

No.33 February 1936



THE IRON DUKE

*THE MAGAZINE OF
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGT
(WEST RIDING)*

THE IRON DUKE



The
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE
of
THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENT
(WEST RIDING)

VOL. XII.

No. 33. FEBRUARY, 1936.

Printed and Published for the Regimental Committee by
LAWRENCE BROS. (Weston-super-Mare) Ltd., North Street, Weston-super-Mare.
Members Association of Service Newspapers.
Advertising Agents for National and Local Advertising Combined Service Publications,
67-68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. Tel. : Whitehall 2504.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
KING GEORGE V. SUPPLEMENT	5
EDITORIAL	6
FRONTISPIECE	6
REGIMENTAL NEWS—	
1ST BATTALION	7
2ND BATTALION	11
DEPOT	17
4TH BATTALION	21
5TH BATTALION	22
6TH BATTALION	23
7TH BATTALION	25
33RD BATTALION AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY	26
GENERAL—	
H.M.S. "IRON DUKE"	26
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATIONS	28
THE FIVE SAILORS. Verses and Illustrations by "NEWOR"	34
LOE AGRA OPERATIONS, 1935. By O. P.	35
THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE. By Capt. R. H. D. BOLTON	40
NOTABLE FAMILY RECORDS IN THE REGIMENT.—No. 10, BENNETT	41
THOUGHTS ON SPORT. By "OLD STAGER"	45
OLD ENGLAND. By "R."	46
MOUNTED INFANTRY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899—1902. By Lt.-Col. H. K. UMFREVILLE, D.S.O.	48
EXTRACTS FROM THE HAVERCAKE LAD. No. 4.—MALTA, 15th Dec., 1897... ..	50
MOHMAND OPERATIONS, 1935. By R. K. E.	52
NIGHT OF THE 4TH. By P. M. L.	58
REMINISCENCES OF AN EX-TERRITORIAL CHAPLAIN. By Col. The Rev. S. HOWARD HALL, C.F. (1st Class retired)	60
A TRIP ROUND THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. By "SELIM"	62
NOTICES	64
ECHOES OF THE ABYSSINIAN CAMPAIGN, 1868	65
OUR CELEBRITIES.—R.S.M. F. ALLSOP, 1st Battalion, and R.S.M. W. BRENCHLEY, 2nd Battalion	68
THE REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL	69
PERSONALIA	70
YARNS BY ANOTHER OLD SOLDIER. By "BOWS AND ARROWS"	71
OBITUARY	71
REVIEWS	74
WAR OFFICE NOTES	74
CORRESPONDENCE	75
OUR CONTEMPORARIES	75
LIST OF W.OS. AND COLOUR-SERGEANTS, JANUARY, 1936	76

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

		FACING PAGE
HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.	... ..	<i>Supplement</i>
A GRENADIER, 76TH FOOT	... ..	<i>Frontispiece</i>
THE CAPTURE OF MAGDALA	... ..	8
GUARD OF HONOUR TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR, N.W.F.P., WUCHA JAWAR, 15TH OCTOBER, 1935	... ..	9
10TH BATTALION MEMORIAL SERVICE	... ..	32
1ST BATTALION CRICKET TEAM, MALTA, 1897	... ..	32
LT.-COL. F. IRISH, M.C., COMMANDING 4TH BATTALION	... ..	33
THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE	... ..	40
THE BENNETT FAMILY	... ..	41
CARTOON: "S.A.S. TEACHING." By J. C. B. (see page 47)		
CARTOON: MOHMAND OPERATIONS. By J. SWIFT (see page 55)		
MOHMAND OPERATIONS, 1936	... ..	56 & 57
A TRIP ROUND THE BRITISH WEST INDIES	... ..	64
PORTRAIT AND MEDALS AND DECORATIONS OF GENERAL JOHN ELIAS COLLINGS, C.B.	... ..	65
R.S.M. F. ALLSOP, 1ST BATTALION	... ..	68
THE LATE C.S.M. H. COTT	... ..	68
R.S.M. W. BRENCHELY, 2ND BATTALION	... ..	68
SERGEANTS' MESS, 1ST BATTALION, MALTA, 1896.	... ..	69



Copyright Photo by Vandyk, London.

This late Majesty King George V.

KING GEORGE V.

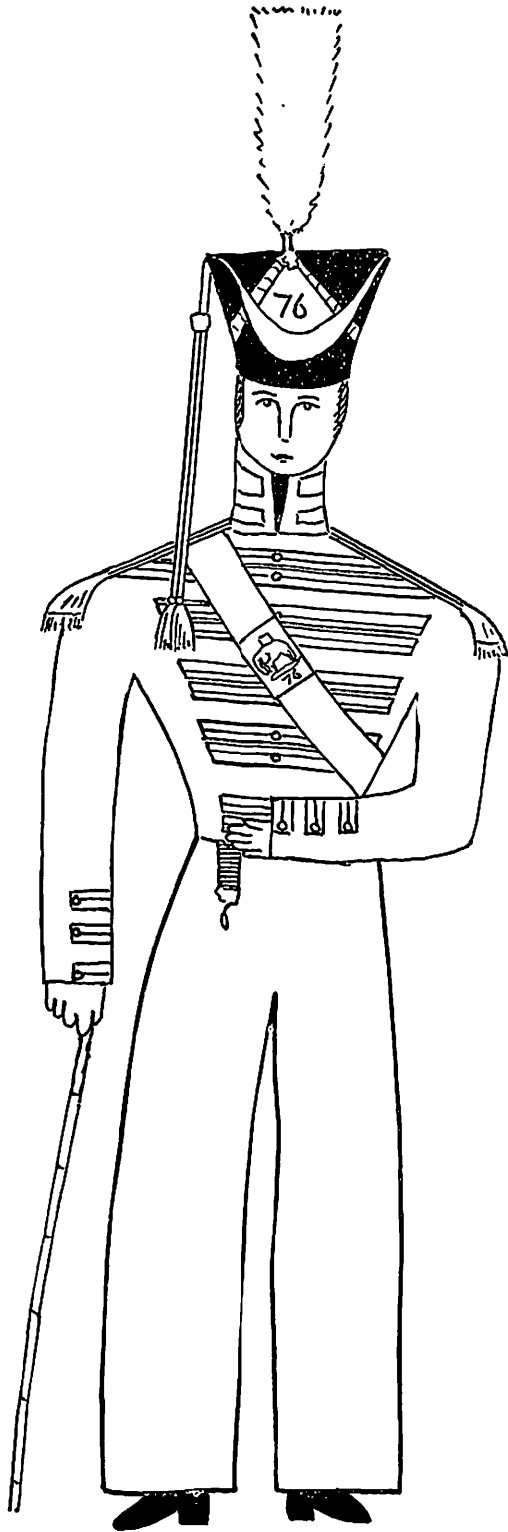
THE sense of dismay and grief of the vast community of peoples united under the British Crown at the sudden death of their beloved Sovereign is shared by every member, past and present, of the Regiment, and is too overpowering to be expressed in words. All that has been said of him can convey but little of the love and pride with which his subjects far and wide have regarded his life of devotion to his people. The mind almost shrinks at the thought of the heavy cares and responsibilities which he bore through his long reign. Steadfast and true to his high resolve, he carried with him the Nations of his Empire through dangers and perils that no one of his predecessors on the throne had ever had to face.

It is with a deep and heartfelt thankfulness that his people remember that his recovery from his previous illness enabled them to show him that spontaneous loyalty and affection at his Jubilee, which touched him so deeply. No Sovereign of the past has reached the hearts of his people so closely, for no predecessor has been able to speak to them as a father to his children, a friend to a friend, as the invention of the microphone enabled him to do. Those of us who kept the vigil on Monday evening, when at each quarter hour the notes of Big Ben preceded the announcements of his peaceful passing from this life, could not but remember with poignant sorrow the tones of his voice which had so recently sounded, in that same room perhaps, on Christmas Day.

To the Regiment there was a tie that bound him more closely than that of subject to Sovereign ; for in days before he was even heir to the Throne, as a naval officer of no higher rank than lieutenant, he was intimately acquainted with the Regiment. While serving in command of H.M.S. *Thrush* at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1890 to 1891, he was a frequent visitor to the Officers' Mess of the 2nd Battalion. It was typical of his almost uncanny memory for names and faces that, as our readers will remember, he recalled with interest the friendships of those days, 36 years later, when he so graciously accepted a copy of *THE IRON DUKE*, in which appeared a photograph of the officers of the 2nd Battalion at Halifax in 1890.

To Her Majesty Queen Mary, to His Majesty King Edward VIII. and to all the Royal Family we offer on behalf of the Regiment our deepest respect and sympathy ; and to our new Sovereign that same loyalty and devotion which his illustrious and beloved Father drew from all his subjects.

GOD SAVE THE KING.



A GRENADIER, 76th FOOT.

THE IRON DUKE

EDITORIAL.

IN our last issue we published an account of the Loe Agra operations, in which the 2nd Battalion were engaged in the early part of 1935, and in this number we print the conclusion. After their return to Nowshera the Battalion were again called out to take part in the more extensive operations against the Mohmands, and a full account, together with photographs of the scene of operations, appears in this number also.

We offer our congratulations to Lt.-Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe on his appointment to the command of the 7th Battalion, in succession to Bt.-Col. R. Chambley, who retired last October after completing six years in command of that Battalion.

We welcome the news, which appears on page 31 of this issue, that a start is being made to form an old comrades' association of ex-members of the 8th (Service) Battalion, and we hope that it will meet with every success.

