

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57th and 77th)

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

"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Alubera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajo," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivello," "Nive," "Peninsula," "Alma," "Inkermann," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

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

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres—Comines Canal," "Dunkirk, 1940," "South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong," "North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943: "Francoforte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills," "Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carreceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande," "North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troarn," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederjijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venray," "Meijel," "Geilenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland, 1940," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

"Korea, 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

Deputy Colonel of the Regiment Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.

Regimental Headquarters

Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

R.O.II: Col. F. Walden.

R.O.III: Major E. L. Heywood.

Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

Regular and Territorial Battalions

1st Battalion

O.C.: Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

Location: B.F.P.O. 29.

5th Battalion (T.A.)

O.C.: Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.

Locations

Battalion H.Q. } T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware,
"H.Q." Company } Middlesex.

"A" Company T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.

"B" Company T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.

"C" Company T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.

"D" Company T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force

Headquarters: 30 Pont Street, London, S.W.1.

Commandant: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.

Cadet Executive Officer: Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D.

Affiliated Cadet Units

16th (Hornsey) Cadet Company
32nd (Edgware) Cadet Company.
72nd (Hounslow) Cadet Company.
75th (Staines) Cadet Company.
77th (Feltham) Cadet Company.

Allied Units

CANADA

31st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
50th H.A. Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
102nd (Wentworth) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Ontario.
The Royal Rifles of Canada, Quebec.

NEW ZEALAND

The Wellington Coast and Taranaki Regiment, Tokoroa, Taranaki.

HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

Home Counties Brigade Depot

H.Q.: Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.

Brigade Colonel: Col. M. T. N. Jennings.

D.A.A.G.: Major C. N. Clayden.



COLONEL M. BROWNE, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.
Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), April 22, 1942, to April 21, 1952
Died December 21, 1961, aged 77 years

Colonel Maurice Browne

C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.

By Colonel W. A. Stewart, O.B.E.

A year after its return from the South African War, the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment moved from a hutted camp at Hounslow Heath to Portsmouth.

Shortly after the move 2/Lt. Maurice Browne of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (Militia) arrived for an attachment.

Quite early he created a favourable impression by his good looks, soldierly appearance and by the zeal he showed in his duties and his obvious liking for the personnel of the Regiment, which was to be almost the sole interest and love of his long life.

The Portsmouth Brigade was commanded by his father, Brigadier-Gen. E. S. Browne, V.C., C.B.

Young Browne passed the Militia competitive examination for a regular commission. His father formed the opinion that the majority of our officers had too much private means to make life easy for a young officer joining with only the very small allowance he was prepared to allow his son. This was in the days when an officer's pay was 5s. 3d. a day for the first few years of his service.

The Brigadier-General was therefore averse to his son applying for a commission in the "Die-Hards," but Maurice had formed the attachment to the Regiment which was to be the inspiration of his life.

He, therefore, applied for a commission in the Regiment. The fact that he had passed first on the competitive list gave him a certain priority, and he was duly gazetted to us.

He was posted to the 57th then serving in Burma. He early came under the influence of his Company Commander, Capt. Elgee, a keen soldier and disciplinarian, whose affection for everything connected with the 57th was matched by that of his subaltern.

Ten years of the favourable conditions given by service in Burma and India completed Maurice's regimental education. During that period he twice spent his annual leaves in my house in the Simla Hills, thus cementing a very lasting friendship with my family to which his last letter to me made touching reference.

In 1913 he came home for a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot. On the outbreak of the 1914 War he rejoined the 1st Battalion in France. On the death of

the Adjutant, Maurice Browne was selected for the appointment.

In 1915 he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry under fire. Shortly after this award he was severely wounded. On partial recovery he held a succession of staff appointments as G.S.O.2 and was at one time personal assistant to the late Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson.

On being passed medically fit he served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Germany, Aldershot, Egypt, India and the Sudan.

In 1932 he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel to command the 2nd Battalion at Colchester. After a very successful period in command he was given a Brevet Colonelcy and appointed an instructor at the Senior Officers School.

It was while holding this appointment that he developed diabetes and was retired from the Army.

On the outbreak of the last war he was appointed to command the Regimental Machine-Gun Training Centre and later the Regimental Depot party at Mill Hill.

In 1942 he became Colonel of the Regiment—an appointment he held for 10 years. It was during his colonelcy and that of his successor, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, that a much closer liaison was built up between the County of Middlesex and its Regiment, which was to prove of great benefit, particularly to the Territorial Army Units.

In his capacity as deputy Colonel he retained an office at the Depot—this enabled him to maintain his absorbing interest in everything connected with the Regiment. His remarkable memory kept him in touch with all "Die-Hards." His help and advice were always at their service. He continued to use the old Mess right up to his last illness. This must be a unique record.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks in a moving obituary notice described Col. Browne as "perhaps the last of the really great regimental officers." He was indeed in every sense a great regimental officer, but may we hope that the example he has left may be followed even in these testing times for our Army. His life should certainly be an inspiration to us all.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks writes:

In August 1914, as a young officer straight from Sandhurst, I was sent to join a battalion of The Middlesex Regiment at Fort Darland, Chatham, and found myself posted to a company commanded by a Capt. Maurice Browne. He was an impressive figure, tall, slim, good-looking and a strict disciplinarian. Although only 30 years old he had already served in India and Burma.

Looking back now, I realise how fortunate I was to come under his influence at the start of my military career, because Maurice Browne was the best regimental officer I have ever met—with all the selfless qualities which that implies.

It has become the fashion nowadays to laugh at the old-time Regular officers, to call them Blimps and so on, but there are few today who possess their single-minded devotion to Regiments or Corps. The Middlesex Regiment and, above all, the men who served in it, filled the whole of Maurice Browne's life. He never married. His one and only love was the "Die-Hards."

With some 40 battalions serving in the First World War, with many Middlesex Old Comrades, Maurice seemed to know them all, and, what is quite certain, they all knew him and turned to him with their problems.

The two highlights of his career were that he was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in France and Belgium during 1914-15, and was awarded the Military Cross for rescuing a comrade under fire; and when he was Colonel of the Regiment for 10 years.

He commanded the 2nd Battalion, the 77th Foot, for three years. He died just eight days after his 77th birthday. With his death there has passed a legendary figure in the history of the "Die-Hards," the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment—perhaps the last of the really great regimental officers.

By kind permission of The Sunday Times.

A. E. C. Morgan, Esq., M.A., Gadlys Cottage, Llan-sadwrn, Anglesey, writes:

I was sorry to see in yesterday's *Times* the announcement of the death of Maurice Browne, an old school friend of mine at Christ College, Brecon—though E.D. (Dennis), his elder brother, was actually nearer to me in age and general standing.

Maurice, however, was a charming, gentle lad, and I used often to share my "eleven o'clock break" bun with him in friendship.

In the School Cadet Corps, he (like his elder brother) was most conscientious. I had risen to my last year at school to be First Lieutenant, and remember him as most alert in drill, as also most friendly to all before and after.

His father, the V.C., used to come down, and inspect our Cadet Corps once a year, and once or twice a year we marched to church parade with the regulars, our officers lunching with the family afterwards.

If this letter happens to be seen by some relation, please accept this tribute, from the then Senior Prefect, that Maurice was a charming boy and, I know well, must later have proved an equally charming man.

The funeral took place at St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Friday, December 29, 1961, and, in spite of the bitterly cold weather, combined with fog, a large congregation assembled to pay their last respects.

The chief mourner was his cousin, Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County, Gen. Sir John Crocker, attended, together with the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall, (who was also representing the Colonel of the Regiment) and Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks.

The following also were present:

Col. W. P. M. Allen, Mr. R. E. Ambler, Mrs. E. N. Appelbe.

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker (Hon. Colonel, 5th Battalion, T.A.), Mr. A. N. Baynes, Sir Harold Bellman (Vice-Lieutenant of the County), Mr. H. O. C. Bethell, Major K. R. McK. Biggs, Mrs. P. L. Brooks, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton (Commanding 5th Battalion, T.A.), Mr. Brown, Lt. G. Bulloch (also representing Lt.-Col. I. H. Batty, Commanding 1st Battalion), Mr. M. W. Burns (Vice-Chairman, Middlesex County Council).

Mr. C. R. J. Calderwood, Mr. O. Gargill (Clerk to the Magistrates' Court, Hendon), Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. A. de Chimay, Major B. K. Clayden, Major C. N. Clayden, Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (Secretary, Middlesex T. and A.F. Association) who was also representing Major P. B. Allott, Capt. Cooper (R.A.O.C.), Mr. C. Cox, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt.

Col. W. D. Ellis (Commandant, County of Middlesex Army Cadet Force).

Major H. Farrow, Mr. R. H. Ferguson, Mr. Firman, Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell (Chairman, Middlesex T. and A.F. Association), Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Mr. R. M. Franklin (Town Clerk of Finchley), Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox (Chairman, Regimental Association and Officers' Club).

Councillor F. D. Gibson (Mayor of Finchley), Mr. Kenneth Goodacre (Clerk to the Lieutenancy and to the County Council) who was also representing the Hon. Ewen E. S. Montagu.

Mr. R. W. Hadley, Lt. G. L. E. Hale (R.E.) (representing the Officers and Sergeants, Home Postal Depot, R.E.), Major H. K. Hardcastle, Mr. W. Hayes, Miss J. Heddle, Major E. L. Heywood (also representing Col. A. M. Man), Sgt. H. Horder (1st Battalion), Major R. D. Hutchings.

Mr. F. G. Jaques, Mr. L. R. Johnson, 2/Lt. T. D. Jones (5th Battalion, T.A.).

Major G. W. Kempster, Lt.-Col. W. D. Kenyon Mrs. G. Kerswill.

Capt. R. D. Latham, Capt. C. L. Lawrence (also representing Major and Mrs. F. A. L. Lawrence).

Mr. P. F. Maloney, Major P. D. H. Marshall, Mr. A. Mathews, 2/Lt. P. J. Monypenny, Major J. H. A. Moore, Mr. J. E. Moran.

Capt. K. Neeves (R.E.), Major and Mrs. P. F. Newman.

Mr. G. Palmer, Mr. H. J. Parnell, Mr. A. H. Parrott, Major and Mrs. A. E. Peasley, Brigadier G. H. C. Pennycook, Alderman A. T. Pike, Mr. J. Prager.



The Coffin, carried by Senior N.C.O.'s of the Regiment and covered by the Regimental Flag, entering St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill

Brigadier and Mrs. B. B. Rackham, Lt.-Col. A. J. Ross (High Sheriff of the County of Middlesex).

Major C. E. E. Scott, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Mr. C. F. Shoolbred (Deputy Clerk of the Peace), Sgt. A. E. Sills (5th Battalion, T.A.), Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Major and Mrs. R. W. J. Smith, Cpl./Tech. R. J. Smith (R.A.F.), Police Constable M. D. Smith, Major G. Stewart-Sutherland.

Major V. A. Thomas, Mr. C. Trowt, Lt.-Col. J. Turver (Commanding Home Postal Depot, R.E.).

Col. F. Walden (also representing Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke), Mrs. F. Walden, Lt. P. A. M. Walden, Capt. S. C. W. Weller, Mr. S. G. White (Hon. Secretary, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A.), Capt. V. Williams (16th (Hornsey) Company, A.C.F.), Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton.

Brigadier A. E. Green, Col. W. A. Stewart, Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Major A. W. Clark, Major A. H. Cooper, Major H. Sherwood and Mr. H. Hull were prevented from attending.

Before the interment a service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. M. Dean, B.Sc.) assisted by the Rev.

L. D. Milliner, B.Sc., the chaplain at Inglis Barracks, whose services in the Garrison Chapel Col. Browne attended so regularly.

The bearer party was in charge of R.S.M. F. Webb, 5th Battalion, T.A., and consisted of the following Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s:

C.S.M. W. J. Wright	Sgt. C. Orme
C.S.M. J. Moyse	Sgt. P. Turner
Sgt. H. Shoobridge	Sgt. A. J. Willis

"Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded at the graveside by Drum-Major C. Holdford and Cpl. G. Chacksfield, both of the 5th Battalion, T.A.

The many beautiful floral tributes, which were being delivered at the church from an early hour, were entrusted to the care of Sgt. S. Speakman.

(Note.—Owing to the large numbers attending the service it is possible that some names may in error have been omitted from the above list. If this should be the case I offer my sincere apologies to those concerned.—Ed.)

Officers Location Statement

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	G. P. L. Weston, C.B.E., D.S.O.	Director, Land/Air Warfare, The War Office
Brigadier	J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.	Chief of Staff, Land Forces, Hong Kong
Col. (T/Brig.)	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	Commander, 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
Col.	W. P. M. Allen, O.B.E., M.C.	A.A.G., H.Q. Western Command
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	J. W. G. Ormiston	Colonel G.S., A.L.F.C.E.
Lt.-Col.	A. G. Hewitt, M.B.E., M.C.	A.A. and Q.M.G., 42 (Lancs.) Div./North West District
Lt.-Col.	D. C. L. Nolda, O.B.E., B.A.	G.S.O. 1, Western Command
Lt.-Col. (T/Col.)	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	Colonel "Q" (Movements) NEARELF
Lt.-Col.	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	G.S.O. 1, Joint Services Staff College
Lt.-Col.	I. H. Battye, M.B.E., B.A.	Commander, 1st Battalion
Major	G. C. Dawson	M.C.T.C., Colchester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	D.A.A.G., Malta
Major	P. L. Crutchfield	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major	P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E., M.A.	Military Planning Staff, Federal Forces, Trinidad
Major	R. D. Hutchings	A.D.P.R., Joint Public Relations Service, MIDEAST, Aden
Major (T/Lt.-Col.)	D. Sax	T.S.O. 1, School of Infantry
Major	P. W. Galvin	2IC, 1st Battalion
Major	C. N. Clayden	D.A.A.G. and Brigade Adjutant, Home Counties Brigade
Major	E. A. H. Jeffcoat	D.A.Q.M.G., Land Forces, Hong Kong
Major	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	1st Battalion
Major	C. H. Mievill, M.C.	1st Battalion
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	Home Counties Brigade Depot
Major	K. J. Carter	1st Battalion
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Aden Garrison
Major	H. J. A. Moore	D.A.Q.M.G., Scottish Command
Major	R. M. Cain, B.A.	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Major	B. K. Clayden	Training Officer, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt. (T/Major)	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	1st Battalion
Capt. (T/Major)	G. G. Norton	4th Battalion Queen's Own Royal Nigeria Regiment
Capt. (T/Major)	B. H. Marciandi	G.S.O. 2, H.Q. Tanganyika Rifles
Capt.	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	Staff Captain (Q), H.Q. MELF
Capt.	P. A. S. Wollocombe	Staff Captain (Q), Aden Garrison
Capt. (T/Major)	I. S. Rutherford	The War Office (P.R. 1)
Capt.	J. S. B. Pollard	1st Battalion
Capt.	R. D. Fisher	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	M. V. Hayward	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Capt.	A. E. McManus	1st Battalion
Capt.	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
Capt.	I. M. E. Lloyd	All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau
Capt.	W. G. A. Crumley	Staff Captain (Q), MIDEAST (Aden)
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	1st Battalion
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Adjutant, 5th Battalion (T.A.)
Lt.	P. Mallalieu	Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces
Lt.	M. D. Legg	1st Battalion
Lt.	P. V. Cheesman	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. F. Deakin	Army Air Corps Centre
Lt.	P. D. J. Clarke	1st Battalion
Lt.	M. Julian	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. Bulloch	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. Goring	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	A. B. Cowing	1st Battalion
Lt.	R. C. Pitman	1st Battalion
Lt.	J. G. Lofting	Home Counties Brigade Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	P. J. Monypenny	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	B. K. Finch	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. J. Hubert	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	R. A. Bartlett	1st Battalion
2/Lt.	P. F. Packham	1st Battalion
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	5th Battalion (T.A.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E.	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	1st Battalion
Capt. (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	2nd Ghana Regiment

SHORT-SERVICE OFFICERS

Capt.	A. R. F. Smith	S.O.P.T., MIDEAST (Aden)
Lt.	M. H. Rose	Depot R.M.P.
Lt.	H. S. Grant	5th Battalion King's African Rifles
Lt.	P. M. Dubbery	1st Battalion
Lt.	D. M. Everard	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. N. Freeborn	1st Battalion
Lt.	G. A. Dudson	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
Lt.	N. J. Bryant	Home Counties Brigade Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	P. B. Armitage	11th Battalion King's African Rifles
2/Lt.	M. N. Collins	Ghana Military Forces
Capt. (Q.M.)	E. J. Pike	6th Battalion King's African Rifles
Lt. (Q.M.)	F. Redpath, B.E.M.	2nd Battalion Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment
Lt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	1st Battalion Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment

EXTENDED-SERVICE OFFICERS

Major (L/Lt.-Col.)	L. G. Lohan, M.B.E., T.D.	D.D.P.R., Ministry of Defence
Major	A. E. Peasley	Adjutant, Home Postal Depot R.E.
Major	C. E. Rome, M.B.E.	The War Office (M.G.O.)

5th BATTALION (T.A.)

Hon. Colonel

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

T.A. OFFICERS

Lt.-Col.	G. W. Webber, T.D.	Battalion Commander
Major	P. J. Hall	O.C. "D" Company
Major	J. D. Gunnell, T.D.	O.C. "H.Q." Company
Major	R. J. Leighton, T.D.	O.C. "A" Company
Capt.	B. A. Skinner	O.C. "B" Company
Capt.	J. K. E. Slack	O.C. "C" Company
Capt.	B. B. Pollecoff	2IC "A" Company
Capt.	M. J. Beaumont	2IC "H.Q." Company
Capt.	D. W. Hogg	2IC "D" Company
Capt.	H. E. Couch	I.O.
Capt.	S. le M. Enthoven	Signals Officer
Capt.	S. L. J. Henshaw	2IC "B" Company
Lt.	D. W. Hume	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	G. J. Young	M.T.O.
Lt.	K. G. Price	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	D. H. S. Herriott	Recce. Platoon Commander
Lt.	A. W. Hunt	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. S. Richards	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Lt.	P. J. Ottino	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	K. D. Murray	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	D. O. M. Thomas	Platoon Commander "C" Company
Lt.	J. M. Robertson	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. McMaster	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	J. A. Van de Pol	Platoon Commander "A" Company
Lt.	J. C. Parkinson	Platoon Commander "D" Company
Lt.	M. J. S. Doran	Platoon Commander "A" Company
2/Lt.	R. G. Tett	Platoon Commander "B" Company
2/Lt.	T. D. Jones	Platoon Commander "B" Company
Major	D. P. Winstanley, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer
Capt.	R. L. McQueen, R.A.M.C.	Medical Officer
Capt.	B. A. Hennah, R.A.P.C.	Paymaster

PERMANENT STAFF OFFICERS

Major	B. K. Clayden	Training Officer
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Adjutant
Major (Q.M.)	S. C. W. Weller, M.M.	Quartermaster

Roll of Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s

Corrected to February 14, 1962

Bde. Pos.	Appt. or A/Rank	Name	Last Known Station
REGULAR W.O.s AND SENIOR N.C.O.s			
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS I			
2	W.O.1	T. McMillan	4 Buffs
10	W.O.1	R. Budden	4/5 R.W.K.
18	W.O.1	R. Dodkins	1 Mx.
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II			
5	W.O.2	F. Firman	3 Queen's Surreys
6	W.O.2	A. Cooper	1 Mx.
27	W.O.2	P. Soper, B.E.M.	S.M.F.
36	W.O.2	K. Beale	1 Mx.
37	W.O.2	W. Wright	5 Mx.
42	W.O.2	A. Da Costa	1 Mx.
50	W.O.2	S. Michel	1 Mx.
52	W.O.2	M. Eastap	4/5 R.W.K.
56	W.O.2	G. Simmons	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
61	W.O.2	E. Steward	4/5 R. Sussex
COLOUR-SERGEANTS			
12	C/Sgt.	J. Potter	1 Mx.
15	C/Sgt.	P. Dive	1 Mx.
16	A/W.O.2	J. Moyse	5 Mx.
38	A/W.O.2	D. Walters	1 Mx.
43	C/Sgt.	A. Nicholson	1 Mx.
44	C/Sgt.	B. Warner	1 Mx.
46	C/Sgt.	W. Smith	1 Mx.
SERGEANTS			
2	A/W.O.2	E. Thompson	22 S.A.S.R.
21	Sgt.	J. Dickie	1 Mx.
29	Sgt.	M. Butler	S.P.S. Estab.
32	Sgt.	A. Gibbs (O.R.C.)	1 Mx.
40	A/C/Sgt.	J. Martin, M.M.	1 Mx.
49	Sgt.	R. Davies	1 Mx.
62	A/W.O.2	P. Amor	22 S.A.S.R.
67	A/C/Sgt.	R. Clements	1 Mx.
74	A/C/Sgt.	R. Power	1 Mx.
76	Sgt.	K. Lloyd	1 Mx.
77	Sgt.	C. Partridge	1 Mx.
80	Sgt.	D. Lagden	1 Mx.
87	Sgt.	C. Orme	1 Mx. (A.I.O. Kentish Town)
92	Sgt.	M. Elston	M.T. School
102	Sgt.	H. Horder	1 Mx.
108	Sgt.	R. Ford	1 Mx.
109	Sgt.	C. Shinn	Inf. Jnr. Leaders' Bn.
114	Sgt.	N. Taylor	1 Mx.

<i>Bde. Pos.</i>	<i>Appt. or A/Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Last Known Station</i>
120	A/C/Sgt.	H. Males	Admin. Unit, Episkopi
121	Sgt.	C. Blackwell	1 Mx.
150	Sgt.	J. Patterson	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
152	Sgt.	B. Tarry	1 Mx.
160	Sgt.	S. Speakman	1 Mx.
163	Sgt.	W. Argent	Inf. Jnr. Leaders' Bn.
164	Sgt.	L. Plumb	Bde. Depot (P.S.)
172	Sgt.	H. Turner	5 Mx.
176	Sgt.	J. Williamson	21 S.A.S.R.
178	Sgt.	B. Edey	R.M.A.S.
190	A/C/Sgt.	W. Turner	Infantry Records, Exeter
194	Sgt.	J. Raffael	1 Mx.
202	Sgt.	B. Pritchard	5 Mx.
ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS			
5	W.O.2	G. Cripps	1 Mx.
BANDMASTER			
8	B.M.	J. McShane	1 Mx.
BAND-SERGEANT			
4	C/Sgt.	A. Probert	1 Mx.
SERGEANTS (BAND)			
3	Sgt.	D. Carson	1 Mx. (B.M. Course, R.M.S.M.)
7	Sgt.	G. Beechey	1 Mx.
DRUM-MAJOR			
3	C/Sgt. (D.M.)	J. Lewis	1 Mx.
5TH BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) T.A.			
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>		<i>Coy.</i>
WARRANT OFFICERS, CLASS II			
W.O.2	R. G. Vaisey	"H.Q." Coy.	
W.O.2	R. G. Roberts	"H.Q." Coy.	
W.O.2	W. Payne	"C" Coy.	
W.O.2	L. F. Shrubbs, M.M.	"B" Coy.	
W.O.2	A. E. Howe, M.B.E.	Bn. H.Q.	
W.O.2	J. Vasey	"D" Coy.	

Rank	Name	Coy.
COLOUR-SERGEANTS		
C/Sgt.	D. Jackson	"A" Coy.
C/Sgt.	C. G. Hall	"B" Coy.
C/Sgt.	G. Carnie	"C" Coy.
C/Sgt.	H. Rea	"D" Coy.
S/Sgt.	L. Hawkins, B.E.M.	"H.Q." Coy. (Sigs.)

Rank	Name	Coy.
SERGEANTS		
Sgt.	E. T. Burt	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	H. E. Oliver	Bn. H.Q.
Sgt.	C. Holdford	Bn. H.Q.
Sgt.	D. Goldeman	Bn. H.Q.
Sgt.	G. Stansell	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	E. R. Oakley	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	A. Sills	"H.Q." Coy.
P/Sgt.	R. Birmingham	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	M. O'Brart	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	K. Mortimer	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	B. Stack	"A" Coy.
Sgt.	J. Elderfield	"A" Coy.
Sgt.	D. W. Guiver	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	E. James	"A" Coy.
Sgt.	R. Elliott	"A" Coy.
Sgt.	L. R. Salter	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	D. F. Gainsbury	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	C. B. Wagner	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	F. W. Hawes	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	L. Ford	"C" Coy.
Sgt.	N. Wallage	"C" Coy.
Sgt.	D. McKerron	"C" Coy.
Sgt.	G. C. Berry	"C" Coy.
Sgt.	A. R. Kemp	"D" Coy.
Sgt.	M. Ward	"D" Coy.
Sgt.	G. Young	"D" Coy.
Sgt.	G. R. Brown	"D" Coy.
Sgt.	R. J. Bartholomew	"D" Coy.
P/Sgt.	G. Ashcroft	"H.Q." Coy.
P/Sgt.	B. Lauwers	"A" Coy.

Rank	Name	Coy.
ATTACHED:		
S/Sgt.	E. Pincombe (R.E.M.E.)	"H.Q." Coy.
P/Sgt.	G. Berry (R.A.P.C.)	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	K. N. Robson (R.A.P.C.)	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	M. Moore (A.C.C.)	"H.Q." Coy.

Rank	Name	Coy.
PERMANENT STAFF		
W.O.1 (R.S.M.)	F. Webb	Bn. H.Q.
W.O.2 (C.S.M.)	J. Moyse	"A" Coy.
Sgt.	H. Shoebridge	"B" Coy.
Sgt.	P. Turner	"C" Coy.
W.O.2 (C.S.M.)	W. J. Wright	"D" Coy.
Sgt.	A. J. Willis	"H.Q." Coy.
Sgt.	B. Pritchard	Relief for Sgt. Turner

REGULAR AND MILITIA OFFICERS' DINNER, 1962

The above dinner, open to all officers who served at any time with any of the following Battalions—1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (Regular) or 5th and 6th (Militia)—will be held at the United Service Club on Thursday, November 22, 1962.

As it is not possible to circularise all officers who are eligible they should please make a note of the date. Notices will be sent to all Regular and Militia officers in due course, but others who contemplate attending are asked to notify Regimental Headquarters now, so that, when full details are sent out, they also may be included. This in no way commits anybody to attending.

It was suggested last year that one or two additional forms should be sent to each officer so that they themselves could pass them on to friends who are eligible. This should be a splendid opportunity for National Service and Short Service officers to come and meet those with whom they served.

The United Service Club has been a good venue for this dinner for some years. It is known that a Friday would be more convenient to many, but though an attempt was made on December 4, 1961, to book a Friday in either October or November 1962, none was available so, apart from going elsewhere, there is very little choice.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE CRICKET WEEK, 1962

The following matches have been arranged for this year's Cricket Week:—

Wednesday, June 27.—Kent Police.

Friday, June 29.—Sussex Martlets.

Saturday, June 30.—Band of Brothers.

Sunday, July 1.—Hampstead Heathens.

All matches will be played on Howe Barracks Cricket Ground, Canterbury, starting at 11.30 a.m. each day.

Any officer or other rank who has served, or is serving, in any Regiment in the Brigade on any type of commission or engagement is eligible to play.

Anyone wishing to play in any of the above matches should write to Major F. E. Thorneycroft, Home Counties Brigade Depot, Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.

As the opposition on July 1 is provided by our old friends, the Hampstead Heathens, it is hoped that the Brigade team that day will consist predominantly of members of the Middlesex Regiment.

Have you placed a regular order for a copy of the Journal?

Why not do so NOW?

AN ORDER FORM IS PROVIDED AT THE FRONT OF THIS JOURNAL

Editor's Comments

It was with profound regret that we heard of the death of Col. Maurice Browne on Thursday, December 21, 1961.

Although the news was not entirely unexpected, it still came as a great shock; we realised that, regimentally, we had lost a legendary figure.

The welfare of the Regiment and all those connected with it, past and present, were his very real concern, and there will not be a "Die-Hard" who does not mourn his loss.

Others, better qualified than I have written, so I will not elaborate here.

The death of this great regimental soldier surely marks the end of an era; we shall never see his like again.

Saturday, March 17, was the anniversary of the death in 1904 of Field-Marshal George William Frederick Charles, Duke of Cambridge, our first Colonel-in-Chief. To mark the occasion a wreath, in regimental colours, was laid that day at the foot of the Duke's statue in Whitehall, on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks, past and present.

It is now known that, when the 1st Battalion returns from Germany this summer, it will be stationed at Lee Metford Barracks, Lydd, in Kent. Although this is a hutted camp, it is in good condition, and has been popular with the previous unit.

The command of the 1st Battalion changes in May when Major F. de R. Morgan, M.C., from the Queen's Own Buffs, takes over from Lt.-Col. I. H. Battye, M.B.E.

