



# THE DIE-HARDS

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

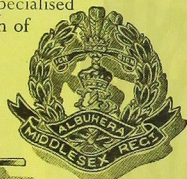




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# The Die Hards

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

VOL. XII No. 7

MARCH, 1957

PRICE 1/-

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

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.  
"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "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," "Flers-Courlette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"  
1917, '18, "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Pillckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"  
"Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"  
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal  
du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,"  
1917-18, "Struma," "Dorran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Simitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"  
"Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine 1917-18,"  
"Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

#### Regular Battalion

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

#### Militia Battalions

5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia). } 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.).

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The Royal Rifles of Canada.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment,  
Tokū, 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. W. G. Ormiston  
Officer Commanding Depot: Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E.  
Officer Commanding 7th Battalion: Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen,  
O.B.E., M.C.  
Officer Commanding 8th Battalion: Lt.-Col. R. A. Corby, O.B.E.  
T.D.

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### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.  
All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS  
SHOULD BE TYPED IN 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"  
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Chief Editor: Major G. W. Kempster

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

## EDITORIAL

This editorial, fortunately, goes to press in a less alarming atmosphere than the last, but unfortunately without the Editor having seen the notes of the 1st Battalion. That they are still busily occupied in protecting British rights and commitments, though, we can rest assured.

We know our readers will like Capt. Deacock's account of his recent expedition in Alaska. Carried out in Arctic conditions, with its background of Service research, it seemed to us an achievement well worth recording in these pages. Thank you, Deacock, for sending it to us, for in no regiment is the spirit of adventure more appreciated than in our own.

We thank, too, all our other contributors who keep this Journal alive.

G. W. K.

### NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

We are happy to announce the following honours which appeared in the New Year List.

The C.B. to Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.

The B.E.M. to W.O.2 P. Soper, now serving with King's African Rifles in Nairobi, and previously with the Depot here.

The M.B.E. to Mr. W. Gilyatt, late Bandmaster of the 7th Battalion, for services with the Territorial Army.

The M.B.E. to Mrs. V. E. Wharhirst, who is well

known to us here for her untiring work for the Mill Hill Branch of S.S.A.F.A. and Forces Help Society. Many serving as well as past members of the Regiment have much to be grateful for, as she has been untiring in her work in the interests of all connected with the Services. Commanding Officers, Adjutants and the Regimental Association at the Depot have also been aided by her advice and reports on many occasions.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Golf

Thursday, May 2, 1957, Spring Golf Meeting, Hendon Golf Club.

Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22, 1957—Autumn Meeting—Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.

Wednesday, May 15, 1957: Home Counties Brigade Golf Meeting—Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, Petersham, Surrey.

#### Cricket

All matches played at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

Saturday, June 15, 1957: Officers' Club v. Free Foresters.

Sunday, June 16, 1957: Officers' Club v. Hampstead Heathens.

Monday, June 17, 1957: Officers' Club v. Cryptics.

Tuesday, June 18, 1957: Officers' Club v. Incogniti.

Wednesday, June 19, 1957: Officers' Club v. I.Zingari.

### Officers' Club Dinner

Friday, June 28, 1957, at United Service Club, 116 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

### REGIMENTAL HISTORY

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

## The Army Dines The Queen



Photo: By Courtesy of "The Times"

### THE HIGH TABLE BEFORE "GRACE"

On Tuesday, November 27, 1956, Her Majesty honoured the Army by dining with her senior officers and the Colonels of her regiments at the Royal Hospital at Chelsea.

The setting was well calculated to enhance such a rare, stirring and historical occasion.

Guests assembled before dinner in the Council Chamber. Every description of Mess Dress was to be seen amongst the distinguished gathering. The gay colours contrasted pleasantly with the sombre background and pictured walls of the ancient rooms. Friends of long standing were to be heard exchanging greetings on all sides.

The company moved to the Great Hall, where dinner was to be served through the passages of the wards in which the pensioners have their cubicles. The old soldiers, dressed in their smartest kit, lined the passages

and were greeted frequently by the passing officers. Your Colonel was fortunate enough to meet ex-L/Cpl. W. Durnell, late of our Regiment, and to exchange a few words with him.

The Great Hall had been arranged with the High Table at the west end and two long tables extending eastwards from it. The lighting from the great chandeliers was ideal for showing off the high arched roof, pannelled walls and gallery, the tables loaded with the finest silver which all the Regiments could produce, and the richly coloured uniforms of the officers waiting for the Queen and the Royal party to pass through to their places.

With a fanfare of trumpets the Royal procession appeared, preceded by the Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers. Her Majesty was followed by the Secretary of State, the Queen Mother, the Princess Margaret,



the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duchess of Kent, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the Field Marshals.

The beauty and scintillating brilliance of the Queen and the Royal ladies, with their gorgeous jewels, orders and wonderful dresses was unbelievable. As the procession passed between the waiting lines of officers bowing in turn to her, the Queen smiled graciously in acknowledgment of their homage.

Dinner took its traditional form and was admirably served by a specially trained NAAFI crew, the girls waiting briskly and brightly in their blue dresses and aprons. Music was provided by the Bands of the Household Cavalry and Royal Artillery.

The Secretary of State welcomed the Queen and the Royal party in a well-turned speech and gave the Royal Toast.

The Queen was pleased to reply and expressed her pleasure at the occasion in a beautifully framed address, paying warm tribute to her Army and its Regimental tradition, and finally asking all to rise and drink its Toast.

After dinner the Royal Procession again passed through

the company, which then dispersed to the Council Chamber.

The evening passed in happy conviviality, the Royal party mingling with the hosts.

When the time came for the party to end, officers assembled outside the Governor's entrance and sent off the Queen and the Royal ladies with rousing cheers, to which they waved their smiling adieus.

Your Colonel is proud to have had the privilege to represent our Regiment in thus entertaining our Queen, the Queen Mother, the Princess Margaret and the Royal Party at such a brilliant ceremony.

You may rest assured that the various arrangements carried out by London district reached the highest standards desirable in this tribute to Her Majesty, who was graciously pleased to express her appreciation and gratitude.

G. C. B.

Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment D.C.O.

November 28, 1956.

N.B.—This dinner was provided by private subscription.

## 1st Battalion Notes

### EDITORIAL

In the last quarter of 1956 the most important event in the Battalion was the change of command. Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., left suddenly to go to the War Office and don a "brass hat." He was not due to relinquish command until early in 1957, but was urgently required by A.G.2 and departed on October 31. Members of the Officers' and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes assembled to say goodbye and wish him *bon voyage*. Col. Willoughby has commanded the Battalion since March, 1954. We all wish him the best of luck and hopes he likes his new appointment. Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, a D.S. at the Joint Services Staff College, was in Australia attending the nuclear tests when summoned to command the Battalion. He arrived on November 15 after a brief leave in the United Kingdom. We welcome him back.

The Battalion is now well into the second year of its tour of duty in Cyprus. Its task continues to be that of "underpinning" the Cyprus Police in Larnaca area. The term "underpinning" implies much more than aid to the civil power in the normally accepted sense, and includes the continuous reinforcement of the police on many essentially police duties. In the past these have been considered to be outside the scope of military operations undertaken in aid of the civil power. Our soldiers are trained to deal with disturbances, using police methods. They have assisted the Criminal Investigation Department in conducting investigations. They provide guards at police stations and operate with police patrols. Our aim is to defeat terrorism, not only by military operations but also by helping the police force to acquire the stature and skill necessary to

compete with the extremely difficult situation which confronts it.

The last Battalion notes gave a summary of events until the end of September. October began uneventfully except for two searches of villages. On the 2nd "A" Company searched part of Xylotymbou, and on the 10th the same Company with two Platoons of "D" Company searched Voroklini. In both searches nothing of importance was found.

At this time two Companies of the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment were sent to Larnaca, one of which was made available to us for internal security duties.

On October 13 a patrol of Support Company, led by C.S.M. Kenrick, apprehended a car containing four men, three pistols and some black masks. One of the prisoners later escaped from police custody, but the other three were sentenced to long periods of imprisonment.

An operation against terrorism covering a large area of south-eastern Cyprus began at first light on the 14th. The larger part of the area of operations lay in the territory of the Area Commander of Famagusta, who was in overall command of the operation. The remaining part included the eastern villages of Larnaca area. The notorious Xylotymbou and Xylophagou were again cordoned, curfewed and searched. This was done by the 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, which was placed under command for that purpose, reinforced by our "B" Company and "B" Company, 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment. The operation continued until the evening of October 18 and resulted in the arrest of many proven or suspected

terrorists and the discovery of a number of shotguns and a quantity of ammunition. Four shotguns were found at Voroklini as a result of information given at Xylotymbou.

From information gained by interrogation of prisoners it appeared that a wanted man was hiding in the village of Troulli. Although the Companies returning from the operation were tired, it was decided that immediate action must be taken. Troulli was cordoned by first light on October 19 and searched by "B" Company. As it seemed probable that the search might have to be switched to Athienou, a town north-west of Troulli, it was decided to cordon and curfew that town. This task was given to the Royal Berkshire Regiment's Companies, reinforced by a composite force of gunners and administrative troops from Dhekelia. The search of Troulli continued until the morning of October 20. Although the wanted man was not found, four shotguns and a large cache of ammunition were discovered and several arrests were made.

On October 24 the new General Officer Commanding Cyprus District, Maj.-Gen. D. A. Kendrew, C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Battalion.

Having previously won the Brigade Messing Competition, the Battalion was judged in the final round of the Cyprus District Competition on October 26. Later it was announced that the Battalion had won and a trophy was presented by the General Officer Commanding.

On October 27, as a result of events which led to the despatch of British troops to Egypt, the Battalion was placed at 72 hours' notice to move. At that stage not even Company Commanders were allowed to know of the fact and few preparations could be made!

The 28th October is the anniversary of the rejection by Greece of the Axis surrender terms in 1941 and is known as OXI Day. It was also the first anniversary of the Battalion's arrival in Cyprus. Last year island wide disturbances took place on this day. It was decided that this year extensive precautions would be taken against possible disturbances. In the event there was little trouble and the day was generally quiet.

During the early part of November the local EOKA adherents appeared to concentrate much of their effort on bomb attacks, but with little success. On the 2nd two time bombs exploded in unoccupied buildings in Dhekelia. On the 3rd three 10-ton R.A.S.C. vehicles were bombed at night on the main Nicosia-Limassol road in the Western Sector. "A" Company investigated this incident and found, amongst other items, a Sten-gun magazine and two home-made 2½-inch mortars. It appeared that an ambush had been carefully planned but poorly executed.

By this time the effects of the Suez incident were being felt. The Gunners, who had helped to alleviate the man-power problem by taking over some of our guards, were required to man their anti-aircraft guns and were not available for internal security. Censorship was imposed and an air sentry was posted on the roof of a building near the guard room!

A bomb incident occurred in Larnaca on November 4, followed by another on the 5th, which had interesting consequences. Sgt. Eastop of "S" Com-

pany was leading a mobile patrol past the Pancyprrian Lyceum School when an electrically detonated bomb exploded very near to his vehicle. Luckily no casualties or damage were sustained. "B" Company, the Riot Company, and the Police were quickly on the scene. They cordoned the area and found an electrical wire leading from the site of the explosion into the school. A police dog led a search party to a cupboard in which a 13-year-old boy was hiding. All present were detained for questioning. This incident was the culmination of much lawlessness by the students of this school who were obviously inspired by their masters, some of whom were Greek. Recently a Greek master and two pupils had been sentenced to imprisonment for attempting to blow up a bridge. On the following day the school was permanently closed by the Government and the premises soon afterwards were used to house H.Q. 3rd Infantry Brigade for a time. It is thought that the closing of this school by dispersing the pupils and masters, and by setting an example of firmness, may have been instrumental in reducing the number of bomb incidents in Larnaca.

Between November 6 and 14 there were several more bomb incidents in the town, including some directed at the Lyceum premises after the troops had moved in. Some bombs were also found concealed in the hospital grounds next door, obviously ready for throwing.

On November 8 a tragic accident occurred on a mountain road in the Western Sector. Pte. Thompson of "A" Company lost his life and L/Cpl. Waller and Ptes. Crowley and Seymour were injured.

Remembrance Day was observed on Sunday, November 11, by a Drum-head Service, at which all who were available attended.

Two days after Col. Ormiston arrived, his Land-Rover without him, was ambushed outside Horrocks Camp. Six bombs were thrown at it from slag heaps behind a hedge overlooking the road. Only three exploded. The young terrorists must have been startled at the way "S" Company rose as one man and rushed to the scene. Some youths were seen running away from the slag heaps across an area of broken ground and the first troops to arrive opened fire, led by C.S.M. Kenrick, firing an L.M.G. from the hip. The Riot Platoon soon had the large area of broken ground cordoned. In doing this they were assisted by a host of helpers, including batmen, signallers, cooks and drivers, all looking most warlike. Four men were arrested and are to stand trial.

Meanwhile, plans were being made for the search of a very mountainous and comparatively inaccessible area, partly across and partly astride the north-western boundary of Larnaca Area in which terrorists were known to have lived. This operation is described in "B" Company notes.

On November 21 the Battalion's internal security commitment was reorganised on a four-company basis by introducing "B" Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment into the chain of reliefs.

December was a relatively quiet month for the Battalion. A number of incidents such as acts of sabotage and shootings of Cypriots in coffee shops occurred early in the month. On the 16th four men



escaped from Pyla Detention Camp through the main entrance. Troops were used to search for these men without success. Apart from this, none of these incidents involved our soldiers.

Throughout the month there was increased police activity, unaided by military forces. Weapons and ammunition were found and arrests made.

On December 17 the Royal Berkshire Companies were withdrawn to join their battalion. 152 Inkerman Battery, R.A., took over the petrol installation guard and the remaining commitment was reorganised again on a three-company basis.

The enjoyment of Christmas festivities was restricted by the number of all ranks on duty. In spite of this, the period December 22-27 was declared a holiday and only essential parades and duties were ordered. For operational reasons many were necessary but some relaxation was possible. The Battalion, less "B," "C" and "S" Companies, spent Christmas in Alma Camp. "B" Company was scattered in detachments in the Western Sector, "C" Company was at Aqaba and "S" Company at Horrocks Camp in Larnaca.

Christmas festivities opened with the children's party on the 19th. The large appetites of small persons were satisfied and a genial Father Christmas produced presents for all.

On Christmas Eve the Regimental Dance Band gave a concert and the Christmas Draw was held in the NAAFI Canteen.

A Carol Service was held on Christmas morning in both Alma and Horrocks Camps. The Colours and Regimental Silver were displayed during the morning in the Canteen at Alma Camp. The traditional fare was served by the officers and W.O.s and Sergeants to Corporals and below at dinner, after the W.O.s and Sergeants had been entertained to drinks in the Officers' Mess.

On the afternoon of Boxing Day a Donkey Derby was run at Dhekelia by the Saddle Club. The Regimental Band were in attendance and there were bars and numerous side shows. Free cinema shows, a C.S.E. show in the garrison, and an indoor games competition organised by Miss O'Connor, W.V.S., completed the day's entertainment. The Sergeants' Mess Christmas dinner also was held on the evening of the 26th. After dinner the Officers were invited in for a social.

The old year was seen out in great style at the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Ball, to which the officers and their ladies were invited. The advent of the New Year and progress of the party after midnight rightly belongs to the next instalment of the Battalion notes.

#### BATTALION PERSONALITIES

In October Capts. Flavell and Carter returned to U.K. to attend Pre-Staff College examination courses, and Lt. J. M. Hewson went to Netheravon to attend a 3-in. mortar course. S.S.I. B. Skeels, A.P.T.C., also left on completing his overseas tour.

On November 1st 2/Lt. H.E. Couch took his release locally and journeyed home via Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy and France. Major D. Sax left for Aqaba on the 22nd to relieve Major P. L. Pearce Gould who

has since joined the staff at H.Q. Southern Command, W.O.2 A. Barnacle, R.A.E.C., left on November 26, having been relieved by Sgt. Hoddinott, R.A.E.C.

In December Capt. A. R. Cowan returned from the Chief of Staff's H.Q. in Nicosia to become P.R.I. Capt. J. de Gaye has been nominated to attend the 1057 Staff College course at Camberley. Capt. A. D. C. Eales returned to the Battalion from the 2nd Corps Pool of Interpreters. During his short attachment to that unit he accompanied the British Force to Port Said. 2/Lt. A. Morden joined the Battalion during the month and W.O.2 A. Cooper rejoined on the 31st, having served with the West African Forces.

Finally we congratulate Capt. and Mrs. N. F. Legge on the birth of a second son on December 22.

#### "H. Q." COMPANY

For "H.Q." Company the last few months have entailed much juggling with duties. C.S.M. Burgess is now ably assisted by Sgt. Orme. We were particularly busy over Christmas and have lately had five days' duties "on the run" in order to assist the hard-pressed Rifle Companies.

However, we managed to have a festive Christmas, and if service was slow at the Christmas dinner this was somewhat compensated for by the "Variety Show" demanded of the officers and Sergeants afterwards. The Company Commander and R.Q.M.S. were made to perform, and 2/Lt. Pott earned a popular encore!

2/Lt. Pott has taken over from Lt. Brown as Messing Officer and he is also the efficient Paying Officer each week. Lt. Brown has migrated to the Operations Room, Larnaca, as assistant to Lt. Hayward. We must congratulate Lt. Brown on his promotion and we will be disappointed if he doesn't sign for 22 years now.

As usual there are many changes and new faces replacing the old. In Company H.Q. we have lost Cpl. Merrick on demob., and Cpl. Dainty will soon be departing. Replacing him as Company Clerk we have Pte. Holt, who is now a regular member of the Battalion hockey team. We are sorry to see Sgt. Steward, who has been a very able C.Q.M.S. for the last seven months, depart again to "D" Company, but we welcome C/Sgt. Michel who is now taking over, having sorted out the Signals Platoon.

Our reservists, after many false starts, finally got away before the end of the year, and we were sorry to say farewell to such stalwarts as Sgt. Milner, M.T., Cpl. Usher (Q.M.), Cpl. Baker (B.O.R.), L/Cpl. Kerr (Q.M.), L/Cpl. Ward (R.P.), Pte. Hamsworth (Company H.Q.) and Ptes. Job, Lucas and Harper, our bus orderlies. However, they appeared fairly glad to go!

Other departures have included Cpl. Martin, who has been replaced as Post Corporal by L/Cpl. Robinson of "A" Company. Cpl. Martin walked out of Alma Camp gates and made his own way home via Turkey (at least it is assumed that he got home eventually!). Cpl. Burnage, who has so long look after the Dining Hall, has handed over to Cpl. Leat and departed to "A" Company.

We must congratulate the following on their promotions: O.R.Q.M.S. Colebeck, Cpl. Wright, L/Cpl.

White (all Battalion Orderly Room), Cpl. Potter (Intelligence Section), L/Cpl. Underwood (Officers' Mess), Cpl. Powell (President of Regimental Institutes), and L/Cpls. Holliday and Sullivan (Regimental Policemen). Finally, in the sporting field we must mention that "H.Q." soccer team is at the top of the Garrison Minor Units League.

#### Signal Platoon

The past four months have been busy ones for the Signal Platoon, and have included an international crisis, Christmas, and the eventual return to normal.

The Suez crisis brought the return of some who were enjoying their last few days in the Army, and caused the retention of others who had started to pack. They all resigned themselves to the situation and proved a very useful reserve in a hectic period. We wish them all the best in civilian life.