With reference to the letter, which appeared on page 234 of our last issue, regarding the graves of the 33rd in the Crimea, we have to thank Major T. C. Rapp for a number of photographs of these graves, which he has kindly sent. These photographs are being kept at the Depot with similar records.

The Secretary of the Officers' Dinner Club announces that the dinner and ladies' tea will be held this year on Friday, 5th June, the former at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, and the latter at the Ladies' Army and Navy Club, St. James's Place.

We are sure that our readers will be sorry to hear that "Old Stager" has decided to end the instructive and entertaining series of articles, entitled "Thoughts on Sport," which have appeared in each number of THE IRON DUKE since No. 5, November, 1926. Although we have regretfully to accept this as the last instalment for the present, we hope that at some later date he will again take up his fluent pen and give us his views on current sport flavoured, as in the past, by his own lengthy experience. We hope in our next number to publish a review of the season's rugby football by Capt. C. K. T. Faithfull.

Capt. John Churchman, whose death we regret to have to record in our Obituary column, was a soldier of whose record the Regiment can be justly proud. He served the Regiment for 49 years in different capacities, and as mentioned elsewhere, only recently relinquished the last of these offices—namely, Hon. Treasurer of the 6th Battalion O.C.A., on account of his health, which had been a cause of anxiety to his friends for some time. He did good work for THE IRON DUKE, as sub-editor for the 6th Battalion from the start of the magazine in 1925 until quite recently, when ill-health prevented him from continuing the work.

By the death of Sir Walter Tapper, R.A., President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, on 21st September, 1935, the Regiment has lost a friend who did much for the Regimental Memorial Chapel during the time he was surveyor of York Minster.

Our contemporary "The Covenanter," the regimental journal of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), has a most excellent suggestion in the January number, which we would like to commend to our readers. Briefly the suggestion is that subscribers should send on their behalf a copy of the journal for the year to some ex-member of the Regiment who has given years of loyal service to it, or to the wife or mother who has given their husband or son to it, but who cannot afford to pay the subscription.

We should like to start a similar scheme for THE IRON DUKE. There must be many old soldiers or their relatives whose only link with the Regiment is THE IRON DUKE, but who in hard times are unable to afford the subscription. The Treasurer has a list of such persons, and to some he sends copies free of charge, but we should like to extend the list, and we suggest that any subscriber who would like to help those less well off than him or herself, should ask the Treasurer to send, on his or her behalf, during 1936, a copy of THE IRON DUKE to one of those on his list, or to someone the subscriber knows would appreciate it. The Treasurer will inform the donor of the name of the person to whom THE IRON DUKE is being sent, and the recipient will be told from whom it comes. Requests should be sent with postal order for 3/- to The Treasurer, THE IRON DUKE, Kilsyth, Storeys Way, Cambridge.

Mr. J. W. Paling is anxious to purchase a copy of Albert Lee's History of The 33rd Regiment, to send to an old soldier of the Regiment in the United States. Would any reader who has a spare copy to dispose of please communicate with Mr. J. W. Paling, Hon. Secretary, The Regimental Association, The Barracks, Halifax, Yorks.

The annual dinner in London of the Old Comrades' Association, 1st and 2nd Battalions, will be held at the Union Jack Club, 91 Waterloo Road, London, S.E.1, at 7 p.m., on Saturday, 2nd May, 1936 (Northern Rugby Cup Final). Tickets 4/- each.

FRONTISPIECE.

WE reproduce as our frontispiece a drawing of a Grenadier of The 76th Foot by Colonel A. N. E. Browne, late The Highland Light Infantry. This drawing, and also a coloured one of the same figure, were very kindly sent to us by Colonel Browne through Capt. E. H. Campbell, of Rosedell, Twyford, Winchester. The coloured drawing is presented to the Regiment, and has been placed in the Regimental Museum at the Depot on loan for the 2nd Battalion.

The drawings were made by Colonel Browne from a coloured sketch by a Sgt.-Major Bull, which was shown at a small exhibition in Winchester recently. This sketch, now owned by a great-niece of Sgt.-Major Bull, is a valentine in which a lady also appears hanging on to the left arm of the Grenadier, and we hope to be able to reproduce it in a later issue, if Capt. Campbell is able to take a photograph of it, as he hopes to be able to do.

Colonel Browne writes :—" . . . the uniform places him as Grenadier Company, between 1826 and 1835, and a letter on the back of the original is dated 1831. (The 'fob,' I imagine, was not mounted till he had passed the guard.) These 'home-made' drawings are generally accurate, though not high art, so I thought these worth sending on."

We have asked Capt. Campbell to endeavour to obtain details of the service of the late Sgt.-Major Bull, and this he has very kindly consented to do. We offer our grateful thanks to Colonel Browne, both on behalf of the 2nd Battalion and of ourselves, for the gift of these two drawings.

1st BATTALION NEWS.

IN our last notes we described life in Malta as a lotus-eating existence. The gods must have looked over our shoulder and laughed, for they soon disturbed the quiet waters of our lagoon.

Early in August the wires started buzzing, and soon the air was full of wars and rumours of wars. Fear of the Official Secrets Act, which is rampant in Malta, stays our pen from a detailed account of events. Most of them, anyway, happened behind closed doors, from some of which emerged disquieting rumours, and from others peculiar looking stores. For us the immediate results were that the second Gozo camp was cancelled, and that "C" (S.) Company, which had just established itself in the Floriana detachment, was recalled to St. George's. For the rest, there was a good deal of hard work, erecting barbed wire in places inconvenient both to ourselves and to those so lost to decency as to wish to bathe during a state of emergency.

After a bit the tension slackened, though rumour seemed inexhaustible. Three new battalions, and any amount of gunners arrived, presumably with the object of providing a more valuable target. Then, about the time when the affair was being referred to as "the recent crisis," two boatloads of women and children were removed to safety, from which, with singular ingratitude, they immediately clamoured to return. As for ourselves, we gave up the war and got back to real manoeuvres again, going out to company camps at Mellieha in the north of the Island. Even so, some of our schemes were made very unreal by the amount of barbed wire on the ground.

Even now the war keeps bobbing up in a most surprising way, and to avoid further provoking the gods, we no longer refer to it as "the late." As they go, it isn't a bad war. In the first excitement many sporting events, such as the boat race and the practical promotion examination were cancelled, but now sport is regaining its proper place. The arrival of the Lincolns, King's Own Scottish Borderers and South Wales Borderers has introduced additional competition in all forms of sport, as well as a pleasing variety of dialect. Soccer is in full swing, and is reported elsewhere. Rugger and hockey are just starting, so there is little to say about them at the present, though in the latter we have had some good friendly matches. The boxing team, and those who trained them, are to be congratulated on their excellent performance in the novices' competition, which is also fully reported later.

We congratulate R.S.M. Allsop on his promotion to succeed R.S.M. Smith. His particulars appear later under the title of "Our Celebrity."

OFFICERS' MESS.

Early in August the Mess was almost deserted, owing to leave, the Gozo camp and the Floriana detachment. Then came the crisis, and camps and detachments were abandoned. Soon some rather disgruntled officers appeared, having been recalled from leave, and the Mess was further populated by married officers whose wives had gone home. Finally, when the new units arrived, half of the officers of the South Wales Borderers were quartered with us. So by the end of September we were quite a party. The 24th Regiment have now installed themselves in the Villa Rose, just down the road. Even so, there are more dining members than there have been for some time.

For various reasons, official entertaining was not possible until the latter half of November, so there is only to record one Sunday morning cocktail party, which was largely attended, and one Regimental guest night, when the Royal Malta Artillery dined with us.

There have been several permanent changes. 2nd Lts. Wortham and Franklin have joined us, though for the latter it is only a temporary stop on the way to India. Lt. Troop, getting away with half an hour to spare before leave was cancelled, is combining

matrimony with aviation at Leuchars. He has our heartiest congratulations. Lt. Pigg-Strangeways was less fortunate as he was called back from England and had to forego his advanced P.T. course. Capt. Owen left early in December in a cruiser for a stay in Egypt, prior to catching a trooper which will land him in India in time to take the Staff College examination. We wish him every success. Lt. Stone's movements and intentions are wrapt in mystery. We must, however, congratulate him on the birth of a son, and also Sir Nugent Everard on the birth of a daughter. Capt. Webb Carter has been seconded to the Colonial Office, though for some reason this has not yet been notified in the *Gazette*. Possibly the Press feels that it has already given him sufficient publicity.

The Mess has received a most interesting gift—namely, a painting of the Capture of Magdala, by the Negus' court painter. This modern painting is in the same traditional style as the older representation of the same subject which is already in our possession. We are most grateful to Mr. Perry George, the United States Consul in Malta, who presented it to us. A reproduction appears opposite.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

There appears to be little of interest to report since the last issue. Our usual equanimity was somewhat pleasantly disturbed by the arrival of the 2nd Bn. South Wales Borderers, old rugby opponents, a large number of whom became dining members. They hope for an early return to England, but we trust that they are quite comfortable whilst with us.

Winter activities are quieter, as so many families have accepted passages to the better country. One whist drive and dance has been held but there are not many left to attend such functions. A Mess dinner has been instituted, but we are, at the moment, rather foggy as to whether this is to be an annual or a monthly dinner. The billiards team improves, and at present lies third in the league. A little more experience at competitive billiards will further improve the members, who should then set the pace.

A most enjoyable and interesting association match was played with the officers on 22nd October before a record gate. Again we have to record a reverse. Our President has been approached to make offers for the officers' centre forward and right wing for the next match. Perhaps our credit is sufficiently strained!