Personalia

We offer our heartiest congratulations to the Hon. Mr. Justice M. J. Abbott on his appointment last October as Chief Justice of Bermuda.

Mr. Abbott was commissioned into the 9th Battalion in March 1933 and, on being appointed to the Colonial Legal Service, Hong Kong, in 1936, was placed on the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers. He had no further service with the Regiment until he was embodied with the 1st Battalion during hostilities in Hong Kong in December 1941. He was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese when Hong Kong fell on Christmas Day 1941 and was released from prison camp in September 1945. He was demobilised in July 1946.

In 1956 he was a judge of the High Court of Lagos, Nigeria, and was promoted to the Court of Appeal for that country in August 1957.

The command of the 5th Battalion (T.A.) changed on April 1, when Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D., took over from Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton.

Our thanks are due to Lt.-Cols. Battye and Brotherton for all that they have done for the Regiment during the period of their respective commands. At the same time we send our best wishes to their successors and extend a specially warm welcome to Major Morgan, and hope that he will enjoy his period in command of the 57/77th.

A pen picture of our new Commanding Officers appears on page 121 of this issue.

On February 28, 1962, one of our affiliated Regiments, The Royal Rifles of Canada, celebrated its centenary.

An appropriate message of congratulations was sent from all ranks of our Regiment.

With reference to my Comments in the last issue of the Journal, it has been decided that the Officers' Club "At Home" WILL be held this year at the United Service Club on Wednesday, June 27—the same day as the Regimental Dinner.

The Secretary of the Officers' Club will be issuing further details.

Following on the precedent created last year when the Regimental Band played during a County cricket match at Lord's—the first time in memory—readers will be interested to know that this year the Band has been engaged to play there on no less than four occasions, namely, 11th June—Middlesex v. Sussex; 16th June—an Old England XI v. The Lord's Taverners; 25th July—Middlesex v. Pakistan; and 11th August—Middlesex v. Surrey.

After giving up command of the 1st Battalion Lt.-Col. Ian Battye has been selected for a Grade I appointment at Headquarters, Northern Army Group.

He is due to take this new appointment on July 12 next.

On February 3, 1962, Miss Gillian Bethune Bower, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. Geoffrey Bower, was married to Mr. Gerald Stuart Banwell, elder son of Sir Harold and Lady Banwell, at St. Michael's, Chester Square.

Major Rex Cain has returned from Hong Kong, where he was Adjutant to the Hong Kong Regiment, and has been selected for a Staff Captain's appointment at the War Office with effect from May 17.

The following tribute was paid to Major "Nobby" Clark, the late secretary of our Regimental Association, in the December 1961 issue of *The Kensington*:

"The O.C.A. has recently lost a very good friend in the person of Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., who has resigned from the post of secretary to the Middlesex Regimental Association. Only those of us concerned with the benevolent side of the O.C.A.'s work can appreciate the great help 'Nobby' has been to us whenever we appealed to him. Thanks a lot, 'Nobby,' and may your health show a great improvement now that you have more leisure."

Major P. L. Crutchfield has vacated the appointment of D.A.Q.M.G. at Headquarters, 54th (East Anglia) Division/District, and is due to start a Staff Intelligence Course on April 24 prior to a further staff appointment.

Lt. Mike Deakin writes to say that the task of learning to be a "birdman" can best be summed up as long periods of boredom, interspersed with occasional moments of stark terror. In spite of this he seems to be coping with the course well. Incidentally, we should like to offer our belated congratulations to him and his wife on the birth of their son, Marcus Edward Francis, at Canterbury, on September 24 last.

Lt. George Goring from the 1st Battalion replaced Lt. Mike Deakin as training subaltern at the Home Counties Brigade Depot on December 21.

Capt. John Hewson re-joined the 1st Battalion from the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in March and has taken over as Adjutant from Capt. John Pollard.

On a recent visit to the Home Counties Brigade Depot we found an old "Die-Hard" employed as a civilian clerk in the Orderly Room. He is Mr. F. Hodgetts, formerly of the 9th Battalion (T.A.). He served as a regular soldier in the Border Regiment from 1925 to 1943 when he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. On discharge from the Regular Army he joined 595th L.A.A. Regiment (9th Battalion) in 1947 as R.Q.M.S., and served with that Battalion until 1951 when he re-joined the Regular Army. He took his discharge finally in 1960, since when he has followed his present occupation.

Lt.-Col. Adrian Howell, formerly 2nd Battalion, who left the Regiment in 1931 on transfer to the Royal Army Pay Corps, is now Organising Secretary of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for Cheshire and North Wales.

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. M. C. Jaffe on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Caroline, on February 7, 1962, and to Capt. and Mrs. Chris Lawrence on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Caroline, at Canterbury on December 27, 1961.

Lt.-Col. Eric Kendall-Sadler is now living in the south of Spain. His postal address is c/o A. L. Galliano's Bank, Gibraltar.

We are lucky to have Mr. "Taffy" Lewis to assist us in forming a Branch of the Regimental Association at Cambridge. He was one of the original members of our 11th Battalion at Mill Hill in August 1914, and later went with the Battalion to France. He was wounded on February 13, 1916, and was subsequently posted to Cambridge, where he became chief clerk to the University O.T.C. He retired from that post in July last year and "Peterborough" had this to say about him in his column on July 26, 1961, which is reproduced by the courtesy of *The Daily Telegraph*:

"Cambridge Farewell"

"Generations of Cambridge men, Regular and Territorial Army officers in particular, will be sorry to hear that Mr. M. J. ('Taffy') Lewis, for 45 years chief clerk to the University O.T.C., is retiring today.

"Thousands of them have been through his hands. His 'clients' have included the Duke of Gloucester, who represented the O.T.C. against Oxford in 1920, and—during the past year—Prince William.

"Mr. Lewis joined Kitchener's Army in 1914 and was wounded and received a Rumanian decoration. In 1956 he was made an M.B.E.

"Past and present members of the O.T.C. have contributed from all over the world to the presentation being made to him this evening in the Mess at Quayside. They may hear him state his conviction that, whatever may be happening elsewhere, Cambridge at any rate does not lack sound military potential."

Lt. John Lofting has been posted from the 1st Battalion to the Permanent Staff of the Home Counties Brigade Depot for a tour of duty.

We hope he will be able to continue his cricket and get his Army Colours this year.

On completion of his course at the Staff College Capt. Brian Marciandi flew out to Tanganyika, where he took up a new appointment as G.S.O.2 at Headquarters, Tanganyika Rifles, with the temporary rank of Major.

He writes to say that his first impressions of Dar es Salaam are good, and that he is sure he is going to enjoy his present posting.

Capt. Ernie Moir, who at present lives at Fareham, Hants., writes to say that he has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Corps Secretariat, R.E.M.E., at Aborfield, Berks., and that he started his new job at the beginning of February.

Major Willoughby Newton, who was invalided out of the Service in 1947, appears to be enjoying life at his home in Galway, where he gets plenty of fishing and bridge.



Photograph by courtesy of the Middlesex County Advertiser

Members of the staff of the Regimental Headquarters after laying of the wreath at the foot of the statue of our first Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks past and present

Some of our older readers will remember Major Freddy Nunn, who was posted to the 1st Battalion after World War I, and served with it till his retirement in December 1929. He is living near Newmarket and he writes to say that he has to take things easy these days after a heart attack last October.

Many officers who passed through the Depot between 1956 and 1961 will remember Sgt. "Pedlar" Palmer, the Officers' Mess Sergeant. They will, we are sure, be interested to know that he has obtained employment as club steward with the London Rowing Club at Putney.

No doubt we shall see him this summer on the towpath at Henley wearing that famous blue cap with white stripes!!

We are indeed very grateful to one of our old "Die-Hards," Mr. F. Saltmarsh, for presenting a copy of Major Woollright's "The Historical Records of the 77th Regiment" to the Regimental Museum.

After a couple of years in the 1st Volunteer Battalion (late 7th Battalion T.A.) Mr. Saltmarsh joined the Regular Army in 1907 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth. He moved with the Battalion to the Channel Islands, but soon afterwards was drafted to the 1st Battalion in India. He served at Allahabad, Dum-Dum and Aden before returning with the Battalion to Woolwich where, on April 9, 1914, he was transferred to the Army Reserve. He re-joined the 1st Battalion when war broke out on August 4, 1914, went to France, and, as a result of wounds at La Boutilierie on November 3, 1914, had his right arm amputated. He was discharged on medical grounds on June 7, 1915.

In spite of his disability his hand-writing is excellent.

Major D. Sax has now removed from the Inspectorate of Armaments to the School of Infantry, where, on January 15, he assumed the duties of T.S.O.1.

We were sorry to hear that Lt.-Col. Tod Sloane-Stanley was rushed to hospital for an emergency operation at the end of last September. He had a second operation in November and a third in December. We understand that he has just one more to come, when we hope that he will be as sound as a bell once again.

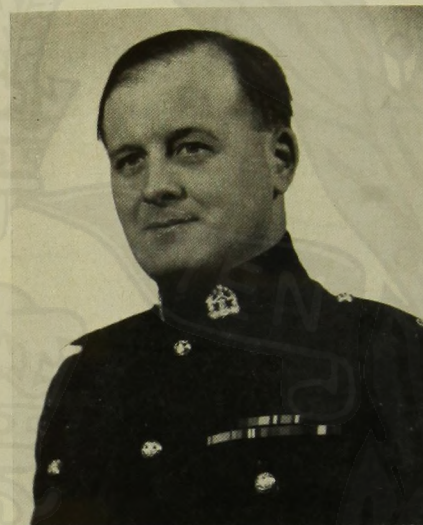
In one letter he wrote: "If I hadn't been a 'Die-Hard' I'd be dead!"

Major Roddy Sword has for some months been doing a retired officer's job at the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau Camp, Towyn. He seems to like his work, although he has to live in the Mess, since his home is in Somerset.

We were very pleased to hear that Lt. R. H. C. Waters, one of our National Service Officers, who is reading law at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, gained his soccer blue and played at left back in the Varsity match at Wembley last December. One of our senior officers, who makes an annual pilgrimage to Wembley for this match, tells us that, although Cambridge were a much superior team, the fact that they could only score two goals was due to a stalwart Oxford defence, for which Waters can take much credit.

Apart from his prowess at soccer he is no mean cricketer and only missed a cricket blue last summer as a result of a car accident. He plays cricket for Sussex as a wicket-keeper and batsman.

OUR NEW COMMANDING OFFICERS



Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, T.D.

Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Webber took over command of the 5th Battalion (T.A.) on April 1, 1962.

He enlisted into The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) in September 1942 and was commissioned into the Indian Army in December 1943.

He was posted to the 4th Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles, in September 1944 and served with that Battalion during the last war in India, Burma and Indo-China, and during the Indian riots in 1946 and 1947.

On returning to this country he applied for, and was given, a commission in the 11th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment (T.A.), in February 1949. This Battalion was later redesignated 8th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), T.A., and he was appointed its 2IC in June 1959.

For business reasons he transferred to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers in March 1961, but rejoined the Territorial Army and was posted as 2IC to our 5th Battalion (T.A.) in September 1961.

Major Francis Morgan has been selected to take over command of the 1st Battalion in May 1962.

He was a cadet at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, at the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, and was commissioned into the Buffs at the end of 1939.

After a spell at his Regimental Depot he joined the 50th (later 11th) Battalion, the Buffs, in May 1940. When this Battalion was later converted to 89th Light



Major F. de R. Morgan, M.C.

Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A., he served as a troop commander and as a battery captain, and went with it to Normandy in June 1944.

In the late summer of 1944 he became an infantryman again and was posted to 7th Battalion, the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He ended the war in Germany with this Battalion as a company commander, having been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished conduct.

Later in 1945 he was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force and commanded a company at the Training Centre of the Gold Coast Regiment until mid-1947.

On return to this country he attended a Regimental Signals course at Caterick and early in 1948 joined 2nd Battalion, the Buffs, in Hong Kong as signal officer. In 1949 he became Adj. to the Battalion.

From 1951 to 1953 he was an instructor at the Signal Wing of the School of Infantry at Hythe.

During 1953 and 1954 he attended the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington, India. On completion of this course he was posted to Malaya as G.S.O.2 (Ops.) at H.Q., Malaya Command—an appointment he held until 1956.

In 1957 he took command of the Depot, the Buffs at Canterbury and the following year he joined the 1st Battalion of his Regiment at Aden as 2IC. He remained with that Battalion until taking up a second-grade appointment at the War Office in the spring of 1960.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 7th Middlesex Officers' Club held their annual dinner at the United Service Club on Thursday, November 9, 1961.

Col. J. K. Maitland, M.C., T.D., presided, and Col. M. Browne and Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton were guests of the Club.

Those present were:

Capt. M. J. Beaumont, Major G. A. H. Bower, Major D. G. Buxton and guest, Major I. F. Campbell, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Major J. M. Cossar and guest, Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell, Major J. D. Gunnell, Capt. F. Stafford Hodge, the Rector of Hornsey, Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson, Major R. J. Leighton, Lt.-Col. F. W. Mackenzie, the Right Rev. and Right Hon. H. C. Montgomery-Campbell (formerly chaplain to the Battalion), Capt. H. Montgomery-Campbell, R.A., Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, Major P. F. Newman, Major M. F. Pearson, Major P. J. A. Pielow and guest, Capt. B. B. Pollecoff, Col. W. E. Pringle, Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Lt. J. R. Spooner, Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes and guest, Col. F. Walden, Major H. N. Wigan and Major J. H. Williams.

9th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' TRIENNIAL REUNION DINNER

The 9th Middlesex Officers' Triennial Reunion Dinner was held at the United Service Club on Friday, March 30, 1962.

Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L., presided, and the following were present:

Lt. K. Armstead, Capt. E. Banham, Capt. C. H. T. Barber, Major J. W. Bell, Major D. A. Bond, Capt. H. Cooper, Major E. Crook, Wing Comd. P. Cundy, Major S. G. Dangerfield, Dr. B. J. Davis, Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, Major C. W. Donaldson, Lt.-Col. J. R. Doyle, Lt.-Col. A. G. B. Drabble, Major G. N. Frankau, Col. H. W. W. Gray, Capt. W. E. H. Grayburn, Major H. H. Grey, Lt.-Col. H. G. Hansen, Major H. K. Harcastle, Major H. J. Hesketh, Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson, Capt. G. W. Hill, Capt. P. W. S. Hodge, Capt. L. Holgate, Major R. Hughes, Capt. M. C. Jaffe, Lt.-Col. P. Lloyd-Williams, Lt.-Col. B. A. G. MacFadden, Capt. K. R. Mayhook, Dr. W. McGregor, Major F. J. Millard, Major H. A. Neal, Capt. N. T. Neal, Capt. H. E. Nicholls, Capt. S. A. Owen, Lt.-Col. E. C. M. Palmer, Capt. Gordon Partridge, Capt. A. G. Petrie, Capt. P. D. Phillips, Major H. Price, Lt. G. W. Reeson, Capt. K. O. Sayers, Major L. F. Shaw, Major H. Sherwood, Capt. J. K. E. Slack, Major P. C. Sneath, Capt. P. Spencer, Dr. D. C. Tomlins, Col. F. Walden, Capt. J. B. Williams and Major L. C. Wright.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Museum has acquired the following items recently:—

- (a) Group of medals of the late Capt. G. Johnson.
- (b) Ink horn, 77th Regiment.
- (c) Historical Records of the 77th Regiment and photographs, etc.

- (d) Shooting trophies of 30th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, the ancestor unit to the Ealing Company of the 8th Battalion.

Medals of Capt. G. Johnson

These consist of the Queen's South African medal with six bars, viz., "Cape Colony," "Orange Free State," "Transvaal," "Tugela Heights," "Relief of Ladysmith" and "Laings Nek; 1914-15 Star; General Service Medal 1914-19; Victory Medal 1914-18; Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; The Legion of Frontiersmen Long Service and Efficiency Medal. These medals were presented by Miss Johnson, the daughter of Capt. Johnson.

The bars on the Queen's South African medal are those common to the Regiment, although the order of wearing them varies on different medals. The order of bars on Capt. Johnson's medal, reading from the suspension bar up, are Tugela Heights; Orange Free State; Relief of Ladysmith; Laings Nek; Cape Colony; Transvaal.

The 1914-15 Star and other two medals were awarded for his services with the 2nd Battalion in France until he was wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916. In this battle the Battalion ran into a maelstrom of fire, which so decimated them that in the short space of time from zero hour (7.30 a.m.) until 9.15 a.m. only a handful remained. Of 23 officers and 650 other ranks who took part in the initial assault only one officer and 50 O.R.s crawled back to our trenches.

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded for his other rank service 1896-1914.

His sixth medal is rather unusual. It is gilt metal with the figure of St. George and the Dragon on the obverse and inscribed on the reverse is "Legion of Frontiersmen. For Long Service and Efficiency." Capt. Johnson was the Troop Leader of the Wembley Troop (Imperial) in 1938 and 1939 and was a friend of Roger Pocock, the founder.

The story of Capt. Johnson's military career was published in the December 1961 issue of the Regimental Journal.

77th Ink Horn

The ink horn was purchased from the Parker Galleries and has been carved from the end of a bullock's horn. It has engraved on it a badge of the 77th Regiment and the battle honour "Alma," won by the 77th during the Crimean War (September 20, 1854). In a shield is the lettering "W. Watling, Sergt. 77 Reg. 10 Feb '55." On the right of the shield is the figure of a sergeant of the Battalion Company, and on the left an officer in full dress of the period.

The soldiers of the 77th in the Crimea made many of these horn ornaments, much the same as 60 years later another generation of the Regiment made brass ornaments from shell cases and other debris of the battlefields. Whereas the hobby was universal during 1914-18, it appears that the 77th was the regiment which specialised in this hobby during the Crimea, 1854-56. Many cleverly-engraved ornaments were completed and occasionally these mementoes come into the market.

There is one in use on the ink stand by the Visitors' Book in the Regimental Museum, which shows the Battle Honours and dates of the main events of the Russian War.

Historical Records, 77th Regiment and Photographs

The Historical Records of the 77th Regiment by Major H. H. Woolright was presented by Mr. F. Saltmarsh, whose name is in the fly-leaf with the date 1907, the year the book was published. The book gives a brief record from the date of formation up to the end of the South African War, 1899-1902.

With the book was a photograph of the longest serving soldier in the Regiment, of which we have a record. It is of Sergeant-Drummer James Deacon. Jimmy Deacon served for 47 years and 246 days and is remembered with affection and pride by a host of "Die-Hards." He was born at Ardfinnan, near Tipperary, in January 1851, enlisted into the 57th on December 18, 1865, and was discharged August 20, 1913.

He served in the Zulu War and was wounded at the Battle of Ginginhlovo April 2, 1879.

During the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to India for the Delhi Durbar, he was presented to their Majesties.

At one time there were three Deacons in the 57th—George, who was a Sergeant in "K" (Light) Company and was discharged in 1883; John, a Sergeant of "B" (Grenadier) Company and discharged in 1885; and young James, who was promoted to Drum-Major March 1, 1891. After his discharge he was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where he was the Provost Corporal. Always a fit man he did his P.T. daily and when the writer last saw him in 1919, he was having a cold shower after a spell with spring dumb bells. He

1st Battalion Notes

On December 21, 1961, we learnt with deep regret of the death of Col. Maurice Browne. A Battalion Memorial Service was held in the Garrison Church on December 23, 1961, conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. W. R. Crawte, M.A. The Commanding Officer addressed the congregation and spoke of Col. Browne's life and of the fine example he had given us.

It is also with profound regret that we have to report the death on January 2, 1962, of Mrs. Jean Warner, wife of Sgt. B. Warner of "B" Company, in the British Military Hospital, Rinteln, Germany.

At the end of the summer campaigning season Caesar put his legions into winter quarters and overhauled his impedimenta and chariots. History repeats itself—so we are told—and the sudden translation from autumn manoeuvres on the plains of Northern Europe to the exacting preparations in barracks for an annual administrative inspection is a transition which is not unfamiliar to generations of soldiers.

Five weeks after leaving the battlefields of "Spearpoint" tired, dusty but victorious, the Battalion found

died November 1, 1926, and such was the regard for him that an old comrade allowed him to be buried in his private grave (the late Mr. E. Morris).

30th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Trophies

Two relics of the days of the Rifle Volunteers, the predecessors of the present Territorial Army, have been presented by Mrs. B. W. Amphlett. They were prizes won by her grandfather, who was a crack shot, and who shot for the Volunteer Forces.

The first item is a quart pot with a glass bottom. On the pewter is inscribed "77th Adm. Battn. Middx RV v. 4th (West) London RV, 19th October 1867. Sergt. Instr. Abbott—30 Middx RV."

The second item is a pair of silver fish servers inscribed "30 Middx Rifles. Presented by Capt. G. Tyrell, won by Corporal W. Abbott."

The 30th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers were raised in February 1860 and became "F" and later "B" (Ealing) Company of the 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.F.). The uniform was dark green with scarlet piping and badges. Capt. Tyrell was one of the original officers when the unit was formed and served in it for 25 years, retiring on October 31, 1885, after being in command from January 7, 1864.

Rifle shooting was energetically carried out and in the teams which won many trophies and championships the names of Capt. Tyrell and W. Abbott always appear. In 1864 both C/Sgt. Abbott and Cpl. W. Abbott appear and in 1870 Sgt. W. Abbott won the "Ladies of Ealing Cup" for the best shot.

The servers were apparently presented in 1865 when Cpl. W. Abbott was one of the team of eight which beat the Queen's Westminsters by 25 points in the Volunteer Rifle Competition. R. W. J. S.

itself marching past the Inspecting Officer, our Brigade Commander, Brigadier J. A. T. Sharp, M.C., on the Annual Administrative Inspection parade—a parade which was graded excellent by the Inspecting Officer.

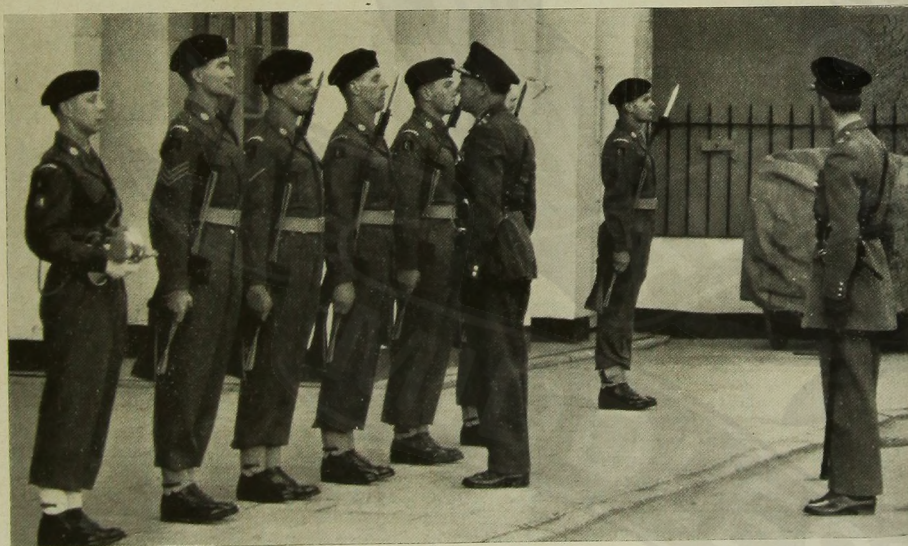
In the meantime the rigmarole of perfecting every detail of the Battalion's administration was gone through until all was considered up to inspection standard. As 1961 had brought a large increase in the number of vehicles in the Battalion on account of its equipment with A.P.C.s the preparation of these for both the Administrative Inspection in November and the technical inspection by the Central Inspectorate of Vehicles (the notorious C.I.V.) in December, became a major undertaking.

The Administrative Inspection was an undoubted success and the report good. Some criticism was, however, levelled at one company for the drabness of its barrack room walls in that they lacked "pin-ups." Perhaps if these are now to be regarded as an official amenity, they will be provided in future by the Garrison Works organisation when barracks are re-decorated.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION PARADE, NOVEMBER 23, 1961



The colours marching off parade. Colour Party: Lt. Cheesman, C/Sgt. Garraty, CSM Michel, Lt. Goring, Sgt. Scott



Brigadier J. A. T. Sharp M.C., inspecting the guard

The C.I.V. also produced a report which was gratifying largely due to the comprehensive programme of servicing and painting carried out with a dedication seldom attributed to youth of the sixties.

With the passing of the administrative season we began to prepare for training in 1962 and for Christmas. At the end of November cadres began. Signallers, mortar-men, anti-tank gunners and drivers were trained in a programme which embraced almost every regular soldier in the Battalion. Driving cadres are to continue throughout the year to fulfil the Commanding Officer's pledge that all regular soldiers will be taught to drive. Already an appreciable number have qualified.

The festive season commenced with a cocktail and supper party in the Officers' Mess on December 9. On the 13th the Christmas All-Ranks Dance was held in the gymnasium. This was well attended by the fair sex and consequently was a success. The Christmas Draw was held at the dance and attracted great attention as the first prize was an air ticket to U.K. with guaranteed Christmas leave. Alas, the ticket was won by a sapper from the Field Park Squadron which shares our barracks. On December 20 a party was given to local refugee children and, on the 21st, our own Battalion's children's party was held. We are indebted to the ladies of the Regiment, in particular Mrs. Dodkins and Mrs. Medlock, for their help in organising these parties.

Christmas Day was celebrated in traditional style with "gunfire" served by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and Christmas dinner by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. A programme of sport to include the Officers' and Sergeants' hockey match was planned for Boxing Day but, due to icy weather conditions, it was cancelled, and a substitute match was arranged, to be played in the gymnasium. At the last moment plans were again changed as we were shamed by the Sappers who, disregarding the bad ground conditions, were performing on the next hockey pitch. In the event the sudden changes of plan were no bad thing for it "spiked the guns" of the Sergeants and brought their nefarious plans for sabotaging the Officers' play to nought. In the end the game was spirited and energetic but the result is in question.

As New Year's Eve fell on a Sunday, the traditional Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' ball was held on Saturday, the 30th. It was an excellent ball and details are recorded elsewhere.

With the passing of Christmas and the New Year our thoughts began to turn towards the impending move of the Battalion to the United Kingdom. In the absence of definite information, speculation and rumour became rife. Meanwhile cadre training continued and, at the time of writing these notes, the Support platoons are concentrated at Hohne Field Firing Ranges and a potential N.C.O.s' cadre is in full swing.

During the winter many of our soldiers have been taught to ski at our Brigade Ski School at Murnau, which runs fortnightly courses from December to March. In addition we entered for the Divisional B.A.O.R. and Army Ski Championship of which more is written in the sports notes. This is an example of the sporting facilities which the Army offers at no cost to the man who is sufficiently interested to make use of them.

Information has been received that the Battalion is to go to Lydd in Kent in early June and although nothing in the way of a written instruction has yet materialised, for planning purposes we assume that our verbal information is correct.

As we are to move in mid-training season our field firing, which was to have taken place at Sennelager Ranges in June, has been brought forward to March, and we are attempting to fit in as much training as possible during the short time left to us in B.A.O.R.

As we go to press, little detailed information about Lydd has yet come to hand but we know we will be near to the Brigade Depot at Canterbury and to two other Battalions of the Brigade, The Queen's Own Buffs and the Royal Sussex. We believe that with a fair allocation of quarters, a reasonable camp, a fine summer and a good rail service to London we should be well placed to guarantee the security of the Home Counties.

Now that the end of National Service is drawing near and the Battalion is to move to the United Kingdom it is time to take stock of the regimental strength and consider how to increase it.

For the first time since 1938 we will have to rely on volunteer soldiers to fill the Regiment's ranks.

It is understandable that, after more than 20 years of conscription, followed by its abolition, our ranks should be depleted.

Few serving soldiers can have any idea of what service in an all-regular regiment would be like. One cannot easily compare present-day army life with pre-war soldiering as conditions have changed (and improved) so radically, but one would expect an all-regular regiment to have a very close family spirit, and in a battalion at good strength composed of long-service regular soldiers, keen to make a success of a military career, one would hope to find a life that is more positive, stable, interesting and unrestricted than that which we have known in the period since the war.

We all have a duty to build up the Regiment to strength and this we can do easily if every member serving or retired sets about obtaining at least one good recruit.

If you are serving bring in your friend to serve with you. It can be arranged that you continue to serve together. The more good men join the Regiment, the better life in the Regiment will be.

On October 26 a party of Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants from 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada visited the Battalion and were entertained in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. We were glad to have the opportunity of entertaining them after our brief acquaintance on "Spearpoint," when they umpired the Battalion.

