



THE
DIE-HARDS

The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

September 1945

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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.
 "Mysora," "Serlingapattam," "Alubhara," "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,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courotte," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "18," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "18," "Atlas, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "18," "Arleux," "Plickem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Baillieu," "Kermel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal
 du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy,"
 "1917-18," "Struna," "Dorran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915,"
 "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18,"
 "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular 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—Kensington.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. (L.A.A. R.A.).
 1st and 2nd Bus. 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.C.) 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.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

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

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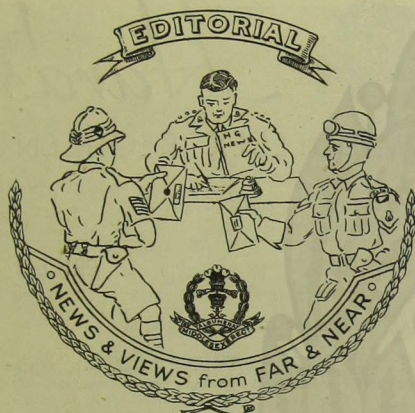
NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor, enclosing 1/- for each copy, plus 4d. postage.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE (FOR PURPOSES OF CENSORSHIP) 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.2.

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.

With the end of the war it becomes possible and necessary to consider the future of our Regimental Publication "The Die-Hards."

The Journal was originally a monthly publication which first saw the light of day in January, 1913. It was not styled "The Die-Hards," and on its cover bore the title "Regimental News," with part of the present Regimental Badge and various crests and badges used in the course of the Regiment's history. The Journal ceased on the outbreak of the Great War and was not issued again until August, 1922, when it assumed its present title "The Die-Hards." It again died in this war, but was restarted in September, 1944.

Capt. G. E. Moore, of the 24th Middlesex Battalion H.G., supported by Lieut.-Col. F. B. P. Weil, who commanded this Battalion, were largely responsible for this very fine effort, which enabled the Regiment to begin the "Peace" with a Journal in being. It was not an easy undertaking. Paper shortage and security demands handicapped Capt. Moore, the Editor; but he overcame these difficulties and produced four splendid numbers. He will shortly take up an appointment in China with U.N.R.R.A., so we lose his services both as an Editor and a contributor, but he takes with him our best wishes and gratitude for a good job well done. In this connexion we cannot do better than quote from the Colonel of the Regiment's latest News Letter, in which he says, "I regret to announce that we have recently lost the services of Capt. G. Moore, who undertook about 18 months ago, whilst serving in the 24th Middlesex Home Guard, to restart our Regimental Journal (suspended after the war started). He has been entirely responsible for the splendid four numbers of the Journal already issued, including the June number just out. Capt. Moore has overcome many intricate difficulties over editing, production, printing,

advertisement, and paper supply. The results have been excellent, and a considerable profit has been gathered in for the Association. We can never thank him enough, and as Colonel of the Regiment I express our Regimental and my personal thanks to him."

Other members of the Regiment have been associated with the recent production of the Journal. Capt. Moore worked with the Journal Committee, presided over by Colonel G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., who has on his Committee Lieut.-Col. A. N. Overell, Major A. Cooper, and Mr. Flitch, who although not a member of the Regiment, gave his services. Mr. Flitch is the Editor of a large journal, which makes his services the more valuable.

The Committee is continuing, the new Editor, Bt-Major G. W. Kempster, is pleased to tell you, but Lieut.-Col. Overell, unfortunately, will shortly have to withdraw on account of duties and location preventing him serving on it any further.

The new Editor at this stage asks for the full co-operation of all members of the Regiment and all Journal readers connected with the County of Middlesex and interested in the Regiment and the Middlesex scheme.

He hopes to maintain the high standard set by his predecessor, though he realises this will not be easy.

In some respects, however, he will be in a stronger position than Capt. Moore, in that many of the handicaps of war have disappeared, notably "Security Regulations." So if you support him the Journal should continue to prosper. If you do not the results will not be good. In this connexion will readers please read this "Editorial," because it is only through this medium that the Editor can work, unless you would wish him to burn the midnight oil and wear out his precious typewriter.

The first matter he would like to bring to his readers' notice is the recent falling off in numbers of subscribers, notably service subscribers. The end of the war is largely responsible for this, but Officers Commanding Battalions are asked to remedy it. The difficulties are fully understood, but all we ask for is a postal order for five shillings and an address that will always find the reader. A home address, such as has been given by some readers anticipating release, is strongly recommended. Now, is that asking too much? Personally, we do not think so, and if every reader would induce another, or, better still, others, to take the Journal, the situation would improve still more. Will you try?

It is astonishing to read some of the letters received from men of the Regiment. A recent one read, "Do you think I might be allowed to take in the Journal, and how is this done?" Well, the answer has already been given—a five shilling postal order and an address—but if only this could be explained.

Addresses or change of addresses are likely to give the Editor a headache for many months to come. While it is evident that the majority of readers are aware that his present address is Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7, he is dealing in many cases with readers who a year or more

ago naturally gave as their addresses the Units they were then serving with, and this applies to readers and contributors alike. There is only one answer to this very real trouble—a postcard to the Editor, giving him an address that will always find him, if this is necessary.

On opening up the office again after the war, the Editor found a great number of old copies of the "Die-Hard" Journal. There are varying numbers of each issue, including the pre-"Great War" issues. Should any readers require copies they are on sale at sixpence a copy, and the sum plus an application for the number or numbers required will be dealt with immediately. The question of having some of them bound in complete volumes is being considered by the Committee at the moment.

Pre-war readers will have noticed that the form of the Journal has changed radically since before the war, when it contained little except "Journal Notes" from the Battalions of the Regiment. This comment is not intended as a reflection on the excellent issues produced before the war, which met the needs of that time, but conditions have changed materially since those days. Whereas before the war few unconnected with the Regiment read the Journal, now many of our readers are influential and prominent members of the County interested in but not of the Regiment, and that interest cannot be fostered enough, and in the words of Colonel Beach, the Chairman, "The Journal aims at giving an interesting and up-to-date account of the doings of the Regiment, and in its new form endeavours to link up the Regiment more closely with the County and its activities." At the same time purely "Regimental News" has been somewhat neglected. Let it be said at once that this was not the fault of the late Editor. During the war there was a paucity of news and the Censor stopped much that arrived. Now that Security Regulations have been relaxed we are able to call on Battalions for their quarterly notes just as we used to do before the war, and they are responding very well indeed. These notes vary in character. Written so soon after the cessation of hostilities, they relate half to the strenuous times of war, and half to the sporting activities of peace. They range from a survey of the battles engaged in during the great struggle to a brief mention of a Middlesex Unit winning a "Tossing the Caber" event at a sporting event held by a Scottish Brigade. All the Editors who submitted notes apologised for their scrappiness, but we think when you read them you will agree that the apologies were unnecessary, everything being taken into account, though, of course, as the Journal develops they will increase in size, and their present excellence will be maintained.

This number contains an account of Field-Marshal Montgomery receiving the Freedom of the Borough of Brentford and Chiswick, and various illustrations from photographs taken on that day, including one of the Field-Marshal himself. We are proud and happy to record this memorable occasion in our Journal, for the Regiment has now been associated with this distinguished soldier since before the war, when the 2nd Battalion was under his command in Portsmouth. Many of our officers and men have served under him since, in the "Third Division," Eighth Army, in the B.L.A. and in the B.A.O.R. at the present time.

It is a source of deep satisfaction to the Middlesex Regiment that this great leader should at one time have been associated with their own County, and it is their sincere wish that his association with the Regiment may long continue.

There was not room for an instalment of "The Historical Development of Middlesex" in the June number, but it is being resumed in this. This was due to paper shortage.

The Editor regrets that he will have to discontinue the "Middlesex and the Militias" series commenced by his predecessor, as he cannot find the time to continue it. It is doubtful, too, at the time of writing, whether the second instalment of the book "Machine Guns in the Desert," written by Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, D.S.O., will be ready for publication in this issue. He will include it if he can, and in any case it will be resumed in the next number.

Many of you, we daresay, are wondering why the June issue was late. Well, printers are having the same wartime difficulties to contend with that many of us are experiencing. To add to their difficulties their services were requisitioned by the Government to prepare electoral rolls for the General Election at a time when they would normally have been preparing our Journal. This issue is also late, for there have been administrative delays caused by one Editor handing over to another, and the Committee also thought it might be as well to leave some little period of time between the issue of the June and September numbers. We apologise for these delays, but can assure our readers that they were unavoidable, and ask you to take a tolerant view of our lateness in view of the very real difficulties we have had to contend with.

We wish to thank all contributors to this number of the Journal, and take the opportunity of asking others who may be interested to contribute also.

The Editor is willing to consider any contributions for publication, the only limitation being space, which handicap will continue until such times as paper is plentiful again.

We thank the Colonel of the Regiment for allowing us to quote so freely from his monthly "News Letter"; Lieut.-Col. A. N. Overell for supplying his monthly casualty list; and Major S. F. Hedgecoe for writing his account of the release of the prisoners in Hong Kong so soon after his own arrival back to England.

We thank the Editors of the following contemporary Regimental Journals for sending us copies of their last issue: The Journal of the H.A.C., The Snapper, The Suffolk Regimental Gazette, The Dragon, The London Scottish Regimental Gazette, The Sapper, The Covenanter, The Gunner, The Tank, The R.A.O.C. Gazette, St. George's Gazette, The Queen's Own Gazette, The Iron Duke, The Journal of the South Wales Borderers, The Oak Tree, The Sprig of Shillelah, The China Dragon, The Faugh-a-Ballagh, The Journal of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, The Lion and Rose, The Borderers' Chronicle, The Eagle and The Artificer.

Finally, we would again ask you to co-operate with us in the fullest sense in order to make this Journal a fitting medium for the expression of Regimental and County opinion.

REGIMENTAL NEWS IN BRIEF

The following Regimental news has been culled from the 19th and 20th News Letter written by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.

Lieut.-Col. A. E. Green, D.S.O., who has recently taken over the 1st Battalion, has expressed himself as being very pleased with their administration, and pays a tribute to previous Commanding Officers and the present Unit Staff.

He says that the afternoons are devoted to all forms of sport, as he desires to maintain the peace-time standard of athletics which have always been of a very high order.

The 2nd Battalion in Belgium report that they are very busy in their area, but find time for inter-company cricket matches and water polo. Swimming and athletics are now being concentrated on whenever possible, preparatory to the Battalion and Brigade Meetings.

Sergt. De Heaume and Major H. B. Neave have both distinguished themselves at diving.