It is difficult to recall the Christmas events in detail, but they left the impression of being very enjoyable. Five of the Platoon went on leave in England, and the remainder seemed to take advantage of the entertainments here. L/Cpl. Pritchard had an open house over Christmas, and judging by the many Signallers coughing their way through large cigars he seemed to be entertaining lavishly. The Signal Centre was requisitioned and decorated for a Platoon party, at which Pte. Goldsmith showed a distinct flair for catering and Cpls. Wild and Argent a dangerous taste in selecting bar stock.

Since Christmas and the departure of our retained Regulars there has been the task of preparing the cadre for classification, an event which takes place very soon. When this is published the Platoon will be up to strength. We have been extremely fortunate in having the services of C/Sgt. Michel for the duration of the cadre. He returned after 3½ years as an instructor at



Cpl. Wild of the Signal Platoon and a town patrol about to leave Alma Camp

the Signals Wing, Hythe, and was loaned to us for six weeks before taking over C.Q.M.S. of "H.Q." Company. We are very grateful to him for his enthusiasm and skilled instruction on the cadre and the advice he has given to everyone. We wish him success in his new job, and are very thankful that he will still be on hand.

L/Cpl. Packer has gone to Troodos Ski Camp for a month, where we gather he is enjoying his liberation. Ptes. Merry and Leece are towers of strength in the Battalion football team, although the former must be one of the smallest members of the Platoon. L/Cpl. Hayward had the good fortune of being able to see his father as he passed through Larnaca from Egypt, and to spend the night with him as guests of the Commissioner of Larnaca. Ptes. Biggs and Copeland have gone to Aqaba to join Pte. Brandford with "C" Company, but we hope to see all of them back in Cyprus soon.

Looking to the New Year, we see a full year ahead and hope that all our instruments, as well as signallers, are more predictable in 1957.

#### Corps of Drums

The duties in Cyprus follow the pattern described in the last notes. At the moment the whole of the Corps of Drums is at Kophinou.

During the last quarter we have only taken part in one operation as a platoon. This was the search of the village of Livhadia. The Drums with the M.M.G. Platoon and a platoon from "D" Company made up the composite Company under the command of Capt. Hodge. We assisted in cordoning and searching the village.

In December Dmrs. Tattershall, Barnwell and Gannon decided to spend a month's leave in England at the cost of £55 return.

At the end of December we bid *Aufweidersehen* to our two retained regulars, Dmrs. Phelps and Jeffreys. We wish them every success in civilian life. We welcome to the fold Dmr. Evans, who we hope will be our mainstay on the "F" stand in future.

We congratulate Dmr. and Mrs. Rigden on the birth of a son. They now have a family of six.

#### Q.M. Staff

Christmas went off well, as was expected, and it took several days for the after-effects to wear off. Inevitably, the Q.M. Staff had to mount an In-lying Platoon on Christmas Day. It is not the first time that the camp has realised that it can't do without us! R.Q.M.S. Thom won the "Whiskery Dick" competition, beating C/Sgt. Moyse by a short head. We did not win the dining-hall competition, but think everyone will agree that the Staff did quite a good job of work with the Cadre Hut under the circumstances.

In the Novices Boxing Competition we had two entrants, Cpl. Hennebry and Pte. Boddy. No medals were won, but the true spirit was evident.

We have had to say farewell to three of our N.C.O.s who left us for civilian life, including Cpl. Usher, whose many examples of workmanship have been prominent



not only in Alma Camp but also at the outstations, especially in the new Sergeants' Mess hut at Horrocks Camp. Cpl. Halliwell has ceased to mend our boots and the refined voice of L/Cpl. Kerr is no longer heard in the vicinity of the clothing store.

#### M.T. Platoon

At the present moment we are enjoying a relatively quiet period in the Platoon, due partly to a reduction in our internal security commitments and the introduction of petrol rationing. In consequence, the vehicles (and drivers) have been able to catch up on some servicing which is long overdue. It is a fortunate coincidence that this quiet spell has occurred now, just before our annual U.M.I. in early February.

Capt. Legge has now relinquished his appointment as M.T.O. We welcome Capt. Norton as our new M.T.O., but protest against the interminable tool checks now instituted. Sgt. Ward has returned to us, at a very appropriate time, from his attachment to No. 2 Corp's pool of interpreters. He is welcomed back to the fold.

Sgt. Milner (almost a founder member of the M.T. Platoon) has at last left us and has been replaced by Sgt. Gibbs. It is now a matter of conjecture as to who wears out more of the M.T. park, the vehicles or Sgt. Gibbs!

Of the losses recently have been L/Cpl. Symes, Sgt. Adams, Ptes. "Butch" Howard, Dave Anton, Dave Crowley, Jack ("I love tea") Robertson and Cpl. Barcock. We are sorry to see "old faces" disappear, but wish them luck in their future civilian careers. To them and to any other "old boys" who may read these notes we take this opportunity of saying "A Happy and Prosperous New Year."

#### REGIMENTAL BAND

The festive season is always the busiest time of the year for the Band, and this Christmas was no exception, especially since we are still fulfilling our dual role of soldier and musician.

We started our activities in good style by sending a newsletter to all ex-members of the Band. We hope that by doing this we will be able to foster a bond of friendship between the present Band and its "old-uns." We had many replies to this letter, in the form of Christmas cards, but only one letter, which came from Ralph Cook who is a Band-Sergeant in a Canadian Band. Ralph keeps up a regular correspondence with Dennis Hannam and was able to furnish us with the information that Dennis is about to become a father. Congratulations, Dennis!

We are very pleased to be able to say that, in spite of our many I.S. commitments, we are still making progress musically. We have made two recordings for F.B.S. which were relayed over the Christmas period. The success of these two broadcasts has resulted in F.B.S. asking us to do two more in the near future.

Recently L/Cpl. "Pete" Aburrow and Bds. "Percy" Castle rejoined us from the Royal Military School of Music. L/Cpl. Aburrow gained fifth place in the Cousin's Memorial Competition and Bds. Castle is now a "crazy skin beater," having received tuition

from one of England's top-line drummers. Their return has done much to improve the playing of our Band.

Our other musical activities included providing two dance bands for the various Christmas socials, and we also provided music for the carol singers.

While we are on the subject of progress we must mention the Boys. The six new Boys mentioned in our last notes have settled down well, and are making very good progress. Two Boys who are worthy of a special mention are Eldred and French. Eldred has proved himself to be a very good shot with the .22 rifle, and French has represented the Company at football.

Since our last notes there have been two promotions, that of Sgt. Probert and L/Cpl. Torrie. We offer them our congratulations. Sgt. Probert has finally decided to bring his wife to Cyprus and has put his name down for a bicycle.

The news has reached us that Mr. George Beechey has signed on again and we are expecting him to join us in the near future. It seems that a "busby" did not suit him and "civvy street" did not come up to his expectations.

Now if more of our ex-members were to follow Mr. Beechey's example our notes in the Journal would be full of our successful musical achievements.

Other letters to the Band have been from Bds. "Pete" Gutteridge and "Butch" Andrews. They both seem to be doing well at the School of Music and they mentioned that Bds. Bins is making progress as a bass player. This news is most welcome because, at present, the bass section is our weakest. Bds. Woolley is doing his best but he does not seem to have the "oomph" that Sgt. Hazlewood had.

Unfortunately the Band's sporting activities have been on the decline recently. Apart from hockey we have only played a successful basketball match (C.R.E., 32-26), and a drawn football match with the Para's Band (4-4).

Our recent hockey results in a newly-formed Minor Units League have been reasonably good, due mainly to the enterprising leadership of the Bandmaster. Having won four of six league games played to date, we must congratulate the remainder of the team, whose names cannot all be recorded in these notes.

#### "A" COMPANY

During October "A" Company took part in the search of Voroklini, where a live shotgun cartridge was found by Cpl. Hambly. At Athienou Cpl. Starkey found a bomb in a graveyard!

In November the Company searched some mine shafts near Pyrga, but nothing was found. 2/Lt. Higginson avoided missing a lorry with his motor cycle and survived and Sgt. Callaghan returned to the Company.

Sgt. Weller joined the Company in December. Christmas was spent in reserve in Alma Camp and we were all able to get some relaxation from internal security duties.

Sgt. Blackwell should soon be rejoining the Company after his course at Hythe. Cpls. Annett, Mahoney and Mimms have at last been demobbed! L/Cpl. Waller

has been boarded home and we all hope that his foot is mending and in the right shape.

We congratulate: Pte. Anderson for being the "hardest" man in a "hard" Platoon; Pte. White for finding an excuse to leave camp every evening; and Cpl. Hambly on his latest appointment on the training staff at the Depot. Finally, we congratulate our Company Commander, Major I. H. Battye, M.B.E., on his appointment as Commanding Officer The Depot, although we are sorry to lose him after so short a stay in the Company.

#### "B" COMPANY

During the past four months faces have changed a great deal, but the general theme of life in Cyprus has not. The Company has been shrinking steadily since November, and one of our mathematicians estimate that if the present rate of departures continues we will have ceased to exist by the end of the summer. Our most notable farewell was to Capt. Carter, who flew home for his Pre-Staff College course in October. In his place we welcomed Capt. Moore from "H.Q." Company.

From the operational angle we have had a varied and interesting time. Even if no individual has actually stumbled across a pile of Bren guns, we have as a Company played a large part in more than one successful operation. With the notable exception of our senior subaltern almost everyone has had at least a taste of "the sharp end," but at the same time routine guards have had to continue. The Pyla guard commitment keeps half the Company occupied every time it is our turn for the Western Sector, but conditions there have improved and it is no longer as unpopular as it used to be.

We found ourselves in the Western Sector for the first half of October, and although patrolling was carried out almost without a break nothing spectacular was achieved. Shortly after midnight on October 8 the Signals Relay Station at Lefkara decided that they were being attacked, and the countryside for miles around took a terrific beating. Capt. Carter set off from Kophinou with everyone not on guard, and until dawn foot patrols were creeping along the tracks leading away from Lefkara. Capt. Carter took his life in his hands by climbing to the relay station while the Signallers were still standing-to, but survived.

On our return to Alma Camp we were immediately warned for an operation. Our own part of the scheme was to cordon and search the village of Xylophagou, and what was to be a tiring but on the whole enjoyable week started in the early hours of Sunday, October 14. 2/Lt. Waite, having fallen off his motor cycle a few days previously, could not be with us and 2/Lt. Murphy commanded No. 5 Platoon. At the start we had a Platoon of "D" Company attached, but they were soon replaced by "B" Company of the Royal Berkshires. We slept in the open as the weather was warm and dry, and C/Sgt. Moyse distinguished himself throughout the week by maintaining a very good standard of food. After five days only a pistol and a few odds and ends had been found, but four known EOKA members had been detained, and in nearby villages there had been a good haul of men and weapons.

On Thursday, October 18, we moved temporarily to Xyloymbou, leaving in the middle of the night for Troulli and another cordon. Although Troulli was only cordoned for a day and a bit, a number of EOKA suspects were detained and a quantity of arms and ammunition found. The latter included four complete shotguns dug up from fields, and about 4,500 new but unfilled shotgun cartridges which were found in a concealed cave dug into the side of a hillock half a mile from the village.

The Company moved to Larnaca a few days before the intervention in Egypt, to spend a busy fortnight packing, unpacking and filling sandbags. A Greek-Cypriot was murdered near St. Lazarus Square the evening after our arrival, but thereafter all was fairly quiet until the pupils of the Lyceum decided to celebrate Guy Fawkes night with an outside electrically-detonated firework near an "S" Company patrol.

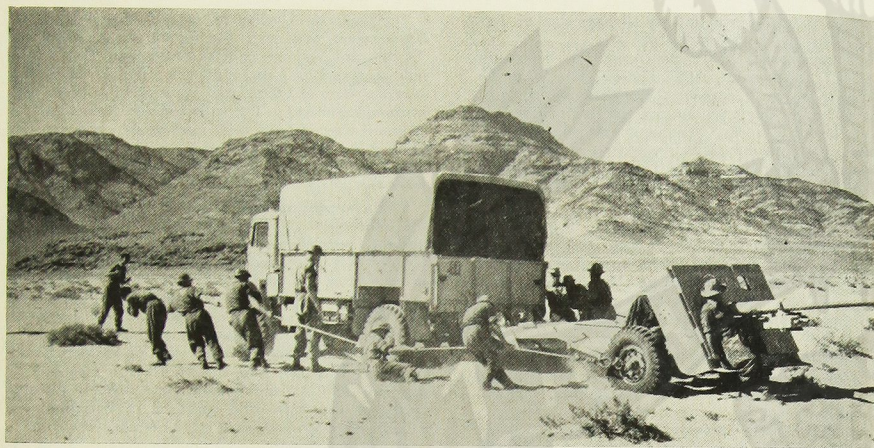
For a few days conversations were all whispered, and rumours abounded until C.S.M. Shrubbs managed to convince the Company that maroon and yellow landing craft had been seen off Famagusta. Censorship prevailed, and letters addressed "Dear Mum and Censor" were not uncommon.

At Kophinou we were once again active. During the first week every outlying building south of the Larnaca-Kopinou road was searched—oranges and grapefruit being captured in large numbers. After that we carried out an operation in the Makhaeras Forest, again in company with "B" Company of the Royal Berkshires. On Sunday afternoon, November 18, four Section-strong parties set out for destinations in the forest, all arriving during the night. The Royal Berkshires took on two small churches, both of which were deserted. During Monday they shot at and missed a man who ran away from them. Of the two remaining parties, one under Capt. Moore and 2/Lt. Bannister searched a rethouse on top of a 4,500-ft. mountain, again without success. The other, under 2/Lt. Adleman, cordoned the Makhaeras Monastery, where dawn revealed a collection of bearded monks and about 25 young men. These were subsequently taken to Nicosia for interrogation in a weird convoy of private cars. The cordon was lifted on Wednesday, November 21, but four small parties stayed a further two days in the vicinity of the monastery.

Alma Camp was, for a change, uneventful. Several of the Company went home for Christmas, and Pte. Bradley (Capt. Carter's old batman) visited us from the newly-arrived 1st R.W.K. C.S.M. Shrubbs made a small fortune when the soccer team beat "H.Q." Company, and we actually managed a morning of Section attacks on Goshi Ranges. Back at Horrocks Camp considerable time was spent putting up new (and waterproof) tents. The Company Office especially came in for some firm treatment, and was made to look like a tent after weeks of trying to be a sailing ship.

Christmas was not celebrated in ideal circumstances, but nevertheless everybody enjoyed themselves as far as was possible. Wireless requests flowed from Kophinou to Pyla and back, and on Christmas morning early risers in the detainees' compounds at Pyla were treated by the spectacle of two officers and a Sergeant taking tea





TYPICAL DESERT COUNTRY NORTH OF AQABA

"C" Company manhandling an anti-tank gun

round the towers on a wheelbarrow. The big ceremony was the forcible removal of C/Sgt. Moyses's moustache by members of the Sergeants' Mess. Alas, the whiskers are now growing again.

There is not sufficient space to mention everyone who has left us recently, but we wish them all the best wherever they are now. Sgt. Bailey was torn away for a vital job at the Depot, as was Cpl. Langford, and our losses through release include Cpls. Kerr and Westfall, L/Cpl. Miles, and Ptes. Fearnle and Tillett. In their place we have welcomed Cpls. Patterson and Burford, L/Cpl. Sullivan, and a long list of Privates. We also congratulate Cpls. Debley, Hartridge, Smith and Burford on their promotion. Our best wishes go to Cpl. and Mrs. Brumwell and Cpl. and Mrs. Robertson on the birth of a daughter.

Opportunities for sport are still few, but in spite of lack of training the Company soccer teams wins nearly all its matches. Pte. Dooler and L/Cpl. Sullivan are our outstanding players, but several of the side have represented the Battalion during the season. Enthusiasm was also rewarded in the Novices Boxing Competition, where all our competitors fought well and Cpl. Burford and Pte. Read won their weights.

At the time of writing we are at Alma Camp trying to master the self-loading rifle. To compensate for having to spend Christmas in the out-stations we were given two days off, and although the weather was unkind coach trips to Kyrenia were organised by the Company. Aqaba is once more being talked of. Most of the Company would enjoy the change, but betting against is reported to be heavy and nowadays no one can even tell what the future holds in store. Anyway, every man in the Company has one thing to look forward to, "Shufflers" may leave us, but more will always take their place.

#### "C" COMPANY

Owing to the international situation in the Middle East, and in particular the closing of the Suez Canal, it has not been possible to carry out the relief of Aqaba Companies as planned and thus we find ourselves facing our eighth month on detachment.

On October 28 the Company was on an exercise in the surrounding desert when news was received that Israel had started large-scale operations against Egypt. We were immediately recalled and placed at half an hour's notice to move. For three days we were able to watch and hear the barrage as the Jews from Eilat (only two miles across the wadi) advanced into Sinai.

Each morning at 0500 hrs. and again each evening at 1700 hrs. we stood-to in our defensive positions around the camp. This situation continued for eight weeks. At last, when it became apparent that Jordan was not going to take part in the war, we were allowed to stand-down. We were still, however, employed in guarding such places as the Signal Bunker, the Commander's residence and H.Q. "O" Force.

At Christmas there was a high-grade intelligence report that Aqaba was to be attacked by armed parties of Arabs and consequently half the Company was deployed on the perimeter on Christmas Eve, Christmas night and Boxing Day night. No Arabs appeared.

After Christmas the tension relaxed and we were again allowed to go out on desert training. However, L/Cpl. Hamblin (our "Playtime") was driving his 3-tonner alone on a track about five miles from the Saudi Arabian border when he came under fire from a Saudi patrol. As he was unarmed he was forced to stop and the patrol gave him a note in Arabic which, when translated, warned the British not to enter the frontier area. A sweep the following morning by

scout-cars of the 10th Hussars failed to find any Saudis. (L/Cpl. Hamblin has now indented for an armoured-plated driver's cab.)

We changed into battledress early in December and very few people go swimming regularly, although quite a number of the Company can boast that they went in on Christmas Day. It is now very cold at night and those on guard are grateful for a greatcoat, but during the day it is still warm enough for shirt-sleeve order.

We were very pleased to receive a visit from the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M. early in the New Year. In spite of a full programme we think that they enjoyed their stay. We only regret that it was so short.

Since our last notes there have been a number of important changes in the Company. Major Pearce Gould has left us to take up the post of G.S.O.2 (S.D.) H.Q. Southern Command after six months as our Company Commander and his place has been taken by Major Sax. We take this opportunity of wishing Major Pearce Gould good luck and thanking him for the work he has done for us both as our O.C. and as Adjutant. At the same time we extend a hearty greeting to Major and Mrs. Sax. C.S.M. Dodkins has departed for the peace and quiet of Cyprus, the comfort of Alma Camp and the job of C.S.M. "D" Company. His place has been taken by C.S.M. Cooper who has arrived from West Africa. Lt. Perkins (R.A.S.C. att. 1st Middlesex) has left us to attend R.C.B. in England, 2/Lt. Murphy has gone to "D" Company to run the N.C.O.s' cadre and 2/Lt. Marshall to become Battalion Messing Officer. 2/Lt. Morden has joined us from Eaton Hall and Sgt. Ford has returned from "D" Company.

