T.D., D.L., Vice-Chairman of the Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association of the County of Middlesex.

As a result of the recent decrease in part-time National Service the strength of "S" Company has dropped from 120 men to about 25. However, towards February of this year training continued on Company lines, each Platoon representing a Company. This was easy, for the remaining members were nearly all N.C.O.s. The Anti-Tank Platoon has been disbanded and Lt. Beaumont and Sgts. Curry and Frazer were transferred into the Assault Pioneer Platoon.

Training has continued in "S" Company since February, subjects being studied such as M.M.G., 3-in. mortar, and patrolling, a hard core of about 16 volunteers attending regularly. The classification weekend was held at Purfleet, and needless to say it rained all the first day; still, the shooting was fairly good. Training reached a height when "S" Company went on a tactical weekend to Pirbright in May to fire the 3-in. mortar, R/L, Energa grenade, 2-in. mortar. The weekend was packed with work—shooting, patrolling and gun drill—and no one had a spare moment, and culminated in a fine flare-up by the 2-in. mortars, which everyone put out. The weather was fine throughout, and as one N.C.O. remarked, leaning back on his blankets after a hard day's training, "and you even get paid for it!"

A similar weekend has been arranged for camp, August 25-26, when the Company is taking the Vickers M.M.G. to fire on a field firing range.

Sgt. Curry's syndicate on the N.C.O.s' T.E.W.T. at Folkestone proved to be the most bloodthirsty imagin-



able by advocating the shooting of prisoners, and by their general morbid enthusiasm!

During this month the Company has concentrated on the M.M.G. drill and on a Sunday exercise at Enfield.

## 16 (MX.) INDEPENDENT CADET COMPANY

The 16th Middlesex Independent Cadet Company forms part of East Area Middlesex Army Cadet Force, and is affiliated to the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (T.A.). The Company's patron is Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.

The Company is engaged in pre-service training for the Army, including the preparation of Cadets for Certificate "A" in Parts I and II. In addition, training is given in citizenship and the Unit is affiliated to the Hornsey Youth Council.

Training has been greatly assisted by Sgt. Weller of the 7th Battalion. In addition, Major Dennis Black has recently completed an instructor's shooting course for East Area Middlesex A.C.F. Major Black, a native of Hornsey, who was at Stationers' School, has recently joined the Middlesex A.C.F. He is a well-known shot.

Lt. J. F. Daffarn, an ex-Home Guardsman, has recently taken over this Company from Major E. J. Dent, who now commands the 13th Middlesex Independent Cadet Company.

The following ex-members of the 28th Middlesex H.G. have also joined the Company: Lt. O. H. Lardner, 2/Lt. V. Williams, W.O. P. Kelly, C.Q.M.S. J. K. McMahon, and S/Sgt. Hoy (previously with the 16th Company).

The following Cadet promotions have been made: Cpl. M. J. Wardley to be Sergeant; L/Cpl. B. H. Dawson to be Corporal.

## 11th Bn. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

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

The summer season is progressing, the emphasis during the early months of the year has been on boxing, shooting and Company exercises.

### SHOOTING

The .22 shooting season concluded with two very enjoyable evenings, the first on February 29, when we had a friendly shoot against the London Scottish on their range in Buckingham Gate, and the second on March 5, when we shot against 7th Bn. Middlesex in the finals of the Middlesex Justices' Shield. The London Scottish beat us by a narrow margin and the 7th Bn. Middlesex beat our score of 545 by a score of 567 out of a highest possible score of 600.

The full-bore season started with the first classification on February 11 and progressed with increasing enthusiasm to the Battalion's final meeting on April 28-29. The weather was excellent and the standard of

shooting showed that the Bisley practices were paying dividends. The results were:—

The Weapon Training Cup and all Weapon Training Competitions were won by	"B" Company
Round Aplication	"B" Company
Volongdis	"B" Company
Best Pair	"S" Coy.
Queen Mary Rapid	"H.Q." Company
Queen Mary Snap	"H.Q." Company
L.M.G.	"B" Company
Best Pair	Cpl. Parsons "D" Coy.
China Cup	L/Cpl. Kilby
Shooting Cup	"B" Company
Hamilton Leigh	"D" Company
L.M.G. Match	"D" Company
Sergeants' Mess Cup	Sgt. L. Wood
P.S.L's Cup	C.S.M. R. Roberts
Officers' Cup	Major I. D. Brotherton
Best Other Rank (Sgt. and W.O.)	C.S.M. Tucker
Best Other Rank (Cpl. and below)	Cpl. Young

The Battalion was well represented at the 44th Parachute Brigade rifle meeting at Ash Ranges on June 16-17, entering full teams for all events. The weather was bad but the teams enjoyed themselves and succeeded in coming third in the Sten match, and in the Queen Mary matches. Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, O.B.E., T.D., had the third highest individual score in the Brigade.

The Battalion are sending L.M.G. teams to the T.A.R.O. meeting at Bisley during July and are also entering for the 44th Division rifle meeting on September 8-9, at Hythe. The Battalion is, of course, shooting in the Middlesex County rifle meeting later on in the year.

### BOXING

#### INTER-COMPANY BOXING TOURNAMENT

The Battalion Inter-Company boxing tournament was held on Thursday, February 3, and was won by "Support" Company with nine points. "D" Company was a close second with eight points, and "C" Company with six points, third.

Five bouts took place. 2/Lt. Tomlin, "Support" Company (Middleweight) and L/Cpl. Cox, "C" Company (Light-Middleweight) drew walkovers.

The Bantam Weight bout was a first round knock-out victory for Pte. Ralph of "Support" Company over L/Cpl. Watmore, "C" Company. "Support" Company scored another win in the Featherweight contest when L/Cpl. Gordon put Pte. Moon, "C" Company, down for the count in the second round.

In the Light Heavyweight and Light Welterweight contests, both contestants were representing "D" Company owing to a slight discrepancy in the weights of the boxers at the weigh-in. Sgt. Cowell won the Light Heavyweight bout against Craftsman Hughes, on points. Craftsman Hughes put up a splendid performance against a boxer of far greater experience and was commended by the referee. The Light Welterweight bout, an extremely even contest, was won by Pte. Stocking. Pte. Dolan, his opponent, was judged the best loser of the evening.

The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Corby, O.B.E., T.D., gained three points for "H.Q." Company in the last fight of the evening, by outpointing L/Cpl. Day, "C" Company.

After a brief disappearance, the Commanding Officer appeared again in the ring, to present the cups and medals to winners and runners-up.

#### 44TH PARACHUTE BRIGADE BOXING FINALS

These took place at the Duke of York's H.Q. in Chelsea on Thursday, March 22, 1956. The Brigade championship was won after some extremely closely contested bouts by 10th Parachute Battalion with 12 points and with our Battalion second. During the day Sgt. Haines, of "C" Company, won the Welterweight bout in the semi-finals.

The finals took place in the evening with the Battalion represented in almost every weight. The results were:

Bantam: Pte. Ralph ("S" Company) beat Pte. Spivey (10th Para.).

Featherweight: Pte. Marrable (10th Para.) beat L/Cpl. Gordon ("S" Company).

Light Welterweight: Pte. Dolan (11th Para.) beat Cpl. Snipp (10th Para.).

Light Middleweight: Cfmn. Beauchamp (44 A.B. Wksp.) beat Pte. Cox, "H.Q." Company.

Middleweight: Pte. Davies (10th Para.) beat 2/Lt. Tomlin ("S" Company).

Heavyweight: Lt.-Col. Corby beat L/Cpl. Payne (10th Para.).

Welterweight: Pte. O'Callaghan beat Sgt. Haines ("C" Company).

The standard of boxing throughout the evening was extremely good and it is difficult to pick out individual fights for comment. The bout that will probably be remembered longest was some fine boxing by Lt.-Col. Corby against L/Cpl. Payne of 10th Para. It is probably the first occasion in either the Regular or Territorial Armies that a Commanding Officer has represented his Battalion in the ring.

The last bout of the evening between Pte. O'Callaghan of 10th Battalion, an extremely polished boxer, and Sgt. Haines was magnificent. Sgt. Haines narrowly lost and should be given every credit, as he was making a "come-back" after two years away from the ring and was fighting a boxer very many years younger than himself.

#### 16TH AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL BOXING

The finals of the Divisional boxing took place at the S.A.S. H.Q. on April 21. The Battalion were represented in the Light Welterweight bout by Pte. Dolan who was beaten by Fus. Wilkinson of 16th Para. He showed great courage and determination, fighting on until the referee stopped the fight. In the Heavyweight bout Sgt. Cowell at 12 stone 3 lbs. was just unable to defeat the 16 stone of Fus. Duncan, of 16th Para. Pte. Ralph was knocked out in the first round by Pte. Smith of 16th Para.

On this occasion and on the occasion of the 44th Parachute Brigade boxing tournament, our Band played during the evening.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

On Friday, May 18, 1956, the officers dined in Mess. Their guests were Brig. P. G. F. Young, O.B.E., commanding 44th Parachute Brigade, Col. "George" Arris, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Major "Larry" Dubarry and Major H. Hawkes, M.C., the Brigade Major.

The evening was greatly enjoyed, although the occasion was a sad one as the main purpose of the

dinner was to say goodbye to those commanding the T.A. Brigade before the 11th Parachute Battalion changed to the role of infantry as the 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) in the new 47th Brigade in 44th Division. Earlier in the year, on Friday, March 2, the Mess had a party to bid farewell to Major D. O. Appleton, who had served us so well for over three years as our Training Major. He is taking up an appointment with the Malay Regiment in the Far East. His place is taken by an old friend of the Battalion, Major P. G. T. Bates, who was with the Battalion as its Adjutant some years ago.

Capt. P. G. Hall is to be congratulated on his promotion to Major, an event which has been much celebrated in "Support" Company.

Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby received the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for this year.

#### REGIMENTAL BAND

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 12, the Regimental Band joined the Band of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, to Beat the Retreat at The Middlesex Regiment's "At Home."

It was the last occasion that it was under command of Mr. F. E. C. Law, who, much to our regret, has had to leave the Battalion on taking up an appointment in U.S.A. The Band is now in the capable hands of Sgt. Hart.

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

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

### "P" BATTERY

The Battery has continued its policy of consolidating its state of training for camp. Much emphasis in training has been placed on familiarising gun crews with the new L.A.A. weapons, and all officers have been concentrating on the principles and operation of Radar in its new role in the L.A.A. set-up.

The Battery has derived considerable benefit from visits to the new "cinema" training aid kept by its sister Batteries at Kingsbury. We are informed that as yet the Chancellor has not demanded Entertainment Tax.

The principle underlying all training has been to provide a strong cadre of well-trained N.C.O.s from the volunteer element of the Battery, who will be in a position to take over the "raw" N.S. men on their arrival in camp.

The Battery extends a hearty welcome to W.O.2 Duff on his return to the Regiment.

### "Q" BATTERY

Camp looms on the horizon with awful nearness. There is an air of expectancy about the place. P.S.I. looks haggard, hitherto languid subalterns spring into action, B.S.M. has the bit between his teeth, and the ship is under way.

Two weekends of training at Burnt Farm have done much to our appetites. The mysteries of Radar are providing to be absorbing and are lending a new



interest to an old game. Radar King—Lt. Jaffe—imparts knowledge with the air of a cultured predidigitateur (can't possibly be correctly spelt!), and eager T.A. types assume an air of technical wisdom.

The Sergeants' Mess—with customary virility—have used cowboy and pirate themes to enliven two highly successful socials. At the more recent affair, having walked the plank, the unhappy B.C. found himself lodged underneath a freshly hung cadaver, surrounded by an evil-looking crew of cut-throats. Even the Adjutant quailed.

An old friend in B.Q.M.S. Graham left us early in the year to take up residence in the far north. This great loss was compensated for by the return of B.Q.M.S. Griffiths—so the Battery will still be fed and clothed.

As we go to press, preparations are in full swing for a super-social (perish the phrase). All ranks fandango. More of that and the ups and downs of camp in our next notes.

Now back to the grind—the war must continue. Incidentally we're more likely to win it with more recruits. What about it, you old "Die-Hards"?

J.R.D.

#### "R" BATTERY

There has been little activity since our last report, partly due to seasonal relaxation and partly, no doubt, to the latest reorganisation of the T.A.—which would appear to be seasonal also.

We have spent several weekends training and the response has been good. Our new equipment has stirred up interest and new training devices have revived the more jaded amongst us. We are indeed fortunate that our weapons improve, and do not revert to the more primitive, a fate so many of our T.A. friends have suffered.

We congratulate Lt. Allan Sparke on his recent marriage and wish him, and his wife Ann, all the best of luck, and we hope they will both enjoy many years with the T.A.

Also we welcome 2/Lt. "Rodney" Haynes who has joined from, of all things, a L.A.A. Regiment. We value him highly.

We are in good heart but a bit punch drunk from the body blows and feints of the War Office. Perhaps we shall have a more worthy offering for this excellent Journal next time.

#### 9th BATTALION MIDDLESEX O.C.A.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner took place at Kingsbury T.A. Centre, on Saturday, May 12th.

Col. H. W. W. Gray, M.B.E., T.D., took the Chair and proposed Col. J. N. Lamont, M.C., T.D., to be our President. After a silence to the memory of our late President, Col. G. Beach, our new President was elected and occupied the Chair.

The Treasurer and Joint Secretary gave their reports and the election of committee and auditors was duly completed.

Major H. Hardcastle, T.D., explained the new scheme for the Regimental Association and the rules were agreed. Col. J. Dear, T.D., was elected a Vice-President.

The business of the A.G.M. completed, 150 set down to dinner.

Toasts were proposed for Her Majesty, The Regiment and Absent Friends.

A telegram was read from Her Majesty acknowledging our loyal greetings which had been sent earlier.

In reply to the Regimental Toast given by Col. Lamont, the C.O. of 571 L.A.A. Regiment, Col. A. E. B. Drabble reviewed the work of the past year and prospects for the future.