Capt. T. F. C. Finucane has had a motor accident, and Capt. G. A. Binney has broken his arm, but as far as is known they have either recovered or are on the road to recovery.

Capt. (Q.M.) R. W. Harmer, M.B.E., has recently been released from the Battalion.

Capt. Harmer's loss will be severely felt. He belonged to the West Yorks Regiment, but has closely identified himself with the Regiment, and all ranks will be sorry to lose him. We hope he will keep touch with our Regiment and attend Officers' Club functions when we can restart them.

Major Hewitt, M.C., is attending a six months' Staff Course in Great Britain.

Lieut.-Col. Douglas Parker reports that his R.S.M. Knight has been released after twenty-one years' service in the Territorials. C.S.M. Rose has arrived from the 2nd Battalion to take over from him. In the 2nd Middlesex he was C.S.M. to Lieut.-Col. Unwin, now commanding 8th Middlesex.

A further item of news from the 17th is that recently this Battalion provided a Guard for Lieut-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander 30th Corps. Major M. F. Pearson in command said that the General wrote saying that he always had a Guard on his H.Q., and that the Guard being provided by the 17th was very smart indeed and quite one of the best he had seen, adding that he had never seen so many men before who had seen so much fighting, as most of them had been right through from Alamein to the finish of the European War.

The Mortar Company, under command of Major H. N. Wigan, M.C., produced a printed journal called the "Mortar Board." It contains the story of the Company and has now been in production for some months. It started first in hectograph form, but is now a resplendent printed publication.

Lieut.-Col. E. J. Unwin has taken over command of the 8th Battalion.

R.S.M. Donovan, from 26th M.G.T.C., has arrived in the Battalion to take over the duties of R.S.M.

Lieut.-Colonel J. D. Robbins writes to say that the 27th, the Battalion he commands, is still stationed in Syria and North Palestine. His Unit is much scattered on security duties.

The Battalion is still on a M.G. Est., and is giving demonstrations to the occupation Forces.

Two members of the Battalion have represented the Army in Palestine at cricket—Capt. F. L. Abbot and L/Cpl. Joseph.

R.Q.M.S. Drury has been appointed Q.M. to the Battalion, and has been granted an emergency commission. We are sorry to lose (Q.M.) Lieut. J. E. Littler, who has recently been in hospital. He took over from Capt. R. Smith now on active service in North Borneo.

The 1st Battalion P.L. Kensingtons report that they are losing several senior members of their Battalion shortly, including Lieut.-Col. Bryar and Major Evans, the Second-in-Command, both of whom were due to go some time in mid-September.

Major J. B. Worton, formerly Second-in-Command of the 2nd Battalion Kensingtons, is proceeding to take over command.

C.S.M. Soper and C.Q.M.S. Seddon left the Battalion on release in August. This Battalion is still stationed in South Austria, where it is said that life is assuming a peace-time atmosphere. Sport takes a large share in the daily occupations. The Unit is well billeted and weather is delightful at the moment. Soon there will be winter sports to enjoy.

Major B. V. C. Harur has been selected to write the War History of the Battalion and keep the Colonel of the Regiment in touch with the Unit news, so admirably done by Major J. J. Jenkins in the past.

The 30th Battalion Middlesex Regiment is living a strenuous life under Lieut.-Col. A. N. Overall, and has been very helpful over Regimental activities in London.

Our three Indian Companies in Western Command have all recently changed their C.O.s, and news is scarce from them.

Lieut.-Col. Pluntpre, a former member of the Regiment, has written to say he is rejoining the Regiment. He is now employed at the Infantry Records Office, Bootham, Yorks.

Brigadier J. F. Charlesworth, a former member of the Regiment, is now employed as Chief Signal Officer at H.Q. Command (Eastern).

Capt. G. Kent, one of our youngest Officers, has been appointed A.D.C. to the G.O.C., 45th Division.

Lieut.-Col. Gordon Parker, our senior regular C.O., has been appointed to command the 11th Hampshires, a Unit which is mainly concerned with our own men who were P.O.W.

A letter has been received from Capt. A. Bishop, of 320 Bay Street, Toronto, Canada, who wrote to say that Capt. Osler had died. This Officer served with our 2nd Battalion in the Great War under Colonel Hayes, of whom he speaks with affection. He says that we need have no misgivings that the part Britain played in this war will ever be forgotten by Canada or by their southern neighbours in the U.S. of America.

Major N. G. Gilbert is now attached to the 8th Battalion.

We have just heard that Colonel M. Crawford shortly expects to leave for service to the M.E.F., and we wish him every success in his new role.

News has been received of Major D. R. Pattison, who was in the 8th Middlesex at the commencement of the war. He transferred to the Recce Corps to see service, and fought through North Africa and later campaigns. He has just been released and has returned to civil life.

Major-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., C-in-C. Northern Ireland, has informed the Colonel of the Regiment that he wishes his younger son to join the Regiment. We all hope he does so.

Lieut.-Colonel A. Man, A.A., Q.M.G. 15th ("S") Division, is filled with joy that his brother Christopher, serving with 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong, and a P.O.W., is freed. Another of his brothers in the Colonial Service is flying out to Hong Kong and is conveying messages to our ranks out there. Lieut.-Colonel Man speaks highly of the 1st Middlesex in the 15th ("S") Division.

Major R. C. H. Bellers, formerly 1st Middlesex in Far East, is now Brigade-Major to 131st Infantry Brigade at Berlin. This formation forms part of the war-tried Desert Rats. Major Bellers says it is a splendid Force to be with.

Colonel Aymar Clayton expects soon to return to U.K. from H.Q. Army in India.

Capt. R. C. St. G. McC. Young, serving in the Parachute Forces in India, also expects to return to U.K. shortly.

News has arrived that Colonel George Brown, D.S.O., is now a J.P.

Major R. McM. Lawson, formerly Second-in-Command at 26th M.G.T.C., has just been released. He belongs to the Devonshire Regiment. He is being replaced by Major Bryant, of the R.N.F.

Major W. A. Ballard has also been released from 26th M.G.T.C.

News has been received of Miss Dorothy Longe, whose father commanded the 1st Middlesex. She is now employed on Welfare Work in the Berlin area.

A well-attended Thanksgiving Service was held at St. Martin in the Fields on 21st August last. The Regimental Band played at the Service, which was conducted by the Rev. Man, C.F. The Bishop of Hong Kong preached a most moving and inspiring sermon. This service was arranged by Mrs. O. H. Tidbury, the Secretary of the Hong Kong Fellowship, as a thanksgiving for the release of P.O.W. and internees in Hong Kong. The church was filled.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Tidbury, Brigadier Rackham, Lieut.-Col. Willoughby (whose brother is a 1st Middlesex P.O.W. in Far East), Major Clark, O.C. R.D.P., and Major Archie Cooper were present at the service.

Major Hedgecoe has reached this country and is comparatively fit and well, but still two stone or more under weight, although we see an improvement each time we see him.

We are informed that prisoners of war put on lost weight at roughly one pound per day, and often at first exceed their former weight.

News has come from Lieut.-Col. R. A. Gwyn, who is at Advance H.Q., S.E.A.C., that the greater part of the Officers' Mess silver of the 1st Battalion has been recovered at Singapore, where it was stored by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. This recovery includes our famous Albuhera Cup, from which Officers and members of the Sergeants' Mess in the 1st Battalion always drank in memory of those who fell at Albuhera on each anniversary of the battle.

Major Hedgecoe has also brought the leaves of the Officers' Mess book in which were recorded the names of Officers initiated as Die-Hards, and the ceremony for the Initiation. News has also arrived that the Colours of the 1st Battalion, which were buried in the garden of "Flag Staff House," Hong Kong, have been recovered and are on their

way home, with approximately 300 prisoners of war. Thus they have never been sullied by Japanese hands.

Definite mention has been made of the safety of the following Officers: Capt. J. W. Chattey, Lieut. K. D. O. Cole, Lieut.-Col. J. E. Dobbs, Capt. G. W. Flood, Major R. T. Guscott, Capt. J. H. S. Hudson, Capt. F. S. C. Hancock, Lieut. G. S. Hill, Lieut. R. M. King, Major R. W. Mayer, Major Marsh, Capt. C. M. M. Man, 2/Lieut. R. B. Mace, Lieut. R. S. Rothwell, Lieut. R. W. Willoughby, Capt. Weedon and Capt. C. G. Webber.

Major Hedgecoe has brought home valuable rolls of the 1st Middlesex showing all casualties. These are at present with the War Office.

Major Guscott has suffered from both beri-beri and malaria, and will not be fit to return home at once. He is, however, in good hands in Melbourne.

Our readers may have read the following extract from "The Star":

GALLANT MIDDLESEX COLONEL

"Lieut.-Col. Alfred Cecil Houghton, R.E., of London, has given an account of the sinking of the Japanese ship 'Lisbon Maru,' when hundreds of British prisoners of war were drowned.

"Colonel Stewart, commanding the Middlesex Regiment, gave the order to break open the hatches before we all drowned," he said. "The Jap Commander had left three guards behind. When our first men came up they were fired on and several wounded. Japanese warships also fired on us. Colonel Stewart made no attempt to escape for fear he might prejudice the lives of his men."

Lieut.-Col. J. W. Walters, O.B.E., R.A.M.C. (retired pay), has recently completed his tour of duty at Inglis Barracks as S.M.O. Lieut.-Col. Walters has been a great friend to all ranks of the Regiment, and many owe to his care and attention their return to health. We are very sorry to lose his services both as a doctor and a friend. We wish him and Mrs. Walters every success and happiness in their new home in Jersey.

Capt. Pilley, our senior regular Q.M., who has recently returned to the 2nd Middlesex, has been found unfit for Regimental duty and is about to be Q.M. at 49th R.H.U., B.A.O.R.

We have heard from Lieut.-Col. A. Howell, who is at the Command Pay Office, Salisbury, from Lieut.-Col. J. Clowes, who is Second-in-Command at the Pay Office, Kidderminster; from Major Tom Cubbit, who is probably in M.E.F.; from Lieut.-Col. Bertie Lambert, who is District Paymaster at Taunton, Somersetshire; and from Major Charles Whitney, M.C., who is Administration Officer, Regimental Pay Office, Bournemouth, where his home is.

On the 29th of September, 1945, a meeting of the Hong Kong Fellowship was held in the City Guildhall. Dr. Leonard Browne spoke to the next of kin regarding the treatment of returning prisoners of war, the difficulties to be met, and the usual errors made by too exuberant welcomes. His talk was most useful to us all. The Band of the 2nd Battalion played at the meeting, which was attended by 700 next of kin. Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C., formerly O.C. 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong, and previously in Singapore, acted as Chairman.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

Since the last Journal there has been a change of Regimental Association Secretaries as well as Editors. Brevet-Major G. W. Kempster has taken over the secretaryship of the Regimental Association from Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. The former took over in July, and his appointment was confirmed at a recent meeting of the Committee of the Association.