At the end of November the Brigade Colonel, Col. M. T. M. Jennings, visited the Battalion. Although he previously knew some members of the Regiment individually it was the first time he had met the Battalion. The visit was a very pleasant family affair and our one regret was that it did not last longer. However, we look forward to seeing more of Col. Jennings when we return home.

In January we were delighted to see Lt.-Col. Ian Burrows, who paid us a flying visit while in B.A.O.R.

on a tour with the Joint Services Staff College. It was the first time many of us had seen him since his appointment as Military Attache in Moscow, and hope we did not pester him unduly with questions. He has promised to visit the Battalion when we return to the United Kingdom and give us a talk on Russia. We intend to hold him to that promise.

Maj.-Gen. E. A. W. Williams, C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 2 Division, who is shortly finishing his tour of command, visited the Battalion on January 29 to say farewell. He was entertained in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess before lunch, and had lunch with the officers. We wish him good luck and success in his new job in Singapore.

In October Major "Nick" Carter re-joined the Battalion from the rarefied atmosphere of General Staff (Operations), Southern Command, and is now to be found on the less exalted plane of "H.Q." Company.

Capt. Ian Lloyd has departed to the Junior Leaders' Battalion in place of Lt. Peter Clarke, and Lts. John Lofting and George Goring to Home Counties Brigade Depot, Canterbury.

Lt. Peter Clarke has now re-joined, having been thwarted by persons or persons unknown (in U.K.) in his attempt to learn support weapons at Netheravon.

2/Lt. Peter Packham has joined the Battalion from Sandhurst. We welcome him to the Regiment and 1st Battalion.

Major Maurice Leonard has visited the Battalion during the last quarter. He is now D.A.P.M. 2 Division. We hope to see more of him before we leave Germany.

Major Donald Peckham, our Paymaster, has been seriously laid low during the last few weeks. We are glad to hear he is now out of hospital and recuperating at home.

Sgt. Argent has also left to join the Junior Leaders' Battalion, Sgt. Dickie on release, Sgt. Pritchard (M.T.) to 5th Battalion, Sgt. Scott to Mons Officer Cadet School, and Sgt. Weston to the School of Infantry.

Sgt. Hoare, R.A.P.C., has joined the Battalion and the Pay Office.

C.S.M. Cakebread is congratulated on his promotion to W.O.2.

Cpl. Holland is to be congratulated on his ski-ing prowess in securing third place in the Third British Army Biathlon Championship and B.A.O.R. Biathlon Championship 1962.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

It must be recorded that for the first time in its long life, the Battalion Orderly Room floor received a coat of polish in preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection which took place in November. Operation "Bullshine" was carried out with great gusto the afternoon prior to the inspection and everything was in proper order ready to receive any inspecting officer who dared to enter the sacred territory. Needless to say, much to the dismay of all clerks who polished and dusted so thoroughly, never a sight did we see of the visitors from Brigade Headquarters.

A request to Field Records to borrow our representative there, Pte. Quantrill, for a few days, resulted

in his being returned to us for the remainder of his service. The reason for this was never disclosed, and before investigations could be carried out, he disappeared again—this time on release. Our stalwart filing and despatch clerk, Pte. Waller, also left us in January, closely followed by L/Cpl. Buckridge and Pte. Bennis in early February. To all four we wish the best of good fortune in civilian life. N.S. release has certainly taken its toll of our clerks.

Attempts to produce an all-regular staff resulted in Ptes. Bateman, Gibbs and Walsh joining from rifle companies prior to attending a clerks' course at the School of Infantry in April. We also welcome L/Cpl. Appleton from the Queen's Surreys in Aden, who is to spend the remainder of his service with us. Just how long this will be remains a mystery—his Group No. is 6008!

Sgt. Gibbs is on leave again. It occurs to the writer that this is a regular occurrence during journal note-writing time and is probably carefully planned to ensure he gets a mention in these notes.

Cpl. O'Gorman is a regular member of the Battalion Rugby 2nd XV and little is seen of him between games. He is often heard mumbling that there is something wrong with the points system for married quarters, as he always seems to be at the foot of each waiting list.

Leave to U.K. has now passed its peak and Pte. Hill, our movements clerk, is so under-worked that any applicant for a movement document of any kind is given the VIP treatment.

A short while ago a few strange workmen appeared with iron bars and metal sheets and proceeded to bar all windows and doors to the Adjutant's office. It was rumoured that his office safe contained the location of the Battalion's new station, but this was later ruled out when the news of where it was became known. There is some speculation now as to whether this MINOR works service was carried out to keep the Assistant Adjutant in or the clerks out.

Church

These notes are in the nature of a farewell from the present Chaplain.

We have now begun another effort at Company Sponsored Sundays, and the first one, "H.Q." Company's, was a tremendous success. Nevertheless, efforts are continually dogged by exercises which crop up and overflow the weekend. To choose a date that will suit and lend itself to a maximum turn-out, is like filling in Football Pools.

The Remembrance Day service, shared, as usual, with other garrison units, went very well. The congregation, which was somewhere between six and seven hundred, had no difficulty in knowing just when the Silence began and ended as the Artillery assistance was impressive in its timing. The Band once more played an active part in making the service a success.

Christmas in Church was celebrated in the traditional manner, with carol service and midnight Communion. Carol singing round the quarters went very well, although without as much support as had been hoped for. On the second evening the singers were entertained

in Col. Battye's house. Half the number each night was made up of some of the ladies from the Anglo-German Club, connected with the Church Army Club. They seemed to enjoy the novelty of it.

On December 23 a memorial service was held for the late Col. Maurice Browne. Col. Battye spoke some words in praise of the example and standards set by the late Colonel. He referred to him as a man of strong religious faith and convictions—the basis of a good soldier.

May this Chaplain on making his literary farewell express the hope that the Middlesex Regiment will produce such men again.

Intelligence Section

The winter is usually a period of rest and recuperation for the Intelligence Section. But this time we had a very rude shock to find that we had to go to Sennelager in January and then 10 days later had a company exercise. Obviously someone had not told O.C. Headquarter Company that January is the close season.

We have had two additions to the Section and one loss during the winter. Our loss was Pte. Harron who finished his National Service. He caused much mummbling of discontent among the National Servicemen by volunteering to stay in Hameln for an extra three days so as to run in the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship. A report on this race and the Brigade Championship will be found elsewhere.

Our two newcomers are Ptes. Lewis and Roots. Roots is a Regular, but Lewis is one of the National Servicemen who do not know their future yet. They have both quickly learnt the job and are now both expert in saying "no" to map-hungry officers.

Sgt. Dickens has just returned from an N.B.C. course at Winterborne Gunner but we have not had the result yet. Pte. Ayliffe is taking some unaccustomed exercise on a ski-ing course at Murnau. We wonder if the M.O. has crutches short enough for him.

Battalion Pay Office

At Gordon Barracks, Hameln, and places lesser known, The Battalion pay team leads a life of "ease!" Of checking pay books, acquittance rolls and cash receipts and loans, And documents a soldier never sees.

The harassed Paymaster, in his realm, surrounded by his books, Has boxes and small cases full of marks. With P.R.I. and Central Funds and ledgers that he "cooks," He makes the "casuals" casual for his clerks.

Each week this office finds itself engulfed up to its eyes With disturbance claims and bills for road and line, And rates of pay which fluctuate. However much it tries We keep our motto: "One thing at a time!"

(With apologies to anyone who feels he needs an apology.)

In November the Pay Office had its Annual Administrative Inspection by the Staff Paymaster 1 (BR) Corps. The grading was excellent. In January Major Peckham was admitted to B.M.H. Rinteln with pneumonia and pleurisy. Capt. Durnell took over as acting Paymaster and, if nothing else, he has certainly learnt how to add Deutsch Marks! Major Peckham, we are pleased to say, is now much better and will be back again in a few weeks.

Since the last *Die-Hard* notes went to press we welcome:

S/Sgt. Harrison from the R.A.P.C. costing team at Feltham.

Sgt. Hoare from the War Office.

Cpl. Close from the Regimental Pay Office at Devizes.

We congratulate or sympathise with (it depends on how you look at it) Cpl. Green on his change of cap badge.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Shortly before the last edition went to press we had a change of command and we all welcome Major "Nick" Carter as our new Company Commander.

The start of the New Year saw the reorganisation of the Company in accordance with the new Infantry Battalion Establishment. Departments have now been superseded by platoons and groups.

Although sometimes considered as "the Stiffs," we were on top form for the Annual Administrative Inspection parade and rehearsals in November. There is no doubt that "H.Q." Company was the finest on parade. A credit to all concerned. (These notes were compiled by "H.Q." Company.—Ed.)

The Company Sergeant-Major has been away on a drill course at Pirbright and we are dreading his return. He is bound to return full of hate (they inject them there with "Bluebell" and molten "Kiwi") and with a zest for the square. We may have to rename "Walters" Block! During his absence C/Sgt. Cakebread has acted as Company Sergeant-Major. We all congratulate him on his recent substantive promotion to Warrant Officer Class II on the Brigade Roll at the early age of 29 years. An excellent achievement.

C/Sgt. Clements, after Christmas leave, has gone straight down to Murnau to join the administrative staff at the Brigade Winter Warfare School. We hope that he'll learn to ski, but he'll probably have too much work to do—especially strengthening his right arm during "happy hours."

Two of the storemen, Ptes. "Alfie" McLaren and "Ron" Duke, have been playing a lot of football, both for the Company, where they are assisting the team in the Hunter Cup, and the Battalion; they are also working hard in the stores. Pte. Gregory, who was "dug in" in the Armoury, which he kept in first-class order, has been "dug out" and now looks after the accommodation stores. We welcome two new members in Pte. Wright from the Junior Leaders' Battalion and Pte. Eade from the Royal Sussex in Northern Ireland. Wright is now doing well on the N.C.O.s' cadre so we may not have him much longer, and Eade is now "digging in" as the arms storeman.

We would like to congratulate Cpl. Flynn on his promotion—although very busy as the Company Clerk,



The inspection of HQ Company

he has found enough spare time to get engaged and hopes to marry in mid-March.

The Company cross-country team had a convincing win in the 1962 Albuhera Run thanks to the hard work of Cpl. O'Riordan and the really splendid support given by the team members. It was a real team effort.

Finally, to all members of the Company (past or present) we send our best wishes. We are now looking forward to our return to England in the summer.

Signal Platoon

Since the end of November we have completed the Winter Signals Cadre. This is the first cadre on which the students have all been regular soldiers. Progress has been slow and exam results not wholly satisfactory. We hope that all the unclassified Signallers will be classified before we leave Germany in June.

Sgt. Weston left us in November to go to the Signals Wing of the School of Infantry at Hythe as an instructor. We all wish him the best of luck there and hope to see a lot of him when we return to England. To celebrate his departure we had a Platoon party at Bad Munder. This went off quite well and it was good to see a newly joined member of the Platoon, namely Pte. Hunt, joining in and bringing the Platoon up to date with all the latest songs from London. He is really quite an artiste and delighted the locals who were there at the time.

Christmas followed soon after and most of the Platoon managed to get to England whilst the remainder generally were well entertained by German families in Hameln, Bad Pyront and Bad Munder—especially Lt. Cheesman.

Early in January L/Cpl. Howell returned from his short course at Hythe, where he achieved the overall percentage of 96. As a result of this he is joining Cpl. O'Riordan at Hythe for the long course in June. They should both do well and we wish them luck for their short but energetic stay there. Cpl. Redrup is there at the moment but at present we are unable to give a report on his progress.

The Platoon has been involved in two exercises this year and are preparing to go on a third. The first was a Signal Exercise for the Cadre which took place in the area of the Mohne Dam. This was called "Hard Carpet" and proved to be an appropriate name. We had snow and ice and, of course, on the return journey sleet and rain. There was a certain amount of sun as well. This was a skywave exercise with a set at Hameln and the Cadre and Directing Staff as sub-stations dotted around the countryside to the west of the Mohne Dam. As the crow flies, about 70 miles. As an exercise for station organisation and local operation the exercise was a success. We received Hameln quite well at times, but they only once heard us well. A lot of points were brought out and the Cadre learned a great deal about looking after themselves and the difficulties of set operating. The local people were wonderful and extended a welcome to every station.

We returned from this in time to take part in an Echelon Exercise run by O.C. "H.Q." Company, called "Winter Tail." We were unable to take the Cadre on the exercise as this was just before their exams, but all the older members of the Platoon were given a run out.

We are now preparing for Exercise "Short Com-mons." We are providing enemy and control operators



THE SIGNAL PLATOON

Front row (left to right): Pte. Stephenson, Cpl. Redrup, Sgt. Overton, Sgt. Briggs, Lt. Cheesman, Sgt. Weston, Cpl. Stewart, Pte. Davey. Second row (left to right): Pte. Bryant, Pte. Russel, Pte. Goodard, Pte. Kingham, Pte. Mann, Pte. Edwards, L/Cpl. O'Connell. Third row (left to right): Pte. Ryan, Pte. Hunt, Pte. Morley, Pte. Davey, Pte. Biggs, Pte. Woods. Fourth row (left to right): Pte. Edge, Pte. Barratt, Pte. Bracher, Pte. Whitley, Pte. Berry. Fifth row (left to right): L/Cpl. Hutchinson, Pte. Glassup, Pte. Phillips, Pte. Lambourne, Pte. Zorlu. Sixth row (left to right): Pte. Munns, L/Cpl. O'Riordan, L/Cpl. White, Pte. Steddy, L/Cpl. Durling

and sets in this exercise, which is being run in order to test new rations being used by 1 Cameronians. We have at this time Cpl. Stewart, Ptes. Morley, Kingham, Barratt, Edge and Perry at the Winter Warfare Training School at Murnau.

Pte. Slater has re-joined the Platoon after a period of extended leave in London and a short visit to the local hotel by the guardroom. Cpl. O'Riordan has just been promoted to the rank of Corporal and has been doing well for the Battalion cross-country team. Ptes. Tofts and Young can be seen driving precariously round the barracks, endeavouring to come to grips with the art of riding a motor-cycle.

The Platoon invention for the installation of the 19 and C 42 sets in the Armoured 1-ton vehicles has been accepted by the War Office and we are now altering six armoured 1-ton radio vehicles to this modification.

We are all looking forward to the return of the Battalion to England where we hope to get on with some advanced training and more sport.

M.T. Platoon

Since the last notes were written, we have said good-

bye to the majority of the Platoon on release. Sgt. Minett has become military-minded and has gone to Hythe on a small-arms course. Sgt. Pritchard has left us for the 5th Battalion and seemed pleased to go. On the other hand, we must welcome Ptes. Rees, Spicknell, Pope, King (50), Gordon, Cook, Noble, Holmes, Griffiths and Exelby from the Queens Surreys and Pte. Reed from the Royal Sussex.

The C.I.V. has come and gone and a lot of hard work was put in by all ranks, including some unwilling helpers from the Signal Platoon. Cpl. Baxter has taken over the running of the driving cadre from Sgt. Minett and is beginning to wear the same haggard expression. We would like to congratulate "A" Company on maintaining their high accident rate on both M.T. Cadres.

On the exercise side things have been very quiet lately except for echelon and signal exercises. Ptes. Goulding, Hackney and Dann have disappeared on detachment to 1 Cameronians for a month to carry out trials on the new "Compo" rations. Let's hope that Dann's cooking does not make it too much of a trial.

With reference to the Tech Stores, Pte. Fenemore,

the up-and-coming star of the LVs 6 and 7, has been seen by many astonished eyes leaping across the Holtensen training area in a perfect imitation of the posters advertising the keen young soldier of the sixties. It appears that he is trying to raise his Field-Marshal's Baton even higher in his knapsack. However, we hear that a book is being run on who is most likely to leave the N.C.O.s' Cadre with his sanity, the instructor or Fenemore. The event mentioned above left Pte. "Prof." Holland in command of the Tech Issue Counter, which has led to a complete mental breakdown of the R.E.M.E. staff, who may be seen walking around gibbering and muttering, mentioning such things as "Keel-hauling" and "thumb-hanging." This probably accounts for the fact that the "Prof." is now the proud owner of the recovery and stores section L.M.G.

The R.E.M.E. Detachment, under the command of Sgt. Peacock, is now undergoing some changes in strength. L/Cpl. Toomer, having secured his discharge by purchase in order to emigrate to warmer climes, has been replaced by Cfn. Moore, who has since been promoted to Lance-Corporal. He will have his work cut out to keep up to the standard of work set by L/Cpl. Toomer. We have also recently lost Cfn. Elliott on "demob" and, so far, no replacement has arrived. Pte. Newman also leaves the circle in the very near future and we welcome Pte. Reed in his place and hope that he will keep up the good work. After having a good hard-working training season, even though recovery demonstrations don't always go to plan, we have managed to come out on top again and secured a good report on the annual vehicle inspection.

In conclusion we must mention the fact that Cpl. Brennan reckons that he is getting "demob happy" (14 months to do).

Assault Pioneer Section

This period has been quiet for the "Chunkies." Our men have disappeared on leave, courses and a variety of jobs, and we have had a most enjoyable Christmas. We congratulate Pte. Berg on passing his Carpentry and Joinery course.

L/Cpl. Bartlett has been getting in a lot of ski-ing. He has been adventure training in Norway, down to Italy on an attachment to the Italian Army at Carvinia (Aosta) and, after some luxurious activities at St. Moritz, has now gone to the Brigade Winter Warfare School at Murnau in the American Zone as an instructor. He looks more like a Tyrolean each time we see him.

At last we can say that the assault course wall has been finished. It may not be upright but there were a lot of obstacles to be overcome.

Sgt. "Beardie" Pritchard started on six weeks' leave to arrange the Sergeants' Mess Christmas festivities. He was quickly snaffled as Mess caterer and is still wasting away in the job.

We were all sorry to see Pte. Hardman leave us on "demob" and have been missing this hardworking and likeable (but argumentative) chap. We wish him all the very best of luck. We also put out a very large welcoming hand to Pte. Burch from the Queens Surreys.

Life in the "Die-Hards" "Chunkies" is still as

interesting and enjoyable as ever and we end with our usual warning: "Be booby-trap minded."

Band

October found the Band well settled in Germany again. We had a very interesting summer season, which included a three months' tour of England, and, on return to B.A.O.R., a trip to Minden for the 2 Divisional Massed Bands parade, and then an enjoyable stay in Berlin, where we took part in a grand military tattoo. From there we looked ahead to the winter season. During this season there is a lesser demand for the military band, the accent being on the dance band. In November we said goodbye to three "time expired" men—Cpls. Gutteridge and Adkin, and the renowned "Zoot" Andrews; all of whom have been in contact with us, and report that they are doing well in civilian life. We wish them luck and success for the future.

By now, of course, we realise that whoever comes or goes, life and the show must go on; and, although this was not a particularly busy period, we did put in several ceremonial appearances. These included our own administrative inspection parade. Our dance band had several outings, and there was a large-scale swing to traditional jazz, following the trend in England. This was brought about mainly through the efforts of our one remaining National Serviceman, Ken Thomas. Being a very keen "trad" fan himself, he managed to whip up quite a bit of enthusiasm in the band, and recently his group have earned a fair amount of praise amongst the local civilian population. The jazz group are now set to make the Church Army Club a weekly meeting place.

Recently the Band has seen service on the hockey pitches and the basketball courts, and we number among our athletes some six Battalion representatives: Bdsm. Wallwork, as ever, retains his Battalion hockey place, whilst L/Cpl. Cox, L/Cpl. French and L/Cpl. Routledge represent the unit in basketball; Cpl. Torrie, as usual, manages to do both. We have also visited the ranges to prove our worth as soldiers, and, although we may not have succeeded in doing so, it was quite an interesting experience!

Christmas 1961 was the first Christmas for many years that the Band spent away from the Battalion. For some unaccountable reason, the Band were granted Christmas leave, excluding a few members who had to remain behind to form a dance band for the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Christmas Ball.

We had a letter from Mr. A. R. Drane, an ex-Bandsman of the 2nd Battalion. He informs us that there is a reunion being organised for all past and present members of the Regiment's Bands and Corps of Drums. Anybody interested should write to:

Mr. A. R. Drane, 11 John Dee House, Mortlake High Street, S.W.14.

Incidentally, does anyone know how he came to be known as "the Brewer"?

We now look ahead to the impending move to England and another summer tour, and wish all our present associates and our past members luck and prosperity for the coming year.



REGIMENTAL BAND

The Regimental Band playing in the Square of Hameln, the occasion being the 750th anniversary of the Bakers' and Confectioners' Association, Niedersaxony

Corps of Drums

The winter is always a quiet period of the year for the Corps of Drums and this winter has been no exception.

The "Admin" successfully passed without any serious worries, although a lot of new hats were needed for the occasion. Between then and Christmas leave two small exercises were staged, the second one causing a village quite some concern round about dusk. Just before leave L/Cpl. Dawson gave a demonstration of his skill at drumming at the All-Ranks' Dance.

After Christmas leave it was arranged that a Beating of Retreat would take place in April and everything else is now geared to this programme. Classification, P.E. tests, education and many other irksome chores are now being completed before March 1 to allow good time in which to practise. Even exercise "Short Commons" has hit the Corps of Drums, and the Drum-Major will be acting as an umpire unless he can think of a good excuse.

"Chalky" White was promoted to Corporal in October, which should enable him to lay aside more money for the fairer sex.

L/Cpl. "Ginger" Marquiss married at Christmas—no more comment. So did Drm. "Johnny" Watts—he is now on an N.C.O.s' cadre, feeling the financial push already!

It is understood that several others became engaged—"Starry Eyed" Randall, Benton and Davidson; still there is always time to break it off! A few choice words from Pumfrey might put any doubtful minds at rest. It was rumoured that Sylvester became engaged—he is now getting "browned off" denying it, like Blake who was "bagged up" with the juke box on Christmas Eve—can winkle pickers stand up to that sort of treatment? Maybe Terry could write a few lines of verse to commemorate the occasion. Campy plays rugby for the Battalion on occasions—and football too. Cole retired from the Officers' Mess and is now learning to play various musical instruments. Finally, L/Cpl. "Nobby" Clarke has just managed to get his leg better, his teeth back, and is now a duty bugler at last.

There was a large consignment of cement and hay to be seen outside the block one day. Anyone claiming any knowledge of these, please contact Mason and Kendall.

Administrative Platoon

Since our last notes the Q.M.'s private army has had a little reorganisation. The Assault Pioneers have joined Company Headquarters and the cooks, dining-room orderlies and ration storemen have been taken under our

wing. We are sorry to lose the Assault Pioneers who were a cheery and happy section. They will probably now be able to finish the assault course wall which has taken them six months to complete. It is also noted that since Sgt. Pritchard has taken over as Sergeants' Mess caterer he has not found it necessary to draw any pay. The unaccountable profit must be good these days. We welcome the "Food Wallahs" and hope that in the future they will provide us with some good material for the journal notes. Many a crisis in the cookhouse becomes food for thought.

We have had the addition of L/Cpl. Broid, Ptes. Forrest, Weber, Percy and Brooker from the Queens Surreys in Aden, all B.L.R. to 1st Middlesex with tropical fatigue. They have settled in well despite the threat of a buckshee six months to do. Another transfer in is Pte. Russell from "A" Company who has taken over the duties of signwriter. His first job was to repair the sign "Keep Death off the Road." He has ambitions of going to Hong Kong to get himself a "downhomer." He has been advised by the Q.M. that this is an expensive pastime.

The R.Q.M.S. volunteered for the duties of M.C. in the boxing competition and surprised everybody with his verbosity in being able to give all opposing regiments their full titles without a pause for breath. He is now, after many years of effort, going to attend a Boxing Judges' course. Difficulty is being experienced in fitting him out with P.T. vest and shorts.

Cpl. "Bilco" Stubbings, our versatile clothing storeman, has already put himself on the advance party and has even had the audacity to pack his M.F.O. Many a slip between cup and lip can happen to "Bilco."

L/Cpl. Jones has been transferred to the Ration Stores at an excessive fee—two pairs of socks and half a sack of potatoes. He relieved Cpl. Trudgill who will be sorely missed.

Pte. Caton, who is our office scribe, is very ambitious to feel the weight of a chevron on his arm and in requesting that mighty honour did not bargain for a six weeks' cadre. However, after the initial shock he appears to have resigned himself to moving a little faster than he likes.

Our armourers, S/Sgt. Girling, Cpl. Simpson and Cfmn. Meller have been making a name for themselves in the Battalion shooting team.

Cpl. Kelly, R.A.O.C., has been in hospital with a fractured leg after being knocked down by a private car which did not stop. We wish him a speedy recovery.

C/Sgt. Nicholson is still tearing out his hair over married quarter problems, no names, no burst radiators.

We regret we have said good-bye to Pte. Whitmore who did sterling work in the Pioneers' Shop and who was also reserve to the Battalion cross-country running team.

Sgt. Langford is beginning to have that haggard look—the handover looms up and the day of reckoning gets nearer. He can often be heard muttering "it was there last week."

A mention must be given to our German civilian staff, clerks, coal labourers, tailors, shoemakers, labourers and carpenters. We appreciate the work that they do for us.

"A" COMPANY

The Company has undergone considerable change since our last notes, which is a usual occurrence at the end of the training season. On the completion of Exercise "Spearpoint" the Battalion was confronted with the Annual Administrative Inspection and the Command inspection of vehicles. The Annual Administrative Inspection was the culmination of a lot of hard work by all ranks and the result indicated that this hard work was well worth while. Had it not been for a "friend" no one would have suspected that the rest of the Battalion had marched past in a different step to the Company. The vehicle inspection was notable in that the NAAFI store ran out of candles due to the heavy demand by our drivers requiring them for night work. It is hard to mention any particular driver but note should be made of Jim Allen whose vehicle gleamed like a Rolls-Royce. After all this hard work the Company relaxed in early December by having a party and dance in the Ackers Club. This was most ably run by Cpl. Willis under whose direction and efforts the club was re-decorated and transformed. A buffet was put on by the C.S.M. and an excellent dance band found from the Battalion. All that remained to make the party complete was to find partners and these were produced in ample quantities from around Hameln. Without a doubt the dance was a great success and we hope to have another soon.

Training

The training during this period has been largely devoted to cadres. All our Regular soldiers have had a chance to attend either a driving cadre or a specialist weapon cadre. As a result, we now have a highly-qualified team ready for the training season and the trials of Sennelager. Many of the Regular soldiers also attended a two weeks' winter warfare course held at Murnau. Here they learned to ski and adapt themselves to the rigours of snow and high mountains. In addition many lasting friendships were made with the Americans at Murnau whose hospitality could not have been better. "Jock" Meecham, to his surprise, met a fellow Glaswegian in the U.S. Army and rumour has it now wants a transfer. With reference to ski-ing, special note must be made of Cpl. Holland who has made great progress this season and is now training with the British Army ski team.

As a result of the signals cadre the Company has lost three soldiers to the Signal Platoon, of whom Tofts is now to be seen riding around on a motorcycle. At the moment we have on the N.C.O.s' cadre Ptes. Allen, Brown, Eckford, Fry, King and Temple, all of whom we hope to see back in the Company with a stripe. L/Cpls. Cleasby and O'Brien were recently promoted without going on the cadre.

Sport

In sports activities the Company has continued to do well. In November we won the Novices' Boxing, Ptes. Salaria and Forbes and L/Cpl. Hayman being notable winners. In the cross-country after Christmas we were unfortunate to lose two good runners which lost us first

place. In the Albuhera soccer competition our team were unlucky not to win, coming second.

Arrivals and Departures

Since the last journal notes we welcome to the Company Lt. Clarke, who will be taking over the Support Platoon, and 2/Lt. Packham, who commands No. 1 Platoon. In November, Ptes. Ali and Pinder joined us and recently we have welcomed drafts of National Servicemen from the Queens Surreys and the Royal Sussex who will be finishing their time with us. This sudden move has not been pleasant for them but they have quickly settled down and we hope they will enjoy their stay with us. One of these has been Pte. Woolford, our new clerk, who the C.S.M. has been especially pleased to have join us, as previously he has had to write detail himself, there being no clerk. The following have left us on their return to civilian life: Ptes. Brandon, Chamberlain, Boast, Evans, Goodchild, Hawkins, Hubbard, Minns, Mitchell, Ruddock, Salaria, Sheppard, Skelton and Cpls. O'Keefe and Parker. These were a particularly good team, whom we shall miss; we hope that on our return to England they will keep in touch with us.

"B" COMPANY

Within the last three weeks the Company has been sadly depleted in strength. We lost two really excellent intakes of National Servicemen, containing such famous characters as "Chas" Smoker, Merritt, Smith O Funf, Jervis and Tucker, only to mention a few. It seems that Sgt. Scott, who has helped to lead them through "fick and fin" even despaired, because he has unfortunately left to train officer cadets at Mons O.C.S.