The main winter games in Aqaba are soccer and basketball. At the former our team got off to a bad start, but there has now been a marked improvement and they are steadily working their way up the league table. At basketball, thanks to the efforts of 2/Lt. Marshall and Cpl. Harris, we are second in the league. None of our team had played very much before, but some, notably Ptes. Brown and Hudson, show considerable promise.

Although everyone in the Company has enjoyed their stay in Aqaba, there is a general feeling that it is time we shook the sand out of our shoes and we look forward to returning to internal security operations in Cyprus in the near future.

#### "D" COMPANY

##### N.C.O. Cadre Notes

Since the last edition of the Journal the programme for the N.C.O.s' Cadre has run according to plan, with only one real dislocation, during the very welcome holiday over Christmas. The Cadre hut was decorated as usual and transformed into a dining hall for a rather hectic but enjoyable Christmas dinner.

Winter has very definitely arrived and Alma Camp is regularly transformed into a sea of red mud. Training has been carried out under the R.S.M., Sgt. Elston, Cpl. Redmond and Sgt. Hoddinott, R.A.E.C. Cpl. Argent runs the signals lectures and exercises. Recently Sgt. Medlock gave some very useful tips on mess-tin



"D" Company rope-crossing assault course, Dmekelia, Cyprus

cooking, which Cadre No. 11 remembered when they had to cook their own dinner at Goshi after a series of section attacks. Judging by the results, most of the Cadre could qualify for the A.C.C. tomorrow!

Cadre No. 12 has almost completed its training and the final tests loom large on the horizon. If, however, they tackle these tests as well as they went over the assault course, there is no fear of failure.

During the quarter there have been a number of changes in the Company. Lt. Hewson went on a course in England last October and his place was taken by 2/Lt. Murphy. Lt. Prettyman had already taken over from 2/Lt. Couch, and in late November Major Sax went to Aqaba and Capt. Eales returned to "D" Company after a brief "Brush up your Arabic" course and a conducted tour of the Port Said area with H.Q. 16 Indep. Para. Bde. Gp. Now C.S.M. Perry has handed over to C.S.M. Dodkins. In fact the only permanent fixtures seem to be Sgts. Elston and Shinn.

Recently Company training has been stretched a bit to include the Navy and the officers and senior ranks of 32 (Minden) L.A.A. Battery, R.A. The sailors came from H.M.S. *Cavendish*, and were a straight swop for five soldiers who went on a cruise, whilst the Artillery were anxious to brush up their knowledge of some of our weapons and spent several periods under instruction with Sgts. Steward and Elston. Finally, mention must be made of Cpl. Redmond, who is firmly established in the Battalion .22 team (still in its salad days).

Continuation training has carried on for the past few months with only one interruption, which was at the end of No. 6 Platoon training period when the Platoon took part in the cordon and search of Livadhia. The Platoon of 45 privates and five N.C.O.s looked almost Company size, compared with the "S" Company detachment and Drums which went to make up the composite company commanded by Capt. R. A. Hodge. 2/Lt. Couch left at the end of October and was





"D" Company assault course

replaced by Lt. D. A. Prettyman. Mr. Couch tried the interesting experiment of making his own way home, and although he wasn't always comfortable (especially when travelling for three days in a railway carriage with a bunch of foreign students: three Persians, one Iraqi, two Greek). He reached home via Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and France, 26 days later.

The last two platoons have been very small in number. No. 7 started with 16, but eight were flown to Aqaba after doing only three weeks' training. The present No. 8 Platoon is 10 strong, and we hope they can stick together until the end of their course. We congratulate Pte. Longman who left the Continuation Training Platoon to go on the N.C.O.s' Cadre, and he has done very well.

Sgt. Shinn is still with us after six courses and we now have Cpl. Dyer from "S" Company. Cpl. Patrick left on N.S. release and L/Cpl. Webb went home for W.O.S.B. Cpl. Hambly has gone to the Depot and Cpl. Finnissy at last hopes to be demobbed. We wish them all luck in their new surroundings.

During the autumn the Company entered the Dhekelia Minor Units football league, and after several heavy defeats settled down to play quite well. We welcome all good footballers to "D" Company as the

existence of our team depends on players from the Cadre and Continuation Training Platoons.

#### "S" COMPANY

At the end of the last quarter we were just finishing a fortnight in the Western Sector, at the end of this one we are in Horrocks Camp, Larnaca, preparing to move back to the Western Sector.

The most notable event during the quarter were the Christmas festivities.

The publication of Lord Radcliffe's proposals for a constitution in Cyprus which were expected to give rise to disturbances were expected on the day we were due to change Company locations, so we moved into Horrocks Camp two days earlier. These extra days enabled us to start work decorating the dining hall and canteen and they were ready by Christmas.

By the great kindness of the Superintendent of Police our guard at Athienou police station was relieved by police for a few hours on Christmas Day, and thus the whole Company was able to sit down for Christmas dinner together. Also our reservists and retained regulars awaiting release in Alma Camp came down for the day.

Christmas Day started in traditional manner. The sergeants brought tea around the tents. After a special breakfast a Carol Service was held. The lessons were read by Lt. Humber, Sgt. Eastap and Capt. Hodge.

By 1230 all work was done and the dinner began. The decorations supervised by Lt. Humber were first class. Cpl. Broadbent and his cooks produced a splendid dinner, so much so that many were unable to cope with the vast portions that were laid before them.

After dinner a film show was held, followed by a buffet tea, again most excellently prepared by the cooks. A tombola session had been arranged for those not on guard in the evening, but when the organisers arrived to start, the company was so full of food that they were exhausted! And so ended a most memorable day, one that which will long be remembered as a jolly good Christmas.

Our departures and arrivals are described in the platoon notes.

Our very best wishes for the New Year go to all present, past and future members of the Company.

#### 3-in. Mortar Platoon

The main achievement of this last quarter has been the training of 12 new specialists during a two-week cadre at Alma Camp. The mortarmen concerned are to be congratulated on some very enthusiastic and hard work and a fine result. In consequence there is now in existence an almost completely specialist mortar platoon for the first time since we left Austria. On the debit side, however, we have lost Sgt. Gibbs to the M.T. after four very successful years with "S" Company and the Platoon. We are very sorry to lose a first-class mortarmen. We wish him every success in his new appointment. Sgt. Green has left both the Platoon and the Army and we wish him well in the future. Others who have left are Cpl. Denning, one of the oldest of the Platoon, who has returned to butchering,



"BREAKFAST"—M.M.G. PLATOON PATROL NEAR LEFKARA

Left to right: Ptes. Jolley, Frith, Shaffner, Rees, L/Cpl. Bracy, Lt. Lloyd (O.C. M.M.G. Platoon) and Pte. Herd

Cpls. Seabridge and Burton, and Ptes. McGuinness, Mulquin and Whitman. To these also go our best wishes in their civilian occupations.

On the operational side of life there was one memorable day spent in climbing up the steep southern side of Stavrovouni hill in search of terrorists. The only achievement was reaching the top before the vehicles, which went up by the road on the north side. Many of us realised on gaining the summit just how unfit we had become over the last few months.

Our only field-firing day was baulked by an order putting the range out of bounds. Instead the whole Company left Alma Camp one cold and wet morning to recover large quantities of tail fins and empty cases left by former users of Goshi range. There was quite a good "haul," including one or two unexploded mortar bombs which were blown in the normal way.

On November 18 the Sunday peace at Horrocks Camp was shattered by three explosions. The Mortar Platoon, true to form, was out of the main gate almost instantly and Pte. Willis fired a burst at a man running away from the scene of the crime. Bombs had been thrown at a passing vehicle on the main road. Four men were detained. No damage or casualties was suffered. Our next visit to Horrocks Camp was at Christmas, when everyone managed to have a very enjoyable time.

Cpl. Fisher has rejoined the Army and also his former platoon, and we wish him every success in his old job. L/Cpls. Rose and Long are congratulated on their promotions.

#### M.M.G. Platoon

The last four months have been comparatively un-

eventful for the Machine Gun Platoon. Very little training has been done, due to Colonel Nasser's activity on the Suez Canal, except a one-week cadre. On this cadre six new arrivals to the Platoon, Ptes. Giles, Tree (73), Frith, Smith (17), Repton and Wallace were introduced to the Vickers machine-gun. At the same time another cadre was in progress teaching five drivers from the M.T. something of the workings of the gun in case they should be required as M.M.G. Platoon drivers. Of the five, Pte. King showed greatest interest and did very well. Colonel Nasser was also responsible for Ptes. Hutchins and Keefe being with us for Christmas, although they were not retained for long afterwards. We wish them a happy and prosperous New Year in civilian life.

Two noteworthy arrivals in the Platoon are Sgt. Adams who joined us from the M.T., and Cpl. Pollard who came to us from the Royal Fusiliers. We extend a very hearty welcome to them both. We are lucky still to have Sgt. Eastap. When on town patrol in Larnaca an electrically-detonated bomb exploded within a few feet of his vehicle.

Other terrorist activity in which the Platoon was involved has been limited to two events. The first, in which the whole Company took part, was just outside Horrocks Camp when six bombs were thrown at a vehicle. The M.M.G. Platoon were on Riot Duty and turned out in a very short time. The other incident took place in Lefkara. Soon after midnight three shots rang out in the village. After a good deal of shouting the police ran off to investigate. Some time later an auxiliary policeman came into the station claiming to have been shot at by three masked men. He even showed us the bullet holes in his clothes and a bullet



that had lodged in his jacket. It was later proved that he had fabricated the whole story and he is now no longer in the Police Force.

Early in December it was decided to send Sgt. Reynolds to Aqaba. He was away about five weeks, but of the period only nine days were spent in Aqaba; the remaining time was spent, "most enjoyably," at various staging points on the journey, primarily Habbaniya, where a very pleasant three weeks leave was spent.

While Sgt. Reynolds was touring the Middle East the Platoon was at Lefkara police station. There we carried out a very strenuous patrol programme. The first patrol proved that we were not as fit as we had hoped. However, a large number of patrols, both by day and night, were carried out and everyone was much better for some healthy exercise when we moved back to Alma Camp.

Christmas was celebrated in traditional manner at Horrocks Camp. The cooks produced an excellent Christmas dinner, with all the usual trimmings. In the afternoon many of the Platoon characters saw themselves on the silver screen for the first time.

Since Christmas we have lost Sgt. Young to "H.Q." Company. After a very long stay in Support Company we are sorry to see him go and wish him success in his new job. Pte. Watson has been to U.K. on leave and returned looking rather pale. L/Cpl. Bracey and Ptes. Frith and Shaffner have all had short stays in hospital; they are now fit again and back at work.

Finally, a word of congratulation to Ptes. Repton and Rees who did very well in the Novices Boxing Competition, and to Ptes. Smith (17) and Tree (73) who tried hard but with less success.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

The most memorable event of the past few months has been the firing of our two 17-pounders at Cape Pyla Range. Events beyond our control prevented us from bivouacking the night before on the range, and restricted our time for essential preliminaries. In fact we did not get the spades dug in well enough, and one nearly caused the destruction of Capt. Hodge's spectacles. The shot was a good one. Firing at 600 yards at a hessian screen 6 ft. by 4 ft., our 24 rounds resulted in 19 shot holes on the target, nor were they hand made as the rest of the Company would believe! This score includes two shots mysteriously misdirected by Pte. Frewin. This was quite a satisfactory result considering that we had not the ammunition to zero the guns first. Everyone fired at least one round, although the Assault Pioneers' Platoon Commander strangely declined the honour. This was the first shoot for over a year, and we hope the Platoon has profited from firing and has now confidence in the accuracy of this cumbersome but effective weapon. If possible we intend to fire again in the summer.

The enjoyment of the day was only marred by the inability of the Stuart Gun Towers, those "accursed tanks," to complete the journey. One we have gratefully given to workshops, the other is being renovated by Pte. Finn who, since the loss of his glasses, is guided to the spot and works largely by touch.

We congratulated Pte. Sherlock on his promotion to Lance-Corporal. He is in B.M.H. at the moment with acute rheumatism, and we wish him a speedy recovery. We also congratulate L/Cpls. Young and Pritchard on their promotions and welcome Ptes. Roffey and Friedloss to the Platoon.

Most of the Platoon were stranded at Athienou police station over Christmas, but were very kindly relieved by the police on Christmas Day and were able to spend it with the rest of the Company. Christmas dinner was most successful and was the occasion of a stirring speech by Pte. Frewin. After a film the Platoon returned in quite good condition to Athienou.

After Christmas we lost Ptes. Frewin and Waters and Cfn. Harrison, and we wish them luck in civilian life.

#### Assault Pioneer Platoon

The Platoon spent a fortnight at Kophinou Police Station in November. A week's solid training on demolition was carried out, and despite a lack of practical work a lot was learnt. Ptes. Smith and Barrett did particularly well on the test in which the standard was encouragingly high.

During the second week, besides guards, we had an opportunity to do a great deal of patrolling both by foot and in vehicles. Possibly the most enjoyable of these patrols, enjoyable in retrospect only to some perhaps, was a foot patrol carried out on the darkest imaginable night to the east of Stavronouni. We walked right through the night with only short breaks for listening, over country which included the hazards of vertical drops, steep slippery hills, knee-deep water and uncomfortable gorse.

Nobody on that patrol can ever forget the silence between the bounces of the man in front as he "made his way" down to a river bed; or Pte. Leach-Walton's encounter with a gorse bush and Pte. Reeve's quick but original descent to the river beds.

Despite everything, we reached our destination, Pyrga Village, with 20 minutes to spare after a brief look at the magnificent beauty of the paintings in the Linos Cliftlik Monastery. Those on that patrol, the "hard" core of the Assault Pioneers, were: 2/Lt. Spragg, Sgt. Lloyd, and Ptes. Hobbs, Hossack, Kelman, Leach-Walton, Powell, Reeve, Smith and Sutherland.

We almost certainly created a record in being the first Platoon to travel on patrol in a luxury coach. We asked for a bus to get to our patrol base unseen and expected a local one, something smaller and a bit less conspicuous than the one provided. We drove over roads on which such a coach had never ventured before in order to reach a position near Ora Village without arousing suspicion. Covered by our blankets, we may not have been detected, but the bus did not appear to pass through the villages without comment. All praise though to the Turkish driver who performed feats unparalleled in the history of motoring. We were destined to have another 36 hours in the same area after an escape from Pyla Detention Camp, so we now know that area pretty well.

Just before Christmas Ptes. Finch and Kelman left us to return to England. We miss the former's cheery comments on life's daily troubles, and the two of them,



LT.-COL. JEF WILLOUGHBY, O.B.E., BEING DINED OUT IN THE W.O.'s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Left to right: R.Q.M.S. Thom, Bandmaster Jackson, Lt.-Col. Willoughby, R.S.M. Wild and C.S.M. Burgess

with Pte. Hobbs who left us shortly afterwards, are a real loss to the Platoon. Our only new arrival is Pte. Fellowes, but we are not the only Platoon to be rather under strength.

L/Cpl. Hyam, our Reservist, stayed just long enough to add cheer to our Christmas, and we hear he entertained the Commanding Officer in the Corporals' Mess at Alma Camp with a fine rendering of "Hound Dog," which met with great approval.

Finally, Cpl. Harris and Ptes. Salmon and Tree have all had leave in U.K., and we congratulate Cpl. Harris on his marriage and wish him every happiness.

Pte. Barrett is now on leave in England and is also about to get married; he, too, has our very best wishes for his future happiness.

To you who read these simple lines  
And live at home or near,  
Remember all the grand old times  
Say, why aren't you out here?

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

It has taken some time, but Rock 'n Roll, that "heathen gyration," has finally broken the sound barrier of the Sergeants' Mess and even penetrated the hides of many who were thought to be past it.

Sgt. LeMaitre, thought by many to be a staunch march lover, divested himself of all but his shoes and trousers on Christmas Eve and flung his body into a frenzy of native ecstasy, much to the delight, and surprise, of all present. It will be some time before the

members and our many guests forget his brilliant display.

In October we bade a sad farewell to Lt.-Col. J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E., at a dinner given in his honour. The tables were laid with the Mess silver, and the cutlery which was obtained during Col. Willoughby's tour. This was a unique occasion, it being the first time that a Commanding Officer had been "dined out" in the Mess.

Col. Willoughby's speech afterwards was most moving and will long be remembered by those present. As a parting gift the Mess presented him with a writing desk set in red leather. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Col. Willoughby on his promotion and hope that we will have the honour of serving with him again in the future.

We welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston. He will be remembered by many serving and ex-members during his period in Austria as 2IC of the Battalion, and we look forward to a long and enjoyable tour under his command.

Other new arrivals this quarter are W.O.2 Cooper, C/Sgt. Michel, and Sgts. Turner and Weller, who arrived in time for the festivities.

C.S.M. Cooper has recently flown to Aqaba to take over in "C" Company from C.S.M. Dodkins, who caused some alarm on his return during the Suez crisis. His appearance lent weight to the rumour that the Arabs had landed. He takes over as C.S.M. "D" Company, a post vacated by C.S.M. Perry who becomes W.T.O.



On December 26 we held our Christmas dinner with battle order handy in case EOKA interrupted it, as it did last year. However, the dinner was held successfully with the R.S.M. presiding over his "family" at this traditionally family affair.

Rounding off 1956, the Mess was again packed to capacity for the New Year's Eve Ball, which was attended by the Commanding Officer and many other officers and their ladies.

It is appropriate at this time to congratulate the P.M.C. and members of the Messing and Entertainments Committees for the grand work they have done in their respective departments over the Christmas period. The many tombola and excellent dance evenings we have had this quarter have been widely enjoyed and appreciated.

Two more special functions were recently held when we entertained the members of the P.O.s' Mess of H.M.S. *Cavendish* and *Diamond*, who called in at Dhekelia Bay. The beer and spirits flowed and it was a case of "Your version, our version" in song (some call them songs!). We have now added another plaque and pennant to the imposing collection of the Regimental Band, our latest addition to the Sergeants' Mess.

On a more serious note we bid a sad farewell to our old two stalwart "Retained Regulars," Sgts. Milner and Green, who have returned to the U.K. for release, and to Sgt. Bailey who left us on posting to the Regimental Depot.

Finally, in closing, we thank all our friends, serving and ex-members, for their greetings cards received and wish you all a very prosperous New Year.

### HOCKEY

The new season has brought about several changes in our team, but we have got off to a good start and hope to continue the good work. Notable absentees this season are R.S.M. MacMillan and Cpl. Maloney. So far we have been unable to entice Lt. Hayward from his armchair in the "Operations Room," but we have found new players in 2/Lts. Morden and Murphy and Pte. Holt, the new "H.Q." Company Clerk. The bulk of the Battalion team come from the old firm of the Adjutant, Q.M. and Band, and we have been fortunate this season in securing the services of C.S.M. Shrubbs in goal. On the occasions when he has been unable to play Bdsman. Hazell has deputised very ably.

We have entered a team in each of the 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Major Units and the Dhekelia Garrison Minor Units Leagues.