Movements have commenced. They started with R.S.M. E. Smith, who left us on 2nd October, having decided to try a change of vocation after 26½ years, most of which were spent with the Regiment. We hear he has obtained home and employment. As his particulars appeared in the last issue, we will be content with wishing him all good luck. Sgts. Anderson and White have left us for the T.A. C.Q.M.S. Holmes is awaiting passage for duty at the Depot, C.S.M. Clinch for vocational training and Sgt. Burgoyne for the T.A. All of these will no doubt have left us before these notes appear. We congratulate C.S.M. Ward, C.Q.M.S. Myatt and L/Sgt. Bainbridge on attaining those ranks.

It gives us great pleasure to congratulate sincerely R.S.M. Allsop on being selected for promotion to that rank *vice* R.S.M. Smith, and look forward to the day when he receives his next step. In considering his record up to date we have no qualms for his future.

DRUMS.

Our last retreat beating on the Palace Square, Valletta, on 29th October, 1935, was successfully broadcast by the Royal Naval Wireless Station, Rinella, Malta. A very interesting running commentary on the parade was given by Capt. D. R. H. Gwynne, 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade. Incidentally, this was the first time retreat beating had been broadcast in Malta, and we hope it will be the forerunner of many more of its kind.

We have enjoyed several games of soccer with both civilian and battalion sides, achieving victories over Valletta Prestons, 3—1, and the Band. We managed to hold "B" Company to a draw.

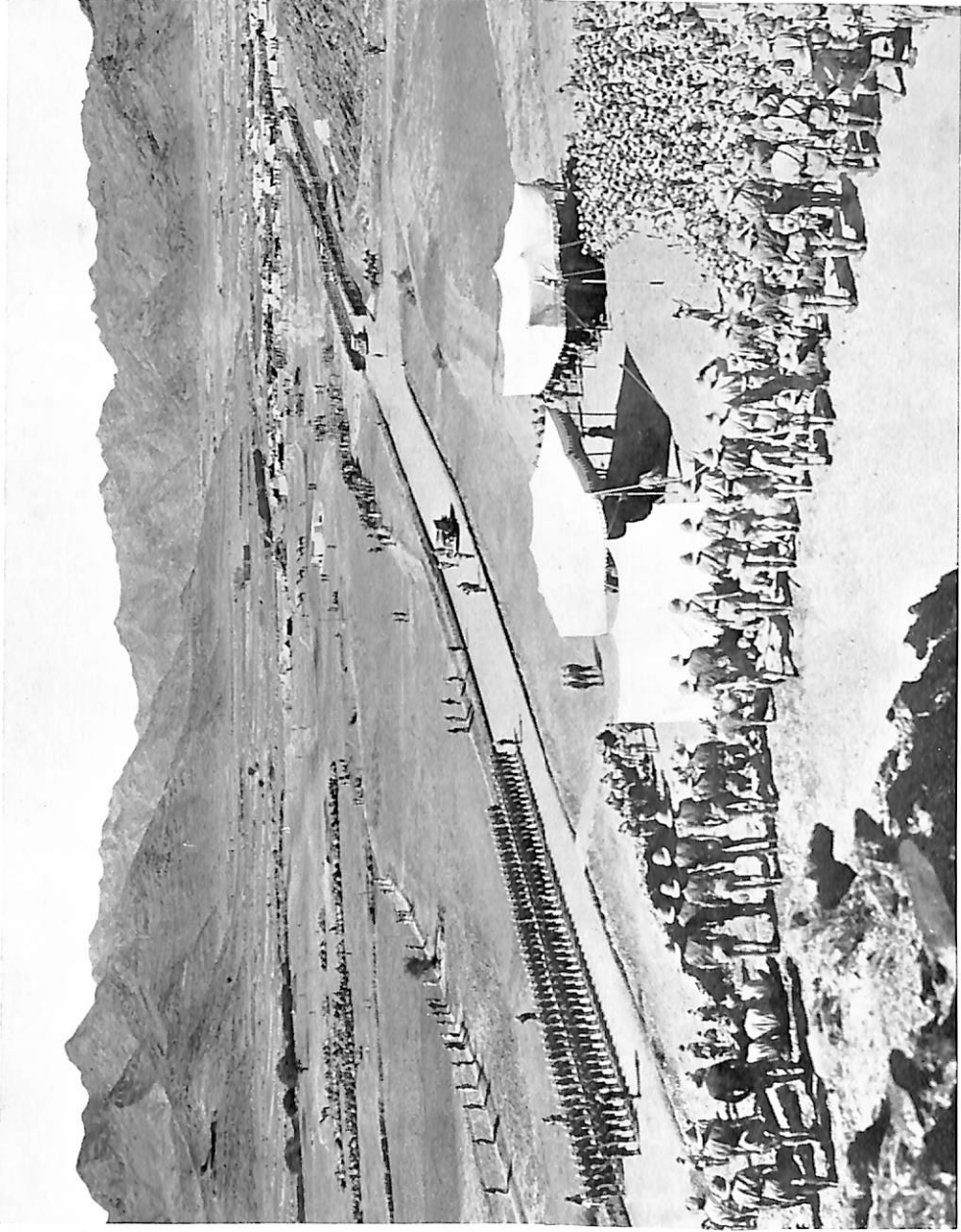


THE CAPTURE OF MAGDALA.

By Ato Belatchow,* Court Painter to Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia.

The original has been presented to the Officers' Mess, 1st Battalion, by Mr. Perry George, United States Consul at Malta. The reproduction loses much from not showing the colours of the original, but the main details are clear—i.e. the advance of the British troops up the hill—stubborn resistance by serried ranks of Fuzzy Wuzzies in the trench on the right and in the background—the dropping of boulders bearing the initials of their intended victims—and, finally, the suicide of King Theodore in the midst of his weeping wives.

* Ato means "Mr."; Belatchow means "sock them or beat them.")



GUARD OF HONOUR ON THE OCCASION OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF THE N.W.F.P.'S VISIT TO WUCHA JAWAR FOR THE FINAL PEACE JIRGAH ON 15th OCTOBER, 1935.

The tribesmen can be seen squatting facing the tent. Wucha Jawar camp on right. Nahakki Pass just on right top edge of photo. Pt. 4080 (where the Guides caught it so badly on 29th September) as follows :—Four camels in centre of picture. 1 o'clock from near camel, furthest away peak (with two humps). The enemy were sitting waiting in caves the far side of peak.

(Photo by Mela Ram & Sons.)

At hockey we have greatly improved, having beaten "D" and "B" Companies of the Battalion, also "D" (S.) and "B" Companies, 2nd S.W.B. We went out fighting in the inter-platoon hockey competition to the Band—of course, it is their "national" game.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to L/Cpls. Wilson and Gill on their appointment and wish them all the luck.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

The season opened in a very promising fashion. The first XI. played the three best civilian teams on the Island, beating two and drawing with the third. We had a return match, however, with Sliema Wanderers, which we lost. We then played the South Wales Borderers and defeated them. We were beaten by the R.A.F., but our side on that occasion was considerably weakened by the demands of the Command small units league and the junior knock-out competition.

Taken all round, we appear to have a very promising side this year, and hope to do well in the senior league. The second XI. has also been doing well. It has chiefly played civilian second and divisional sides, and is so far undefeated.

The inter-company shield was keenly contested, and was finally won by "D" Company, after a very close final with "B" Company.

In the C.S.U.L. the companies started rather shakily, but later settled down, and towards the end were doing very well, though their early weakness prevented them from obtaining high positions in the league table. In the J.K.O., "A" Company was knocked out after a hard struggle in a re-play. "B" and "C" (S.) Companies were rather unlucky to be eliminated early. "D" Company and "H.Q." Wing are still going strong. We wish them the best of luck.

BOXING.

The first event this year was the inter-company novices' team boxing, which took place on 25th and 26th November. Every company entered a strong team, and some very keen fighting was witnessed. This competition showed that there was plenty of material from which to build a team for the Command inter-unit novices' competition. Results:—1st, "B" Company; 2nd, "A" Company; 3rd, "H.Q." Wing and "C" (S.) Company; 4th, "D" Company. The following won their weights:—Fly-weight, Boy Cunningham ("H.Q."); bantam-weight, Pte. Wade ("A"); feather-weight, L/Cpl. Jacoby ("B"); light-weight, Pte. Mitchell ("H.Q."); welter-weight, Pte. Cooney ("D"); middle-weight, Bds. Alton ("H.Q."); light-heavy-weight, Pte. Hatton ("H.Q."); heavy-weight, Pte. Ibbetson ("B"). The best loser's cup was awarded to Pte. Miller ("H.Q."), who boxed extremely well throughout the competition. The Commanding Officer kindly presented the prizes.

Then we got down to finding a team for the Command novices, and eventually what seemed a very well balanced team was chosen. Eight units competed, and at the end of the first day we were equal first with the Rifle Brigade. The end of the second day saw us leading by two points, the whole team having boxed remarkably well. Although individual praise is often invidious, special mention must be made of L/Cpl. Connolly and Ptes. Bacon and Cooney, who fought grandly to beat three of the Rifle Brigade's best competitors. On the final day the team excelled their previous efforts and brought us out top by three points, Ptes. Wade, Whitney and Mitchell doing especially well. The Rifle Brigade were runners-up, and the 2nd Bn. The South Wales Borders third. The following were our individual winners and runners-up:—Bantam, runner-up, Pte. Wade; feather, runner-up, Pte. Whitney; welter, winner, Pte. Cooney; runner-up, L/Cpl. Connolly. It had been decided to award a Battalion best loser's cup to a member of our team, and this was won by Pte. Hatton, who gave L/Cpl. Coleclough, R.E., one-time winner of the boys' individual championship, a very hard fight.