Major Shipster is on his final lap with the Company and he may be here to see us win the Albuhera Shield; to date we are leading "A" Company by a bare few points with only the hockey to play. Our hockey team should be fairly strong as it includes Lt. Cowing, Sgt. Miles and Pte. Bassett, all of whom are Battalion players. We won the Inter-Company Albuhera Football.

Cpl. Flanagan, Pte. Quartermain and Pte. Heale were in the Battalion cross-country team which recently won the 11 Infantry Brigade Group Championships.

Ptes. Blackburn and Sach were in the Battalion Ski team and L/Cpl. Harris played for the Battalion Basketball team which won the 11 Infantry Brigade Major Units Championship. Capt. Lohan and Pte. Finnis were awarded Army Pentathlon Colours; Finnis was also awarded Army Fencing Colours. Many congratulations.

On the military side, emphasis has been on training drivers, signallers, mortarmen, anti-tank gunners and other specialists. However, Major Shipster has tried to get all available soldiers out of camp once a week and we have had some most enjoyable times either "walking in the rain" or driving in the snow, proving that "the answer lies in the soil." Next week we are providing the enemy for The Cameronians, who are on an Army Ration Exercise lasting one week.

The "Crazy Horse Saloon" (or "B" Company Club, if you are more conservative) is now a really going concern. The large attic of our company block has been decorated very artistically by the men, involving quite a lot of out-of-hours work. There is a large bar of good leaning height, arm-chairs, tables, juke box, dart board and a Western-type swing-door with a good arc of fire and I must not forget the Noose!! We open on two or three nights a week and sell hot dogs and egg rolls whilst playing bingo and drinking beer. The highlights in the club have been three big dances. They were all really excellent. The local High School has been very kind in allowing many of its senior girls to attend the dances. The large National Service intake which left three weeks ago, the old No. 4 Platoon, was very kind in throwing a "demob party" in the club, which must have cost a lot of money, for not only did they invite the whole Company but also many outsiders. We were very sorry to see that intake go.

"C" COMPANY

Company H.Q.

Having completed the full and eventful training season we quickly got down to the task of preparing for the Annual Administrative Inspection. This kept everyone extremely busy, especially the Colour-Sergeant, who completed a record number of A.F.s P1954.

Since then we have said farewell to Capt. R. J. Durnell, who has left us to take over P.R.I., and welcome in his place Lt. M. H. Rose, who joins us from "H.Q." Company. The recent mass exodus of National Servicemen included the entire Company Stores staff, Ptes. Strange, Townsend and Blowers, and also one of our regimental cooks, Pte. Clarke, who was one of the Company stalwarts in the kitchen. We wish them good luck and success for the future.

Already the strident voice of C/Sgt. Potter can be heard in the Company Stores informing the new storemen of their shortcomings. Our M.T. N.C.O., Cpl. Stevens, has left us to take up a "sharper" role in No. 7 Platoon and in his place we have L/Cpl. Whitt, who ensures that we remain mobile.

No. 7 Platoon

After Exercise "Spearpoint" our time was spent in great preparations for the Administrative Inspection in November. This year with transport as well as barracks to put in order, everybody in the Platoon has had to work hard. At the end of November we said good-bye to L/Cpls. Foster and Lucas, Ptes. Bousquet, Curtis, Hill, Kyne. No sooner had they departed than Christmas was upon us with all its festivities.

Pte. Watts, who has worked hard behind the bar in the Company Club for our Christmas party, has been a useful asset to the Club. We enjoyed the visit of Major Pike in the guise of Father Christmas.

Since Christmas the Platoon has been split up, doing M.T. and Support Weapons Cadres. Cpl. Niles took part in the down-hill Ski-ing Championships at St. Moritz. We have received some new members to the Platoon from The Royal Sussex Regiment, Cpl. Nash, L/Cpl. Stevens, Ptes. Marten, Davies, Read,

Smith, Playford and Hardnup, who have settled in well, and are beginning to get accustomed to living in Germany. Sgt. Lloyd came to join us at Christmas time, taking over from Sgt. Taylor, and Pte. Lake has become Arms Storeman. Ptes. Dennis, Barber, Hearn and Wilkins (47) left us for civilian life in early February and we wish them well.

Pte. May, who came to classify with us, had the unfortunate mishap of falling off the back of a 3-ton truck. We hope that he recovers soon. Pte. Walsh has also been suffering, but now has a hard job in the Battalion Orderly Room!

We had a map-reading exercise with two main aims—one of fitness, the other to improve our map-reading. The new soldiers from The Royal Sussex Regiment disappeared for the day, until the thought of food became too much for their stomachs, when they summoned up enough strength to reach the RV. We of No. 7 Platoon are now looking forward to returning to England in June.

No. 8 Platoon

The "intellectual" Platoon has been hard hit by demobilisation and inter-departmental postings. We recently said good-bye to Ptes. Tully, Hood, Allen and Hudson. We will miss them, especially the two first named—Hood for his quiet cheerfulness, sometimes under the most trying conditions, and Tully's good-natured grumbling. Bonfield has forsaken his A.P.C. and can be seen in the Stores checking laundry or making coffee for the Colour-Sergeant. Robinson decided as he could not beat them he would join them. Now he is a familiar sight within the precincts of the Guard Room, this time wearing a white belt! Roylance considered that his IQ was considerably higher than that of the rest of the Platoon and joined the Regimental Signallers.

New arrivals to the Platoon consist of Cpl. Mitchell from "A" Company and two National Servicemen, Conkling and Young, late of The Queens Surreys. These two complain bitterly that they find it impossible to get warm having come straight from the Aden Desert.

As this is the cadre season the Platoon has been well represented in various fields of military endeavour. Ptes. Lawn, Nagle and Saul have attended a course in the art of driving, but our "Ernie" was prematurely repatriated. It is rumoured that his instructor has suffered a complete nervous breakdown. We feel that this report is exaggerated; nevertheless, Ernie remains undaunted, as he is very keen on having another go.

Sgt. Blackwell, Cpl. Burrows and Pte. Ramadan attended a 3-in. mortar cadre and by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed it. L/Cpl. Etherington and Coleman are attending a signal cadre and we are expecting great things from them when they return. Congratulations are due to L/Cpl. Coleman on his promotion. Well done!

Pte. Peterson, "Keeper of the Platoon Cellar," has returned from sick leave just in time to miss the N.C.O.s' cadre, for which he was nominated—very nicely timed! In between cadres we have carried out several map-

reading marches and have kept our weapon training up to scratch. All the Platoon have classified on the rifle at Holtensen Ranges and everyone passed. Even "Ernie" managed a second class!

In the field of sport, L/Cpl. Coleman and Pte. Whyte have represented the Battalion in cross-country running, while Cpl. Burrows is a member of the successful Battalion .22 team. We take it that he is still in the team as we hardly ever see him.

As we go to press the news of the Battalion's impending move to Lydd was met with mixed feelings as, unfortunately, in the U.K. No. 8 Platoon will cease to exist. No doubt the members of this fine unit will be received with open arms by other departments.

Sport

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* we have played the Albuhera Football Competition, in which we were second and were unlucky not to win it. We played three games, winning one, drawing one, and losing one. The team consisted of Ptes. Rappoport, Flack, Bates, Hearn, Ticehurst, Conkling, Baldry, L/Cpl. Brooks, Pte. Tully and, from the Drums, Dmrs. Campy, Mason and Randell. The help of the Drums to the team pulled us out of a difficult situation. The Company has entered the Hunter Cup Competition, with all the other Companies in the Brigade and we are fighting our way slowly up the ladder.

2/Lt. Bartlett has been playing rugger for the Battalion XV and Pte. Rappoport has represented the Battalion at hockey.

"D" COMPANY

Although a small Company we seem to have a finger in most pies.

In November and December a 3-in. mortar cadre was run and the Company supplied accommodation for lectures and Sgt. Tarry as an instructor.

Then January saw the start of potential N.C.O.s' cadre No. 12. Lt. Pitman was brought in from "B" Company to be the Cadre Officer. Sgt. Parnell, once again, joined us for the duration (sixth time) with Sgts. Ford and Blackwell being the other two instructors. I think this cadre, our last in B.A.O.R., set up something of a record. The Permanent Staff had to go to the "sharp end," and could be found, braving the elements, at different points, waiting to be discovered (some times) by the cadre.

At the time of writing these notes the final results of the cadre are not known. But in the not-too-distant future some new Lance-Corporals will be getting "grips" about their Platoons.

Also during January a pre-Hythe cadre was run by the Company. This was run by C.S.M. Da Costa and Sgts. Minnett and Seager and Cpls. Barnes and Cairns were to be found in various parts of the company block instructing on the finer points of weapon handling. We wish them luck on their course.

Comings and Goings

C/Sgt. Power came back from his M.T. course full of bright ideas on how the M.T. should be run. And after two days we lost him to "H.Q." Company.

Sgt. Seager, having tried civilian life in South Africa and Hong Kong as an R.M.P., decided to return to the Battalion. We take this opportunity to congratulate him on his promotion.

Pte. Berry, an "old sweat," joined us from The Royal West Kents, and now rules supreme in the Arms Store. Two other additions to the Empire are Ptes. Pearson and Coutts, both late of The Queens Surreys.

We bid them all welcome and hope they have a happy, if rather short, stay in the Company.

During the last quarter we bid a "bon" farewell to Capt. Lloyd and wish him the best of luck in his new posting to the Junior Leaders Battalion.

Also to Ptes. Rice, Gregory (92), Thomas and Lynch, who have completed their National Service and have now qualified for the doubtful pleasures of Civvy Street.

Sport

As a Company our name does not appear on any sports honours list, but we do have representatives in Battalion teams. *Hockey*—C.S.M. Da Costa and C/Sgt. Dive. *Rugby*—Sgt. Tarry and Pte. Berry. *Shooting*—C.S.M. Da Costa and Sgt. Tarry.

This is the last time that notes by "D" Company will appear but the Training Wing will carry on in U.K.

OFFICERS' MESS

Contrary to the expectations of the "social set," who are apt to deplore our normal conservative approach to entertainment, the winter produced a marathon social programme.

In November the first "Keller" party of the season was held, and was well supported, followed in early December by a cocktail party and supper to which both local civilian dignitaries and military guests were invited. It was a great success and after supper guests retired to the "Keller," which had been redecorated in Chinese decor for the occasion, where a group from the regimental dance band performed with distinction.

The Christmas dinner and dance was also a great success. After dinner the members and guests moved into the Ladies' Room, which had been transformed with coloured paper into a marquee by Mike Julian.

Two parties were held in the "Goldfish Bowl" and last week the subaltern officers entertained the remaining members and their ladies and members of a Hannover sports club to an excellent supper party followed by dancing in the "Keller."

In addition, pressure of private entertainment has been intense, and members of the "Kremlin" have thrown excellent parties. No doubt their example will be emulated by others in a position to do so.

P.S. It must be mentioned that the custom of holding regimental guest nights, luncheons for numerous visiting senior officers, buffet suppers after boxing matches, and Sunday-lunchtime curry parties was not abandoned during the period under review.—P.M.C.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last edition we have passed through the usual hectic Christmas celebrations which, as several members agreed, were to be compared with an en-



Capt. A. E. F. Waldron, M.B.E., laying a wreath on behalf of the Commanding Officer on the Hameln War Memorial on German Remembrance Sunday in November

durance test. There have been a few gaps in the ranks made by the departures of Sgt. Scott to the Mons O.C.S., Aldershot, Sgt. Pritchard to the 5th Battalion as P.S.I., Sgt. Weston to the School of Infantry (Signals Wing), Hythe, and our very popular Mess caterer, Sgt. Dickie, who has left us for civilian life.

We take this opportunity of wishing them every success for the future. More power to the elbow of the Battalion Pay Office and Sergeants' Mess in the arrival of Sgt. Hoare, R.A.P.C., to whom we extend a warm welcome.

In the field of promotion we congratulate C.S.M. Cakebread on his promotion to substantive warrant rank.

A very successful Christmas draw and social took place on December 23, and a touch of originality was added to the proceedings by the appearance of our Mess caterer, Sgt. Pritchard (bearded and in Highland dress), who organised the distribution of prizes and kept things running smoothly, making the evening one that was enjoyed by all. To welcome in the New Year a dance was held in the Mess to which the officers and their ladies were invited. The dance was soon in full swing under the very able direction of C.S.M. Walters, who displayed hitherto unknown powers of persuasion with reluctant dancers. Without doubt the highlight of the

evening was the "takeover" of the dance band by the Officers' Mess who demonstrated how easy it really all is, and, although not quite up to Kneller Hall standard, a noteworthy effort nevertheless, and a comforting thought for the Bandmaster that so much talent exists in the Battalion.

In sport we are still very strongly represented by C.S.M.I. Issitt, C.S.M. Da Costa, S/Sgt. Harrison, Sgt. Leat and Sgt. Miles, all of whom are members of the Battalion hockey team which has reached the 2 Division hockey finals. The Mess hockey team, captained by C/Sgt. Dive, has had considerable success by beating the Officers' Mess team, and then, in very quick succession, vanquished teams of H.Q. 2 Division, 29th Field Squadron R.E., Cyphers Club I.R.H.A. and the Sergeants' Mess team 1st Battalion the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

We are now preparing ourselves for the impending move to England with all its attendant upheavals, and as one member commented a very sobering thought.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since these notes were last written, three dances have been held, the first of which was a "social" on December 23, followed by a dance on January 6. Both of these went on to the early hours, and were well attended. The most recent dance, on February 10, was an enormous success. Mr. Bulloch found difficulty in finding anybody he knew, so many were invited.

The band played the usual selections of fast and slow numbers, and the writer fully expects to see the Twist being performed at the next function. It is rumoured that we only have two marks left in our funds now that "Miser Alfie" is our new P.M.C.—rumour untrue—we have three marks left.

Cpls. Minett and Dickens left us for the Sergeants' Mess, and find the beer there just the same as the beer in the club. We wish them well. Cpls. O'Keefe, Trudgill, Durling, Cook, Parker, Buckridge and "Fiddler" Hart have left for other activities, and finally a warm welcome to those Corporals of the Queens Surrey Regiment and Royal Sussex Regiment.

THE WIVES' CLUB, 1961/62

A talk and practical demonstration on Christmas decorations by Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Preedy (43rd Field Pk. Squadron R.E.), Col. Battye's visit to Moscow illustrated by his coloured slides, an all-male "Any Questions" team kept in control with masterly touch by Mr. Plimmer, the Headmaster of the B.F.E.S. School, as questionmaster, have been some of the highlights of the fortnightly meetings which started again in October once exercises were over. Mr. Plimmer also came along another evening and ran a musical quiz which was won by Mrs. Dodkins who put a name to the majority of the records he played. There was also a successful Christmas party with games and "special eats" and which ended with us all singing carols, being kept in tune and time by Major Preedy.

On the alternate Mondays there is a keep-fit class for wives, which is run in the gymnasium by the doctor's wife, Mrs. Jones. Basketball, too, is organised with the help of C.M.S.I. Issitt.

Praise and thanks must go to all members of the committee who always work with zest to make the evenings enjoyable. It is a Garrison Wives' Club and Middlesex Regiment representatives on the committee this season are Mrs. Carter (secretary) and Mrs. McShane. As there is always so much apathy about wives' clubs it is heartening to be able to report that this one thrives and the attendances are good, which makes it worthwhile. However, the proportion of Middlesex wives who attend compared to the other units in Hameln is disappointing. (What is it, you stay-aways? Many of you are those who complain that there is nothing to do in Hameln.) But among the regular supporters from the Battalion are Mrs. Dodkins, Mrs. Partridge, Mrs. Bassett, Mrs. McShane, Mrs. Painter, Mrs. O'Rawe and Mrs. Gilbert.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Clayden (who was secretary of the Club last season) on the birth of her son, Howard, and our belated thanks to her and Mrs. Probert for their help while on the committee.

SPORT

As will be seen from the detailed results below, the Battalion has managed to do quite well in sport. One or two of the results came as a surprise.

Cpl. Holland's individual ski-ing achievements are really first class. Given the training and that little bit of luck one needs in high-level competition we should see him taking part in the next Winter Olympic Games.

Finnis did well again last year in Pentathlon, winning all competitions except the inter-Services, when Collum of the Life Guards just beat him. This was a great pity as Finnis was given a terrible horse to ride and was unable to score any points in the riding event. He was the best British team member in the World Championships at Moscow. While he was back in England he fenced for the Army on several occasions and had the great honour of being presented with his Army fencing colours. For a soldier of his age this is quite a remarkable achievement. We may see him take part in the next Olympic Games not only as Great Britain's No. 1 pentathlete but also fencing épée for the British fencing team and perhaps even shooting pistol for Great Britain. He is acknowledged as pentathlon's finest shot. Only Novihof, the Russian and world champion, can shoot as well as Finnis with a .22 pentathlon pistol.

What of our future? Despite moving back to U.K. in the middle of the summer, we aim to produce a high-standard Battalion team and enter into any Brigade or Command sport in England that we can.

Association Football

Having just lost some of our best 1st XI players, Ptes. Skelton, Goodchild, Pash and Jones (or), who have ended their National Service, we start our notes with a much-changed 1st XI.

The season has been most encouraging. The standard of play has steadily risen as have the results achieved. Outstanding in past matches was our game in November against the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders when we drew three goals each. Unfortunately we were unable to play our return match with them because the grounds were unplayable. It is believed

RUGBY

1st XV v. 1st Welch—
Berlin Olympic Stadium
in the Background



Standing (left to right): Dmr. Elliott, Capt. Lohan, Rev. Crawte, L/Cpl. Davies, 2/Lt. Bartlett, Cpl. O'Gorman, Sgt. Briggs, L/Cpl. Moore, Cpl. Cosgrave, L/Cpl. Murphy (touch judge) Kneeling (left to right): Pte. Jones (86), Lt. Eeverard, Lt. Lofting, Lt. Cheesman, Lt. Lyons, Pte. Blackburn

this was the best match played by the Battalion 1st XI in the last three years. Another outstanding game was against the 1st Battalion the Cameronians in December. Despite a partisan crowd of spectators and a defeat of 6-1 the team continued to play good football to the end. The results did us less than justice.

The team has been ably led this season by Pte. Duke, the captain. He has done much to raise the standard of play. Under his leadership the team has learnt to play together. His task has not been easy, due to leave, training courses and demobilisation of the National Service team members. It has been virtually impossible to keep a regular 1st XI for the whole season. Every vacancy which occurred has been hotly contested.

Our transport difficulties have been great. The M.T. Platoon has always provided the best it has, a 3-ton vehicle, which, in the German winter, is far from comfortable. Our thanks, however, to all those drivers who have given up their spare time to take us to our away games. There is a hope that by next season we will own a bus.

The 2nd XI this season has been a very serious affair. We have played in the Border League, unfortunately with small success. This has been compensated for by the enjoyment of playing. The 2nd XI has provided a regular flow of recruits for the 1st XI and has been used as a proving ground for many of our better, if unknown, players. Cpl. Burford has managed the 2nd XI this season, and we can assure the acting Provost Sergeant that the time he has spent on this has been very well spent.

Rugby Football

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Points
						Against
1st XV	16	9	6	1	221	106
2nd XV	8	4	3	1	58	63

The first point to strike one when reading these results is that for the first season in several years the Battalion has been able to produce, at times, two fifteens. This is largely due to the fact that at the end of

last season we had inter-Company XV-a-sides and we were able to replace players we lost from last season by new talent. Indeed, two who played for the first time played for the 1st XV this season.

When one looks at the match results one sees that we lost six, but when one looks at the points total we have scored 221 for and 106 against. The games we have lost, except for one—that against 1st Welch in Berlin—have been lost only by a point or two.

In the Army Cup this year we played 2nd Signal Regiment in the first round and beat them 34-3. In the next round we lost 6-0 to 19th Field Regiment (R.A.) on a very windy, wet day. On a normal day we would have done better but the conditions and mode of play by 19th Field Regiment were too good for us.

In December, 23 members of the rugby team went to Berlin to play three games against 1st Welch, R.A.F. Gatow, and the Berlin Wanderers. Here is an extract from "Keynotes," 2 Division magazine, of the tour match played against 1st Welch:

"Die-Hards" in Berlin

"The 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment toured Berlin during the early part of December and played their first game on the 11th against the 1st Battalion the Welch Regiment.

"Middlesex, an unknown quantity to the Welch, kicked off on a cold, bleak, rainswept day. From the start they swept down to their opponents' twenty-five and soon crossed the line under the posts only to find an infringement bringing them back to a five yards' scrum. The Welch, duly shaken, retaliated and with a superb kick were on the offensive. Yet again they were forced back and only stout defending by the Welch stopped a score.

"A penalty in the Middlesex half brought the first score of the game for the Welch. After some good play, Jones (50) (1st Welch) made an opening and the winger scored in the corner. An excellent effort to convert

rebounded back into play and the score stood at 6—0. The 'Die-Hards,' as if encouraged by the play, soon replied with a great run from 2/Lt. Bartlett on the wing who beat his opponents to the touchdown from a long kick ahead. Lt. Cheesman, the Middlesex captain, converted to make the score at half-time 6—5.

"The first half had been hard, fast rugby with the Welch three lying deep waiting to attack. Some outstanding service from the base of the scrum only being checked by very firm tackling from the Middlesex backs.

"For 30 minutes of the second half, there was no score. The Welch pack fought hard, always looking dangerous in both line-outs and scrums, but somehow were always checked by their opponents. The majority of possession of the ball gave the Welch backs unlimited chances and they, too, looked dangerous. It was only in the last 10 minutes, however, that the Welch, by some lovely rucker, managed to score two goals, thus giving them a firmer lead, which they kept to the final whistle.

"The Middlesex were unlucky not to score more than once as they crossed the line about four times. However, for a touring side against the B.A.O.R. finalists, they might well be satisfied with the result, which was 16—5 to the Welch.

"The Middlesex gained some compensation on the following Wednesday, however, when they beat R.A.F. Gatow by 12 points to nil.

"The last game in Berlin was against Berlin Wanderers but due to hard ground this had to be cancelled. This was the start of a cold spell which lasted until January 10 and some seven matches had to be cancelled."

The 2nd XV in the Brigade Minor Units Championships reached the final, beating "H.Q." Company, 11th Infantry Brigade Group, 14—11. Then they lost to 1st S.W.B. 2nd XV 18—5 after an energetic and open game.

We have Lt. Cheesman playing for B.A.O.R. again, also playing with Lt. Goring and Lt. Everard for 2 Division. We are looking forward to getting back to England where we will be able to widen the scope by playing clubs and at weekends individuals playing for their own clubs at home.

Hockey

This season has been different from previous seasons in many ways. In the past there were many players with a good average knowledge of the game. This season there has been no Albuhera competition yet, and there has been no large reserve of good players. However, the Battalion team is of a better standard than other Battalion teams, and is progressing well in the current Army competitions.

The mainstay of the team is C.S.M.I. Issitt, A.P.T.C., who joined the Battalion in September. Apart from many other games which he plays well, he has improved the hockey team considerably. It is always a pleasure to play with him, or to watch him play, and the forwards have directly benefited from his useful advice.

However, one player does not make a team, and there are a few old faithfuls—Sgt. Leat, Cpl. Torrie, Lt. Bulloch, Lt. Cowing and Bds. Wallwork—who, I understand, are playing as well as ever. Pte. Bassett improves steadily, although he can blame C.S.M.I. Issitt sometimes for getting nothing to do. S/Sgt.

Harrison, R.A.P.C., has played steadily and well and has taken on the job of centre-half very ably after Lt. Lofting's posting.

C.S.M. Da Costa, Sgt. Miles and Major Carter form the remainder of the team. Major Carter, I understand, is getting contact lenses to improve his hockey—maybe this isn't all he needs; we will miss his cap though.

Ptes. Rappoport, Gordon and C/Sgt. Dive have stepped into the team, and have played well. It is always disappointing to play only as a reserve, and the team is always glad to have such able stand-ins. Capt. Waldron has umpired for us with much-improved efficiency since his course, and the team recognise his fairness and impartiality as the hallmark of a good umpire.

And so to results. At present the team have played 12 friendly matches and won 11.

In the Army Cup Hockey Competition the team have won their way into the last eight teams in B.A.O.R. and hope to go further yet.

The team have just played the first round of the Brigade competition, and won.

And thus with the fortune still very bright these notes end.

Boxing

The Battalion boxing this season started with a good deal of promise but failed to make that promise good. The Albuhera Novices Boxing Competition was run with companies entering two men of each weight as far as they could. The resulting matches proved an interesting exhibition of skill in some cases and endurance in a good many others. The result of the competition was:

Bantamweight: Pte. Kelly, "A" Company.

Featherweight: Pte. Salaria, "A" Company.

Lightweight: Pte. Forbes, "A" Company.

Light-welterweight: L/Cpl. Hayman, "A" Company.

Welterweight: Pte. Maxwell, "A" Company.

Light-middleweight: Sgt. Blackwell, "B" Company.

Middleweight: Pte. Miller, "C" Company.

Light-heavyweight: Pte. Holton, "A" Company.

Heavyweight: Pte. Blackburn, "A" Company.

A team was selected to train for the Army Inter-Unit Competition in the first round of which we had drawn The Cameronians. After three weeks' hard training the evening arrived and at Hameln the boxing started with the bantamweights. Boxing for us Cpl. Kelly, R.A.O.C. attached, was in fact a flyweight but, in spite of that, boxed well but could not quite outbox his stronger opponent. The feather and light-welter second string contests were soon over, leaving a rather quiet Middlesex contingent in the Gymnasium as both our men were stopped. The first-string light-welter was one of the best bouts of the evening, in which Sgt. Seager boxed a small but very aggressive Cameronian Sergeant. Sgt. Seager, by virtue of a prodding long left hand, just managed to get the verdict. In the last bout before the interval Lt. Pitman lost on points in the second-string welter contest. At the interval we were four contests to one down, but the heavier weights proved our saving.

In the light-middle contest we again lost, Cpl. Rogers, in spite of his experience, just losing on points to a very pressing opponent. The balance then swung round in our favour. At middleweight Pte. Clarke was

far too strong for his opponent, stopping him in the second round.

At light-heavy Pte. Seatory gave a very good exhibition of controlled boxing to defeat his opponent. At heavy Cpl. O'Rawe, in his usual manner, despatched a larger opponent in the first round. The result of the match depended on the last contest—the first-string welterweight. Pte. Cuff, in a display of hard-hitting, but with less skill, knocked his opponent out in the second round and we had won.

This win entitled us to meet 24th Regiment R.A. in the second round. Training continued even harder than before. We had to strengthen our lighter weights and this we did. Our second evening's boxing started off with Pte. Heale at bantamweight proving far too strong for his gunner opponent. At feather and light-weight we met defeat. So we were pleased to see that by the second round of the second-string lightweight contest, L/Cpl. Warnock was boxing well and causing his opponent a lot of trouble. However, L/Cpl. Warnock became over-confident and did not avoid a decisive right from his opponent and was knocked out.

Sgt. Seager again provided a good contest but was out-pointed in a gruelling bout. Pte. Cuff was reduced to exhaustion by a far more experienced opponent. So at the interval we were five bouts to one down.

After the interval L/Cpl. Coleman was stopped in a round and we had lost the match. The heavier weights again won, with one unfortunate exception, in that due to clash of styles, Cpl. O'Rawe was disqualified. 24th Regiment R.A. went on to reach the final of the B.A.O.R. Competition. Pte. Heale is at present boxing in the 2 Division Individual Championships.

Cross-country Running

As usual the first event of the running season was a Battalion run, in which nearly everyone under 35 years of age took part. This gave Companies some idea of their teams for the 1961-62 Albuhera Competition.

The course for the competition was about five miles in length over flat paths and through the wooded hill land behind the barracks. The four Companies each entered a team of ten runners, the first eight home to count in the result. The teams were very closely matched as the result shows—1st, "H.Q." Company with 112 points; 2nd, "B" Company with 129 points; 3rd, "A" Company with 131 points; and, finally, "C" Company with 167 points. The individual winner was Cpl. O'Riordan, "H.Q." Company, in 32 mins. 40 secs.

The Albuhera run gave us the runners who would form the team for the main events after the Christmas break. In January 12 men were selected to train for the 11th Infantry Brigade Group Championships to be held at Minden. The training runs proved that we had a team capable of finishing within two minutes of each other. The standard of competition would decide whether the block would finish at the front or rear of the field. In the race itself, over six miles, we started off by being well spread out as the field moved over flat farmland. However, after four miles there was a long hill, which slowed down the other teams whilst ours kept running. As a result, our first eight men to count were in the first 15 finishers in the major units

event. The team results were: 1st Mx., 63 points; 1st S.W.B., 114 points; 1st Cameronian and, finally, came 19th Regiment R.A. Our leading individuals were: 2nd, Cpl. O'Riordan; 3rd, Pte. Salaria; and 4th, Cpl. Flanagan.