Major H. Sherwood, T.D., gave the toast of Absent Friends and a wreath was laid at the War Memorial by the Joint Secretaries.

Throughout the Dinner music was played by the Regimental Band conducted by Bandmaster Turner.

The dinner over the "fat was well and truly chewed" over old times and drinks and many old friendships were renewed.

During the evening a cable was read from Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, T.D., who had called on Capt. Vyvyan Holt, C.M.G., M.V.O., who had also sent a letter from Central America conveying best wishes to the O.C.A.

Letters were received from Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Capt. A. F. Mievill, Prebendary The Rev. H. H. Treacher and the Rev. Spooner, expressing their regret for being unable to attend.

#### THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

We have much to report since our last notes. We reported in the last issue that we were in the rehearsal stage for the Annual Review. This took place on March 11, when we had over 400 on parade and our mascot, "Kui Mo Baa," made his first appearance at a Review. The photographs in the newspapers and reports received from many sources indicate that the Regiment maintains its high standard on such occasions. Our motto of "Second to None in the East" could easily be replaced by "All Will Work Out on the Day"!

As soon as the Review was over we started rehearsals for H.M. The Queen's Birthday parade. On the day we had a detachment of 200 in the parade, including the Band and Corps of Drums, commanded by the Regimental 2IC, Major H. A. de B. Botelho, M.B.E., E.D. The Colours were carried by Lts. D. E. Remedios and Leung. It was the first occasion that Lt. Remedios had carried a Colour and the champagne flowed freely afterwards.

Unfortunately our mascot was not allowed to take part in this parade—rumour has it that the mules of the R.A.S.C. were jealous of his ceremonial coat!

On May 30 we had the honour to provide the Guard at Government House. This is the anniversary of the founding of the Regiment and we hope it will become a regular duty. The Guard was inspected by H.E. The Governor, who expressed his satisfaction at their appearance and efficiency—and incidentally gave a free cigarette issue to each member of the Guard.

Training has been progressing along the usual lines with a gradual build-up towards exercises at annual camp. We now hold Officers' and Sergeants' Days

every two months. The last one, held on June 3, was even more successful than those held before. The Commanding Officer, in close liaison with the local agent, arranged for a test barrel of Carlsberg draught beer to be opened, and we all enjoyed free beer at lunchtime.

A second training Platoon camp was held in April. A total of 56 recruits passed out and are now with their Companies. The passing-out parade was taken by the Hon. Colonel, Col. The Hon. Cedric Blaker.

These training camps, which are held at our R.H.Q., are now a permanent feature of our training cycle. All recruits attend one camp before being posted to their Companies.

We have now completed our reorganisation. We now have "H.Q." Company, "S" Company, three Rifle Companies, and one Cadre Company. The Cadre Company has in its midst the training Platoon and a holding Platoon.

The Band and Corps of Drums continue to thrive. They have given concerts in the Victoria Gardens, the Jockey Club and at schools, in addition to their normal military duties. Due to the close co-operation of Mr. Jackson and the Commanding Officer the strains of "Rosa" and other well-remembered tunes from Austria float over our parade ground.

The Corps of Drums provided buglers at the Memorial Services held on connection with Albuhera Day at Sai Wan and Stanley Military Cemeteries. Several officers from the Regiment attended, including Majors Botelho and Quah who will be well remembered by members of the old 1st Battalion. Wreaths were laid by Col. Clayton and Capt. Mievill at both cemeteries during the services.

On Albuhera Day itself a dinner was held by the Old Comrades Association at which Major Botelho was the guest of honour.

We can now report that our "Die-Hard" Kremlin is now complete. Col. Clayton's family has just arrived and they are temporarily installed in the Repulse Bay Hotel. The family of Capt. Mievill arrived with him and now that the junior member has realised how silly it is to fall off walls without a parachute they have settled down in Leighton Hill. Thus our link with the Middlesex is more than ever strengthened.

We all watch the newspapers very carefully for news of the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. We feel sure that they will do well and earn the love and respect of the local people as they have already done here in Hong Kong.

#### NEWS LETTER BY M.B.

This letter covering a long period I am starting at its end.

I have had a long letter from Col. Andrew Man, relating news of a recent visit, as Officer i.c. Records, to Germany when he met many members of the Regiment. He had recently seen at Westbury (near Bournemouth) Maj.-Gen. Coad, and there met Leslie Neilson, O.C. 1st Argyles in Korea, when our 1st Battalion was there. Andrews, who seldom praises, says but for Gen. Coad's excellent leadership the 1st Battalion might well have suffered the fate of the Gloucestershire Regiment, something we should always remember.

In Germany Andrew met John Herepath at his quarters in Hanover, and also our Powell. Both are well and happy. Major Pilley could not be contacted as the club he ran had closed down. At Gladbach H.Q. he met Sgt. "Butcher" Bailey, who runs the other ranks hostel and now has 32 years service with hopes of a long-service award. Many will recall this great character when in charge of the Battalion Medical Centre. In Berlin he stopped with Col. Paison, commanding the Argyles, his first meeting with this Regiment since Korea. The Mess, in which he attended a joyful guest night was 50 yards from the Russian Zone, where care is required to avoid unhappy incidents. He met Brigadier Dick Batten (originally of our 2nd Battalion) at Iserlohn, who in June is to be Deputy Director of Movements in the War Office. Andrew is enjoying his appointment, particularly visiting.

I have heard from Col. Jimmie Reid that he and his wife Barbura will reach Brown's hotel on May 24, and I hope we shall see much of them both.

I heard from Mrs. Archie Stewart expressing her regrets that illness prevented me from staying with them at their delightful home in Clavering. I recovered in two days but was too late to go there.

On May 16, I heard from Charles Whinney of the tragic death of Irene, his wife, of which I will say on more as it appears elsewhere in the Journal. He visited me in May, looking well after staying with the Ginger Lawrences to recover from his loss.

I have heard from Gwen Appelbe, as usual teaching dancing and riding in many local schools near Salisbury, and now the owner of a small car.

I had many Albuhera greetings from officers and other ranks of our 57th and the Depot, and here offer my thanks for their thought for me.

On May 5, Brigadier "Stumps" Green had only recently returned from Jordan after the unhappy events there. He has taken his wife to Paris for a rest after her anxious time in Jordan. He remains on leave for six months, after which we gather a new post will be given to him. We all know his value as a commander, and how much he deserves recognition.

Many older members of the Regiment have suffered great sorrow over the death of Harold Davy, whose obituary appears elsewhere. His medals and commission paper, sent to me at his request, are now in the Depot Mess.

On May 4, I had a letter from Joan McDowell, whose husband was killed at the same time as Pickard Hall (when commanding the 1st Battalion). Her son at Christ's Hospital and her daughter Daphne at her grammar school, are both doing well.

By pure chance I have contacted Napier Rowlett who lives in Cheltenham. In the U.S. club, as is my wont I looked to see who had taken numbers 57 and 77 in the Derby Sweep. His was against 57. I wrote to him and I hope he will return to our fold now.

On April 25, George Duffield reminded me that as a boy he joined the 4th Battalion 54 years before. An old "Die-Hard" indeed.

On May 16, a greetings telegram from Albuhera reached



me from Mr. Chia, secretary of the Malayan Branch of the "Die-Hards." I was sorry to hear about them that Col. Stewart Sutherland was unwell and had suffered much destruction on his rubber plantation which had affected his health.

Col. Samuel attended the Spring golf meeting at Hendon on May 3, with myself. He cannot now play. Only he, Archie Stewart and myself remain alive of those who were with the 77th at Cambridge barracks, Portsmouth, in 1903. Two World Wars have drastically reduced our numbers.

On April 13, Major Frank Lockwood dined in Mess, and I had joy in presenting to him his Army Emergency Reserve decoration for long service—a very attractive order. In the early days of the last war he was P.M.C. here and known to us as "Locky."

On April 7, I heard from Col. Rooke, whose sympathy over the loss of my home and my move to a guest house was very sincere. He, too, has had to dispose of many of his lovely things in Monks Horton and my loss compared to his has been small, but everything as one grows old has a memory, and they can never be recovered now. I still have to answer his questions but pressure of regimental matters of late has reduced the time I can give to private correspondence.

On March 16, I heard from Newton in Galway, asking for news. He was hoping to see Mervyn Crawford and Martha in April, with what results I am unaware. His sons are doing well. Carruthers is at Fort Hall, Kenya, and Brian is a wireless officer in the Merchant Navy, and had recently come from Paris en route to Canada.

On February 27, I heard from the Military Attache in Lisbon, of a celebration of the Battle of Busaco in which our 57th Regiment was involved on September 27, 1810. It took the form of a Portuguese inter-unit cross-country race followed by lunch. At 4 p.m. all assembled at the Memorial when the attache hoisted the Portuguese standard whilst an officer of that Army raised the Union Jack—surprisingly enough the right way up. He hopes in a later year to assist at the ceremony with a British Army representation party of the Regiment involved in the Busaco operation.

On January 31, I heard from Major Bengough from the Veterans' Hospital in Victoria, British Columbia. He was most interested in my account of the 2nd Battalion graves at Spion Kop, and agast at their desolation, now happily repaired.

Geoffrey Kitchener asks me to correct an error in a forces journal that the Regiment was *not* represented at his wedding. It was, Christopher Lawrence, now serving in the Parachute Regiment was his best man. I apologize for the error.

On Friday, February 24, Bill Heywood and myself saw the play "Mrs. Willie" in which Roger Latham takes a leading part, very ably and naturally, as the husband of that lady, played by that gifted actress, Yvonne Arnaud. Professionally Roger is known as Roger Maxwell.

Earlier on February 10, Brigadier Stumps Green, already referred to, wrote to say how sorry he was to hear Bill Heywood was in hospital. This was before the tragedy of the Jordan insult to our British officers had

arisen ending in the sacking of those who had made their army into an efficient force. I have said what is likely to happen to "Stumps," but there is no news yet of Col. Walden's future, another sufferer. Both have borne this ingratitude in an admirable manner.

Aymar Clayton has written frequently about the Hong Kong Regiment, praising his predecessor, Col. Carter, in the highest terms. Under him, the name of our strong contingent in the Island stands high. With him is Chris Mieville, his adjutant and Peasley in charge of the Chinese part of the Hong Kong Regiment whose training he controls. Ian Burrows is on the Island but has just come home to see his mother who is gravely ill.

We were grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Justice Abbott, formerly of the Regiment, at Serenbam, Malaya, on January 13. He served in the first war in Inglish barracks long before his judicial career carried him to high posts in Nigeria, Malaya and Cyprus. He was a faithful member of the Malayan Old Comrades Branch and attended their functions whenever possible. A great gathering of over 100 friends attended his funeral. The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Matthew, said, "He gave unsparingly of his time and money to make the way easier for those in need."

Col. Crawford recently brought to my notice an extract from a book written by Averill Stewart as under: it is part of a letter written by Alice King Stewart of Murdostoun and appears below:

"I am just back from Glasgow where Winston Churchill's lecture was most interesting . . . He pays a great tribute to the Middlesex Regiment at Spion Kop." All members of the Regiment know the history of this engagement, treated very much as it is to other Battle Honours on our Colours, but like El Bodon (a 77th Battle) it has no place on our Colours much to our sorrow.

Col. Clayton to whom I have referred, sent me an account of their Albuhera celebrations, and enclosed local press cuttings. The complete story is in the Colonel's Historical Record Book, but I know many readers will wish to hear of it. The religious services were held on Sunday, May 13, at Stanley and Sai Wai cemeteries where buglers from that Regiment sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille." Prayers for the Regiment were made in St. John's Cathedral by the Dean. On May 16, members of the O.C.A. dined together, 11 in all. Col. Clayton, Capt. Mieville and Peasley all dined at the H.K. Cricket Club and their guest was Major de Barnes Botelho, who is 50, and the only pre-war officer of the H.K.V.D.C. still serving. The service at Stanley was held close to Col. Lance Newnham's grave, who became holder of the George Cross for bravery, while as a prisoner refusing to disclose certain information, even under torture which rendered him unrecognisable before he was finally shot by the Japanese authorities, thus saving many officers including the G.O.C.

Col. Clayton was expecting his wife. They are to move into Repulse Bay Hotel till a suitable quarter is found. He refers in glowing terms to the work of Chris Mieville and Major Ian Burrows on the staff of the command.

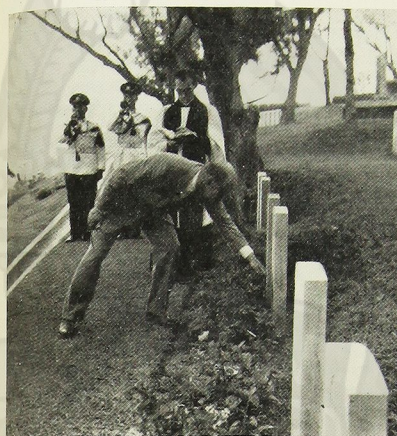


Photo: South China Morning Post, Ltd.  
Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton laying a wreath on Col. Newnham's grave, May 13, 1956

I have also a letter, dated May 26, from Malaya from David Pike. It covers 20 pages of foolscap and is filled with information which all officers having to serve in Malaya should study. He met on May 16 at Kuala Lumpur (at dinner in the Harlequin Restaurant) Dick Smith from Port Dickson, John Bailey of the Royal West Kent Regiment, who served with our 1st Battalion in Austria, Bob Tarrant now an officer in the Singapore Guard, and C.S.M. Cubitt. Dick Smith impressed him by his regimental knowledge which many have realised for years. On this occasion he taught the restaurant band to play the Regimental March. He also met Geoffrey Kitchner and his charming wife. He refers to service in Malaya in glowing terms.