The team throughout trained and boxed extremely hard, and showed an excellent spirit. They did very well to win against such strong opponents as the Rifle Brigade. Our success was largely due to L/Cpls. Stokel and Stringer, who devoted much time and energy to training the side. Their help and enthusiasm were invaluable. The team was:—Ptes. Wade, Whitney, Mitchell, Kennedy, McCabe, Cooney, Bacon, L/Cpl. Connolly, Bdsm. Alton, Ptes. Hatton and Tunstall.

CRICKET.

After the inter-company league, which was reported in our last notes, the inter-company knock-out competition was played. In the first round "H.Q." Wing defeated "D" Company, and "C" (S.) were beaten by "A" Company. "A" Company then beat "B" Company and were left in the final with "H.Q." Wing. A keen game resulted in "H.Q." Wing, who had a very strong side, beating "A" Company and so winning the shield.

The season finished with a whole-day match between "H.Q." Wing and the rest of the Battalion. It was a poor game owing to the lack of opposition supplied by the Rest XI., and "H.Q." Wing won fairly comfortably.

SAILING.

Malta offers the yachtsman excellent opportunities both for racing and cruising. The season runs approximately from April to November, though sailing outside the harbour is usually only possible between May and September. Racing is run by the Royal Malta Yacht Club, situated in the Marsamuscetto Harbour, and is of three kinds:—Long distance races (about 20 to 25 miles), outside the harbour club races, inside the harbour club races. Racing takes place each Wednesday and Saturday, and the long distance races are usually arranged for Sundays. Although winds are inclined to die late in the afternoon, and the wind in the harbour is at times so tricky that sailing in it has been compared to sailing in a draughty ditch, sailing weather is on the whole good and conditions pleasant.

The R.M.Y.C. fleet is organised into three main classes. These are:—A Class (international 14ft. dinghies), B Class (16ft. dinghies), J Class (jollyboats).

On our arrival in Malta a 16ft. dinghy, "Mistress," was bought as a Mess boat. She has been entered regularly in all club races, and has been principally sailed by Major Faulkner and Messrs. Pigg-Strangeways, Wortham and Franklin. Although no trophies were won last season, "Mistress" was second in the inside courses club cup and in the winter cup, and everybody has gained valuable experience in helmsmanship and local conditions. It is to be hoped that next year "Mistress" will produce a record comparable with the old 1st Battalion yacht "Maid of Erin," which won two very handsome cups in this Island in 1896 and 1897, both of which are now in the Mess.

Lt. Orr owns another 16ft. dinghy, "Larkspur." Both he and Mrs. Orr are very keen and seldom miss a race day. "Larkspur" has had a good season; her owner, starting as a novice, finished by winning the winter cup.

Cpts. Exham and Turner own "Side Issue," an international class 14-footer, and have sailed regularly. They have not yet managed to achieve a winning gun in Class A, though they have been placed several times and did well in the long distance races.

A team race v. the R.A.M.C. was sailed in October, the Regiment winning by $9\frac{1}{2}$ points to $8\frac{1}{2}$. The order of finishing was:—1st, Lt.-Col. Hope Faulkner, R.A.M.C.; 2nd, Cpts. Exham and Turner, D.W.R.; 3rd, Lt. and Mrs. Orr, D.W.R.; dead heat 4th, Major Faulkner and 2nd Lt. Franklin, D.W.R., Lt.-Col. Monroe and Mrs. Cameron, R.A.M.C.; 6th, Major Cameron and Major Ball, R.A.M.C.

In all, the Battalion has had a very successful and enjoyable first sailing season in Malta, and it is to be hoped that next season more officers will take up this sport, as it is inexpensive and very good fun in the summer. Not only is the racing plentiful and cheap, but the cruising is excellent, especially in a 16ft. dinghy, such as the Mess boat, while owing to the absence of tides and shoals, conditions are ideal for beginners.

2nd BATTALION NEWS.

ONCE again we have to record that our second taste of mountain warfare seems to be over. 18th August we set out with the remainder of the Brigade for the Mohmand country. 5th November we returned to Nowshera, having acquired yet more valuable experience in the intricacies of fighting with the wily tribesman. No lorries, though, this time—we marched and we marched. Rawalpindi Brigade, however, showing their utter contempt for the railway line alongside the road, marched back from Ghalanai to 'Pindi, a distance of approximately 140 miles.

Our worst enemy during the operations was the climate, definitely hot and sticky, and in some camps infested with mosquitoes and sandfly. Unfortunately large numbers succumbed to malaria and other weird diseases; in hospital the malarial cases received the new anti-malarial treatment which, judging from the results, has proved thoroughly effective. All casualties are back with the Battalion and none the worse for their "outing." In this respect it is interesting to note that the Indian troops of the Brigade suffered more from the wily mosquitoes than did our own troops; the Yorkshireman always was tough. With our Colonel commanding both Nowshera and Peshawar Brigades alternately most of the time, the command of the Battalion devolved on Capt. Green, Capt. Sayers and, finally, Major Price. The same happened in companies where, owing to sickness, corporals acting as C.S.Ms. were not infrequent; a great experience and test of flexibility within the Battalion.

Once again we are settling down to normal activities in Nowshera, though, growing wiser by experience, there are some who doubt this being possible on the N.W.F.—with reason perhaps. With the Indus manoeuvres off, and Battalion and Brigade training curtailed, there is already a strong rumour of trooping the colour—sometime.

Musketry is continuing from "where we left off at Cherat," with "A" Company once again on the range—a cold business these days, though healthy they say. Route marches once a week, with an eye to the future, presumably. Two drafts for home establishment or time-expired left us within a week of returning off column; more to follow, troopers permitting. So far no news of any reinforcements, but perhaps they'll arrive in time for our next session—*via* Addis Ababa.

ANNEXURE TO ROUTINE ORDERS No. 219 (2), dated 6.11.35.

1. The following is a copy of a letter received from H.E. The Governor N.W.F.P. conveying a message from H.E. The Viceroy:—

"At the request of His Excellency the Viceroy, I write to ask you to convey to those concerned his keen appreciation of the manner in which the Mohmand operations were conducted by the officers who were from time to time in command of the Force, and his admiration of the manner in which officers and men of all branches of the service serving in Mohforce combined to bring about the successful termination of the operations and the conclusion of peace."

2. Copy of Mohforce Special Order of the Day by Major-Gen. S. F. Muspratt, C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., Commander:—

"Messages of thanks and congratulations have been received by Mohforce from H.E. The Viceroy, H.E. The Commander-in-Chief and the General Officer Commander-in-Chief Northern Command, and there is but little that I can appropriately add. However, before Mohforce breaks up and departs to its peace stations I must express my appreciation to all the Force—commanders, troops, staff and services—for the admirable spirit and the remarkable keenness and efficiency with which all their work was carried out. In thanking you all, I should like to add how greatly I appreciate the honour of having been in command of such a Force."

3. Copy of a letter from General Sir Kenneth Wigram, K.C.B., C.S.I., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Northern Command, addressed to Mohforce:—

"Before you disperse to your peace stations, I should like, if I may, to send you all individually and collectively, your commanders and their staffs, your fighting troops, your administrative units and services and your Engineers, an expression of my admiration and thanks for the excellent work you have all done during the operations of the last two and a half months."

"In heat and dust, by night as well as by day, and in the most difficult terrain, the fighting troops gave the tribesmen no respite. By their enterprise, their offensive spirit and, above all, by effective co-operation between the several arms which was only made possible by an extremely efficient signal service, they slowly but surely broke the tribesmen's will to resist.

"That they were able to do this day after day without hindrance lies to the credit of the administrative services, thanks to whose efforts the fighting troops never wanted for anything.

"To the Engineers and to the Medical Service I give a special word of praise. To the former for the astonishing way in which they watered the Force, and completed the road so quickly. To the latter for their care of the wounded and sick and for their excellent arrangements for evacuation.

"That you, in conjunction with the Air Force, obtained the submission of the whole of the Mohmands in the short space of two months, and that, too, in the face of the opposition of the Haji and his party, is no small achievement.

"Greater than this, however, is the fact that, thanks to your efforts, an indelible mark has been left in Mohmand country for the future in the shape of a road which breaks the sanctity of the Nahakki Pass, and gives us access to the Upper Mohmand country.

"Of this you have every reason to be proud.

"My congratulations to you all, and my thanks."

OFFICERS' MESS.

The P.M.C. has now definitely collected grey hairs ; in our last notes he dared to talk of establishing the Mess in a dozen different spots, to this we now add eleven more. If only he can balance the "books," he's out of it before they can catch him again . . . The N.W.F. certainly teaches one to be mobile and agile ; conditions altogether were more comfortable than during the former operations, as our "Gin Palace" was allowed to be erected at most camps. What an asset it is and *what* a target. At the moment it is in the course of being repaired, several bullets having registered a "bull" on it.

Amongst the many who came and went, we cannot omit Padre Wilson, of Castleford, sent to us from Madras. He lived in the Mess for more than a month and left many friends ; our best wishes to him for the future. Whilst at Wucha Jawar we were forced to part with our U.L.I.As., 2nd Lts. Cane, Moffatt, Dawes and Croft ; what a pity they have to go just when one is beginning to know them. Instead we welcome 2nd Lts. Franks, Trench, Farrimond and Grimely, and hope that they will be as fortunate (?) as their predecessors in seeing so much of the N.W.F. at the Government's expense. We also have to welcome Lt. Spry, Australian Staff Corps, and 2nd Lt. Kuldeep Singh, who are both doing a year's attachment to us.