It is perhaps not generally known that the Colonel of our Regiment has acted as honorary Secretary to the Association throughout the war. He has performed these duties in addition to the many others which have devolved on him during this period, and although we know that he himself is not wishful of being thanked, it would be wrong to withhold our recognition of the task he has performed so well and for so long. The present Secretary does not hesitate to state that he has taken over a smoothly running organisation which, given the support accorded to his predecessor, will prove an adjunct to the Regiment of the greatest value, and he hopes to continue the work so ably accomplished in the past by his predecessors.

As previously mentioned, the Committee has met, and one of the points on the agenda was to consider the future policy of the Association in regard to the social side of our organisation. These activities had to be suspended during the war. The difficulties of starting anything with present shortages was, of course, generally realised; but it was also felt that something should be done as soon as possible. Eventually a proposal that a Sub-Committee should be formed to give effect to the desires of the Committee was adopted. The Committee is composed of Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., and the Secretary. The Sub-Committee is to be known as the Middlesex Regimental Association Social Committee. If any of our readers have any bright ideas for furthering this scheme, please write to the Secretary. His address is Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.

At present the Secretary is busy compiling a register of other ranks who have been recently released from the Service. Battalions and associated Units are going to supplement our efforts by supplying us with lists of their releases as they occur, giving addresses, of course. Thus we hope to keep touch with those who have gone and those who will go. By these means we will be able to circularise our "Old Comrades" if this becomes necessary. If all our "Old Comrades" would only take in the Journal this would not be necessary, as all announcements and fixtures affecting the Regiment will appear in the issues. The Staff of the Association is a very small one, so again we appeal to you to read the Journal so that you are always "in the picture," and so don't have to be written to.

We wish that all men on release would send us their Record of Service Cards. Some do, of course, but by no means all. When we receive these cards they are returned duly stamped with a letter from the Secretary, giving the fullest information about the Association, its proposed activities and the support it requires.

The Association does require financial support,

of course. Before the war serving Officers and men used to subscribe a day's pay, while retired Officers and other ranks were asked to subscribe a guinea and five shillings respectively.

In spite of these subscriptions, the income from invested funds was often insufficient to meet our needs, and although our expenses are comparatively light at the moment, this may not continue to be the case in the future.

So subscriptions are asked for, at the rates given, from those who have not yet subscribed. The great majority are, of course, subscribing.

A most successful party was given to our prisoners of war (European) in the Tower of London on Saturday, 25th August. A most splendid and sumptuous tea with fruit and cakes, jelly and custard was provided by the O.C. R.D.P. (Major Clark) and the O.C. 30th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, who arranged for ices and sweet drinks. Side shows were also provided, and an excellent conjuring performance was given free by Mr. McQuire, who is employed with the R.E.M.E. at Inglis Barracks. He is a first-class magician. All enjoyed themselves.

We hope to give a similar party here at the end of December for our Far East prisoners of war if they are all back by then, as now seems more than probable, as Major Hedgecoe has already arrived back by air. We cannot possibly do enough for them. Major Hedgecoe spoke highly of the conduct of the old 1st Battalion, both during the battle and later in captivity, so we want to entertain them royally in recognition of the great hardships they have borne so nobly and patiently.

The Regimental Association is not an Employment Bureau, of course, but at the same time we are in close touch with employers of labour, and mean to remain so. It is our declared policy to co-operate with them, in fact.

If any men on release require employment they might do well to inform the Secretary.

The Empire Stadium, Wembley, support the Regiment. As you can see, they advertise in this Journal, and Mr. Parsons, the personnel manager, informs us that some of his staff are Middlesex men, and he would like some more. From what he told us, we gather the work is interesting and remunerative, calling for the services of young, smart, active men, willing to work and put their hand to anything. Altogether Mr. Parsons painted an attractive picture of employment for anyone suited to the jobs he has to offer.

Major Beard, of Vauxhall Motors, would like some of our people, too, and if they are not trained he will train them. It seemed to us a pretty good proposition. The Vauxhall works are at 401 Edgware Road, The Hyde, London, N.W.9. Anyone interested can write direct to this firm or to the Secretary of this Association. We would like to be strongly represented in a firm of such standing, especially as at the moment it is concentrating on building up a large export trade.

Messrs. Knightshades, Derby Road Works, Edmonton, N., also have vacancies, and have approached us with a view to acquiring some of our men when they are released.

We will not acknowledge the many donations we have received lately on account of lack of space, but we thank the donors for their generosity. The donations in detail are shown in the Colonel of the Regiment's News Letter.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

With the war over it is perhaps permissible to turn our thoughts to the peaceful days which we hope lie ahead of us. After the six strenuous years we have passed through we are, I think, entitled to do so.

We have foregone many of the pleasures of life during this period, chiefly out of necessity maybe, though this does not lessen our hopes for their return, and because I think there must be many like myself who want a return of the good old days I am writing a few lines about the past social activities of the Officers' Club with the sincere hope they will be repeated in the future.

Those of my readers who took part in them had better turn the page. They may read on if they wish, but it is for the new members of the Regiment that I am writing this. The Officers' Club membership before the war was a large one as memberships go. It included all the serving Officers of the Regular and Territorial Battalions, with a fair number of retired members of them, but only a small sprinkling of those who had served as temporary Officers, as they were then known, in the forty-six Battalions the Regiment had in the last war.

I remember a senior member of the Officers' Club Committee once saying to me—referring to this—"Where have all those splendid fellows gone to?"

The answer is they lost touch with the Regiment on demobilisation. Had the Officers' Club been in existence—it was founded a few years later—a number, perhaps a great number, might never have lost touch. The Officers serving at present on emergency commissions are in very much the same position as they were. They, too, are in danger of drifting away from us.

If they do it will be their own fault, for membership of the Club is open to them, and it is hoped that they will avail themselves of it. Some have, actually.

The Club activities I have referred to were many and varied. Some, such as the Regimental Dinner held annually at the Junior Services Club, and the "At Home" held at the Depot, Mill Hill, could be shared by those of us endowed by nature with a good appetite, and a strong head, or in the case of the "At Home" with not too strong a disinclination to don a lounge suit and a bowler hat. The latter had less significance in those days than it acquired later.

Other activities required some degree of skill at games. You would not have been asked to play for the Officers' Club cricket side, for example, unless your game was up to or almost up to county standard. It was true that sometimes our opponents fielded a "dropped catch in a Free Forester's cap and made a duck in a M.C.C. one" type of player—but not often. We had no passengers.

You could, if you were a golfer, and that is a very wide term, take part in the Spring and Autumn Meetings. These were not racing events, as you might suppose, but genuine golfing fixtures of two days' duration held at the Hendon Club and at some Course near the Battalion stationed at home.

Again, unless you were a Henry Cotton or the possessor of a generous handicap, you were hardly

likely to share in the "spoils." These were usually reserved for a select few. The majority of us made up a cheerful and contented field, always provided the weather was not too unkind to us.

The first day of the "Spring Meeting" was devoted to a trial of strength between the Past and Serving Officers. The retired Officers always won. Nobody has ever advanced a tenable theory to account for their continued success.

Then, too, there was the annual Tennis Tournament held at the Depot during the summer.

This was rather a thirsty occasion we found. Once more it must be admitted that a select few dominated this meeting, though, fortunately, there was a Cup for the "Rabbits" to scrap for which prevented things from becoming too much of a six love, six love affair for the majority.

Quite an event was the annual Army and Navy match at Twickenham. The drill was to assemble and lunch at the "Junior" first and then to drive to the ground in a hired bus.

Most of, in fact, all of our sporting meetings were brightened by the presence of spectators of both sexes.

Some understood the particular game they were watching, others didn't, of course. But this did not matter in the least, as everyone was happy watching the game intelligently or discussing old friends and stations—whichever suited them best.

Sometimes we wondered what the future held in store for us. Particularly was this so about the time of the Munich Crisis, when retired folk like myself debated whether to play golf in the Autumn Meeting or spend the time rescuing our uniforms and equipment from the moth. With most of us the pull of the former was stronger than the latter, and perhaps it was just as well, because when the bugle blew at last, and once again we found ourselves serving with our old comrades, the gulf between us was the smaller for having kept in touch.

So you can see that there was plenty to do, and lots to enjoy.

There was also a lot to talk about in those happy days, and so there will be in the days to come—more, in fact, as so much has happened since then.

Therefore support the Officers' Club. Soon we hope it will really be a Club in being, when ration cards, synthetic golf balls, swollen prices and other abominations have become an unhappy memory of the past.

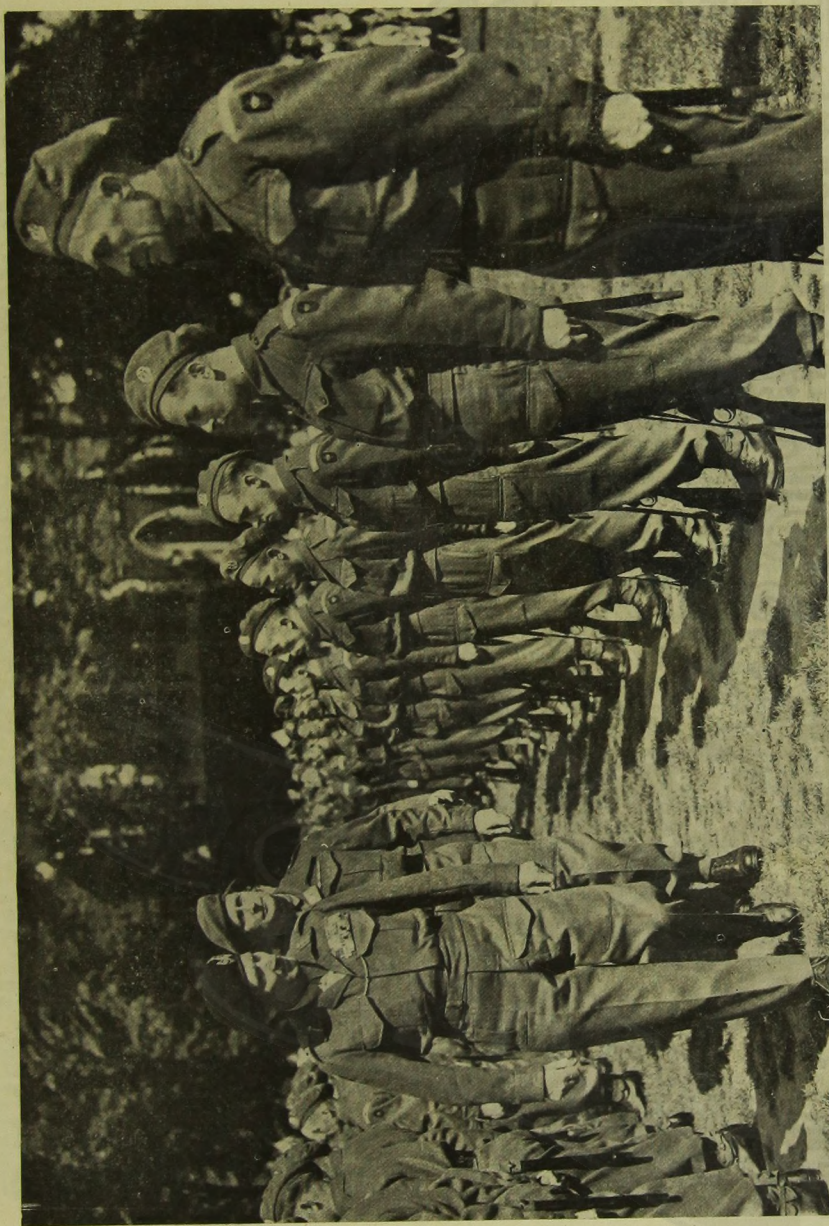
The Committee of the Officers' Club decided at a recent meeting to hold a Golf Meeting in the spring of next year.