With a handsome trophy collected in Minden the team then continued training for the B.A.O.R. Championships at Paderborn in February. The training went well and again our position would be decided by the placing of our block in the field. The standard at Paderborn was very high. The race itself was over 6½ miles of flattish heavy clay fields and was run at a very fast pace, the first mile being faster than any we had ever run. The team ran well finishing close together but well down the field. Of 10 teams we were ninth. All agreed it was the hardest race they had run.

We have had one race on our home course since the B.A.O.R. Championship and that was against 7th Signals Regiment. This was a very close-run race in which the visitors won by 1 point—68 points to 69 points.

The following ran for the Battalion in two championships: Cpl. Flanagan, Cpl. O'Riordan, L/Cpl. Nicholson, L/Cpl. Coleman, Pte. Heale, Pte. Johns, Pte. Harron, Pte. Knight, Pte. Salaria, Pte. Whyte, Pte. Quartermaine.

Basketball

Once again it is pleasing to report that we are having a successful season—even more successful than the previous two years.

Last October C.S.M.I. Turner, A.P.T.C., in Minden, organised a basketball league comprising 16 teams from as far away as Munster. The league was organised on "two points for a win" basis, with approximately two games per week. At the moment it is difficult to assess a position accurately as the number of games the teams have played varies so much. But if the regimental team can beat 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers in two weeks' time we will be top. There is no reason why we should not beat them; we have done so on the last three occasions, all away fixtures.

Our record is: Played 18; Won 16; Lost 2.

In the 11th Infantry Brigade Group Championships, which we won, the results of our matches were:

v. 1st Cameronianians	..	Won (39—27)
v. 19th Regiment R.A.	..	Won (48—31)
v. 1st South Wales Borderers	..	Won (45—36)
v. 24th Regiment R.A.	..	Won (40—30)
v. 1st Royal Tank Regiment	..	Won (47—16)

The hardest match, and that considered by everybody to decide who was to win the title, was between the Battalion and 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers. We were 3 points down at half-time but managed to pull up and win quite comfortably.

Now we have qualified for the final eight teams in British Army of the Rhine Competition, the championships of which will be held at Osnabruck, on March 14, 15 and 16, 1962.

There is no doubt that C.S.M.I. Issitt is largely responsible for the team's good performance this season. He is captaining the side wonderfully and playing superbly. The other players are all pulling their weight

and improving, especially Lt. Cheeseman, who is improving with every game, and L/Cpl. Cox, who jumps under the net beautifully. Peak has flashes of brilliance, Cpl. Torrie and L/Cpl. Meehan are as steady as rocks, L/Cpl. French and L/Cpl. Routledge, although they have not played on the court in every game, sit patiently watching and waiting, and it is a comforting thought to know that there are players of their ability available when needed.

We still have two months of playing remaining and we are very optimistic.

Ski-ing

This year we embarked on langlauf (cross-country) ski-ing with a team consisting of Lt. Cowing, 2/Lt. Bartlett (reserve officer), L/Cpl. Ward, Pte. Sach and Pte. Blackburn. Apart from Lt. Cowing, nobody else had had any previous experience of langlauf ski-ing.

For our training we went to Austria to a small place in the mountains, which is well known to many in the Battalion, called Schmelz. Here we resided in a Gasthaus which was formerly the Officers' Mess. Unfortunately, certain members of the team found that Austrian food didn't agree with their stomachs and had to resort to living on eggs (at least 10 every day).

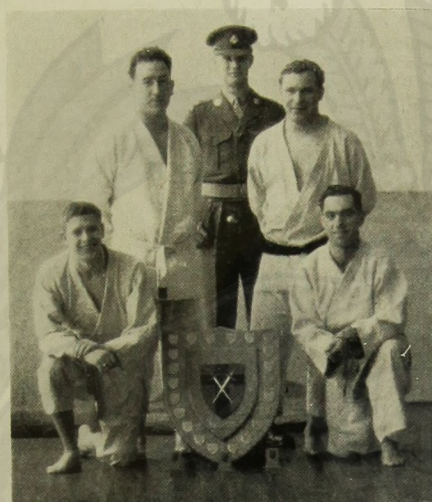
The snow conditions were extremely good for learning to ski and for the first four days we became accustomed to langlauf skis. We were all very well instructed, and Cpl. Da Costa, who was on leave at Judenburg, came to help us.

After the first week we started to tour around the countryside. We made a difficult langlauf course through a wood, which was excellent for racing. Our races were over 10-15 kilometres and designed to train us for Winterburg. Cpl. Ward, better known as "Yeti," and who couldn't stomach raw fish and red peppers, did well living on eggs, of which he consumed an enormous quantity daily. Time passed quickly and we returned to Germany all keyed up for the langlauf race at Winterburg, consisting of the 2 Division meeting and the British Army and B.A.O.R. meetings.

While we had been ski-ing in Austria the downhill team, consisting of Capt. McManus, Cpl. Holland, Cpl. Niles and L/Cpl. Bartlett, was participating in the Army Downhill Slalom at St. Moritz.

We moved up to Winterburg on January 29 for the 2 Division meeting. Alas! There was hardly any snow at all and it made training nearly impossible, but luckily snow came for the 4 x 10 kilometre langlauf relay, in which we came eighth. For the 15 kilometres individual langlauf, Lt. Cowing unluckily broke a ski, and retired, while Cpl. Holland suffered from slipping skis going uphill, and the others managed to complete the arduous course. Unfortunately, owing to rain, the patrol race was cancelled. It continued until the start of the British, British Army and B.A.O.R. Championships. The first race was 15 kilometres langlauf individual, in which Cpl. Holland came 5th, and finished on one stick, doing the distance in just over the hour. Then came the 4 x 10 langlauf relay, in which we came 19th out of 23 starters.

In the biathlon, over a distance of 20 kilometres, combining langlauf and shooting, Cpl. Holland did



B.A.O.R. JUDO RUNNERS-UP

Back row (left to right): L/Cpl. Meehan, 2/Lt. Bartlett, L/Cpl. Smith. Front row (left to right): Pte. Skelton, L/Cpl. Creaser

extremely well and came third, with only Lt. Dent and Capt. Moore in front of him. The most popular event of the meeting was the patrol race with a team comprising of Lt. Cowing, Cpl. Holland, L/Cpl. Ward and Pte. Blackburn. It took place on soft new snow with hard rain all the time. In the early stages of the race Cpl. Holland broke a ski. This hindered the Patrol's speed to a considerable extent and their placing was 15th. The meeting ended with the prizes being given by the Corps Commander, and Cpl. Holland going off to Finland for the World Biathlon Championship.

Squash (or how to play the game)

It was great fun while it lasted! Lt. Bulloch, Major Shipster and Major Carter misspent many happy hours swotting up their playing technique. The others, Capt. Lohan, Lt. Cowing and C.S.M.I. Issitt practised squash.

For example, just before your opponent serves you can must do one of the following:

- Drop your racket.
- Blow your nose.
- Say: "Hang on, old boy, my glasses are misting up."
- Do up your shoe lace or take off a jersey.
- Reach up to the balcony for either
 - A sip of gin and tonic, or
 - A puff from a cigarette.

All these actions and many more can be used to your opponent's disadvantage in the forced game of squash.

The team played its way through the first round of the B.A.O.R. Championships against the Queen's Own

Hussars and won four out of five games. In the second round, against a team who appeared not only to be non-smokers and tee-total, we were beaten 3-2 and left wondering what had hit us. There was some lovely squash played by Major Carter and Lt. Cowing and even Lt. Bulloch rallied to the occasion (we would not let him write these notes), but we were pushed out of the competition. However, Bulloch, we are given to understand, is busy designing some fiendish-type racket that he feels sure should get us a little further next year.

Judo

The Judo Club in November entered for the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships, and, without any practice, owing to the administrative inspection, became runners-up for the second year running.

The team consisted of L/Cpls. Meehan, Smith, Creaser and Pte. Skelton. Unfortunately, before Christmas we were without canvas and batons for the judo mat. They arrived in the New Year and the club has been meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays in the gymnasium. We hope to make use of the judo facilities in England when the Battalion returns.

MURNAU, 1962

Throughout this winter the Battalion has been lucky enough to be able to send a large number of soldiers to the 11th Infantry Brigade Group Winter Warfare Training Centre at Murnau.

The Centre is located near the village of Murnau about 60 miles south of Munich. The United States Engineer Ordnance School very kindly provided the accommodation and all our trainees benefited greatly from living with our close allies for the period of two weeks.

The object of the course, which lasts two weeks, is to provide basic ski instruction for as many Regular soldiers as possible. Tuition is given by a highly-qualified German state ski instructor ably assisted by a British officer and four British N.C.O.s. At the time of writing the British N.C.O.s are Cpls. DaCosta, Chapman, Niles and Bartlett on loan from the Battalion.

The main ski slopes are located at Garmisch and normally the whole school leaves early in the morning and spends the day in the mountains, returning to camp at about 5 p.m. Instruction starts from "square one" and for the first few days the trainees are squadded by Regiments. When the actual and potential ability of individuals becomes evident students are re-squadded. For the last eight days there are usually five squads ranging from the advanced group to the "never will ski" party.

The course is energetic and all ranks have a hard and full day. There is only one day off, on the second Sunday, and any soldier who previously had an idea that he was going on a holiday is quickly disillusioned. However, by the end of the period the majority have learned the basic elements of ski-ing and return to their units fitter and wiser men.

In the evenings when off duty the mysteries of the American Army are explained to the "Limeys" by various "Bilco" types. The American soldier has

proved to be very hospitable and friendly and several lasting friendships have been made. One group of Americans are even coming to England to attend the wedding of an N.C.O. in "A" Company. The wonders of the P.X. and snack bar will remain talking points for many a month, as will the problems of stem turns and deep snow technique.

With the Murnau-trained skiers, together with the residue of skiers from Austrian days, the Battalion can now put into the field a small force of officers, N.C.O.s and men who can move and fight in snow conditions and who would be able to give a good account of themselves in winter warfare. In addition, many soldiers have been introduced to a new and exciting sport and to the appreciation of the beauty and grandeur of high mountains. It is hoped that this will be developed by our mountain enthusiasts on return to the United Kingdom by taking expeditions to Wales and Scotland.

TRACK

(A report on Murnau by Cpl. Meacock, with apologies to Cpl. Fisher and L/Cpl. Clift.)

One day, Trevor, George and me,
Walked down the corridor to tea
And all together, with one accord,
Stopped beside the notice board.

I wonder what I'm on tomorrow
And suddenly we stared in horror,
For there on the board, in black and white,
Was a list of the fellows off next night

To the Winter Warfare Training School
Which, we had heard, was tough and cruel.
"No, no," sobbed George, on bended knee,
"I wonder who has bubbled me."

Whilst Trevor's face was deadly white
Completely overcome with fright.
We begged and pleaded all in vain
And so next night we caught the train.

And after a journey of long duration
We finally arrived at our destination.
Early next morning, at quarter to six,
We drew out boots and skis and sticks.

We loaded the trucks with stretchers and ropes,
And all climbed in and drove to the slopes.
I looked at the mountain, so bleak and high,
And wondered if this was the day I would die.

"This," said the Captain, "is Instructor Seth."
For one awful moment I thought he'd said DEATH.
We donned our skis with apprehension
And just for a laugh we stood to attention.

Then, I fear with little grace,
I fell down flat upon my face.
Trevor, with panic on his mush,
Disappeared into a bush.

George was in no shape to grin
For he'd just landed on his chin.
We stuck this out for fourteen days
Falling down in our several ways.

But the final day at last was here.
The air was clean and the sky was clear.
Today we're going to the top by rail
And coming down the Kreutzeck trail.

We started down in twos and threes
To Seth's wild shouts of "bend ze knees."
Out of control at ninety-odd
I came upon some stupid bod.

This type was flat upon his back
Ignoring my shout of "ACHTUNG—TRACK."
I couldn't go left, so I had to go right,
And that was really the start of my plight.

At once I saw a patch of ice,
I cried for help but they gave me rice.
I left the ground with the greatest ease
And landed, spraining both me knees.

At last to Hameln back we came,
Trevor, George and me—now lame.
So heed these words, for without a doubt
This ski-ing lark's a right rubout.

PERSONALITY PARADE

S/Sgt. "Ted" Girling, R.E.M.E., has been attached to the Battalion since March 7, 1956, as unit armourer. He first enlisted in 1940 when "they were needing them"—and served with The Royal Berkshire Regiment in U.K. until 1944. In 1944 he proceeded to M.E.L.F. with The Gordon Highlanders and served with that regiment until 1946. It is thought that all Sergeants' Mess members would give several rounds of drinks to see a photograph of him in a kilt. He then tried a spell of civilian life from 1946 to 1948, found that he was required to work so he decided to re-enlist. This he did and joined the R.E.M.E. and was trained as an armourer. From 1951 he served in B.A.O.R. with 35th Light Anti-Aircraft/Search Light Regiment, R.A., and then returned to U.K. for drafting to M.E.L.F.,



where he served with the 41st Field Regiment, L.A.D., R.E.M.E. He joined Cyprus District Workshops and on March 7, 1956, he crossed the road from the Workshops and became our much-esteemed armourer. Ted married in 1954 and has three children—two boys and one girl.

For the past six years he has been a most valued and popular member of the Battalion. He takes great interest in shooting and has been a member of the Battalion shooting team. He is also a stalwart supporter of the bar in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. He is the owner of a Mercedes car which does not appear to need a driver or to run on petrol. This car has survived the following campaigns—Sennelager (Park Hotel), Soltau, Oldenburg (mother-in-law), Minden and Haneln.

then joined the 11th (Parachute) Battalion T.A. At the end of 1956 the 11th Battalion became the 8th Battalion and in 1957 Col. Brotherton took over command. He retained command until the 8th Battalion amalgamated with the 7th and 9th Battalions in April, 1961, to form the 5th Battalion. A tribute to the C.O.'s enormous success in this difficult operation was the tremendous morale of the Battalion at camp. A hard core of tough enthusiastic Territorials now forms the foundation of the new Battalion and the next phase of re-expansion is just beginning.

5th Battalion (T.A.) Notes

After over 20 years of active regimental service, Lt.-Col. Ian Brotherton, having moulded the new 5th Battalion and set it on its course, has handed over command to Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Webber. First commissioned in 1940, Col. Brotherton was posted to the 17th Battalion for a few months and then transferred to the 1/8th. He served throughout the war with the 8th Battalion and as Signals Officer he was second to none. During a brief respite from regimental service, Col. Brotherton took his degree at London University, and

No praise can be too high for a man who, in spite of his rigorous business commitments, has shown an intense dedication to duty and we are indeed sorry to lose him. We would like to convey our best wishes to Col. and Mrs. Brotherton and finally to congratulate him on his promotion to the rank of Brevet Colonel.

Lt.-Col. Geoffrey Webber took over command of the Battalion on April 1, 1962, and all ranks of the Battalion extend to him and to Mrs. Webber a loyal welcome.

Since the last issue of *The Die-Hards* we have successfully overcome the annual administrative inspection which this year was carried out by Brigadier J. F. C. Mellor, O.B.E., the Brigade Commander. A finely balanced programme conducted the Brigadier throughout the County in the space of a day to inspect the drill halls, and a special mention must be made of "A" Company where W.O.2 Moyse hovered, hawked, over his immaculate drill hall. Lunch was provided at Edgware by Sgt. Moore, A.C.C., assisted by Mr. Banks, the caretaker, and the Brigade Commander was extremely pleased with the turnout of the Battalion. Brigadier Mellor has now retired from the Army and in his place as Brigade Commander we welcome Brigadier G. A. White, M.B.E., late Queen's Surreys.

An interesting innovation was the Divisional Band and Corps of Drums competition, which took place at the Duke of York's H.Q., in October. Although neither the Band nor Corps of Drums gained any prizes, it proved a very pleasant day and a useful competitive spur to the Band and Drums.

The Battalion was honoured by the Borough of Wood Green on Friday, February 23, at the Town Hall in front of an informal gathering of Councillors and members of the Battalion, where the privilege of "Freedom of entry into the Borough" was conferred. The Mayor handed over to the Commanding Officer an illuminated address to mark the occasion.

The officers' annual ball held at the Orchard Hotel, Ruislip, on February 3, was a tremendous success and this was largely due to the proprietors of the hotel who did their utmost to make this a festive occasion.

Majors Donald James, Charles Davis and Peter Davidson and Lts. David Powell and John Rawson, have unfortunately found business commitments too much to give as much time as they would like to the Battalion and have consequently had to leave us. We send them our best wishes and also to W.O.2 John Duff, W.O.2 George Hills, C/Sgt. Frank Leaves, Sgt. Len Wood and Sgt. Tom Jones. It is sad but inevitable that so many versatile officers and other ranks should have to leave, but promotion or changes in civilian jobs or family difficulties all take their relentless toll.

We are delighted to welcome Capt. Robert McQueen who, after a tough struggle with War Office, who had booked him for some other reserve appointment, has come to us as an extra medical officer. Our congratulations also to 2/Lt. Tom Jones on his commissioning from the ranks.

A heartening sign has been the appearance of old faces from the 1st Battalion and the old Depot to swell our ranks. W.O.2 Les Shrubbs, until recently a P.S.I. with the 8th Battalion, has now, on leaving the Regular Army, joined as Sergeant-Major of "B" Company. So, too, has

Sgt. Bob Ambler, enticed into the T.A. by the Quartermaster. Sgt. Ambler was working in the Q.M. Stores at the Depot until it closed and now that he too has left the Regular Army, he has joined as Officers' Mess Sergeant. Sgt. Charlie Banks, who was well known at the Depot for the wonderful food which he produced for the recruits, has now left the Regular Army to become the caretaker at Edgware, and of course to join the T.A. Whatever the weather at camp, with a cooking staff of Sgts. Moore and Banks, and Cpls. Beare, Boyse, Francis and Langham, all A.C.C. trained, we can guarantee good food.

SPORT

Cross Country Running

We failed to retain the Divisional Cross Country Championship this year, losing to a very strong H.A.C. team. However, our cross country team put up a very good show and were by no means disgraced.

Basket Ball

"A" Company won the inter-Company league. The full results are set out below:

Coy.	Won	Lost	Points		Position
			For	Against	
"A"	4	0	50	22	1
"B"	3	1	130	55	2
"D"	2	2	92	76	3
"H.Q."	1	3	67	90	4
"C"	0	4	25	121	5

The standard of play for the most part was fairly good considering the difficulties entailed in turning a drill hall into a basketball court. At Ealing the drill hall serves as the .22 range and at Enfield it is not possible to play basketball at all. Gone are the days of the spacious courts at Staines and Harrow.

The standard of play between the first three teams was not very different mainly because they each had a team captain with sufficient knowledge and grip to enforce the zone system of defence.

The standard of refereeing by and large was very good and we must thank Sgt. Speakman and Mr. Lay, an A.B.A. referee, for doing the bulk of it.

TRAINING

In mid-November, 25 officers assembled at Millbrook, a small village near Bedford, for a Defence T.E.W.T. Thick fog reduced visibility to some few yards and by 10 a.m. it was quite obvious that nothing worthwhile would be achieved that day. The T.E.W.T. was therefore postponed until mid-February.

In December, the Commanding Officer, 2IC and the Company Commanders attended an excellent study weekend at Colchester, when the deployment of a Brigade Group in a Desert I.S. situation was studied in detail.

January was largely devoted to preparing the Battalion for the Annual Administrative Inspection. Details of this appear elsewhere.

Capt. S. Weller and Capt. B. Hennah held an administrative study weekend in early February. The Staff Paymaster, H.Q. London District, Lt.-Col.



A Coy. firing

Richards, most kindly lectured on regimental accounts on the Sunday morning. Later on, the mysteries of the Quartermaster's world were barred to all. C.Q.M.S.s were required to take a written practical test on Sunday afternoon; this they all did very well.

During this weekend the Training Officer carried out a recce of the Catterick training areas and Bellerby T.A. Camp. Whether through influenza or shock, he very shortly disappeared to bed for a week.

Following the administrative study weekend, the officers once again journeyed to Millbrook, when the postponed T.E.W.T. was at last held. The weather this time was kinder, and, though cold, we could at least see the ground. Our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier G. A. White, stayed out on the ground with us all day.

W.O.1 Webb, with the help of the P.S.I.s, has held two very successful N.C.O.s' cadres—one in December and one in February. Pte. Barton, "A" Company, produced outstanding results and is now a Corporal—a promotion very well deserved.

"D" Company, always fast off the mark, have already classified and carried out a most successful field-firing exercise, all excellently controlled and organised by Major P. Hall.

In March, we study the Battalion's role on mobilisation, attend a Brigade study weekend at Folkestone, and finally we hold our annual rifle meeting at Ash Ranges.

"A" COMPANY

Since the last edition of these notes, we are glad to say that there have been many events in which the Company has participated with great success, with the result that we are now leading in this year's champion company

competition. This is due to the enthusiasm and hard work put in by all ranks of the Company.

We would also like to make a special mention of our back-room boys, W.O.2 Moyse and Mr. Bremner, who by their efforts have kept the Company going, not to mention an excellent report in the Annual Administrative Inspection. While Cpl. Jones's gang have always managed to produce transport despite "Workshops" our two private armies belonging to Sgts. Sills and Lauwers have more than proved their worth on both military and social occasions.

On the sporting side we won the basketball competition outright against some stiff opposition and we hope to complete the double with the .22 shooting, the final of which is next month against "H.Q." Company. We also have a very successful football team of which we have great hopes for the future.

Socially we have had some very good parties in which we were glad to see so many of the Company together with their ladies taking an active interest. We were also very pleased to greet visitors from the other companies, not to mention so many old comrades. Special thanks are due to Sgt. Moore for his excellent catering and all the others who put so much work into making the parties a success.

The party which took place on February 24, was a sad occasion, for we officially said goodbye to two old members of the Company—C.S.M. Hills and C/Sgt. Jackson, who served both with the new Company and in the old Highgate days. C.S.M. Hills is soldiering on with the A.E.R. but we have not yet heard whether "colour" will soldier on anywhere. It is with real sorrow that we say goodbye to two old friends of the



The Regimental Police receiving wireless instruction

Company, but we will be glad to welcome them to the bar any time they are passing. At this same party, Pte. Williams was presented with the cup for being the best .22 rifle shot in the Company, which was a fine effort for a recruit.

On the military side our principal event in recent weeks was a very successful weekend run by Support Platoon and assisted by mercenaries from the Rifle Platoons and police. For many it was their first night out and this, coupled with an interesting training programme, combined to make it a successful weekend. On the first weekend in March, we are combining with "C" Company for our annual classification and will be once more sleeping under the stars.

Evening training is progressing well and we hope to be able to give a good account of ourselves by camp, wherever that might be. The new organisation of the Company into two rifle platoons and support platoon, each training its own recruits appears to be a great success.

Mention must also be made of Armistice Sunday, when we combined with "C" Company and, together with detachments from the Old Comrades and Highgate School, our affiliated C.C.F. Corps, paraded through Hornsey led by the Corps of Drums. At Hornsey Parish Church the act of remembrance was carried out after which we returned to the drill hall. The day was rounded off with the traditional gathering of friends both old and new.

Lastly, we have great pleasure in welcoming so many new faces to the Company and wishing them a happy and profitable time with us.

We also congratulate the following on their well-earned promotions: to Staff-Sergeant, Sgt. Stack; to Sergeant, Cpl. Lauwers; to Corporal, Graham, Barton, Stone and Travis.

"B" COMPANY

The Company has seen a number of changes since the last notes were written, the most significant of which has been the return to Ealing of No. 4 Platoon and Support Platoon which had been on detachment at Edgware.

The Company had been split up in this way since the amalgamation of the three battalions last February. This inevitably led to certain administrative problems and a corresponding lessening of efficiency. Since we have got together under one roof, however, the attendance has gradually improved, until the week before these notes were written the average attendance reached 60 per cent. of the nominal roll book on both nights. We will not be satisfied until this reaches a minimum of 90 per cent.

In order to provide a continuity of training for the older members of the Company and to carry out a recruit basic training syllabus, we now operate three training programmes—for trained soldiers, recruits and support weapons. The recruits are coming along very well under Lt. R. G. Tett and we expect that by camp they will be ready to take their place with the trained soldiers.

Major C. W. Davies was obliged to resign from the T.A. on business grounds and was succeeded as O.C. by Capt. B. A. Skinner, Capt. S. L. J. Henshaw being appointed Company 2IC in his place. We congratulate 2/Lt. T. D. Jones on receiving his commission and Cpl. George on receiving his second "tape."

In February, "B" Company held its first dinner and dance in the drill hall. Altogether nearly 80 people attended, including 20 old comrades, whom we were especially pleased to welcome. The principal guests were Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Brotherton. The evening was a tremendous success and was enhanced by a vocal solo from Pte. Murphy together with a demonstration of the "twist" by certain members of Company H.Q., who prefer to remain anonymous.

"C" COMPANY

"C" Company ended a good year in a fitting manner with a very successful dance and social at Christmas. Its success was largely due to the support of other companies. However, before "passing out" the year, we were pleased to welcome Lts. Hume and Price to our fold. This air of change carried on into 1962, when our Company Commander left to take over command of "H.Q." Company. Major Gunnell who commanded the Enfield "out-station" for several years will we hope still come to visit us and see our bar profits booming!

With the departure of Major Gunnell, we were proud to welcome Capt. J. K. E. Slack as our new O.C. and Lt. Hume as 2IC. Lt. Phillips recently joined the Company after two years' absence and has taken over the command of No. 8 Platoon.

The Company has intensified its training in preparation for annual camp and has already carried out three successful night exercises and two tough training weekend exercises organised by our P.S.I. The first took place in late January when the men, fully camouflaged, carried out a number of section and platoon attacks under realistic battle conditions. This exercise was followed by another in early February and we quote from an article in the *Enfield Gazette*: "As part of the toughening-up course, members of 'C' Company, 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.A.), took part in a special exercise during the weekend, finally achieving

their objective with the capture of a hill with the code name Lion's Mouth. Watched by umpires they made two assaults on prepared enemy positions while advancing on their objective. After spending the night in the open, during which deep penetrating patrols were carried out, they continued their advance destroying enemy ambush parties and finally captured their objective.

"Potential commandos or saboteurs who can stand the pace of tough training as modern Territorials will be welcomed at the Enfield Drill Hall, says the Commanding Officer, Capt. J. K. E. Slack."

Sportwise, this Company is not so brilliant, but we can say, without fear of contradiction, that despite a raging snowstorm, we won a football match, 1-0, against "A" Company last weekend, when C.S.M. Payne scored the only goal of the match. Alas, our P.S.I. had to retire from the field in the second half after being in collision with one of the opposing team.

Social activities and bar profits are doing well to date, mainly due to a visit recently from Brigadier G. A. White, our new Brigade Commander.

Looking to the near future, our P.S.I., Sgt. Turner, is organising a spectacular display and dance in Enfield before he rejoins the 1st Battalion in June this year. "Fifty recruits by camp? Sure we'll get them—and more!" he says. We certainly need them!

"D" COMPANY

The first week of October found us facing the Battalion Weapon Training competition and with a team devoid of gladiators and consisting mainly of young soldiers we managed to win this event with "H.Q." Company coming a gallant second. With this event "in the bag" we became Champion Company for 1961.

The weekend October 21 and 22, saw us encamped in Maidenhead Thicket and on Saturday evening we carried out patrol activities along the river using rubber recce dinghies. Cpl. Mike Taylor's patrol proved the most instructive, as by the end of his de-briefing, we all had a sound working knowledge of a sewage farm! On Sunday we had a most exhilarating morning climbing, crawling, and swinging over the many obstacles of the assault course situated very near to the 21C's house at Penn Street, Bucks.

Our Remembrance Day service took place on the afternoon of November 12, and a good turn-out was gamely supported by the Regimental Band who had already performed at Ealing in the morning.

The weekend November 25 and 26, was used to get further acquainted with the S.L.R. at Henley Park Range. An interesting and instructive two days were marred somewhat by dense fog on Sunday morning.

No weekend training activity took place in December, but a most enjoyable Company dinner on December 9, where, 54 strong, we were waited on hand and foot by our efficient outside caterers. Our guests on this occasion were 2/Lt. Jones of "B" Company, R.S.M. Webb and R.Q.M.S. Roberts.

We got away to an early annual classification on January 27 and 28, and indulged in our favourite sport, patrolling, on the Saturday evening. Both the light and



weather were good and we obtained some encouraging results in our shooting.

In spite of sub-zero temperatures and occasional blizzards we enjoyed a field-firing exercise on February 24 and 25, where we were able to use most of the weapons in our armoury and even some that are not. We spent the two days on Hangmoor Field Firing Range and our programme consisted of the 36 grenade, Mk. 4 rifle, Bren, S.M.C., 9 mm. Browning pistol and 3-in. mortar. The whole programme was run on a competitive basis; the results were very close with No. 12 Platoon the winners by a narrow margin.

