

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)

(57)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysore," "Serlingapatam," "Albuhara," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02,"
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "18," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "17," "18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "17," "18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozieres," "Ginchy," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "18," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arieux," "Pickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Aves,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baileul," "Kemmel," "Schervenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,
 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murban, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Ashford, Middx.
 Pay Office—90, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. (— L.A.A. R.A.).
 1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Independent Coys.
 No. 1 Heavy Support Coy.

Affiliated A/A Units of the Territorial Army

— (7th City of London) Searchlight Regiment R.A.
 — (St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment R.A.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

The Prince of Wales Rangers (Peterborough
 Regiment) (M.G.) Peterborough, Ontario.
 The Wentworth Regiment Dundas, Ontario.
 The Middlesex and Huron Regiment London, Ontario.

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Preston.

Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Taranaki Regiment New Plymouth.

Colonel of the Regiment:

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.

Agents—Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's & King's Branch.

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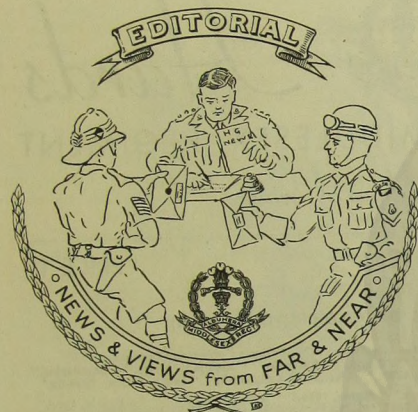
NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

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

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

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Editor: Bt-Major G. W. Kempster.

We regret to announce that the 1/7th Battalion and the 1st Battalion of The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment have been placed in suspended animation. We shall miss their contributions, particularly the latter's. The Editor of The Kensington's Regimental notes usually excelled himself with photographs and the written word. We are now left with the 1st and 2nd, and the two regular Battalions, and a half share of 26 M.G.T.C. at present at Crowborough. It is now general knowledge that the new organisation of primary and Corps training will occur sometime in December of this year, which means, we are pleased to say, that The Regiment will once again occupy their old home at Mill Hill. We shall have more to say about this in the March Journal when the moves have been completed.

As you can see, we have increased the size of the Journal. We did so at the request of Battalions and from a natural desire to improve it. The extra government allotment of paper has made this possible, but the decision to expand has naturally increased the cost of production. The Journal Committee has no intention of increasing the price, but they would like you to assist the circulation by asking a non-subscriber to become one. It would make such a difference if readers would give us plenty of publicity, which, once started, grows like a snowball. There are still many who wish to subscribe, but are prevented from doing so by not knowing how to do it.

In the last number we asked our readers for contributions. We regret to report that so far there has been no response. Is it that our potential contributors are still engaged in writing for us, or is it possible that a statement, made recently by a member of the Association Committee to the effect that no one reads the Journal, contained more than a grain of truth?

Whatever the real explanation happens to be, we still require them.

From the Editor's point of view, it is indeed fortunate that Colonel Browne allows him to quote so freely from his monthly news letter and unfortunate, too, that so

much cannot be republished on account of lack of space. The Colonel of The Regiment has been the mainstay of the Journal ever since it came into being during the last war, but it is obviously unfair to rely on the tireless pen of one writer. Hence we are more than pleased to receive another most excellent contribution from Capt. R. Maurice Hill, "The Jubilee of the Distinguished Service Order," which appears in this number. We draw special attention to this article because, apart from its excellence, it contains the right amount of general and Regimental interest. It might well be studied by anyone who contemplates writing for us.

Before concluding a rather long editorial, for which we apologise, we should like to thank all who have contributed to these pages and to wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

May 1947 see a strong, united Empire, at peace.

REGIMENTAL FIXTURES, 1947

(As notified at present)

April 25th.—Golf Meeting. See Officers' Club Notes. Meetings of *Die-Hards* Clubs. Please refer to list of these clubs shown in the September number of THE *DIE-HARDS*.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Autumn Golf Meeting

A very pleasant day's golf was enjoyed by the members of the Golfing Society at Hendon on October 10th. Duty prevented some of our regular players from attending, but those who came were lucky enough to be blessed by the weather, though they may have found the course playing long, a factor in the day's play reflected in the scores which are given below.

Col. Phillips won the scratch cup with an 82, which was a good score under the circumstances. Major Anderson won the handicap prize with a nett 74. Col. Samuel and Col. Weston carried off the tankards in the afternoon. All are to be congratulated.

At an informal meeting it was decided to hold the next meeting at Hendon in April (the date since fixed is April 25th, 1947), to play greensomes in the afternoon instead of foursomes, and to thank Mr. Greenshield for his magnificent hospitality.

The Secretary was also thanked, and he thanked everyone for thanking him, but it was the clerk of the weather we should really have thanked. Let us hope he will again be kind to us on April 25th, a date we should like our regular players to note.

SCORES

<i>Morning</i>			
Major G. B. Anderson	92—18—74	
Winner Handicap Cup.			
Lieut.-Col. H. Phillips	82—6—76	
Winner Scratch Cup.			
Col. G. L. Brown	85—8—77	
Lieut.-Col. G. P. L. Weston	98—20—78	
Maj.-General G. C. Bucknall	88—9—79	
Major C. T. Whinney	88—8—80	

Lieut.-Col. T. Pain	99—16—83
Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel	101—16—85
Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	111—24—87
Lieut.-Col. S. F. W. M. Delcourt	115—12—103
Brigadier B. B. Rackham and Lieut.-Col. T. South		lost their cards.

Afternoon—Foursomes

Lieut.-Col. G. P. L. Weston and Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel	7 down, winners
*Maj.-General G. C. Bucknall and Lieut.-Col. T. South	9 down, runners-up
Lieut.-Col. H. Phillips and Lieut.-Col. S. F. W. M. Delcourt	9 down
Major C. T. Whinney and Major G. B. Anderson	9 down
Col. G. L. Brown and Major J. Harley	10 down
Brigadier B. B. Rackham and Major G. W. Kempster	11 down
Lieut.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe and Lieut.-Col. T. Pain	15 down

*Major-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Lieut.-Col. T. South were adjudged the winners on the best nine last holes.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

Regimental Association Meetings

Since the last account of the Association activities went to press, two Committee meetings have been held, one an emergency one on September 19th, and the other the ordinary quarterly meeting on October 31st, both at the Middlesex Guildhall.

An emergency meeting became necessary, not only to deal with the volume of business which confronts the Committee nowadays, but to deal with pressing financial matters as well. The Committee controls a quantity of varied investments, and there is such a thing as a gilt edge market, so in order to cope with it and other financial problems, a Finance Committee, consisting of Lieut.-Col. Robbins (Chairman), the Officer Commanding at the Depot, Col. Beach, and the Secretary, was set up. It has been functioning busily ever since.

Old Comrades' Reunion

Some of the secretaries of our *Die-Hards* clubs attended the meeting on September 19th, and one of their requests was to restart the Old Comrades' Dinner, and they further asked that this should be done before the close of the year. It was a tall order, but the Committee is prepared to go a long way to support them in their wishes, and they agreed to try. The difficulties of arranging this function proved less formidable than was expected, so a buffet reunion at the Headquarters of The Queen's Westminsters on Saturday, December 14th, was arranged. By the time this appears in print it will merely be a memory, but a pleasant one, we hope. At the time of writing we have done our best to circularise all those likely to be interested, but we still lack a number of addresses. An announcement could not

appear in the Journal as it was being printed when the decision to hold the function was taken. Already we have heard from a number wishing to be present and our present fear is that the accommodation may prove unequal to the demand for tickets.

Home Guard and the Middlesex Cadet Force

We are still great admirers of the Home Guard and willing to assist the Cadets in every way possible, but the Committee were unable to sanction their membership to the Association.

A few Home Guard officers are members of the Officers' Club and will, of course, be allowed to retain that membership. Cadet officers, it was also decided, were eligible on election to become members of the Officers' Club.

The 1939-45 War Memorial Cottages

This was referred to in our last notes as a tough nut to crack. It still is.

We may, however, be able to launch our appeal soon, and if that should happen we should like everyone to help us in a big way.

The trouble is still the site. For administration purposes we must have it near the Barracks at Mill Hill, and we still have not received permission to build. However, we are determined to succeed, so please do not forget us when we launch the appeal.

Benevolence

£465 7s. 10d. was spent on grants during the July September quarter. This is a large sum of money and it is doubtful whether it could have been provided had it not been for the great support received from the Army Benevolent Fund, and other charitable sources. Our income from invested funds cannot cover such an expenditure. The Committee intends next year to ask serving soldiers to subscribe a day's pay to Association funds, as they used to do before the war.

The Secretary receives many donations from released personnel, and is pleased to inform our readers that both serving and retired officers are responding nobly to his recent appeal, coupled with a banker's order, for funds. We desire to thank all our readers who subscribe to the Association. If paper allows we shall issue an annual report in which, if space permits, we shall acknowledge the subscriptions received during the year.

Employment

The Regular Forces Employment Association is finding jobs for our men who cannot place themselves. In this year, up to the end of June, they placed 137. The Association itself has found jobs for some, and it is desired to emphasize the importance of writing to the Secretary if difficulties over employment exist, as they often do in the case of men who were regulars. They are seldom young and usually lacking in the experience required to obtain civilian employment.

The Social Side

A steady trickle of released officers and men continue to join our *Die-Hards* Clubs, now 10 in number. A great many do not, however.

At a recent meeting of the Old Comrades' Association of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, at 190, Hammersmith Road, W.6, a testimonial was presented to Mr. White, better known as "Stan" White, for the sterling services he has rendered to his Association as its secretary. It is possible that no testimonial has been better deserved, and it was presented to him on November 8th at their Drill Hall before a very large audience; an audience which contained only a small sprinkling of the present generation, which fact Mr. White saw fit to comment on in the speech that he made after the presentation. We may as well admit that our own Middlesex Clubs must own to a similar lack of O.C.A. mindedness amongst the present generation. He, Mr. White, declared he could overcome it, and we hope to, too.

It was a very good evening, by the way, and the Colonel of the Regiment, who had been invited, very much appreciated the reference to the parent Regiment made by the Chairman.

Youth was better represented when Mr. Bowen's *Die-Hards* Club opened at "The Ship," Borough Road, S.E.1, on September 26th. A party of serving soldiers from 26 M.G.T.C., at Crowborough, arrived by charabanc. It would be an understatement to say that they kept the party alive. Age was also represented in the person of Sgt. Hurst, our only representative in the Royal Military Hospital at Chelsea, where he is librarian. He was a very welcome guest and we hope he will attend as many of our functions as possible.

Our Hornsey Branch gave another excellent dance at the Drill Hall, Hornsey, on November 2nd. It was well attended and thoroughly appreciated by all.

We hope that more of our readers will become better acquainted with our Clubs, and support this movement which started, except in the case of one or two existing Clubs, only about a year ago, for the greater the progress we make in future the better it should be for the Regiment.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL FUND

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	74	18	5
Capt. J. G. P. Hunt	5	0	0
Miss H. M. O'Niams	11	4	0
Mr. H. Doherty	5	0	0
	£96	2	5

Our appeal has still not been launched, but donations are sent us nevertheless, and are acknowledged above. Capt. Hunt, who is personally going to assist us on the publicity side of the appeal, on viewing our present cottage homes, on which a brochure may be based, felt constrained to subscribe there and then, and gave us five pounds.

Miss O'Niams is headmistress of the Haberdashers Askes School, West Acton, W.3. Hearing of our pro-

jected memorial she sent us £11 4s. towards it, the money coming from surplus funds once used by her pupils for purchasing knitting wool with which they used to make woollen garments for the Army. A very touching gift, indeed, and our thanks to Miss O'Niams and the little ladies who sent it.

Mr. Doherty's gift of £5 has just arrived with one of the most pleasant and sensible letters the writer has ever received. He likes our Journal, and has promised to send a contribution, as he served between 1892-1900; it will be most valuable. He warns us in his letter that we shall encounter mountains of red tape before the cottages are built. How right he is! We have—but we shall not allow them to become insurmountable. He has a message for our readers which I have promised to give you, and here it is:—

"No. 4265 Pte. Hugh Doherty (Docherty), 1892-1900, would like to get in touch with any old *Pothooks* or *Die-Hards* of those years who remember him. Address—67, The Droveaway, Hove, Sussex."

THE LATE LIEUT.-COLONEL R. H. HAYES, C.M.G.

We regret to report the death of Lieut.-Colonel Robert Hall Hayes who died on August 23, 1946, at Radipole Manor, his home, in Dorset, at the age of 79. Colonel Hayes' military career began in 1885. He took part in the Hazara Expedition of 1891 and fought in France in the first world war, being twice mentioned in despatches and receiving the C.M.G. for his services.

Major-General F. W. Ramsay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who served under him at one time has written the following tribute to the memory of a very gallant *Die-Hard* and a fine sportsman.

Another *Die-Hard* of the old school, who lived and loved his life to the end has fallen out, and as one of his few surviving contemporaries, I feel that my tribute must be paid to the old Commanding Officer, under whom I served at Warley and Malta. "Digger" Hayes (for he was born in Australia) was an admirable example of the old-fashioned Regimental officer and a sportsman in every sense of the word.

An excellent judge of a horse and a very strong horse man, he was a fine polo player and played back in the Regiment for many victorious contests. He trained a team at Malta with which he looked forward to beating the Royal Navy who had been the winners for some years in the Inter-Regimental Polo Tournament, and might well have done so had not the 1914 war intervened.

At Warley he organised his Battalion hunting and was a very conscientious mentor and guide to his young officers in this respect, indeed, no officer ever went to "Digger" for leave for any form of legitimate sport, in vain if it were in any way possible to grant it. In the winter of his days he was an elder statesman to all who had the same affection for the sports of the field as he had himself and his dapper horseman's figure was well known in the Royal Dorset Yacht Club at Weymouth and in south Dorset generally. He was often to be seen on his feet in the Cattistock country on Fridays observing operations with an experienced eye, and taking particular

pride in the performance of his daughter, whom he had brought up to hunt as he did himself when no hack was too long to take him to hounds, and no day too hard within the limits of regard for his horses.

The younger generation who knew him not are the poorer thereby and with his passing a grand old soldier, of a stamp which the changed times of to-day can ill afford to lose, is gone from among us.

In the words of a part Australian, who was also a British soldier—Adam Lindsay Gordon:

There are lights behind the curtain.

Gentles, let us rest.

F.R.

PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN BRONZE STAR TO SGT. C. E. BLAND AND CPL. B. BOX BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Colonel Browne presented two bronze stars and a long service and good conduct medal to three men of The Middlesex Regiment at Mill Hill on August 22, 1946, in front of the Regimental War Memorial for the 1914-18 war. The picturesque ceremony was witnessed by the Band of The Middlesex Regiment and the Regimental Depot Party, as can be seen by the accompanying photographs.