Lieut.-Col. W. H. Samuel, of Greenmead, Brockenhurst, and the Secretary, Bt.-Major G. W. Kempster, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, will organise it, and further particulars will be supplied in the next issue of the Journal.

If anyone is interested enough to forward suggestions about this forthcoming meeting they will be gladly received.

Lieut.-Colonel R. Sherbrooke Walker has very kindly agreed to take over the presidency of the "Dinner Committee."

He and his Committee hope to organise the next Regimental Dinner at the "Junior United Services Club" some time in June next year.



Field-Marshal Montgomery inspecting the 30th Battalion



Field-Marshal Montgomery following the Mayor

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR BERNARD MONTGOMERY RECEIVES THE FREEDOM OF BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK

Scenes of the greatest enthusiasm and excitement were witnessed in the Borough of BRENTFORD and CHISWICK on Saturday, the 27th July, when Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery received the honorary freedom of the Borough. Dense crowds gathered at Turnham Green and in the vicinity of the Chiswick Empire, where the presentation ceremony took place.

The Field-Marshal is a former resident of CHISWICK, having lived with his father, Bishop Montgomery, in Bolton Road, Chiswick, in 1902. It was from there that he used to go daily to St. Paul's.

The presentation of the honorary freedom to the Field-Marshal was accompanied by a gift from the Corporation of a reproduction Cromwellian clock bearing an inscription emblazoned with the arms of Montgomery and of Brentford and Chiswick.

After being met at the borough boundary by the Mayor (Alderman T. W. Stroud, J.P.) and the Town Clerk (Mr. John Skinner), he was driven in an open landau to Turnham Green, where he inspected a Guard of Honour provided by the 30th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, whilst the Band of the Middlesex Regiment played.

Afterwards he entered the Chiswick Empire with the Mayor, and his arrival was signalled by a fanfare of trumpets, and a storm of cheering from a packed house.

After the Mayor had introduced the Field-Marshal and made his speech, the Town Clerk read the resolution passed by the Town Council conferring the honorary freedom of the Borough.

The scroll recording the Freedom and the presentation clock were then presented. Afterwards the Field-Marshal spoke to the packed house in a well-delivered speech, in which he reminded his audience that success in the future settlement of England and Europe* depended on the inclusion of a strong leavening of religion in our actions, understanding, training, and preparation for war, and a determination not again to be caught unprepared. And he added that we must act in close co-operation with our Allies in the same manner as the Allies had done against Germany, thus producing a perfect team.

Afterwards Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., Colonel of the Regiment, Lieut.-Col. A. N. Overell, Commanding the 30th Middlesex, and his Officers, and Major A. W. Clark, Depot Commander, were presented to the Field-Marshal.

The excellent playing and smart appearance of the Band gave rise to universal congratulations, and so ended a memorable day for the Borough of Chiswick and the members of the Middlesex Regiment who had been fortunate enough to be present.

Photographs of Field-Marshal Montgomery inspecting the 30th Battalion Guard of Honour and following the Mayor of Chiswick are included in this Journal, and our frontispiece is a signed photograph of the Field-Marshal himself.

* The war with Japan had not finished when Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery made this speech.

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Army Benevolent Fund has schemes for assisting boys and girls of special ability who are the children of soldiers. These schemes cover scholarships, maintenance grants, apprenticeship to trades, and in some cases training for professions. Naturally the financial circumstances of the parents are taken into account, for the purpose of the fund is to assist boys and girls whose parents are not in a position to give them the higher education or training they would like to.

It may be that among the readers of this Journal there are some who would like to know more about these schemes. If so, the Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association will supply the further particulars which will be required.

Applications should be made to him at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

This poem was written by C.Q.M.S. HATFIELD, of the 2ND BATTALION, Middlesex Regiment. It was received some time ago, but could not be published for security reasons. It seems fitting, however, that a number containing a special mention of Field-Marshal Montgomery should include this contribution, as the Third Division will always be associated with the Field-Marshal, its one-time Commander, and with the Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment who served in it.

THE IRON DIVISION

Have you heard of the famous Division
Known as the "Ironsides."
Well, that's what Monty calls us,
And he is the one that decides.

We started our fight in forty
When everyone started to run,
While we had to stay to hold the last line
Deny more advance to the Hun.

We kept them at bay while the rest were embarked,
Not one vital task did we shirk;
And then we withdrew with the remnants we had
And sailed away home from Dunkirk.

Fresh kit was soon issued in Blighty.
And training began for defence
Just in case Jerry came over,
The whole situation was tense.

In Scotland we trained for invasion,
Of Compo we had our first taste,
With each little lesson repeated
And nothing we did went to waste.

Then came our orders for D-Day:
All leave stopped, our camps all sealed,
And off on our mission we started,
Our landing place, then was revealed.

The sixth of June found us on beaches
Facing volleys of shot and of shell,
It really was just like arriving
Right smack in the centre of hell.



1/7 Mx. Marching Past the 51 (H) Div., Bremerhaven, 12th May, 1945, in Victory Celebration.

For there a new chapter was started
Of men who will never despair,
As we landed in France on the beaches
Of Normandy's Lion Sur Mer.

We held the left flank for day after day,
While the Yanks pushed ahead on the right.
We then captured Caen so the pivot could swing,
While the Jerries resisted with might.

Then came our relief, we thought of a rest,
But all our hopes were forlorn;
We straight away went to another attack,
Away to the east of the Orne.

Figures arose for losses of men,
Reinforcements were very soon sent;
Then came the news that the "Ironsides"
For another big battle were lent.

So we pushed on to Vire with the Yanks,
And Flers was another affair;
On through French towns, and Belgian and Dutch,
The Escaut Canal, we were there.

The Reichswald next we found was tough,
We took a bite out of that,
And then we crashed on while men fell fast,
Till Overloon was flat.

Onwards then to take Venraij,
Our losses made us halt,
With crosses marking graves of those
Who dropped just where they fought.

Just now we are waiting and watching
For someone to order "Bash on,"
To have our next go at the Jerries
To compensate those that have gone.

The "Ironsides," that's what they call us,
We know we've lived up to the name,
And Berlin is just round the corner,
We shall fight there just the same.

This story is for the while ended,
In case that you never have heard
The "Ironsides" is the name given
To Monty's Old Fighting Third.

C.Q.M.S. HADFIELD (G.).

NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS AND OTHER UNITS OF THE REGIMENT

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Notes for the Period July to September, 1945

The 1st July found the 1st Battalion in very comfortable billets in LUBECK, and after many changes of location since the end of hostilities, there was at last a feeling that we had settled. Unfortunately it became necessary to post some Officers and men who were required for service in the Far East, and Lieuts. R. R. T. Whitehead, B. H. Richardson, J. O. Aston, and J. A. Bound, with 24 other ranks, were drafted to England to start their training. Release, too, began to reduce our numbers, and Capt. W. C. Fletcher, after serving as Quartermaster throughout the war, left us on the 10th July. With him went R.S.M. B. Brockman, after long service with the Regiment.

R.Q.M.S. A. Rowe was granted an immediate emergency commission to take Capt. W. C. Fletcher's place and shortly afterwards another immediate emergency commission was granted to Sergt. F. M. Waite. At the same time C.S.M. H. Marshall, having served with "D" Company since the summer of 1943, was appointed R.S.M.

A Battalion Athletic Meeting was held on the 6th August in perfect weather. The Battalion has an excellent sports ground, and a very interesting day was spent, not only by members of the Battalion, but by many of the people of LUBECK. Refreshments were provided by the P.R.I., Lieut. W. B. Mason, on the sports ground.

On the 15th August the Battalion was required to send Capt. J. B. McKelvie and Lieut. F. M. Waite, with 128 other ranks, to the 2nd Battalion, receiving in exchange Capt. L. J. Delaney and Lieut. K. S. Simpson and 88 other ranks.

The Battalion took third place in the Divisional Drill Competition, a very creditable achievement considering that after a lot of practice parades 40 men from the team were posted to the 2nd Battalion and had to be replaced a few days before the competition.

Later in the month, on the 23rd and 24th August, the Battalion celebrated the Victory over Japan with two days' holiday, during which an Inter-Company Knock-out Competition was held on the sports field.

The Battalion entered a team in the 227 ("H") Infantry Brigade games and gained second place. To the dismay of the Scottish Regiments, the Londoners won the event called "Tossing the Caber."

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

July to September, 1945

July, August and September have seen the 2nd Battalion in Germany and Belgium; in Germany wrestling with the problems of the feeding and

policing of displaced personnel; and in Belgium wrestling with the equal problems of reorganisation on a basis which has completely changed the face of the Battalion.

On 30th May, the Battalion moved to an area south-west of Munster, grouping its Companies round two towns, Haltern and Dorsten. The area was over two hundred square miles and included 7,000 displaced personnel, living mostly in large huddled camps. All these the Battalion had to feed and guard, and before long the full implications of Military Government began to be felt. The food for the D.P.s was provided by the Germans and the Q.M., Capt. R. W. Harmer, M.B.E., had the task of distributing this to the dozen camps in the area, bearing in mind always the calorific significance of ex-prisoners of war, unemployed D.P.s, women, children, babies and expectant mothers. Meanwhile, Companies were worked extremely hard guarding the camps and patrolling by day and night for raiding bands of Russians and Poles. There were several murders and considerable pillage, and it seemed that we were worked even harder in peace than in war. On 12th July, Lieut.-Col. L. H. J. de la M. Herapath assumed command, joining the Battalion from the 8th Battalion. At about this time, repatriation began and two thousand east-bound D.P.s from the Brigade area passed daily—or whenever a train was running—through a Transit Camp organised by Major Neve, M.C., at Haltern. As the camps gradually emptied, the strain on the Companies grew less.