The photographs show Pte. Scutt in No. 1 throwing bay supervised by Lt. Ken Murray, and L/Cpl. Derek Smythe and Cpl. Gordon Large at work with the 9 mm. Browning.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE DEPOT

The Middlesex Regiment Element

Canterbury, as most soldiers know, is now the home of our Depot, which we share with the Queens Surreys, the Queen's Own Buffs and the Royal Sussex Regiment, and the following is a list of officers and other ranks serving there at present:

Garrison H.Q.: Major Clayden and L/Cpl. Jarrett.

"H.Q." Company: Sgt. Kerr, L/Cpls. O'Brien, Graham and Lawrence, Ptes. Booker, Fletcher, Harbutt and Keogh.

Training Company: Lts. Goring and Lofting, W.O.2 Simmons, Sgts. Patterson and Plumb, Cpls. Fisher, Whittle, Brumwell and Quinn.

Junior Soldiers' Wing: Major Bellers and Cpl. Rae.

It will be seen from the above, therefore, that the Regiment is quite well represented.

Life is far from idle, those members of the Training Company and the Junior Soldiers' Wing being kept particularly active.

Major Bellers works practically a seven-day week during term time, and has, through sheer hard work, raised the total of Band and Drummer Boys in the Junior Soldiers' Wing to 107.

Recruiting

Apart from training, this, of course, is the problem in which we are most interested. Special recruiters from the Brigade are on full-time duty in all four counties. The Regiment has Sgt. Orme at Great Scotland Yard (probably the best source of recruiting in the country); Sgt. Barr, who operates between Wembley and Acton; and Sgt. Speakman detached at Edgware from Kentish Town.

This coverage of North London is, of course, very inadequate, since the old-established recruiting areas of Uxbridge, Southall, Barnet, Southgate, Tottenham, Enfield, Edmonton and Islington are not touched.

Sports

The "Die-Hards" have given a good account of themselves and feature in all the sporting teams of the Depot:

Soccer: L/Cpl. O'Brien.

Rugby: Lts. Goring and Lofting, Cpl. Quinn.

Hockey: Major Clayden, Lts. Goring and Lofting,

R.S.M. McMillan, Cpl. Quinn.

Basketball: L/Cpl. O'Brien.

R.S.M. McMillan, who is on the permanent staff of 4th Queen's Own Buffs and works in Wemyss Barracks, is still playing a first-class game of hockey.

Important Events

The Brigade "At Home" is on July 21 this year, when it is hoped to throw open the Depot to the public and invite both military and civilian teams to compete in the various competitions which will be run. This is a four-Regiment affair, and, as such, all "Die-Hards" are welcome.

The Brigade Cricket Week is to be held during the week June 26 to July 1. During the week the regimental fixture is against Hampstead Heathens on July 1.

During the period of the Royal Tournament, from July 11 to 28, the Home Counties Brigade will be running the Infantry Stand.

News of Individuals

Major and Mrs. Clayden had a son on December 5 and Capt. and Mrs. Lawrence a daughter in January. Capt. Lawrence, our late Adjutant, left for Aden on February 17 to take up an appointment as Staff Captain.

C/Sgt. Perry called before leaving for Singapore and was looking forward to his next job.

Sgt. Ambler, prior to discharge, had a long chat. He has one son at the R.E.M.E. Apprentices' School at Arborfield.

Sgt. Bailey (ex-1st Battalion Medical Sergeant) is working at Dover in the Stage Coach Inn. He has been very ill in hospital, but is now recovering.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT (The Volunteers)

Camp this year was held on a reduced scale, for 10 days only. Because of the new role of the Regiment only R.H.Q., 3 Company, Support Company and the Home Guard were in camp. The remainder of the Regiment will be attending exercises with the Regular Army for their camp periods. Despite the smaller numbers camp proceeded in the traditional style with field training by day and equally energetic recreation by night. Fortunately the village of Sai Kung is used to The Volunteers.

The Remembrance Day Parade this year was made memorable by the presence of H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, who accompanied H.E. The Governor. The Home Guard represented The Volunteers at the Cenotaph service and Major E. A. H. Jeffcoat laid a wreath on behalf of The Middlesex Regiment. Shortly before the service Princess Alexandra inspected the guard at Government House, which was provided by the Home Guard. On the previous day 3 Company had the honour of finding the guard at Government House.

During the visit of Her Royal Highness a military tattoo was presented by troops of the Regular Garrison and the Band of The Volunteers under the baton of Major F. E. C. C. Quah, ED, provided the arena band. The Band and Drums continue to progress and can now produce an excellent string orchestra in addition to a military band.

At the time of writing Major R. M. Cain, who has been Adjutant for the past three years, is handing over to Capt. A. B. S. Faris (Queen's Surreys). Since it was impossible to find an Adjutant from our affiliated Regiment we are delighted that a successor has been found from within the Home Counties Brigade and we hope that Capt. Faris and his family will enjoy their stay with us.

On his departure we wish Major Cain and family a good trip home and best wishes for the future.



Inspection of Parade before dinner by Deputy Mayor of Hornsey



Cadets awaiting the arrival of their guests

16th HORNSEY CADET COMPANY The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

Having collected a "rocket" from the Editor, I now append below some information on the activities of 16th Company, as requested. We have not been idle, but have "Had a go" at a variety of events, some with a fair amount of success.

The highlight was winning the slightly-modified tough-training competition, against a selected team from South Group A.C.F. The team of 16th Company comprised C/Sgt. A. Garrity, Cpl. Grice, L/Cpl. Wilkins, L/Cpl. Knibbs, and Cadet Stevens, led by Lt. A. Davis (ex-Yorkshire Light Infantry). Though tired, they took the Assault Course in grand style, and proudly marched in to the finishing post at Alexandra Palace to receive their well-earned prize.

Next was the parade in Priory Park, Hornsey, when 16th Company, supported by the Corps of Drums of the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and other cadet units of North Group, were presented with a shield by the Mayor of Hornsey, showing that they were entitled to the privilege of wearing the Borough Coat

of Arms on their uniform. L/Cpl. Davis, wearing the scarlet of the pre-1914 Middlesex Regiment, received the shield on behalf of the Company. C/Sgt. Garrity was presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Medal, being the first A.C.F. cadet to receive this.

The Company has three times visited the Green Jacket Brigade at Winchester, where extensive training was carried out, including firing the S.L.R., Stirling and Energa Grenade. If asked you would find that the words Salisbury Plain would have just the opposite of "soothing" effects on Sgt. (Bertie) Andrews, and his section.

Dare we mention football? Here we had high hopes and started off in great form, by winning the first game. In the semi-final for the cup, fate turned against us and, though Cpl. O'Connor (team captain) made terrific efforts to win, "the luck of the Irish" was out, but, of course, it will be a different story next year.

I must hasten to tell you that we are visiting the Home Counties Brigade at Canterbury in April, and hope to be able to relate our adventures there in our next article.

We would always be glad to have the assistance of anyone with the time and energy to help the cadets on the sports side of training.

V.D.W.

The Peninsular War—A Visit to Old Battlefields

By Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., LL.D(HON.)

(By courtesy of The Sunday Times)

Introduction

As every year more and more holidaymakers from the United Kingdom visit Spain, so the British public is beginning to take an increasing interest in the Peninsular War of 1808-1814, where Wellington—possibly the greatest general this country has ever produced—in conjunction with his Spanish and Portuguese allies, defeated Napoleon's hitherto unbeaten armies.

I will admit quite frankly that I have always had a secret passion for visiting these ancient battlefields. I find this is a much more profitable proceeding than trying to unravel the intricacies of some modern operation which probably lasted for several days and extended over a vast area of country. During the Peninsular War Wellington was able to keep the tactical battle under his personal control. Mounted on his famous horse, Copenhagen, he would gallop from one hilltop to the next, examining the enemy positions through his telescope and then issue his orders direct to his subordinate

commanders; moreover, as the forces under his command did not amount to more than the equivalent of a corps in the last war, his command in battle was a much more personal affair than would ever be possible under modern conditions.

So much has been written about his campaigns that, with a little preparation beforehand, it is possible to visit, say, Salamanca, and imagine oneself to be the Iron Duke himself, shutting his telescope with a decisive snap after spotting that his French opponent, Marmont, had extended his forces unduly, and then murmuring with his mouth full of sandwiches: "By God, that will do"—and what is more "it did."

What could be more fascinating than to study Wellington's genius on the very ground where he fought and which has hardly changed at all in the past 150 years.

But before doing so it is of course essential to remind oneself of the basic principles on which warfare was conducted in those days.

How wars were waged at the beginning of the 19th Century

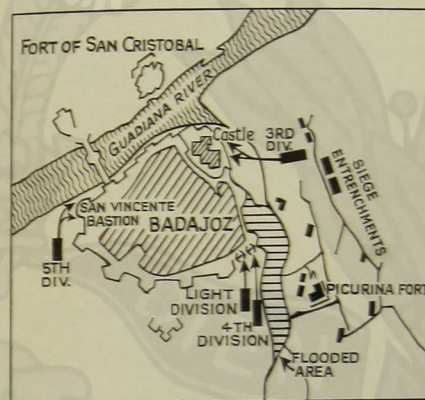
At the beginning of the 19th century the campaigns were fought largely for the possession of fortresses, which were positioned at strategic points—usually to protect some vital communication. That is why the two fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz figured so prominently in the Peninsular War. They dominated the two main roads between Spain and Portugal and as the common frontier between these two countries was, and still is, so mountainous and difficult (it was once said that Spain and Portugal turned their backs on each other) they were of considerable strategic importance. Sieges were methodical affairs which always followed a set pattern, and each army possessed special siege trains complete with heavy guns. First of all the fortress was invested: the outworks were then captured and parallel trenches constructed where the heavy batteries could be positioned in order to breach the massive walls. When a large enough gap had been made the assault was launched. This was always a particularly hazardous operation and it was usually led by what was called the forlorn hope, consisting of a small party of volunteers headed by a young officer. Lt. Maguire of the 14th put on a special cocked hat with a white feather "long after this form of headdress had disappeared from use" in order to make himself conspicuous and recognisable when leading "the forlorn hope" during the assault on San Sebastian (August 1813). The rival armies lived for quite long periods in the tightly-packed small towns surrounded by the broad, steep walls and dominated by some huge, massive castle, usually situated at one corner, which was the key to the whole defence. Even today these towns give the impression of houses huddling for protection around the walls of the grim old castle.

The opposing armies used the fortresses as firm bases in which to rest and refit and from which they emerged from time to time in order to do battle in the vast open central plains where manoeuvre was possible. This is very reminiscent of operations carried out in the desert during the last war, when the armoured formations which formed the main striking forces used the "boxes" defended by the infantry as firm bases in which to rest and carry out their maintenance, before sallying forth to do battle with enemy armoured divisions in the open desert. By means of wireless it was possible for the Commanders to control these armoured battles much in the same way as did Wellington 150 years ago. In the Peninsular War tactical skill was all-important. It was the object of each Commander to outflank his opponent and deliver the final *coup de grace* as a rule by means of a massed cavalry charge round one or other flank. Although artillery, with a maximum range of 1,000 yards, was beginning to play an increasingly important role, and four-pounder guns of the Horse Artillery were being employed in direct support of the cavalry, it was the steadiness of the infantry which ultimately won or lost the battles, and it was here that the British proved superior. The French generally attacked in massed columns consisting of eight companies each three deep one behind another, giving a total battalion depth of some 24 men. They relied on shock tactics to break

through the enemy lines, but this meant that only the men in the front rank could use their muskets. In order to overcome this disadvantage the columns were usually preceded by skirmishers (*tirailleurs*) whose role it was to screen the head of the attacking column and distract the fire of the defenders. In nearly every mobile battle in the Peninsula one finds the same picture; a line of British soldiers standing two deep, and if Wellington was in command concealed to start with behind a reverse slope, each man able to use his musket, which was still the famous flintlock Brown Bess, firing musketballs weighing 1½ oz. Although the British musket was accurate only up to ranges of 100 yards, it was better made and more accurate than that used by continental armies and was much preferred by our Portuguese and Spanish allies. In spite of the slow rate of fire, 2-3 rounds a minute was the most that could be expected from a trained man (the butt end of the cartridge had to be torn open by the teeth, before it was placed in the musket barrel, and driven down by an iron ramrod). The accurate fire of the British infantry almost always proved superior to the mass attacks of the French. It was very important, however, particularly in bad visibility, to keep a wary eye open for the enemy cavalry. If caught in line or on the move a whole battalion might be cut to pieces in a matter of minutes as happened to Colbourn's Brigade during the battle of Albuera. Once, however, the British infantry had formed square the hostile cavalry was powerless to break through the hedge formed by the long, triangular, very heavy bayonets carried by the infantrymen. Formations like the famous Light Division were particularly quick at changing formation from line to square and vice versa.

Badajoz

As many of the best-known Peninsular battles, such as Fuentes D'Onoro, Salamanca, and Albuera, were fought in the vicinity of the two fortresses of Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo, I decided to start by visiting one or other and I chose Badajoz, which provides one of the brightest but also one of the darkest pages in the history of the British Army. Although much new building has taken place, particularly on the south and south-west sides of the Guadiana River outside the old walls, it is still even today a most impressive fortress. As I stood on the ramparts of the outlying Fort of San Cristobal, situated on the top of a steep hill to the north of the river, and gazed across at the castle, I was not surprised that it had withstood two sieges and had been captured only after some desperate fighting at the third attempt. What was so surprising was that it was ever captured at all—it looked impregnable, shimmering there in the blistering heat. Strange to say I felt the heat in the central plain of Spain more than I had ever done during the last war in the desert. It seemed incredible that our troops under similar conditions had been able to march sometimes 15 to 20 miles a day and then fight battles in this baking atmosphere, clad as they were. There were no drill shorts and open-necked khaki shirts available in the 19th century. Fortunately trousers had been substituted in 1808 for the breeches and gaiters with many buttons which had taken so long to button up to the knee—12 minutes was the average



time—that many soldiers on active service never took them off at all, which led to uncleanness and many leg diseases. Trousers, under which short boots were worn, were a great improvement. Nevertheless, the heavy tail coat with a stiff leather stock tied round the neck must have reduced the troops to a state bordering on apoplexy. Moreover this cumbersome uniform was topped by a heavy knapsack and the whole kit weighed some 60 lb. No wonder that Pte. Wheeler in his now-famous letters, when describing the initial siege of Fort San Cristobal, says: "The duty in the trenches by day is very fatiguing, almost suffocated for the want of air, nearly baked by the sun, parching with thirst . . . we are kept in constant motion by swarms of flies, to say nothing of the vermin that have stationed themselves inside our clothes, who are as busy as possible, laying siege to our bodies, while we cannot bring a finger to bear on them." Wellington, however, was much too sensible a Commander to pay any attention to dress. "Provided we brought our men into the field well appointed," wrote Gratton of the 88th, "with their 60 rounds of ammunition each he never looked to see whether trousers were black, blue or grey: and as to ourselves we might be rigged out in any colour of the rainbow if we fancied it." These words might have been written about our troops in the desert during the last war when Montgomery showed an equal disregard for the niceties of dress. It was a curious fact that two of Britain's most famous armies, Wellington's in the Peninsular and Montgomery's VIIIth Army in the desert, were probably the dirtiest and scruffiest which have ever been to war.

As I gazed into the trench from which the abortive assault on this outlying fortress was launched I thought once more of Pte. Wheeler climbing up his scaling ladder, then falling backwards as it was smashed under him into the trench, which, in his own words, "presented the following frightful picture, heaps of brave fellows killed and wounded, ladders shot to pieces and falling together with the men down upon the living and the dead." I don't wonder that sieges were the most un-

popular form of warfare, both with the officers and men.

The final capture of Badajoz did not take place until April 1812. On this occasion Wellington decided to leave the almost-impregnable Fort San Cristobal alone and concentrate against the fortress itself, lying on the south side of the Guadiana River. I was able to walk round the walls and study the three places against which the assault was launched.

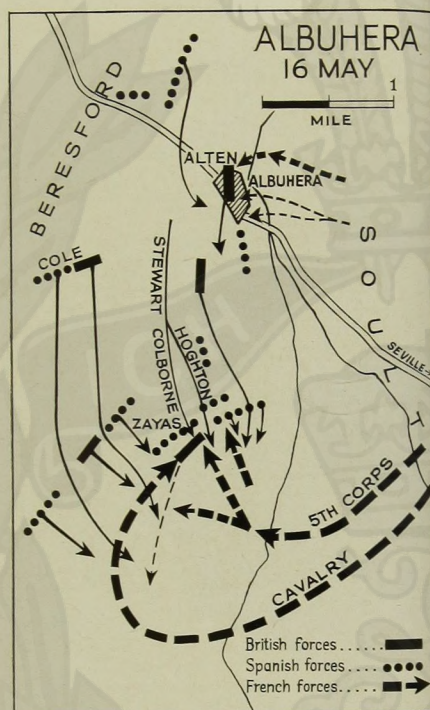
On April 4, 1812, after all the usual elaborate preliminaries had taken place, Wellington's heavy guns had smashed a breach in the walls at the south-east corner of the town, and it was here that the main attack by the Light and Fourth British Divisions was to be made. In conjunction with this were two subsidiary assaults, the first by Picton's 3rd Division, which was very much of a forlorn hope, directed against the high unbreached walls of the castle itself. The second, which was decided upon almost as an afterthought, was to be made by the 5th Division against the San Vicente Bastion on the western tip of the town.

What made the whole thing so realistic for me was that as I arrived at the site of the main assault the great clock in the tower of Badajoz town boomed out 10 o'clock: it was this same clock sounding 10 o'clock at night which had been the signal for the assault. The actual site is now a public park bordering on the walls and gazing down at the children playing there it was difficult to imagine the scene of carnage which must have taken place on this very spot during that night of April 4, 150 years ago. The 4,700-strong French garrison was most ably commanded by Count Phillipon, who had succeeded in re-trenching the breaches. These were also thickly laid with buried shells and barrels of gunpowder which could be exploded by fuses and the whole breach had been made virtually impregnable by artificial obstacles of the *chevaux de frise* type. Each defender was armed with three muskets from which to pour down volley after volley into the massed ranks of their assailants in the broad ditch below where the British dead were soon piled high. As many as 40 separate assaults were made against the breaches, all to no avail. By the end of the night no fewer than 150 officers and 2,000 British and Portuguese troops, dead and wounded, lay underneath these walls. The assault would unquestionably have ended in yet another bloody failure had it not been for the subsidiary attacks. Studying it today one would say that Picton's desperate attempt, "which he had personally craved permission to undertake," to escalate the towering unbreached walls of the castle itself was an impossible piece of madness. Yet in spite of two initial failures in which he and Kemp, the leading Brigade Commander, were both wounded, this grand old warrior at the head of his 3rd Division succeeded. After 60 minutes' hand-to-hand fighting at the cost of 700 casualties, they captured the castle—and Badajoz was doomed. But meanwhile Leith and a Brigade of the 5th Division had also succeeded at San Vicente on the other side of the town. Making their way through the silent streets his leading troops were thus able to attack the rear of the French defenders at the breaches, and Badajoz was now ours. This was unquestionably one of the most brilliant feats of arms ever carried out

by the British Army. Well might Wellington write in his despatches to Lord Liverpool: "The capture of Badajoz affords as strong an instance of the gallantry of our troops as has ever been displayed. But I greatly hope that I shall never again be the instrument of putting them to such a test as they were put to last night." When Wellington was shown the list of casualties, amounting to the terrible total of 4,924, of whom no less than 378 were officers, he is said to have broken down and wept; he did the same after Waterloo. Unfortunately this bright page in our history was subsequently tarnished by the appalling scenes which took place after the capture. For 15 hours some 10,000 drunken British soldiers plus 200 female camp followers, who were reported to be worse than their menfolk, roamed the streets of Badajoz in an unholy orgy of murder, rape, arson and pillage, and the inhabitants, mind you, were our allies the Spaniards. Officers who tried to restore order were killed by their men and hundreds of wounded were left to die because their comrades were too busy looting to care for them. Even convents were broken into and nuns violated in the streets. This is a page of history which it is just as well to turn over as quickly as possible.

Albuhera

Some 14 miles to the south-east of Badajoz lies the scene of another bloody battle, Albuhera, and the two are really closely linked together. The British Commander of the Southern Detachment, Beresford (Wellington was busy in the neighbourhood of Ciudad Rodrigo, further north, fighting the battle of Fuentes d'Onoro), hearing that Marshal Soult at the head of a French army was marching from Seville in order to relieve Badajoz, broke off the siege which he was conducting at the time and marched down to intercept the French. Wellington had previously told Beresford that if the French came north Albuhera was the best defensive position on which to stop them. Here is another battlefield which is well worth a visit. I first viewed the position from a small mound on the left of the main road leading from Seville to Badajoz. This was the spot from which Soult carried out his preliminary reconnaissance while the French army of some 25,000 men, including over 4,000 cavalry, were dispersing into the cork woods all round—hidden therefore from the British. To his front lay the small Spanish village of Albuhera, which had previously been gutted by the French and was now reputed to be occupied by only one old man and a cat, stretching for some 500-600 yards on either side of the main road, and rising gradually up the hill in front of him. To the left or west of the village was open cultivated land, again sloping upwards but with a prominent hill on the left. It was here that the British troops under Beresford were forming up. The only obstacle that lay between the two armies was a small fordable stream. Soult at this time did not know that the Spanish Generals, Blake and Castanos, plus 14,000 Spanish troops, had joined Beresford's British Portuguese Army and that he was, therefore, opposed by 35,000 men, so with his vast experience of many battlefields, the situation must have seemed a most promising one. His concentrations had not been inter-



ferred with by British cavalry owing to the ineptness of Gen. Long, the British cavalry leader, who was subsequently relieved of his command by Beresford. Moreover, the British Commander had obviously not been very clever in his choice of position. Admittedly, Wellington had selected this ground, but I cannot imagine that he would have expected Beresford to position his troops on the high ground and the forward slopes in full view of the French, who were hidden in the woods, thus offering a good target for the French artillery—their strongest arm. For here was the perfect Wellington battlefield—almost like a miniature Waterloo—complete with those reverse slope positions, which he loved so much, just over the brow of the rising ground.

Had Wellington been present there would have been a very different story to tell, and Albuhera would not have gone down to history as a supreme example of the soldiers' battle when the courage and steadiness of the regimental officers and men won the day in spite of the mistakes of the higher command. Soult, using the woods to conceal his movements, succeeded in surprising Beresford. He started by launching a small subsidiary frontal attack on the village itself, which was held by the German Legion, but at the same time

despatched his 5th Corps, under Girard, and all his cavalry in his main effort wide round the allied right flank, where the Spanish troops were positioned. Beresford still thought the main attack would come in the centre and was slow to support the Spaniards who took the first brunt of the French onslaught. Though heavily outnumbered they fought most gallantly but were gradually forced back. Too late in the day Beresford awoke to the danger which threatened his right flank. He now ordered Stewart's 2nd Division to move to the support of the Spaniards but Colborne's right brigade was cut to pieces by the French cavalry before it could form square, losing 58 officers and 1,190 other ranks in a matter of minutes. It was the 1st Polish Lancers who did the most damage, even spearing the wounded as they lay on the ground: they also succeeded in getting through the lines and reaching the small mound in the centre from which the British Commander was directing the battle. Beresford and his staff had a hectic few minutes parrying lance thrusts with their swords before they were rescued by the arrival of the British cavalry. It must have been a scene of wild confusion with the British right flank slowly giving way. But now the superb British infantry came to the rescue. Maj.-Gen. Houghton's 3rd Brigade, consisting of the 29th, 57th and 1st/48th Regiments, were ordered to move up to the Spaniard's support. Houghton himself rode at the head of his Brigade wearing a green frock coat. When the Brigade was under heavy fire his servant rode up to him with his red uniform coat. He at once, in full sight of the whole Brigade and much to the delight of his troops, changed coats without dismounting.

I have grown up in the traditions of this battle. The 57th Foot, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, formed the centre of Houghton's Brigade. As a regimental officer every year, on May 16, I have drunk a toast from our most prized regimental possession, the Albuhera Cup, made from the breast-plates of those who were killed in this battle. And now, 148 years afterwards I followed with pride the course taken by this famous Brigade. As the situation was pressing they moved in open column at the double over to the hill on the right where the Spaniards were beginning to break. There was a thick mist and the rain was blowing into their faces, obscuring visibility. By now the Polish Lancers were messed up with the Spaniards, who, in the general confusion, suffered considerably from the initial musket fire of the 29th and part of the 57th. Col. Inglis, the Commander of the 57th, whose horse had been shot under him, observing this ordered the Regiment to stop firing and order arms. There they stood for some considerable time under heavy fire with their ranks steadily shrinking. The Spaniards were now withdrawn and the whole Brigade advanced with three cheers to the crest of the hill in front, from where the British line opened fire on the massed columns of French infantry advancing upwards. Some 8,000 Frenchmen, reputed to be the best troops in Europe, were advancing against 1,900 British formed in two ranks. In the fire fight which followed the losses on both sides were very heavy. In the British line there was "a constant feeling towards the centre": 40 French guns were tearing gaps in the British ranks. The regimental colour of

the 57th Foot was pierced by 21 holes. Ensign Jackson, carrying it, was wounded and replaced by another Ensign, Veitch by name, who himself was wounded shortly afterwards and so it went on. The C.O., Col. Inglis, was severely wounded by grapeshot which perforated his left breast. Refusing to be carried to the rear, he remained in front of the regimental colours and urged the Battalion, by now reduced almost to company strength, "to die hard"—which they did most gallantly. As Marshal Beresford reported in his despatch: "On the following day their dead were seen lying as they had fought, in two ranks, with every wound in front." For four hours the battle continued as the men bit their cartridges, plied their ramrods and kept on firing, but they were too heavily outnumbered and Beresford reluctantly began to make arrangements to withdraw, when suddenly the intervention of a comparatively junior officer saved the day. Col. Hardinge, who had previously served in the 57th but was now attached to the Portuguese troops, rode up to Sir Lowry Cole, the Commander of the Reserve, consisting of the 4th Division, which for some astonishing reason Beresford had refused to commit to the battle, and asked him to attack the left flank of the French columns on the ridge. Cole had been anxiously watching the British line steadily shrinking in front of him and was only too glad of this opportunity to intervene. So on his own initiative he ordered his division to advance. The effect was instantaneous and a cry went up from the remnants of Houghton's Brigade: "They run, they run," as the French were driven back in confusion over the stream into the woods beyond. The day had been won but at what a cost. In the evening of May 16 those empty fields in front of me had been covered by no fewer than 5,916 allies and 7,900 French dead and wounded. The 57th who had gone into battle with 30 officers and 570 men were now reduced to 10 officers and 150, and the other regiments were the same. All the senior officers were casualties, and the command of the whole Brigade devolved on a Capt. Cemetery, who was, strange to relate, a Frenchman. On the morning after the battle the rations for the whole of No. 2 Company of the 57th were drawn by a drummer, who carried them away in his cap. An eye-witness painted this picture of the battlefield the next day. "Upon it lay upwards of 6,000 men, dead and mostly stark-naked, having been stripped by the Spaniards during the night, their bodies disfigured with dust and clotted blood. The brook was almost choked with bodies of the dead who had crawled there to allay their thirst and its waters were so deeply tinged that it seemed to run blood." As I walked back to my car I came to the conclusion that my Regiment had well earned the name of "Die-Hard," by which we have been known ever since this great soldiers' battle.

Although the Battle of Albuhera was won and Soult's army was forced to withdraw towards Seville, it had not been well handled, and on May 27 Wellington removed Beresford from active command in the field, sending him back to his original task of training the Portuguese Army. It is interesting to compare this battle with the operations further north which were under Wellington's personal command. When a month

previously Massena had arrived at Ciudad Rodrigo with 48,000 men, Wellington determined to bar his progress towards the fortress of Almeida and took up a defensive position near the village of Fuentes d'Onoro. Once more the French attempted a wide outflanking movement round the British right flank and again the defence found itself in difficulties, but, whereas at Albuhera the battle was won by gallantry of the troops and the initiative of the junior Commanders in spite of Beresford's mistake, Fuentes d'Onoro was always under Wellington's direct control. He retrieved the situation on the right flank by sending in the Light Division at exactly the right moment and then when his centre began to give way it was Wellington personally who ordered the counter-attack which saved the day. Yet at Albuhera the allies had outnumbered the French by some 10,000, while at Fuentes d'Onoro Wellington's 37,000 troops had been opposed by 48,000 Frenchmen. From now on the southern detachment was placed under the command of Gen. Rowland Hill, a practical soldier of vast experience.