Pte. P. Stevens received the long service and good conduct medal and Sgt. Bland and Cpl. Box were honoured by the award of the American Bronze Star decoration for their gallant conduct whilst serving with the 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment in Italy, the citations for which are given below. Both these soldiers were originally in the Middlesex Regiment but were later transferred to the Battalion in which they so distinguished themselves.

Colonel Browne congratulated all three recipients and mentioned in a short speech that it was the first time he had had the honour of presenting foreign decorations to men of the Regiment. We congratulate all three men, too.

Sgt. Bland and Pte. Stevens are well known in the Regiment, the latter serving at present at Mill Hill with the Regimental Depot Party.

CITATION FOR BRONZE STAR MEDAL

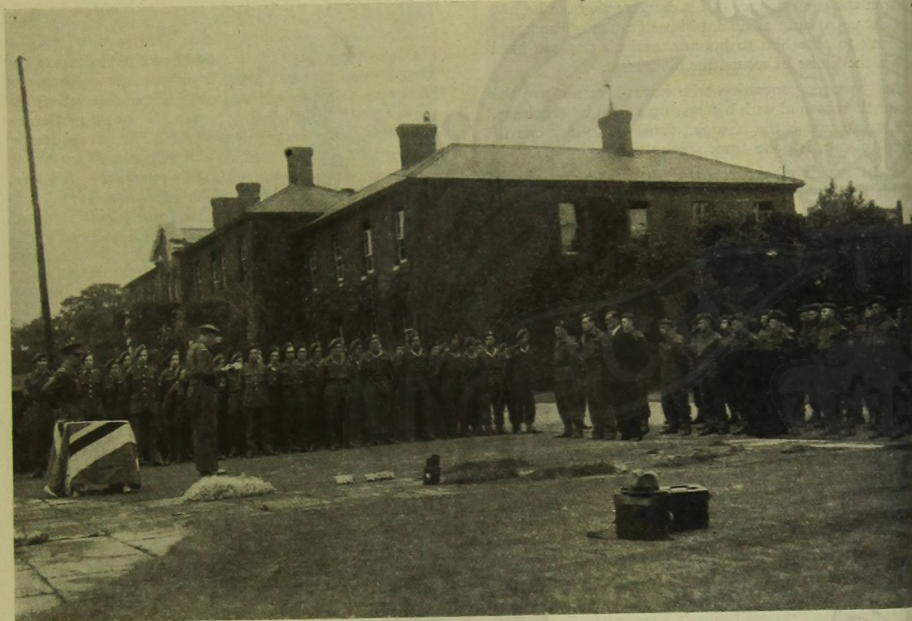
Charles E. Bland, 6209608, Sergeant, "C" Company, 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, British Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations in Italy from October 11 to December 16, 1944. As platoon sergeant in complete charge of a heavy mortar platoon, Sgt. Bland, operating under extremely adverse conditions of weather and terrain, maintained his unit constantly in action, and was never unprepared to meet all demands for fire. On many occasions the heavy equipment was carried by hand up precipitous slopes frequently subjected to enemy shellfire. Demonstrating outstanding determination, leadership and devotion to duty he was an inspiration to all with whom he worked and his actions reflect great credit upon himself and Allied Armies in



Taken at Mill Hill Barracks in front of the 1914-18 War Memorial, on the occasion of the presentation of the bronze stars to Sgt. Bland and Cpl. Box, and the long service medal to Pte. Stevens. Reading left to right: Mr. C. E. Bland, Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment), Cpl. Box, Pte. P. Stevens and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (O.C., Regimental Depot Party)

Italy. Entered service from Kensington, London, England.

Douglas A. Box, 858860, Corporal, "B" Company, 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, British Army, for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations in Italy from October 28 to December 13, 1944. In charge of mule trains carrying rations and ammunition over difficult terrain and under enemy shellfire to his Company in forward positions, Cpl. Box on one occasion, when still half a mile from his destination and the mules ran into such adverse terrain that they could not proceed any further, personally supervised and assisted in unloading and carrying ammunition a distance of 300 yards and then, after getting the animals through, reloaded and continued on to the Company. His outstanding courage, efficiency and devotion to duty over a long period of extremely adverse conditions contributed materially to the success of his Company, and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the Allied Nations. Entered service from Penarth, South Wales.



Colonel of the Regiment reading out citations for bronze star medals in front of the Band of the Middlesex Regiment and the Regimental Depot Party. The Officers' Mess is in the background

LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

16 Chilcombe Street,
Fendalton-Christchurch,
New Zealand.
September 2, 1946.

To The Secretary,

Regimental Association of The Middlesex Regiment.

DEAR SIR,—I thank you for your letters of June 22 and 24 and enclose draft on Bank of New South Wales for 10s., being two-years' subscription for the "Journal."

I was very pleased to receive the "Journal" for March. It contained a report of the sinking of the ship with Regimental prisoners on board. I deeply regret the loss of so many fine men, and was relieved to find that quite a number were saved. I had seen an item in a paper some time back, that only four prisoners escaped.

Will you please put a note in the next issue of the "Journal" to the effect that I will appreciate a letter from any of my old comrades in the Regiment (1st Battalion) who were in India with me.

I send greetings to Colonel M. Browne, from whom I had a letter just after war broke out.

Old age is creeping on us, but my wife and I are still jogging along. Greetings to all old comrades.

Yours faithfully,

A. H. SAY,
Late Colour-Sergeant, 1st Battalion.

3rd BRITISH INFANTRY DIVISIONAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, 1939-45

Any officers who served with the 3rd British Infantry Division between September 3, 1939, and May 8, 1945, and who wish to join the Divisional Association, should send cheque/P.O. for 10s., subscription for Life Membership, to:

The Honorary Secretary,
3rd British Infantry Divisional Officers' Association

3 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London, W.C.2.

The object of the Association is to keep ex-members of the 3rd Division in touch with one another by holding Annual Reunion Dinners and circularising news-sheets through regimental journals and other means.

It is intended that the Association should hold an address register of all members so that the address of any member can be obtained by another through the Hon. Secretary.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR B. G. HORROCKS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

General Horrocks is too well known in the Army and in the Regiment to require an introduction to our readers. We feel sure that the account of him given below, written sometime in 1942 by the War Correspondent of the *Sunday Pictorial*, should prove of the greatest interest.

How right he was, this correspondent, for if ever a prophecy came true, his did.

HE'S A NEW KIND OF GENERAL

(By *Sunday Pictorial* War Correspondent)

This is the portrait of a fighter—a man who will warm the heart of every British soldier.

He rides to battle in a tank, wears a pair of creased, blue overalls and a jaunty black beret.

He is lean, angular, has a rugged, good-humoured face, and a habit of twitching his fingers as he talks.

His job? He is General-Commander of one of Britain's crack armoured divisions. Believe me, he is a General who is going to make stories about Rommel look pretty thin.

I wish I could tell you the name of this new leader of Britain's tank fighters. But that is impossible. The Germans would give a small fortune to find out who he is.

If they knew, they could trace his career and get a line on the way he is helping to organise our blitz warfare in 1943. That is why they won't get his name from me.





You see, he was not one of those peace-time generals who graced the banqueting table of foreign Ambassadors before the war.

I know his record, too. Behind that record there is a great story of loyalty, courage and swift promotion. I am looking forward to the day when I can write that story. After the war it will be told.

But this I can tell you now. I have just watched this man handling his armoured division in one of the greatest exercises ever to be held in this country.

A Man Among Men

It was not the brilliance of generalship in the field that made such a deep impression upon me. There are, after all, many brilliant generals who could grasp the most difficult military problems of strategy and tactics without effort yet have lost battles.

Here was something different. Here was a man who had that brilliance plus the greatest quality a fighter can possess.

Leadership.

It can all be said in that simple word. See this man as I saw him and I think that you will understand. I met him with his men in a tank harbour the night before his division moved into action.

At precisely 4 o'clock the next morning he would lead thousands of his armoured giants out of their hiding places into one of the biggest tank battles ever staged in Britain.

I found him under a tree by a line of waiting tanks sharing a meal with his men. Only a tiny brass badge in his beret indicated that he was a general.

It was a soldier's meal—bully beef, bread and tea. He took a wet cigarette from his pocket, dried it by the stove, and talked over his plan of attack.

There was no shouting, no barking out of orders. His exposition of battle tactics was clear, incisive and stimulating.

He concluded: "I've got the finest fighting material in the world. We could knock hell out of any panzer division the Germans could put in the field.

"All I ask is that I get a little luck. No general can afford to despise luck."

The men went back to their tanks ready to fight their way through hell and back under his command. That is leadership.

You see, the General is not only prepared to live and fight with his men. He actually does it. He shares the same food, the same hardships, battles through the same mud, faces the same bullets and shells.

He told me: "The men of the Royal Armoured Corps are the flower of the nation. Nothing is too good for them, and I feel that my responsibility to them is a great one.

"If only to understand them, I must share their life. Also, it is impossible to direct a complicated machine like an armoured division if I have no contact with the men and the machines."

I saw the truth of this a few hours later, when the armoured division went into action. The General had moved his complicated machinery of divisional headquarters into the cramped space of a tank. Gone were the parade ground formalities of Divisional H.Q. and sheaves of duplicated reports and office routine. The

General changed all that for a gun turret. From there he controlled the movement and deployment of thousands of armoured vehicles moving across the countryside.

The exercise clashed to its mighty climax in a tank battle on a stretch of open heath. The result? The General's force wiped out 75 per cent. of the enemy's tank force.

I waited to see the end. As the smoke of battle died the leading British tank swung up the hill and halted by the umpires.

A tall, grey-haired man jumped out. His face was grimy with sweat and oil. He wore the clothes of a British tankman. But the badge in his beret was the crossed swords and baton of a General.

One day the Germans will get to know the General. One day they will probably meet him face to face on the battleground.

But they will not live to remember that day.

We are pleased, too, to be able to publish the accompanying photographs which fortunately came into our possession. They were all three taken after 30 Corps (the Corps General Horrocks was commanding) had captured Brussels. Owing to the immense crowds in the streets, he found it difficult to establish his headquarters in some quiet place where he could get on with the war. He asked and received permission from Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians, to put his headquarters into the park beside the Royal Palace, called the Chateau de Laeken. The next day, after he was established, he was visited by Field Marshal Montgomery. Prince Bernhard figures in the photographs because the General had a Dutch contingent under his command. The Prince was concerned with the "doings" of the Dutch resistance movement behind the German lines.

Two of the photographs show General Horrocks outlining the tactical situation at that time to Field Marshal Montgomery and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and the other is an ordinary group.

Few photographs of greater interest have ever appeared in this journal. The details were supplied by General Horrocks after the photographs had been sent for his inspection.

1st BATTALION NEWS

Editorial

Since the last issue of *THE DIE-HARDS* there have been several events of outstanding importance, but none of these has been a move away from Rendsburg. Many changes have occurred in the garrison, which, of course, is commanded by our own C.O., Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Green. Units have disappeared and generally Rendsburg has changed its appearance. Naturally this process of change has not entirely passed the Battalion by. The rapid machinery of release continues to grind on and take toll of personnel and each week we are nearer than ever to the day when almost every member of the Battalion who fought with it in Europe will be in the ranks of the great army in Civvy Street.

On September 13 we had visual proof that peace time had returned to the Army and in no uncertain

terms. The General's annual inspection was something that was calculated to go through the administration and organisation of a battalion with a fine-toothed comb. The first post-war annual inspection by the G.O.C. Guards Division, Major-General J. C. O. Marriot, was an event that will go down in the annals of the Battalion. For weeks beforehand we were on our toes getting things done, things which heavy operational commitments and losses in key personnel had rendered impracticable hitherto. There were many who, on the eve of the 12th, heaved great sighs of relief, knowing that whatever had been left undone there was now little or nothing that could be done about it. On the Tuesday before the great day a rehearsal was ordered, but the General Salute had been practised but two or three times when the rain came, and in such quantities that the parade had to be called off. There were no further opportunities for proper rehearsals, so on the 13th the Battalion formed up to receive the General. After the actual inspection companies were seen in various orders of dress and at different forms of training. Company and Regimental accounts and documentation were seen and the morning's programme ended with a thorough tour of the barracks. In the afternoon the General devoted his time to an inspection of the unit's M.T., and with this the annual inspection finished.

Coinciding with the General's visit there was another important event, though important in perhaps another way. We were all very glad to learn that Colonel Browne was to come and see us. The details of his visit are known to everyone in the Regiment, as the Colonel wrote of them in his last newsletter, and so it would be superfluous to recount them here. Those of us who had the privilege of meeting him for the first time were struck by the accuracy of the conception we had formed of him.

While on the subject of visits and inspection it must be recorded that the Army Commander came to see us early in October. He came primarily to inspect the welfare amenities within the garrison and the Battalion. Judging by the signs of relief shown by Capt. L. J. Delaney, the P.R.I. and officer in charge of clubs, all must have gone well. The visit was concluded by an inspection of messing arrangements, and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Another positive sign of returning peace-time conditions has been the arrival of several wives of the officers and O.R.s. In comparison with the general conditions encountered by families in other parts of the British zone, the housing arrangements in Rendsburg leave very little to be desired. This is largely due to the fact that Rendsburg has been little hit by war, and, although there are the inevitable multitudes of refugees billeted on the townfolk, the rehousing of dispossessed Germans is a much easier job than it is, for example, in Kiel. The quartering and barrack service have supplied most of the wants, although there have been one or two quite remarkable omissions. Husbands who drew 18 pillow slips were rather surprised at the apparent lavishness of Q. and B., only to be brought to earth when they discovered that there were no pillows. Fortunately, lapses such as these are rare and, on the

whole, families are enjoying a reasonably high standard of living.

"B" Company, commanded by Major G. O. Porter, has been on detachment at Kiel, where they have been assisting a gunner regiment in their operational duties. On October 26 they return to Rendsburg, when they will be relieved by "C" Company (Major L. C. Beadnell), who in turn will spend a month away.

Since the last issue of the Journal our Commanding Officer has been to the U.K. on leave. He was away for six weeks, and in his absence the Battalion was commanded by the second-in-command, Major R. W. D. Sword.

For some time there has been a movement afoot in the Rhine Army to dispense with the old German names for barracks. Permission had been sought, and has at last been obtained, to change the name from Eider Barracks to the most suitable of all names—Albuhera Barracks. Headquarters and company blocks have also been named, again with our eyes fixed upon the tradition of the Regiment—Inglis, Browne, Horrocks and Bucknall.

Sports Notes

As happened last time, these notes have been written at the turn of the seasons. Having achieved considerable success during the summer, we are looking forward to further victories in the winter games.

An ambitious season has been planned in B.A.O.R. for unit soccer teams and the Battalion has entered a team for the inter-unit competition and the Army Football Association Challenge Cup. In the inter-unit competition we have been drawn to play the 2nd Scots Guards, who have a full team of professional players. In a recent game they drew with a Combined Services XI (2-2), who subsequently beat West Ham United 4-2. It was rather a blow to learn that we were to have such opposition so early in the competition, but it would take much more than that to dismay our players. The game against the Scots Guards is due to be played in Hamburg on November 13. A slightly different proposition is the draw for the Army Football Association Challenge Cup against 1st Heavy Regiment (R.A.), to be played at Itzehoe on November 6. We have great hopes of going further in this competition.