In spite of this, the Battalion enjoyed a certain amount of sport. Inter-Company cricket matches became very popular, for, on the whole, the weather was good, and on 1st August a Battalion Sports Meeting was held. A few days later a Brigade Swimming Gala took place in the Recklinghausen Swimming Pool. The Battalion came fifth of eight teams. The Battalion team won their first round of the Brigade Water Polo Championship with a score of 2-0 against 112 Heavy A.A. Regiment. Shortly afterwards, a Brigade Athletic Meeting was held, the Battalion coming sixth. Here, on the edge of the Ruhr, towns had been badly smashed by bombing, so that the general surroundings were rather drab, while non-fraternisation added a certain austerity to life. But in spite of that the Battalion was not at all uncomfortable here and short leave in Brussels or at the Divisional Club in Holland offered an occasional escape from the social conditions of Germany.

The news of the move to Belgium came at short notice and there followed upon it plans for the Division to be sent immediately to S.E.A.C. These were later cancelled, but the reorganisation which they had involved was carried through, and we are only now beginning to emerge from it.

The Battalion was relieved by 7th Manchester, whom we last met on the Maas in the previous February, and after the move to Iseghem, 30 miles west of Ghent, in Belgium, on 14th August, there began a frantic reorganisation to send away all those not eligible for the Far East and to receive from the other M.G. Battalions drafts of those who were eligible. Drafts came and went, and during one week 300 of the old Battalion departed.

It was a time of many sudden and unexpected farewells. Major E. J. Unwin left to assume command of the 8th Battalion. Major K. J. C. Fox returned to England on his way back to Rhodesia and Major H. B. Neve left to run a Belgian Training Team. Among the arrivals from the 8th Battalion were Capt. (now Majors) Marjoribanks and McLean, who now command "D" and "B" Companies respectively. Major Langley, who has rejoined, after being wounded in the previous autumn, remains Second-in-Command, and Capt. R. E. Orr, M.C., has taken the place of Capt. A. T. Carre as Adjutant. R.S.M. Weller, M.M., has replaced R.S.M. W. E. Hazeldene, who departed with Release Group 7 on the same path to demobilisation as R.Q.M.S. Ellwood, C.Q.M.S. Hatfield, C.S.M. West, Sergt. Moss, M.M., Sergt. McNeill, L/Cpl. Murfitt and Ptes. Bannister and Holles. Another loss has been C.S.M. Rose, who has been posted to 17th Middlesex as R.S.M.

The Battalion is living in civilian billets in Iseghem and has found the local population most generous and accommodating. There have been several football matches against Belgian teams, although the recent loss of old players such as Pte. Phipps, Cpl. Lowton, Pte. Crossthwaite, Cpl. Howey and Pte. Bayliss is now felt very keenly. Since the Battalion is free from other commitments, a number of cadres have been started and there has been the beginning of a great deal of educational activity in vocational and non-vocational subjects. The Battalion is within easy reach of Ghent, Brussels, Blankenberghe and Amsterdam, all of which offer facilities for short leave parties. The reorganisation was in many ways deeply regretted, but now that the turmoil is over, the Battalion can look forward to a certain period of time relatively untouched by the departure of early release groups.

27th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Still stationed in the Middle East the 27th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment has had a busy summer, having been spread out over long distances in Palestine and Syria on training and internal security duties. At one period the Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Col. J. D. Robbins) had to do a tour of 1,200 miles to visit all his Companies, a tedious journey, until a benevolent Divisional Commander lent him an air O.P. for the purpose.

The Battalion was, unfortunately, separated for Albuhera Day and VE-Day, but Companies celebrated in good style, although some of them were in fairly desolate spots. Recently the Unit has been brought together again and is now concentrated at Jerusalem on a camp site next to the barracks occupied by the 1st Battalion in 1932.

The splitting of the Battalion made the organisation of sport difficult, but it has been well to the fore during the summer and the Unit is making good progress in the Divisional cricket competition, which it has high hopes of winning. Two members of the Battalion team—Capt. F. L. Abbott and L/Cpl. A. Joseph, the latter a former Glamorgan player—have had the honour of playing for the Army in Palestine and for the Divisional team.

The Battalion has also been successful in boxing, three men—Sergt. F. Saunders, Ptes. C. Langley and R. Leeson—winning novices' championships in the Palestine Command competitions.

Each Company has held its athletic meeting in preparation for a sports day to be held this month, and an active interest has also been taken in swimming, a successful gala being held a few weeks ago.

Among visitors to the Unit during the summer was General Sir Bernard Paget, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., C-in-C, Middle East, who saw a demonstration of firing by machine guns and mortars, and congratulated the Battalion on its work in the Italian campaign.

Several awards have been notified for gallantry in Italy—the M.C. for Major E. F. Thompson and Capt. C. E. W. Coleman, the American Bronze Star for Lieut. F. A. Isden, and the M.M. for Pte. W. H. Daniels.

Among losses by release has been the Second-in-Command, Major E. F. J. Rich. His successor is Major E. F. Thompson, M.C.

1st BATTALION PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

Now that the censorial fog of war has been cleared with the blast of the Atom Bomb, we can reveal much more of our activities. It is regretted that these are very brief and in "note" form.

Having fought the whole way through the Sicilian and Italian Campaigns we count ourselves extremely fortunate in that we suffered little less than 240 casualties. This figure, of course does not include battle accidents, "nervous exhaustion" cases, and sickness which in the normal way would put the total into WELL OVER FOUR FIGURES.

The Battalion is still organised on the old Support Group basis, as it was found that reversion to the Company lay-out of the new M.G. Battalion War Establishment proved impossible compared with the "slick," flexible and mobile efficiency of the Support Groups to which our famous 78th Division was accustomed.

As a matter of interest we took a big part supporting the Infantry in the following battles—most of which will undoubtedly be famous when the history of these campaigns is recorded.

Sicily.—CATENANUOVA — CENTURIPPE — ADRANO—BRONTE—RANDAZZO.

Italy.—TERMOLI; crossing of the Rivers TRIGNO and SANGRO; mountain fighting in the Central Apennines north of ISERNIA; CASSINO (two months); breaking of the GUSTAV LINE and fighting in the LIRI valley; LAKE TRASIMENO; four and a half months' fierce warfare in the Northern Apennines towards BOLOGNA last winter (SOME PLATOONS WERE "IN THE LINE" IN THE MOST FORWARD DEFENDED LOCALITIES FOR OVER 127 DAYS CONTINUOUSLY); the SENIO breakthrough; the

piercing of the ARGENTA GAP; *ad nauseam*. These are only a few of the major names in what has been the longest, if not the most arduous, campaign fought in Europe.

We are mightily proud of our record and of the confidence placed in us. It is gratifying to record that collectively some very fine tributes have been paid to the Battalion by Formation Commanders covering all our activities whether in or out of "the line." Some of these are attached as Appendices "A," "B" and "C"—and off-set to some extent our paucity of awards, which were unavoidable, owing to a universal meagre allocation. However, the most recent awards we have had include—apart from sixteen "Mentions":

M.C.S.—Capt. B. J. G. Page, Capt. W. H. Scott, Lieut. J. S. McKay, Major J. W. Doyle.

M.B.E.—R.Q.M.S. Headington.

Bronze Stars (American).—Sergt. Bland, Cpl. Box.

M.M.s.—Sergt. Harvey, Sergt. Axten, Sergt. Ganley, L/Sergt. Claydon, L/Sergt. Taylor, Sergt. Rowlands, L/Sergt. Chidgley, Pte. Gordon, Pte. Allsop.

On 8th May, following the first gigantic European surrender of the one million Germans in Italy, we started occupying Austria near the Tyrol country. Here we had to assist in the evacuation of nearly 30,000 Cossacks and Caucasians (who had been aiding the enemy against us in Italy) back to Russia. We guarded and disciplined hundreds of "S.S." men and thousands of surrendered personnel, apart from organising and dealing with thousands of displaced personnel, slave labourers and other foreign workmen of every nationality under the sun—that is literally true—although we have perhaps no case recorded of having met any Red Indians.

The Battalion is concentrated now around Spittal in Carinthia which is a town of considerable size. We have made this a "little London." Large "Red and Grey" signs depict the main thoroughfare as "Kensington High Street," the local park as "Kensington Gardens," the prison has been dubbed "Wormwood Scrubs," the Officers' Mess as "Hyde Park Hotel," and two of the men's clubs have the nostalgic titles of "Adam and Eve" and "The Clarendon."

We have done big things in sport and fielded teams with great distinction in soccer, rugby, hockey, cricket, boxing, water-polo and horse-racing. We even found time to put an athletics team into the field, which, despite tremendously "hot" competition, came an easy second out of 21 teams comprising every Unit and Service within the Division. And, in fact, very nearly pulled off first place.

We shall be very sorry to lose our C.O., Lieut.-Col. B. L. Bryar, who will be shortly "taking felt" on his return to civilian life. He in turn will be quickly followed by our equally popular Second-in-Command, Major J. J. Evans—both are very old "Kensingtons." We shall be glad to welcome Major J. B. Worton (Middlesex) as our new Commanding Officer.

Major J. W. Doyle, M.C., who is taking the Army as his permanent career, has gone off to the Staff College at Haifa. Major P. Marshall left us late last year for further Staff work. Those who have already been demobilised include:

C.S.M. A. Kelk, R.S.M. R. Taylor, C.S.M. G. Soper, C.Q.M.S. R. Seddon, Cpl. E. Lancaster, Cpl. R. J. Dodwell, Pte. R. Horne, Pte. H. Parkin, Cpl. F. Walton, Pte. H. C. Thurlbeck, C.S.M. J. J. McGowan, Cpl. T. Shackleton (A.C.C.), R.S.M. H. A. Upchurch, C.S.M. C. F. Skinner, L/Cpl. J. M. Castle.

APPENDIX "A"

HEADQUARTERS,
11TH (BRITISH) INFANTRY BRIGADE.
7TH JULY, 1944.

DEAR JOHN,

I would be grateful if you would tell all ranks of "B" Support Group how much I—and I know I can also speak for all C.O.s, too—appreciate the excellent work performed by the Group since the Division came over from the Adriatic coast last February.