Our Mess at Nowshera is once again almost straight, and social activities very much on the upward grade. The first of a series of small dances is to be held on 11th December, and we are delighted to hear that Mrs. Kington will be "featuring." For the next we hope Capt. and Mrs. Owen will be doing the same. Meanwhile we welcome back to Nowshera Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Kavanagh, Mrs. Sayers and Mrs. Davie, and for the first time Miss Lorna Cox. May her stay in India outstay her expectations. Finally, our notes would not be complete without saying how really sorry we are at having to say good-bye to The Guides, who are leaving the Brigade shortly for Razmak ; "it'll never be quite the same without them" best describes their exit from Nowcol.

COMPANY NOTES.

"A" COMPANY.—We are once more back in Nowshera, making up for lost time in both training!!! and sport. Owing to the loss of a number of our star players, the soccer team has been re-organised, and is entered for the Y.M.C.A. tournament and the Scissors cup. We hope to retain the latter. This year we have great faith in our shooting team, and hope they wrest the championship from Headquarter Wing.

The trooping season has deprived us of most of our senior N.C.Os. and many of our best sportsmen ; C.S.M. Wood and Sgt. Suggitt have left us for a tour of duty at the Depot, and Cpls. Solari, Markey and White and twenty men have left us for the home establishment or discharge. Among the latter are our old friends Ptes. Lewis and Craven, whose

services in all forms of sport we shall greatly miss. We wish all those who have left us success in their new sphere of life. We congratulate Sgt. Moody on his promotion to that rank.

" B " COMPANY.—Since our last notes the Mohmand operations have taken up most of our time. During these, the Company suffered four casualties from wounds and a large number from malaria. The battle casualties took place when one of our picquets was attacked at Dand Banda on 23rd August, and we congratulate the four men concerned, L/Cpls. Stone and Britten and Ptes. Clarke and Ward, on their wounds not proving serious. We also congratulate Pte. Myers on not becoming a casualty; a bullet passed clean through the pagri of his topee without touching his head.

Since our return to our peace station we have said good-bye to 2nd Lts. Moffatt and Dawes, U.L.I.A., and we welcome 2nd Lts. Franks and Chevenix-Trench in their place. We also welcome Capt. H. B. Owen, who is coming to us from the 1st Battalion, and Lt. Rivett-Carnac from " H.Q. " Wing. Capt. Green has resumed command of the Company in relief of Lt. Gerrard.

The opening of the trooping season has, as always, deprived us of a lot of old friends. Sgt. Fisher and two other ranks have left us for the 1st Battalion, Sgt. Bland for discharge and sixteen other ranks for the Army Reserve. Good luck to them all.

" C " COMPANY.—Varied has been our life since our notes were last written, but wiser are we as a result (a) of the vicissitudes of the N.W.F., (b) of the way to dig roads. At the end of July we relieved " B " Company at Nowshera and were thoroughly enjoying the change when (we say) Badshah Gul remembered he hadn't seen " C " Company for three months. 18th August, accordingly, we adjusted our chapplies and marched out with the 2/15th Punjabis, meeting the remainder of the Battalion (from Cherat) after the second day's march. As the account of the operations appears elsewhere, we'll say no more. In the sports world we are more than satisfied, having won the inter-company football shield for 1935-36 and got into the final of the boxing shield quite unexpectedly. For the latter our thanks are due to Sgt. Mills for so ably training our team; our congratulations to the winners, " D " (S.) Company, who produced an extremely good and well-balanced team.

Since returning to Nowshera most of our time has been occupied with " refitting," and saying good-bye to drafts and others who have left us; to them all we wish the best of luck in whatever sphere of life.

We welcome Lt. Spry, of the Australian Staff Corps, who is attached to the Company during his year's stay with the Battalion, also 2nd Lt. Farrimond, U.L.I.A., who has just replaced 2nd Lt. Lane as No. 9 Platoon's commander.

" D " (S.) COMPANY.—Versus " C " Company in the inter-company boxing team championship in Cherat during August we came out the victors. There was a moment of suspense when, at the interval, our team had won one fight and lost four. After the interval we won all the remaining six contests, thus wresting the honours from " C " Company, who proved themselves good losers. Unfortunately our prowess had not reached the ears of the Haji and His Badshah Guls. Had it done so, history might have been re-written. Within a few days we were marching towards Mohmand country.

There will be many references to these operations elsewhere in this issue, so it is only proposed to make the briefest mention of our part. Suffice it to say that the Company put in some very valuable work. Opportunities were rare, but when they did occur they were exploited to the full. The experience gained in Mohmand country, coming as it did so close upon the operations in the Agra salient, has again proved invaluable. We modestly believe that we have now mastered this aspect of our training. A word of praise is due to the " new entry " who, with their restricted training, worked so well in the gun teams; and to those of the Company who were loaned to rifle companies during the latter's temporary short-handedness. Both did excellently.

We welcome Major Fraser and Lt. Lane back from England, and Lt. Moran, who has recently joined us. We were glad to see the former looking so well after his operation for appendicitis. We are sorry to lose C.S.M. Jowett, Cpls. Wadd and Hill and several old friends who have left us for the 1st Battalion and civil life. Our good wishes go with them. Congratulations to L/Cpl. Hird on promotion to corporal.

HEADQUARTER WING.—As the various groups have written their own accounts, it leaves very little to say for the Wing as a whole. During the recent operations the Wing showed their teeth to the old Fakir and did their part quite admirably.

At the time of writing, we should like to welcome the following officers to the Wing :— Major O. Price as Company Commander, Lt. Davie, Signal Officer, and Lt. Lauder as our Intelligence Officer. In conclusion, our best wishes go to Cpl. Lister, L/Cpl. Chappell, Drms. Flynn, Holloway, Whitaker, Bds. Tribe, to home establishment, Ptes. Barnes, Gillott, Green, L/Cpl. Mannion and Pte. Driver, to Army Reserve, Bds. Meyrick, Pte. Crook, Boy Lee, to civil life, and last, but not least, Bds. Normington, to Kneller Hall for a pupil's course ; we hope he will take full advantage of the opportunity.

BAND AND DRUMS.—We are rather restricted in our notes in this issue of **THE IRON DUKE** ; owing to the recent " Mohmand Operations " having kept us busy for the last three months, our activities elsewhere have been nil. We are now sitting tight waiting for rope in as many engagements as we can during the ensuing winter months.

However, we can take this opportunity of wishing good-bye to our old friend " Punch " Meyrick, who has at last left us for civil life after 27 long years of service, a fine record for such a small man. We wish him the very best of luck and prosperity in his new sphere of life, and trust he will not lose touch with his many old friends in the Dukes. Our best wishes go also to Bds. Tribe who has left us for the home Battalion ; we hope he will some day return to the fold.

The Drums very much regret having to say good-bye to Drms. " Titch " Holloway, Flynn and Whitaker, who are going to assist the 1st Battalion. Also we lose Drm. Gill later in the trooping season, and he carries with him our good wishes. Being once again interrupted by Frontier chiefs, we have very little to say, only that we are very pleased at the standard our young hands are showing.

SPORT.

With our programme mapped out, and nothing materialising on account of the inconsiderate attitude of Badshah Gul, it is proposed to condense the accounts of games into one :—

RUGBY FOOTBALL.—The war on the Frontier prevented the rugby team from completing the Calcutta tour and taking part in the two important tournaments—the Calcutta and the All India. Lts. Skinner and MacLaren were a great asset to the pack, and Pte. Moss resumed his old position at fly-half after an absence of two years. As usual, there was no ground available in Nowshera or Cherat to carry out trial games, and we depended on the ability of the older members of the team.

After continuous training at Cherat, our team set off to Calcutta on 15th August full of hope. Owing to the short time we were in Calcutta we never really settled down until the last match against Calcutta Rugby Club, when the forwards and backs showed excellent team work. We were beaten by the Calcutta Scottish in the semi-final of the Bethell tournament, after a very fine game. Since returning to Nowshera they have already played and beaten the R.A.F. at Rizalpur and Peshawar.

Matches played.—The Duke of Wellington's v. The Devons, 20—3, won ; The Duke of Wellington's v. East Yorks, 31—5, won ; The Duke of Wellington's v. Calcutta Scottish, 0—5, lost ; The Duke of Wellington's v. Calcutta Rugby Club, 0—0, drew.

Before closing these notes, we should like to thank Mr. G. E. Leeson and members of the Calcutta Rugby Football Club for the wonderful hospitality which they have always shown us during our stay in Calcutta.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—Whilst at Cherat we were fortunate in being able to play off the inter-company tournament. Companies all produced good teams and after some extremely exciting games "C" Company carried off the trophy. An abundance of new talent was discovered, and this, blended into a Battalion team, proved its worth by defeating the 2nd Bn. The Welch Regiment at Landi-Kotal by 3 goals to 1. The team was entered for the Murree tournament the latter part of August, but of course was forced to scratch. Our special thanks are due to Mr. Cheek, A.E.C., for his invaluable work in improving "refereeing" and for his assistance in helping to pick the Battalion team on all occasions.

HOCKEY.—The inter-company tournament is yet to be played off. Impossible at Cherat with football in progress, nevertheless the hockey grounds were daily in use, and if practice makes perfect we should have a good team in the near future.

BOXING.—Following on the individual competition held in June, the inter-company tournaments took place at Cherat on 30th and 31st July and 1st August. Teams of eleven per company, all weights, two welters, lights and feathers. Once again a most successful meeting with plenty of good hard scrapping if not entirely scientific. It was most encouraging to see the number of really promising boxers there are in the Battalion. In the first round "C" Company beat "B" Company by 7 fights to 4, "D" (S.) Company beat "A" Company by 6 fights to 5, in the final "D" (S.) Company beat "C" Company by 7 fights to 4, worthy winners, with an extremely good and sporting team. Our heartiest congratulations to them all.