He says the rôle of his Malayan Regiment is akin to "aid to the civil power," but there is now a marked change in the communist attitude. They are aloof to face action, and the removal of food supplies, destruction of their cultivated areas, and cuttings of communications with destruction of their camps and hide-outs is quickly easing our task. He believes resistance is cultivated by Communist powers, and we know how far they extend and how massive are their numbers and resources, and that already they have infiltrated into many Far East lands. He finds the Malay an excellent fighting man, courteous and easily led, and possessing a strong sense of humour. All that is required for success is understanding and leadership, and they are common attributes for all conditions of soldiers. As Mohomedans they are highly religious. They are courageous in battle with good initiative. They learn to handle modern weapons easily and their jungle sense is highly developed. Accommodation for troops is generally good. Excellent opportunities for game shooting of all types exists, but

are difficult to engage in due to the emergency. Cricket—a game David likes and at which he is good—is easy to get. He likes the jungle, but says it wants knowing, yet again a common need.

His Battalion is now in a new camp at Kluang, Johore, undergoing intensive special training, but he has his family with him again.

I am glad to record a recent gift from Capt. Burton, R.N., of the medals, a sword engraved 77th, and a silver cup. These belonged to his relative, a well-known member of the Regiment, Lt.-Col. Burton (nickname Buddha) serving some 50 odd years ago in the 2nd Battalion at Cambridge barracks, Portsmouth, during the command of Brigadier-Gen. Lumley. Another relative was Major George Dawson of the Black Watch, a friend to myself for the past 12 years who owns a house in Finchley, once the property of our Major Dundas, from whom he purchased it.

During the 1914-18 War our Burton commanded the Newfoundland Regiment at Gallipoli. The medals include the South African War with six clasps, and the usual 1914-18 War medals. All the gifts are to be kept at the Depot, and the sword will be used for the orderly officers' duties and for passing out parades, thus maintaining a close connection with our Burton's Regiment. I am not surprised to learn he joined and commanded in the First World War a cavalry regiment for he had been a keen rider, serving in the Mounted Infantry. Only Col. Archie Stewart, Col. Samuel and myself are left in the Regiment who knew him.

## GOLF

### REGIMENTAL SPRING MEETING

The traditional fine weather for this meeting was again maintained and a dull, warm morning developed into a perfect day. All that was needed was decent golf, but taken by and large the standard was even lower than usual.

The only possible excuse was that drought and frost have made the Hendon turf, usually so good at this time of year, a sorry green, grey and brown patchwork, which did not make for confidence particularly round the greens.

Once one had finished with ones card, except as a matter of form, it was possible to enjoy the colourful patches of flowering shrubs, trees and bulbs which abound at Hendon, to look forward with pleasurable anticipation to lunch and to the fact that the afternoon would be a foursome with someone else to share the responsibility if all did not go well.

The scores speak for themselves and McIvor and Waller having both torn up, the Divot went to McIvor who tore up earlier than Waller.

It is an apt sign of the in and outs of our golf that both Latham and Ormiston are past Divot winners.

"Steve" being absent without leave or apology, John Bywaters was left without a partner in the morning, which was sad. Latham and Bywaters played well in the afternoon and their 32 points were a reasonable score, but no one else could even collect 30 points.

The Colonel of the Regiment and Wollocombe Senior started steadily and there was only one point between



them and their partners Jay and Procter to the turn. After than things did not go so well and they only collected 11 points on the homeward journey whilst their partners, despite two 3-points, had disasters at 11th, 14th and 15th, which prevented them reaching 30.

Meanwhile, Col. Browne and Lt.-Col. Samuel wandered from vantage point to vantage point encouraging the disheartened competitors, and Mrs. Worton having watched her husband for a while found a convenient seat and let him get on with his troubles untroubled.

After tea Mrs. Worton kindly presented the prizes, and Capt. Guest thanked Major Clark and Hendon Golf Club for their contribution to another pleasant day.

#### RESULTS SCRATCH AND HANDICAP COMPETITION

	Gross	H'cap	Nett
Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston	87	14	73*
Capt. R. D. Latham	85	10	75†
Col. J. K. Maitland	80	14	75
Capt. R. E. Guest	91	15	76
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	80	10	70
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	92	11	81
Brigadier N. P. Procter	91	8	83
Major S. C. Jay	99	15	84
Major G. W. Kempster	102	13	80
Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollockombe	110	18	92
Capt. N. B. McIvor	No Return (Wins Divot)		
Major A. R. Waller	No Return		

\* Wins Scratch Cup  
† Wins Handicap Cup on best last nine holes

#### FOURSOMES—STABLEFORD

Capt. R. D. Latham and Major J. Bywaters	32	Winners
Capt. R. E. Guest and Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	20	Runners-up
Brigadier N. P. Procter and Major S. C. Jay	28	
Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollockombe	25	
Major G. W. Kempster and Col. J. K. Maitland	21	
Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston and Capt. N. B. McIvor	18	

#### REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' CLUB TENNIS WEEK-END

June 30 and July 1

The fact that the Officers' Club tennis tournament was being played while the Regimental "At Home" was in progress served to add to the general air of gaiety at the Officers' Mess on Saturday, June 30. The tennis this year was of a very high standard, and produced several very interesting matches, particularly a gruelling second set marathon between Major Clayton and Capt. Guest in the semi-final of the open singles.

Unfortunately the weather, which had been glorious on Saturday afternoon, turned for the worse on the Sunday and there were only two matches completed, the open singles final and an eliminator in the Mill Hill Plate competition. It then started to rain in real earnest, and all plans of fitting in matches between showers were cancelled, thus abandoning the remainder of the Mill Hill Plate and the doubles competitions.

The results in the open singles were as follows:

#### First Round

- Capt. Guest beat Major Waller, 6—4, 6—1.
- Major Clayton beat Lt. Norsworthy, 6—4, 6—0.
- Major Martin beat Capt. Evans, 6—0, 6—3.
- Major Marshall beat Lt. Pollard, 6—0, 6—2.

#### Semi-final

- Major Martin beat Major Marshall, 6—1, 6—3.
- Major Clayton beat Capt. Guest, 1—6, 12—10, 6—1.

#### Final

Major Clayton beat Major Martin, 6—1, 7—5.

#### CRICKET WEEK, 1956

The cricket this year in both the weather and the results was gloomy. Not a ball was bowled in the first two matches and the remaining three were lost.

We were rather under our usual strength, the loss of Pike, Patrick Wollockombe and John Phillips being a severe blow, and it was left to Martin to represent the Wollockombe family this year, which he did by no means unsuccessfully.

The Cryptics declared at 160 for 9 and with John Ormiston going well we looked like getting the runs, but the middle batting collapsed leaving us 22 runs short, Ormiston being still there with 72 to his credit.

Against the Incogs, Honess bowled well in the latter part of their innings taking 3 for 32, but they were able to declare at 191 for 9. Only Attrill and Martin Wollockombe offered much resistance and we were all out for 123.

The I Zingari match was even worse. They declared at 223 for 7 and we could do no better than 107.

#### The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) v. Cryptics

CRYPTICS	
Beard, c Rowson, b Unwin	8
Carroll, c and b Unwin	33
Tucker, c Cullen	10
Bowman, c and b Unwin	10
Oakley, run out	10
Buckmaster, b Raffael	9
Liddle, c Cullen	4
Foot, not out	2
Crawford, b Weatherhead	8
Steele, st Man, b Weatherhead	10
Melluish, did not bat	10
Extras	14

Total (for 9 wkts.) 161

Bowling: Unwin, 3 for 30; Weatherhead, 2 for 12; Cullen, 3 for 57; Raffael, 1 for 29.

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (D.C.O.)

Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, not out	72
Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, c Buckmaster, b Bowman	35
G. Weatherhead, b Bowman	1
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, b Liddle	10
Lt. T. M. H. Wollockombe, c Tucker, b Foot	10
Major C. N. Clayden, c Crawford, b Foot	2
Major S. E. Honess, st Buckmaster, b Foot	13
Capt. H. J. Evans, b Bowman	1
Cpl. J. Raffael, b Bowman	1
Mr. D. Rowson, b Bowman	0
Mr. J. Cullen, lbw, b Foot	0
Extras	3

Total 158

Bowling: Foot, 4 for 20; Bowman, 4 for 35; Liddle, 2 for 43. Result: Lost by 22 runs.

#### The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) v. Incogniti

INCIGNITI	
R. A. G. Prentice, c Unwin, b Cullen	19
G. J. Walker, b Clayden	27
J. C. Hanna, c Attrill, b Clayden	10
A. F. Payne, st Man, b Wollockombe	42
J. F. Lane, c Man, b Wollockombe	21
L. F. Hubbard, c Raffael, b Honess	21
G. Nolan, c Evans, b Honess	18
G. H. L. Rimbault, not out	13
R. H. Martin, c and b Honess	13
G. A. Rimbault, st Man, b Clayden	4
O. G. Batcock, not out	3
Extras	16

Total (for 9 wkts.) 191

Bowling: Cullen, 1 for 57; Lt. Wollockombe, 2 for 16; Capt. Clayden, 3 for 45; Honess, 3 for 13.

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (D.C.O.)

Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, run out	8
Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, b Martin	29
Capt. K. W. Attrill, b Batcock	7
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, c H. L. Rimbault, b Martin	7
Lt. T. M. H. Wollockombe, b Lane	42
Major C. N. Clayden, lbw, b Batcock	10
Major S. E. Honess, not out	4
Brigadier A. E. Green, b Batcock	1
Capt. H. J. Evans, c Walker, b Lane	0
Cpl. J. Raffael, c Payne, b Lane	4
Mr. J. Cullen, lbw, b Batcock	7
Extras	7

Total 123

Bowling: Batcock, 4 for 52; Martin, 2 for 50; Lane, 3 for 19.

Result: Lost by 55 runs.

#### The Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) v. I Zingari

I ZINGARI	
J. Conington, b Weston	47
A. J. Wilson, b Cullen	8
Bardsley, b Wollockombe	8
J. Conington, st Man, b Wollockombe	6
A. Powell, b Unwin	22
R. Rankine, not out	17
R. A. C. Ravenhill, lbw, b Cullen	29
L. L. Robinson, b Wollockombe	49
N. Dawson, did not bat	
G. Morgan, did not bat	
C. Dunlop, did not bat	
Extras	15

Total (for 7 wkts.) 223

Bowling: Unwin, 1 for 52; Weston, 1 for 28; Cullen, 2 for 66; Wollockombe, 3 for 43.

#### THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (D.C.O.)

Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, b Dunlop	18
Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, b Robinson	0
Capt. K. W. Attrill, c Conington, b Robinson	12
Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin, c Morgan, b Dunlop	18
Lt. T. M. H. Wollockombe, b Morgan	2
Major C. N. Clayden, st Powell, b Morgan	17
Major S. E. Honess, b Dunlop	26
Brigadier A. E. Green, c Dawson, b Morgan	1
Brigadier G. P. L. Weston, c Rankine, b Robinson	6
Capt. H. J. Evans, c Ravenhill, b Robinson	0
Mr. J. Cullen, not out	0
Extras	1

Total 101

Bowling: Dunlop, 3 for 37; Robinson, 4 for 17; Morgan, 3 for 38. Result: Lost by 122 runs.

#### 2/10th BATTALION BRANCH THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) O.C.A.

The 28th Reunion Dinner of this Branch of the O.C.A. took place at the Bolton Hotel, Earls Court Road, S.W., on May 12, 1956, when 62 Old Comrades met under the chairmanship of Mr. F. J. Coates.

Although Col. Maurice Browne could not be with us on this occasion owing to the bi-centenary celebrations of the Regiment at Mill Hill, we welcomed amongst our guests Major R. Edmund Orr, M.C., late 2nd Battalion, and the Rev. C. R. P. Anstey of St. Nicholas' Church, Chiswick, W.4. During the evening a tribute was paid by Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C., to the memory of Archie Cumming who died in November 1955, after more than 21 years faithful service as Branch Secretary.

The next Branch function will be the Annual Service of Remembrance at Chiswick Parish Church in November. It is hoped that any 2/10th Old Comrades not in touch with this Branch of the Association will contact the Hon. Secretary, A. D. Scudamore of 209 Sheen Lane, S.W.14.

#### OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, 1956

The annual dinner was held at the United Service Club on Friday, June 29, 1956. Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L., Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and the following attended:

Lt. M. J. Abbott	Capt. A. N. Jordan
Major P. B. Allott	Major R. A. Kaye
Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre	Maj. B. H. Kerr
Brigadier E. E. F. Baker	Col. J. Lamont
Capt. M. E. Baldwin	Capt. C. A. Lamb
Major P. G. T. Bates	Capt. P. J. T. Lane
Lt. M. J. Beaumont	Capt. M. W. Leighton
2/Lt. N. D. Blackburn	Capt. R. J. Leighton
Capt. T. Briggs	Major Sir Arthur Lewey
Major I. D. Brotherton	Col. A. M. Man
Col. M. Browne	Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man
Capt. S. J. Carter	Col. J. K. Maitland
Major A. W. Clark	Major A. T. Marks
Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby	Major P. D. H. Marshall
Major R. J. P. Cummins	Major J. Mayhew
Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear	Major H. N. Macleod Martin
Capt. L. C. D. Dodge	Col. N. Moller
Lt. R. T. Douthet	Lt. M. Norsworthy
Lt. M. P. Easton	Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston
Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis	Major M. F. Pearson
Capt. H. J. Evans	Major G. H. Pereira
Major H. Farrow	Capt. A. G. Petrie
Lt. R. D. Fisher	Capt. B. A. M. Pielow
Lt. Col. G. L. Fox	Lt. J. S. B. Pollard
Lt. R. M. Fox	Capt. A. W. Ramsay
Rev. J. H. Fuller	Brigadier B. B. Rackham
Lt. M. S. Gedy	Capt. B. St. G. A. Reed
Lt. E. C. Graham	Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts
Col. H. W. W. Gray	Lt.-Col. E. W. F. de Salis
Lt. J. G. J. Grobel	Major D. Sax
Capt. R. E. Guest	Major H. Sherwood
Capt. J. D. Gunnell	Major J. N. Shipster
Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall	Major S. H. Short
Major A. A. Hamilton	Major K. Scott Simpson
Major H. K. Hardcastle	Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson
Major G. Harley	Col. W. A. Stewart
Capt. S. P. Hedgecoe	2/Lt. J. M. A. Talbot
Major A. G. Hewitt	Major E. F. Thompson
Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson	Brigadier O. H. Tidbury
Major E. L. Heywood	Capt. W. R. Tomkinson
Lt. M. J. Hickey	Lt. H. D. Tymes
2/Lt. P. G. Highton	2/Lt.-Col. E. J. Unwin
Major G. W. P. Hodding	Major A. R. Waller
Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt	Capt. W. Ward
Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks	Lt. J. F. A. Weil
Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Capt. S. Weller
Capt. H. J. Jennings	Major D. McG. Young

#### "AT HOME"

The "At Home" took place on the afternoon of Saturday, June 30, 1956, at the Depot Officers' Mess, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7, during the first day of the tennis tournament, and was attended by 85 members, their wives and friends and widows of former Club members.