We are at present top of the former league, having played eight games, of which we have won five, drawn two and lost one. In the first game we surprised ourselves by beating 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery at home 3-1, Bandmaster Jackson scoring a hat-trick. In our next match we visited the Royal Leicesters at Famagusta and were unlucky not to come away with both points. We drew 3-3. 625 Ordnance Depot at Four-Mile Point gave us a good run for our money before we beat them 3-1, 2/Lt. Murphy scoring two good goals. "Tiger," who umpires so regularly and efficiently for us, caused a sensation by threatening to send off their star player for rough play. Our next

visitors were the R.A.F. from Ayous Nicolaos, and we beat them 2-0. Cpl. Carson gave away a penalty-bully in this game but redeemed himself by clearing it against a very good player. Our fifth fixture brought about our first defeat at the hands of the Civilian Wing of 2 Wireless Regiment. They won 4-2, but we atoned for this by beating them 5-2 in the return match two weeks later. Our next visit to Nicolaos Camp brought us a victory of 5-2 over 2 Wireless Regiment and another hat-trick for the Bandmaster (two short corners and a penalty-bully). Our last match was the return fixture *versus* 625 Ordnance Depot, and after a grand hard-fought game honours were even at 4 goals each. We trailed behind for most of the match and Capt. Bellers equalised almost on time with a shot that had to be seen to be believed!

The line-up of the Battalion team this season has been: C.S.M. Shrubbs, Cpl. Carson, Cpl. Ingram, 2/Lt. Morden, Lt. (Q.M.) Waldron or Capt. Bellers, Capt. Marciandi, 2/Lt. Murphy or Capt. Bellers, Bandmaster Jackson, Pte. Holt, L/Cpl. Torrie and L/Cpl. Rose. Others who have turned out for representative games are Sgt. Davies, Cpl. Redmond, L/Cpl. Deas, Capt. Flavell and Pte. Goodwin. It will be seen we are not short of reserves.

In the Dhekelia Garrison Minor Units League we have not done quite so well. To date we have won three matches (*versus* Command Royal Engineers 3-2, Royal Army Pay Corps 2-0, Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers 3-1) and lost two (*versus* 625 Ordnance Depot 1-4 and 16 I.A.A. Regiment Royal Artillery 2-3). In the latter game the Gunners only turned up with nine men, so to make a game of it we gave them one of our men, L/Cpl. Rose. He has seldom played such a staunch game and was largely responsible for their victory. Never again! In this league the Band (assisted by Pte. Holt) provide the team on most occasions as it would be unfair to field the Battalion team against these smaller units.

During their brief stay at Dhekelia we played two friendly matches against the 1st Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment. In our first game we drew 4-4 after a good struggle, but in the return match they fielded a much weaker team and we had no difficulty in trouncing them 7-0. Our only other "friendly" as *versus* H.Q. 3rd Brigade, in which we emerged victors by 3 goals to 1.

With the season at the halfway stage we are pleased with our results so far and look forward to the future with confidence.

### SOCCER

In spite of the difficulty of maintaining a Battalion team under existing conditions, we have played a number of matches during the quarter. We lost to the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment 4-3, to 40 Field Regiment, R.A., 2-1, and to R.A.F. Nicosia, 4-1. We beat H.M.S. *Jamaica* 14-1, took on the Royal Leicesters twice more and were beaten 2-1 on both occasions. We then played H.M.S. *Diamond* and beat them 7-1. Quite obviously, the sailors get less opportunity for practice than we do.

The Battalion has also entered three teams in the

Dhekelia Minor Units League, those of "H.Q." Company, "D" Company and Reserve Company. The last is provided by the Company in camp. This is not a satisfactory way of including "A," "B" and "S" Companies in the league, but the only practical one as two Companies are detached and fully employed on internal security duties. At present "H.Q." Company team is second in the league, "D" Company team is fourth, and Reserve Company team sixth.

### JOURNEY HOME FROM CYPRUS

My journey home almost started in disaster. Having been granted a local release, which allowed me to travel home under my arrangements, I planned to travel by sea from Larnaca to Naples. The ship, however, was delayed, and rather than spend the night unarmored in Cyprus I decided to fly to Turkey to attempt the longer but probably more interesting route from there.

After an hour's flight, we touched down at Adana in south-east Turkey. This rather poor agricultural town possesses the atmosphere of London in the time of Dickens. Horse-drawn carts and cabs career along the cobbled street, producing a roar equal in intensity, but quite different to that of a Western city. English was a language almost unknown, and it was with considerable difficulty that I found accommodation for the night. At 0600 hrs. the next morning I left by bus on the 350-mile journey for Ankara. This interesting, but extremely uncomfortable journey lasted 12 hours, and took us up into the beautiful snow-capped Taurus Mountains, and then across the dusty, and barren, Anatolian plateau to the capital. I found the modern and prosperous city of Ankara preparing for the Turkish Independence Day, and it was in this festive atmosphere that I spent the next three days.

Then followed another long bus journey to Istanbul, but this time through noticeably greener and more fertile scenery. It was at this stage that I experienced most language difficulty, and at our halt for lunch I found trouble ordering my food. I was beckoned to the kitchens, and confronted with a vast array of unappetising dishes, some of which to my surprise I later consumed.

I approached Istanbul at sunset and I was able to admire the exceptional beauty of the Princess Isles, which are set in the Sea of Marmara. Istanbul is traditionally where East meets West, but this cosmopolitan atmosphere is to some extent lost due to the introduction of the European form of dress. It still possesses, however, countless mosques, palaces, and museums, which provide unrivalled romance and interest for the tourist.

During my short stay in Turkey I found it to be a rather backward country except in the main cities, where modern methods are progressing at a surprising rate, and one which may well prove to be dangerous, particularly as they are completely lacking in the scientific and technical background so necessary in this modern world.

After four days in Istanbul I left by train for Trieste some 1,500 miles away. The train, which is supposed to be an express, is in no sense of the word a fast one, and after the first night's travel we had only reached

the Greek border. Here the frontier posts provided a complete contrast. On the one side stood the impressive Turks, rigidly at ease, whilst on the other side the Greeks simply wandered out of their hut in shirt-sleeves to examine the passing train. The remainder of the day was spent travelling through the Greek mountains, which were beset by ominous storm clouds. At 0230 hrs. the next morning the train arrived at Salonika, and for no apparent reason we remained there for seven hours. We did not finally cross the Yugoslav border until midday. By this time I had as my companions a collection of students, including three Persians, a Turk, two Greeks and an Iraqi. In an endeavour to find some common interest I produced my pocket chess set. The Iraqi at once challenged me to a game, but I had considerable misgivings, however, when with a smile from ear to ear he said: "Me Nasser, you Eden!" I am sorry to record that Eden lost this encounter by two games to one, but with no loss of blood.

Throughout the day the train passed through the picturesque countryside which has few metalled roads, and whose farming methods appear to be primitive. I saw no mechanical implements, and the peasants seemed to rely almost entirely on the ox or the horse to draw their ploughs. The following morning the train arrived at Belgrade, where I was able to spend an hour seeing for the first time a Communist controlled town. Another similar day's travel followed, and eventually after the fourth night in the train I arrived at Trieste at 0600 hrs. after an unforgettable journey.

Trieste is a delightful city whose quaint beauty is best seen from the pine-clad hills which surround the natural harbour. The town is now under Italian control except for a small zone, which is still under Tito administration. There are many features of interest, including the St. Giusto Cathedral and Castle, and the very attractive Miramare Castle, which can be seen further up the coast.

After only one night in Trieste I left in a luxurious coach for Venice. This famous city with its reputation for beauty was not disappointing. The maze of canals confuse the visitor, and with no other means of travel available, the tourist is forced to mingle with the "rush hour" on the many launches. These are as natural to the Venetian as the "Tube" is to the Londoner. The gondola is still popular to the tourist, and the boatmen make full use of the romance that surround this vessel. During my two days' stay in Venice I explored artistic buildings, and admired such sights as St. Mark's Square with its astonishing cathedral, the Ducal Palace, The Accademia, and the Bridge of Sighs.

The next stage of my journey took me through the Italian Alps and past the large Lake Maggiore until we passed through the Simplon Tunnel into snowy Switzerland. I spent the night at Berne, the clean and pleasant capital of the country, and then journeyed on to the fashionable and prosperous city of Geneva.

Finally, I travelled via Dijon, and then across the Channel to the shores of England, thus completing a memorable and worth-while journey. To anybody nearing the end of their National Service I strongly recommend this method of returning home.





Photo: J. J. Chivers

#### OFFICERS AND N.C.O.s OF THE DEPOT PERMANENT STAFF

*Fourth row:* Cpl. Hanshaw, L/Cpl. Cox, L/Cpl. Bannan, L/Cpl. Manser, L/Cpl. Kerr, L/Cpl. Ambler, L/Cpl. Anderson.  
*Third row:* Cpl. Hall, Cpl. Long, Cpl. Payne (A.C.C.), Cpl. Mead, Cpl. Hersant, Cpl. Eadey, Cpl. Biggs, Cpl. Raffael, Cpl. Turner, Cpl. Speakman.  
*Second row:* Sgt. Warner, S.I. Morris (A.P.T.C.), Sgt. Milburn (R.A.P.C.), Sgt. Moran, Sgt. Simmons, Sgt. White (R.W.K.), Sgt. Lagden, Sgt. McHugh (R.E.M.E.), Sgt. Palmer, Sgt. Stubbings (A.C.C.), Sgt. Bailey.  
*Front row:* C/Sgt. Taylor, 2/Lt. M. F. Hedgecoe, Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Capt. H. J. Evans, Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., R.S.M. E. J. Pike, Capt. S. C. W. Weller, Lt. R. D. Fisher, C.S.M. Firman, C/Sgt. Hockley, B.E.M.

## Depot Notes

### EDITORIAL

"Change and decay in all around I see," was one of the theme songs of a character in one of Mr. Evelyn Waugh's novels, and we can well imagine that our readers will be thinking that it must be ours, too. At least, change; there is little decay about the Depot. The workmen, mentioned in our last notes, are still hard at work while the establishment is having its face lift. However, for the fourth edition of these notes in succession we have to announce changes in command and control within the Depot: this time it is to bid farewell to our Commanding Officer. Major Hewitt has been with us only a very short time and we are indeed sorry to see him go so soon. He has done a great deal for the unit during his short tour and we will miss him. All ranks of the Depot join in wishing Major and Mrs. Hewitt every success and good fortune in their new appointment in the Gold Coast. Meanwhile, we welcome Major and Mrs. Battye and their

family to the Depot and hope their stay with us will be a pleasant and successful one.

Of other arrivals in the Depot during the last quarter we were especially pleased to welcome a very well-known Regimental figure indeed: Col. F. Walden, who has come to us as an R.O.3 and is responsible for a vast number of married quarters and hirings throughout North London. A change indeed, and one that we hope will make our Q.M. a much happier man! We are also pleased to welcome 2/Lt. M. F. Hedgecoe, the son of Col. S. F. Hedgecoe. He is to stay with us a few months as a Training Subaltern whilst the Adjutant is away on a "Whiteshod" Course in Norway and Lt. Pollard sits in the Adjutant's chair.

The period covered by these notes started well on October 26 with a very successful and well-attended Reunion at the Seymour Hall. Certain of the Depot wives did Spartan work selling copies of the new Regimental history throughout the evening, with great

success. November 5 was celebrated in traditional depot style, with a huge bonfire and firework display on the assault course for the children.

Col. Browne, Major and Mrs. Hewitt, Major Heywood and Capt. Evans attended the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey on November 10. Our Remembrance Day service in the Gymnasium and at the Memorial was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, and Lady Handley-Page. The Lord Lieutenant laid the wreath of the Regimental Association and took the salute at the march past. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Sir Frederick on the recent death of Lady Handley-Page.

The G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Lt.-Gen. Coleman, visited us on December 12. He watched recruits of the 43rd Intake drilling and spoke to several of them, visited the Regimental Museum and lunched in the Officers' Mess.

Christmas festivities at the Depot started this year with a children's party in the NAAFI on December 15. Over 30 children came from the married quarters, and the party was a howling success—literally! C/Sgt. Powell made an excellent Father Christmas, having had the "chimney" altered to fit and after the distribution of presents and tea the children were shown some cartoon films. All thanks must go to the organisers and adult helpers, who were looking somewhat dishevelled by the time the children went home!

This was followed by a Carol Service on December 20 in the Chapel. The Rev. Maskell took the service,



Photo: J. J. Chivers

#### LORD LIEUTENANT ON THE DAIS

*Just prior to taking the salute at the march past of all ranks after the Remembrance Day Service, November 11*

which was very well attended. The lessons were read by Miss Carol Weller, Pte. Holden, L/Cpl. Kerr, C/Sgt. Powell and Lt. Fisher. The Chapel, incidentally, has recently been enhanced by the presentation of a magnificent leather-bound Bible by Col. Browne. The traditional troops' Christmas dinner was held on December 21, when all the officers and members of the Sergeants' Mess served the dinners. The Commanding Officer read telegrams from the Colonel of the Regiment and from the 1st Battalion, and the Depot went on Christmas leave after the dinner. There was no Depot function to greet 1957 and the only occasion of note with the advent of the New Year was increasing signs of worry on the foreheads of the Orderly Room and Company Office staff as they attempted to work out the ramifications of the new Army Act. All the officers had been sent off to Chelsea Barracks towards the end of the old year for a one-day course to try and absorb all the essential differences; these caused a certain amount of alarm and despondency, particularly when it was found that the "old faithful" section was now 69.

Once again the Depot is "on location." This time we are being used for background scenes for a film called "These Dangerous Years," starring Frankie Vaughan, and numerous cameramen have been seen around taking "stills" of the guardroom and barrack blocks, action scenes have been shot in the NAAFI and on the square, and we have acquired a new main gate,

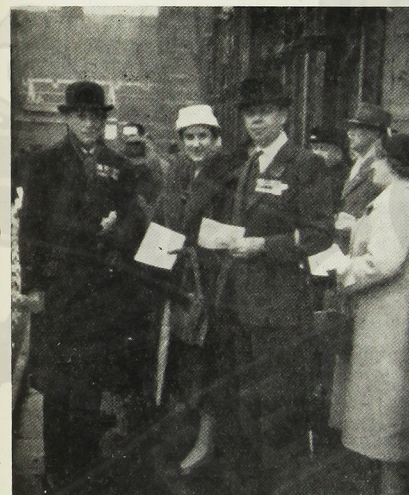


Photo: W. J. Overton

*Col. Browne, Major and Mrs. Hewitt outside the Abbey, November 10*



which now stands outside the Orderly Room. Unfortunately, the hero of the film is a most unsoldierly character who would make an R.S.M.'s hair stand on end, and we accept no responsibility for the script. In fact, when the Padre was shown the script and saw how the film "padre" was supposed to act, he blanched visibly and vanished to Bagshot for three days to recover from the shock!

The Regiment has long been justly proud of its sporting record and occasionally we are fortunate enough to acquire the services of some exceptional individual sportsmen. One of our A.I.S.P.T. at present serving at the Depot has recently been awarded his Army boxing colours—L/Cpl. Wadham, who has started his Army boxing career by defeating his first five opponents in Army matches. Now that the British and Olympic welter, "Nicky" Gargano, has retired, it is hoped that L/Cpl. Wadham will receive his England colours, especially as he has already been chosen for England to meet Ireland on January 30, when he will meet F. Teidt, the Olympic silver medallist. We congratulate Cpl. Wadham on his successes so far.

#### TRAINING COMPANY

Looking back over the past quarter we see that, although petrol rationing has somewhat restricted our outside training activities, the movement of individuals appears to have been greater than usual.

From the training staff we have lost Sgts. Partridge and Buckley, together with Cpl. Patterson, to the 1st Battalion and we can only add that our loss is the Battalion's gain. Cpls. Hall and Whithread are now civilians—the latter despite many attempts to persuade him otherwise. Col. Nasser assisted our efforts by prolonging his service for a further three months. Departures from the "Q.M.'s private army" have also been considerable, including Cpl. Stanford on the one hand with 24 years' service in the Regiment, and on the other L/Cpls. Brewer and Clayton with a mere 24 months.

To fill the gaps we welcome Cpl. Mead from airborne duties, Cpl. Edey on rejoining from civil life, and very recently Cpls. Langford and Hambly from the 1st Battalion. Cpls. Mead and Edey are already well acquainted with the "365-!-! once's every year," and no doubt our latest arrivals will soon assume that well-known attitude. Personnel joining the Permanent Staff also include:

Regimental Police: Ptes. Brown (46) and Clack.

Q.M.: L/Cpl. Manser and Ptes. Barton and Walker.

Officers' Mess: Ptes. Rankmore, Roberts, Rahmatullah and Sims.

M.T.: Pte. Bartlett.

The threat of I.R.A. raids has necessitated the issue of ammunition to sentries—in itself a very double-edged weapon. Within the first two weeks one ambitious recruit put a shot through the Company Commander's ceiling (in his absence!) from the floor above.

The 41st Intake of Recruits became guinea-pigs for a number of experiments during their training. In September high-level pressure was exacted on all Depots to take great interest in local youth club activities. Thanks to the enthusiastic assistance of Mr. F. E.

Griffiths, the Youth Officer of Hendon, and the more doubtful exuberance of the recruits, these activities have now become a routine matter in which everyone shows considerable interest. As a result it is hoped that in future years more regular recruits will join the Regiment from these clubs. The last experiment with this Intake was to revert to the old form of passing-out parade, including a march past in slow time. This proved to be most successful on November 16 when the salute was taken by the Depot Commander, Major A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C., prior to his departure. Medals were presented by him to:

Best All-round Recruit	..	Pte. R. Colgan
Best Rifle Shot	..	Pte. E. Daniel
Best L.M.G. Shot	..	Pte. I. Wainwright
Highest Physical Efficiency	..	Pte. A. Cowell

The Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards were on the parade and their performance helped considerably in making the occasion a success.

The training of the Permanent Staff to fire their annual range course is always an exasperating task. Heads of departments are most reluctant to part with their men for weapon training and Ts.O.E.T.; the training N.C.O.s try hard to find some good points from a heap of glaring mistakes and the men themselves waste considerable time in thinking up reasons why they should not fire their weapons. Despite all this we had an enjoyable weekend on October 6-7 at Purfleet, and a special mention was earned by C/Sgt. Michel who was subpoenaed for this event whilst in transit to the 1st Battalion.

Before leaving the subject of training we should like to congratulate Cpls. Raffael and Plumb, both of whom were awarded a "B" Pass on their Platoon Weapons Courses at Hythe and to Sgt. Simmons who gained a similar distinction on a Guards Drill Course. Sgt. Simmons has been suffering from loss of voice at frequent intervals during the past three months, but he seems to have made a rapid recovery since the M.O. threatened to remove his tonsils if it happened again. Sgt. Tarry, whom we congratulate on his recent promotion, followed Sgt. Simmons on a drill course, and we are still awaiting his result both on paper and in person.