The account would not be complete without a special reference to Sgt. "Topper" Brown's contest with Pte. Burrows. The former, a veteran in the ring, showed us how to fight in the true sense of the word—36 years and still going, a fine example to us of the younger generation. From this tournament we picked our Battalion team, and with a match arranged v. 2nd Bn. The Welch Regiment at Cherat on 16th August we were all set. The weather wasn't though. Torrential rains that night necessitated a postponement, the same next day, and the next we marched out on column—a great disappointment. To sum up, we're starting again with all forms of sport, and hope to forge further ahead—this time.

ROUND THE PICQUETS.

By PUKHA SAHIB.

[During the last month of our stay at Wucha Jawar, the fertile (though some may insist futile) imaginations of Nowcol Brigade were co-opted into producing the "Wucha Jawar Loiterer," the only paper of its kind; needless to say, O. P. was, as usual, the editor. The following extracts are re-published :—]

Major Badshahgul (pronounced Bull), our Staff Captain, who is, of course, a connection of the Lakarai Bulls (pronounced Badshahguls), and incidently one of our best groomed men about camp, enjoys widespread fame as a raconteur. But it is not so well known that he is a very knowledgeable business man. City circles are considerably flattered by the rumour that he is negotiating with the O.i/c Supplies a corner in Scissors cigarettes.

All the world and his wife were present at the Yusaf Khel autumn meeting on Tuesday. Among the many gorgeous creations I was charmed by that worn by Mrs. Pansy Richards (District Education Officer). Hose tops of powder blue set off to perfection her dainty beige panties.

It was, however, a bad day for punters. Mule D.W. 314, who had been heavily backed by the fancy for the Whipsnade Stakes, grievously disappointed his spectators.

THE IRON DUKE

He failed to respond to the whip at the distance and came in a bad fourth. His jockey, interviewed later, said that D.W. 314 had been swollen-headed ever since he shared his all-in with the C.O.'s charger.

Society is much perturbed over an unfortunate incident that has recently taken place. Major G-dd-rd, the expert machine gunner, had retired to his tent after lunch to-day to study for the Staff College, as is the habit. In order better to digest Mohforce Routine orders he had assumed a recumbent position with his mouth open. A large stone dislodged by the blasting operations on the New Nahakki bypass fell into it, dislocating his cruciform lug and severely injuring his stop-pawl. Capt. Br-nn-n, the genial H-rl-y Street obstretician, was quickly on the spot. He applied immediate action and by a spedicious injection of rifle oil remedied the stoppage. It is confidently expected that Major G-dd-rd will pull-through.

I met Brigadier Alexander a few days ago fresh from his successful attempt to regain for Nowcol the speed record over the Nahakki Pass. He was pardonably proud of his unparalleled feat in being the first man in the history of the Gandab Valley to cover this difficult course at a speed of over ten miles an hour.

Whipsnade (Mohforce Headquarters), for so long the nightly resort of the Wucha Jawar intelligentsia, has closed down for the season. The lions have retired to their winter quarters and the enclosure is deserted except for a few of the lesser carnivora, who may still be seen curled up in their dens.

They say the sweeper and the bheestie keep
The tents where Mohforce gloried and drank deep ;
And Dillon's Mules may stamp but cannot wake
The Ack and Quack from his post-prandial sleep.

The Autumn Sales are now in full swing. To-day I visited Green & Moffatt's beautiful emporium in perimeter row. Their handsomely appointed store is full of good things offered at sacrificial prices. I admired especially their selection of ladies' sandbags in a profusion of styles. They are being literally given away.

D.A.D.O.S. *et Cie.* are also well worth a visit. An ideal gift for the kiddies is a roll of barbed wire. Take one back and see your nanny laugh.

OVERHEARD.

Scene : Halfway up to a picquet position. The mule, laden with its platoon blankets, etc., gradually drops into bottom gear and finally stops.

Mule Leader, disgusted, turning slowly to his mule : " Blimey, and to think Noah led two of you . . . into the Ark."

Scene : Fatigue party from the " Dukes " digging a trench up to Nahakki Pass. Sergeant to Pte. Thompson (5ft. 4in.) who is endeavouring to remove a rock 7ft. 4in. high : " Ere, you, get a move on with that there rock."

Pte. Thompson (muttering) : " My name's Thompson, not ruddy Sampson."

A TRUE STORY.

Scene : Mohforce perimeter camp at Katsai during Mohmand operations ; guns at all corners of the gunners' perimeter ready to engage targets ; Dukes' lines just in front of one gun. Time 22.15 hours.

Situation : Heavy sniping from the local and playful populace. Gun (4.5) opens fire. First shell lobs into cook sergeant's " cubby hole " 25 yards in front, just missing both occupants.

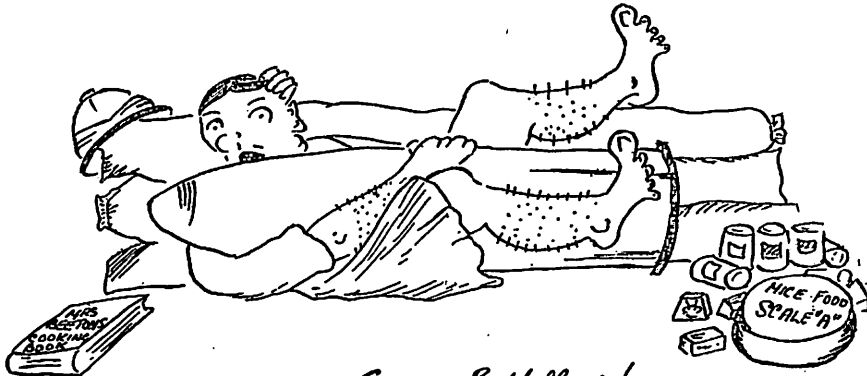
Ensuing Conversation : As gunner officer (X) rushes up to find out if any damage done, he finds one disconsolate troop (Y) standing still, the cook sergeant having meanwhile nose-dived into open space.

(X) : " What's the matter with you ? "

(Y) : " My — fags."

(X) : " What's wrong with your — fags ? "

(Y) : " Your — shell is on my — fags." (The shell was a dud, needless to say).



Strange Bedfellows !

DEPOT NEWS.

THESE notes are dedicated to the R.S.M., without whose invaluable assistance they could never have been written. Should anyone consider that they would have been far better unwritten, please do not be caustic at his expense ; any of you at some time may be an R.S.M. and have to deal with a sluggish-minded sub-editor. The moral of this preamble is, " don't throw tomatoes until you are sure that you will never be on the stage yourself." The trouble of course is that the R.S.M. gives us his jottings for these notes some time before we actually take up the editorial pen and write them in full, consequently what was once clear as daylight is apt to be somewhat obscure when we have forgotten the help he gave us verbally. However, here goes.

The first " jotting " is " P.T. classes." This would seem simple, but as the recruits' P.T. has been going on ever since the Army Council decided to adopt certain suggestions put forward by a Swedish gentleman with St. Vitus' dance, we know that this must be something new about P.T. After ten minutes' thought we remember that there are now P.T. classes for civilians. It was suggested that a number of men would be very glad of an opportunity to get some exercise and to keep themselves fit but had not the facilities for doing so. The idea was approved and an invitation published in the Press. The response was immediate. The classes are held in the gymnasium on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and started with about 50 and 25 members. These numbers are somewhat lower now owing chiefly to the weather and to the fact that many local firms are working overtime. The P.T. staff are to be congratulated on their excellent handling of the classes.

Next comes " O.C.A. dinner." There can be no mistake about that, but a full report appears elsewhere, so all we need say is that most of the Depot staff attended and that it provided an occasion for the Colonel of the Regiment to visit the Depot, so from our point of view it was a distinct success.

"Engine to be named after the Regiment" follows, and that too is not a purely Depot affair; however, we would mention in passing that the C.O. is going on a course to learn how to drive and stoke the engine on its initial run. Dash it, we got that last jotting wrong—it was S.O.S., not L.M.S. What we should have said was that Major Carey goes to the S.O.S. early in the new year and we wish him every success.

While the new sports ground progresses quite appreciably, the existing fields are being improved. It has been suggested that the Adjutant should assume the additional name of "Balbus," for he has indulged in an orgy of wall making. When the work is finished, the surroundings of the football field, once rather ragged and unkempt, will be very neat and trim. Some thousands of daffodil bulbs have also been planted along the slope in front of the Officers' Mess between the two shrubberies (for "Shrubberies," see I.D., June, 1935; for "daffodils," see Wordsworth).

Three squads, Paardeburg, Hindoostan and Ypres, have left for Malta, and Mons is due to sail in February. At present there are only ten recruits in the Depot, but we hope to have a complete squad in the near future.

Our memory has now improved and the next note provides no difficulties. The Depot rifle meeting was held this year on the 30 yards range. The winners were:—L/Sgt. Reed, individual; Pte. Hewitt, recruits; Sgts. Ashmore and Machen, L.A. pairs. The sergeants won the officers' and sergeants' shoot. The shooting of two recruits, Ptes. Hewitt and Littlewood, was noticeably good.

The annual inspection was carried out in September by Major-Gen. G. C. Kelly, the new Area Commander. The General lunched with us, so we were able to give him a welcome, in kind; we now give him another one, in print.