#### STORY OF THE ALBUHERA CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

This ceremony doubtless started nearly 150 years ago, and until 1881 was probably confined to officers of the 57th Foot. Even in my memory any such ceremony of Remembrance took place only in the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, and no one ever called himself a "Die-Hard" unless he was in fact a member of the 1st Battalion. Two World Wars have changed that outlook, and every member of our Regiment now lays claim to that title. Often in stress of battle even as far back as the South African War, the cry has come forth from officers and even lower ranks to remember the name "Die-Hards" won at Albuhera when Sir William Inglis himself used the expression to urge the 57th on that historic battlefield to live up to that title. It was



repeated often in both the 1st and no doubt in the Second World Wars, and braced the hearts of All Ranks in those terrible conflicts in which the Regiment suffered such devastating casualties that Battalions as at Albuhera, often ceased to exist.

The yearly exact procedure followed in the 1st Battalion to commemorate on May 16 those who fell at Albuhera has always been secret, and therefore, should not be copied in other Units of the Regiment, but all feel some suitable ceremony should be used, and many feel some simple but appropriate form of words to explain the toast should be set out, and I have tried to do so. I do not think it need be exactly followed for each occasion must always be a very human and personal matter which the senior Officer of the Regiment present will set out in order to lead the minds of all to this sacred moment.

I suggest as a possibility these words:—

"We are about to drink a solemn and historic Toast in silence in remembrance of All Ranks who fell so gallantly in the Battle of Albuhera, and to promise that whenever we ourselves are faced with battle, however great may be the odds against us, we will follow the example of the 57th at Albuhera and Die hard, and thus maintain for all time that splendid tradition to "Die hard" which Sir William Inglis exhorted all ranks under him to do when he himself was dangerously wounded, and must have known he was very close to death, and might have to face his maker."

M.B.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE" REGULAR ARMY

February 28, 1956

The undermentioned Officer Cadet from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2/Lieutenant, December 16, 1955, with seniority December 16, 1955: Michael George Waite (445995).

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

March 2, 1956

2/Lt. J. M. A. Talbot (434241) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant September 12, 1955, with seniority March 27, 1954.

2/Lt. J. M. A. Talbot (434241) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, December 8, 1955.

#### REGULAR ARMY

March 9, 1956

Lt. L. C. Sharpe (390827) to be Captain, March 1, 1956.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

March 16, 1956

2/Lt. P. A. Highton (436265) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant, November 28, 1955, with seniority July 10, 1954.

2/Lt. P. A. Highton (436265) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, March 8, 1956.

#### REGULAR ARMY

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

March 20, 1956

23113857 Cadet Nicholas Stahl Turnbull (446338) to be 2/Lieutenant, January 28, 1956.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (acting Lt.) T. M. H. Wollocombe (423050) to be Lieutenant, March 13, 1956, with seniority January 21, 1954.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

March 23, 1956

Capt. M. W. Leighton (399762) from Border, to be Captain, February 1, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### REGULAR ARMY

#### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

April 3, 1956

Capt. C. E. Rome, M.B.E. (258958) (Emp. List 3), to be Major, April 2, 1956.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

April 10, 1956

2/Lt. (acting Lt.) P. A. Walden (432810) from A.E. Reserve of Officers, National Service List, to be Lieutenant, February 10, 1956, with seniority July 14, 1955.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. N. R. Murray-Leslie (439687) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, April 1, 1956.

The following officer is awarded the Efficiency Medal (Territorial):

Capt. I. D. Brotherton (121928).

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

April 20, 1956

2/Lt. (acting Lt.) P. J. Langford (429531) from A.E. Reserve of Officers, National Service List, to be Lieutenant, March 14, 1956, with seniority February 20, 1956.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. L. W. Medlock (437738) from Regular Army, National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant, January 31, 1956, with seniority September 11, 1954.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. M. Norsworthy (436255) from Regular Army, National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant, February 15, 1956, with seniority July 10, 1954.

2/Lt. M. Norsworthy (436255) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, February 26, 1956.

#### REGULAR ARMY

April 27, 1956

The undermentioned Major to be Lieutenant-Colonel on the Emp. List (1) on the date shown: A. S. J. de S. Clayton (56005) from Mx., November 14, 1955.

May 1, 1956

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

Major (hon. Lt.-Col.) D. V. G. Brock (91647).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the award of the first clasp to the Territorial Efficiency

Decoration upon the following officer:

Major (hon. Lt.-Col.) D. V. G. Brock (91647).

#### REGULAR ARMY

May 4, 1956

Lt. (Qr. Mr.) S. C. W. Weller, M.M. (426507) to be Captain (Qr. Mr.), April 11, 1956.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

May 11, 1956

2/Lt. L. W. Medlock (437738) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, May 10, 1956.

May 15, 1956

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of brave conduct during a fire in Austria in 1955:

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct  
(Posthumous)

2/Lt. Roger Michael Marsh Heming (433425), The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

23056981 Pte. Gerald Simpson, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

#### COMMANDS AND STAFF

Lt.-Gen. Sir Francis W. Festing, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. (611), late Infantry, relinquishes his appointment as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command, remaining on full pay, May 15, 1956.

Major-Gen. C. F. C. Coleman, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E. (27168), late Infantry, is appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command and is granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant-General May 15, 1956.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

Lt. A. H. Catchpole (418799) from T.A. to be Lieutenant, April 13, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

May 25, 1956

Lt. T. M. H. Wollocombe (423050) from T.A., to be Lieutenant, March 28, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

May 29, 1956

Lt. O. G. Richards (415731) from Active List, to be Lieutenant, April 4, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

#### CLASS III. SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

June 1, 1956

Major K. S. Simpson (242925) (Emp. List 4), from Active List, to be Major, June 1, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

#### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. (acting Lt.) M. Crowder (427395), from T.A., to be 2/Lieutenant (acting Lieutenant), March 25, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

June 12, 1956

Lt. N. D. W. Leak (429129) from Active List, to be Lieutenant, June 13, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

June 19, 1956

2/Lt. M. E. D. Bosworth (438159) from Regular Army, National Service List, to be 2/Lieutenant, February 28, 1956, with seniority October 9, 1954.

2/Lieutenant M. E. D. Bosworth (438159) to be Lieutenant, June 7, 1956.

#### COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE

A good starting point for a review of Cadets in Middlesex is "Cadet Regulations for the County of Middlesex" issued in 1914. These Regulations show that then, as now, control of administration and training was exercised by the War Office and the Territorial Association.

Army Cadets are no new growth—there are references to them as long ago as the reign of James I—but in Victorian times they became established by attachment to the Volunteer Battalions and all are now affiliated to Units of either the Regular or Territorial Army.

In 1914 the Middlesex A.C.F. Units were organised in Independent Companies and their strength was in the region of 700 all ranks. The subsequent organisation in the county has varied between Battalions and Regiments, but in 1956 all are again organised as Independent Units, all being affiliated to their local Territorial Army Units. Similarly, the strength of the county force has fluctuated, rising during times of war so that at its peak at the end of the Second World War it was almost 6,000 strong, and today is only slightly stronger than it was in 1914, all of which reflects the mood of the times.

The largest single factor in the continued success of the A.C.F. is the strength and calibre of its officers. Their status has passed through many changes. Officers serving in the Cadet Forces today are commissioned into the Territorial Army General List. National Service officers may volunteer to serve the A.C.F. during their part-time service. So too, may National Service men in the capacity of Adult Instructors. The need for Adult Volunteers in all categories is a constant one.

Service to Cadets and with Cadets is not confined to uniformed personnel. There is scope for men in a civilian capacity as instructors and coaches in shooting, boxing, physical training and handicrafts. In many Cadet Units the success of its club is attributable solely to the devoted service of the wives or daughters of officers and other adult members, or to local ladies who voluntarily give their time in the preparation and serving of refreshments.

With some 26 Independent Cadet Units throughout the county, divided geographically into three areas for administrative purposes and to simplify the supervision of training, no youth between the age of 14 and 18



years needs to seek very far to find a Cadet Unit in which there will be opportunity to learn the basic principles of skill-at-arms and good citizenship, and where he will have the opportunity of meeting others of his own age and of laying the foundation of friendships which are necessary for the development of an alert and mature kind.

The following Units are affiliated directly to the Regiment or to Territorial Units of the Regiment:—  
*Affiliations to the Regiment:*

77 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company (Feltham).  
*Affiliations to Territorial Units:*

(a) To 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (T.A.):

16 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company (Hornsey).

Tottenham Grammar School Independent Cadet Company (Mx. A.C.F.).

Tottenham County School Independent Cadet Company (Mx. A.C.F.).

Lascelles School Independent Cadet Company (Mx. A.C.F.) (Harrow).

(b) To 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (8th Middlesex Regiment) (T.A.):

13 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, Para. (Edmonton).

23 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, Para. (Wealdstone).

72 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, Para. (Hounslow).

(c) To 571 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (9th Middlesex Regiment) (T.A.):

32 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Edgware).

33 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Kingsbury).

94 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Wembley).

Other Units in Middlesex Army Cadet Force are located as follows:—

10 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Tottenham)

12 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.E.M.E. (Enfield)

21 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Harrow)

25 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.A.S.C. (Uxbridge)

31 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Finchley)

34 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.E.M.E. (Kingsbury)

50 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.A.S.C. (Ealing)

53 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Squadron, R. Sigs. (Chiswick)

54 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Acton)

55 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.A.S.C. (Southall)

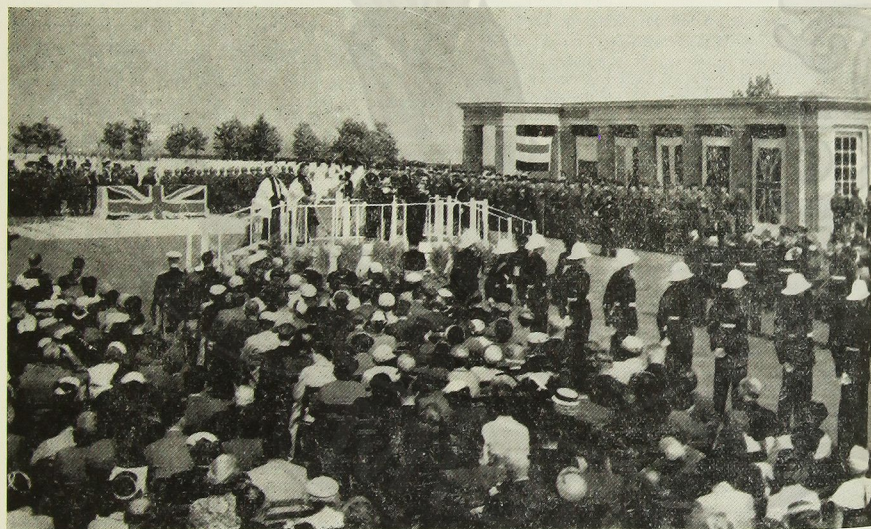
71 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Twickenham)

75 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Staines)

78 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Heston)

79 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Company, R.A.O.C. (Feltham)

91 (Mx.) Independent Cadet Battery, R.A. (Willesden)



Public Relations Photo Section

#### UNVEILING OF THE GROESBEEK MEMORIAL BY H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER—2nd JUNE, 1956

General scene at the unveiling ceremony. When His Royal Highness pulled a red silken cord, the Commonwealth flags fell slowly to the ground to the accompaniment of a roll of drums. On the memorial are inscribed the 1,103 names of Commonwealth soldiers who died in the fighting between the Seine and the Elbe but who have no known graves.

The Regimental Association was represented at this ceremony by Lt.-Col. L. H. J. de la Herapath, who also laid a wreath on behalf of all members

#### BIRTHS

FLAVELL.—On May 18, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Betty (nee Russell), wife of Capt. James Flavell, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)—a third son.

#### ENGAGEMENT

HUTCHINGS—WELLS.—The engagement is announced between Major Roy Hutchings, The Middlesex Regiment, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hutchings, Croxley Green, Herts, and Barbara Anne (Andy), elder daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wells, Macroneys Castle, Kilworth, Co. Cork.

#### DEATHS

DAVY.—We regret to announce the death of Lt.-Col. W. H. C. Davy on Saturday, March 17, as the result of an accident. The funeral, which took place at Budleigh Salterton, was attended by Col. G. L. Brown, D.S.O., and Lt.-Col. C. D. Drew, D.S.O., O.B.E. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Association.

FULLER.—Major V. G. Fuller died on March 20, 1956, at the early age of 38 years. Major Fuller served with the Regiment from 1939 to 1950, first in the ranks and later to commissioned service; he transferred to R.E.M.E. in 1950 but always kept in touch with the Regiment. He leaves a widow and three little daughters, to whom goes our deepest sympathy.