For the 42nd Intake the interest in Youth Club activities began to snowball and numerous invitations arrived. The most popular entertainment was dancing, for which Pte. Hatton was always a willing volunteer, and Pte. Bees, now in the R.A.E.C., became noted as a "wizard on the keyboard." In return, we are trying to encourage more activity on the Miniature Range (with rifles!). The date of the passing-out parade for this intake was selected after considerable discussion as New Year's Day, when we considered ourselves highly honoured, though a little perturbed, as Col. M. Browne agreed to take the salute. In fact our trepidations and fears proved to be completely unfounded, as we gained his approval. Awards were gained by:

Best All-round Recruit	..	Pte. J. Crockell
Best Rifle Shot	..	Pte. J. Crockell
Best L.M.G. Shot	..	Pte. G. Mason
Highest Physical Efficiency	..	Pte. H. Clack

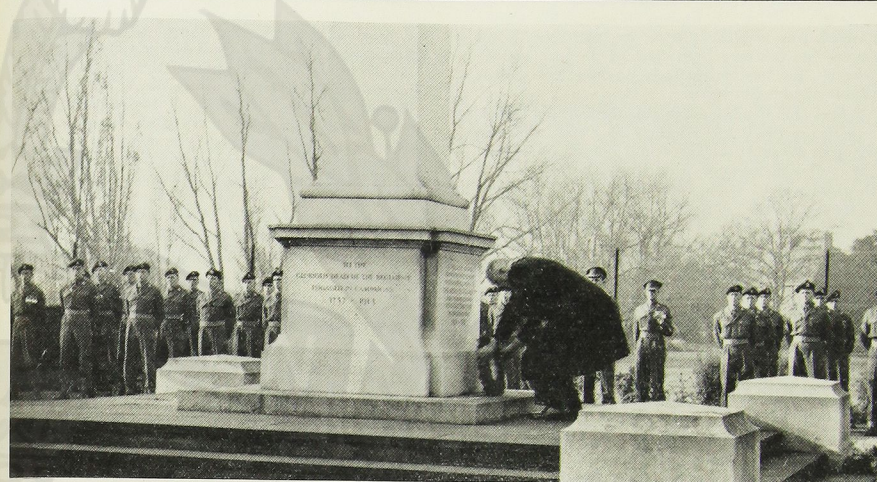


Photo: J. J. Chivers

LORD LIEUTENANT LAYING THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION WREATH ON THE MEMORIAL  
NOVEMBER 11

#### OFFICERS' MESS

The first item of any importance during the past three months was the Regular Officers' Dinner which was held at the United Service Club on November 9. The names of those who attended are given below:

Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen, Col. M. Browne, Major I. F. Campbell, Capt. K. J. Carter, Major C. N. Clayden, Major A. W. Clark, Major G. G. Dawson, Capt. W. M. M. Deacock, Capt. H. J. Evans, Lt. R. D. Fisher, Brigadier A. E. Green, Capt. R. E. Guest, Brigadier R. A. Gwyn, Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Major A. G. Hewitt, Major E. L. Heywood, Major R. D. Hutchings, Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Capt. A. N. Jordan, Major L. M. Owen-Josephs, Major G. W. Kempster, Capt. C. L. Lawrence, Brigadier G. Lerwill, Col. A. M. Man, Lt.-Col. C. M. M. Man, Major P. D. H. Marshall, Major H. N. McL. Martin, Major P. F. Newman, Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, Lt.-Col. F. G. Parker, Brigadier G. H. C. Pennycook, Capt. B. A. M. Pielow, Lt. J. S. B. Pollard, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Capt. I. S. Rutherford, Major J. N. Shipster, Lt.-Col. L. F. Sloane-Stanley, Major E. F. Thompson, Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, Major A. R. Waller, Major M. P. Weedon, Major A. V. Weller, Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton, Capt. S. C. W. Weller.

After the Remembrance Day Service on November 11, Sir Frederick and Lady Handley-Page were our guests at a small official luncheon party held here. Others present were Major and Mrs. Hewitt, Major and Mrs. Jeffcoat, Lt. and Mrs. Fisher, Col. Browne, Brigadier Rackham, Brigadier Baker and Major Heywood.

As reported elsewhere, the Colonel of The Regiment attended the Army Dinner to Her Majesty the Queen

at Chelsea Hospital. We offered several pieces of silver for this occasion, but so great was the competition that we were called upon to produce only one cigarette box. We therefore provided the 2nd Battalion box with the inlaid Peninsula medal, presented by Gen. Kent.

On December 12 we lunched the Army Commander, Gen. G. F. C. Coleman and his A.D.C., Capt. Butterworth.

The Mess held its Christmas Party on December 19 and, once again, this was a great success.

On December 21 we entertained the members of the Sergeants' Mess before going on to serve Christmas dinners, afterwards attending their social that evening. Afterwards came the Christmas break, with some relief for the Mess staff.

Generally speaking, our visitors have not been so numerous lately. We have, however, seen Col. Green, Major Pearce Gould, Capt. de Gaye and Carter, 2/Lts. Trevett-Lyall, Roch, Morden, Medawar, Cheesman and Clarke, in transit from the 1st Battalion or prior to joining it. Col. Willoughby, whom we congratulate on his appointment at the War Office and on his promotion, is now a permanent member of our Mess and lives here during the week.

We offer our best wishes for the future to Major and Mrs. Roy Hutchings, and Capt. and Mrs. Deacock whose weddings both took place on December 15.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Another New Year has arrived.

Life has been rather uneventful during 1956. The recent crisis in Suez did not see any old members recalled for service with the Regiment; though ex-Sgt.



Muirhead was recalled for service with the Royal Fusiliers, but has now been discharged—once again!

Socially, life has been a little brighter, but then it always is around Christmas.

Members have continued to pass through the Depot. One very surprised W.O.2 visited the Depot whilst on leave from West Africa and found himself on a draft to the 1st Battalion—guess who? Sgt. Landreth stopped with us for a short while, then moved to Waynes Keep in Cyprus. C/Sgt. (now Sgt.) Beale joined us after a tour at the R.M.A.S., and after attending a course at the School of Infantry will be joining the Battalion. The two Baileys—Bill and Butcher—have joined us, the former to take over the arduous job of Mess Caterer in place of Sgt. Hope who has gone to the 8th Battalion, and the latter has been downgraded H.O. His future is at the moment uncertain. Sgt. Hazelwood returned from the Battalion, and now, as a civilian, he is working at 10th Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. We welcome Sgt. Taylor from the Battalion who is now a Platoon Sergeant. Sgts. Buckley and Partridge having finished their tour at the Depot, and having had rest courses at the School of Infantry, will be joining the Battalion shortly. We wish them well. We congratulate Sgt. Tarry on his promotion and welcome him to our Mess.

Finally, we say once again that the Mess doors are always open and a welcome is extended to all Mess members whenever they are at home.

#### CORPORALS' CLUB

Despite all the tribulations which beset us we have succeeded in seeing in the New Year, although many are the farewells we have had to say. Cpl. Stanford no longer adorns the Club with his happy countenance and to the 1st Battalion we have lost Cpls. Pollard, Fisher and Patterson, together with numerous Lance-Corporals. In our last notes we mentioned Cpl. Patterson as a Reservist, but somehow the dark forces got to work and by threats, inducements or just plain wearing down he did that which he said he wouldn't: he re-engaged. Not so "Ted" Whitbread, who at last has been released together with Cpls. Wallen and Hall.

We welcome Cpls. Hambly and Langford and we have also seen L/Cpls. Packer and Webb prior to taking W.O.S.B., all of whom came from the 1st Battalion. A "big" arrival here is Cpl. Edey, who after a spell "outside" has returned and has commenced the round of courses. Congratulations go to Cpl. Tarry on his promotion to Sergeant and also to L/Cpls. Manser, Bonhomme and Carpenter.

The talk in the Club at present is Courses: nearly everyone is either going on one or has just done one.

We held a dance in the civilian canteen in November, but our numbers were rather depleted which was rather disappointing. Christmas was welcomed in rather soberly in the NAAFI. We have decided in order to raise funds to hold a whist drive with other similar functions.

#### CAMBRIDGE CLUB

In November the Club collected a lorry load of clothes which we delivered to the W.V.S. in Hendon

for the Hungarian refugees. Also a door-to-door collection raised £23 for the Lord Mayor's Fund.

At Christmas we took some of the children to the Hippodrome at Golders Green to see Arthur Askey in "Humpty Dumpty," which we all thoroughly enjoyed. As each unit represented in the Club gave their own parties, every child was given a large box of sweets.

We are very sorry to lose our President, Mrs. Hewitt, after so short a stay with us, and thank her for all the hard work she put in during her time here. Our best wishes go with her to West Africa where we hope she will soon have an equal counterpart to our Club. We have also said goodbye with regret to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Hope.

#### OLD COMRADES

##### Mill Hill Branch

The club has been extremely active during the last three months with the result that all the meetings seem to have been well attended and many old supporters have returned to the fold.

Our October meeting was combined with the Regimental Reunion at Seymour Hall on Friday, October 26, 1956. The Veterans' Bar was as always extremely well supported and many of our members spoke with the Colonel of the Regiment and Gen. Horrocks. A number of members purchased copies of the "Regimental History" on sale in the bar and in the main hall. As always, Nat Temple's Band ensured that everyone had an enjoyable evening, and though many Old Comrades were seen scurrying to the bar during Rock 'n' Roll sessions there were some fine exhibitions of the older dances.

On Remembrance Sunday some 50-odd Old Comrades paraded for the customary service in the Gymnasium and at the Memorial followed by the march past, which this year was taken by the new Lord Lieutenant for the County, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, C.B.E. Major Percy Newman laid a wreath on behalf of the club and "Busty" Hull commanded the detachment in the march past with "Old Bill" Cox as right-marker. We sadly missed Mr. Comber, who through illness was unable to attend, but were pleased to see Mr. Overton again armed with his beloved camera. We wish Mr. Comber a speedy recovery. The end of the month meeting, held in the Crawford Hut, was quiet but none the less enjoyable, Major Newman bringing ex-C.S.M. C. Cook, D.C.M., late 4th Battalion, and an instructor at Sandhurst between 1923 and 1926. He subsequently served with the 2nd and 8th Battalions.

The Christmas Party was held in the Crawford Hut on Saturday, December 15, and was enjoyed by all. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Hewitt, the officers and their ladies, and members of the Sergeants' Mess with their ladies attended and the Crawford Hut was well filled. The success of the evening was largely due to C.S.M. Cooper's excellent tombola calling, Major Newman's abundant raffles, and the piano and accordion playing of Pte. Bees. Pte. Sturman's service behind the bar was most efficient and we shall certainly miss him when he leaves us.

To end on a sad note—at our January meeting we say

goodbye to the present Depot Commander, Major Hewitt, who, in his all too short stay, has shown a keen interest in the club. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

#### SPORT

##### Association Football

The Depot has had a very successful season to date, winning 9 of its 16 matches, and at present is placed third in section "C" of the London District Midweek League.

The two hardest games of the season have been against the Depot The Royal Fusiliers. On September 12, in the opening match of the season, we lost to them at Mill Hill by 6—2, largely as a result of being without Pte. Barton, our Tottenham half-back. In the return at Acton in November, in pouring rain, we lost by the odd goal 5—6, both sides being handicapped in this game by the weather and consequent refereeing difficulties. Both sides agreed that a fairer result would have been a draw.

On October 10, in a friendly match against London Assembly Centre, the Depot scored 19 goals to record their biggest win for some seasons. Pte. Talbot was the leading scorer. He has been an invaluable centre-forward this season. The Saturday team, made up largely from recruit intakes, has played two matches, both against the Old Chalmelians, winning one and losing the other. Saturday fixtures are not popular at the Depot, unless during the first three weeks of recruit training, as they prevent established players joining civilian clubs.

The Household Cavalry Training Squadron, considerably strengthened by Reservists, defeated us both at home and away. The loss of the remaining two matches was due to team injuries and duties. We defeated No. 11 Command Workshops earlier in the season and London District F.C. is not a strong side.

Throughout the season Pte. Cowell has played splendidly in goal. Pte. Oakley is a hard working right-half, working well with Talbot in many of the goal-scoring moves. Pte. Little, now with the 1st Battalion, also showed his cleverness and is sorely missed.

S.I. Morris is to be congratulated on his hard work, both on and off the field. In his absence Cpls. Whitbread, Young and Speakman have proved that their captaincy is as good as their play, and Cpl. Speakman especially has shown an interest in the Saturday XI.

The remainder of the season is largely made up of friendly fixtures, the last league match being against Kneller Hall on January 16 at Mill Hill. We are hoping for good results.

Results of matches played so far this season have been:

Depot v. Depot, Royal Fusiliers	..	..	Lost	2—6
Depot v. C.P.O., Eastern Command	..	..	Won	9—3
Depot v. 11 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.	..	..	Won	3—1
Depot v. Old Chalmelians	..	..	Won	10—1
Depot v. 20 Company, R.A.S.C.	..	..	Won	5—2
Depot v. London Assembly Centre	..	..	Won	19—0
Depot v. H.Q., Grenadier Guards	..	..	Won	6—0
Depot v. Kneller Hall	..	..	Won	4—1
Depot v. Household Cavalry Training Squadron	..	..	Lost	0—5
Depot v. Household Cavalry Training Squadron	..	..	Lost	2—7
Depot v. Permanent Staff, The Sharpshooters	..	..	Won	11—1
Depot v. Depot, Royal Fusiliers	..	..	Lost	1—2
Depot v. London District F.C.	..	..	Lost	0—2

Depot v. C.P.O., Eastern Command	..	..	Won	4—1
Depot v. 11 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.	..	..	Lost	2—5
Depot v. Old Chalmelians	..	..	Lost	4—5

#### HOCKEY

Only seven matches have been played during the first half of the season; the remaining fixtures have been cancelled either because of wet weather or the inability of the opposition to field a team. The hockey team has always been primarily made up of members of the permanent staff, and so far this season only one hockey playing recruit has passed through the Depot—a sorry state of affairs.

Of the seven matches played the Depot have won two and lost five. In the opening match of the season played at Whetstone the Depot lost 0—6 to London District, who, being unable to field a full team appealed to Eastern Command, who produced an Army trialist. However, it was an enjoyable match, as even a first-class player finds the Whetstone pitch difficult. R.A.F. Northolt, who have a very strong team, have beaten us twice this season, though they were lucky to win the first fixture at Northolt by one goal (4—3), and that a doubtful one. In the return at Whetstone the Depot lost 0—3, on a very muddy pitch that made the match somewhat reminiscent of ice hockey. However, this was perhaps to our advantage as it curtailed the activities of the R.A.F.'s forwards. By far the most enjoyable fixture of the season was played at Guildford against Depot the Queens, and although we lost 1—4 the match was far more equal than the result suggests. We were lucky to have Capt. Carter, R.S.M. Macmillan and Drum-Major Holdford available, all of whom played well.

In the London District stage of the Army Minor Units knock-out competition the Depot, after a bye in the first round, defeated 107 Battery, 20 Field Regiment, R.A. 5—1 at Woolwich in the second round. Despite the cold weather the team played better than at any time previously during the season, our goals being scored by Capt. Evans, R.S.M. Macmillan, Sgt. Taylor (2) and L/Cpl. Stopp. Our defence (Major Jeffcoat, Capt. Weller, L/Cpl. Amber) played well, as they have done throughout the season, and it was good to see the forwards combining in some effective passing movements. In the next round we meet C.P.O., Foots Cray.

The following have played for the Depot during the season: Majors Hewitt and Jeffcoat, Capt. Evans, Weller and Carter, Lt. Pollard, 2/Lt. Hedgecoe, R.S.M.s Macmillan and Donovan, C.S.M. Firman, Sgts. Taylor, Dive, Warner and Tarry, Cpl. Raffael, L/Cpl. Stopp, Ptes. McManus and Mason. Capt. Weller has captained the team throughout the season and never missed a match, despite his many and varied duties.

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A GROUP AT THE 7TH BATTALION'S CHILDREN'S PARTY GREET FATHER CHRISTMAS

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



### COMMAND

On February 7, 1957, command of the Battalion was handed over by Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis to Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen.

Lt.-Col. Ellis has commanded the Battalion since March 16, 1953, having come to us as 2IC on October 1, 1950, from the 8th Battalion, who were then the 11th Parachute Battalion. Lt.-Col. Ellis has commanded for longer than any C.O. since the war, and we all wish him the very best of luck.

We welcome Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen to the Battalion and hope that his tenure of command will be an enjoyable one. Until recently Col. Allen was A.Q.M.G. at H.Q. Eastern Command, and he is at present attending a course at the Senior Officers' School.

At the same time the Training Major, Major E. F. Thompson, leaves the Battalion. He was first appointed to a commission in the Regiment in September, 1939, and served with the 2/7th Battalion from that date until its disbandment in February, 1946. We wish him the very best of luck in Cyprus.

### TRAINING

On October 20 and 21 a T.E.W.T. for officers of the Battalion was held on Bledlow Ridge, just outside High Wycombe. The weather was unusually fine and the ground comparatively dry, so the weekend can be considered a satisfactory one. The problems of the attack were disposed of on Saturday afternoon, and in the evening the officers (and in some cases their wives) took the opportunity of drinking with the Commanding Officer and Mrs. Ellis at Cookham Dean. This no doubt was a contributory factor to the brilliance of the answers on the Sunday when the reorganisation and patrolling were considered.

The 47th Brigade Study Period was held at the Duke of York's H.Q. on December 8-9. This was the first occasion on which the Brigade in its new form had gathered together, and we had the opportunity of meeting officers of the 8th Middlesex and the 6th Queens.

A course in first-aid has been run at Hornsey. We were assisted by "live" casualties supplied by the organisation known as Casualties Union. These two gentlemen produced between them the most frightening and blood-chilling wounds to illustrate the lecture given by Major Thompson, Lt. Blacktop and Sgt. Walters. The inclusion of these casualties as a training aid had the same effect on attendance as an "X" Certificate does for a film. The course, which started with eight students, finished with 16.

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

On November 3, 1956, Major Thompson, Capt. Pielow and R.S.M. Donovan planted crosses in the Garden of Remembrance at Hornsey Parish Church during a short service conducted by the Rev. O. R. Fulljames, Rector of Hornsey and Hon. Chaplain to the Battalion. The Battalion was also represented at the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on November 10.

A detachment from the Battalion took part in the Civic Act of Remembrance at the Hornsey Parish Church on November 11. Wreaths were laid at the foot of the screen of the Battalion Chapel on behalf of the Battalion, the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club and the Old Comrades' Association (Hornsey Branch). After the service the salute was taken by Col. J. K. Maitland, Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, accompanied by Alderman Neil Muldoon, the Mayor of Hornsey. After returning to the T.A. Centre at Hornsey, Col. Maitland presented cups for shooting to the following:

*Officers' Challenge Cup:* Lt. N. D. Blackburn ("H.Q." Company).

*W.O.s' and Sergeants' Challenge Cup:* Sgt. Robertson ("A" Company).

*Challenge Cup (Corporals and Privates):* Dmr. Beard ("H.Q." Company).

He also presented the Territorial Efficiency Medal to C.S.M. Hills of "A" Company, and the Bar to the Medal to Cpl. Sills of "H.Q." Company.

After the ceremony both Messes and the Canteen were open.

### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER MATTERS

On December 11 Brigadier Moore, accompanied by Major R. D. Hutchings (B.M.) and Major I. Glover, London Scottish (D.A.A. and Q.M.G.), carried out the annual administrative inspection of the Battalion. We have good reason to suppose that he was well satisfied with what he saw (and possibly with what he did not see), but as these notes go to press the formal report had not yet reached us. In the evening a joint officers' and N.C.O.s' training period was held and Wing Commander Edmunds, from H.Q. Eastern Command, spoke on fighter/ground attack tactics.

Bounty Night on November 20 drew the largest attendance of volunteers ever seen in the Drill Hall. One could wish for a similar attendance on all training evenings!

The Children's Party was held on January 12 and some 70 children attended. Mr. Chittock, caretaker of Highgate T.A. Centre, acted as Father Christmas.

The party was arranged by Major Gunnell and the catering side was very successfully dealt with by Mrs. Ellis and other ladies.

### CAMP

Camp this year will be at Castle Martin in South Wales, from June 15 to 29. We now know that for the first time since 1948 we shall go to camp with volunteers only.