Through the great kindness of Mrs. Ellison we have received some interesting effects of the late General J. E. Collings, C.B. These include a valuable set of decorations and medals, a photograph and swords. As General Collings spent most of his service with the 33rd, the photograph and medals will be sent to the 1st Battalion, but we are fortunate enough to be able to retain the rest of the collection here.

OFFICERS' MESS.

The Mess has been very quiet for the last four months, which is pleasant enough as far as living goes, but no good at all for providing copy for this magazine.

In October 2nd/Lts. G. Upjohn and J. Harrison joined the Depot on first appointment, but left again very quickly for Hythe; Harrison has been up on several occasions to play rugger.

On 19th October we had the pleasure of putting up the Colonel of the Regiment and Colonel Pickering; we were also very glad to see Lt.-Cols. Officer and Ozanne and Majors Owen and Marriner. We have had with us, for a month, 2nd Lt. J. Pollard of the Supplementary Reserve.

Very little entertaining has been done. On 16th September Major-Gen. G. C. Kelly and his staff lunched with us after his inspection of barracks; Col. J. C. Burnett, Lt.-Col. Irish and Capt. Cumberlege also had lunch with us that day.

The Mess was "at home" on the occasion of the rugger matches against Mr. Troop's XV., The K.S.L.I., and The Gloucestershire Regiment; it was very pleasant to see so many of our friends and supporters in the Mess.

The squash club is in a most flourishing state and the court is in use practically every evening.

Finally, we should like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Harker Taylor on the birth of twin boys.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

"Oh to be in England now that winter is here."—We are convinced that if the foregoing sentiment was popular, Halifax would not be in the list of places we would choose.

Residents will tell you that the "air" they breathe comes "straight fra' Blackpool." If you asked any one of us, we should suggest a little further afield, the North Pole, for instance.

Recently we have had several N.C.Os. from the 2nd Battalion pass through the Depot for discharge and other reasons. During the conversation on one particular occasion an N.C.O. with experience of the North West Frontier fresh in his memory happened to say that the "woolly bears" were a confounded nuisance and that one couldn't stir for them. A Depot N.C.O. replied "It must be dangerous at night time, I suppose you have to go about armed." From which it would appear that a state of safety involving a certain amount of discomfort from the chilly blasts is preferable to the danger of attack from wild beasts.

Despite any impression to the contrary we may have given, we are able to devote a certain amount of time to the social side of life at the Depot. A billiard-cum-snooker match with the officers resulted in the mis-spent youth of the sergeants being vindicated. At a return game the sergeants were again victorious, but the phenomenon of several of the officers' cues suddenly becoming moist at the tips has yet to be explained.

The monthly whist drive and dances held in the Mess are again proving immensely popular. Social evenings arranged between the Depot and 4th Battalion (T.A.) Sergeants' Messes have proved very successful, and it is hoped are fore-runners of others of a similar nature.

A team was entered from the Mess in the Huddersfield and District '22 small bore league. After a poor start (losing the first three matches), we managed to win nine of the remaining eleven matches. A shoot against the Manchester University team resulted in the students winning by 29 points, but we were weakly represented for this match owing to the calls made by other branches of sport.

In the Depot rifle meeting individual championship match the first six places were gained by sergeants, L/Sgt. Reed winning the championship, with Sgt. Machen and R.S.M. Coates close behind.

By the time these notes appear in print we shall have bid good-bye to C.S.M. Hemsworth and Sgt. Machen (to 2nd Battalion), Sgts. Ashmore and Johnson (to 1st Battalion), and C.Q.M.S. Broadbent to be discharged shortly. To each of these members we wish success.

Consequent upon changes in the Depot staff *personnel*, we extend the heartiest welcome to C.S.M. Wood and Sgts. Whitfield and Suggitt, and hope they will have little difficulty in becoming acclimatised.

SPORT.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.—We opened the season with excellent prospects on the whole, and gained a most convincing win in our first match against Mr. G. T. Troop's XV. by 22 points to 3. Unfortunately the side has never played as well since, although this must not be taken to mean that we are having a bad season. Our record so far for this season shows:—Played 12, won 8, lost 4; points for 231, against 88. An analysis of the defeats shows that we lost to Brighouse Rangers 16—13, away; Leeds University 11—3, away; Skipton 8—6, away; and The Gloucesters 13—10 in the Army Cup. In all four matches we were below full strength; had we not been, we might quite easily have had an unbeaten record.

In the Army Cup we received byes in the preliminary and first rounds. In the second round we drew the K.S.L.I. at home, and won comfortably in the end by 21 points to 5. At half-time we were losing 5—3, and midway through the second half we were still losing. However, gradually our forwards got on top and the outsides improved their handling and passing, and for the last 20 minutes of the game we played really well.

In the third round we drew the Gloucesters at home, and after a very hard game lost by 13 points to 10. 2nd Lt. Harrison was unable to get away from Hythe (as were two

officers of The Gloucesters), but we had the assistance of Lts. Dalrymple and Troop, two experienced Army Cup campaigners. The Gloucesters, playing with the wind in the first half, were kept out until the last five minutes, when they scored two goals in quick succession, thus leading at half-time by 10 points to nil. In the second half we threw the ball about and scored two tries and a dropped goal, but could not quite do it. Another five minutes and . . . ?

Now that we are out of the Army Cup for this season our objective is the Yorkshire Shield. So far in this competition we have received walk-overs in the earlier rounds, beaten Wibsey 14 points to nil in the third round, and have to play the Keighlians away in the fourth round at the end of this month. All the old players are in good form, especially Capt. Miles and Cpl. Annesley, our two heaviest and oldest forwards. 2nd Lt. Harrison has played well on the few occasions he has been able to turn out.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—This year, owing to the small number of recruits available, we were not able to enter a team in the Northern Command inter-depot competition. The conditions allow one N.C.O. or man on the Depot establishment to play as captain, and the remainder of the team must be recruits with under 20 weeks' service. As we had only 13 recruits eligible to play, the possibility of sickness and other reasons would have left us unable to raise a team with any certainty. For the same reasons we have been unable to send any promising material in the way of soccer players for the Battalion to work upon.

The Depot side has, however, played a goodly number of games with our local friends, augmented at times by the rugby stalwarts, and to good purpose. At present we are unbeaten, and have registered among others, victories over Halifax Technical College (twice), Bradford City Police and the Halifax Borough Police.

We are looking forward to a boom in recruiting after the Christmas period to strengthen our resources further.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM.

Since the last publication of *THE IRON DUKE* we have to acknowledge with thanks the following exhibits:—

- 2nd Battalion.—Rifle chain; account of Loe Agra operations.
 - R.S.M. Smith: Programme, 1st Battalion aquatic sports; topee.
 - Mr. A. Wood: Waterloo medal (J. Denton, 33rd Foot); various Regimental buttons.
 - Mr. Flather: Two nose-caps of 18-pounder shells.
 - Depot Sergeants' Mess: Two ash trays.
 - Major L. S. Finlay: Photo, Pte. T. Glackin, 33rd Foot.
 - Mrs. F. Wade: Native skirt; Arab's ring; native's purse; veil and sun pad.
 - Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer: Steel helmet; German entrenching tool; cartridges; stick bomb; egg bomb; sample of German wire.
 - Mrs. Ellison: Two swords; two full-dress sashes; epaulettes; full-dress gold belt and sword sling (effects of the late Gen. J. E. Collings, C.B.).
 - Col. J. C. Burnett: Biographical notes concerning the late Col. W. Lambton, 33rd Regiment, Surveyor-General of India.
 - Major R. Harwar Gill: Soldier's ration book.
 - R.S.M. Coates: Recruiting post-card, 33rd Regiment.
- Presentations and donations should be addressed to the Officer Commanding Depot, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Barracks, Halifax; and these will be duly acknowledged.

DEPOT NOTES—A CHRISTMAS FANTASIA.

(Note.—This article should not be taken seriously. The characters are purely imaginary and so are most of the happenings. It does not pretend to convey the actual feelings of the writer, he is far too polite to write them down. Incidentally it has nothing whatever to do with Christmas.)

As I lie at ease in my deck-chair basking in the late winter sunshine, I think of all the evil things that have been said about the Depot. The chirrup of birds fills the clear, still air and brings a message of peace and contentment; who but a jaundiced misanthrope could fail to see the beauty of Halifax and its surroundings? Who but an ardent frontiersman or a maniacal Maltaphile would not yearn for a tour at the Depot? A blight on the detractors of Halifax.

But enough of speculation—I shift my sunshade slightly to the left—I must write the notes.

It would possibly be exaggeration to say that anything of great importance has happened since the last publication; still, we have our moments. Even now as I look across the lush emerald green grass of the lawn I see the Provost Sergeant rolling out the red carpet at the gate. Without a doubt a recruit is about to arrive. The electric thrill of expectancy can be felt in every corner of barracks. Over there two drummers are making happy gurgling noises with the mouthpieces of their bugles as they prepare to blow the clarion call of welcome. The C.O. and the Adjutant debouch (*sic*) from the Mess and gambol merrily across the grass, their faces lit with smiles of inexpressible sweetness. Can anyone fail to be stirred by such a picture of activity? Nor must my readers think that this is an isolated occasion, it has happened not once, but at least three times in the last quarter. (Note.—Write letter to the Daily Press asking is this a record.)

You have all seen pictures in the papers of people of unusual popularity being pulled or pushed through the streets in their various conveyances, the motive power being supplied by their admirers. It is without doubt the hall-mark of public esteem. I am therefore led to conclude that the officers of the Depot are extremely well liked. Time and again I have seen officers in their cars being trundled round the grounds by a gay and laughing party of soldiery. I have noticed this happening even in the colder weather.