In the normal inter-unit matches so far played by the soccer 1st XI we have won six out of seven played, losing only one. This certainly does not reflect badly on the opposition, as all the games have been very hotly contested. It was a great day when the 10th Hussars were soundly beaten, as this regiment had left no stones unturned to assure everyone that they possessed an unbeaten side. The score of five goals to three is a fair indication of our team's superiority over such opposition as was undoubtedly put up by the 10th Hussars. The 2nd XI have so far been undefeated in the two games played.

Battalion soccer colours have been awarded for the 1946-47 season to the following: Capt. G. H. Stubbs, Sgt. S. Page ("D") and Ptes. A. Zimmer ("A"), E. Perry ("A"), H. Hales ("C") and W. Richardson ("D").

Not quite so successful, the hockey team has, however, held its own in matches against teams of a very high standard. In fact, as the season progresses there will certainly be a marked improvement. Again, there is a team entered for the B.A.O.R. competition, open to all units, and we have been drawn to play against the 3rd R.T.R. on November 15. Our hopes run high for success, and with players such as A.S.M. Letchford (R.E.M.E.) and Capt. L. J. Delaney (who has just returned after having been laid up due to shoulder injuries) a very high standard of play is expected. Of a total of 11 matches played, we have won five, drawn two, and lost four. Quite a creditable effort.

Battalion colours have been awarded to the following: Major G. O. Porter, Cpts. T. I. Mather, L. J. Delaney and R. J. P. Cummins, A.S.M. Letchford (R.E.M.E.) and D/Major Holford.

In contrast to last year's pathetic efforts at raising a rugby XV, Capt. W. A. W. St. George has miraculously enthused the Battalion to such an extent that quite a passable team has been formed. So far only one match has been played, in which we were defeated by the 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment (N.H.) by 12 points to three, and another had to be cancelled owing to fixtures for other games clashing. Again, a team has been entered for the two competitions to be held this season.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard L. McCroery, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; Maj.-Gen. J. C. O. Marriott, K.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., Comd. Gds. Div.; Lt.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O.



The Officers, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, on the occasion of the visit of the Colonel of the Regiment



Maj.-Gen. J. C. O. Marriott inspecting Lt. Frith's platoon, "C" Company, on 13th September, 1946

the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Rugby Union Football Competition and the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup. In the former we are drawn to play the 1st Coldstream Guards on November 12 and in the latter the 1st Heavy Regiment (R.A.) on November 5.

A great feature in the development of rugby in the Battalion has been its inclusion in the games to count for

the award of the "Albuhera" Shield. This aspect of the shield has already been decided, "H.Q." Company being fairly easy winners.

A team has been entered for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Cross-Country Competition, and it is hoped that in this we shall register victory. We have a strong team and training continues relentlessly.

Competition for the "Albuhera" Shield, generally, is high in all companies, and credit is due to them, particularly for having successfully interested members in boxing. Both a novices' and open competitions have been fought off. This augurs well for the Battalion, and Capt. Stubbs, in charge of the boxing team, maintains that we have a better team than we had last year.

To date the points gained by companies in the "Albuhera" Shield are:

	"H.Q."	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"
Cricket League	9	6	2	4	9
Cricket K.O.	10	2	4	8	6
Swimming	2	6	10	8	4
Water Polo	1	3	5	4	2
Rugby K.O.	10	8	4	2	6
Cross-Country (I)	2	4	1	5	3
Novices' Boxing	2	6	4	8	10
Athletic Meeting (I)	6	4	8	10	2
Tug-of-War	3	1	2	4	5
Rifle Meeting	2	8	10	4	6
	47	48	50	57	53

"A" Company

The old bogey of demob. is at last fading away and we are able now to seriously get down to the job of welding a company together. We still, however, have to report losses that will always be difficult to replace. Among those who have gone back to England are C.Q.M.S. Bell, Sgt. Broad, Cpls. Aarons, Agate and Bowers, L/Cpl. Ireland and Ptes. Brumley, Cook, Cornish, Fowell, Foster, Maule, Taylor and Warry. Replacements have been forthcoming from the 1st/7th Battalion, among them being Sgts. Collins and Clemson. Other "new boys" include Capt. Bellers and C.Q.M.S. Lomax.

The Company continues to flourish at sport, some of the "Albuhera" Shield competitions having already been decided after hectic struggles. The hardest and most exciting was undoubtedly the novices' boxing, which was eventually won by "D" Company. In this we had a very strong side; in fact, in our battle against "D" Company in the semi-final the result of the contest depended on the last fight, both companies having gained the same number of points. After a grand bout "D" were given the decision, so winning by the odd point and honours going to our side for a great performance.

In the "Albuhera" cricket league we finished third to "H.Q." and "D," who finished the season level on points. This was a good achievement by us, as we had lost so many of our better players through release.

Another event that caused great interest in the Battalion was the first of the cross-country runs for the "Albuhera" Shield. In this we did very well. Three of our men gained first, second and third places, but the tail lagged somewhat, dragging us back to second place in the contest. We are training hard for the next run, to take place on November 4, and are looking forward to taking first place.

The soccer season opened disastrously, losing the first three games, but the rot seems to have been stopped now, due to men returning from leave, as we convincingly beat "H.Q." Company by five goals to nil.

In hockey we can report far greater successes. We have so far won all our matches—four in all—with a team that, if not talented, at least has great enthusiasm.

Rugger, too, has produced encouraging results. We are doing very well indeed, having won our first game, against "C" Company, by 23 points to nil. Now we are preparing to play "B" Company in the semi-final, and a very hard game is expected.

And so, with our sports going at a satisfactory pace, the Company almost up to full strength, and no longer strange to each other, we are looking forward with interest to what the remaining weeks to Christmas will bring us.

"B" Company

During the last three months the Company has again suffered through demob., and amongst those who have gone are some of our most able athletes and sportsmen. The M.T. side of the Company has suffered the most heavily by the departures of Ptes. Jebb, Redfern and Armstrong, all drivers; also L/Cpl. Poole, our technical

storeman, and Pte. Barnard, "B" Company's athletic star. It will be remembered that the latter represented the Battalion in the Divisional Athletic Championships. To all the above we wish the very best of luck and good fortune on their return to civilian life.

As old faces have left the Company others have arrived to take their places. Among our new arrivals are Sgts. Ellis and Lomax, both from the original 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, and Cpl. Alcock comes to us from the 1st/7th to take over the Company's M.T. Sgt. Ellis is at present engaged in training the Company's "Albuhera" Shield boxing team. At the time of going to press we hear that Sgt. Lomax is now installed as C.Q.M.S. of "A" Company. We are sorry indeed to lose him, but at the same time we offer him our heartiest congratulations on his promotion.

Under our new Company Commander, Major G. O. Porter, a detachment, made up of members of all four companies, recently visited the Guards Division Training Centre at Putlos, where field firing exercises were carried out, both by M.M.G.s and mortars.

The Company have recently moved into a newly prepared block of billets in the barracks. This block has been named the Browne Block after the Colonel of the Regiment.

Another personality who joined the Company from No. 26 M.G.T.C. was Lieut., now Capt., P. G. V. Bellers. His stay with us was, unfortunately, short, owing to his appointment recently as second-in-command "A" Company. C.S.M. Pike, who has been enjoying a spot of leave in the U.K., is now back again keeping a very watchful eye on the boxing team, who are toughening themselves up for the forthcoming Inter-Company Open Boxing Competition.

Competition for the coveted "Albuhera" Shield is still high in the Company, and we are maintaining our keenness in all sports. We progressed very favourably indeed in the initial events for the shield and had a substantial lead in points over all the other companies. We started off by winning the Battalion Swimming Meeting by one point. Our nearest rivals, "C" Company, had to be placed fourth to ensure our victory, and that is exactly what happened. In the Battalion Knock-out Water Polo Competition we again came out on top. Magnificent swimming by Lieut. Sach, Cpls. Basire, Negus and Cubitt and Ptes. Moore, Darbin and Cates, who made up the team, outclassed anything the other companies could put against us.

The Company football team is playing quite well, but the old bogey, demob., keeps taking toll of our players. We replace these losses as fast as we can, but it becomes rather difficult for us to weld a permanent team together; but, in spite of all the difficulties, we have not done too badly in the inter-company matches so far, having lost one, drawn one and won two out of the four played.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent recently when "B" Company was pipped at the post by "C" Company by the narrow margin of one point in the novices' boxing. Terrific spirit was shown by both teams. The Company achieved two knock-outs, Cpl.

Morris and Pte. Moore "putting away" their opponents in the second rounds of their respective bouts. It was a bitter disappointment to us to lose the day by only one bout, but in the Open Boxing Competition, to be held shortly, the Company teams are all out to avenge that defeat.

Hockey has been in full swing for some time now, and we have had some very fast and exciting games against the other companies. Here again, as in the football, we have not been doing too badly. So far in the hockey league we have lost one game, drawn one and won two.

Rugger, also, is now coming more and more into the foreground with the Inter-Company Knock-out Competition not far away. On most afternoons, under the instruction of Major Porter, the Company team is being welded together in preparation for the forthcoming contest. Though there are very few in the Company who have played the game before, tremendous keenness is being shown by everybody, and we have no doubt that we will be able to give a good account of ourselves when the time comes.

At the present time the Company is out on detachment with 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment (N.H.) at Hendon Barracks, Kiel, the detachment being commanded by our own Company Commander, Major G. O. Porter. The stay in Kiel is likely to be for a period of a month, and then we will be relieved by another company of the Battalion. Whilst at Kiel we are taking every opportunity to make the fullest use of the excellent games facilities in the neighbourhood.

We have recently been joined by Lieut. P. C. Barclay from "A" Company, but he is no stranger, and so we give him an extra warm welcome back to the fold.

Before we come to an end we must not forget to mention Pte. Casey's good work when playing for the Battalion 2nd XI at Lübeck recently in netting three goals.

"C" Company

During the period under review "C" Company has maintained its high standard of discipline and turn-out, both in drill and sport, despite many old members of the Company leaving us on demobilisation, notable amongst whom are Sgt. Easton and Pte. Parker.

Many other members of "C" Company have also left, but are too numerous to name individually. We wish them all every success in civilian life.

We heartily welcome the new members of the Company who have come to us during the past two months from the Cheshire Regiment, the Northumberland Fusiliers and the 1st/7th Middlesex.

We also extend a hearty welcome to Capt. P. L. Crutchfield, who joins us as second-in-command of the Company.

In addition to the many changes of personnel within the Company and heavy commitments for Regimental guards and duties, which severely interrupted sports training, "C" Company continued to maintain and lead in the struggle for the "Albuhera" Shield.

July 20 was a great day for the Company in that we won first place in the Inter-Company Athletic Meeting. The most outstanding win of the afternoon was when Pte. Parker won the pole vault with a jump of 9 ft. 6½ ins. without ever having pole vaulted before. Our team was strongest in the track events, when we carried five out of seven events, plus one second place and one third place for the remainder. Our success was due to the efforts of the following: L/Sgt. Easton, Cpls. Stallard and Jackson, L/Cpls. Ramsden and Bucknill and Pte. Fisher. In the finals Sgt. Morgan, in putting the shot with a throw of 30 ft. 10 ins., won us second place in the event.

"C" Company reached the final of the water polo knock-out, but lost to "B" Company by 11 goals to two, the score being no reflection on the spirit of the team. C.S.M. Webb, in whose very capable hands the team was both placed and trained, is to be congratulated for his efforts in moulding the team from willing but "green" volunteers.

In the swimming meeting "C" Company lost to "B" Company again, but by half a point only! Up to the last event "C" Company were leading, but, in spite of the very valiant efforts of Lieut. Cutts in the all ranks medley, we were unable to collect sufficient points to carry the day. Our team, unfortunately, had to rely on some of the stronger swimmers competing three or four times during the afternoon, notably C.S.M. Webb, Cpl. Stallard, L/Cpl. Ramsden and Ptes. Poole, Pearce and White, who has now returned to Civvy Street.

"C" Company won the first cross-country run easily with 250 points—50 points ahead of "A" Company, who were on our heels most of the way. The team packed well and our congratulations go to Pte. Bunkle (fifth in the Battalion), L/Cpl. Ramsden, Cpl. Jackson and Lieut. Frith, who were tenth, eleventh and twelfth respectively in the Battalion.

Our first fight in the novices' boxing was with "H.Q." Company, whom we beat easily by a clear nine points. This put "C" Company in the semi-finals against "B" Company; both teams fought well, but we won the competition by the odd point.

Unfortunately, in the finals against "D" Company "C" Company were unable to enter a full team owing to previous injuries sustained in the fight with "B" Company, so we had no alternative but to give a walk-over to "D" Company. This was a bitter disappointment to our Company, and especially to Pte. Buck, our capable trainer, who had worked hard preparing the team for the fight.

We met "A" Company in the first match of the open boxing and saw some good boxing by both teams. The competition was hard fought and excitement centred on the last fight of the afternoon, as both teams were equal in points up to that fight. Pte. Richardson, however, made quite sure of a win for "C" Company by trying a K.O. in the first round; the referee stopped the fight and awarded the fight and the competition to "C" Company. Our congratulations go to Sgt. Peart and Ptes. Williams, Fisher and Pearce, who fought very well and helped the Company to win.

"C" Company opened the hockey season with an 8-0 win over "D" Company, thereby proving the game to be much easier than was anticipated. The outstanding players of the afternoon were Major Beadnell, Lieut. Cutts and Pte. Argent. Our subsequent games were, unfortunately, not so successful owing to reserves having to be found at the last moment owing to injuries sustained by some of our better players, the net result being we lost to "H.Q.," "B" and "A" Companies, but only after some enjoyable and exciting matches.

"C" Company opened the soccer season by drawing with "D" Company, a very encouraging effort, remembering "D" Company were able to use nearly all their old members of the team when they won the Garrison Cup last year. Our congratulations go to Ptes. Wright (10) and Robb, who is now in Civvy Street, and therefore a great loss to the Company.

Our next two games resulted in wins for "C" Company over "A" and "H.Q." Companies.

In the fourth game "C" Company drew with "B" Company after a very tiring game; without the very able assistance of Pte. Hales, who only recently joined the Company from the 1st/7th Middlesex, and Pte. Adolph the result might not have been so good.

On the commencement of the second half of the season "C" Company found it difficult to produce a really good team owing to many players being on leave and having left on demobilisation; however, by putting five reserve players on the field against "D" Company in a return match we congratulate ourselves in losing after a really hard fight by only one goal to two.

"D" Company

"D" Company has seen more new faces in the past few weeks, the most notable being the new Company Commander, Major G. B. Ayre, to whom we wish every success. Major (now Capt.) Townend has left the Company to take up duties of Entertainments Officer. We are all particularly sorry to see him leave, as he has been with the Company throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe, and, indeed, for the past four years.