### AWARD OF M.B.E. TO EX-BANDMASTER

Mr. W. J. Gilyatt, who, until his retirement after camp, was Bandmaster, was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List, for his services in the Territorial Army.

Mr. Gilyatt joined the Territorial Army in 1910, and throughout the First World War he served in the R.A.M.C. until discharged in 1919. He joined the T.A. in 1929 and in 1936 he transferred to the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). He was embodied in 1939 in the 7th Battalion and served throughout the war until being discharged in 1948. In 1949 he rejoined the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A., as a Bandsman, quickly rose to Band Sergeant, and was appointed Bandmaster in 1952.

As a result of his exceptionally hard work, personality and drive, he built up the Regimental Band which has gained a widespread and high reputation, and performs both on private and public occasions at civilian and Regimental functions throughout the county.

Mr. Gilyatt attended camp for the last time in the T.A. at Folkestone in July, 1956, and was retired on medical grounds afterwards. At the time he received presentations from both the Officers' Mess and W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

### OFFICERS' MESS

Since camp the great event of Mess life was the Dinner Night on December 13. Sir Frederick Handley Page, C.B., H.M. Lieutenant for Middlesex, Brigadier Moore, Cmd. 47 Brigade, Lt.-Col. Corby (8th Middlesex) and Lt.-Col. Jennings (6th Queens) were the guests. Major Cummins, on behalf of the officers, presented the Commanding officer with a pair of engraved cuff-links to mark our appreciation of his work for the 7th Battalion.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

It has been a comparatively quiet period for the Sergeants' Mess since our last notes appeared, but two events are especially worth mentioning.

Firstly, we are proud to congratulate our ex-Bandmaster, Mr. Gilyatt, on his award of an M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List. Well done, Bill!

Secondly, on December 8 we held our annual Mess function at Hornsey. This year, in response to a request by the majority of members, it took the form of a buffet social. Unfortunately the attendance was not as great as we had hoped, but all those present would agree that it was a first-class evening, and our thanks are due to R.S.M. Donovan for producing a first-rate (if rather unorthodox) band and for generally organising the event, and also to our old friend Sgt. Stubbins for laying on a really excellent buffet. During the course of the evening a presentation silver cigarette box, suitably inscribed, was presented to Mr. Gilyatt on behalf of all members to symbolise our friendship and esteem on the occasion of his retirement.

In the black wintry conditions prevailing at the time of writing, annual camp seems very far away, but no doubt by the time our next notes are due we shall be feverishly engaged in preparing for the T.A.'s most



important annual event. However, more about that later, and in the meantime we would like to close these notes with our usual best wishes to all "Die-Hard" Sergeants' Messes, wherever they may be.

#### .22 RIFLE SHOOTING

In October an inter-Company .22 rifle competition was started. The standard of shooting has been reasonably high. The present competition is a knock-out one. "H.Q." and "B" have reached the final, and at the time of going to press no date for the shoot has been arranged.

For the remainder of the season an inter-Company league is being run.

The Battalion .22 rifle team are in the last eight of the Middlesex inter-Unit .22 rifle competition. If the team maintains its present form there is no reason why the Battalion should not win this competition for the third successive year.

44 (H.C.) Infantry Division .22 rifle team won the Kolar Cup for the 1956 season. 2/Lt. N. D. Blackburn (Royal New Zealand Infantry) of the Battalion was in the winning team.

#### "A" COMPANY

There is little of note to report since the last issue of the Journal except that shooting on the miniature range and training continue. With Christmas and New Year festivities behind us, we are looking forward to annual camp. We have now embarked on a course of pre-camp training.

The Company team beat "S" Company in the first round of .22 knock-out, but unfortunately were beaten in the second round by "H.Q." Company. We shall not therefore meet our old rivals "B" Company in this competition, but we look forward to meeting them (and beating them) in the next competition which is to take place in the near future.

Badminton still thrives at Highgate and we had a friendly match with a Depot team which included our old friend C.S.M. Firman. All our P.S.I.s at Highgate became firm adherents to the game, and Sgt. Dive is no exception. Constant practice with Mr. and Mrs. Chittock has made him a formidable opponent.

Recruiting is still our big problem, and we have just begun a big drive in this direction. The recent A.C.I. which permits us to enlist men at 17½ years of age, before National Service, will increase our potential of volunteers and we are concentrating on the people now. This does not mean, of course, that we do not need more senior volunteers, and anyone who has finished his service with the Regular Army and is interested will find a welcome at Highgate.

#### PROMOTIONS

A/Lt. M. S. Gedye to Lt.; A/Lt. G. C. Ross to Lt.; 2/Lt. J. P. Baker to A/Lt.; Pte. R. Cadwallader to L/Cpl.

#### THE FOLLOWING JOINED THE BATTALION

Lt. J. D. Chynoweth from A.E.R.; A/Lt. C. R. Armstrong from A.E.R.; 2/Lt. K. C. Hayward from 1st Middlesex.

**THE FOLLOWING HAVE LEFT THE BATTALION**  
Capt. P. J. A. Pielow to H.Q. 47 (London) Infantry Brigade (T.A.).

#### 16th MIDDLESEX INDEPENDENT CADET COMPANY, A.C.F.

Since the last issue of the Journal we have been engaged in the basic training of new recruits. On Remembrance Sunday the Company paraded with the 7th Battalion for the parade service in the morning, and in the evening a representative contingent of two officers and 13 cadets took part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Hornsey Town Hall.

On November 18 Cpl. Hillyer passed his Part II, Certificate "A" at the Regimental Depot. On the 19th the Company was inspected by Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., O.C. 7th Battalion, who is the unit patron, and at this parade nine new recruits were enrolled into the Company.

The Company held a most successful supper on Thursday, December 20, at Priory Road; 34 cadets and recruits attended.

#### HORNSEY OLD COMRADES' BRANCH

The annual Service of Remembrance took place at Hornsey Parish Church, a large company of Old Comrades parading. During the service wreaths were placed in the Battalion's War Memorial Chapel by Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis, and an Old Comrade. A wreath was laid by Mr. "Sandy" Savage in memory of Mr. W. Raddon.

An extremely successful O.C.A. Dance was held at the T.A. Centre on December 15, about two hundred Old Comrades and friends attending. With them were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey, who kindly presented prizes to the winners. We thank the organisers, Mr. A. E. ("Whipper") Sills, C.S.M. Goodge the M.C., Mr. B. Sills and R. Ferguson. Another memorable occasion was the All Ranks New Year's Dance, again well attended.

We take this opportunity to thank and say farewell to Lt.-Col. W. D. Ellis on his leaving the Battalion. He has always taken a keen interest in this Branch during his time at Hornsey and we shall long remember his kindness to us. We welcome the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. W. P. M. Allen.

The 1st/7th 1914-18 Reunion dinner takes place on March 15 at the Manor House, Finsbury Park. There are still vacancies for more Old Comrades. We continue to meet on Wednesday and Saturday evenings—members and their wives are always welcome. We are already organising our outing for 1957, so do come along and join the circle of Hornsey's Old Comrades.

#### THE LATE COL. C. H. PANK

Col. C. H. Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P., died on Friday, January 11, 1957. The funeral service was held at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley, where in addition to his family and friends, many past and present officers gathered to pay their respects, not only to an old friend but a most distinguished Territorial Officer.

A bearer party was provided by the Regimental Depot under command of R.S.M. Pike and Drum-Major Holdford, B.E.M. (7th Middlesex), sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Col. Pank was first gazetted into the Barnet Detachment of the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers in 1893, and by 1906 had rapidly reached the rank of Major. When offered command of the Battalion in 1908, he found himself unable to accept but continued to serve with the Battalion. On war being declared he went with the Battalion to Gibraltar, but in 1915 he was brought home to command the reserve battalion of the 10th Middlesex. He later took this battalion to Gallipoli and Egypt, taking part in the landing at Suvla.

Early 1917 found him back in England again but by the summer he was out with the 1st/8th Middlesex in France and, on the C.O. being wounded, he took over command. Whilst commanding the Battalion he was awarded the D.S.O. for his personal courage during the Battle of Cambrai where, despite being wounded, he organised and led a vital counter-attack. He continued to command this Battalion until the end of the war, being twice mentioned in despatches and awarded the order of St. Michael and St. George.

It was not until 1920 that he returned to command the 7th Battalion on it being re-formed, and in 1924 he was promoted substantive Colonel and posted to command the 5th London Brigade. Three years later he retired and in 1929 was made an A.D.C. to H.M. King George V.

He had therefore served for 34 years in the Territorial Army, of which 27 years had been spent with 7th Middlesex. Despite his retirement he was frequently in touch with past and present officers of the Regiment. He was active almost up to the end and as recently as October 1956 had presided at the 7th Middlesex past and present officers dinner in London.

### 8th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A.

The Battalion, with the start of the training year on November 1, 1956, started its new career as an Infantry Battalion in the 47th Brigade, and after a rather unsettling summer and autumn has now resumed its usual high morale and good spirits. The emphasis with all ranks is now on recruiting so that by the time camp comes our strength will have increased so that it is at least equal to our volunteer strength of a year ago, before our change-over took place. The attitude within the Battalion to recruiting is most encouraging, the newest recruits and the oldest bemedalled veterans fully realise that by far the best method of recruiting is for all ranks to bring their friends along to the Drill Halls, show them the training and the excellent "club" atmosphere, and to see them safely "signed on."

During the quarter "D" Company has moved out of Edmonton, which is in the 7th Battalion area, into a new home at Finchley, where it has combined with "A"

Company, who have been housed in the Depot at Mill Hill for some years. A new "A" Company is to be formed, with its location back in the traditional 8th Battalion town of Uxbridge. Support Company at Hampton, "H.Q." at Hounslow, "B" in Ealing, and "C" Company at Wealdstone remain in their present Drill Halls. One of the most gratifying aspects of the change-over has been the reappearance of some of the original 8th faces, and already some of the few who left to transfer to Airborne Units in the late summer are finding that travelling across London is impossible and they are returning to their old Drill Halls.

The events of the quarter can be split into two main sections, training and social. The first training event was a continuation of our folboating training, which took place at Rochester on November 24-25. Despite the somewhat icy weather some of the "hard core" of the Battalion, under Capt. David Brooks, spent the weekend at the Eastern Command Bridging Camp and soon after the cold grey light of dawn took their canoes to the icy mud of the Medway and carried out a complicated series of tests. These were conducted by Capt. Brooks from the bank, to the particular annoyance of Lt. "Dan" Hogg and Cpl. Gordon of Support Company, who succeeded in capsizing their craft early in the day and who were consequently unduly sensitive about people who stayed dry and comfortable. The day ended with a canoe obstacle race, which was won by the Battalion 2IC and Sgt. Skipper by a good lead, greatly increased by the fact that they made the rules.

The officers of the Battalion attended the 47th Brigade Study Weekend at the Duke of York's headquarters on December 8-9. They had some excellent lectures by experts on a wide variety of topical subjects, and were given an insight into the problems of senior officers who are told to carry out a variety of tasks, in different directions, in different roles, all at the same time.

One of the main objects for study during the winter has, of course, been Civil Defence, and a very successful weekend was held for the Battalion on January 26-27, with the assistance of the Eastern Command Light Rescue Travelling Team and officers of the Middlesex Civil Defence Organisation. The lectures and demonstrations were really well prepared and given, and the films most realistic.

The weekend of December 8 and 9 was one of the busiest of the winter. On Friday evening the officers and their ladies met at the Orchard Hotel, in Ruimsip, for their annual Christmas dinner and dance. In the early hours the party ended, and the Brigade Study Weekend started. This was broken into on the Saturday evening by the Sergeants' Mess ball, which took place at Hounslow. R.S.M. T. McMillan was ably assisted by his M.C., C/Sgt. Henry Rae.

The following weekend C/Sgt. Rae adopted the role of "Uncle Henry" at "S" Company's Children's Party, with Cpl. Lloyd as Father Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Williams, the caretaker at the Hampton Drill Hall, and his wife, had the building beautifully decorated and even cleaner than usual, and in addition to their own relations the Company entertained 20 boys from Fortescue House, the local Shaftesbury and Arethusa Homes. "H.Q." Company had their traditional games,



enormous tea, films and presentation of presents by Father Christmas, Major Geoffrey Webber, who even managed to mystify his own family. "C" Company joined forces with Messrs. Windsor and Newton; the occasion was marked by the return to the Company of C.S.M. Roberts.

All Companies held Christmas socials; one of the most enjoyable was that held by "S" Company, in the form of an all-ranks dinner in their own Drill Hall, which was attended by three ex-members of the Company, C/Sgt. Bill Worrall, Sgt. Upson and Pte. Dussold, in addition to the majority of the Company. After an enormous dinner, provided by Mrs. Williams, the Company retired to the bar and sung to the accompaniment of the versatile C/Sgt. Rae until the early hours.

And so the year progresses; the .22 shooting of the winter will soon give way to classification and Bisley, and more time will be spent on schemes than in the Drill Halls. The Battalion has now weathered the storm of reorganisation and is now in excellent heart. We want to double our volunteer strength in the next year and we will be particularly glad to welcome back any "Die-Hards." We shall also be glad if readers of these notes who know of any ex-R.A.F.V.R. volunteers, who have recently been disbanded, will assure them that they will be most warmly welcomed.

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

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

The festive season is over—perhaps with less aftermath than usual. Petrol rationing damped the ardour of many T.A. socialites who normally make the Christmas functions memorable. Despite Nasser, the normal festivities took place with only slightly diminished attendances and no less fervour than usual. Your correspondent, being a barbarous northerner (whither he hid himself for the Hogmanay period), was only privileged to share a children's party at Edgware.

"P" Battery and R.H.Q. juveniles welcomed Father Christmas—vaguely reminiscent of a well-known B.S.M.—ate hugely, played various games and enjoyed, only one bit less than I did, a series of cartoons and wild west films.

The Adjutant—whole and entire—*mirabile dictu*—after his ski-ing holiday in Austria—has returned to get pre-camp training under way. Our first week-end training of the New Year takes place during the week-end February 2-3, 1957, and is merely the prelude to the intensive work we hope to do before our first "all volunteer" camp for many years.

Doesn't it inspire you old "Diehards" to come and join us? It has been suggested that the cook-house might well end up in the hands of the Battery Captain, and the C.O. and 2IC are already making plans for a cook-house inspection before retiring to bed.

Since our last issue we have had a hand in destroying one traffic signal switch box (well done, Peter), confounding the brass at the Woolwich winter exercise and entertaining the local government hierarchy to champagne and a Regimental parade. This latter was a first-class effort which far exceeded our expectations.

Our charming ladies graced the occasion, along with various civic and military dignitaries and saw the Regiment, and our associated Cadets, inspected by the Brigade Commander. Apologies to Mr. Turner for the 2IC's ignorance of acoustics. The parade was followed by a good-will cocktail party which went with a swing. Our grateful thanks are due to our W.R.A.C. friends who helped us to serve the food and wine on that occasion.

For those who have a fearful eye on the machinations of the Defence Minister, gird your loins and remember the badge you wear: "Diehard"!!

### "P" Battery

We have now moved, for training, to Kingsbury where we join "Q" and "R" Batteries for our weekly evening training.

We extend a hearty welcome to W.O.2 Allcorn, who joined us as our new P.S.I., prior to Exercise "Stronghold." "P" Battery was well represented at this exercise, and those who attended had a very instructive and enjoyable week-end.

In November the "Alarm" Stakes were held at Kingsbury, our second team consisting of the officers. Having had an hour's practice on the previous Friday evening under the capable hands of B.S.M. Wright we emerged the winners, in spite of one of the officers losing precious seconds practically struggling with a stiff barrel clamp!

Finally, congratulations to B.S.M. Caves who has been awarded his Efficiency Medal (Territorial) which will be presented to him at the next week-end training.

### "Q" and "R" Batteries

This report contains the activities of "Q" and "R" Batteries, which now work so closely together that separate reports no longer serve any useful purpose.

We have lost to the Reserve two officers who have served with the "Die-Hards" since before the Second World War, Major Ralph Hughes, T.D., and Capt. Ken Dennis. Major Hughes had commanded "P" Battery in the old 594 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment and had undertaken the job of Battery Captain in this present Battery; he will be missed by all of us. Capt. Dennis was our aircraft recognition expert and shouldered many a thankless task. As he was an extremely keen volunteer officer we all hope that he will find some other part-time activity to absorb his interests.

Capt. Mike Jaffe has gone to "P" Battery, and he has been replaced by Capt. John Slack. Capt. Jaffe is not lost to us entirely as he seems to be the only person who understands the new equipment (!) and it looks as though his services will be required by everyone. Lt. Ken Price has moved to R.H.Q. to give the Adjutant much needed assistance, and we feel confident that all will now be well in that sphere.

"Q" Battery welcome Major Gerry Wynne as their new Officer Commanding. Major Wynne was formerly an officer in "R" Battery and was, of course, a Fusilier. We hope that he will be as happy to command as we are to welcome him into the fold.

"Q" Battery's ambitious Sunday morning training

programme has proved to be both useful and interesting, with a satisfactory number of personnel taking part throughout.

During the last quarter we have enjoyed two All Ranks socials and dances (on November 24 and December 22) and, in addition, the annual Good Luck shoot and darts competition were held on December 21, when everyone won something, including some of the ladies who just could not find the target area! The children's Christmas party, undoubtedly enjoyed by all the 80 children participating, especially when Father Christmas (Bdr. Chignell) made his spectacular entry.

It has been observed that Sgt. R. Hughes (Our Ron) is again cultivating a devilish moustache, which normally indicates a tour along the warpath, and we are anticipating his urgent commands "to get to it," in no uncertain manner. Could it be that a recent visit to the London Scottish, with B.S.M.s Lockyer, Biddlecome and Sgt. Anderson, has some connection with it?

During the autumn we enjoyed an excellent dinner and dance on October 20, held in the main hall, accompanied by our ladies, the Commanding Officer, and certain senior officers, together with the R.S.M. It is hoped to make this an annual function—perhaps on or near Albuhara Day.

We regret the departure of the following members, each of whom received presentations from the Mess at a farewell social on November 3 in recognition of their services: B.S.M. Edwards, B.S.M. Hall, Sgt. Gilbert and Sgt. Thomas.

Fortunately B.S.M. Edwards has still a little spare time, which he is giving to the Cadet Battery affiliated to the Regiment. Our annual Regimental Sergeants' Ball was held this year on December 29 and was as good as ever, and the liveliness of the band was matched only by the performance of the combined efforts of the P.M.C. and the jolly gathering.

We have to record more recently the departure of Sgt. Leete owing to domestic responsibilities and extensive studies. Sgt. Leete served as a Corporal with the Middlesex Regiment in Korea during his National Service with the Colours, and subsequently volunteered for Territorial Service. We all wish him the best of luck.

Mess life generally is much the same as ever, with "Alf" (First of Foot) Stewart dispensing his medicine with a smile behind the bar, ably assisted from time to time by those veterans "Bob" Maggs and "Les" Spivey.

In conclusion we are happy to say that "Dheri" Reeves is rapidly improving after his illness.

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

The O.C.A. Shooting Prize was won this year at Purfleet by Tom Wagstaff after a "photo-finish" as three of the members had to "fire off" to decide the holder. Earlier we spent an enjoyable and useful (we hope!) time butt-marking to decide other events.

We were pleased to see such a good gathering at Seymour Hall on the occasion of the Regimental

Reunion where a good time was had by all and many friendships renewed. It was grand to have some of the veteran "Die-Hards" from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, with us.