GESS.—Mr. C. Gess died on March 20, but as we were not notified until much later we were unable to send a wreath or be represented at the funeral. Mr. Gess will be remembered as a boxer and an Irish champion.

PILGRIM.—We were sorry to hear of the death on March 25, 1956, of Mr. F. C. Pilgrim who served with the Regiment during the First World War and who was for many years a regular reader of the Journal. Unfortunately we were not informed of his death in time to send a wreath or be represented at his funeral.

MARTIN.—9973 Pte. A. Martin died on April 8, and at his funeral on April 12 the Regiment was represented by an N.C.O., and at the request of the relatives a bugler was sent from the Depot.

O'DONOUGHUE.—We regret to announce the death at the age of almost 87 years of Capt. W. O'Donoghue, who completed pensionable service in 1909 as a Sergeant-Drummer of the 4th Battalion, and later went to the Tower of London as a Yeoman Warder. He served in the R.F.C. in the First World War and as a Welfare Officer (unpaid) in the Second World War, when he was once again proud to wear the Regimental Badge in his cap. He was buried at Elmers End Cemetery, the funeral being attended by an N.C.O. of the Regiment who laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

PROWSE.—Late Sgt. W. Prowse of the 9th Battalion died on June 9, and members of his Battalion attended the funeral and a wreath was sent from the Association.

TATHAM.—On June 22, 1956, in hospital after many years of ill-health, Lt. J. R. C. Tatham, at the age of 36. The cremation was attended by Col. M. Browne and Major Marshall. Flowers in Regimental colours were sent on behalf of the Association.

BEAGLEY.—We very much regret to announce the death in the fire caused by terrorists in Cyprus of Capt. M. T. Beagley. Capt. Beagley was serving with the 3rd Parachute Battalion at the time of his untimely death and leaves a widow and baby, to whom goes our deepest sympathy.



THE LATE SGT. G. T. BRAIN

We regret to announce the death of Sgt. Brain in his 82nd year, at the Victoria Veterans Hospital, British Columbia.

For many years he served both in the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment in India, South Africa and the Mother Country. Subsequently he served in the First World War in the Canadian Mounted Rifles and had a long and meritorious military career.

His family and a numerous circle of old friends mourn the passing of this old "Die-Hard."

G.W.K.



## OBITUARY

## LT.-COL. W. H. C. DAVY

William Harold Collier Davy was born at Ringwood, Hants., in 1877 and was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

He received his commission in the Regiment in 1897 and joined the 1st Battalion in South Africa, going with it to India in the following year.

In 1900, the Regiment was enlarged from two to four Line Battalions and the increased establishment caused an unusual run of promotion among the subalterns. Davy was among the fortunate ones and on promotion to captain was posted to the newly formed 3rd Battalion at Woolwich.

Early in 1902, he sailed with that Battalion to St. Helena, that lonely rock in the South Atlantic, where there were then large camps of Boer prisoners of war.<sup>1</sup> But the South African War was nearly over and after six months the Battalion moved to the Cape, to become part of the peace-time garrison. It was stationed first in "The Old Colony," as Cape Province was then familiarly known, and later in the Transvaal, but for the latter part of the time in South Africa, Davy commanded the Middlesex Company in the 9th Mounted Infantry at Harrismith in the Orange River Colony.<sup>2</sup>

In 1906, the Battalion sailed for Hong Kong. While there, Davy and the writer spent six weeks leave together in Japan, travelling on foot for 350 miles through some of the more remote parts of that country. It was a delightful tour, with nothing to foretell that the smiling and kindly Japanese, then our allies, would become, 35 years later, our cruel and treacherous enemies.

In 1908, the 3rd Battalion moved to Singapore and two years later to India. Early in 1914, Davy was posted to the 4th Battalion in England, on promotion to Major.

On the outbreak of the First World War, Davy went with the 4th Battalion to France. At the Battle of Mons he was wounded and taken prisoner; so severe were his wounds that he was repatriated by the enemy, who thought he could be of no further use as a soldier. But although he was never able to serve in the field again, he made a wonderful recovery and was employed on the staff at Capetown—his third term of service in South Africa.

In 1917, he was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and he retired in 1920 to live in the West Country. Of late years he lived at Budleigh Salterton in Devon. Two years ago he suffered a grievous loss in the death of his wife, but despite this and the increasing infirmities of age and wounds, he still showed the same gallant spirit lit always by a quiet and unflinching sense of humour.

He died from the results of shock and injuries received from a fall down a precipitous bank, while out for a country walk.

CHARLES D. DREW.

1. By a curious coincidence the same ship, H.M.H.T. *Assaye* (P. & O. Line), which took the 3rd Battalion to St. Helena in 1902, brought it home from Bombay in 1914 to take part in World War I.

2. At this time each Infantry Battalion in South Africa detached one of its eight companies to one of the composite Mounted Infantry Regiments.

## OBITUARY

## MAJOR JOHN ST. J. SECKER

John Secker who died in Cornwall during February, was educated at Eton. He joined our 5th (Militia) Battalion at the outbreak of the South African war and was almost immediately given a direct commission and posted to the 2nd Battalion which was newly arrived in South Africa. He joined "D" Company, then commanded by Major Pemberton and was present at the engagement of the Tugela Heights, and in the advance to Newcastle and Utrecht. At the conclusion of the war he was granted leave and whilst in England, assisted Brigadier Lumley in preparing the hatted camp on Hounslow Heath for the return of the 2nd Battalion.

In 1903, he married. His wife was heiress to a considerable property in Scotland. Major Secker retired in 1905.

## A MEMORY OF COL. JOHN LINDREDGE ELGEE

By One of His Subalterns

I first met this officer early in 1906, after joining the 1st Battalion in Burma. He was then commanding "K" Company, always called by him "The Light Company," "B" Company, to which I was posted, completed the detachment at Meiktila.

He was a remarkable Company Commander, who never allowed either the Company or its members to lack for anything needful for their success, and his purse was unending in depth and ever open.

He never spoke to me for six months except on parade, and when we met out of barracks I would take off my hat and he would do likewise. Then one afternoon his Goanese servant (one of a retinue) came and told me the Major Sahib would be glad if I would walk with him. From thenceforth I received every kindness and advice, and was later to become a member of his "K" Company, a privilege much sought after for once inside you were safe from all other people, and woebetide anyone who dared to attack you.

"K" Company claimed certain privileges, including never to march at the slope and always at the trail. Many rebukes were hurled at the Company Commander for disobeying C.O.s commands, but only on special Battalion Ceremonial parades would he allow his company to slope arms.

He was a keen student of 57th history and no one could ever attain the height he reached in this respect.

He never spoke about himself or his family and I now set out his history, sent to me by his brother, Major Percy Elgee, the Sherwood Foresters, who has been most kind in giving to the Regiment a large collection of medals, all 57th, as well as his brother's personal collection. In addition to these medals now our property, we have on loan from the Army and Navy Club, two unique cases of 57th medals, set up with various belt plates, buckles and so on. These medals cover the Peninsular War, the Crimea, New Zealand and Zulu Wars. In addition we have received from his brother two large albums of photographs connected with India and places in the Mediterranean in which the Colonel

was stationed. There are several groups of the officers of the 57th in which he is included and I know all the officers personally with rare exceptions. He also gave the Regiment several books written in a minute hand by Elgee, about the Indian Mutiny and other campaigns. Now I must come to notes on his family.

Parents: Father, Col. John Lindredge Elgee (Royal Artillery), who married Margaret Hogarth, daughter of William Hogarth, Esquire, of Fintray House, Aberdeenshire, on January 6, 1867. His father was promoted Major-General in February, 1879.

Our Elgee was born at Aldershot on October 7, 1867, was educated at Cheltenham College, May 1881 to December 1886. He went to the then Royal Military College at Sandhurst (now R.M.A.) in 1887, and was first commissioned to the West India Regiment in 1888, being transferred to the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) in 1890.

He served in the Great War 1914-18 and commanded the 1st Battalion, his beloved 57th, towards the end of that war. He had with him his old soldier servant, 3853 Martin, he always knew the Regimental numbers of every soldier in his "K" Company.

He married his wife on July 7, 1937, in London, and died on January 12, 1944, at "Dunreath," Biggar, Lanarkshire.

His grandfather, Capt. John Elgee, served in 34th Foot, the Border Regiment and fought at Waterloo. He had two uncles namely, Maj.-Gen. C. W. Elgee, R.A., and Maj.-Gen. C. Elgee, who commanded the 23rd Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers.

I remember whilst with Elgee at Dinapore, he told me how his medals went to the Army and Navy Club, and not to the 1st Battalion Officers. It appears he did offer them to the then P.M.C., who died some years ago, and he, whilst thanking him, pointed out that that setting up medals in cases was very expensive and he did not think the Mess could afford it. In fact they were already mounted in excellent teak wood cases with the 57th badge above. I saw them in the Club and think they were in four cases or maybe three. I can only assume the Club changed the arrangement, and placed them in cases of a standard pattern, but luckily kept the original mode intact as they are now.

When I was in our 2nd Battalion, and we were buying many medals during my command, and other Regimental buckles and belt-plates, I arranged their set-out in the same form as Elgee had introduced. Knowing Elgee, I can well imagine that he would at once withdraw his offer and bestow them elsewhere.

I trust members of the Regiment will now have greater interest in these valuable possessions, and have some idea of the donor, who thought in terms which existed in Napoleonic times, and had a similar veneration for past customs.

## REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The attention of readers is invited to the notice on page 209.

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1956, AT 2.30 p.m.

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., 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, R.S.M., P. Donovan, R.S.M., E. Pike, C.S.M., F. Firman, Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wolcombe, M.C., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.M., Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E.

Before starting the business of the meeting the Chairman informed the Committee that this would be the last occasion on which Major Waller would be attending as O.C. Depot as the tenure of his appointment at the Depot was terminating shortly. He then thanked Major Waller for his support as Vice-Chairman and for the immense amount of work he had done for the Association. The Committee gave a unanimous endorsement to the Chairman's expression of gratitude and asked that a suitable record be made in the Minutes.

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, having been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

## REPORT

*Grants.* During the quarter ending March 31, 1956, the sum of £286 7s. 2d. was expended in assisting 49 ex-members and widows of the Regiment who were in distress.

*Open Day at Depot (May 12, 1956).* Approximately 1,000 past and present members of the Regiment, their wives and children, attended the Open Day to celebrate the bicentenary of the Regiment. The numbers included parents and friends of Trainees held on Depot strength.

*Annual Reunion—Seymour Hall.* The Seymour Hall has been booked for the Annual Reunion on Friday, October 26, 1956, and we have in accordance with recommendations been successful in engaging Nat Temple and his Orchestra.

3. *Finance Committee's Report.* Lt.-Col. Fox informed the Committee that the Finance Committee had nothing to report apart from the grants which they had approved during the quarter. It was requested that these grants be confirmed by the adoption of his report.

(1) *Individual Case.* Pte. G. T. Johnson—grant of £10 with R.A.S.C. Association also contributing.

(2) *Embarkment Fellowship—£5.*

(3) *O.C. Depot for Bicentenary Celebration—£105.*

The Finance Committee's report was adopted.

4. *Journal Committee's Report.* Major Waller reported that he had little to report. He stated that he had been in communication with Major Kempster regarding the Minutes of the last meeting, and it was agreed by Lt.-Col. Fox and himself that Major Kempster should have an open invitation to attend this Committee's meeting whenever he wished to do so in order to deal with any point arising on the Journal.

R.S.M. Donovan stated that it was generally agreed that Rolls of Officers and Rolls of W.O.s and Sergeants would appear in alternate issues of the Journal. This was approved, and Major Waller informed the Committee that Roll of W.O.s and Sergeants would appear in the next issue of the Journal.

Report adopted.

5. *War Memorial Committee's Report.* Brigadier Rackham reported that there was an improvement of the estate in general, and proceeded to explain the sub-committee's report which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Major Hardcastle reported that the Association's application for an eviction order against Mr. Barber, the occupier of No. 5 Cottage, had been successful, an order having been granted for possession on June 30. The Judge ruled quite definitely that the Association had the right to terminate a tenancy on a week's notice without giving any reason. He, however, decided to hear the evidence and on completion of the hearing commended our Counsel for the restrained manner in which he had conducted his case. Lt.-Col. Fox thanked Major Hardcastle for the trouble he had taken to ensure a favourable result and congratulated him on the result, which was, no doubt, influenced in no small measure by a wise choice of Counsel. The order was obtained with costs, and it was agreed that the Chairman and Brigadier Rackham were authorised to decide on the question of enforcement should the point arise.

It was agreed that in future tenants should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own gas and electricity supplies, and if they were willing to do so Major Jones would make arrangements for the installation of separate meters, the Association being responsible for any extra charge for the instalment of prepayment meters.

The Committee's report was adopted.



6. *Regimental History Committee's Report.* Lt.-Col. Ellis reported on continued progress of the publication and informed the meeting that it was the wish of the Colonel of the Regiment that a Launching Party be held on the occasion of the publication of the History, this function to be held as a Cocktail Party at the Depot Officers' Mess on Thursday, July 19, 1956. The Committee approved that the Regimental Association be represented by the Chairman and Secretary.

7. *Revision of Association Rules.* In the unavoidable absence of Lt.-Col. Allen, Major Waller explained the present situation and informed the Committee that copies of the Revised Rules 3rd Draft would be circulated prior to the next meeting to all members of the Committee.

8. *Regimental Reunion.* The Chairman informed the meeting that a contract with the Orchestra had been confirmed.

Mr. Duffield informed the meeting that he had been approached by several ex-members of the Regiment in respect of holding a Reunion Dinner, and it was agreed that this matter be deferred until a later date.

9. *Other Business.* R.S.M. Donovan reported that there was a growing body of opinion that the design of the Regimental Tie should be changed rather on the lines of the Officers' Club Tie in that the Regimental colours are retained with a subdued background. It was generally felt that this should be considered anyhow to the extent of selecting an alternative pattern tie.