During the month of September two platoons went to Putlos forges for a week's field firing, which turned out to be quite successful.

On October 24 we sent a platoon to Putlos under Capt. de Gaye and Lieut. Tarmey to take part in a demonstration. The 4.2 mortars were fired off the new baseplates which, mounted on wheels, fold over the baseplate for firing similar to the 25-pounder. This saves quite a lot of manhandling of the weapon, and, although we have only had them a few weeks, the men are already quite skilled in handling them.

Within the last quarter the rate of release (both classes) has slowed down considerably, and we are now up to W.E. The best known of our recent losses was Sgt. Skoyles, who has been with the Company throughout the war years. Another is Cpl. Brown, who, although he was not with us for very long, gained a big reputation for himself as Company and Battalion centre forward and was very popular. He is going to play for Bromley F.C., the Athenian League side. We wish them every success in civilian life.

In the sporting world we are doing extremely well. We are heading the football table, having lost only one point in five games played. Notable stalwarts in the soccer side are Capt. Stubbs, Sgt. Page, Cpl. Neal and Ptes. Richardson and Burgess, all of whom have played for the Battalion.

An excellent boxing team appears to be our strong point. In the recent "Albuhara" Shield Inter-Company Novices' Boxing Competition we beat "A" Company and drew "C" Company for the final, who did not produce a team; we therefore won the competition. "D" Company team was: bantam-weight, Pte. Taylor; feather-weight, Pte. Kirby; light-weights Ptes. Groves and Cpl. Hurley; welter-weights, Ptes. Webb, Taylor (37) and Phillips; middle-weights, Ptes. Burgess and Aries; light-heavy-weight, Pte. Sanderson; and heavy-weight, Pte. Moore. Last week we were given another walk-over in the Inter-Company Open Boxing Competition, when, our reputation having preceded us, "H.Q." Company failed to get a team. We now meet "B" Company in the semi-final on Thursday, October 31. As we have five Battalion class boxers we are confident of winning.

As a result of soccer and boxing successes we hope to climb up the "Albuhara" Shield Competition table.

In the "Albuhara" hockey league we have a dismal record and have yet to register a win. For some inexplicable reason we are never able to produce a good hockey side, despite the noble efforts of Sgts. Page and McCluskie and Ptes. Rees and Toplass, who always play a hard and enthusiastic game.

For the first time since the outbreak of hostilities a rugger knock-out has been organised. In this competition we met "H.Q." Company, who possess most of the rugger stars, and had a hard spirited game and did creditably to lose by six points to nil. Tremendous enthusiasm was shown by the "D" Company XV, who suffered mainly from lack of knowledge of the game. We found some potentially good forwards in Cpl. Walsh and Ptes. Paul and Hewitt. Pte. Rees, who is a Battalion player, played a fine game, leading the forwards. At centre three-quarter C.Q.M.S. Budding played a Trojan's part, and Capt. Stubbs, better known as a soccer player, did creditably as wing three-quarter. At full back Pte. Richardson played a sound game, but suffered from hesitating too much. Unfortunately, Major Ayre was unable to play, due to an injury received when playing for the Battalion in a recent game, and Sgt. Pople was on leave.

Undoubtedly rugger has "caught on" in "D" Company and the men look forward to more fixtures.

"H.Q." Company

During the past few months several newcomers have arrived. Among them is Capt. W. A. W. St. George, who has been appointed Battalion M.T.O. He is a great asset to the Company and takes part in all our games. D/Major Holford also joined us a few months ago and is another great sportsman. Eventually he hopes to get our corps of drums going. L/Cpl. Bell Chambers and Pte. Chatsfield are two other original Battalion men who have lately joined us.

On a sadder note we must record the loss, due to release, of several of our members, but congratulations and best wishes are due to Sgt. Higgins, who is to be married on his return to Civvy Street.

We had a good cricket team this last season and won the cricket knock-out competition and shared the cricket league honours with "D" Company. With at least five of the Battalion 1st XI in the side we were always a stiff proposition for all the other companies.

At the beginning of the soccer season we were not doing too well, but with the return of several of our star players who have been on U.K. leave we hope to get out of the rut.

Quite a lot of interest has been shown in the formation of a Company rugger side. No inter-company games have been played yet, but great hopes are held of a good team this season.

In the recent cross-country run "H.Q." were fourth, which, taking into account the limited number of runners we can pick from, was a very good effort.

In the novices' boxing we did not get very far, being eliminated in the first round by "C" Company. A very spirited performance was put up, particularly by Capt. Lloyd-Thomas, who was very severely trounced by his opponent.

As far as indoor games are concerned, we hope to play a lot of squash and badminton, for which we have very excellent courts in the gymnasium in the barracks.

In spite of our very heavy losses through release and our commitments in guards and picquets and all the many duties of an occupational battalion, we are carrying out a very ambitious sporting programme in which all ranks are taking a keen and lively interest.

2nd BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

INTRODUCTION

One year ago to-day, October 22, 1946, the 2nd Middlesex disembarked at Alexandria from the Polish luxury liner *Batory*, which had brought us across the blue waters of the Mediterranean from the French port of Toulon on "Medloc Southbound," a route that has since become very familiar to those of us who have been back on U.K. leave. Some of us, former members of 1st/7th Middlesex, had seen the Middle East before, during the war, but for most of us the sand and smells of Egypt were something new—and something we did not much like.

A great deal has happened since we first started getting our knees brown. A couple of months in Egypt, first at Qassassin for a short period, then at Fanara on the Bitter Lake, where we were initiated in the experiences of sun and sand, flies and gippy tummy; and then, in December, 1945, off up to Palestine.

The change of scenery and conditions could scarcely have been more complete. It was good to see hills and greenery again. It was good, at first, to see rain, though at Jalama and Ramat David we did have rather too much of the good thing. It was good to see something like a European town again.

Unfortunately, the pleasures of Palestine were inevitably marred by the state of tension throughout the country. We became acutely conscious of the reality of the Palestine problem, and it was not long before many of us had some pretty decided solutions to offer! Threats and acts of terrorism forced on us a burden of guards, patrols and road blocks that made us glad to return, in April, to the comparative peace of Egypt, with all its sun, sand and smells.

We have survived the summer and are still at Fayid, halfway between Suez and Ismailia, some five or six miles north of our previous camp at Fanara. The weather is becoming cooler now: winds blow from the hills behind us and from the Bitter Lake in front; little sandstorms rise from time to time, and we have even had a spot of rain.

There are probably very few of us indeed who would not give anything to be stationed in Europe again, but there are a few pleasures to be enjoyed in this barren land. The Bitter Lake affords excellent opportunities for bathing, and in recent weeks the Military Yacht Club (all ranks), Fayid, has proved an innovation very popular with members of the Battalion. Sport is flourishing, recreational facilities are quite good, and there are several local leave centres open to us.

The composition of the Battalion continues to change almost from day to day. Sadly we bid old well-known faces farewell; gladly we welcome new friends among our reinforcements. Life is full. Training is in full swing, with M.G. and mortar cadres for the benefit of our newcomers, signals, driving, and N.C.O.s' cadres to maintain the efficiency of the continually changing Battalion. The compulsory education scheme has been running since June and seems to be making headway against the difficulties of combining military and civilian training. With the loss of staff caused by demobilisation, it has been decided to discontinue publication of the 2nd Battalion magazine, *The Chad*, which had its beginnings a year ago at Fanara, and to devote all our literary efforts to support of *The Die-Hards*. All our news will go to the Regimental journal, and we hope that all former readers of *The Chad* will now maintain contact with us through *The Die-Hards*. Cricket, swimming, athletics, and now soccer—all these and many other activities leave us little time to get browned off. But let the companies speak for themselves.

"H.Q." COMPANY

"Wot! Rain in Egypt?" After six months of desert sun and sand it is hard to believe. But "it did"—on September 26 (only 23 drops, but nevertheless rain, and we must mention it). We can see the recently demobbed shaking their heads, but it is true. It is a pity you ever left—you would love it now! October's cool breezes and a chance of more rain have given us all a new lease of life and energy.

Taking every advantage of lightened duties, and with the aid of the Egyptian sun, the accent throughout the Battalion in recent months has been on sport. In this sphere undoubtedly the two biggest attractions recently

2nd BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)



1. View of 19 British General Hospital (next door to 2 Mx.) taken through the nose of the skeleton Dakota used for portability training. 2. Major Orr throwing the discus at the support group athletic meeting at Moascar. 3. 2 Mx. R.A.P. (on right) and 19 British General Hospital beyond, taken through the nose of the skeleton Dakota used for air portability training, Fayid. 4. Major Clayton throwing the discus at the support group athletic meeting at Moascar. 5. Commanding Officer's Orders, Fayid. 6. Cpl. Dickie, R.E.M.E. attached to "D" Company, jumping at 5 ft. 3 in. He won the high jump at 5 ft. 4 in. (support group meeting, Moascar). 7. 2 Mx. relay team (left to right): Pte Grant ("C"), Pte Williams ("B"), Major Clayton ("C"), Sgt. Thomson ("C").

have been the Battalion Athletic Meeting and the Swimming Gala.

One of the most exciting events of the former was the tug-of-war between "C" Company and ourselves. Our opponents won the first pull and we won the second. The third developed into a ding-dong struggle, with the supporters of both sides cheering madly. Though "C" finally beat us, it was a tough fight and to the last "anybody's game."

In the field events the Company had one outstanding man—R.S.M. Weller. He won the javelin and shot from all comers with comparative ease, and was second in the long jump, a fine performance. As one member of the Company was heard to remark, "A dozen R.S.M.s and we'd sweep the field."

Other members of the Company were not lacking in effort. Deserving special mention are Pte. Reid, second in the 880 yards, and Lieut. Small, second in the mile.

At swimming we did not fare so well. Sgt. Watson gained our sole success when he ploughed his way to victory in the 50 yards backstroke. Nice going, Sgt. Watson!

As in England, we are now changing over from cricket to football, though it is a hard job to convince some cricket enthusiasts that the season is over, and they still arrange odd games. The last two Company games resulted in one win, one lose. In the first of these, much against popular opinion, "C" Company were defeated by 12 runs, a result which afforded much satisfaction to the tug-of-war team. "D" Company were our opponents in the second game, and they gained a narrow victory by five runs.

So far no inter-company football has taken place. Several trial games have been played within the Company, and we have the nucleus of a fine team, facing the future with sober confidence.

Our Company Commander, Major H. J. Dawson, M.C., left us on release at the end of July, and recently we have witnessed the departure of Groups 38 to 43. Among them have been four king-pins of the Education Department—Sgts. Trotman, Newman, Bugden and Bruce. We have also bid farewell to the Medical Officer, Capt. Buchan, and the Technical Adjutant, Major Webber. Others released have been Sgt. Robson, Cpls. McFarlane and Burnett, L/Cpls. Ormerod, Jones, Barber and Thomas, and Ptes. Mulvain, Milne, Johnson, Pinney, Bray, Round, Attridge, Critchley, Twilley, Mathews, Duff, King, Garwood, Vero and Bell. To all these we who remain wish good luck and all the best in Civvy Street.

Sgt. Purdon has been transferred to the A.P.T.C. and posted to H.Q. G.B.D. Ptes. Walsh, Hanlon and Judge have left us on Python, and Dvr. Lewis has been posted to 8th Infantry Brigade workshops. Pte. Sharman has been transferred to C.M.P. Base Depot, and Sgt. Griffiths left recently on home posting.

Capt. Bird is now commanding, and two familiar faces have recently reappeared in the Company. C.Q.M.S. Phillips ("Folly" to some), after 56 days in England, once more holds court in the stores, amidst 108s and 1157s. C.S.M. Hammond is also back at his desk, scanning duty lists with eagle eyes and raking guards from dusty corners.

L/Cpl. Taylor, it is rumoured, is going to keep a pet shop when he leaves the Army. His latest venture, a pigeon house, now stands at the end of the Company lines. Some say it is a pity the pigeons are not hens. Others maintain that pigeons' eggs are "just the job." So we are waiting in hope!

"B" COMPANY

August was spent with the rest of the Battalion at Fayid, where we took part in the general run of training and sport. Once a week we took our guns out to the range for platoon field firing.

On September 2 we left the cool breezes of the Bitter Lake for the dull heat of Suez, where we relieved "D" Company on detachment. Since then our chief occupation has been guard duties on the docks at Addabiya and Ataka. During September we lived with the 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, leaving them on October 3 for the 1st Battalion Royal West Kents.

This month, October, we have tried to continue training, but guard commitments remain very heavy and restrict all other activities. A considerable number of the Company have been attached to "C" Company from time to time for the purpose of taking part in the various Battalion cadres.

On October 12 we provided a guard of honour, consisting of one officer and 12 other ranks, for H.E. Baber Shamshir, General Commanding the Nepalese Army, who was embarking on the S.S. *Andes* on his way back to India after a visit to U.K.

We have played both our hosts at soccer, drawing on both occasions—v. H.L.I., 2—2; v. R.W.K., 4—4. Beyond these matches there has been little Company sport worth speaking of, though we have, of course, sent our representatives to take part in the Battalion athletics, swimming and cricket.