Remembrance Sunday service at Kingsbury was well attended and from far and near the Association was represented in strength.

We wish to record in these columns our congratulations to Capt. Sir Vyvyan Holt on the award of the K.B.E.

We are also pleased to hear of the promotion to Major of the son of our former treasurer, Capt. A. F. H. Meiville, who is at present serving in the Far East.

We regret to report the passing of one of our old members, T. W. Bailey.

To H.Q. staff and all branches we send greetings and a hope for a more settled and bright future. We send best wishes to all serving and commend to all who become "time ex" to keep in touch through their Old Comrades' Association. I write from Kingsbury T.A. Centre, and will be pleased to welcome any "Die-Hard" there on Friday evenings.

### DEPOT POST BOX

The following letter has been received:

Boyle Lodge,  
Boyle Farm,  
Thames Ditton, Surrey.  
January 17, 1957.

THE EDITOR,

*The Die-Hards.*

Dear Sir,

In December 1894 Lt. Trotter accompanied a draft of the 1st Battalion from Aldershot to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Ahmednagar—Troopship *Dilwara*. Any information as to the whereabouts of this officer will be gratefully received.

Yours truly,

HUGH DOHERTY.

### MAJOR A. J. PHARAOH

Former Volunteer Force Officer

The following extract from the local Malay paper of Tuesday, January 29, 1957, may be of interest to former members of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, and those who have served in Singapore:

The death has occurred at Blackpool of Major Alfred James Pharaoh.

Major Pharaoh served for 22 years before the war in the Straits Settlements Volunteer Forces.

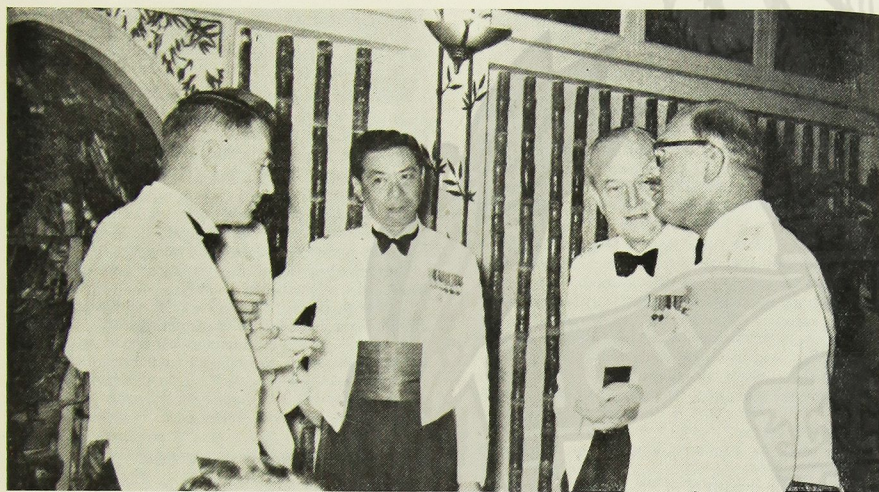
He was in prisoner of war camps at Changi and Sime Road, and in 1945, when he was released, he retired from the army.

In the first World War, Major Pharaoh was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He was then a warrant officer serving with the Middlesex Regiment.

He became usher of Blackpool County Court in 1948.

Major Pharaoh leaves two daughters. One, Joan, is at present in Kuala Lumpur, where her husband is serving in the R.A.F.





THE KREMLIN H.K.R.

Major C. H. Mieville, M.C. (Adj.), Major H. A. de B. Botelho, M.B.E., E.D. (2 Ic), Col. C. Blaker, M.C. (Hon. Col.), Lt.-Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (C.O.) This photograph was taken at the Officers' Ball, November 8, 1956

### THE HONG KONG REGIMENT

The period since our last notes has largely been taken up with preparation for annual camp, and clearing up from annual camp. Unlike the Territorial Army we go to camp in two groups. Half the Regiment go in November and half in December. This is thus arranged in order to ease the burden on employers so that they only lose their men for a fortnight in each month, and a week is allowed between camps for handovers.

Camp this year was held at Sai Kung, a place that holds many happy memories for members of the 1st Middlesex who were here in 1949 and 1950. The hills are still just as high and the roads are just as bad, but the camp itself is now huddled and fitted with all "mod. con." Training at camp was the climax of last year's work and the results have shown that the hard work done by all ranks in the months before camp was worth while. Each camp culminated in a Regimental Exercise, which unfortunately was marred on both occasions by heavy rain and cold winds. However, by the time we did the second Regimental Exercise we were wiser and we had a rum issue laid on.

Christmas Day followed close on the second camp and the usual round of parties started. The officers and the W.O.s and Sergeants each arranged balls, which were great successes. The officers' ball was held at the Repulse Bay Hotel and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' at the Peninsular Hotel. Both names will no doubt bring back memories for those of the 1st Middlesex before and after the last war.

The Band and Corps of Drums continue to keep the Regiment in the public eye. They have given several public concerts and also had the honour to lead the Royal Naval Contingent on the occasion of their Trafalgar Day Parade. They also came out to our second camp on the occasion of the visit of H.E. The Governor and played for us during lunch.

We all send our best wishes to our affiliated Regiment and particularly to those with the 1st Middlesex in Cyprus. We shall read with great interest of their activities in this and every issue. We hope that soon the situation out there will calm down and that all ranks will be able to enjoy a well-earned rest. Our "Die-Hard" Kremlin, of course, hears from time to time from members of the 1st Middlesex and passes on the news. We all feel very close to our affiliated Regiment and wish them every success.

### COL. BROWNE'S NEWS-LETTER

I fear I must leave out much information from my news-letter from lack of space allotted to me, and I apologise to all correspondents to whom I have not replied in these columns.

This last Christmas I received over 150 Christmas letters and cards and hope I replied to all. It would save me in future a great deal of trouble, and our always overworked secretary too, if the donors would give me their addresses when sending them.

Col. Green sent me an interesting letter written by Lt.-Col. T. Shadforth, who commanded the 57th Foot at the storming of The Redan in the Crimea. This

letter, published in a book called "Victorian Vista," shows clearly he had a strong premonition he would not survive.

"My dearly Beloved.—At one o'clock to-morrow morning I head the 57th to storm The Redan. It is, as I feel, an awfully perilous moment for me, but I place myself in the hands of our gracious God, without whose will a sparrow cannot fall to the ground.

"Unto Him I commend my body and soul which are His, and should it be His will that I fall in the performance of my duty in the defence of My Queen and Country, I most humbly say, 'Thy will be done.' . . ."

The remainder of the letter contains an affectionate message to his family, couched in deeply religious terms containing still that foreboding of death as stated in a note under the letter to this effect: "The writer deliberately wrote it in anticipation of death. The next day he fell before The Redan."

The date chosen for the battle was June 18—the same date as Waterloo (June 18, 1815). He was terribly wounded in the action, and when his body was recovered for burial it was almost unrecognisable. "His death caused great grief in the Regiment," wrote C/Sgt. Cummings, "more than was ever seen before in the 57th Regiment."

He was said to be the Father and Friend of the Regiment and watched over it in a manner that gained for him their adoration. A copy of this letter, which so impressed Col. Green, is held by the 1st Battalion with photograph of Col. Shadforth. He was succeeded in command by Col. Warne who received the C.B. which the former would have gained had he survived the battle.

Col. Samuel tells me that Miss Sheen, the Olympic gold medallist for fencing in 1956, is the daughter of a former officer of our Regiment in the First World War. He commanded "A" Company of the 21st Battalion at the beginning of 1918, the last year of that tremendous conflict, now largely only a memory to the few survivors and the relatives of "The Fallen."

I received another interesting letter from Col. Green telling me about his new command, the 4th (Scottish) Port Task Force. It seems to be a command exceeding an Infantry Brigade and he has a large house in which to live. He lunches daily in the Depot of the H.L.I. Gen. Urquhart is the "Colonel" of this Highland Regiment, and always speaks highly of our 1st Battalion when it was under his command in Austria. This year "Stumps" Green's units carry out their camping scattered over a wide area of England and Scotland, and he hopes to visit us in April as he will be doing a course at the R.E. centre at Longmoor. However, I am disappointed that an officer of his ability and experience should not have been given a Brigade command.

I have had two letters from Hervey del Court for whose home in Hermanus, Cape Province, Gen. Bucknall left recently from Southampton. The General is not returning to London till March 15. A week later he crosses to Ireland to fish and will be away until April 30.

Mrs. Anson, the widow of Capt. H. P. R. Anson, is

staying near Worcester, for health reasons. I hope the rest will effect a speedy cure.

The Regiment has recently suffered a severe loss in the tragic death of Col. Cecil Pank from cancer. He was well known and beloved by so many. An obituary notice appears elsewhere in the Journal.

We were delighted to see the award of the M.B.E. to Mrs. Wharthurst, so well known to our Regimental Association, for her continual care of our ex-members and to those still serving and existing for many years, to my personal knowledge since the outbreak of the Second World War.

At the end of December I heard from our former R.S.M. in the 2nd Battalion, Capt. William Ward, who came to us as R.S.M. from the Grenadier Guards, and who stood out in a long list of Regimental R.S.M.s. His son Eric, known to us as a boy in Colchester, is in Hong Kong with his family. Now he is a W.O.1 with the L.S.G.C.M. Another son, Ronald, is in Germany with his family, and he also is a W.O.1 and has the L.S.G.C.M. Ward is now 63, but I am sure he is still as upright in figure as in our Khartoum and Colchester days. He tells me his health is excellent.

I heard that Col. Cartwright, once in the 3rd Battalion, has returned to South Africa, having re-married to a lady with a title in her own right. During the 1914-18 War he was closely concerned with intelligence work.

Recently I heard from Sir Vyvian Holt, K.B.E. He is now living in retirement from the Foreign Office at Kings Lynn. We hope one day that he may visit us. Many remember him in the 9th Battalion and some for his attachment to the 2nd Battalion in Colchester.

Major L. C. Beadnell wrote to me from Njoro in Kenya. He is very interested in the Sudanese village of Kiberia and hopes to get Government employment there. He spent five years in the K.A.R. (1939-43) and was second-in-command of a machine-gun battalion of that regiment. Later he hopes to farm in that land of high altitude and superb climate. His wife is coming to the Isle of Wight for six months in April. We hope to see Mrs. Beadnell then.

I have frequent correspondence with Major Charles Richards, a former member of our 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth who recently has met Col. W. H. V. Jones in Alderney who asked after us. I hope soon he will come to see for himself.

I have heard from Mrs. Appellbe. She continues to reach riding and dancing. She came to Chelsea in January to stay with her sister.

Ken Clayden writes from Accra, where he is on the staff of the Gold Coast Military Force. The colony celebrates Independence Day on March 6 this year. Joan, his wife, is with him.

Major R. W. J. Smith wrote from the Federation Military College at Port Dickson, Malaya. He hopes to reach the U.K. on Albuhera Day next. Mrs. Smith is both well and happy.

On December 13 (my birthday) I visited the Wallers at Bushey for dinner. They have a charming quarter now in the charge of Col. Walden, who has a vast number of quarters and hirings in his charge. With him are Herman Else and Chris Man until he leaves to



command the Boys' Battalion in Devonport, where he becomes Lt.-Colonel.

Major W. Newton ("Newt") wrote me from Kilarney in Ireland. His son Carruthers, appointed a magistrate, arrived home in August from Kenya for a law course at Cambridge, and Brian, his other son, should have reached home ere now. He has not seen Major Jacob, despite an invitation to him to fish!

I heard from "Pip" Reed (formerly Ash) on December 12 that Capt. James Macartney died early that month at Bexhill. This was soon after his wife's death, a loss he was unable to support. "Pip" spent Christmas with Molly Oliver Jones.

I heard some time ago from Cpl. Grimes in our Regiment who was serving in the Defence Office at Joint H.Q., G.H.Q. rear. His young brother is serving in our 1st Battalion in Cyprus.

My friend Roger Latham (on stage Roger Maxwell) took me to see an Agatha Christie play "The Spider's Web" at Golders Green Hippodrome in December. He left about January 12 to take the part of a J.P. in this play on tour, and hopes to include Major Heywood's home area, when he hopes to see him.

#### FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday, November 10, the annual ceremony was held at the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. Col. M. Browne, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, laid the Regimental wreath and planted the first cross. The following were present: The Chairman of the Middlesex County Council and Mrs. Cowan, Lorth Latham, the Mayors of Finchley, Harrow, Southall, Southgate and Wood Green, and the Chairmen of the Potters Bar, Hayes and Harlington and Northwood Urban District Councils. The Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the Depot, and a number of other members of the Regiment, both serving and retired, were also present.

#### BIRTHS

CLAYDEN.—On December 25, 1956, at the Accra Military Hospital, to Joan, wife of Capt. B. K. Clayden, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), a second son.

#### MARRIAGES

HUTCHINGS—WELLS.—On December 15, 1956, at St. Stephen's, Westminster, Major Roy Hutchings to Barbara Anne (Andy) Wells.

#### DEATHS

THOMPSON.—Pte. T. R. Thompson of "A" Company the 1st Battalion died on active service on November 8, 1956, whilst on patrol near Kophinou.

GREENWAY.—Ex-Sgt. William Grant Greenway passed peacefully away on November 1, 1956, at the age of 83. He served just over 21 years, and was Recruiting Sergeant in Edmonton and later Tottenham.

BAILEY.—We regret to announce the death in November of Thomas William Bailey, who served with the 9th Battalion in the First World War and more recently with the Home Guard. The Regiment was

represented at his funeral and a wreath was laid on our behalf.

PANK.—Col. Cecil Henry Pank, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P., died at his home on January 11, in his 81st year. Col. Pank was Colonel of the 7th Battalion and an obituary appears elsewhere in the Journal.

NEWMAN.—Early in January the death occurred in Lambeth General Hospital of late Pte. W. Newman, who served with the 1st Battalion. A letter of sympathy was sent to the widow and family.

TRUSLER.—The death occurred on January 12 at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, of In-pensioner A. J. C. Trusler of our Regiment. He was 89 years of age and his funeral was attended by an N.C.O. from the Depot, who also laid a wreath.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

##### REGULAR ARMY SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

November 2, 1956

2/Lt. Peter Sinclair Bryson (444177) (National Service List) to be 2/Lieutenant, July 1, 1956, retaining his present seniority, for service with the Gold Coast Military Forces.

##### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt.-Col. (Hon. Col.) M. Crawford, D.S.O. (455), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, November 2, 1956.

##### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

November 9, 1956

2/Lt. C. F. M. Boddington (440520) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, November 9, 1956.

##### REGULAR ARMY

November 16, 1956

Capt. C. H. Mieville, M.C. (240127), to be Major, November 17, 1956.

##### REGULAR RESERVE OF OFFICERS SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

November 20, 1956

Capt. J. D. Messenger (304972) from Active List to be Captain, November 20, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

##### REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

November 23, 1956

23271214 Cadet George Anoino Medawar (450208) to be 2/Lieutenant, September 22, 1956.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. C. A. Lamb (393422) from Active List to be Captain, October 16, 1956, retaining his present seniority.

##### REGULAR ARMY

November 27, 1956

The undermentioned Lt.-Colonel to be Colonel on the date shown: (Temp. Brig.) R. A. Gwyn (49853) from Middlesex Emp. List, June 27, 1956.

##### REGULAR ARMY SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lt. D. A. Prettyman (442065) to be Lieutenant, July 11, 1956.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. J. A. Birch (442209) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant, October 8, 1956, with seniority June 4, 1955.

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. J. P. Baker (440960) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant, September 23, 1956, with seniority March 19, 1955.

##### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

November 30, 1956

Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) N. G. Gilbert (34804) having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, December 1, 1956.

##### REGULAR ARMY

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

December 4, 1956

23281827 Cadet Martin David Beresford (450331) to be 2/Lieutenant, October 6, 1956.

23286508 Cadet Keith Francis Trevett-Lyall (450369) to be 2/Lieutenant, October 6, 1956.

##### REGULAR ARMY

##### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

December 11, 1956

2/Lt. V. G. Brown (440974) to be Lieutenant, December 10, 1956.

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

23322590 Cadet Anthony Morden (450517) to be 2/Lieutenant, October 20, 1956.

23199459 Cadet Alexander Marie Arthur Henry Roch (450213) to be 2/Lieutenant, October 20, 1956.

##### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) H. R. Samson (117898), having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, relinquishes his commission, December 12, 1956, retaining the hon. rank of Captain.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. J. P. Baker (440960) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, December 10, 1956.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

December 14, 1956

2/Lt. (Actg. Lt.) G. C. Ross (425004) to be Lieutenant, December 11, 1956, with seniority June 6, 1954.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY

December 18, 1956

Lt. J. D. Chynoweth (426777) from A.E. Reserve of Officers National Service List to be Lieutenant, October 7, 1956, with seniority November 11, 1954.

##### REGULAR ARMY NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

December 21, 1956

2/Lt. J. V. Marriott (443078) relinquishes his commission, November 26, 1956, on enlistment in ranks (T.A.).

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. (Hon. Major) C. E. Cullen (200343) from Reserve of Officers Mx. to be Captain, November 13, 1956, with seniority November 24, 1953.

##### REGULAR ARMY

##### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

December 25, 1956

Lt. A. R. F. Smith (388211) to be Captain, December 26, 1956.

##### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. R. J. Hunt (441335) is granted the acting rank of Lieutenant, December 21, 1956.

##### TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (Actg. Lt.) M. S. Gedye (427386) to be Lieutenant, December 23, 1956, with seniority, November 7, 1954.

2/Lt. (Actg. Lt.) C. R. Armstrong (429502) from A.E. Reserve of Officers National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant, October 31, 1956, with seniority July 11, 1953, and Acting Lieutenant, October 31, 1956, with seniority February 20, 1955.

##### REGULAR ARMY

##### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

January 1, 1957

Capt. E. L. Ellisdon (270607) (Emp. List 3) to be Major, May 18, 1956.

##### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2/Lt. (Actg. Lt.) G. B. Hall (429526) to be Lieutenant, December 30, 1956, with seniority February 20, 1955.

##### REGULAR ARMY

January 4, 1957

The undermentioned Colonel (Temp. Brigadier) to be Brigadier on the date shown: R. H. Batten, C.B.E., D.S.O. (41082), late Infantry January 1, 1956.

##### COMMANDS AND STAFF

January 4, 1957

General Sir Richard N. Gale, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (20116), late Infantry, relinquishes his appointment as Commander, Northern Army Group, and Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, remaining on full pay, January 1, 1957.

##### ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

January 11, 1957

The undermentioned 2/Lieutenants from Regular



Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenants, October 8, 1956, with seniority on the date shown:

R. H. L. Brettell (442215), June 4, 1955.

M. R. Tubbs (442265), June 4, 1955.

J. R. E. Kent (443072), July 16, 1955.

D. N. H. Pennycook (444960), October 15, 1955.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS  
NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

January 15, 1957

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

J. N. A. Syers (442259), October 8, 1956, with seniority June 4, 1955.

J. W. F. Bennetts (443047), October 29, 1956, with seniority July 16, 1955.

P. Thomas (443720), October 29, 1956, with seniority July 30, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. K. C. Hayward (442044) from Regular Army National Service List to be 2/Lieutenant October 29, 1956, with seniority May 21, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY  
NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

January 22, 1957

2/Lt. D. A. Gilkes (442228) from Regular Army National Service List Royal Warwicks to be 2/Lieutenant, October 7, 1956, with seniority June 4, 1955.