It was decided that the Colonel of the Regiment be asked whether he wished this Committee to go into this question and report to him or not.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 26, 1956, at the Middlesex Guildhall.

A. W. CLARK, Major,  
Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.  
Inglist Barracks,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
June 8, 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, MAY 30, 1956, AT 4.30 p.m.

*Present:* Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton, Major A. R. Waller, M.C., Major E. L. Heywood, Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollicombe, M.C., Capt. F. G. Ashby, M.M., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.

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, having been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted by the Committee.

*Report.* Subscriptions and Entrance Fees received for the four months ending April 30, 1956, was £414 4s. 6d. The number of subscriptions to the Club Dinner to date is 64, and subscriptions to the At Home 36, plus 8 widows and guests.

The number of members of the Club and their guests to the Cocktail Party held on May 12 was 137.

3. *Honorary Members.* Proposed by Brigadier Baker, seconded by Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, that the following be invited to become Honorary Members of the Officers' Club—

Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby (11th Parachute Battalion).  
Major I. D. Brotherton (11th Parachute Battalion).  
Major G. H. Pereira (R.A.M.C., att. 7th Battalion).  
Rev. J. H. Fuller (R.A.Ch.D., att. 7th Battalion).  
2 Lt. N. D. Blackburn (Royal N.Z. Infantry, att. 7th Battalion).  
Unanimously approved.

4. *Officers' Club Dinner, 1956.* The Secretary produced a letter and specimen menu from the Secretary, The United Service Club, and it was decided by the meeting that Menu B be accepted, and that a glass of sherry and a glass of port be supplied with the Dinner at a total cost of 30s. 6d.

The Committee also approved that the C.O. and 2IC of the 11th Parachute Battalion be invited as guests to the Dinner.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5 p.m.  
A. W. CLARK, Major,  
Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.  
Inglist Barracks,  
Mill Hill, N.W.7.  
June 8, 1956.

#### THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

For nearly 75 years our Regiment has been known throughout the Army as the Duke of Cambridge's Own, and we are all accustomed to using the letters "(D.C.O.)" as part of our Regimental title. How many of us, however, really know who the Duke of Cambridge was? To some he is no more than a name; to others the mention of him conjures up only a memory of the portrait of a venerable old gentleman in Field-Marshal's uniform in the Officers' Mess at our Depot; others again can recall that the Duke was Commander-in-Chief of the Army during much of the last century. This article is designed to refresh the memory of our older readers, and, we hope, to interest present members of the Regiment in an officer who deserves to be remembered.

George William Frederick Charles, later 2nd Duke of Cambridge, was born at Hanover on 26th March, 1819. He was the son of the 1st Duke of Cambridge, who was George III's youngest son and who was Governor-General of Hanover, which then belonged to the British Crown. George III was also the grandfather of Princess Victoria, later to be come Queen Victoria, and so she and young Prince George, who was three months older, were first-cousins.

Prince George spent the first 11 years of his life in Hanover, and was then sent to England to be under the care of his uncle and aunt, William IV and Queen Adelaide. He continued and widened his education there, and began to keep a diary. Entries in these early years regularly record his nervousness of horses, but he was determined to ride well, and eventually overcame his fear.

Shortly before he returned to Hanover at the age of 17, with Lt.-Col. W. H. Cornwall, Coldstream Guards, as his tutor, he sat for his portrait, which may still be seen at Windsor. It shows him in Garter robes, with a full figure and a round, somewhat girlish face. Only a strong, Hanoverian nose, reminiscent of his uncle, the former Prince Regent, hints at the strength of character to come and prevents him having something of the air of a Titian cherub.

Probably on the advice of the Duke of Wellington the Prince was given a mainly military education. He was attached to a Hanoverian regiment and shortly after his 18th birthday was one of the two officers of the daily guard at the Palace. "For the first time," he records in his diary, "I feel as if I was really a soldier." Within a few months, in 1837, William IV died, and Queen Victoria came to the throne. By Salic Law a woman could not succeed to the throne of Hanover, which thus passed from British control. The 1st Duke of Cambridge returned to England with his family, and Prince George and his cousin the Queen began to see each other frequently. When they were both 11 he had written "She appears to be a fat, ugly, wilful and stupid child." Now and throughout later life, however, he evidently liked her much better, and the Queen always had a genuine affection for him and a respect for his views. There were those—and especially the Prince's father—who thought he would make a most suitable Prince Consort, but it may be surmised that he himself

thought otherwise. Probably on the advice and with the help of the Duke of Wellington he secured a posting to the 33rd Foot (Duke of Wellington's) in Gibraltar, and did not return to England until the Queen's engagement to Albert of Saxe-Coburg had been announced. In the Queen's diary we read: "George grown but not embellished. Much less reserved and evidently happy to be clear of me."

Prince George, however, had done more than put on weight during his year abroad. He spent six months with the 33rd, mainly as a major, gaining a good knowledge of drill, garrison duties and minor tactics, and then toured Southern Europe for six months. In Malta he inspected the Seaforth Highlanders: "I had not before seen a Scottish regiment, and cannot express how agreeable an impression the beautiful garb made on me. I have never seen anything so beautiful, and they manoeuvred admirably." He also attended the Austrian Army manoeuvres in North Italy, and went on to Corfu, Athens and the Ionian Islands. When he returned home in 1839, he was 20, and he spent the next two years with the 12th Lancers in England and Ireland.

During this period he met Miss Louisa Farebrother, an actress. She was the daughter of the partner in a well-known firm of printers, and had gone on the stage despite her parents' protests. She seems to have specialised in male roles of the "principal boy" type, for we read of her playing "Robin Hood" at the Lyceum, Abdullah in "40 Thieves" and also roles in the pantomimes at Covent Garden. She was a few years older than the Prince, and was considered "the most lovely woman of her time" and "a lady of great personal charm—amiable, domestic, appreciative and a great talker." Prince George fell deeply in love with her, but the Queen was furious, withheld her consent to the marriage, and refused to receive Miss Farebrother. The Prince was 21 but, as in later life, once his mind was made up, nothing would shake him from his purpose. Disregarding the Royal Marriage Act he married Louisa Farebrother morganatically. She could thus not use her husband's titles, and was known to the end of her life as Mrs. Fitzgeorge. London society, following the Queen's lead, boycotted her, and it is possible that the Prince's move to service in Ireland was not unconnected with the difficulties of this situation. Nevertheless, the Prince and his wife had 60 years of gloriously happy married life. Their three sons and one daughter all used the name of Fitzgeorge, and of the boys one became a Vice-Admiral and the other two eventually retired as Colonels. Most of the later years of the marriage were spent at a small house in Mayfair, where Mrs. Fitzgeorge came to have her own select circle of friends, including Mr. Gladstone. Nevertheless, the German Emperor persistently and deliberately regarded the Prince as single, and suggested that he should marry one of the many German princesses. The Prince "lost his temper with a wealth of invective, and in the bluntest terms described Germans in general, Prussians in particular and Teutonic princesses in detail." Eventually, however, even the Queen consented to receive Mrs. Fitzgeorge. At the Queen's request a meeting was arranged at the house of one of the Ladies-in-Waiting. The Queen, who had planned to stay only

for 15 minutes, talked to Mrs. Fitzgeorge for two hours, and subsequently "appeared much affected, admitting she had been too severe in the past." During Mrs. Fitzgeorge's last illness in 1900, Queen Victoria constantly sent to enquire after her health, and, when she died, paid a tribute to her which gave great comfort to her family.

During the early years of marriage, however, the Prince always served away from London. On leaving Ireland in 1842 he became Colonel of the 17th Lancers at Leeds, and was in command there during the industrial disturbances in that year. In April 1843, although only 24, he was appointed to command the troops in Corfu, an island on the West coast of Greece, and he spent two years there. In 1845, he was promoted Major-General, to command the troops in Limerick, and in April 1847, he took command of Dublin District, where he remained for five years. During this period there was serious political unrest, due partly to a severe famine. The Prince had devoted great energy to the training of his troops, and the successive disturbances were competently handled. In addition the Prince arranged for a well-known French chef, M. Soyer, to come to Dublin and organise emergency feeding; his soup-kitchens were a notable success, and were mainly based on the use of the Soyer-stove, which was subsequently much used in the Crimea, and which we still use in the Army today.

A portrait of the Prince at this time shows him as a man of above average height, not unlike the Prince Consort in appearance, but with his hair already beginning to recede somewhat from his forehead. Already, however, he has the air of a man of firm, resolute decision. In July 1850, his father died, and he became the 2nd Duke of Cambridge. Parliament voted him an income of £12,000 a year. Nevertheless he continued to devote as much attention as ever to his military duties. In 1851, we find him bearding the Adjutant-General in London about the lack of bugle-calls for "Lie Down," "Rise Up" and "Go out to Skirmish." His success in the argument was probably largely due to the Adjutant-General being unable to find a copy of the current drill-book in the whole War Office building and having to send an officer out to buy a copy!

For nearly two years from April 1852, the Duke was Inspecting-General of Cavalry, and now for the first time he showed his interest in reorganisation within the Army. It was largely on his initiative that the first large-scale manoeuvres were held in England in 1853, and in the same year his views on Regimental Depots are of interest: "All Depots are objectionable for both officers and men, and the sooner both are ordered to rejoin their respective Regiments the better." Later he wrote: "We shall get into trouble, if we do not mind, with the large number of young officers we have at present with the Depots. It is extremely difficult to look after them properly, and they get into bad habits and are very unmanageable." As regards the training of young officers, "there must be no undue licence or practical jokes."

The Duke was in command of the troops at the state funeral of the Duke of Wellington. Soon afterwards he was on his way to Varna on the Black Sea to take



command of the 1st Division which, as part of the British force in alliance with the French, was to attack Russia in the Crimea. On taking command, in June 1854, he was promoted Lieutenant-General, although still only 35. His division consisted of two brigades, i.e. the Guards Brigade and the Highlanders Brigade. The invasion-fleet eventually sailed from Varna, and after disembarkation in the Crimea the Duke's division played a decisive part in the victory of Alma. At Inkerman his horse was shot under him, and a bullet grazed his arm, but out of 11 generals who took part in the battle he was one of only three who were not killed or seriously wounded. Kinglake describes him "with an immense energy of voice and gesture—commanding, entreating, adjuring the men to keep on the high ground." Nearly cut off by a Russian advance, he and his A.D.C. "had regularly to ride for it in order to get back," and of a later stage in the battle a sergeant in one of his Scottish battalions wrote: "Our troops were hard pressed and barely able to hold their ground—The Duke, placing himself in the centre, drew his sword and called out, 'Come on, my brave fellows, I will lead you,' and we steadily followed him until we reached the ridge of the hill." By the end of the day his Guards Brigade had lost 622 officers and men out of 1,361. Subsequently the Duke was present at Balaclava, but his division took no active part in the battle.

The unhealthy conditions, however, at Varna and in the Crimea, the rigours of the campaign and the strain of command in action had taken physical toll of the Duke. At Alma he noted, "When all was over, I could not help crying like a child," and three days before Inkerman he wrote to the Queen that he was "dreadfully knocked up and quite worn out." After Inkerman he had a high fever, and later went on board a frigate off Balaclava for a rest. The vessel narrowly escaped shipwreck in a storm however, and, as his health did not improve, the Duke was evacuated sick to Constantinople, where a medical board later decreed that he must return to England. He was Mentioned in Despatches, received the thanks of Parliament, and was awarded the Crimea Medal with four clasps, the Turkish medal and the G.C.B. All this, however, was but slight compensation for having to relinquish command of his division, and he constantly pressed to be allowed to return to the Crimea, declining the governorship of Gibraltar lest it should prevent that. The War Office, however, sent him to Paris instead, as British representative at the Allied conference on the future conduct of the war—despite adverse comment in *The Times* on his inexperience in such negotiations—but the war ended unexpectedly early, before the conference's decisions could take effect. A few months later, in July 1856, the Duke became General Commanding-in-Chief of the Army, and was promoted General. He was only 37.

The Crimean War had exposed serious defects in the organisation of the Army, and the new General Commanding-in-Chief set himself to make the necessary changes. These changes, however, were made neither violently nor suddenly, although the Duke's nearly 40 years at the War Office very considerable alterations were gradually made in the organisation of the Army and in the conditions of service of all ranks.

In his early years as General Commanding-in-Chief the Duke was regarded by some as too prone to innovations; in his later years he achieved an undeserved reputation for obstructing reform of all kinds, and his alleged statement that "The time for change, sir, is when one can no longer avoid it" was quoted against him. Neither view, however, is wholly accurate. The Duke's profound respect and deep affection for the traditions of the Army made him wary of changes, but, when once convinced of the necessity for a change, no one was more progressive in bringing it into effect. Two of his own statements towards the end of his tenure of office express his attitude admirably: "The Army has of late years had more changes than enough, and wants absolute rest from constant surprises—I am old-fashioned, you will say, but I don't think I can be accused of having sacrificed any real efficiency to old-fashioned notions of the past. I have a long experience now in all military matters and I think great organic changes are always dangerous. Modifications to bring matters about to modern requirements slowly and gradually are far more advantageous," and again: "I have thought it better not to hurry or press changes, but to let them be as little felt as possible. There never has been a more continuous amount of change than there has been during my period of command, but it has been very, very gradual."

Despite his high office, however, the Duke was rarely in a position to secure a change, or to avoid one, entirely unaided. He was far from having full control over the Army's affairs. To the Army, however, he was the direct representative of the Crown, and from the standpoint of the mid-20th century we perhaps do not fully appreciate the importance attached to that aspect of the appointment a century ago. To the mid-Victorians the French Revolution had occurred within the lifetime of people still alive, and the unrest and disturbances of the 1840s in England had made many fear a repetition of the revolution here. Ensuring the unwavering loyalty of the Army to the Crown was thus of primary importance, and the General Commanding-in-Chief, as the Sovereign's representative, jealously guarded his control of discipline and command, appointments and promotions. Very many other matters, however, were partly or wholly under the control of the Secretary-at-War, and some elements and functions of the Army were not controlled by the War Office at all, but by independent boards or agencies.