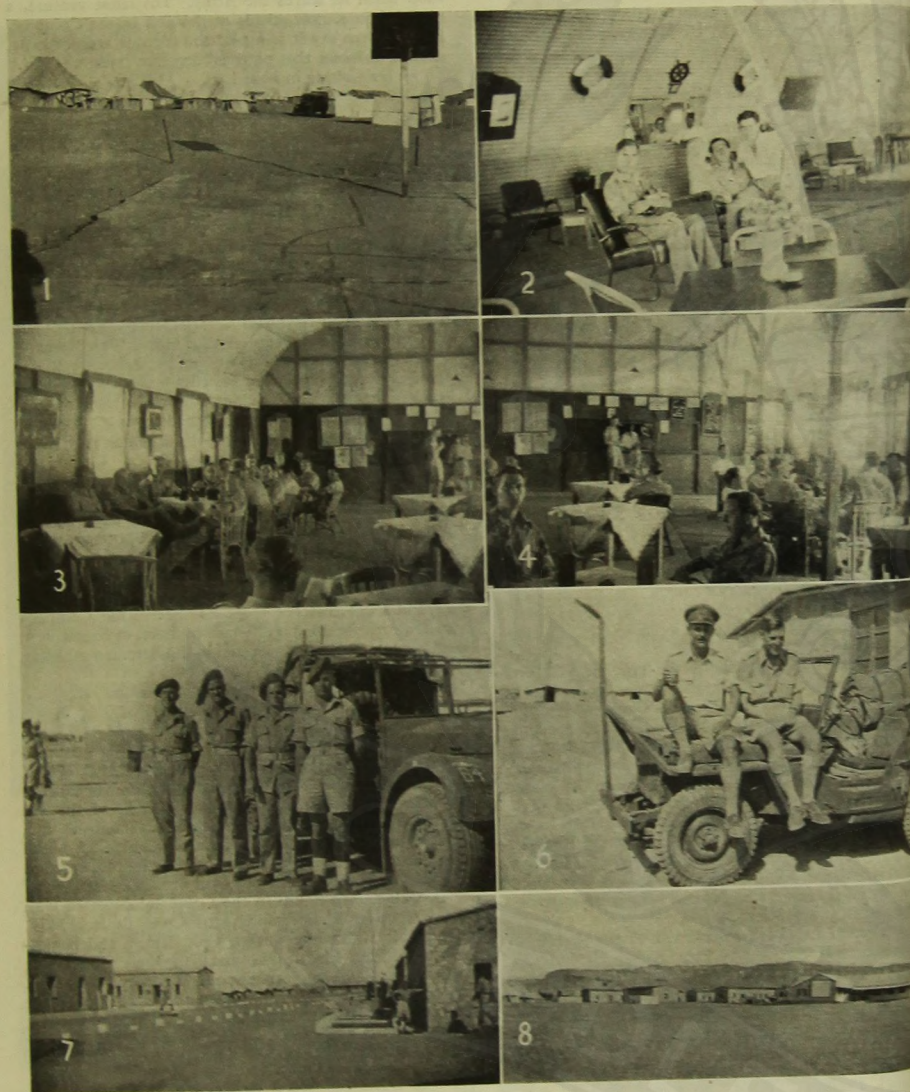
Demobilisation continues its drain on our old members. We were sorry at the end of July to bid farewell to our Company Commander, Major I. D. McLean, who had been with us since the Battalion re-formed at Iseghem in August, 1945. Lieut. Waite, who joined us at the same time, left for release on October 7. Major K. B. Baxter, M.C., of the old "D" Company, is now commanding, though he, too, will soon be leaving with 44 Group. Capt. E. J. Naish is Second-in-Command, and we congratulate Sgt. Wilde on his recent well-deserved promotion to C.S.M.

A well-known figure in the Company departed with 43 Group a short while ago—Cpl. Taylor, M.T. Corporal. With him went L/Cpls. Brown and Eaglesfield and Ptes. Bird, Smith and Kingswell. Earlier we lost Ptes. Stebbing, Smallwood, Wells and McLeod. L/Cpl. England has been granted a Class "B" release. We wish them all the very best of luck in Civvy Street and hope they will write occasionally and let us know how they are getting on.

"C" COMPANY

In the general field of "C" Company's activities during the months of August, September and October two main items can be noted with pride and satisfaction—sport and training.

2nd BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)



1. Basket-ball pitch and lines, Fayid. 2. Three members of the Education Staff: Sgt. Silby, Pte. Keating (librarian), Sgt. Childs, at the Military Yacht Club, Fayid. 3. In the N.A.A.F.I., Fayid. 4. In the N.A.A.F.I., Fayid. 5. Four members of "D" Company (left to right): Pte. O'Connor, Pte. Sayer, L. Cpl. Hummerstone, Sgt. Carver. 6. Major I. D. McLean and Major H. J. Dawson, M.C., about to depart on release, Fayid, July 29, 1946. 7. Battalion Headquarters buildings and Major H. J. Dawson, M.C., about to depart on release, Fayid. 8. General view of Battalion Headquarters buildings, with N.A.A.F.I. on right, Fayid.

Sport

As always, sport has played a major part in Company life. Major Clayden is still president of the Battalion Sports Committee and the guiding force for all Battalion sports comes from his office.

Cricket, swimming, athletics and soccer have been our main sporting activities. In the inter-company soccer matches held during the latter part of September and the beginning of October the Company excelled itself. Several members have represented the Battalion in the first and second cricket and soccer elevens. Cpl. Streetfield shone in the cricket first eleven as a real hard hitter, and he is now taking an active part in Battalion soccer. Ptes. Keyworth and Wells also represented the Battalion at cricket; Keyworth put up a fine show in athletics as well. Talent has been discovered among recent drafts posted to the Company. Pte. Sheard, after an excellent show in the inter-company soccer matches, was selected to play for the first eleven at inside right, and Pte. Wilde at outside left.

So far rugby, at which the Company did exceptionally well last season (seven members played for the Battalion), has been a minor feature of sport, although extensive training has been going on under the supervision of Major Clayden.

Owing to the demands of other sports, boxing has been sadly neglected, although there are a few very promising boxers in the Company. Sgt. Webb, who was in the Battalion boxing team last year, is still sparring about and showing some of the new members a few tricks of the trade.

Training

As with sport, training has come under the supervision of Major Clayden, who has been Officer i/c Battalion Cadres. These cadres are designed primarily to train reinforcements hitherto untrained in M.G. or mortar, and "C" Company has more or less become a cadre company. Several minor exercises were carried out in September and October, and excellent reports have been received on the progress of the new intakes. With "B" Company at Suez, great havoc has been caused by personnel being continually attached and detached, but, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Company Commander and the C.S.M., the Company is once more running on a smooth basis.

During August inter-unit motor-cycle trials were held locally, the Battalion competing with the 15th/19th Hussars. Ptes. Columbus and Connor were chosen from the Company for the Battalion team, and Columbus was congratulated by the Commanding Officer on his splendid performance.

Leave

Men who have not had an opportunity of going on L.I.A.P. have the choice of three places where they can spend a few days of recreation. First, and most popular with the Company, is Lone Palm Holiday Camp at Sidi Bishr, about seven miles east of Alexandria. The camp is very modern, and all ranks, from sergeants to privates, are treated alike. Unfortunately, vacancies

are very few and only one man in the Company is able to go each week. Secondly, there is the Timsah Holiday Camp at Ismailia, but here the leave is only for 48 hours, and facilities are poor compared with Lone Palm. Thirdly, for those who are really lucky, there is Cyprus. So far Sgt. Ruskin has been the only member of the Company to go.

General

The sad loss of C.S.M. Donovan (posted to home establishment whilst on leave) has been greatly felt by all old members of the Company, and all wish him the best of luck in his new appointment. His position in the Company has been more than ably filled by C.S.M. du Heaume (ex-"A" Company).

Two new officers have joined us—Capt. J. T. Stanyer and Lieut. C. C. Close—and are welcomed by all. Sgt. Griffiths has returned to the Battalion and is congratulated on his promotion to colour-sergeant to take the place of C/Sgt. Robinson, who left for release in September. C/Sgt. Griffiths was noted as a three-mile runner in previous Battalion sports, and he has taken an active part in this season's sports as well.

Lieut. Hopkinson has been released under Class "B," and, in addition to those already mentioned, we have lost L/Sgt. Nunn, L.Cpls. Newell, Midgeley, Watts and Nutt, and Ptes. May, Charlesworth, Stanley, Jones, Carr, Angus, Jarvis, Beckinsale and Martin. We wish them all the best of luck in their new spheres.

"D" COMPANY

Since our last report the Company has been on detachment at Suez, where our life consisted of guards, swimming and cricket, with the accent on guards. The social side was fostered by our competitions with our hosts, the 2nd Royal Warwick.

During our stay at Suez the C.-in-C. Middle East, General Dempsey, visited the Company and watched our mortar cadre, under Sgts. Ross and Firman, during E.M.D. He certainly seemed impressed and asked a number of questions.

We were very fortunate in having available for our use a local swimming pool and three cricket pitches. We held a very successful swimming gala, with some surprisingly good results. We were also very successful on the cricket field, winning the Battalion Inter-Company Cricket League after two very closely contested games against "C" Company. "H.Q." Company, 2nd Warwicks, challenged us and were defeated. We also took part with the Warwicks in table tennis and darts competitions, sharing the honours—table tennis to ourselves, darts to the Warwicks.

At the beginning of September we were relieved at Suez by "B" Company and returned to our old lines at Fayid.

The highlights of training since our return have been two very successful cadres—one for mortar numbers and the other for potential and junior N.C.O.s. The programmes included one day a week field firing on the range, and we were twice visited by the Divisional Commander, General Whistler, once during E.M.D. in camp and then at the final shoot on the range.

C.S.M. Hastie, with the assistance of the platoon sports representatives, has been doing great work organising our sporting activities at Fayid. Inter-platoon rivalry at football has been terrific. Nos. 10 and 12 have already played and drawn twice, and have yet to decide which is to meet Company H.Q. in the final. A Company soccer trial has been held, but a number of our players were on L.I.A.P. at the time, or went on L.I.A.P. immediately after the game, so another will be held in the near future. The following have represented the Battalion: 1st XI—Cpl. Hubbard and Ptes. Atterbury, Snow, Watson and Parsons; 2nd XI—Cpl. Frapwell and Ptes. Stott and White. We have high hopes of winning the inter-company "Overlord" soccer cup presented by Capt. Binney.

Besides soccer, we have also held a Company hockey trial, and we have visions of a good team this year, though whether we shall be able to repeat last year's performance remains to be seen.

A Company athletic meeting was held recently and proved very successful. Great keenness and determination was shown by all competitors. Pte. Rigden ran so hard in the 220 that he collapsed and had to be revived with a little stimulant!

We continue to bid farewell to our old members as they leave us on demobilisation. At Suez we were very sorry to lose Sgt. "Topper" Brown, L/Sgt. Edmed, M.M., and Ptes. Crouthers and Howick on Class "B" release. Capt. Jones left us in August, and Capt. Fraser will be going shortly with 44 Group. In the last three months we have also lost Sgts. McKinnon and Firman, Cpls. King and Bacon, M.M., L/Cpl. Riggott, and Ptes. Sharp, Thomas, Chipperfield, Ablett, Gray, Weatherall, Crisp, Murray, Robinson and Leech. Class "B" has robbed us of Ptes. Johnson, Marling, Scivier and Lee, while Cpl. Dunn has been posted to G.B.D., Cairo, L/Cpl. Allen to G.H.Q., and Pte. Reed to 6th Field Park Company at Hadera.

At the time of going to press we lose three more old-timers with 43 Group. Cpl. Dean, who has been with the Company since the old Support Group days, will be missed by all of us. With him go Pte. Williams, a D-Day reinforcement who was well known for his prowess with the gloves and to whom we owe so much for training "D" Company boxing team, and "Topper" Brown, our cricket umpire and football referee. Good luck to you all, and every success in Civvy Street.

News has been received from some of our old members now in Civvy Street. Sgt. Peter Toal is settling down very well in his butcher's business. George York is a postman in London, and very happy, too. He just had to have a uniform! Ron Bundy is back market gardening again. Dickie Dalkin met Monk Ellis in Newcastle. They work four doors from each other—they just cannot live without each other! Rumour says that Johnny Waterman, ex No. 10 Platoon, is joining up again. Do not forget, all you ex-"D" Company wallahs, we like to hear from you.

SPORTS

Cricket

The Battalion this summer was able to field three very useful cricket elevens, which were entered in the local cricket leagues. Besides the numerous league games, we ran a very keen inter-company league, which was eventually won by "D" Company. The Battalion has lacked throughout the season a good, steady, reliable bat. Our best performers, with their averages, were: Pte. Dackombe ("D"), 20; Pte. Brown ("B"), 14; L/Cpl. France ("H.Q."), 13; Cpl. Streetfield ("C"), 12; Sgt. Bruce ("H.Q."), 10; Cpl. Pickens ("C"), 8. In the bowling department we were over-crowded, and each eleven could produce at least seven good bowlers. Some of the more successful this season were: L/Cpl. France ("H.Q."), 43 wickets for an average of four runs; Major Clayden ("C"), 17 for 6; Pte. Hayto ("B"), 31 for 8; Pte. Brown ("B"), 27 for 8; Sgt. Bruce ("H.Q."), 34 for 9; Cpl. Streetfield ("C"), 21 for 9; Pte. Atterbury ("D"), 29 for 12; Major Orr ("D"), 11 for 17.

	LEAGUE RESULTS				
	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1st XI	14	9	0	5	18
2nd XI	14	7	0	7	14
3rd XI	10	5	0	5	10

Soccer

We start the football season with five of our last season's colours—C/Sgt. Freshwater, Cpl. Streetfield and Ptes. Kay, Harvey and Atterbury. The loss of Mason will probably be greatly felt at first, but with some very promising youngsters, and under the expert guidance of the Q.M., Capt. Farrow, we expect great results. We have entered two teams in the local league. So far the 2nd XI are unbeaten, while the 1st have won one and lost two. At the moment we lack combination in the forwards, but by the time the Divisional competition starts we shall have overcome this drawback.

Athletics

The Battalion, having run three athletic meetings, was in a strong position to enter a team for a Support Group meeting. Competing against the 15th Hussars, 20th Anti-Tank Regiment and H.Q. R.L.I., our team came out with flying colours, gaining seven firsts and three seconds. We are now entering the 3rd Divisional meeting on October 29 and 30, at which our opponents will be the 1st Lincolns, 1st South Lancs and 2nd Warwicks.

General

The prospects for rugby, hockey and boxing are encouraging, with plenty of experienced members and many anxious to learn. The swimming season has been long and well supported. Our team were runners-up in a Support Group meeting, and we have at least one of the team representing the Support Group in Divisional finals.

No. 26 M.G.T.C.

As many readers are aware, the life of the 26 M.G.T.C. is rapidly drawing to its close, and it may well be that before the next issue of this journal it may have ceased to exist.

As part of the post-war plan for the army as a whole, county P.T.C.s and grouped I.T.C.s are to be formed and operating before the end of the year. A key development in this was the move of the 26 M.G.T.C. from Blacon Camp to a temporary home at Crowborough.

Our new home consists of two camps—Warren Camp and West Camp—and are some three miles apart. It was originally decided that "H.Q." and Training Companies would be housed in West Camp and the two Depot Companies, Cadre Company and M.T. Company in Warren Camp. It was discovered that communications would not permit this, and in consequence "H.Q." Company was moved to Warren Camp.

Readers will appreciate our difficulties in our new home, when, being essentially a training centre, we found ourselves in a camp without any semblance of a barrack square, no gymnasium, no training equipment and no sports ground.

Valiant efforts were made by all departments and commands, and in a very short space of time things began to happen. A huge garage was converted into a really good gymnasium complete with climbing ropes, vaulting horses, ground mats, badminton court and a basket ball pitch. C.S.M.I. Brinkley, A.P.T.C., and his staff worked day and night to produce this result and, in addition, a really first-class obstacle course.

The local council and sports clubs were most helpful and the Centre has the use of two sports grounds, on which soccer and hockey are well under way. Training equipment was quickly obtained, rooms misappropriated and converted into lecture rooms, Regimental rooms, library and education centre, to mention only a few, and within three days of arriving at the new station training was in full swing.

Most ranks miss Chester and its amenities, but Crowborough has its compensations in that both London and Brighton are within an hour's journey.