Your Mortar Platoons did sterling work on the RAPIDO and MONASTERY HILL, and I am sure their counter mortar fire did much to keep down casualties in the Brigade during these two months.

During the advance from the GUSTAV LINE there have been many calls on the Group, and I know that at times they have been asked to operate for days and nights on end without rest.

There is no doubt that on occasions their fire has had a direct and decisive effect on the course of the battle. In particular, I remember the losses inflicted on the enemy who attempted to re-occupy the ridge opposite the 1st Surreys to the west of SANFATUCCHIO and the attack by the 2nd L.F. at STOPPA.

I am glad casualties were light, and this I attribute to good selection of positions by Officers and good training on the part of the men.

Again many thanks for your good work.

Yours sincerely,

R. K. ARBUTHNOTT,

Commanding
11th (Infantry) Brigade.

Major J. W. Doyle,

O.C., "B" Support Group.

APPENDIX "B"

HEADQUARTERS,
36TH INFANTRY BRIGADE,
2ND JULY, 1945.

DEAR BRYAR,

Now that "C" Support Group has returned completely to your care, I would like to express the appreciation of myself and the rest of the Brigade

for all the work they have done for us since we have been in AUSTRIA.

They were given a large and difficult area. Because of the distances involved they had to do all the work of organisation and "cleaning up," with very little help from outside. They encountered, and solved, many problems, ranging from frontier control to liaison with the Americans. Everything they have done—and they have done a great deal—has been done with efficiency and expeditiously. Brian Harpur's organisation, and that of his successors, has produced an area which is probably as "tidy" as any in the Division.

Brigadier Musson said, at a conference a week or so after our arrival in AUSTRIA, that the turnout and saluting of the men of "C" Support Group was the best in the Brigade Group.

I am very sorry that they have left us, and I would be grateful if you would thank them for all their excellent work.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Brigade Commander.

Lieut.-Col. B. L. Bryar,
1st Kensingtons.

APPENDIX "C"

Personal Message by Brigadier T. P. D. Scott, D.S.O.,
Commander, The Irish Brigade

The tribute to your success sent to me by the Army, Corps and Divisional Commanders is very well earned. Although casualties have been higher than in some other successful battles, the Irish Brigade has again taken a far higher toll of the Boche.

In particular, I wish to refer to the parts played by each Battalion.

The "Skins" I congratulate on their long and most successful attack along CASA SALARA spur on Pt. 387; the Irish Rifles on their series of attacks leading up to the magnificent capture of SPINELLO, which was the main factor in the Division's success on the night 23rd/24th October, and all this after being in the line continuously since 5th October; and the "Faughs" on their successful attack from MONTE CODPONCO and the many acts of gallantry performed during the first attack on MONTE SPADURO on the night 19th/20th.

I HAVE, TOO, A SPECIAL WORD OF PRAISE FOR THE CLOSE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE KENSINGTONS' "D" SUPPORT GROUP, WHO WERE IN THE THICK OF IT ALL.

German prisoners are being taken at a high rate, but there are still tough ones between us and the plains. These we must exterminate in order to reach the "Land of Houses" before winter really comes. This we can do.

T. P. D. SCOTT, Brigadier,
Commanding
The Irish Brigade.

In the Field,

26th October, 1944.

1st HEAVY SUPPORT COMPANY, MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

Since entering Austria among the first troops of the Eighth Army, the Company has been employed on occupational duties. In the first instance, these consisted of the supervision of collecting and disarming the German forces. Later we had the running of two displaced persons' camps, together with the problems of evacuation and repatriation of these unfortunate peoples. Latterly our role has been that of frontier control on the Carinthian-Yugoslav border.

By the end of June these duties began to ease sufficiently to allow a great interest to be shown in sport during the afternoons. Football, cricket, athletics, rowing, swimming and horse-riding have all been enjoyed.

Our football team has done particularly well, beating a number of Battalion and Regimental teams and getting into the last eight of the Divisional Knock-out Tournament (not bad for a Company team!). Our match with 104th (Essex Yeomanry) R.H.A., in which we were defeated 4-3, was particularly memorable and very exciting.

The cricket team, if not so successful, has given the enthusiasts some good matches, which have been enjoyed.

A very successful Company Sports afternoon was held on 14th July. Tremendous keenness was shown, the entries totalling 231. The Platoon championship was won by 1st Platoon (Mortars) from 4th Platoon (M.M.G.s) by a narrow margin in the last event. Consequent on the success of this afternoon, a triangular meeting versus 72 Squadron, R.A.F., and 61st Infantry Brigade Signals was held on 11th August. Again the afternoon finished in a most exciting manner, the Company winning the meeting by one point from the R.A.F. in the last event.

Swimming, rowing and riding have also been enjoyed among what is probably some of Europe's most beautiful scenery.

About 80 per cent. of the Company went home on PYTHON late in August, and our future is now a matter of speculation. The remaining 20 per cent. are meantime "holding the fort," and hope to see some of the others back again when they have had their well-earned leave.

26th M.G.T.C.

It is with considerable pleasure that this Centre regards the re-publication of "The Die-Hards" Journal, after its enforced lapse of nearly six years, and for the kind invitation to subscribe to all future issues.

Much has been done by the Colonel of the Regiment to keep each Battalion up to date as regards all activities, etc., of each other, as far as security would allow, and, speaking for this Centre, we are extremely grateful for the information which was so frequently forwarded and so painstakingly compiled.

It must be appreciated by all readers that this Centre is a combination of two Regiments, namely, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and ourselves. The Depots of both Regiments are part, in fact a large part, of the Centre. In consequence, all activities are a combined affair, and it would be

impossible to compile notes for publication and refer only to our Regiment.

September has seen yet another change in our training and has thrown additional work and responsibility on our shoulders. All Trainees are now retained in this Unit on conclusion of Corps Training, and carry out Continuation Training until called for drafting. Two Companies, one M.M.G. and one Mortar, are carrying out this work, and to assist in Field Training we have commenced to share the Rhayader Battle Camp with 160th O.C.T.U.

Rhayader itself is indeed a beautiful spot, situated as it is amidst some of the most glorious scenery in Wales. No words can describe the beauty of the Elan Valley, with its four miles of artificial lakes which supply Birmingham and District with its water supply. A trip during a holiday period when most of you return to civil life would be time well spent, and is to be thoroughly recommended.

In a Centre of this size and importance, the sporting and social side covers a very wide field, and it would take too much space to deal with each and every sphere, but a few words on the more important functions and sporting activities must be included if these notes are to be in any way representative.

SPORTS Cricket

A most successful season has just been concluded. The Centre winning 24 matches out of a total 33 matches played. This includes a series of matches for the Boughton Hall "Knock-out" Cup, which the Centre won after some very exciting finishes.

Lieut. M. R. Clutterbuck was the most prolific exponent of the willow, with an aggregate score of 942 runs, giving him an average of 47.10; his highest score was 80 "not out."

The bowling honours were shared by Lieut. D. A. Broom and Lt/Cpl. Wardle with 86 and 82 wickets respectively, giving an average of a fraction over 7 runs per wicket in each case.

The team as a whole are to be congratulated on their keenness and enthusiasm shown throughout the season.

Football

We have entered the soccer season with high hopes of repeating last year's successes by again winning the League Championship and all six local Cups.

The team shows little changes from that of last year and has started the new season in great style. To date they have played two League games, winning both by 3-0 and 11-0 respectively.

One Cup Tie match against the R.A.M.C. has been played, and the score in our favour was 10-0. Several members of the team will, unfortunately, be leaving us for civil life during the season, and we are combing the Training Companies for young and promising material and having them coached with a view to taking their place in the senior side.

Rugby

The season opened with a match against the R.A.F., which resulted in a loss for us. However, the season is young and we hope to develop a side

capable of giving the strongest side a good game. During our first game Lieut. C. J. R. Denning had his cheek bone smashed. He has just returned from hospital, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

SOCIAL

El Boden Day

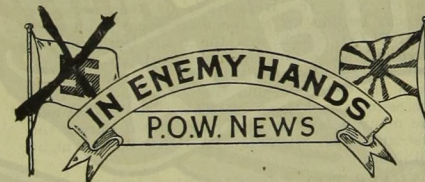
Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Ceremonial Parade this year as we could not get the Regimental Band. However, an extremely enjoyable day was held, and all ranks of both Units were delighted with the arrangements.

During the morning a magnificent motor cycle display was given by the staff of the Specialist Company. This was followed by a band concert given by the Cheshire Band. The whole Unit assembled in the Dining Hall for lunch, where a few words suitable to the occasion were said by the C.O., Lieut.-Col. T. C. L. Redwood, R.N.F.

The afternoon was given over to "All the fun of the Fair." The host of willing workers under the able guidance of Lieut. R. Clements are deserving of the highest praise for a first-rate show. This was followed by the Unit Concert Party in "Laugh and be Happy." Words cannot do justice to this Variety Show. All ranks agreed that it was by far the best concert that has been given in our theatre. Among those taking part were: Capt. J. Bywaters, Lieut. R. Manns, Sergt. Abbott and Pte. Gomm. Congratulations to the whole party for putting up such a talented performance.

To wind up a most successful day, an All Ranks Dance was held in the gymnasium.

Owing to the length of these notes, we are forced to leave over to the next issue a record of Officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s, and men who are serving in or passing through this Centre on their way either to civil life or to one of the Battalions of the Regiment.



The following account was written by Major S. F. Hedgecoe on his return to the United Kingdom from captivity in Hong Kong. This Officer is the first to arrive back, and he returned by air, so this account is very much in the nature of "hot news."

THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN HONG KONG

By August this year there remained in Hong Kong only twelve Officers and about thirty-five other ranks of the Regiment. Five of the latter were hospital patients.

The Officers were Majors Worth, Guscott, Capts. Hudson, Flood, Willoughby, Webber, Lieuts.

Hancock, Cole, Mace, Rothwell and myself. The remainder of the Officers and men had been sent to Japan during the latter part of 1942 and 1943.

The following account from diary extracts tells how they were recovered—in other words, how they passed from Japanese hands to freedom.

Shaveshupio. 13th to 16th August

On these four days working parties of other ranks who went out of camp were told by civilians (mostly Portuguese and Eurasian womenfolk who were not interned) that the war was over. There was no chance to hold long conversations because of the Japanese guards, but the rumours were persistent and appeared to come from several sources. As we had often had wild rumours brought in before which had subsequently proved wrong, it was difficult to believe that this one was correct. However, on 16th August the Japanese staff were paraded in the early afternoon to hear a broadcast by the Emperor. Although we were supposed to know nothing, the gist of the speech was soon obtained from a sentry, who told us that Japan had really surrendered and that the report was in the newspaper, too.