What changes, then, did the Duke introduce? As may be expected, he did not begin with any sensational alteration, and not all the measures he proposed were adopted. In 1856 he recommended the appointment of a Director-General of Military Education, and in due course this post was created and filled. In the following year he sketched out a course of study for a school which he proposed should be known as the Staff College. He, in fact, helped to found the Staff College, Camberley, for, as he later wrote, "When we went to the Crimea we had no staff, and felt the serious want of experienced officers for staff duties. If a thoroughly efficient staff be not maintained in peace, you cannot have one when war breaks out, and your Army is then rendered very helpless and inefficient." In later life

the Duke had a reputation for disliking Staff College graduates, but this again was an untrue generalisation. What he disliked was the type of officer who regarded Staff College merely as a means of personal advancement and who took little or no trouble to master or maintain his knowledge of Regimental duties. The Duke's stress on the importance of officer-training is further shown by the fact that he became a Commissioner for the R.M.C., Sandhurst, and a Governor of the R.M.A., Woolwich.

In 1860 the Duke was stressing the need for a mobile strategic reserve in the United Kingdom, but such a force was not in fact provided until 1901. In fact, throughout his service at the War Office, the Duke fought a continual battle with the Treasury in order to prevent reductions in the Army and to keep Battalions and Regiments up to strength. In the same year, 1860, however, he secured an increase of pay for the soldier, and further increases in 1867, 1873 and 1876.

In 1861 and 1862 came two very beneficial changes in organisation: The Artillery and Engineers, previously under the control of the Board of Ordnance, became the responsibility of the War Office, and in India the troops of the East India Company were absorbed into those of the Crown. In the latter year, also, the Duke became a Field Marshal, at the age of 43.

In 1864 he introduced the system of British Military Attaches in foreign capitals, and in 1866 we find him before a Royal Commission on Barrack Damages giving evidence which might well be heard again today: "The soldier is a rough creature—and fair wear and tear ought to be more liberally accepted than now." The Duke's interest in the soldier's welfare was in fact never-failing. Before he became General Commanding-in-Chief the soldier had received free only his full-dress coat, trousers and one pair of boots annually, and had to pay for everything else out of his pay, including even his knapsack and haversack. By the end of the Duke's tenure of office he had secured for the soldier a totally free initial issue of clothing and necessities, with equitable arrangements for replacements.

In 1867 an Army Reserve came into being (i.e. civilians earmarked for recall in an emergency, as opposed to a strategic reserve of the standing Army, mentioned above), and further measures on these lines were taken in 1871. The Duke had opposed some of the details of the scheme, but must be given credit for having stressed the requirement in principle.

By 1869 the Duke of Cambridge had been at the War Office for 13 years, and one cannot but note the effect in a photograph taken at that time. The Duke has become completely bald (except at the side of the head), his figure has become heavy, and what can be seen of his face through the voluminous moustaches and beard have acquired a measure of almost Chinese inscrutability. For in that year he was fighting for a cherished tradition—and was losing the battle. The purchase of commissions and command had been given official sanction by Charles II in 1683, and had continued since that time. Undoubtedly there has been serious abuses and disadvantages in the system (Mrs. Woodham-Smith in "The Reason Why," concerning

Balaclava, gives some striking examples), and a proposal was now afoot to grant commissions only on merit, and command only seniority tempered by selection. Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State for War, was an energetic reformer and pressed the matter forward despite the Duke's insistence that "However theoretically objectionable, purchase has worked favourably to the interests of the Service. It has enabled us to officer our Army with gentlemen, and it has kept our officers comparatively young in years compared to the other armies of Europe." Moreover, the Duke urged, abolition of purchase would cost the country money! Nevertheless, the abolition was passed in 1871, and it is typical of the Duke that, once the decision was taken, he supported the principle of "seniority tempered by selection" so loyally that it is often erroneously believed to have been his idea. His emphasis in the purchase-debate, however, on the comparative youth of British officers reads oddly when one finds that in 1871 he had a hand in legislation limiting the age up to which Generals could serve on the Active List. Moreover, such legislation was clearly needed, for in 1853 there had been 13 Generals on the Active List with 70 years' service or more!

1871 was perhaps the Duke's busiest year, for, in addition to the matters already mentioned, three other innovations were under discussion. A proposal for six-months' "drill" for militiamen had been mooted, and the Duke's reaction is still of interest in the light of present problems: "Six months' drill could not possibly make a thorough soldier. Indeed, I should be very sorry to see three years' service made the rule, because I think six years is hardly enough." In the same year the Duke introduced the system of promotion examinations and of garrison classes for instruction of officers. Finally, in 1871 and again in 1872, the Duke held the largest manoeuvres ever held in England up to that time. His attention to detail is well known in the following excerpt from his directive on the subject: "I would wish you to curtail baggage, etc., as much as possible—officers should not be allowed to take plain clothes at all. No leave can be given during the fortnight. I presume orders have already been issued that no Messes will be allowed. Officers must take Squadron and Company Messes on the most reduced scale." His defence of the soldier against Press allegations at this time also has a most modern ring: "I am very indignant at remarks in the papers regarding our troops being soft and requiring so many things. There is really no truth in this, for our officers and men can do as much hard work as the Prussians." Garrison classes and large-scale manoeuvres, however, were only two aspects of the Duke's indefatigable energy in stimulating training. He was also a great believer in the importance of good shooting, and it was he who instituted rifle ranges on land he owned on Wimbledon Common, with an annual meeting which he later arranged should be transferred to Bisley and which still takes place each year. The introduction of a magazine-rifle was also largely due to the Duke's insistence on the need for such a weapon.

In 1872 and 1873, however, the Duke again found himself opposed to Mr. Cardwell on the subject of



reform. The Secretary of State proposed that Battalions (which had hitherto been quite independent of each other, and were known by their numbers, e.g. 57th Foot, 77th Foot) should be linked together in pairs; to each pair of linked Line Battalions were to be affiliated two Militia Battalions, and the four together were to form a "Brigade" with a Brigade Depot to back it. The Duke felt that in the amalgamation something of the Regimental spirit and *esprit-de-corps* of the individual Battalions was bound to be lost. Despite his opposition, however, the reforms were carried through.

In 1873 the Duke played a large part in setting up in the War Office an Intelligence Department which soon led the world in knowledge of the organisation and intentions of enemy armed forces. Three years later, in a proposal much ahead of his time, he recommended the formation of a Defence Committee for co-ordination of the Services, to consist of the Secretary of State for War, the General Commanding-in-Chief and the First Lord of the Admiralty, with power to co-opt further members as necessary. Unfortunately the recommendation was not adopted until 1903, when the Boer War had shown all too clearly how necessary such co-ordination was.

Five difficult years lay ahead for the Duke. The Stanley Committee (under Col. Stanley, later Lord Derby) investigated the organisation of the Army from 1876 to 1878, and then produced its report, recommending that the pairs of "linked" Battalions should be "localised," i.e. given a county name or other similar geographical title. Once again the Duke was convinced that this break with tradition could only damage the Regimental spirit on which he and the Army relied so much. Moreover, the proposed scheme contained some strange concepts. Few of the changes were so appropriate as the transformation of the 57th (West Middlesex) and 77th (East Middlesex) into the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (The Middlesex Regiment). For example, an English Regiment was to become Welsh, a Scottish Battalion was to become English and an East Anglian Battalion (the 63rd (West Suffolk)) was to become part of the Manchester Regiment, with a depot not at Manchester but at Ashton-under-Lyme. For three years the Duke fought the change, even enlisting the aid of the Queen. Nevertheless, in July, 1881, the change came into force, despite very bitter feeling in the Army, which did not altogether die out until the time when the South African War, with its many battle-honours, conferred distinction on the majority of Regiments under their new names. The Duke and the Queen, however, were largely personally responsible for preventing the old Regimental numbers, badges, etc., being abolished when the new names were introduced in 1881.

Meanwhile, in 1879, not even pressure by the Queen had sufficed to avert a further blow to the Duke. His special relationship to the Army, as the direct representative of the Queen, has been mentioned above. When, therefore, it was proposed that the General Commanding-in-Chief, instead of being in the nature of a partner to the Secretary of State for War, should become his subordinate, there was intense opposition

on political as well as personal grounds. Nevertheless, again the reform was carried, and the Duke, to his fury, was required to move out of his headquarters in the Horse Guards into offices in Pall Mall. It was perhaps the Queen's desire to show her continued and complete confidence in her General Commanding-in-Chief, regardless of organisation changes, which prompted her to create him her "Personal A.D.C." in 1882, at the end of the Egyptian campaign.

In 1886 the Duke re-examined the training of the infantry, and again his comments are interesting in the light of present problems: "With reference to the Infantry, the mainstay of all armies—the duties imposed on our troops of late years have greatly increased, and the men are exceptionally young in the Battalions, and many quite unfit to be sent on service abroad, though all likely to grow into good, useful soldiers in the course of time—Depots are very short of officers and N.C.O.s—with next to nothing but recruits to compose them, thus rendering good training of the recruits almost impossible." The Duke was instrumental in securing Regimental transport (horsed) for Battalions, and in the provision of some mounted infantry.

In the following year the Duke was awarded the title of Commander-in-Chief, to commemorate his completion of 50 years' service. The change in title was slight, but gave immense pleasure to the Duke, for it had only previously been similarly awarded to the Duke of Wellington. He had now been at the War Office for over 30 years, and it would not have been surprising if his energy or eye for improvements had been impaired. Yet during the next eight years much was done under his direction to make the Army more fit for war, particularly as regards reorganisation of transport and the system of supply. In addition, extensive improvement to barrack accommodation was put in hand. These were changes of the type nearest the Duke's heart, changes which would benefit the Battalion and the soldier, in the field or in barracks. Less to his liking were further proposals put forward by a Commission under Lord Hartington in 1890 for further reorganisation of the War Office, including the abolition of the office of Commander-in-Chief, when the Duke ceased to hold it, and replacement by the post of Chief of Staff. Five years later personal attacks were made on the Duke in the Press, alleging that his unwillingness to retire was holding up the essential changes in the War Office. He was 76 and it must have seemed a poor reward for his years of devoted service. He consulted the Queen, writing that he still felt physically and mentally fit for his work. He seems to have expected a "vote of confidence" of the kind she had given before in times of difficulty. It was thus probably a shock when the Queen replied reluctantly that "for your own sake as well as in the public interest—I think that you should be relieved at the close of your autumn duties. This necessary change will be as painful to me as it is to you, but I am sure it is best so. Believe me, always your affectionate cousin and friend, Victoria."

In August the Duke conducted his final tour of official inspections. It was a triumphal progress, and everywhere officers and men cheered him with wild and genuine enthusiasm. On October 31, he laid down

his office, having been in command of the Army for nearly 40 years and having served for over 57 years. He had been responsible for the Army during the war in China, the Indian Mutiny, the Ashantee War, the Afghan War, the Zulu War, the first South African War, the revolt of the Mahdi and the subsequent Egyptian campaign, the New Zealand campaign, the Abyssinian campaign and sundry other smaller campaigns. In all of them, small forces—whose strength he had so untiringly battled to maintain and raise—won their way to eventual victory. Modern readers may find it strange that he seems never, in nearly 40 years, to have visited British troops overseas. Yet he seems never to have lost touch with the needs of the Regiments, the regimental officer or the soldier.

To soften the blow of retirement Queen Victoria made him her "First Personal A.D.C." and "Colonel-in-Chief of the Forces," with the right to hold the Birthday Parade in her honour. This was an occasion in which he took particular pride, and there are those still alive who can remember him on the Horse Guards Parade, managing his horse with one hand and holding an open umbrella over his Field Marshal's plumes with the other. In a photograph taken in 1898 his clear, steady eyes look straight through the camera, as he must have looked through imposters all his life. The once clear-cut nose has become fat, and small wrinkle-lines above it testify to years of worry and strained concentration.

Even in retirement he could not be inactive. He continued his lifelong and energetic interest in the London Hospital and in Christ's Hospital. He rode in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee procession in 1897, and even at her funeral in 1901, when he was 82. He himself died in London on March 17, 1904, at the age of nearly 85, of haemorrhage of the stomach, and, after a funeral in Westminster Abbey, was buried beside his wife. The statue of him on horseback was erected in Whitehall in 1907.

It remains to summarise briefly the connections of the Regiment with this truly great soldier. His first contact appears to have been when he inspected the 57th at Dublin in 1848, and thereafter he inspected on three further occasions in the next 18 months. Throughout his life he was a very formidable inspecting officer, with a particularly precise knowledge of close order drill. It seems very probable that it was the Duke who in one of the Dublin inspections ordered the abandonment of the Regimental Quick March of the 57th on the grounds that it was "all drum and damned noise." A new march, a combination of "Jock o' Hazelden" and "The Lass o' Gowrie", was introduced, but the Regiment later reverted to the former march, which is still part of the present March of the 57th/77th.

The 77th was in Varna in June 1854, when the Duke was there, and both the 57th and the 77th served near him in the Crimea, although there appears no evidence that either Battalion was ever directly under his command. He had certainly seen them in action, however, for when presenting new Colours to the 77th at Woolwich in 1876 he recalled the Crimea, saying that he had "had the gratification of seeing your bravery in the field." The Regiment's reputation in his eyes, however, did not rest solely on Crimean valour. In 1875 he

had inspected the 77th at Woolwich and reported that "the appearance and movements of the 77th under Col. Kent elicited his decided approbation."

It is probable that the proposal to link the Duke's name officially with the 77th was put forward at the presentation of Colours, for approval was published six weeks later, on June 20, 1876, for the title of the Battalion to be changed to "The Duke of Cambridge's Own (East Middlesex) Regiment," and on December 14, the Duke's coronet and cypher, which we still wear today, were added to the Regimental badge. There is an unconfirmed report that the change in title merely gave official recognition to a title used unofficially since the Crimea.