At the moment the Centre is busy on reorganisation for the coming move to our respective P.T.C.s and I.T.C.s at Newcastle, Catterick, Mill Hill and Shorncliffe, but more of that in our next issue.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Lieut.-Colonel Redwood, R.N.F., who had been our Commanding Officer for so long, but we welcomed in his place Major W. R. M. Clifford, R.N.F., who came to us from The Dale, our rivals at No. 24 M.G.T.C. Now Major Clifford has handed over command to our first Middlesex Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel G. P. L. Weston, D.S.O., O.B.E. To many of us Colonel Weston is no stranger, and we offer him a hearty welcome.

On September 25 we celebrated our combined battle honour at El Bodon. The day was observed as a holiday. We began with a short parade at each camp, at which the C.O. told the men what had happened at the battle. After dinner the Middlesex defeated the 5th at hockey, but were beaten at football. In the evening there was an all ranks' dance at West Camp and a variety show at

Warren. Both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes celebrated, the former with a cocktail party and the latter with a social evening. The day had a special significance, as it is probably the last time that the two regiments will be together as one unit.

Major Kempster paid us a flying visit in September and told us all the news about the Regimental Association. Before his visit it was not generally appreciated what a fine work was done by the Association, but this talk has shown what an extremely important part it plays in the life of the Regiment.

We were delighted to see the Colonel of the Regiment here on October 23. He saw us engaged on a typical day's training, including the unit hockey team playing a home match. He lunched with the Middlesex officers in the Mess at Warren Camp. We all look forward to seeing him with us again in the near future.

As at Chester, we have taken an active part in the training of the A.C.F. To date we have staged two demonstrations on week-ends for the boys, including the firing of M.M.G.s and rides in carriers. It is hoped that many of our instructors will follow this up with a more active interest when they leave the Service.

No mention has been made of our sporting activities, but this does not mean that they are non-existent. We run teams at football, rugby and hockey and, though handicapped by lack of grounds, we have managed to get fixtures. Our swimming and water polo teams did so well that they are mentioned in detail elsewhere in these notes. Within the unit companies have regular allotments of the football grounds and basket ball and badminton are very popular.

As these notes may well be our last as No. 26 M.G.T.C., we would like to close with wishing our partners, the 5th Fusiliers, all the very best of luck in their new homes, Newcastle and Catterick, and to say, in parting, that it would be hard to find better companions, both in peace and war.

MIDDLESEX DEPOT COMPANY

Before we are able to proceed with our notes we had better explain to our many readers, as this is our first contribution to the journal, what Middlesex Depot Company is. It is a transit cum "H.Q." Company. We are responsible for all personnel returning from overseas, which includes, Python, Class "B" and "Y" List personnel, also casualties of the Regiment. Of course, as one may have guessed, there are quite a number of old faces coming and going from time to time. We supply the 26 M.G.T.C. with a good number of men for employment, and we will be responsible for the supply of personnel when the break-up comes, i.e., Shorncliffe and Inglis Barracks (we hope). The Company have more than held their own in competitions during the past year. With some of the original 1st Battalion we won the inter-company machine gun shoot, L.M.G., and Rifle. The teams chosen to represent the Company were C.S.M. Tarrant (capt.) and Ptes. Mellor, Hills, Drew, Jones, Everall, Cole, Noble and Glarvey. L.M.G. team: Capt. Kemp (capt.), C/Sgt. Ure, Sgt. Firman, Pte. Noble, L/Cpl. McAuslan and D/Major Holdford.

Sport

Football.—The Company reached the semi-final of the inter-company football competition. Preceding this we had many a tussle with our counterpart, the R.N.F. Depot Company, and, although our team changed from time to time, our regular players were Lieuts. Temple (capt.) and Clutterbuck, C.S.M. Tarrant, Cpls. Devereux and Robinson, L/Cpls. Sampson and Evans and Ptes. Barker, Sibley and Caldwell, also Pte. Neary, who now plays for Queens Park Rangers. He was commonly known as "The Horse."

Basket Ball.—We were most unfortunate in having to play the P.T. staff in our second match, and not unnaturally we came unstuck. The team consisted of C.S.M. Tarrant, Cpl. McGrath, L/Cpls. Evans and McAuslan and Pte. Noble.

Move to Crowborough

Although we were sorry in some ways to have to say goodbye to Chester, especially those who had been there some time and had "their feet well under the table," it was nice to know we were on our way to the South and to the sunshine and to an area to which we were more conversant. So now the once crowded barrack rooms are deserted on the week-ends and only occupied by the "Kitehawks" who have no homes (?).

We found the barrack rooms in a very bad condition, but, like the "Merry Midds" of old, we soon put the barracks on the map again with whitewash, gardens relaid. In fact, anything that moves now we salute; if it does not, we whitewash it. Men no longer stand too long outside the Company Office during pay parade. So to all personnel in our battalions abroad—who knows, you may one day be part of the Middlesex Depot Company—we wish you the best of luck and will always be glad to see you. We will do our best to find you a job if you are returning to civil life, as we are in close contact with Major Kempster, secretary to the Regimental Association. Above all, please visit our Regimental Information Room, where you may keep in touch with your battalion by the newsletters which we receive from them. The Information Room is situated in the Middlesex Depot Company lines.

Congratulations to Sgt. Ure, now promoted to C.Q.M.S. He was A.C.Q.M.S. of the Company for some months and has now been posted to M.T. Company.

"A" COMPANY

The Company is now thoroughly settled in after the move from Chester. Training in August and September was made more difficult by the incessant rain, but of late the weather has been kind to us.

All training is run on a friendly competitive spirit between the R.N.F. and the Middlesex Regiment, and there is much enthusiasm, especially on the open range. At the last passing out Pte. Cope was second in the shooting competition. The lack of sports grounds is a great drawback, and there are no football grounds in the camp. Despite this, we all manage to get plenty of exercise, including wood chopping and getting in logs to supplement the winter coal ration.

Our Administrative Officer, Lieut. Reynolds, went out on release on September 20 and his place has been taken by Lieut. F. C. Brown, who has rejoined on short service commission. Lieut. J. Brown, Lieut. Nightingale and 2/Lieut. Cowperthwaite are the officer instructors in the Company. The N.C.O. instructors in the Regiment are Sgts. Preston and Bartle, Cpls. Minogue and Dyer and L/Cpl. LaRoche. Sgt. Moody has been posted to us and will join us on his return from Netheravon. Our Company Clerk, L/Cpl. Adams, has just transferred to the Regiment from the R.N.F.s and has signed on for twelve months.

"B" COMPANY

We welcome the opportunity afforded by this issue of the journal to break away from the parent and go into print on our own child-like account. Our doings are small and humble, but we like to record them for the past and present members of "B" Company.

On August 20 we made our long-heralded move from Chester to the "Sunny South," but after a week or two thought that the train had gone the wrong way and landed us at the North Pole. However, the last week or two have been fine and all appreciate, at least, the very beautiful country in which we find ourselves.

Two days after our arrival here at West Camp we were straight into "Action" and "Cease Firing," and it seemed as though we had accomplished the move without a break in training.

This is not an ideal camp for an M.G.T.C., but we are making the most of it and turning out good mortar men as of yore. No. 5 Platoon (our baby platoon) has just finished the infantry weapons course, and we extend congratulations to Ptes. Kerridge, Manning, Parsons and Spurr on obtaining marksman with the rifle.

Of sport we can say little. This being a land of hills it is difficult to find suitable grounds, but all manage to get in one game of soccer weekly, whilst the gym affords us a choice between basket ball and badminton, both games being very popular.

El Boden Day was celebrated on September 25, first with a parade, when a brief outline of the battle was given by the Commanding Officer. Then an excellent lunch and off we went to see the Middlesex beat the Fusiliers at hockey, only to lose the football match. The day again evidenced the wonderful spirit and teamwork of these two regiments.

Speaking now of personalities, we must mention with regret the impending departure overseas of our Company Commander, Capt. R. Lieth-MacGregor, D.F.C. His energy and enthusiasm will be missed by all in the Company. In his place we welcome Capt. R. J. E. High, late of Netheravon, only to learn that he was just waiting for Civvy Street. Lieuts. Addison and Fisk are doing yeoman work in the admin. and training branches, and we are reinforced by Lieuts. Harris and Legge and 2/Lieut. Hooke. We trust their stay with us will be long and happy one.

Many old members of the 1st Battalion are coming back gradually, and we grabbed one of them to fill

vacancy on the war establishment—L/Cpl. Mark Besbrode. Welcome back to the fold.

"BAKER."

"C" COMPANY

Major E. T. Patterson's appointment as temporary Second-in-Command of the unit left "C" Company without an O.C., and the gap was ably filled by Lieut. Wilson, who had been O.C. Battle School, Rhayader. Major C. M. M. Man, M.C., has now taken over the command of the Company.

We, at present the drafting and Corps continuation training company, are unfortunate in having our training severely curtailed by the demand for overseas drafts. This also affects our sporting achievements, as the same team can never be kept together for more than a couple of weeks. But three notable games are "C" Company sergeants' defeat of "A" Company sergeants at basket ball by 26 goals to eight and the permanent staff's successes over the trainees by 5-1 and the young officers' cadre by 10-1 at football. (It is interesting to note that the only goal against us in this last match was scored whilst the goalkeeper was picking up his cigarette.)

Other matches are being arranged as the manpower of the Company permits.

Our Company Pay Clerk, L/Cpl. Goatman, deserves individual mention for playing for the unit at cricket and hockey.

Since the move from Blaenau Camp at Chester we have had attached to us an abundance of permanent staff from "H.Q." Company and the two Depot companies, who seem to appear at all times of the day with the most amazing questions. But who better than C.S.M. "Pop" Stretton to deal with them? We congratulate them on the general evidence of their work in West Camp.

"CHARLIE."

"D" COMPANY

On October 19 some 130 members of the Royal Netherlands Army marched out of Warren Camp for the last time after five and a half months' training in "D" Company.

The Netherlands Army were always most grateful for any help we could give them and a very happy period has come to an end. Shortly a consignment of bulbs, daffodils and tulips will be sent to Inglis Barracks, where, it is hoped, they will bloom next spring as a reminder of the gratitude shown to us by the R.N.A.

It was suggested before they left that the Netherlands Government might strike a medal for C/Sgt. Jacques with a ferret on the front and the word "Wippitquick" engraved on the back.

Running concurrently with the Dutch training have been mortar and M.M.G. cadres organised by Lieut. Draper, of the 5th Fusiliers, and Lieut. Ferguson, of the Middlesex Regiment. At the time of writing the sixth cadre is drawing to its final two weeks.

On October 31 the seventh cadre starts, which consists of a month's M.M.G. training for men of the Glider Pilot Regiment who have become surplus to establishment. Among them are many men trained at No. 26

M.G.T.C. about 18 months ago, including Cpls. Evans and Course.

The Middlesex instructors in the Company are Sgts. Wilshaw and McFall and Cpls. Epps, Eaton, Hawkins and Newton. And we are now beginning to wonder what is to happen to us when No. 26 M.G.T.C. is disbanded. We shall have many regrets, and without a doubt our greatest sorrow will be to be split from "The Fighting 5th," who have worked and played with us for a long time.

As O.C. "D" Company I shall have to say goodbye to Lieut. Draper, C.S.M. Woodhead, Cpls. Abbie, Downie and Mates, and our Company Clerk, Fusilier Hopkinson. Their loss as soldiers and personal friends will be irreplaceable, and I hope that some form of reunion may be organised every El Boden Day.

M.T. COMPANY

This, the first contribution by M.T. Company to the journal, will also probably be its last in the Company's present form. Before the next issue is out we shall be part of the new organisation and M.T. Company's brief existence will come to an end.

Though a large M.T. staff has always existed in "26," it was only in June of this year that the staff were taken off the strength of H.Q. and the six companies and put under one command in the new M.T. Company. The formation of the Company became necessary when, owing to the losses due to release, the staff fell to such low numbers that it was neither economical nor practical to continue in the old form. "H.Q." Company was unique in having three ex-boys as Company Commander, C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. They were Capt. C. W. Donaldson, C.S.M. J. Painter and C.Q.M.S. W. Ure. Another joined us later as a platoon sergeant in Sgt. Firman.

At first the going was rather heavy, as it often is in newly formed companies, but very soon a strong Company spirit showed itself, as the very natural attachment felt by most of the men for their old companies wore off and was replaced by keen inter-platoon rivalry. Some replacements were found to fill the gaps made by release, and three of the four platoons were brought up to strength, with the fourth not far behind in numbers.

Some old friends from the 1st Battalion arrived on return from prisoners of war, and for a while much of the talk heard in the Company was of other days and places.

As one of the best ways of knitting a company together is to arouse the competition spirit, inter-platoon cricket and basket ball competitions were got under way.

Company H.Q. was only 13 strong, but, nothing daunted, a cricket team was produced and, thanks largely to the efforts of C.S.M. Painter and the terrific willingness of the team, were by no means disgraced in winning two and losing two matches. A special feather is due in their collective cap in beating handsomely the favourites, No. 1 Platoon.

Before either competition was over the unit moved from Blaenau and no further opportunity occurred of continuing it. It had, however, succeeded in its original purpose and the Company was definitely conscious of itself and its place in "26."

C.S.M. Painter was not destined to stay long with us and transferred to "H.Q." Company, being promoted to R.S.M. He was succeeded by C.S.M. Jennings, another old friend from the pre-war 2nd Battalion. Our congratulations to C.S.M. Painter and good wishes in his appointment.

There followed a very hectic period when instructions to move to Crowborough were received. After a stay of two and a half years in Blacon, a huge store of spare parts, both large and small, and a whole host of all those indispensable things that accumulate over a long period presented no small problems in itemising, listing and packing. The problem was tackled wholeheartedly and inside three weeks an impressive list of 396 packages had been made and the stores packed. In addition well over 100 vehicles were inspected, repaired and painted in readiness for the move.

Great credit is due to Lieut. T. Higgins, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, for his untiring work and excellent example during this time. It was a very big job and it was very well done.

We soon settled down in our new quarters and within two days were established and commenced training on the third. A very creditable performance.

Old and familiar faces continue to disappear from the scene with alarming rapidity, leaving one feeling slightly shocked that they are really going and with a real regret when they are finally gone. M.T. breeds a type peculiar to itself and like no others, and, while they would make a sergeant-major weep—well, almost (the writer was for a long time one of that much maligned fraternity)—what he lacks in parade ground manner the M.T. driver more than makes up in hard and dirty work, long hours and willing service. Given time to prepare himself, he can also turn out with the best on guard mounting. At week-ends, free from his job, his knife-edge trousers creases and generally smart appearance make him almost unrecognisable from the somewhat soiled and often bedraggled figure to be seen on the training area and vehicle park.

In sport M.T. Company has more than held its own. We congratulate C.Q.M.S. Ure and Pte. Harrington on being selected for the unit team versus the Rest of the Army at water polo. After this match C.Q.M.S. Ure was selected for the Army team and awarded the Army Swimming Association badge.

We have only played one football match to date, versus R.N.F. Depot Company, and won 8—0. This result speaks well for future chances.

We would like to take this opportunity of bidding our old friends, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, *au revoir*. We have been together a long time in a very efficient and happy association, helped by our connections in a war of long ago and by mutual liking and respect in the present.