17th August

At 8 a.m. roll call the Camp Commandant and the interpreter were taken to one side by Lieut.-Col. White.

Lieut.-Col. White (commanding 2nd Battalion R. Scots), who was in command of the parade, held the following conversation:

Lieut.-Col. White: What about this rescript which the Emperor broadcast yesterday saying the war was over?

Camp Commandant: I don't believe it. It was a fake.

Lieut.-Col. White: Rubbish! It is in the newspapers, too. The war is over and we must be released.

Camp Commandant: I have no instructions about that.

Lieut.-Col. White: Go to Colonel Tokunaga (in charge of all P.O.W. in Hite) and get there by 12 noon.

Camp Commandant: Very difficult. Colonel Tokunaga is at Governor's Office at a conference. Perhaps to-morrow.

However, at 1 p.m. the Camp Commandant returned and said that the war was over—officially. He was then told that the Japanese were still responsible for our safety and for our maintenance and that we should no longer attend roll calls; that we needed light in the huts forthwith (it had been withheld for about a year), and that the sentries were to be removed from the camp.

18th to 22nd August

These were days of great excitement and lots of rumours while we waited for British Forces to come and relieve us. Parties went out of camp daily to forage and to get in touch with the hospital, the Indian camp and the civilian internees camp. The Japanese very gradually started to improve our rations by sending in meat, peanut oil (for cooking purposes, etc.), sugar and cigarettes. We heard that a number of Officers who had been tried by court martial by the Japanese and sentenced for being concerned in using a wireless receiving set, had returned from Canton and were

now in hospital. They had served two years of their five years' sentence. It was also confirmed that Colonel Newnham and two other Officers had been court-martialled and shot on 18th December, 1943, for having held communication with British Forces outside Hong Kong.

Feroz Din—Shaboodens' manager—came into camp looking like death warmed up, having been released from civil prison the previous day after four months' incarceration.

23rd to 29th August

Rations steadily improved, chiefly owing to our own efforts in requisitioning. Many rumours of relief, but no signs of any British Forces. Most people got very impatient at the delay. On the 29th two Chinese aircraft flew over in the morning and dropped a message for the Japanese Commander. Later in the day more aircraft flew over, and a party returning from Stanley civil internment camp told us that they had seen a British fleet at dusk lying about ten miles off the island.

30th August

A great day. Aircraft galore overhead, but no bombs or A.A. now. The Admiral came ashore at midday and visited all camps and hospitals. It did our hearts good to hear his cheery words and to see his escort of four of the liveliest and toughest looking sailors imaginable, all armed with Tommy guns, and obviously aching for an excuse to loose off at a "Jap."

31st August to 1st September

The Navy started clearing all Japanese from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon on the mainland.

2nd to 5th September

Everybody in camp free to move about anywhere on the island or mainland now. Everything very quiet in the streets. The Japanese were concentrated in two small areas in Kowloon. Three thousand men of the R.A.F. Regiment arrived by aircraft and took over the mainland, occupied all police stations and patrolled the streets. Both the island and mainland (Kowloon) seemed very deserted when compared with pre-war times. The population has fallen from 1,750,000 to 600,000, mainly due to what the Japanese called "repatriation."

Trade was, of course, non-existent, and poverty, sickness, and death everywhere. It has been the same story since the "Chinese Incident" started eight years ago—the "dead hand" follows wherever the Japanese are in occupation.

6th to 7th September

Rumours that all P.O.W.s will be moved shortly in hospital ships and an aircraft carrier, but nobody can say when. Still no news from friends at home, except in the cases of one or two lucky individuals who have business connections in Mocaui (the Portuguese colony 50 miles away). Airmail for home was accepted on 2nd September. Everybody was very restive owing to lack of definite information about departure.

On 8th September I was very lucky in being offered a passage home by air via Kunming (South China), Calcutta, Cairo, and Sicily. I am, therefore, unable to describe the last few days before the bulk of Hong Kong P.O.W.s embarked for their journey home.

LETTER RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR

EXPERIENCES OF A PARATROOPER AT ARNHEM

61 WALPOLE ROAD,
GT. YARMOUTH,
NORFOLK.
13TH SEPTEMBER, 1945.

DEAR SIR,

I was delighted to receive your very welcome letter, also for the very nice "Old Comrades" Badge you sent me.

I shall be happy to subscribe to the Association.

I remember you, sir, as one of my Company Officers at Gondecourt in France, when Capt. Sword was Company Commander, and C.S.M. J. Chillery was Company-Sergeant-Major. He was my Platoon Sergeant in Singapore.

I left many old friends when I left the 2nd to join the Paratroops in May, 1944. Capt. Gatehouse was my Company Commander then.

However, sir, to carry on to Arnhem. I dropped with the 3rd Battalion Paratroop Regiment, 1st Airborne Division, on Sunday, 17th September, 1944.

I hardly know what happened to me for the next seven days, except that I stuck to my old job, taught me thoroughly in the "Die-Hards," i.e. Machine-Gunner.

I fought for seven days through the streets at Arnhem, trying to get to the bridge, which was our Company's objective.

I knew that at the bridge was another old Middlesex man serving in the 2nd Paratroop Battalion, by name Cpl. Young, once of "A" Company and an Ack-Ack man.

I was finally wounded and lying in an empty house waiting for the long overdue 30th Corps, when I was informed that it was commanded by General "Horrocks," whom I remember as my Company Commander in Singapore (1st Middlesex) and who was my C.O. for a little while in France (2nd Middlesex, "A" Company).

On being taken prisoner and taken to Poland, Stalag "8", C, I came across Sergt. "Le Maite," who was with the 2nd Middlesex in France with you; also Sgt. Sticks "Kent," who left the 2nd Middlesex at Wimborne, Dorset. We had many a long chat together, and, of course, most of the chatting was about the good old times spent with the "Die-Hards" in different parts and at different times. Well, sir, I was relieved by the Russians and came home through Cracow and Odessa to England, where I was given a Board and discharged as physically unfit for further Military requirements, with a total of fifteen and a half years' service, of which fourteen years were spent in the 1st and 2nd Middlesex Regiment.

In conclusion, sir, I remember General Horrocks once saying, "If you want to know anything, don't be afraid to ask me." Well, sir, I have often wondered why he could not get through to us, and was going to ask, but have since found

the reason. I now know that both their endeavours, and ours, were "Not in vain."

I have always kept my eyes open for any Middlesex. I shall always follow their activities with interest and admiration as one of the finest fighting Units in the history of the British Army.

Now, sir, I close, as one of your obedient servants,

Ex-6199404 Sgt. R. HUNT.

P.S.—I'm proud to have served with our Regiment and am happy to wear the Badge. I am now employed as a Postman at Great Yarmouth, and should be glad to hear from any Old Comrades.

R. B. A. HUNT.

CASUALTY LIST

OFFICERS

Killed

Captain F. B. Buckbarrow.

Died

Captain T. K. Greene.

Wounded

Captain K. F. H. Waggett.

Lieuts. L. E. B. Adamson, A. E. Bird, J. E. J. Gallop, B. I. Green, A. M. Harris, J. A. S. Hunter, J. D. Messenger, B. J. G. Page, A. J. W. Such, J. T. Griffiths, M.C.

OTHER RANKS

Killed

Sergts. A. C. Gross, F. Dollin, J. J. Mathews, R. W. Wilson, R. V. Watkins.
A/Sergt. P. N. R. Greenway.
L/Sergt. F. W. Bowgett.
Cpls. T. J. R. Boustred, A. H. Histed, R. Lee.
A/Cpl. R. Silcock.
Ptes. E. J. Andrews, G. Coates, J. M. Crosby, J. H. Elliott, S. Hardman, J. Johnson, A. T. Markey, J. Mayfield, A. D. Powell, A. Stancard, M. E. Sharp, W. R. Wilkinson.

Died as P.O.W.

Ptes. L. J. Allaway, T.L. Collocott.

Died of Wounds

Sergt. A. W. Row.
L/Sergts. W. J. Brown, H. A. Evans.
L/Cpls. F. C. Berry, W. Lee.
Ptes. H. R. Dudley, C. H. Forman, J. Ivison, T. A. McNeff.

Died

Sergts. C. H. Little, M. C. Masters.
L/Cpl. H. J. Clark.
Ptes. J. D. Downs, W. P. Edwards, A. T. Loveday, J. P. McAleer, L. V. Milton, J. L. Moore, C. J. McCool, J. A. Packham, F. J. Quinell



L/Cpl. A. W. James, of the Middlesex Regiment, receiving the M.M.



Sergt. H. Warr, Middlesex, receives the M.M.

DECORATIONS and AWARDS

OFFICERS

M.C.

Majors S. Jacobson, G. Kaines.
Capts. P. F. Edwards, C. A. Watney.
Lieut. J. H. Stubbs.

Mention in Despatches

Majors C. E. Cullen, J. W. Doyle M.C., D. B. Tregoning.
Capt. D. Kennedy.
Lieut. P. Douet.

Bronze Star—U.S.A.

Lieut. F. Isden.

OTHER RANKS

M.M.

Sergt. R. Scott.
Corpl. F. Walton.

Mention in Despatches

Sergts. W. T. Bray, E. R. Morgan, Perry.
L/Cpl. — Walker.
Ptes. F. Manze, — Savoie.

Meritorious Service Medal

Q.M.S. A. Brice.
R.Q.M.S. T. W. Hammond.
C/Sergt. J. H. H. Lambourne.

HONOURS

M.B.E.

Capt. (Q.M.) C. Trestain.

THE HONOURS ON THE COLOURS

Part III

The new Editor regrets that he has not had the time to complete Part III of this interesting series started by his predecessor, Capt. Moore. This Part will appear in the next issue. It is only the demands made on his time that have prevented him from continuing Capt. Moore's work, as he realises the desirability of bringing to the notice of all readers of this Journal an account of the Battles in which the Middlesex Regiment took such a distinguished part.

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLESEX

By C. W. RADCLIFFE, C.B.E., D.L.,
Clerk of the Peace and Clerk and Solicitor to the
County Council.

Puritanism, though exercised with great vigour during the Commonwealth, was not so rabidly followed in Middlesex as in some of the neighbouring home counties.

Various references are found to plagues, but the Great Plague does not seem to have seriously attacked the rural areas outside London and Westminster.

We find no mention in the records that the Fire of London had any great effect on the County as it is to-day, though no doubt many whose homes in the City had been destroyed must have taken refuge in Middlesex.