(To be continued)

OBITUARY

Maj.-Gen. A. C. Arnold, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.C.

The death occurred at Farnham on January 29, 1962, of Maj.-Gen. Allen Cholmondeley Arnold, who was gazetted to the Regiment on September 4, 1912.

He went with the B.E.F. to France on August 11, 1914, and served throughout the 1914-18 War in that theatre of operations. From December 1914 to June 1916 he was detached from the Regiment for duty with the Army Signal Service. Then he held appointments as Staff Captain, Brigade Major and, later, D.A.Q.M.G., until May 1919. He was wounded and mentioned in despatches five times. For his war services he was made a Brevet Major and awarded the O.B.E. and M.C.

In 1919 he took part in the North Russian Campaign.

He went to India in 1921 and saw service on the North-West Frontier. He returned to the United Kingdom in 1925 and two years later was appointed a D.A.A.G. at Headquarters, Scottish Command.

On September 29, 1930, he was promoted Major and transferred to the Royal Fusiliers.

After a tour of duty as G.S.O.2 at the War Office from 1933 to 1937 he again went to India, where he served until 1939.

On August 15, 1939, he was appointed Military Attache in Ankara, with the local rank of Brigadier, and he served in this capacity until the end of the war.

For his war services he was mentioned in despatches and made a C.B.E.

He retired in 1946 with the honorary rank of Major-General.

Subsequent to his retirement he joined the Government of India Food Department and for his services was made a C.I.E.

Col. N. H. Moller, O.B.E.

Nils Henry Moller died suddenly on Sunday, January 28, 1962.

At the service at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, on Thursday, February 1, 1962, which preceded the funeral, Col. F. Walden represented the Regiment. Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O., a cousin of the deceased, was also present.

As it has not yet been possible to get all the details required, a full obituary notice must be held over for publication in the next issue of the Journal.

Lt.-Col. T. A. Hall, T.D.

Thomas Arthur Hall died suddenly on February 24, 1962, in Paris, where he had gone with a party to see the England v. France International Rugby match.

He joined the 2/8th Battalion from the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1938 when the Territorial Army expanded and, except for a short period as Commandant of 61st Divisional Battle School in 1943, he served with this Battalion (later to become the 1st Battalion), first as a Company Commander and later as 2IC, until the end of the 1939-45 War.

He was a well-known Rugby player, having played for his school, Haileybury College, and for many years for Eastern Counties. He also played for London in matches against Paris and, after his playing days were over, he became Vice-President of the Eastern Counties Rugby Union and was on the Selection Committee of the London Rugby Union.

He was a staunch boxer, and fought as a heavyweight in the undefeated team of the 2/8th Battalion, which won the Divisional and Command Team Championships in Northern Ireland from 1941 to 1944.

By profession he was a solicitor and was a partner in the firm of Turbeville Smith and Co., of Uxbridge.

After the war he took a very active part in the Uxbridge Branch of the Regimental Association, and had been its Chairman for some years.

He leaves a widow, a son, now at Haileybury, and a daughter. To them all we extend our deepest sympathy in their sudden, tragic loss.

Col. W. D. Ellis writes:

"In the untimely death of Tommy Hall I have lost not only a personal friend but a friend of the Regiment."

"We first met in 1937 when he was on attachment to the Uxbridge Company of the 8th Battalion from the Royal Norfolk, but as the war clouds grew he transferred to our Regiment and was the first Company Commander of 'A' Company, 2/8th Battalion, on its formation."

"Those of us who served with him throughout the war will remember well his colourful personality. He was a great sportsman and was always in demand as a high-class, thrusting, aggressive, rugged forward, and his achievements in the boxing ring always drew a big audience. These qualities made him the obvious choice to command our Divisional Battle School, which he did with marked success."

"When we moved overseas to France shortly after 'D' Day he had returned as 2IC of the Battalion, and

in this capacity he was always a very cheerful visitor to our Companies deployed on a very wide front. I never feel that this appointment ever provided the right scope for this officer who had shown such courage and determination in the field of sport. Nevertheless, he applied himself to this administrative role with his usual good humour and cheerfulness."

"When the war was over he left the Battalion to set up and run an officers' leave centre on the outskirts of Hamburg, where his fame as a hotelier spread far and wide."

"After the war he played a very active part in the Uxbridge 'Die-Hards' Club and had been its chairman for many years."

Col. F. Walden writes:

"I first met Tommy when I took over command of the 2/8th Battalion at Whetsone in October, 1940."

"He was one of the most loyal officers any Commanding Officer could have serving under his command, and a natural leader who, unfortunately, never had the opportunity of showing his powers of leadership in action."

"Tommy had a gay, colourful personality, and he will be remembered by his many friends for his keen sense of humour, great generosity and infectious cheerfulness."

Major L. Dawes

Major Leonard Dawes died suddenly at 4 Gloucester Avenue, Margate, on January 10, 1962, aged 76.

He was commissioned as a Second-Lieutenant into the Regiment from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on January 14, 1906.

On April 17, 1913, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps (later to become the Royal Air Force) and remained with that Corps until the end of World War I, finally commanding a squadron with the rank of Squadron Commander and temporary Major.

For his war services he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the French Legion of Honour (Croix de Chevalier).

He rejoined the Regiment on February 4, 1920, and was posted to the 57th, which was then stationed at Milton Barracks, Gravesend.

He retired on retired pay on March 11, 1922.

Capt. W. G. Taylor

Capt. William George Taylor died peacefully in his sleep at his home at Leigh-on-Sea, on Friday, February 23, 1962. He was in his 95th year.

The full story of his service with the Regiment was given in *The Die-Hards* for September 1961.

He paid a visit to Regimental Headquarters and to Battalion Headquarters of the 5th Battalion at Deansbrook Road, on Saturday, September 30, last and assured me he had had a very enjoyable evening with old friends, and in the Mess of his old Battalion again. In his reply to the speech of welcome he surprised those present with the power of his voice. It was no surprise to men who served with him at the turn of the century when his voice was recognised as the most powerful in the Army.

A happy and alert old gentleman who lived his life to the full, he was proud to be known as "Grandfather Die-Hard," a term of affection given to him since it was discovered he was the oldest of our veterans. Until a few days before his sudden death, he was attending socials in his local club.

He leaves a widow and a married daughter, who has acted as a son to him since his two sons were killed in the First World War. To them we tender our deepest sympathy.

The funeral was attended by Major R. W. J. Smith, representing the Colonel and All Ranks of the Regiment, and by C.S.M. W. Wright, representing the 5th Battalion.

At the widow's wish the only two wreaths to be placed on the plot after the service were those of the Regiment and of the 5th Battalion.

On return from the service Mrs. Taylor asked C.S.M. Wright to accept, as a personal gift, the stick presented to her husband by Col. Collison—a very kind gesture.

R.W.J.S.

Lt. W. Cheeseman

William Cheeseman died on December 1, 1961, aged 81 years.

Bill Cheeseman originally enlisted in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of The Middlesex Regiment on November 14, 1898. He continued to serve in this Battalion when it was renumbered the 5th (Militia) Battalion on the formation of the 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions in January 1900.

Embodied for the Boer War, he served in that campaign with the rank of Sergeant and enlisted into the newly-formed 3rd Battalion on November 19, 1902. His enlistment into the Regular Forces was as a Private but three years later he was promoted Corporal and on December 20, 1911, he again became a fully-fledged member of the Sergeants' Mess.

Returning to England from India, to his dismay, he did not go to France in 1914, but was chosen as an instructor to the newly-formed Service Battalions, his appointment being the Sergeant-Major of the 12th (Service) Battalion, at that time starting their training at Middlewick Camp, Colchester. His methods were so successful that he was again to suffer disappointment when his Battalion went to France in 1915. He was again posted to train the men of the New Army in England.

The following year he went to France where, on August 21, 1917, he was appointed to a Permanent Regular Army Commission, resigning on April 30, 1919.

In addition to the Queen's South Africa Medal with three bars, he was awarded the British War and Victory Medals for the First World War.

Bill Cheeseman lived at the bottom of Bittacy Hill for many years and was a man of cheerful disposition. After suffering a stroke which affected his speech two years ago, he was still as merry a companion as ever and when his speech would not allow him to give an immediate greeting, he would merrily wave his walking stick to his friends. Those friends were many and in all walks of life so that the short stroll from his flat to "the

local" was reminiscent of the squire of the village greeting, and being greeted, by all he met.

A fortnight before he died the writer arranged a meeting between the old R.S.M. and one of his young recruits of 1914; the recruit of those days is ex-Sgt. Bob Ryder, v.c. It was a cheery meeting and made the old soldier very happy.

The words cheerful, merry and happy are not out of place in this obituary, as that was how Bill Cheeseman spent his declining years, cheerfully, happily and merrily.

Major R. W. J. Smith attended the funeral as the representative of the Regiment.

R.W.J.S.

R.Q.M.S. H. T. Baker, D.C.M.

Henry Baker (6188421) died on December 13, 1961, aged 74 years.

"Doughy" Baker enlisted into the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment on March 7, 1905, and the whole of his service was spent with that Battalion.

He served with it in the Channel Isles and was promoted Corporal on August 2nd, 1909. Whilst the Battalion was stationed at Warley he was promoted from Lance-Sergeant to Sergeant on June 1, 1913. The same month he qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe, and so started his career as one of the most successful of our instructors of musketry.

On September 3, 1913, he embarked on H.T. *Soudan* with "H" Company for the start of an overseas tour at Malta. The next month he was transferred on the newly-formed four company organisation.

He came home with the 2nd Battalion in September 1914 and went to France in November. After a series of three-day tours in the line, he took part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, March 10, 1915, and the following month was promoted to Colour-Sergeant.

The *London Gazette* of January 14, 1916, published the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in the field. Later he was on two separate occasions mentioned in despatches for his courage.

In April 1919 he was the first C.Q.M.S. to join the advance party of the 2nd Battalion re-forming at Meeanee Barracks, Colchester. From there the Battalion went to Shorncliffe and then to continue the overseas tour in Egypt on August 21, 1919. When the 2nd Battalion left for Singapore, in January 1922, he remained in Egypt as an instructor at the School of Musketry and joined the Battalion 11 months later. He was promoted W.O. Class II and appointed C.S.M.I.M. w.e.f. January 10, 1923.

He arrived in India in October 1923 and, with the unit, went to Ahmednagar where he started a series of musketry classes as well as being the Company Sergeant-Major of Headquarters Wing. This appointment he held until promoted to Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant on December 30, 1924. The new appointment brought a great deal of work with it as he had to ensure the Battalion were turned out to perfection in their uniform and accoutrements for the presentation of the new Colours by Gen. Sir Claud Jacob, the Commander-in-Chief, on July 15, 1925.

The following year he left the Battalion with which he had served for 21 years and was discharged to pension, February 6, 1926, with the remarks on his papers that he was "a stout fighting man."

On retirement he was employed as barrack warden at Bovington Camp, Dorchester and Lulworth and, after the 1939-45 War, he was sub-postmaster at Hellidon, near Daventry, Northants, where he remained until he was retired at the age of 65.

In addition to the Distinguished Conduct Medal he was awarded the 1914 Star and Clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt.-Dmr. J. W. Waghorn

Jesse William Waghorn died on November 16, 1961.

Unfortunately the news of his decease did not reach Regimental Headquarters in time to enable a representative from the Regiment to attend his funeral.

The brief records of his service are given below.

He enlisted as a boy on February 1, 1899, and was posted to the newly-formed 4th Battalion as a Private on March 15, 1900. Five months later he joined the 3rd Battalion and served with that Battalion until March 1902, when he was posted to the Regimental Depot at Hounslow.

After completing his tour of duty at the Depot he joined the 2nd Battalion in February 1903 and remained with them until December 1910, when he was posted as an N.C.O. on the staff of the 6th (Militia) Battalion at Mill Hill.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 he went to Gillingham with the 6th Battalion and remained with that unit until posted to the 5th (Militia) Battalion as a Sergeant in November 1918.

In 1921 he claimed his discharge after three months' notice, finally retiring to pension on February 16, 1922, having served 23 years and 16 days.

He was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt. R. J. Langridge

Richard James Langridge, late 10th Battalion (T.A.), died on February 17, 1962, aged 74.

Apart from the fact that he appears to have served in India between 1914 and 1919 no other information about him is available.

Sgt. W. S. Tims

Walter Sidney Tims died in February 1962, aged 83.

He enlisted as a Drummer Boy on June 8, 1893, and served during the Boer War with the 2nd Battalion.

After his spell of active service he joined the 1st Battalion and served with them in India and Burma until he was transferred to the Army Reserve.

Rejoining the Colours in August 1914 he served with the Bedfordshire Regiment until December 1916 when he returned to his old Regiment and was posted to the 14th Battalion.

He was transferred to the Labour Corps in May 1917 and served with them until April 1918 when he was posted back to the Bedfordshire Regiment.

For his services he was awarded the following medals: Queen's South Africa, 1914 Star, British War and Victory, and the Long Service and Good Conduct.

R.W.J.S.

Pte. H. J. Hagley

Information was received in January last that Henry James Hagley had died.

Full details of his service are not at present available, but it is known that he served in World War I in Service Battalions of the Regiment and was mentioned in despatches.

He was later wounded in Flanders and, on recovery, was transferred to the Labour Corps.

Pte. A. Henderson

The above named, formerly of the 4th Battalion, died suddenly at Watford on January 14, 1962, and we are indebted to Mr. S. F. Turner, a member of the Mill Hill Branch, who lives at Watford, for the details given below.

Mr. Henderson enlisted into the Regiment somewhere about 1913-14 by greatly increasing his age. He went with the 4th Battalion to France, where he celebrated his sixteenth birthday. As soon as his correct age was known he was sent home. He then served for a long period at the Depot before he was finally discharged.

He was one of the founder-members of the Old Contemptibles and was secretary of the Watford Branch for nearly 40 years. He was reckoned to be the youngest Old Contemptible in the country.

He was on the committee of the Watford ex-Service-men's Club for over 30 years, and was one of the original members of their Bowls Club.

He also belonged to the R.A.O.B.

Pte. W. G. Locking

William George Locking served in the Regiment in World War I and after demobilisation worked at Haileybury College for nearly 40 years.

He was watching a school rugby match at Dulwich on October 21 last year but died of heart trouble early the next morning at his home at Hertford Heath.

He must be known to many Old Comrades as he "never missed a reunion dinner."

Unfortunately we were not aware of his death at the time and so were unable to send either a representative or a floral tribute.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow in her tragic loss.

Pte. H. J. Page

Henry John Page (6190539) died on January 5, 1962, aged 61 years.

He joined the Regiment on April 5, 1919, and served at home until March 1920 when he went to Germany to join the 3rd Battalion. Returning home in October 1921,

he had his furlough and left to join the 2nd Battalion then on their way to Singapore from Egypt.

He served with the Battalion throughout its tour in Singapore and moved with it to India on October 6, 1923. On completion of his engagement abroad he was posted to the Home Establishment on October 11, 1928, and was transferred to the Army Reserve on October 30 that year.

During the Second World War he served with the R.A. from September 11, 1941, until November 4, 1945.

At his funeral, on January 12, 1962, the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith.

Pte. L. S. Smith

Louis Stanley Smith died at Kingsmead Old People's Home on December 29, 1961.

He served overseas in 1915, and in 1916 was posted to the 1st Home Service Garrison Battalion.

He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals.

Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment at his funeral at Horsell, near Woking, on January 4, 1962.

Capt. G. C. Druce

With reference to the obituary notice published in the December 1961 issue, Lt.-Col. Hervey del Court writes as follows:

"I have just had *The Die-Hards* and see G. C. Druce has died. He joined the 4th Battalion at Devonport in August 1911. At that time there was a hue and cry for Dr. Crippen and Miss Le Neve who had sailed from Antwerp for Canada in the S.S. *Montrose*. An inspector sailed from Liverpool in a faster steamer and arrested them when they landed. When Druce marched on parade at Devonport there was a whisper from the O.R.s: 'Who's that?' 'Crippen, of course.' That nickname always stuck to him.

"After being captured at Mons and a prisoner for many years, he was interned at the Hague, and married a charming Hollander, a daughter of a well-known doctor, Dr. Verser. There were two children from this marriage, a son and a daughter. After he retired he lived at Le Zoute on the Belgian coast. His son served in the 2nd Battalion under me and won a D.S.O. and bar, and a M.C. parachuting into Java.

"'Crippen' Druce sailed with me in H.M.T. *Prito* in No. 1 Special Company for North Russia. The officers were Major Drew, Major W. E. Williams, Capt. Curzons, Lt. (A.Capt.) del Court, Lt. Druce, Lt. Whinney, Lt. Sobey, Lt. Barker and Lt. Toye.

"On arrival many officers went off, Drew to command the centre column and myself to command the Company. Although Druce was senior to me he became my Adjutant and Quartermaster as he had had no war experience. He was a most loyal and engaging personality and always wore a rimless monocle. It was a very pleasant command, about 300 O.R.s, a band commanded by a Bandmaster from the Royal Sussex, four officers commanding platoons and Druce as Adjutant and Quartermaster."

CORRESPONDENCE

From Lt.-Col. A. J. Ross, D.L., High Sheriff of the County of Middlesex:

Frenthun Cottage,
20 Grimsdyke Crescent,
Barnet, Herts.

January 12, 1962.

DEAR COL. WALDEN,

I very much enjoyed my recent visit to the Regimental Museum at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, and further to our conversation on old Colours, the Colours in the Ravenscroft Chapel of St. John the Baptist Church, Chipping Barnet, Herts, are those of the 2nd Royal West Middlesex Regiment, which joined part of the Provisional Battalion which volunteered to serve abroad during the Peninsular War. This Battalion with others held Bordeaux at the conclusion of the peace in 1814, the Battalion returned to England, and re-joined its respective Regiments and the Colours were deposited in Chipping Barnet Church.

The verger, Mr. L. H. Powell, who served in the 1914-18 War in the 13th Middlesex (T.M.B.), has been verger for 28 years, and makes it his personal responsibility to see the Colours are kept free of dust.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) JAMES ROSS.

(This information has been most gratefully received and acknowledged by Regimental Headquarters. The details of these Colours have been added to the Regimental Records.—EDITOR.)

From Col. W. A. Stewart, O.B.E.

Harrold House,
Harrold,
Bedfordshire.
February 3, 1962

To the Editor of THE DIE-HARDS
DEAR SIR,

Whilst inspecting the memorial to three nephews of mine, all brothers, killed in the last war I came across a handsome memorial tablet near the pulpit in Newport Pagnall parish church.

The inscription reads:—

In memory of Henry Miller Powell Captain
57th Regt. killed by lightning at
Newport Pagnall Oct 28th, 1876
aged 28 years erected
in loving remembrance by his late
comrades.

One wonders whether the 57th were camped at Newport Pagnall in 1876: two Powells have been officers in the Regiment since 1899, who may have been related to the unfortunate Captain H. M. Powell.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) W. A. STEWART

[Henry Miller Powell served with the 57th Regt. in the Maori War, returning to England as a Lieutenant on July 28, 1867. Our records show that he was struck by lightning whilst on leave.—EDITOR.]

From Major E. L. Heywood

SIR,

On a recent visit to Winchester, I went to the Cathedral and, on the wall near the south transept, came across a memorial to an officer of the Regiment, which read as follows:

" Sacred

to the memory of

LIEUTENANT ARTHUR FRANCIS MAINE

of H.M. 77th Regt. of Foot

second son of the Revd. J. T. Maine of

Bighton Wood in this county;

who after having been mercifully

preserved at the battles of

ALMA and INKERMAN

died in the camp of the Light Division

before Sebastopol, on the 21st day of

Novr. 1854, of dysentery and fever,

brought on by exposure in the trenches;

in the 23rd year of his age.

He died beloved and

regretted by his brother officers."

Later I asked Major Smith whether he could supply any further information and elicited these facts:—

Ensign A. F. Maine embarked on board the *Kangaroo* at Liverpool on March 10, 1854, and sailed the following day for Malta.

Embarked on the *Indus*, and sailed on April 9 for the Dardanelles, disembarking at Scutari on April 16.

On May 29 embarked for Varna disembarking on 31st.

Finally, on November 21, 1854, "Lt. Maine died in camp today of fever."

Yours faithfully,
E. L. HEYWOOD

February 16, 1962.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

During 1961 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 16,953, which was 85 per cent. of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 49 branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 6,118 were from the Army and 25 were from your Regiment.

If, when you get home, you have forgotten, lost or have never been told the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office or to your own Regimental Association. They'll be able to give it to you.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Middlesex Regiment



(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

Headquarters: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Brigadier J. E. F. Willoughby, O.B.E.

Chairman: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.

Vice-chairman:

Secretary: Col. F. Walden.

BRANCHES

Branch	Hon. Secretary	Meetings	Place
Ealing	Mr. F. Hutchings, 2 Longhook Gardens, Grange Estate, Northolt, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
Enfield	Major A. T. Jones, M.B.E., T.D., 4 Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 1st Friday.	T.A. Centre, Old Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.
Hong Kong ..	Major W. T. J. Lane, M.B.E., H.Q., Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O.1.		
Hornsey	Mr. C. Holdford, T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.	Quarterly, usually on a Wednesday.	T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Hounslow ..	Mr. J. Castree, 20 Heldman Close, Heath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Mill Hill ..	Mr. H. Hull, M.M., 32 Shuttleworth Road, Battersea, S.W.11.	Monthly, on last Saturday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Uxbridge	Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., 88 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex.	Four per year, at irregular intervals, plus an annual dinner.	T.A. Centre, Whitehall Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion ..	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.	Yearly, on 1st Friday in October.	Varies from year to year. Dinner Club only.
9th Battalion ..	Mr. H. J. Fisher, 180 Purves Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.	Monthly, on 1st Friday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
12th Battalion Home Guard	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, 3 Claremont Road, Ealing, W.13.	Two per year, on 1st Friday in May and November.	Varies.

SECRETARYS' NOTES

News from Branches

It is most disappointing that only two of the Branches have contributed notes in this issue of the Journal, and it is earnestly hoped that steps will be taken to rectify this state of affairs before the next issue. There must surely be someone in each Branch who would undertake this simple, but very important, task.

Home Counties Brigade "At Home" Day

This year's Home Counties Brigade "At Home" Day will be Saturday, July 21, at Wemyss Barracks, Canterbury.

Branches who feel inclined to organise a coach party for this occasion are strongly recommended to do so. Their presence at the "At Home" will be most welcome.

Visit to Old People's Home

By chance we discovered quite recently that a number of ex-members of the Regiment were living in Luxborough Lodge, Luxborough Street, London, W.1—a home for aged folks. A visit was therefore paid, as a result of which it was found that 17 of the inmates had served in the Regiment. Their particulars are as follows:

Name	Age	Period of Service	Battalion in Which Served
J. Gurney	88	1893-1918	1st
H. Eve	84	1915-19	Served with Labour Battalions
A. Ricketts	84	1915-19	3rd
E. Sweet	83	1913-19	7th (T.A.)
J. Morse	82	1915-19	31st (Works)
G. Brown	80	1914-19	5th (Militia)
H. Hobbs	80	1914-19	3rd and 4th
A. Richards	80	1902-18	1st, 3rd and 4th
G. Humphreys	79	1899-1906	6th (Militia)
A. Bush	76	1905-19	2nd, 4th, 5th (Militia) and 6th (Militia)
S. Attwell	75	1915-19	9th (T.A.)
H. Foreman	75	1914-19	7th (T.A.)
J. Pearce	75	1904-21	1st, 2nd and 4th
E. Horrigan	74	1915-20	21st (Service)
R. Bryant	72	1908-18	1st and 2nd
W. Collett	72	1915-18	3/9th (T.A.)
H. Kite	62	Not yet known	

There is no doubt that these old soldiers would appreciate further visits, and it is hoped that some of the Branches may be able to arrange this.

The visiting hours are from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. daily.

Appeal, 1961—Increase in Subscriptions

The Secretary thanks the following, who have increased their annual subscription in response to last year's appeal:

Mr. C. A. W. Baker, Mr. J. R. Baker, Mr. F. L. Barker, Major H. B. Birdwood, Lieutenant-General G. C. Bucknall, Major J. G. Chiverall, Capt. W. E. H. Grayburn, Brigadier R. A. Gwyn, Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, Lt.-Col. W. W. Jefferd, Mr. G.

Jones Walters, Lt.-Col. A. R. Joyce, Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Lt. M. D. Legg, Col. J. K. Maitland, Major B. H. Marciandi, Capt. A. E. McManus, Mr. F. H. Nash, Major F. J. Nunn, Major A. E. Peasley, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, Capt. A. F. E. Robinson, Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, Lt.-Col. E. W. F. de Salis, Mr. F. Saltmarsh, Major H. Sherwood, Major J. N. Shipster, Mr. K. V. Sutton, Mr. K. J. M. Wadman and Col. F. Walden.

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the following to the Regimental Association Charitable Fund:

Mr. A. R. Drane, Brigadier A. E. Green, Mr. W. H. E. Northcott, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel, Major P. C. Sneath, Mr. F. Turner, Capt. W. Ward and Lt. M. Wild.

HORNSEY BRANCH

Here we are back again in this hopeful year of 1962. Our annual meeting took place at Hornsey T.A. Centre on Wednesday, January 31. Attendance was not as we would have liked it, but we soon got under way with our agenda.

We are very pleased to inform all our members that Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson has now taken over Chairman of the Hornsey Branch, and we sincerely hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

In our last notes we mentioned the forming of the Hornsey "Die-Hards" Rifle Club. We have given this priority, and letters regarding the rules and procedure have already been sent to all of our members, thanks to Mr. "Whipper" Sills, our treasurer, who penned all the addresses. We have been told that this was done during his tour of duty on the back of a bus!

At the time of writing, we are still in the grip of the winter snow. Colds and 'flu have kept our attendances rather low, and we hope that all our members will soon be fit and well and with us once more.

C. H.

MILL HILL BRANCH

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the passing of Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P., whose obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

He will be sadly missed by all members of this branch to whom he was well known, many of whom mustered on his last parade to pay their last respects to a true "Die-Hard."

I knew "Morry," as we affectionately called him, having served under him when he was a Company Commander in the 1st Battalion, and again when he was P.R.I. and Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, and I can say without fear or prejudice I know of no one who held the interest of his men or Regiment at heart more than he. We mourn the passing of a true friend and comrade.

It is also my sad duty to report the passing of our oldest member—one whom we looked upon as the grandfather of "Die-Hards," Mr. W. G. ("Docherty") Taylor, who was called to rest on February 23, at the age of 95. Those who were present at the September meeting

no doubt recall his wish, that he was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday at a branch meeting. He looked so hale and hearty then that we all thought that wish would be granted.

I leave the writing of a tribute to this gallant old gentleman to more capable hands, for I am sure one will be found elsewhere in this issue.

To Mrs. Taylor and family we offer our deepest sympathy.

As the new chairman of this branch, I am proud to have the privilege of passing on its members' thanks to my predecessor, Major P. F. Newman, for his untiring efforts to make and keep this branch the success that it has been. During his long term of office as chairman he did everything that was possible for his members, many a time getting into hot water to obtain that which he considered the branches should have. To Mrs. Newman our thanks also. She has greatly assisted in the entertainment field.

The Christmas draw, which has now become a regular feature of this branch, was held on December 9, and was a huge success. The attendance was excellent and I am sure everyone present enjoyed themselves, even though some were not lucky to draw a prize. Thanks are due to the following ladies for the great help given: Mrs. Clarke for her help in selecting the prizes, Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Baldwin for arranging them, and Mrs. Smith for assisting in the draw. The first two ladies also did a good job of work in presenting the prizes and in the sale of raffle tickets. In the latter they did more than well, as quite a few members know, since they were sold out in no time. If anyone is looking for a couple of good sales ladies, I can thoroughly recommend these two; they could sell the Brooklyn Bridge to President Kennedy. Our thanks to Mr. J. Lowe for his gift of bottles of good cheer which were the prizes of the second raffle. Lastly, my own thanks to all who came along, for giving support and contributing towards a very pleasant evening.

We were very pleased to welcome to our January meeting Bert Finch, ex-Orderly Room R.Q.M.S. of Depot and 1st Battalion, and his wife, Sylvia. Although Bert has been a member of the club since it was formed, his visits have been very few and far between, due to the fact that, since he left the Service just after the last war, he has lived in Chatham, where he has been employed in the Post Office. Now, after 15 years as a postal worker, he has decided to go slow for good, and has retired on another pension. He assures us that now he is a gentleman of leisure we shall be seeing more of him, as he wishes to renew the acquaintance of the many friends he made whilst serving. His wife, Sylvia, I am sorry to say, was admitted to hospital soon after their visit and underwent an operation. She was, however, on the road to recovery when these notes were written and, I am pleased to say, expecting to be discharged. To her, our best wishes for a quick return to health.