It would be hard to find keener rivals or friendlier comrades. Our best wishes go with them to Fenham and Catterick and the hope that we shall meet again and often.

"H.Q." COMPANY

It is always rather difficult for a headquarters company to chronicle its activities. We do not work in the limelight, and must definitely be regarded as the back-room boys of the M.G.T.C. But be that as it may, we are not afraid to launch ourselves into print, though our story cannot be exciting or glamorous. Perhaps for these notes (the first for a very long time) an identification parade of some of the Middlesex stalwarts in "H.Q." Company will not come amiss.

First of all, then, may we introduce our two leading characters, R.S.M. Painter and R.Q.M.S. Blackman, both of whom must be well known to many of our readers. Their combined years of service add up to an awe-inspiring total, but, like all good soldiers, they get younger every day. Then comes C/Sgt. O'Keefe, who was well known in the 1st Battalion in India for his athletic prowess. Sgt. Staveley, who holds undisputed sway over the clothing section of the Q.M.'s department, is yet another who has seen long service in the Regiment. Next on the list we have L/Cpl. Nicholson and Ptes. Page and Jones, three musketeers who were with the 1st Battalion, who were taken prisoner at Hong Kong, and who are now all fit and well, playing their part in the administrative side of the M.G.T.C.

Turning to officers, we count in our ranks Capt. McLeod Martin (the Adjutant) and Lieut. Driver, who combines the duties of Release Officer and Entertainments Officer with commendable facility.

There is Lieut. Abbott, the Education Officer, who will sell you a course in anything from atomic research to French polishing. There is also Capt. Binder, who has been temporarily commanding the Company, and who was with the 2nd/7th Battalion until its disbandment.

So there, good reader, you have just a few of the "Die-Hards" who are with the Company. We are a happy crew and glad to be working alongside our brothers-in-arms in the 5th Fusiliers. As we stated earlier, we do not deal in the spectacular, but occasionally take comfort in the thought "Where would they be without 'H.Q.' Company?"

As we pen these notes "H.Q." Company have just ventured on to the football field, where they were beaten by "D" Company 3—0. Never mind, we shall return, and the clerks and the storemen, the pioneers and the postmen will exact due revenge.

THE NEW ARMY

By L Cpl. Goatman, "C" Company, No. 26 M.G.T.C.

Gone are the days, the "good old days,"
When Army life was tough,
When sergeant-majors screamed and bawled,
When your best was not enough.

No longer now do foul oaths pierce
The chill reveille air.

To extinguish lights that gleam at night
The sergeant may not dare.

White sheets encase the soldier's form,
The bedside lamp soft glows;
When duty's done, he sallies forth
In his suit of civvy clothes.

He may, perchance, with the C.O. dine,
Or compound at golf with the "Brig."
It's Brother and Bob in the Army now,
And fatigues are *infra dig*.

His pay goes up with leaps and bounds,
For which he may thank his "stars."
It's the officers now who "pad the hoof"
As the privates roll by in their cars.

So "why fall out?" as the booklet saith,
Why leave such a life of ease?
Why not sign for a hundred years?
And do as you b—y well please.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Quite suddenly the North-West District sports notice was served to the unit, and Major Patterson, knowing that the unit contained quite a number of swimmers and polo players of the 1st Battalion's Hong Kong and Singapore days, decided to enter a team. The team went into strict training under C.S.M. Tarrant and C.Q.M.S. Ure, with Major Patterson ever at our elbow to ensure that there was no slacking.

The team won the North-West District Championships, beating the 5th Training Battalion, R.E., at water polo in the final.

Results of the Competition

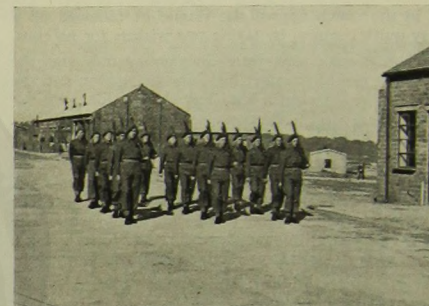
Event	Name	N.W.D.	Western Command
Back Stroke	C/Sgt. Ure	3rd	3rd
Breast Stroke	C.S.M. Tarrant	2nd	3rd
Diving	Drum-Major Holford	1st	1st
400 Metres	L/Cpl. Bellchambers	2nd	3rd
100 Metres	Pte. Smith	2nd	3rd

We then went on to the Western Command finals (swimming results as above) and won the water polo by six goals to two. Major Patterson was overwhelmed and eventually arranged a match with the Rest of the British Army in England, which we lost 3—1 after a very hard game. The Army selectors were there and chose C/Sgt. Ure, Bdmn. Hymas (Middlesex) and Cpl. Buchanan, of the R.N.F., for trial for the Army. Although none were fortunate enough in getting their place, they received their colours.

Our water polo team was chosen from the following:

Name	Position	Goals Scored
C.S.M. Tarrant (capt.)	Centre Half	4
C/Sgt. Ure	Back	0
Pte. Smith	Outside Left	1
Pte. Hymas	Back in Army game	1
L/Cpl. Bellchambers	Outside Right	0
Pte. Harrington	Goalkeeper	0
Drum-Major Holford	Back	1
Cpl. Buchanan, R.N.F.	—	1
Fusilier Lewis, R.N.F.	—	1

Drum-Major Holford was selected for the Inter-Services Championship (diving), but through some unforeseen reason was not recalled from B.A.O.R.



No. 1 Platoon (Mx. Detachment), "A" Company, 26 M.G.T.C., passing out parade, Friday, October 11, 1946



No. 1 Platoon (Mx. Detachment), "A" Company, 26 M.G.T.C., passing out parade Friday, October 11, 1946

1/7th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Our final three months at Ludenscheid (in the south-west corner of the British Zone of Occupation) have seen the gradual winding-up of the unit. Our numbers have grown steadily less owing to releases and postings and very few of the old members of the Battalion remain.

Sport in the Summer

Our sport this summer was unfortunately only on a small scale, though good use was made of the fine swimming pool we had access to not far from the barracks. The cricket ground at Ludenscheid was used by the Divisional, Corps and, on occasions, by the B.A.O.R. teams. This had the effect of greatly reducing its availability for the Battalion, but it enabled us to see a number of good teams, including the Hague C.C., the M.C.C.'s team touring B.A.O.R. (which include C. O. Allen and a number of other well-known players) and the Butterflies C.C. As Major Unwin was included for most of the home teams that played here, we can claim to have had some share in the cricket, especially

as in the match against the Hague he followed up a very quick century, by taking two wickets for no runs.

There were a few inter-Company games and the Battalion played two matches—one being won and the other drawn—against a local Pay Corps' side.

In the 56 Brigade Athletics and Swimming Meeting the Battalion did not score any conspicuous success except for a memorable performance in the Officers' Relay Race during the Athletics. Our team, in order of running, was: 2/Lieut. Garrett (220), Lieut. Etchells (880), Major Unwin (220) and Lieut. Jones (440). The team achieved a brilliant victory, Lieut. Jones doing a remarkably fine 440 at the end, especially in view of the complete lack of training.

Shooting

The Battalion teams put up an excellent performance in the Divisional Shooting Meeting and represented the Division in the 1 Corps' competition. All ranks played an important part in the success, but special praise must be made of the hard work and enthusiasm of the Weapon Training Officer, Lieut. Etchells. He had an unusually difficult task in view of the distance of the only available practice range and a host of other difficulties, of which the weather was far from the least.

1st Corps District Tattoo

The Battalion assisted at the Corps' Tattoo at Dortmund during August by providing a considerable number of men for guard and administrative duties, including the Tattoo's M.T. Sergeant. A party of men took part in the representation of a village cricket match.

Visit of the Colonel of the Regiment

The Colonel of the Regiment honoured us with a visit on September 18-20. He met many old members of the Battalion personally and gave a talk to the officers and men in the theatre in Ludenscheid.

Visits of the G's O.C. 1st Corps District and 49th (W.R.) Infantry Division

On October 1, Major-General E. T. H. Gurden, C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 49 (W.R.) Infantry Division, inspected the Battalion and took the salute. He then addressed the men and afterwards attended a farewell service conducted by the padre, the Rev. C. Maconochie, C.F.

On October 3 we were visited by Lieut.-General G. D. Thomas, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. After taking the salute he addressed the Battalion.

The same evening there was a farewell party in the N.A.A.F.I. at which an entertainment was given partly by German artists and partly by officers.

Football

During our last month an inter-Company football competition has been run. The winners were "C" Company, who were ahead of "H.Q." on goal averages alone. Many keen tussles took place, though the standard of football was not as high as it has usually been in the past.

"Suspended Animation"

As we write, preparations are being made for the final postings which will effect the break-up of the Battalion. Our barracks at Ludenscheid have already been partly handed over to the Belgian Army and, within a week, that is, by the middle of October, we expect to have reached the state known as "Suspended Animation." Before we do so, however, we who are still with the 1/7th at the end wish to send our greetings and good wishes to all past members of the Battalion wherever they may be.

1st BATTALION PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

After more than seven years of Active Service, the Battalion has now been placed in suspended animation. We will be completely disbanded by September 29, except for a small cadre part of three officers and 23 other ranks, who will move over to Egypt with stores and Regimental property, where they will complete the final winding up.

Those of us left with the Battalion, about 20 officers and 350 other ranks, are to be posted to other units in Greece and the Middle East. Already quite a number of N.C.O.s have gone to the Military Prison Staff Corps. Others are being posted to the British Military Mission in Greece.

We hope that all the regular soldiers will go to the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, who are in Egypt.

Officers

Lieut.-Colonel Worton has already left us. He has taken over command of the Brigade. Capt. Cosgrove left on release at the end of July. We were indeed sorry to lose him. From Q.M. he graduated to Adjutant. He had intended to remain on in the Army but private affairs made this impossible.

Capt. Young's Army career was cut short in a very sad manner. He contracted a rare disease called angina and for the last two months has been in bed in hospital. He is now on his way to England to be invalided out. Major Hutchings has been granted a regular commission and will, no doubt, soon be with the 1st Middlesex Regiment in Germany. Major Scott and Lieut. Hawkins will be appearing before a selection board in Athens early in October and we hope that they too will be successful and stay on in the Regiment.

We have had a very happy time during the last few months in Greece. Our Mess was in a very delapidated state when we took it over, but we have made ourselves extremely comfortable. The Mess table is laid under the trees in the garden which, at night, is illuminated with coloured lights. A gate leads out of the Mess garden, through the wall and straight on to the beach. The bathing is excellent and row boats and sailing boats can be hired from a near-by restaurant. No unit in Greece has a more desirable location and we certainly have made the most of it.

1st BATTALION PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT



1. Waiting for embarkation at Naples, 6 a.m. 2. "Brewing-up" on patrol. 3. Embarking Naples: Capt. Scott, the Adjutant, checking numbers. 4. Sunset over Gulf of Corinth from Officers' Mess. 5. Embarking Naples, April 20, 1946. 6. Inter-Company cricket league: Winners, "B" Company. 7. Patras small unit football league: Winner "B" Company

W.O.s and Sergeants

When we first arrived in Patras our Mess consisted of a large Nissen hut. Although adequate during the cool weather, the heat of a Greek summer drove us out during July. We took over a dilapidated house in camp and, without asking Mr. Bevan's permission, completed a little private enterprise. After a week of really hard work by members of the Mess, our new residence was indeed bright and comfortable. All meals were taken in the garden under E.P.I.P. tents.

On the night that the Mess was completed, we held a very successful social evening. We even produced a "cabaret." C.S.M. Ayton's act brought the house down and girlish chuckles can still be heard in Patras. Weekly dances are held on the adjacent tennis court and are extremely popular. C.Q.M.S.s Cooper and Weston are mainly responsible for the organisation of these very enjoyable evenings.

Entertainments

Although we are tucked away in the North-West corner of the Peloponnese, we receive a fair share of welfare shows. There have been quite a number of E.N.S.A. parties, including a "one man show," who acted one Shakespearean and one murder play. It was extremely well done.

A mobile cinema visits us twice weekly and the standard of films have been remarkably high and quite modern. All ranks' dances are held once a week and the Brigade dance band plays. They are a first-class band, most of their members belonging to the 11th Field Regiment, R.A.

On Saturday, September 14, a farewell dinner and smoker was staged. Before dinner the Colonel presented the cricket and football prizes and made a short but apt speech. The dinner can only be described as "smashing."

Nearly 50 turkeys were purchased locally, and they were given a strong "tot" of gin before they were killed and hung, with the result that they were really tender. After dinner the "smoker" was a great success. A dozen or more volunteers provided the turns, including Sgt. "Wag" Hamlin, who played flute solos. Sgt. Hamlin will be remembered by many; he was a band boy in the 2nd Middlesex Regiment in India in 1926. N.A.A.F.I., over this period, has let us down badly, and there was no beer to be had. Nevertheless, a lorry was sent 160 miles to Athens, and crawled back along the appalling road with a very precious cargo of draught beer. And so the situation was saved.

Football and Cricket

The leagues forecast in the last notes have been completed. The Company leagues were both won by "B" Company, who showed great keenness throughout. There were some needle matches, and we all enjoyed the games to the full. It should be noted that all Companies of the 4th Battalion The Royal Norfolks competed, but without success, in the football league.

Quite a number of Battalion cricket matches have been played. Our most regular opponents are the R.A.F.

Squadron at Araxos. Honours have been fairly even, and an excellent liaison has been cemented between the two services. This is evident by the standard of vocal entertainments after each match.

A Brigade leave centre was instituted on the island of Corfu. This was not appreciated by the men, owing to the very poor arrangements made for their reception, accommodation, and welfare whilst there. We wished to run this centre ourselves, but we were not allowed to. This was a great pity because Corfu is one of the finest and most lovely resorts in Europe.

We all congratulate ex-C.Q.M.S. Bradbury, not only for being granted an immediate commission in the Royal Engineers, but also for winning both the 100 and 200 metres race in the L.F.G. swimming championships.

Conclusion

We were ordered to Greece for a special military commitment, and the danger has now passed. The plebiscite on the King's return passed off peacefully and King George is expected back in a few days time. Hence this Division, 13th Infantry Division, is leaving the country.

Looking back on our stay here, it can be said that we enjoyed ourselves. Duties have been arduous and quite onerous. But the guards were most necessary. During the war Greeks were trained to disrupt German communications, sabotage their stores, and steal anything they could lay their hands on. Unfortunately, many of these loyal Greeks have not gone back to their former civil occupation and find that their former training produces a lucrative source of income. Pte. Shephard was severely stabbed by one of these gentlemen when he found in the camp early one morning. He has fortunately recovered, but he was, at one time, in a serious condition.

On the night when the election results were announced a few bursts of automatic fire passed through and over the camp, but we are certain that this was merely a "feu de joie" perpetrated by some loyal locals too full of "joie de vivre." But more serious was an incident when a party of our men were fired at in Macedonia. Lieut. Hawkins and 20 men were on escort duty on a convoy of U.N.R.R.A. goods. These supplies are in game to the bandits who haunt the wild hills of Greece. Again, fortunately, the fire was wild and the escort passed through unscathed.