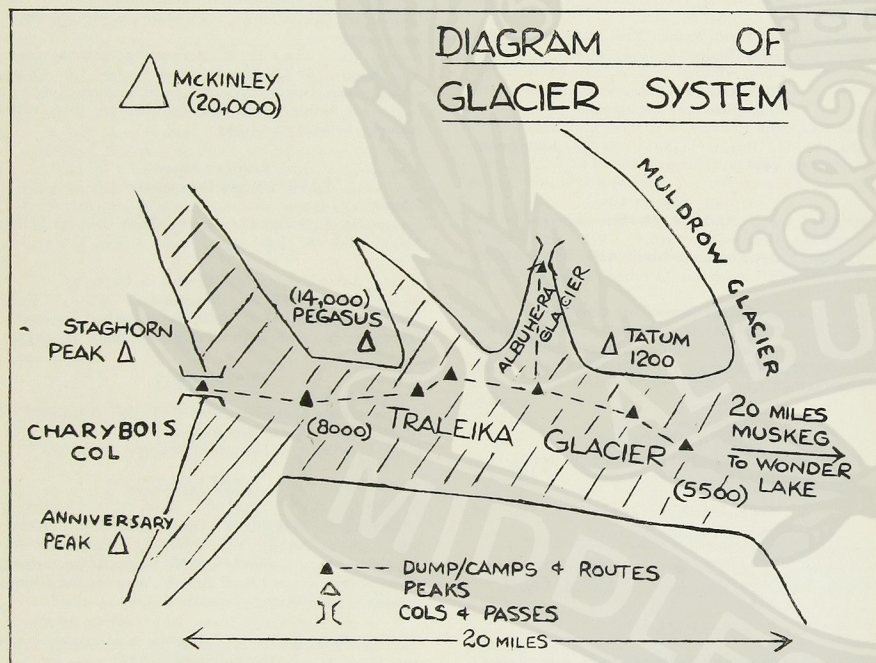
TERRITORIAL ARMY

January 29, 1957

Capt. R. M. Strong (393477) from Para. to be Captain, August 1, 1956, with seniority June 1, 1954.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. R. M. Strong (393477) from Active List to be Captain, November 19, 1956, retaining his present seniority.



(See "Alaskan Adventure" on page 333)

## ALASKAN ADVENTURE

By Capt. W. M. M. Deacock

There are many people in the Regiment who will remember the hills of Hong Kong and the opportunities offered in spare time and during "business hours" of exploring them. It was in that colony that I first joined the Middlesex Regiment, and having already spent some time in my life wandering in hills and country spots seized the opportunities offered by the station. Later Austria presented heaven-sent opportunities for mountain adventure, ski-ing, climbing, walking and amongst a people who loved their mountain country—a week-end not spent in one of these sports was usually a week-end wasted. At this moment the 1st Battalion is in a country which presents rich opportunities for exploration and mountain play, if only events will permit it. In England a week-end visit to the Welsh mountains or a Saturday on the Sussex downs all offer a home to run one's own private expedition; even the mundane planning of train timings, footwear and food, provide an interest and excitement so much more satisfying if sampled than all the cinemas or television sets in existence.

### First Plans

To go on an expedition of the sort that I was lucky enough to join in the summer of 1956 it is not just necessary to answer an A.C.1 or sign your name. Early in 1955 I joined the mountaineering club of my Brigade. This club had previously sent a small expedition to the Ruenzori mountains of Uganda when in the Middle East and engaged in frequent small expeditions to Scotland, Wales and Harrison's Rocks near Tonbridge. The club was then planning to go to Alaska and as a member dropped out I applied and was accepted to become one of the party.

### Why Alaska?

The reasons that prompted the choice of the Mount McKinley range of Alaska were typical of the adventurous mind of the leader, Capt. Mills of the R.A.S.C. First, no British party had yet been there, in fact our area was a white space on the map that left plenty of room for conjecture. Secondly, so vast are the distances to be covered and difficult the problems that must be overcome, that the planning side of the expedition, rather like the underwater part of an iceberg, bulked larger in time and energy than the six weeks to be spent actually in the field. By the end of our adventures we hoped to have a considerable experience of climbing in arctic conditions, coupled with an invaluable insight into the necessary planning and inter-service co-operation inherent in such an enterprise.

### Objects

Our objects were quite plain and, if anything, I think it is too easy to attempt too much. We were to explore a glacier system and climb the surrounding peaks. Capt. Kinloch, our doctor, would carry out a meticulous physiological study which required, among other things, that he and I should take our temperatures every two hours and that we should all fill in daily a

list of "returns" stating what we had eaten, what work we had done and how we felt, a human guinea-pig experiment that had never been attempted before. Capt. Mills would make a geological collection and take charge of the "tactics" of our 42 days' stay. Lt. Pritchard would take a film and make sketches and paint. I, as 2IC, had a variety of jobs to perform on the commissariat side and to organise climbing equipment. I also kept a day and night meteorological record. All of us kept a day-by-day diary which would help in the writing of the book after our return.

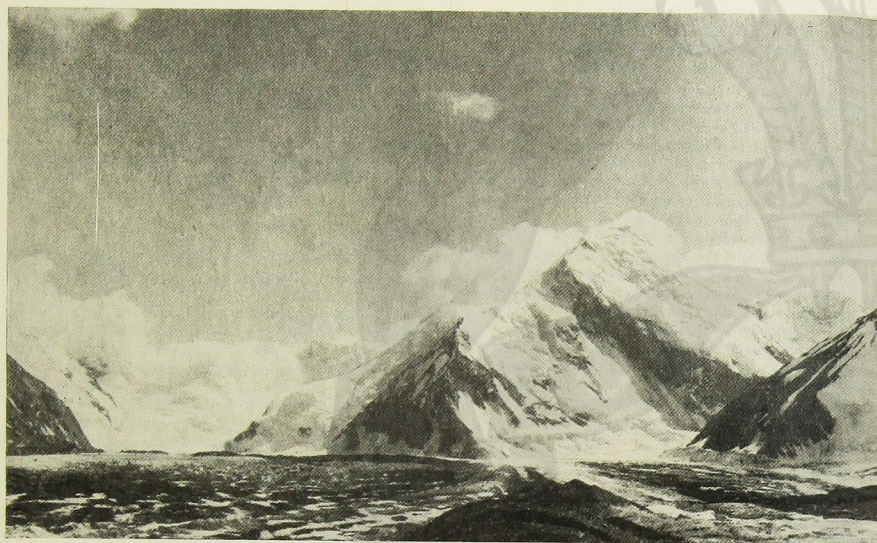
### Planning

The first movement was to obtain the backing of the "top brass." Through our commanding officer the approval and blessing of the C.I.G.S. was obtained. Next came the problem of finance and long-distance planning. It had been hoped that the R.C.A.F. would take us across the Atlantic, but since we could not get a clear-cut answer it was necessary to plan alternative means. In December of 1955 Capt. Mills had established a good liaison with the officers in the U.S.A.F. of Alaska and we were all beginning to work on our various departments. Suddenly the planning took a knock for Capt. Mills went to Germany, the doctor to Cyprus, Lt. Pritchard was demobilised, and I broke my back in a climbing fall in Wales. In the New Year I found myself the only home member, and whilst I convalesced had the time to devote to the paper work.

Our finances were drawn from many sources: the members contributed the equivalent of the three months' pay, the Mount Everest Trust supported our venture magnificently through the interest of Sir John Hunt, options were taken from a publisher for a book and other options here and in America for serial rights. We arrived at our agreed sum after much writing and meeting. Equipment was slowly gathered and food began to arrive from philanthropic firms which we had approached. The Army planning was not so easy for everything of this sort requires pushing again and again; after all there are many more important things than four officers going climbing, however good their reasons. The problem we found was that after having been promised that we should be on duty due to the nature of our equipment, food and medical trials, we were basing our financial and travelling plans on the assumption of Service transport across the Atlantic at least. Four days only before we were due to leave we were informed that we should not be on duty and might even lose pay and seniority for our time away. In addition to this, we were invited to prove our financial independence. By this time we were so heavily committed in our plans that to have cancelled would have been a most expensive business. Our leader resolved the problem in the War Office, and when we all boarded a steamer on May 5 it looked more as if we had just returned from an expedition than that we were just setting forth.

On May 16 I found myself in Ottawa visiting the British Liaison staff. It was pleasant to find a "Die-Hard" in this place—Major Crutchfield—and we greeted each other in the customary manner. Later that evening the other members joined me in a glass





PEGASUS PEAK—LOOKING UP TRALEIKA GLACIER

of beer, two bottles for the four of us for dollars were scarce. The toast was "The Die-Hards." I wonder if this toast has been made before by such a party in a low-lit and typical Canadian cocktail lounge?

It is interesting to consider how the expedition had been connected with the Regiment for me. After Christmas, when in Oslo, I had had the pleasure of meeting Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Hewitt and even skiing a little with them in the glorious national park; I had been in search of a Norwegian sled. I even corresponded with Col. Gwyn in Washington, but we failed to meet. In Alaska I met Americans who had served next to our 1st Battalion in the early days of Korea.

We made our way to Quebec, Montreal, across Canada to Edmonton, and then up country to British Columbia and Yukon territory. We had to pay our way and existed on a dollar a day each for food. My job as holder of the expedition purse was an unenviable one for every shop we passed advertised the opulence of the Canadian way of life and the eyes of my companions were menacing. As we journeyed north the kindness shown by members of the Canadian Army increased, for in the West a cable had preceded us warning against assisting us. We had felt rather furtive, but luckily our party spirits soon dispelled suspicion. We arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska, by Pan-American Clipper; the Alaska highway is still snowed up in May.

The Americans took us to heart and we discovered very quickly that we had a problem akin to organising an airborne operation. Our friends intended placing an Air Reserve Squadron at our disposal, we were to

make a recce by jet and fly in by Dakota and then helicopter on to the glacier if possible. Meanwhile, a four-engine plane was to fly safety patrol. Later this Squadron flew frequent "cover" trips to check that we were safe and to this end we were given an excellent wireless set. On two occasions we were to receive mail drops, and once much-needed ice axes.

The time at Ladd Airforce Base flew and on May 26, at 1100 hours, I found myself standing on the Traleika glacier, having stepped from a hovering helicopter. The sudden transition from civilisation was not easy to cope with. Within 12 hours the four members, plus 1,200 lb. of equipment, had been lifted in and we set about our job of exploring the glacier.

#### Packing

Before we could proceed properly with our plans it was necessary to look after the logistics. This meant relaying dumps of stores up the glacier by sled or by back packing. This tended to get us fit, but also gave us a taste of what we might expect from an Alaskan glacier. The crevasses were vast and the covering of snow insecure. With one man leading and three pulling progress might be one mile a day with the sled; if going was rough we had to back pack up to 100 lb. each. The members would frequently go through into crevasses, and although roped the sensation was one that did not improve as time passed. However, with some patience and some harsh words, we conveyed our food, fuel and tents up the glacier until we were in a position to mount an attack.

#### Exploring and Climbing

The glacier forked at its head into right and left forks which we wished to explore. The right fork we hoped might show a new route up to Mount McKinley, the 20,000-ft. peak dominating the range. There were two cols which might be passes and innumerable peaks, all virgin and invitingly Alpine to look at. It is not possible here to describe all the work that was undertaken, but a description of one climb of a col and peak will indicate our life.

#### Preparations

Planning before any attack can mean the success or otherwise of the result. In our case we had unique problems for we had no maps, no porters, and no way home if anything went wrong. Because we did not know the length of any one climb or its difficulties we had to go prepared to live and eat up to an estimated limit and always to have a little reserve in hand. All this meant that we must climb laden, a slow and dangerous undertaking but unavoidable. Very little was known about the quality of climbing that we might expect, but it would be snow and ice for sure since precipitation is very heavy all the year. The weather was unpredictable, and I had already found that signs which one could rely upon in European mountains

could in this place mean little. The temperature could be expected to be below zero and had been known even in summer to reach  $-40^{\circ}$  F. The one good factor was that in these latitudes there is no darkness at all so that we should never run the risk of benightment.

Appreciation of our first attempt led us to decide that the best time to travel was at night when, although colder, the conditions are safer from avalanche—this meant night in time only of course. Each man had to carry a load which we found after trial and error to be a minimum weight of 45 lb. Our accommodation was to be one Black's mountain tent measuring 6 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. 6 in., rather too snug for comfort. Cooking was by paraffin primus stove, and food was cut to a minimum climbing ration of 25 oz. a day each, mostly pemmican and porridge plus beverages. This ration was scanty enough, but we calculated that the calories were there all right; the rest was mental and we had trained down on food before the expedition. Our clothes were the same only in that each of us wore a full set of wind-proofs of the type used on Everest. One wore Himalayan high-altitude boots of Everest pattern and the rest of us wore American vapour-barrier boots. Our clothes were coloured severally red, blue, yellow and light blue to help photography.

(To be continued)

#### SUBSTANTIVE ROLL W.O.s, COLOUR-SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS

Bde. Pos.	No.	Rank	Name	Date of Promotion	Last Known Station
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I					
6	6201852	W.O.1.	P. Donovan	August 1, 1952	7 Mx.
11	6207112	W.O.1.	E. Pike	August 21, 1954	Depot Mx.
13	5837545	W.O.1.	M. Wild	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.
19	5619855	W.O.1	T. McMillan	January 29, 1957	8 Mx.
BANDMASTERS					
4	5382114	B.M.	F. Jackson	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II					
5	6398348	W.O.2.	L. Graham	April 1, 1952	Colonial Forces
9	6200940	W.O.2	S. Blacknell	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
10	6197047	W.O.2	A. Etheridge	April 1, 1952	7 Mx.
27	6201070	W.O.2	F. Griffiths	October 11, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
53	4267949	W.O.2	A. Goodge	May 4, 1954	7 Mx.
58	864814	W.O.2	R. Budden	May 4, 1954	8 Mx.
59	1520025	W.O.2	J. Thom	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
60	6200579	W.O.2	F. Firman	May 4, 1954	Depot Mx.
64	6210526	W.O.2	A. Cooper	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
65	6211991	W.O.2	A. Kenrick	May 4, 1954	1 Mx.
68	6403001	W.O.2	F. Redpath	August 3, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
75	6203433	W.O.2	S. Bartle	December 7, 1954	1 Mx.
	6968442	W.O.2	R. Dodkins	September 1, 1956	1 Mx.
COLOUR SERGEANTS					
5	6200792	C/Sgt.	G. Hockley (B.E.M.)	January 1, 1953	Depot Mx.
7	6200351	C/Sgt.	T. Perry	January 1, 1953	1 Mx.
19	6539821	C/Sgt.	G. Whitehead	January 5, 1954	E.R.E. Overseas
22	6205098	C/Sgt.	L. Shrubbs (M.M.)	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
28	6550324	C/Sgt.	F. Powell	March 25, 1954	Depot Mx.
42	5949742	C/Sgt.	H. Davis	December 19, 1955	E.R.E. Overseas
46	6197647	C/Sgt.	F. Markham	May 22, 1956	Depot Mx.
49	6201818	C/Sgt.	J. Morgan	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.



Bde. Pos.	No.	Rank	Name	Date of Promotion	Last Known Station
SERGEANTS					
15	6204927	Sgt.	J. Breame	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
20	22221076	Sgt.	J. Rodgers	April 1, 1952	5 Queens (T.A.)
39	6217070	Sgt.	W. Thorogood	April 1, 1952	E.R.E., U.K.
51	6206327	Sgt.	C. Burgess	April 1, 1952	1 Mx.
79	6203495	Sgt.	R. Cubitt	September 20, 1952	Colonial Forces
82	14066481	Sgt.	J. Potter	September 28, 1952	1 Mx.
84	14862617	Sgt.	W. Wright	October 21, 1952	1 Mx.
88	14066639	Sgt.	P. Dive	October 31, 1952	7 Mx.
90	5781748	Sgt.	J. Moyses	November 7, 1952	1 Mx.
96	14476662	Sgt.	D. Weller	December 16, 1952	1 Mx.
104	3852333	Sgt.	T. McGowan	January 15, 1953	Depot E. Surrey
112	6200376	Sgt.	G. Palmer	May 1, 1953	Depot Mx.
145	21014189	Sgt.	S. Michel	January 8, 1954	1 Mx.
154	19039053	Sgt.	A. Dacosta	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
164	6923739	Sgt.	E. Steward	January 22, 1954	1 Mx.
174	2718503	Sgt.	P. Simpson	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
180	21014210	Sgt.	S. Reynolds	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
184	6202925	Sgt.	R. Hope	March 25, 1954	8 Mx.
185	22229443	Sgt.	M. Eastap	March 25, 1954	1 Mx.
188	22221109	Sgt.	D. Bailey	April 29, 1954	Depot Mx.
192	22229344	Sgt.	G. Simmons	April 24, 1954	Depot Mx.
194	19133915	Sgt.	G. Cripps	April 29, 1954	1 Mx.
195	22193814	Sgt.	K. Beale	January 29, 1954	Depot Mx.
200	6201236	Sgt.	J. Marable	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
205	6343360	Sgt.	K. White	May 15, 1954	Depot Mx. (R.W.K.)
206	6205018	Sgt.	J. Preston	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
209	6202181	Sgt.	J. Field	May 17, 1954	E.R.E., Overseas
213	14470810	Sgt.	D. Walters	May 17, 1954	7 Mx.
219	6339246	Sgt.	G. Bailey	June 17, 1954	Depot Mx.
222	22541432	Sgt.	J. Dickie	July 13, 1954	8 Mx.
233	19039445	Sgt.	A. Nicholson	August 15, 1954	1 Mx.
235	22221098	Sgt.	B. Warner	August 16, 1954	Depot Mx. (E. Surrey)
236	22550985	Sgt.	M. Butler	August 16, 1954	Colonial Forces
240	22541536	Sgt.	G. Young	August 16, 1954	1 Mx.
242	11007783	Sgt.	C. Fry	August 19, 1954	1 Mx.
246	19145508	Sgt.	A. Gibbs	September 14, 1954	1 Mx.
248	19136922	Sgt.	W. Smith	September 16, 1954	E.R.E., U.K.
261	22309544	Sgt.	J. Martin (M.M.)	January 12, 1955	1 Mx.
280	14187334	Sgt.	R. Davies	November 25, 1955	8 Mx.
290	5437863	Sgt.	E. Brooks	December 13, 1955	1 E. Surrey
291	22259650	Sgt.	F. Potts	December 13, 1955	1 R.W.K.
295	22541352	Sgt.	R. Buckley	December 15, 1955	Depot Mx.
303	22549082	Sgt.	P. Amor	February 3, 1956	S.A.S. Regt.
314	22276303	Sgt.	R. Clements	May 22, 1956	1 Mx.

## ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

6202735	W.O.2	E. Colebeck	January 1, 1957	1 Mx.
14476433	C/Sgt.	P. Soper (B.E.M.)	January 27, 1955	Colonial Forces
6205077	C/Sgt.	A. Taylor	March 24, 1956	Depot Mx.

## BAND AND DRUMS:

## DRUM-MAJOR

2741381	Sgt.	J. Lewis	August 10, 1954	1 Mx.
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## COLOUR-SERGEANT

6200547	C/Sgt.	W. Grogan	December 23, 1955	H.C. Bde. Depot
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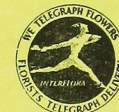
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