Another old friend whom we were pleased to see at the same meeting was Mrs. Mantell, the wife of the late R.S.M. R. Mantell, who was Company Sergeant-Major of, I think, "B" Company 2nd Battalion in the early twenties, before he was posted to the Home Establish-

ment. He took over R.S.M. of the Depot, where he remained until he was discharged to pension. To her, and any other of our old friends, we say "Welcome," visit us as often as you like. You may not see that word on the mat as you enter the portals of our home, but it is in our hearts.

We recently received a letter from Fred Sadler, late 2nd Battalion, apologising for his infrequent attendance. This, I am sure you will agree, is excusable when I tell you that his time is fully occupied as hon. secretary of the Slough Branch of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association plus one or two other branch jobs, and by all accounts he is doing a worthwhile job and upholding the tradition of the "Die-Hards." He is still an excellent shot, notwithstanding that he has only one arm, for recently he took a team consisting of one legless Baronet, two one-armed ex-soldiers, four with only one leg, two friends and one woman, to challenge the Guards at their Pirbright Depot to a shooting match. And they returned amazed even at their own performance. They lost the match by only 14 shots against the Regulars and it was up to one-armed Fred Sadler to return the highest score of the day, one short of the possible.

Fred's remarks of the result of the match were: "Of course, we were delighted with our showing; hardly any of us had seen a rifle for about 20 years; in fact, I have never fired one since during the war."

The one woman in the team was Fred's wife, Joy, who stepped in at the last moment as substitute although she had never handled a rifle before. She scored 19 for the B.L.E.S.M.A. team—far from the lowest score of the afternoon.

May I, on behalf of members of all branches, tender our best wishes to Fred and Joy in the good work they are doing and wish them success and good fortune for the future.

Letters have also been received from Mr. S. Fuller and Mr. T. Christman. We are, I am sure, all sorry to hear that both of these members have been in hospital, but I am pleased to say that they are now progressing and hope that they will be fit enough to pay us a visit in the very near future.

We also heard from our old friend Bob Ryder, v.c., who, although he lives at Hucknall, Notts, keeps in touch by letter and, when possible, by visiting us. He has, after much persuasion by Major Newman, given us certain particulars of his service, and the action in which he won the V.C. This, I think is very interesting. I therefore pass it on hoping that you will find as much interest in it as I did. He and his wife are in the best of health and both are looking forward to their next visit and meeting with their many friends.

I should now like to give you the object of the branches of the Regimental Association, which are called the "Die-Hards" Clubs: it is to "Foster and maintain the spirit of comradeship between all those who have worn the Middlesex cap badge and to promote *esprit de corps*. It is because of these objects that I am making this appeal to all serving members who are about to return to civilian life, and to those ex-members who do not belong to any branch. We serve, or have served, in

a regiment which has very great traditions, of which I have no doubt you are all proud. We have also made friends and comrades, and though one can make friends in civilian life, there is not the same spirit as that which we find in the friends made whilst in the Service. Let me give you an example of what I mean and give it a try. The next time you are out, walk into a place of entertainment, a club, a public house, any other place where people gather, and I think you will find that no one will come up and speak to you and yet they will all appear friendly. Now walk into any branch of the "Die-Hards" Clubs. It will not matter if your face is known or not, the fact that you are, or have been, a member of the Regiment is enough for all present to welcome and speak to you and to treat you as if they had known you all their lives. They will not speak of the good old days or of what the Army was like, how they had won battles, or the medals they have won. They know only too well there were fellows in The Middlesex Regiment before them, and there are those who are coming after you. The medals they wear at certain functions are not worn to belittle those who have none, but as a mark of respect towards the Regiment, for the medals and decorations we wear, were really awarded to the Regiment, and we were chosen to display them on the Regiment's behalf. Now it is to maintain this spirit of comradeship and to promote *esprit de corps* that I am asking all you who are due to embark upon civilian life, to get in touch with your nearest branch. The addresses of all branches appear elsewhere in this issue. Come along one meeting night and bring your good lady as well; she will be more than welcome. I am sure you will be more than pleased with your reception and I am positive that you will want to become a member.

May I now draw your attention once again to the Annual Albuhera Dinner that my predecessor wrote about in the last issue of the Journal. It is being held on Saturday, May 12, at "The Cornwall Rooms," The White Lion Hotel, Edgware, which is practically opposite the drill hall. The cost to members and their ladies is 16s. per head; guests 17s. 6d. Particulars have already been sent out to members in a Monthly News Letter, but if you have not received this let me know. I will only be too pleased to forward particulars to you. My address is 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, or, better still, send the money along to the treasurer, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., 11 Cavendish Avenue, Finchley, N.3, and tickets will be forwarded to you.

To all past and present members of the Regiment we send greetings and best wishes.

L.R.J.

The following are the particulars, referred to in the above notes, given by Mr. R. Ryder, V.C., to Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E.:

I was born on December 17, 1895, in the small village of Harefield, Middlesex, in a house in Breakspear Road, known as the old workhouse, which is the oldest house now standing in that village. I was the youngest of 13, there being six boys and seven girls. I started school at the age of three, my parents paying one penny per week for my education. At the age of 15 I was driving a hay cart to London. This meant starting at 12 o'clock

at night and finishing at 7 o'clock the following evening. At the age of 18 I married and went into the building trade. Along came the First World War when, on September 3, 1914, I enlisted at Mill Hill in my county regiment, The Middlesex, and was sent to Colchester for training. I was posted to the 12th Battalion under the command of Col. Glover, the Battalion having just been formed as part of the 54th Brigade of the 18th Division. The Divisional Commander was Gen. Sir Ivor Maxse.

Early in 1915 we went to France, moving straight into the fighting line. From then on, we held the trenches along the Somme, until the Battle of the Somme in 1916, during which, after bitter fighting, we took Trones Wood. I was a No. 1 Lewis-gunner, and after The West Kents, who were cut off, had got a message through asking for a Machine-gun Section to help them, I volunteered. Unfortunately we were driven back, four of my section being wounded. For this action I was recommended for bravery.

Next we were at Thiepval, which had been taken and lost several times. At mid-day, September 26, 1916, we went over the top to attack. At the first check I volunteered to take my gun on and take the trench which was holding up the Battalion. I succeeded in getting to the parapet of the German trench, which was 200 yards from the English lines, and enfiladed it with fire. The trench was taken and it was reported by my Colonel that I had killed from 100-120 Germans. Of my section I had lost the other five. After this trench was captured I went on to the next, about 40 yards further on. Half-way we had to take cover and await the tanks. Then, having run out of ammunition, I abandoned the gun and collected the bombs from the dead and wounded and started to bomb the second trench, when I was wounded in the hand and leg. I was then ordered back by an officer of the Northampton Regiment. On my way back I met two German prisoners, whom I made bind me up and go back with me. For this I was again recommended, the third time since being in France. I was sent home to England and went to Norwich Military Hospital, where I remained for about two months, and was then sent on seven days' sick leave. My first leave since leaving England early in 1915. Whilst on leave at my home in Harefield, I received the following letter from my Colonel:

Dear Ryder,

A thousand congratulations on your V.C. which was splendidly earned. It is nearly two months since I recommended you and Edwards for the award, and I was beginning to get very anxious when today's newspaper brought in the great news.

I felt wonderfully proud of the Battalion, two V.C.s, four Military Crosses, three D.C.M.s and 34 Military Medals for one action. I do not think another Regiment in France or anywhere can touch this record. I hope you will be recommended home in due course to be decorated by the King, that will be another great day in your life. Best of luck to you and, again, many, many congratulations.

F. W. MAXWELL.

Another letter which I received was from my platoon officer:

Dear Ryder,

My heartiest congratulations. I am not surprised to hear that you have won the V.C. as I have always had a very high opinion of you, and knew that, if ever you had the opportunity, you would rise to the occasion. Your family have good reason to be proud of you.

From your Platoon Officer,
W. E. INSKIP READ.

and this one from the Company Captain:

Pte. Robert Ryder,

I write to congratulate you most heartily and sincerely on the great honour you have done for us all. I know how proud all the old officers and men would be to know that the first V.C. was won by "B" Company. Cpl. Edwards is still with the Battalion and I hope you will soon come back again to help teach the new men to carry on in the place of those gone.

I wish you the very best of luck and success in the future.

C. BINGRY.

After my leave was up I reported back to the 6th Battalion and was put in a N.C.O.s' class. Within a week I had passed out for my first stripe. I then went on the square, training recruits. During this time I was summoned to Buckingham Palace to receive the V.C. from King George V. This was a great day in my life. I had not let my people at home know that I was going to the Palace, but they had in the meantime been notified by the War Office. When I came out of the Palace they were all there, but I just slipped away, I just could not face them. I went home and waited for them there. I was then given 10 days' leave, which turned out to be a busy time, with people coming with congratulations and attending parties.

I rejoined the Regiment and went back on the square, but could not settle down, so I volunteered for France again and was sent back to my old Battalion. I was promoted to Corporal and, after a time in the trenches, promoted to Sergeant. After a few months' fighting I was again wounded, and came back to England and into hospital in Nottingham for treatment. After my leave from hospital, I was sent to Ireland for further treatment to my wounds, where I remained until the war ended.

On returning to civilian life I went to Uxbridge to buy some working clothes and whilst there I saw two heavy horses drawing a waggon, galloping down the road. I straight away ran and hung on one, and just managed to bring them to a halt, in time to save some children who were playing on their way from school. For this I was awarded a Certificate for Gallantry.

After three days at home I started work in the building trade, working my way up to foreman.

Then came the 1939 War, when I again enlisted—in the Royal Sussex Regiment. After a week I was pro-

moted to Sergeant, training recruits. After 12 months I was transferred to the Royal Engineers, bridge-building.

In 1943 I was discharged as over age, and went on Government work. When the war ended I went to Canada and took a farm and came back to England for the Coronation in 1953. Owing to my war wounds I was unable to return to Canada so stayed in England, being a cripple on crutches ever since.

2/10th BATTALION, THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, O.C.A.

The 34th Reunion Dinner of the 2/10th Battalion (1914-18) will be held on Saturday, May 12, 1962 (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.), at the Bolton Hotel, 326 Earls Court Road, S.W.5. Details can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, A. D. Scudamore, of 30 Palewell Park, East Sheen, S.W.14, who is anxious to contact any ex-member of the Battalion who may be unaware of this annual gathering.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period from October 1, 1961, to January 31, 1962, the sum of £476 8s. 4d. was used to assist 62 cases.

(b) *Clothing Grants*—Fourteen cases were assisted.

All of these were elderly couples or widows living on a small pension, except the following:

(i) A grant towards the purchase of an overcoat and warm clothing for a man about to be discharged from a chest clinic, where he had been a patient for a long period.

(ii) Shoes and warm clothing for two children whose parents were divorced.

(iii) A grant in co-operation with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A. for clothing for the family of an ex-member of the Regiment, who was very ill with coronary thrombosis and unable to work for some time as a result.

(c) *Convalescent Holidays*. Six cases were assisted—one in co-operation with the Middlesex County Council and the others in co-operation with the British Legion.

In one of these cases the husband had been unable to work for five years, and had had both eyes removed.

(d) *Educational Grants*. The fifth grant was made of £30, to which the 51st (Highland) Division Trust Fund adds £75, to meet the balance of one year's fees for the son of an ex-member of the Regiment at a Cathedral School.

This boy is making good progress and takes part of his "O" Level, G.C.E., this year.

(e) *Fuel Grants*. Nine grants were made for coal, etc., for the winter.

One of these grants was given towards the cost of an oil heater for a widow who was unable to afford to keep her house warm by other means.

(f) *Funeral Expenses.* Assistance was given towards the cost of funeral expenses of the following:

- (i) The wife of an N.C.O. of the 1st Battalion who died having twins.
- (ii) An ex-N.C.O. of the Regiment, and loyal member of the Association.
- (iii) The still-born baby of an ex-member of the Regiment.

(g) *Housing.*

- (i) The Association co-operated with other funds in clearing the cost of storage of furniture of an ex-member of the Regiment who had recently been discharged from the Army. On discharge, he had gone to live in a caravan with his wife, but their four children had been taken into the care of the Welfare Authorities until a house could be found.
- (ii) The Association assisted in paying the removal expenses for an ex-member of the Regiment who had obtained work in a new town in order that he could get a house for his wife and four children, who had hitherto been living in very poor conditions at Islington.
- (iii) Six cases were assisted in the payment of rent arrears caused through illness and consequent inability to work.

In one of these cases the Association co-operated with other funds in order to prevent the eviction of an ex-member of the Regiment, his wife and six children.

(h) *Miscellaneous.*

- (i) A small cash grant was given to an ex-member of the Regiment who was entering a mental hospital as a voluntary patient. He was penniless and had been wandering about for some days homeless, and needed to stay somewhere for one night before admission.
- (ii) A small cash grant was given to an ex-member of the Regiment who had been a P.O.W. in the Far East and was in poor condition generally. He has cut himself off from his family and has been admitted several times to mental institutions. He seems quite unable to adjust himself after his experience as a P.O.W. and, when not in a mental home, frequently tramps the countryside for days and nights on end.
- (iii) Assistance was given to the widowed mother of a serving soldier of the 1st Battalion in settling some debts which had accrued as a result of her being unable to work through an injury.
- (iv) A grant was made to the widowed mother of another serving soldier of the 1st

Battalion towards the replacement of spectacles which she had lost, together with her handbag containing her savings of £12.

- (v) A grant was made towards the cost of a garage for an ex-member of the Regiment who had been allocated a car by the Ministry of Pensions. This man had both legs amputated as a result of war injuries, and the car is essential to enable him to get to and from his work as a lift attendant.
- (vi) Two grants were made for extra nourishment—one to an elderly ex-member of the Regiment living in a L.C.C. Hostel, and the other for the sick wife of an ex-member of the Regiment living on a retirement pension.
- (vii) A continuing grant, including a special grant at Christmas, was made to the Chelsea Hospital for In-pensioners of the Regiment.

2. Executive Committee—Ex-officio Members

Arising from Minute 8 (a) (ii) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 29, 1961, the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment invited Major C. N. Clayden to become an ex-officio member.

Major Clayden has gladly accepted to serve in this capacity.

3. Association Membership

- (a) Up to date nine new members have joined this year.
- (b) The deaths of the following members have been notified since the last report:
Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.
Col. N. Moller, O.B.E.
Major M. C. D. King, M.C., T.D.
Lt. W. Cheeseman.
In-Pensioner William Bailey, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

4. New Branches

- (a) Initial steps have been taken to start new Branches at Cambridge and Colchester.
- (b) At Cambridge, where the Branch is likely to be small and to consist mainly of ex-members of the Regiment who served in World War I, the formation is in the hands of the following:
Major J. I. Bromwich, T.D., late 2/8th Battalion, and now a lecturer at Cambridge University.
Mr. M. J. Lewis, M.B.E. who served in the Regiment in World War I and was afterwards for many years supervising clerk of Cambridge University O.T.C.
- (c) At Colchester, where a number of ex-members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions live, the formation is in the hands of the following:
Capt. (Q.M.) E. E. Jennings, late 2nd Battalion.
Mr. S. Copelin, late 2nd Battalion.

(d) Efforts are also being made to start a new Branch at Portsmouth and Gosport, but a suitable person, or persons, to undertake the formation has not yet been found.

5. Annual Reunion, 1961

Details of the cost were as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Hire of Hall	74	2	0
Band	90	0	0
Printing	17	18	3
Commissionaires	6	0	0
Master of Ceremonies	3	3	0
Prizes, etc.	7	12	8
Car Hire	3	2	6
Postage and Expenses	15	19	9
	£217	18	2
Less: Sale of Tickets	65	10	3
Net charge to Association	£152	7	11

6. Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance 1961

Arising from Minute 2 (b) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 26, 1961, it was not possible to arrange for a short service in St. Margaret's, Westminster, as the church was closed that day in preparation for a big wedding.

7. Regimental Journal—Officers' Location Statement

Arising from Minute 4 (c) of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 26, 1961, in order to comply with security instructions issued by the War Office to Editors of Regimental Journals, no information other than that shown in the Officers' Location Statement in the December 1961 issue, may be given.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

T.A. Centre,

Deansbrook Road,

Edgware, Middlesex.

February 16, 1962.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1962

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major C. N. Clayden, R.S.M. F. Webb, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

1. Nominated Members

It was proposed by Col. Man, and seconded by Major Clayden, that the following should be elected for 1962:

2nd Battalion ..	Col. S. F. Hedgecoe
3rd ..	Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.
4th ..	Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.
5th .. (Militia)	Major E. L. Heywood
6th ..	Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.
7th ..	Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D.
8th ..	Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.
9th ..	Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.
Carried ..	

F. WALDEN, Colonel,

Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

T.A. Centre,

Deansbrook Road,

Edgware, Middlesex.

March 6, 1962.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1962

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major C. N. Clayden, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.B.E., R.S.M. F. Webb, Mr. D. Stockman, Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

1. Election of Chairman

(a) Major H. K. Hardcastle took the chair for the election of Chairman.

(b) The Secretary reported that the only nomination received was that of Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox.

(c) The Committee unanimously elected Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox as Chairman of the Association and of the Executive Committee for 1962, whereupon Lt.-Col. Fox took the chair vacated by Major Hardcastle.

2. **Tribute to the late Col. M. Browne, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.**
At the request of the Chairman the meeting stood in silence in memory of the late Col. M. Browne.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

(a) The Secretary reported that the only nomination received was that of Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows.

(b) The Committee unanimously elected Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows as Vice-Chairman of the Association and of the Executive Committee for 1962.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 26, 1961, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Minutes of Special Meeting

As there was no quorum at that meeting, the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 5, 1962, were confirmed.

6. New Members

The Chairman welcomed the following new members to the Executive Committee:

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., Major C. N. Clayden, Mr. D. Stockman.

7. Nominated Members

The Chairman read out the names of the nominated members approved at the meeting of the ex-officio members held immediately prior to this meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of ex-officio members, in which these names appear, are being circulated to all members of the Executive Committee.

8. Co-opted Members

In accordance with Rule 21 (d), it was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Col. Ellis, that the following co-opted members be re-elected to the Executive Committee:

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.
Carried.

9. Secretary's Report

(a) The Secretary's report, which had been circulated with the agenda, was adopted.

(b) Lt.-Col. Roberts stressed that suitable extracts from this report should be published in the Regimental Journal.

(c) After further discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion and send copies of the report for circulation.

10. Correspondence

The following letters were read out:

(a) From a member of the 1st Battalion thanking the Association for assistance.

(b) From Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe stating that in his new will, he is leaving a small legacy to the Association, together with various Regimental Histories and Journals.

(c) From Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton suggesting that the cost of modernisation of the memorial cottages at Mill Hill might be subscribed to by members and ex-members of the Regiment as a memorial to the late Col. M. Browne.

Letters (a) and (b) were noted and the Secretary was instructed to write to Lt.-Col. Scott-Lowe to thank him and say how much the Committee appreciated his action.

As regards (c), the Chairman suggested that the contents of this should be brought to the notice of the Colonel of the Regiment.

It was proposed by Col. Hedgecoe, and seconded by Col. Ellis, that the Chairman's suggestion should be adopted. Carried.

11. Finance Sub-Committee

(a) *Chairman's Report.* (i) The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee meeting held on December 21, 1961, which were circulated with the agenda for the Special Executive Meeting held on January 5, 1962.

(ii) Arising from Minute 2 (ii) of the Special Executive Meeting held on January 5, 1962, Major Hardcastle has given the following advice on the points raised:

(a) *The Middlesex Regiment Charitable Fund.* The trust deed governing this, which is dated March 22, 1928, refers to the income being applied for the purposes of the charity, but it does contain a provision that upon the request in writing of the Administering Trustees, i.e. the Executive Committee of the Association, all or any part of the funds may be sold and the proceeds of sale be applied by the Administering Trustees in the same manner as if they were income. It is clear, therefore, that capital can be used in aid of income in relation to this fund.

The Renny Fund. This is governed by an undertaking given by the Executive Committee of the Association in 1943 and that undertaking specifically refers to capital and income of the Renny Fund being applied for the purpose of that fund; here again clearly capital can be used in aid of income.

(b) It is doubtful if any Counsel can advise on what is likely to be the action of the Charity Commission in the event of the Middlesex Regiment ceasing to exist as a separate entity. It is a matter of consideration whether or not it would be wise for the Colonel of the Regiment, or the Chairman of the Association, to approach the Charity Commission at this stage and try to obtain some indication of its thoughts on the point.

In view of the advice given in (b) above and the information given to Lt.-Col. Roberts by the Charity Commissioners on this point, it was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Lt.-Col. Roberts, that no further action be taken in regard to getting Counsel's opinion. Carried.

The Chairman's report was adopted.

(b) *Appointment of Additional Member of the Sub-Committee.* It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Col. Ellis, that Major C. N. Clayden be nominated to serve on the Finance Sub-Committee. Carried.

(c) *Donations to Charities.* (i) It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Col. Hedgecoe, that, for 1961, the contributions to the charities listed at Appendix "B" to the agenda should remain unchanged. Carried.

(ii) After discussion it was agreed that, for 1962, the following alterations to the contributions to the charities listed at Appendix "B" to the agenda should be made and notification sent to the charities affected:

- Serial 2—No contribution to be made.
 " 8—To be reduced to £3 3s. (three guineas).
 " 9—To be increased to £25 (twenty-five pounds).
 " 10—To be increased to £15 15s. (fifteen guineas).

12. War Memorial Sub-Committee

(a) *Chairman's Report.* (i) In submitting his report the Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated that Major B. K. Clayden had been nominated to fill an existing vacancy on the Sub-Committee. As, however, Major Clayden was not a member of the Executive Committee, the Chairman sought confirmation of his nomination. The Committee confirmed the nomination.

(ii) The report from the Housing Manager on the condition of the Enfield houses was read.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee undertook to deal with the points raised in this report.

(iii) The report was adopted with the following observations:

(a) *Mill Hill Cottages.* The Committee authorised the Housing Sub-Committee to put all the necessary maintenance and repair work in hand up to a total cost of £2,000 provided steps were taken to obtain a grant towards the improvements. If necessary, professional assistance should be obtained to ensure that full advantage is taken of the grants available.

(b) *Enfield Estate.* It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, that a sub-committee be appointed to investigate the suggestion that a specified number of houses at Albuhara Close be let at an economic rent to deserving ex-Regular or ex-Territorial soldiers, and that the War Memorial should then consist of the remaining houses and a specified number of flatlets to be built.

Failing this to recommend whether the work should proceed forthwith on a four- or six-flatlet basis and be financed by the Association before it is known to what extent the Lord Lieutenant's appeal will meet with success.

The Committee agreed to this and appointed the following to investigate and report without delay:

The Finance Sub-Committee consisting of Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major C. N. Clayden, augmented by Lt.-Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E. (Vice-Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.

(b) *Purchase by W.D. of Mill Hill Cottages.* The Chairman stated that the following reply had been received by the Deputy Colonel from the Quartermaster-General:

"I have now seen your letter of October 5 to my predecessor suggesting that the W.D. should take over the four Regimental 'Cottage Homes' at Mill Hill.

"My staff have been into the question in detail and the cottages have been inspected. This investigation has shown that the cottages are not up to the standard in size and amenities of the quarters we are now providing and would require a great deal of money to bring them up to the standard. I am afraid that this means that we cannot agree to buy the cottages from the Regimental Association.

"I am sorry that this should be the result because we badly need quarters in the London area."

13. Journal Sub-Committee

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated that he had nothing to report.

14. Branch Secretaries' Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on February 6, 1962, were confirmed and the Committee expressed their appreciation of the Secretary's initiative and efforts to maintain contact with the branches in this manner.

15. Revision of Rules—Formal Resolution

Major Hardcastle moved that the resolution be passed.

It was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Major Newman, that the Vice-Chairman should be added in para. (b) of Rule 21.

The Committee agreed and, with the addition of this amendment, passed the resolution.

16. Special Sub-Committee on Albuhara Sunday Parade

In submitting his report the Chairman of the Sub-Committee asked for a ruling as to whether the parade was to be Regimental or for Old Comrades only.

The Committee confirmed that the parade was to be Regimental. The Chairman's report was adopted.

17. Annual Reunion, 1962

It was agreed that the Annual Reunion this year should be held at the Seymour Hall, if possible, on October 12, and the Secretary was instructed to try and make arrangements accordingly.

It was further agreed that the 1st Battalion Dance Band, and not a civilian dance band, should be engaged on this occasion.

18. Any Other Business

(a) *Amendments to the Rules.* Brigadier Rackham asked that consideration should be given to the following proposed amendments to the Rules:

- (i) That the term of office for all members should be three years with effect from a specified date.
 (ii) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.
 (iii) That the quorum should be one-fifth of the membership of the Executive Committee.

(b) *Next Meeting.* It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, June 21, 1962.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
 Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association

T.A. Centre,
 Deansbrook Road,
 Edgware, Middlesex.

March 6, 1962.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB
 MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1962

Present: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L. (Chairman), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L., Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., Col. S. F. Hedgecoe, Lt.-Col. I. D. Brotherton, Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Major C. N. Clayden, Major E. L. Heywood, Major P. F. Newman, M.P., Col. F. Walden (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from: Col. A. M. Man, D.S.O., O.B.E., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., T.D., Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(a) The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 26, 1961, were passed and signed by the Chairman.

(b) Arising from the minutes it was agreed that, as it was not yet known when the 1st Battalion will return to the United Kingdom, the date of the next Regimental cocktail party, and where it will be held, will be fixed at the next Committee meeting.

2. Secretary's Report

The report, which had been circulated with the agenda, was adopted.

3. Donations

The following donations for 1961 and 1962 were approved:

	£	s.	d.
King Edward VII Hospital for Officers	10	0	0
S.S.A.F.A.—Officers' Branch	10	0	0
Royal School for Officers' Daughters	4	0	0
Total	£24	0	0

4. Grant to 5th Battalion (T.A.)

After considerable discussion it was proposed by Brigadier Rackham, and seconded by Col. Clayton, that the sum of £50 (fifty pounds) should be given to the Officer Commanding 5th (T.A.) Battalion this year to assist in the running of the Officers' Mess at Edgware. Carried.

5. Regimental "At Home"

The Secretary reported that, as a result of the notice in the December 1961 issue of *The Die-Hards*, four members had written in giving their views. Three were in favour of continuing the "At Home" and one felt that it should be cancelled.

Having heard details of the views expressed, it was eventually decided that there should be an "At Home" this year, and it should be held at the United Services Club on the afternoon of June 27, 1962, the same day as the Regimental dinner, and the Secretary was instructed to make arrangements accordingly.

6. Regimental Golf Meeting

The Secretary reported that he had received a reply from Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton, Chairman of the Golf Sub-Committee, whose views were that the next golf meeting should be held in the autumn after the 1st Battalion had returned home, and on a course in the vicinity of the 1st Battalion's station.

Lt.-Col. Worton further stated that he would now like to resign the chairmanship in favour of a younger officer, and suggested that Major Bywaters, who has recently been appointed Assistant Secretary to the P.G.A., should be appointed to take his place.

The views expressed by Lt.-Col. Worton were accepted by the Committee and the Secretary was instructed to approach Major Bywaters with a view to his becoming Chairman of the Golf Sub-Committee.

The Chairman and members of the Club Committee expressed their appreciation and thanks to Lt.-Col. Worton for all that he had done as Chairman of the Golf Sub-Committee.

7. Any Other Business

Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, June 21, 1962.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
 Secretary, Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

T.A. Centre,
 Deansbrook Road,
 Edgware, Middlesex.

March 6, 1962.

From the Commander, Plymouth Sub-District

HQ Plymouth Sub-District,

Crownhill Fort,

Plymouth.

December 19, 1961

Royal United Service Home for Girls, Newquay

Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, Commander 2 Infantry Brigade Group and Plymouth Sub-District, is a member of the governing body of the above institution, whose charter is outlined on page 10 of the "Advertiser" in the back of the Army List, and to whose activities publicity is occasionally kindly given, without charge, by regimental journals.

He asks me to acquaint you with the facts:

- (a) That the girls normally attend Church of England services, but that children of other denominations are welcome, and each can receive instruction in her own faith, and
 (b) That at the present time there are 15 girls permanently accommodated and five temporarily there. There is room for 30.

If it would be possible for you to draw attention in your columns to the work of the Home, and its benefit in necessitous cases to the children of other ranks, the aims of the Home might be accomplished to full capacity, and the flow of voluntary contributions stimulated.

The trustee would be most grateful for any help that you could give in spreading news of this excellent institution.

A. M. MACLAREN, R.O.III


For Brigadier, Commander Plymouth Sub-District

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

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22 Suffolk Street, Haymarket, S.W.1

Established 1849