Old Comrades who served with the 2nd Kensington during the last war will be interested to learn that we form part of the 179th Infantry Brigade, the same Brigade with whom they fought in Palestine during the first World War.

In conclusion, we wish all those who are posted to other units au revoir and God's speed, and hope to see them one day at Hammersmith when they finally leave the Army and return to England and come to the re-unions which are held from time to time by the Comrades' Associations of both the Middlesex Regiment and the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

Obituary Notice—Sgt. J. W. Edmeads, 1st Battalion P. L. Kensington Regiment

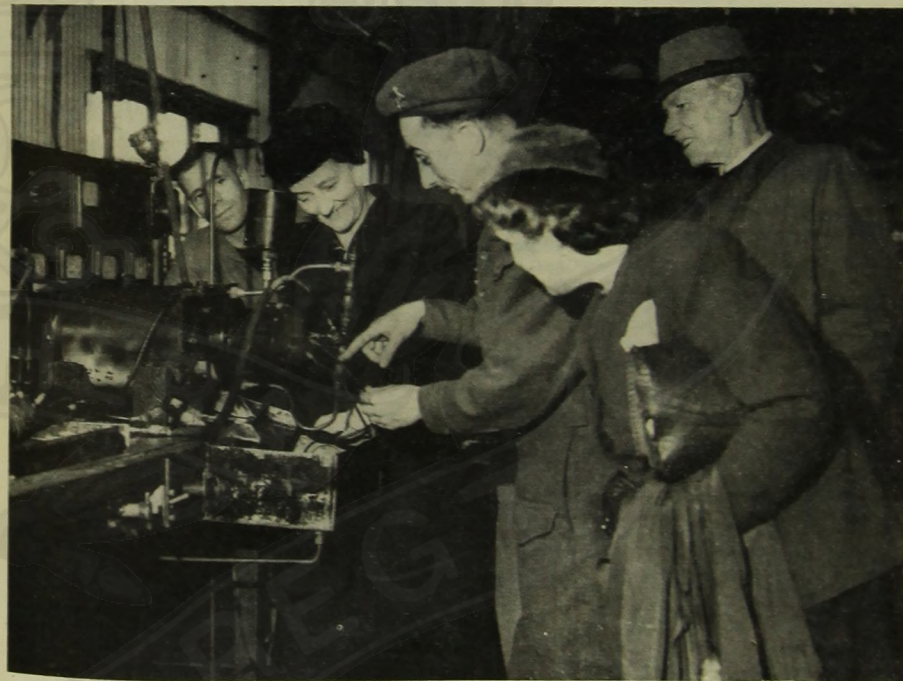
On June 22, 1946, a tragic accident resulted in the death of Sgt. Edmeads. The plane in which he was travelling crashed into the Gulf of Corinth and Sgt. Edmeads's body was never recovered.

Sgt. Edmeads served with the Regiment throughout the Italian Campaign, and latterly he was Medical Sergeant to the Battalion.

All ranks of the Battalion and, in particular, all his friends in the Sergeants' Mess, join in sending their very sincere sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Edmeads, 12, Carr Holm Crescent, Steinbeck Lane, Chapel Allerton, Leeds.

He was an extremely popular member of the Sergeants' Mess and was a great supporter of all Mess functions.

In Austria he was a keen skier, and he spent many happy hours with his friends on the mountain slopes of that lovely country.



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Recruiting "At Home," September, 19, 1946, at Inglis Barracks. In R.E.M.E. workshops. Reading from left to right: R.E.M.E. instructor, Mrs. Kerwill (a visitor), Miss Berry (ex-A.T.S.) and Mr. G. Kerwill who has been associated with the Regimental Association for many years

RECRUITING "AT HOME," SEPTEMBER 19, 1946, AT MILL HILL BARRACKS

As part of the recent recruiting drive, the two Units at present at Mill Hill, R.E.M.E. and ourselves, were "At Home" to the general public.

The programme commenced with the Band of The Middlesex Regiment playing appropriate marches from the main barracks, down Bittacy Hill, to the workshops of 10 Command R.E.M.E. at 1445 hours.

Promptly at 1500 hours the "At Home" was opened by the Band playing the R.E.M.E. and *Die-Hards* March Past.

Short speeches were given on the B.B.C. Overseas Service by Colonel N. M. R. McCallum, and officers and other ranks of 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. Parties of guests were then invited to inspect tanks and their ancillary stores and approximately 600 visitors took advantage of viewing these hitherto secluded weapons. From the main workshops they were then directed to a barrack hut occupied by the workshop personnel and

onwards to the instrument and wireless repair shops and afterwards to the Education Rooms, Sergeants' Mess and married quarters. They also saw a display by the London District School of Cookery and an exhibition of modern pieces of war weapons and anti-aircraft devices which were assembled on the barrack square.

Tea followed in the N.A.A.F.I. restaurant. This was provided by the School of Cookery. Guests of officers were entertained to tea in the Officers' Mess.

In the evening a dance was held in the gymnasium. A programme of music was given by the Dance Band of The Middlesex Regiment and this entertainment was exceedingly popular.

Amongst the distinguished guests who attended the "At Home" were: General Sir Charles Lloyd, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., G.O.C. London District, Brigadier T. B. Trappes-Lomax, Brigadier i/c Administration, London District, His Worship the Mayor of Stoke Newington, His Worship the Mayor and Town Clerk of Wembley, His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress of Finchley.

THE JUBILEE OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

BY CAPTAIN R. MAURICE HILL

The Distinguished Service Order was created by Queen Victoria under a Royal Warrant dated 6th September, 1886, and so it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year. The creation of the Order was suggested by the Right Honourable W. H. Smith, M.P. (of bookstall fame), who, as First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State for War, had been struck by the inadequacy of the existing means of rewarding officers for distinguished and meritorious service in war. Apart from the Victoria Cross, which stood in a class by itself as an award for outstanding valour, the only means existing were, the grant of brevet rank, which invariably led to anomalies and dissatisfaction, or the award of one of the two then existing Orders for which officers of the fighting forces were eligible—the Order of the Bath, and the Order of St. Michael and St. George. In actual practice these Orders were very rarely conferred on officers below the rank of Colonel or its naval equivalent, and even then the awards were restricted in numbers. Therefore, Mr. Smith advised Her Majesty as to the need for creating a new Order as a reward for outstanding services by naval and military officers in time of war. At one time the Queen toyed with the idea of creating the new Order with a Civil Branch, which could be given to artists, writers, and other civilians of distinction, but after due consideration this idea was dropped and the Order was founded on lines which, except for minor modifications, are much the same as those under which it is given to-day.

The badge of the Distinguished Service Order is a gold cross, enamelled white, edged with gold, and having on one side the Imperial Crown in gold on a red background, encircled by a laurel wreath enamelled green. The other side shows the Royal Cypher in gold on a red background, surrounded by a similar

green enamelled laurel wreath. The cross is suspended from a bar of gold by a narrow red ribbon edged with blue, the ribbon being only an inch wide, which is noticeably narrower than the general run of British medal ribbons. The wearers of this decoration, who are officially styled "Companions of the Distinguished Service Order," are officers of the Land, Sea and Air Forces who have been mentioned in despatches, and who have also been specially recommended for this award in recognition of gallant or distinguished services in time of war. The D.S.O. is also occasionally given to foreign officers of nations who have been allies of the British Empire in war.

The names of officers who are awarded the D.S.O. are published in the *London Gazette*, the first list of appointments to the Order having been published in the issue of the *London Gazette* dated 26th November, 1886, when forty officers were granted the D.S.O. in respect of services in the Sudan and Burma campaigns. From its inception up to the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the D.S.O. had been conferred upon approximately 11,000 officers. Up to the present no figures have yet been published showing the number of D.S.O.s awarded for services in the war of 1939-1945.

By a later Royal Warrant, dated 3rd August, 1914, it was ordained that a Bar, to be worn on the ribbon, should be granted to any officer who, being already a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, should perform "an approved act of gallantry," for which he would have received the D.S.O. had he not already been in possession of that distinction. By virtue of this proviso no less than 709 officers were granted a bar to the D.S.O. (equivalent to winning the D.S.O. twice over); while 71 received a second bar (equivalent to winning the D.S.O. three times over); and several officers accomplished the noteworthy feat of gaining three bars (equivalent to winning the D.S.O. four times over). All these were for the 1914-1918 war; many more bars have been awarded during the 1939-1945 war. The award of a bar is shown by the wearing of a small silver rose on the ribbon, when medal ribbons only are worn, in Service dress or battle-dress.

By a new Royal Warrant, dated 5th February, 1939, the award of the D.S.O. was restricted for the future to those who had been mentioned in despatches and had rendered "distinguished services under fire, or under conditions equivalent to actual conflict with the enemy." In 1942 a further amendment was made to the Statutes governing the Order, by which officers of the Merchant Navy were made eligible to receive the D.S.O. for acts of bravery in time of war.

So far as the writer has been able to trace, the honour of being the first officer to be awarded the D.S.O. while serving in the Middlesex Regiment belongs to the late General Gatacre, who joined the 77th Foot as an Ensign in February, 1862. His first active service was in the Hazara or "Black Mountain" Expedition of 1888. This was a punitive expedition against the tribes living in the Hazara country, beyond the North West frontier, as a reprisal for the murder of British surveyors and their native servants while carrying out a survey. This campaign is notable for the fact that it was mainly carried on at a height

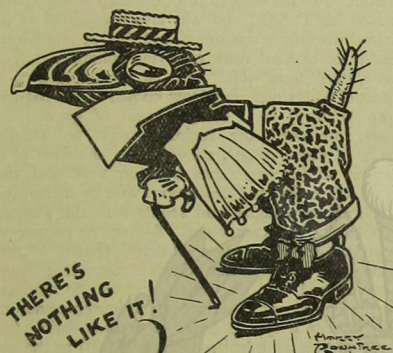
between eight and nine thousand feet above sea level, and probably still holds the world's record for high altitude land fighting. The British force was divided into three columns, and Gatacre, who was on the staff of one column commander, volunteered to make an effort to cross the mountains on foot to get in touch with another column in the Indus valley. He did this in twenty-four hours, and then returned, being the only man who succeeded in doing the double journey. He was mentioned in despatches, and the *London Gazette*, on 12th April, 1889, announced the award of the D.S.O. "For services during the operations in Hazara" to William Gatacre, Colonel, half-pay. The following year he served in the Burma campaign, and later he commanded a Brigade at the Relief of Chitral. Moving from India to Egypt his next campaign was with Kitchener, when he commanded the British Infantry Brigade at the Battle of Atbara, and a Division at the Battle of Omdurman. He also served in the South African War as a Divisional Commander, but here he had the misfortune to meet with two reverses, and so was sent home. Yet, as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in his history of "The Great Boer War," when discussing Gatacre's recall, "He had a disaster, but Nelson had one at Teneriffe, and Napoleon had one at Acre, and built their great reputations in spite of it. . . . As to General Gatacre's courage and energy, it is a byword in the Army. Much sympathy was felt with him in the Army, where he was universally liked and respected by officers and men." This statement is borne out by the following extract (quoted from another source) taken from a letter written by an officer who served under him, and says, "The General was criticised for unnecessarily endangering his own life, but in my opinion a leader should be where he is most required, and General Gatacre carried out that axiom." On his return to England, General Gatacre was received with demonstrations showing that he still had the respect and esteem of all classes. He died of fever while on an expedition to Abyssinia in 1905.

But there was another officer who, although not a "Die-Hard" at the time of receiving the D.S.O., afterwards spent many years in working for the welfare of the Regiment which he was to join later, and so it is fitting that his memory also should be recalled, for he was one of those who received the D.S.O. in its early days, being awarded the Order in the *London Gazette* dated 25th November, 1887, the announcement being as follows: "Reginald Hennell, Bombay Infantry; for operations in Burma." Joining the Bombay Infantry in 1861, his first war service was the Abyssinian campaign of 1868, which involved marching 500 miles over mountainous country devoid of supplies to capture the Abyssinian stronghold at Magdala and set free the European captives held by the King of Ethiopia. He was on sick leave in Canada when he heard that his regiment was likely to be sent to the Afghan War, and at once set off on the long journey back to India, going to the front with a large detachment of his regiment temporarily attached to "Jacob's Horse" (Indian Cavalry). Strangely enough, he was in British Columbia in 1886 when his regiment was ordered on active service in Burma, and once again he hurried across the world

to rejoin. For his work in this campaign Major Hennell received his D.S.O., and was also mentioned in despatches, wherein it was mentioned that he and his men "had a lot of hard work on flying columns, etc., and have always done well." He later succeeded to the command of his regiment (now known as 5th Mahratta Light Infantry) and, being a man of great artistic talents, presented the regiment with an excellent picture in water colour, showing the uniforms of the regiment at different times between 1788 and 1888, also all the medals and decorations won by its members in different campaigns, and scrolls with the names of all its battles and campaigns. Before the picture was despatched to India, Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, inspected it at Windsor Castle, expressing herself greatly pleased with the design, and was so impressed with the fine record of service which it commemorated, that she sent a special letter of congratulation (now framed and hanging in the Officers' Mess) to the regiment. In November, 1889, Colonel Hennell was compelled to resign from the Indian Army owing to ill-health. This was, however, by no means the end of his military career, for on his return home he took command of the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, which had its headquarters at Hornsey, and so began a connection with the Middlesex Regiment which was to last for many years. Of his work for the 1st Volunteer Battalion, which later became the 7th Battalion, one who had special opportunities to observe and judge it wrote: "What Sir Reginald's influence has been over the 7th Battalion only those who had the honour and privilege to serve under his command can ever fully realise. He found it a battalion only in name, composed of six detachments, each with different traditions. Gradually he welded them into a united whole . . . and he left the Battalion with a firmly established tradition of devotion to duty that has nobly stood the test of two great wars." Colonel Sir Reginald Hennell commanded the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, for 10 years, and it was largely owing to his efforts that the Battalion adopted the same uniform as the rest of the Middlesex Regiment, and began to regard itself as really part of "The Die-Hards." Previously the Battalion had worn grey uniform with grey facings, and its link with the County Regiment had not been a very strong one.

Sir Reginald Hennell also took a very keen interest in the Cadet movement in the County of Middlesex, and was awarded the O.B.E. for his services in connection with it in 1919. He was also a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order. In 1892, he was appointed a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, and from 1895 until 1902 he held the appointments of "Clerk of the Cheque" and Adjutant of His Majesty's Bodyguard of Yeomen of the Guard. In 1902 he was promoted Lieutenant of the Yeomen of the Guard, a rank which he held until his death on 22nd May, 1923, at the age of eighty-one.

In this, the Diamond Jubilee year of the Distinguished Service Order, it is well that the Middlesex Regiment should salute the memory of the two distinguished officers who were the first members of the Regiment to wear that coveted decoration.



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