Part Three

MIDDLESEX UNDER THE HANOVERIANS

The history of Middlesex after the accession of George I seems to lose much of its individuality, and this is mainly due to the tremendous development in building which occurred in the City of Westminster and in the parishes immediately surrounding the City of London. Stepney, Stoke Newington, Hackney, Marylebone, Islington, Chelsea, Fulham and Kensington were rapidly losing their rural appearance, and even HAMPSTEAD and HORNSEY were falling a prey to the builders. Consequently the area now comprised in the County of London dominated the situation. The remainder of the County, representing roughly the area as now administered by the Middlesex County Council, retired into its rural shell and its inhabitants profitably devoted their time to the production of provisions to satisfy the ever-enlarging appetite of London.

It was unlikely that the local towns should develop when London provided so ready a market and was so accessible for those who wished to purchase what the village store did not stock. EDGWARE, EDMONTON, BRENTFORD, HIGHGATE, HOUNSLOW, UXBRIDGE and HARROW were the only towns worthy of the name, and these actually consisted of nothing more than a main street where shops and inns were built to provide for the needs of wayfarers on their journey to London.

Although more work was being done on the roads throughout the country, traffic was increasing enormously, and consequently transport remained as difficult and expensive as it had been a century earlier. These conditions contrived to develop the agricultural potentialities of Middlesex to an even greater degree than hitherto, as its accessibility to London allowed its produce to be delivered to the markets at a minimum of expense.

TURNPIKE ROADS AND BRIDGES

The eighteenth century saw the establishment of the turnpike road. Under this scheme the main roads were leased out to companies known as Turnpike Trusts, which were responsible for their upkeep, and in return charged heavy tolls to cover the cost. In some cases good work was done by these trusts, but more often than not the promoters, possessing as they did a monopoly, preferred to increase their dividends rather than improve their roads.

Rates raised in the County must have increased

considerably during the century, for quite apart from the cost of administering the poor law, greater sums were required for repairing or re-building bridges to bear the increased traffic. In June, 1739, the state of BRENTFORD BRIDGE was examined, and it was found that a new one was essential. The old bridge was built obliquely to the road, and was recommended that the new one must be constructed in a straight line with it. While the new bridge was being built under the supervision of Labelye, a Swiss architect who had built Westminster Bridge, a temporary one was constructed. The building of the new bridge was handicapped by weather conditions and by labour troubles, but to get over the latter the justices informed the workmen that if they did not work harder they would themselves have to bear the extra charges!

The cost amounted to over £4,000, but the architect, who had put in three years' work, received only £20 for his expenses and a fee of £100.

THE DAWN OF SOCIAL REFORMS

The opening of the century witnessed the dawn of social reforms which have been extended yearly even to the present day. These began with an investigation into conditions in Newgate and in the houses of correction within the County. These apparently were appalling, and were to a large extent reformed by order of the justices. No gaol or house of correction existed within the area of Middlesex at the time, and, in fact, Newgate and the New Gaol were the only prisons for the use of Middlesex and London prisoners. The gaol-keepers received little or no salary, but made what profits they could from the work done by the prisoners, who had to pay for most of the food they ate.

In 1741 a committee of justices was appointed to investigate conditions at the Clerkenwell house of correction. They found that inquests were seldom held on persons who died there, owing to the demands for fees made by the coroner and the jurors, which the gaoler had to find from his own pocket. An exception was the case of Mathew King, "one of Turpin's gang," who was shot in the breast before he was arrested. Owing to the fact that the coroner happened to be holding another inquisition near by, he consented to examine the cause of death of Dick Turpin's friend without fees.

PRISON REFORM

Prisoners committed to hard labour could earn anything from 1d. to 3d. a day, and in return the keeper allowed them a quarter loaf among eight prisoners and "good water." Those committed for want of bail received no food and drink at all "except what he sometimes sent them to keep them from starving."

Sometimes the "Quakers' Workhouse" took pity on the prisoners and sent them broth. The condition of many of those serving sentences was "near to starving," and they were so faint and ill from want of food that they were obliged to be discharged. On one occasion the keeper of the Bridewell had boiled some beans and left the water "in the kettle"; some of the prisoners discovered this and a fight ensued to dip their bread in the bean water. They were even glad to eat pea-shells. As a result of the investigation it was decided that a penny a day should be allowed to each prisoner. If expended on necessary food "and not on gin," this amount, in the opinion of the justices, would be sufficient.

THE REPAIR OF PARISH CHURCHES

Rates were raised for the repair or re-building of parish churches, and one such case is found in 1733.

when EALING Church was rebuilt. "The existing edifice" was then of brick and stone "of very great antiquity," and was so ruinous that the parishioners "durst not assemble there," while the tower had fallen down years previously. In place of the old church, no doubt a building of beauty, the parishioners had built a "Tabernacle wherein to worship."

APPRENTICESHIPS

The disputes concerning apprenticeships appear to diminish as the century progresses, and this may indicate that the custom of apprenticing was passing out of favour. In one case an apprentice complained that his master compelled him to wear a "girdle of quicksilver" in order to destroy the vermin on his body.

GAMING, DRINKING AND BULL-BAITING

Tremendous activity was exercised by the justices in stopping unlawful gaming not only in the taverns, but even in the houses of the nobility; and also in the suppression of theatres and music-halls. Actors and actresses were dealt with as "rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars," and were consequently subject to the punishment of being "stript naked from the middle up and beaten on their backs till they were bloody." The haunts of vice which are enumerated in the records lay outside the present area of the County, and were mainly to be found in Clerkenwell, Mayfair and Chelsea.

The drinking of gin had greatly increased during the middle of the eighteenth century, and the justices took every step in their power to suppress it, apparently without much success. To such an extent had the habit developed that shopkeepers would give their clients "a dram of gin" to encourage them to become reckless in their purchases.

Bull-baiting at EDMONTON in 1746 resulted in the injury of many of the spectators and the justices issued their orders that constables were to suppress this form of entertainment throughout the County.

ATTEMPTS TO CHECK CATTLE DISEASE

Outbreaks of cattle disease, the same as, or fore-runner of, foot and mouth disease, were first reported in the County about the middle of the eighteenth century, and in 1747 overseers were appointed to inspect "distempered cattle" and to see that regulations were enforced to prevent the disease from spreading.

INFLUENCE OF THE JACOBITES

In order to hold office and avoid suspicion of being a Jacobite, it was advisable to obtain a certificate that one had received the Blessed Sacrament, and among such certificates are found some interesting names, including those of Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Little mention is found of the 1715 Jacobite rising, except that orders were made for the billeting of soldiers and the prosecution of those who went about singing seditious ballads. The wearing of white roses on the Pretender's birthday was prohibited.

The victory of the Young Pretender at Prestonpans in 1745 and his subsequent march on London, caused much excitement in the County. London was in a panic and there was a run on the Bank of England; all business was suspended and shops were shut. The alarm was short lived, for in

April, 1746, the army of George II successfully shattered the Pretender's hopes at Culloden Moor. During this period of alarm the militia was embodied and other voluntary forces were raised in the County.

THE EARTHQUAKES OF 1750

Another event which disturbed the tranquility of the inhabitants was a series of earthquakes which occurred in the early part of 1750. The first shock occurred in January, and in exactly a month to the day, a second and more severe one followed. Even the most unsuperstitious became alarmed, and it only needed the publication of a pamphlet by a trooper in the Guards, predicting a far worse shock a month later, for the inhabitants of London to indulge in a panic which has fortunately never been equalled or surpassed.

All roads out of London were thronged with every kind of conveyance, many filled with fashionable people. The more rural districts of Middlesex must have reaped a profitable harvest, for fabulous sums were paid for beds and shelter outside what was considered to be the danger zone. The less wealthy made for the open spaces. Nothing occurred, and the citizens somewhat shamefacedly returned to London the following morning.

Nevertheless the trooper was not an entirely false prophet, for in the following April a third shock did occur, but with no serious result. The Bishop of MIMMS was not slow to take this opportunity of pointing out that these shocks were visitations of the Almighty as a warning of what might happen if Londoners did not mend their ways, and the justices ordered that copies of this sermon should be bought and distributed to every parish.

THE CLOSE OF THE CENTURY

The Gordon Riots in 1780, while chiefly affecting London, had no doubt some repercussions on the more rural parts of the County, but the records of this date have not been examined in sufficient detail for particulars to be given.

During the Napoleonic wars, the number of militia men, which had been scarcely 300 in 1802, was raised to over 2,000 in 1808 and to 12,000 in 1812. Several "Loyal Associations" were also formed in the County, and the HADLEY and SOUTH MIMMS Volunteers were among the forces reviewed in Hyde Park by George III in 1799. Cavalry corps were raised at UXBRIDGE, TWICKENHAM, EDMONTON, EALING and BRENTFORD. (For more of these events, see the series of articles on the raising of the Militia in this and subsequent issues of THE DIE-HARDS JOURNAL.—ED.)

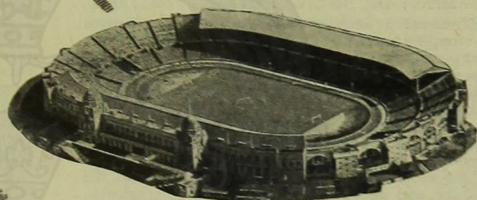
At the close of the eighteenth century we reach a period when the ancient records of the County need no longer be consulted, but before passing on to the period immediately before 1888, reference should be made to the notable buildings which made the County famed, and some of the celebrities who lived within its boundaries. Brief descriptions are also given of the administration of justice, and the Guildhall and its predecessors, from which the County has been controlled from the time from which our earliest records exist. But these must wait until subsequent issues.

(To be continued.)

THE SPORTS CENTRE OF THE EMPIRE

At the Stadium—

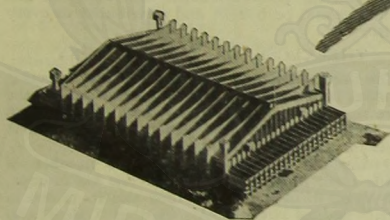
GREYHOUND RACING (See Daily Newspapers)
SPEEDWAY RACING (May to October)
RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL (Each spring)
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP FINAL
INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCHES — PAGEANTS, etc., etc.



At the Empire Pool and Sports Arena

WATCH FOR OPENING DATE

ICE SKATING ICE HOCKEY
6-DAY CYCLE RACES BOXING
INDOOR LAWN TENNIS
TOURNAMENTS
INDOOR ATHLETICS
INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING
AND DIVING EVENTS
etc., etc.



IF IT IS AT

W E M B L E Y

IT IS SPORT AT ITS BEST !