The Duke clearly thought no less highly of the 57th, for during the Zulu War he wrote to Sir Garnet Wolseley: "You speak well of the Regiments composing Wood's Flying Column—The 57th is a Regiment with old seasoned men—The best years of a soldier are between his 4th and his 12th year." On June 30, 1881, the 57th also became personally linked with the Duke, when the 57th and 77th were united to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (The Middlesex Regiment). It was not until after World War I that the title of the Regiment was again changed, to "The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)."

The Duke became Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment on August 3, 1898, about three years after his retirement and six years before his death. There is little extant evidence on how the proposal came to be made, but the reasons for it are abundantly clear. For 60 years the Duke had shown himself the true friend of the Regiments of the British Army, and latterly perhaps especially of our own Regiment. He was known throughout the Army as "The Soldier's Friend," and his untiring efforts to improve the pay, uniform, barrack-accommodation and other necessities of the soldier were well known to all ranks. There are numerous stories of his intervention in the cases of individual soldiers, to help them in hardship. He was famous for his care of his men in the Crimea, and especially of the wounded, and his extreme fairness to all ranks and sincere desire to do his best for those under him continued throughout his life. Strenuously opposed to patronage and to any suspicion of favouritism, he achieved a well-deserved reputation for being "perfectly straight," and the German Emperor called him "the most sensible soldier in the British Army." In nearly 40 years, tenure of the highest command he had guided the Army through an era of unparalleled change, while continually enhancing its discipline, its *esprit-de-corps* and the strength of its Regimental systems. Our Regiment may well be proud of the distinguished soldier whose title we bear.

(The author acknowledges with gratitude the useful material provided in "The Dictionary of National Biography," Col. Verner's "Military Life of H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge," Mrs. Duff's "Life Story of H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge," Kingsford's "History of the Middlesex Regiment" and "Story of the Middlesex Regiment," Woolwright's "History of the 57th, West Middlesex, Regiment" and "Records of the 77th Regiment," and several other sources.)



## SUBSTANTIVE ROLL

W.O.s., C/SGTS. AND SGTS.

Bde. Pos.	No.	Rank	Name	Date of Prom.	Last Known Station
-----------	-----	------	------	---------------	--------------------

## WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I

8	6201852	W.O.1	P. Donovan	August 1, 1952	Depot Mx.
14	6207112	W.O.1	E. Pike	August 21, 1954	7 Mx.
16	5837545	W.O.1	M. Wild	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.

## BANDMASTERS

4	5382114	B.M.	F. Jackson	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
---	---------	------	------------	---------------	-------

## WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II

6	6398348	W.O.2	L. Graham	April 1, 1952	Colonial Forces
11	6200940	W.O.2	S. Blacknell	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
12	6197047	W.O.2	A. Etheridge	April 1, 1952	7 Mx.
31	6201070	W.O.2	F. Griffiths	October 11, 1952	Depot Mx.
43	5619855	W.O.2	T. McMillan	October 11, 1952	1 Mx.
59	4267949	W.O.2	A. Goodge	May 4, 1954	7 Mx.
64	864814	W.O.2	R. Budden	May 4, 1954	Depot Mx.
65	1520025	W.O.2	J. Thom	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
66	6200579	W.O.2	F. Firman	May 4, 1954	Depot Mx.
70	6210526	W.O.2	A. Cooper	May 4, 1954	Colonial Forces
71	6211991	W.O.2	A. Kenrick	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
74	6403001	W.O.2	F. Redpath (B.E.M.)	August 8, 1954	E.R.E. U.K.
82	6203433	W.O.2	S. Bartle	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.

## COLOUR SERGEANTS

10	6200792	C/Sgt.	G. Hockley (B.E.M.)	January 1, 1953	Depot Mx.
13	6200351	C/Sgt.	T. Perry	January 1, 1953	1 Mx.
14	6137966	C/Sgt.	A. Brown	March 12, 1953	Colonial Forces
28	6539821	C/Sgt.	G. Whitehead	January 5, 1954	E.R.E. O/seas
31	6205098	C/Sgt.	L. Shrubbs (M.M.)	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
39	6550324	C/Sgt.	F. Powell	March 25, 1954	Depot Mx.
44	6205077	C/Sgt.	A. Taylor	August 8, 1954	Depot Mx.
55	5949742	C/Sgt.	H. Davis	December 19, 1955	E.R.E. O/seas

## SERGEANTS

14	6197647	Sgt.	F. Markham	April 1, 1952	Depot Mx.
18	6201818	Sgt.	J. Morgan	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
28	6204927	Sgt.	J. Breame	April 1, 1952	E.R.E. U.K.
51	22221076	Sgt.	J. Rodgers	April 1, 1952	5 Queens (T.A.)
53	6968442	Sgt.	R. Dodkins	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
61	6217070	Sgt.	W. Thorogood	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
73	6206327	Sgt.	C. Burgess	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
103	6203495	Sgt.	R. Cubitt	September 20, 1952	Colonial Forces
108	14862617	Sgt.	W. Wright	October 21, 1952	1 Mx.
109	14454852	Sgt.	D. Ellis	October 23, 1952	1 Buffs.
112	14066639	Sgt.	P. Dive	October 31, 1952	7 Mx.
120	14476662	Sgt.	D. Weller	December 16, 1952	7 Mx.
128	3852333	Sgt.	T. McGowan	January 15, 1953	Depot, E. Surreys
138	6200376	Sgt.	G. Palmer	May 1, 1953	Depot Mx.
172	21014189	Sgt.	S. Michel	January 8, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
181	19039053	Sgt.	A. Dacosta	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
190	6923739	Sgt.	E. Steward	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
199	2718503	Sgt.	R. Simpson	January 25, 1954	1 Mx.
205	21014210	Sgt.	S. Reynolds	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
209	6202925	Sgt.	R. Hope	March 25, 1954	Depot Mx.
210	22229443	Sgt.	M. Eastap	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
213	22221109	Sgt.	D. Bailey	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
217	22229344	Sgt.	G. Simmons	April 29, 1954	Depot Mx.

Bde. Pos.	No.	Rank	Name	Date of Prom.	Last Known Station
219	19133915	Sgt.	G. Cripps	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
220	22193814	Sgt.	K. Beale	April 29, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
224	21187041	Sgt.	A. Hook	May 17, 1954	1 Mx.
225	6201236	Sgt.	J. Marable	May 17, 1954	E.R.E. O/seas
231	6205018	Sgt.	J. Preston	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
234	6202181	Sgt.	J. Field	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., O/seas
238	14470810	Sgt.	D. Walters	May 17, 1954	7 Mx.
243	6198709	Sgt.	F. Hazlewood	June 1, 1954	1 Mx.
244	6339246	Sgt.	G. Bailey	June 17, 1954	E.R.E., O/seas
247	22541432	Sgt.	J. Dickie	July 13, 1954	E.R.E., O/seas
258	19039445	Sgt.	A. Nicholson	August 15, 1954	1 Mx.
261	22550985	Sgt.	M. Butler	August 16, 1954	Colonial Forces
265	22541536	Sgt.	G. Young	August 16, 1954	1 Mx.
267	11007783	Sgt.	C. Fry	August 19, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
272	19145508	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	September 14, 1954	1 Mx.
274	19136922	Sgt.	W. Smith	September 16, 1954	1 Mx.
315	5437853	Sgt.	E. Brooks	December 12, 1955	Depot, E. Surreys
316	22259650	Sgt.	F. Potts	December 13, 1955	1 R.W.K.
327	22549082	Sgt.	P. Amor	February 3, 1956	S.A.S. Regiment

## ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

1	6202735	C/Sgt.	E. Colebeck	January 1, 1954	1 Mx.
3	14476433	C/Sgt.	P. Soper	January 27, 1955	Colonial Forces

## BAND AND DRUMS

4	2741385	Sgt.	J. Lewis	August 10, 1954	1 Mx.
---	---------	------	----------	-----------------	-------

## DRUM MAJOR

## COLOUR SERGEANT

1	6200547	C/Sgt.	W. Grogan	December 23, 1955	Depot, Mx.
---	---------	--------	-----------	-------------------	------------



**Oysters Mornay**  
Finest Essex Natives steamed in white wine. Cherie sauce. Also served Fried, Grilled or Au Gratin.  
at their best in London at



**Caneton à l'Orange**  
Duck half roasted, half braised (Pate). Port wine sauce. Shredded orange peel and slices of orange.  
at its best in London at



**Wheeler's**  
19 Old Compton St., W.1.  
Tel. GERard 2706  
Duke of York St., S.W.1.  
Tel. WHItchall 2460



**The Ivy**  
1 West Street, W.C.2.  
Tel. TEMple Bar 4751



**Tournedos Rossini**  
Medallion of fillet topped with a slice of Foie Gras de Strasbourg truffes, rich brown sauce.  
at its best in London at



**Lober Normandie**  
Taken from the shell, steamed, white wine, cream, lemon and butter sauce; garnished with fried scampi & button mushrooms.  
at its best in London at

**Wheeler's Vendôme**  
20 Dover Street, W.1.  
Tel. MAYfair 5417  
Open on Sundays

**Wheeler's Carafe**  
15 Lowndes St., S.W.1.  
Tel. SLOane 3011  
Open on Sundays

## Hiorns &amp; Miller

Renowned throughout the world

for QUALITY

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

INVITATION CARDS

CRESTED STATIONERY

ACCOUNT BOOKS

PRINTING OF

ANY DESCRIPTION

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Brochures and Catalogue on application

Estimates and samples sent on request

HIORNS &amp; MILLER LTD

MARLBOROUGH STREET

DEVONPORT

Telephone: Devonport 437





Maintain your  
service to  
**Queen and Country**  
in civilian life  
**Join the British Legion**



*The Legion co-operates with your regi-  
mental association and speaks for all  
ex-service men and women*

BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

**alkit**  
for  
**UNIFORM**

Quality Tailored  
Garments  
Reasonable Prices  
Facilities for Payment  
Send for Illustrated  
Brochure

**CAMBRIDGE CIRCUS, LONDON, W.C.2**  
Telephone: TEMple Bar 1814

OUR REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ALL DEPOTS

Branches: Aldershot, Amesbury, Bournemouth, Camberley, Cam-  
bridge, Chester, Exeter, Folkestone, Newark, Oxford, Isle of Man,  
Redruth, Richmond (Yorks)

## Captain Freddie Guest

(THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT)

The first man ever to escape from the  
Japanese. Here is the incredible story  
of his 1200 mile trek from Hong Kong  
to Chungking

## ESCAPE FROM THE BLOODIED SUN

16 illustrations From all libraries and booksellers 16/-

JARROLD PUBLISHERS (LONDON) LTD., 178-202 GT. PORTLAND ST., W.1



Set the thermostat and the  
boiler does the rest.



Simple movement of lever  
and boiler is declinkered in  
two seconds without dust or  
loss of heat.



## TRIANCO... the answer to all heating problems

Announcing the new P50, a smaller type domestic boiler which provides Central Heating and Hot water for all types and sizes of flats, houses and bungalows with the minimum attention and low running costs.

### COMPLETELY SMOKELESS COMBUSTION

Burns a wider variety of solid fuel completely and smokelessly than has hitherto been possible.

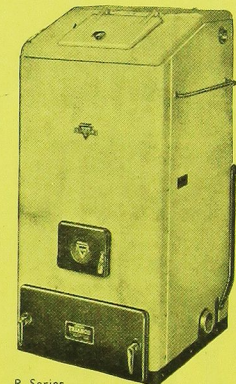
Thermostatic control means heat output only as required—thus saving fuel.

When the hopper is filled and the thermostat set the boiler does the rest.

The Trianco Boiler is clean and labour-saving.

Declinkering is easy and with no dust or loss of heat. Stove enamelled in a variety of colours to match your kitchen colour scheme.

The range of Trianco Boilers includes larger types for hotels, blocks of flats, cinemas and factories.



P. Series  
180,000 B.t.u.

Write for Colour Brochure to Dept. D.H. 4

**TRIANCO LTD.** (Heating Division), Imber Court, East Molesey, Surrey. Emberbrook 3300

## One hundred years...

of

*Print*

**F. J. PARSONS LTD**

LENNOX HOUSE, NORFOLK STREET, W.C.2 - Temple Bar 6591

Works: OBSERVER BUILDINGS, HASTINGS - Hastings 1157

We, too, have a fine tradition of service behind us, ample testimony of which is provided by our steady expansion during the century and an ever-growing number of service publications coming from our presses. A special department is always at the command of Service Editors to assist in the production of their Journals.



*The Die-Hards*

UNIFORM TAILORING BY



*Flights Limited.*

CIVIL and MILITARY TAILORS and OUTFITTERS

97, New Bond Street, London, W.1

GROsvenor 5016/7/8

AND AT · ALDERSHOT · CAMBERLEY · CATTERICK CAMP · CHESTER

*Appointed Tailors to your Regiment*

REPRESENTATIVES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST


*It all points to  
PERRY'S*

Finest  
**FORD**  
Service depot in  
N. London

*FORD dealers  
for 40 years*

★ **ZODIACS**  
★ **ZEPHYRS**  
★ **CONSULS**  
★ **PREFECTS**  
★ **ANGLIAS**  
★ **POPULARS**

**PERRY'S**

THE HOUSE FOR 

W. Harold PERRY Ltd., 279, Ballards Lane  
(Nr. Tally Ho), N. Finchley, N.12. Tel.: HIL 4444

Produced for the Editor, "The Die-Hards," by Combined Service Publications, Ltd., 67-68 Jermy Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. Printed in Great Britain by F. J. Parsons, Ltd., Lennox House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2. and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings. Advertisement Agents: Service Newspapers, Ltd., 67-68 Jermy Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (Telephone: Whitehall 2504.)