Perhaps I should have headed this effusion "Musings" and not "Notes," because the latter heading is rather formal, but I cannot break with tradition and, anyhow, you don't want to hear about hard and mundane facts. After all, if I talked about "recruit wastage" you would probably think that I was trying to tell you that men become emaciated during their tour here, and that would be all wrong. Were I to write of "water consumption," none but the Q.M.'s most faithful disciples would even raise an eyelid. If I spoke of beer consumption—but no, that is an absorbing subject and beyond my capacity. I know that it is far better to stick to fantasy.

Well, I am sorry about all this, but I've got to do something, and I cannot draw robins or make snowmen, so I have to write. It's a pity, because you would not have had to look at the robins or the snowman, and apparently you have read this.

Ah, well, life is like that . . .

A. L.

4th BATTALION NEWS.

VERY little of any note has occurred since the last issue of THE IRON DUKE. On 10th November "H.Q." Wing, "A" and "D" Companies attended Armistice Day service with the Halifax branch of the British Legion. There was a strong parade, which included members from all ex-service associations in the town. "B" Company (Brig-house) and "C" Company (Cleckheaton) attended services in their respective towns. On Armistice Day the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and R.S.M. attended the civic ceremony at the local Cenotaph, where wreaths were laid on behalf of all ranks of the Battalion.

In an endeavour to keep members of the Battalion together during the winter season, an effort is being made to popularise physical training; certain N.C.Os. have therefore been receiving instruction at voluntary classes held at Halifax. During the early part of 1936 it is intended that these N.C.Os. should supervise physical training classes for all ranks in their companies.

To keep alive public interest in the Battalion, a number of promenade band concerts have been arranged. Two concerts have already been held in the Drill Hall, Halifax, and one at Brighouse, and have been very successful. Other concerts will be held at Cleckheaton and Sowerby Bridge in the near future. During interludes at these concerts films of popular interest are shown, together with the film taken during annual training.

On 11th December a dinner dance was held at the Alexandra Hall, Halifax. This was very successful, and as a result it is expected that the band fund will receive considerable benefit.

SERGEANTS' MESS.—Our fortnightly whist drives continue to be much appreciated and well attended. Various clubs have visited us during the past two months, among these being the Halifax Corporation Electricity Department and the *Halifax Courier* staff. The Depot entertained us on 10th November, and on 8th December we, in our turn, entertained the members of the Depot; these two social gatherings were very well attended by members from both Messes, and were very much enjoyed.

We have now formed a badminton club, the membership numbering 22; all members are keen, and although not up to Yorkshire League standard, we have some very good games. Of our two matches up to date, the first, against the Halifax Electricity Department, we won by 13 games to 5, and in the second match, against the Depot, we lost by 10 games to 8. In the latter match the closeness of the games can be judged by the points: Depot 493, Mess Club 492.

5th BATTALION NEWS.

THE annual dinner of the officers' dinner club was held in October, and we were very pleased to welcome as guests Major-Gen. G. C. Kelly, our new Divisional Commander, Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner, Col. J. C. Burnett and Mr. W. Mabane, M.P., Member for Huddersfield. It is very encouraging that so many old members turn up year after year and shows the good feeling which has always existed in the Battalion, and the sound link between past and serving officers.

On Armistice Sunday the Battalion paraded at almost full strength, and in company with the Old Comrades' Association and other public bodies, escorted the Mayor of Huddersfield (Councillor J. Barlow, J.P.) to the Parish Church; the parade was one of the smartest we have had; unfortunately the pouring rain spoilt the march past after the service, when the Mayor took the salute at the old Market Cross.

The prize distribution held on Friday, 6th December, in the Drill Hall at Huddersfield was a brilliant success. Lt.-Gen. Sir Reginald S. May, K.C.B., the Quartermaster-General, honoured us by presenting the prizes; Lt.-Col. Keith Sykes was supported on the platform by his sister, Mrs. W. A. Crowther, who acted as hostess, Col. J. C. Burnett and Mrs. Burnett, Alderman T. Shires (representing the Mayor of Huddersfield) and Mrs. Shires and Mr. W. Mabane, M.P. We were all sorry that Major-Gen. G. C. Kelly and Mrs. Kelly were prevented from attending.

Interesting points from the speeches:—Lt.-Col. K. Sykes: "The ignorance of the average man and woman of the purpose and aims of the Territorial Army is appalling. The public should be educated by the Government in a nation-wide campaign that service in the Territorial Army is one of the highest forms of public service, if not the highest. It could not be too often remembered that the Territorial Army was a peculiarly British Institution. Except in the United States, it had no parallel in the world. Continental

nations placed their faith in conscription, but it was a British habit to depend in many things on voluntary service for the solution of national problems. In his judgment, a strong British Legion, which knew no politics, and a strong virile Territorial Army were two of the greatest factors in preserving peace."

Presenting the prizes, Lt.-Gen. May said that the old distinction between the Territorial Army and the Regular Army had now disappeared. "The Territorial Army is a vital and integral part of our front line defence," he said, "I only wish that the general public realised what sacrifices our Territorials are making in the service of our country."

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. Mabane, M.P. for Huddersfield, and seconded by Col. J. C. Burnett.

The following is a list of the principal prize-winners:—

The "Mellor" Shield (for the most efficient all-round company), "B" Company (Holmfirth); the "Sykes" Cup (inter-company physical training competition), "D" Company (Mirfield); the "Hopkinson" Shield (for tug-of-war), "C" Company (Kirkburton); the "Bentley Shaw" Challenge Cup (for long-range rifle fire), "B" Company (Holmfirth); the Officers' Cup (rifle competition), Capt. E. E. R. Kilner; the "Chamber of Trades" Challenge Cup (marching and firing combined), "B" Company (Holmfirth); the "Beaumont" Medal, Capt. and Qr.Mr. T. G. Roberts, D.C.M.; the "Hirst" Challenge Bowl (for best company at drill), "B" Company (Holmfirth); the "Zetland" Cup (to C.S.M. of winners of "Hirst" Challenge Bowl), C.S.M. H. Bywaters, M.M.; the "Rippon" Cup (for best company at small arms training), "B" Company (Holmfirth); the "Carlile" Trophy (for inter-company athletic sports), "D" Company (Mirfield); the "Raynor" Cup (for most efficient Lewis gun team), "B" Company (Holmfirth); "Mrs. Alfred Sykes" Rose Bowl (miniature range competition), "H.Q." Wing (Huddersfield).

We regret to report the death of L/Cpl. F. A. Withington, "H.Q." Wing, who died on 24th October. Cpl. Withington had been for many years the big drummer of the Drums.

Congratulations to 2nd Lts. G. P. Norton and W. L. Thornton on having passed for promotion, also to 2nd Lts. T. H. A. Kilner and D. S. C. Briery on passing certificate "A," Parts 1 and 2. All our officers have now passed for promotion to the next higher rank. We are sorry to lose C.S.M. H. Bywater of "B" Company, who was discharged on 11th October after fifteen years' service.

Congratulations to Cpls. A. Davies, J. Dawson, J. Dickson and W. Norton on being awarded the Efficiency Medal (T.).

On Saturday, 14th December, the Holmfirth Company held their prize distribution, and we notice they once again asked a distinguished Scotsman to present their prizes.

In our last notes we reported that "Our congratulations are due to Lt. and Mrs. C. Liversidge on the birth of a daughter"; this should have read "on the birth of a son." The error is much regretted. In conclusion, we also have to offer our congratulations to Lt. and Mrs. S. E. Gooch on the birth of a son. It is now definite that we go to Catterick Camp (Wathgill) from 26th July to 9th August, 1936.

6th BATTALION NEWS.

WHILE the powers that be, not excluding our own, are busy calculating in hundreds of millions of pounds, our Adjutant is pondering over the year-end expenditure balances of somewhat lesser amounts. He is, by means of some algebraical process and much documentary evidence known only to himself, managing to make both ends meet, the both ends being the termination of one training season and the commencement of the next. This very scattered Battalion has to keep such a watchful guard over the bus fares and other petty cash items generally, that when bounty time came along the company commanders were semi-mesmerised by the appearance of notes in bundles, the hard-earned acknowledgment of services rendered.

On 8th September we held our annual Battalion rifle meeting on the Skipton range. The day was most successful, for by means of stealth rather than judgment, the Sub-Editor for the 6th was awarded the Officers' Cup—many congratulations! The day was

fine, so lunch and tea for other ranks was provided *al fresco* on the range—likewise lunch for officers and numerous lady friends. Companies brought local supporters with them and rivalry was very evident.

"C" (S.) Company (Capt. J. M. Ogden) won the Battalion Cup by 4 points, beating the score of "A" Company (Major E. D. R. Whittaker) which had obtained the score of 445. Other results:—Young Soldiers' Competition.—1st, "A" Company, 283½ points; 2nd, "B" Company, 272½ points; 3rd, "D" Company, 262 points. Sergeants' Cup.—1st, C.Q.M.S. Harwood, "A" Company, 52 points; 2nd, L/Sgt. Mooney, "C" (S.) Company, 51 points; 3rd, Sgt. Eddison, "B" Company, 49 points. Battalion Cup.—1st, "C" (S.) Company, 449 points; 2nd, "B" Company, 445 points; 3rd, "D" Company, 407 points. Morrison Cup.—1st, "D" Company, 17 points; 2nd, "A" Company, 10 points; 3rd, "C" (S.) Company, 8 points. Mark Nutter Cup.—C.Q.M.S. Harwood. Permanent Staff Prize.—1st, R.S.M. Bagshaw. After the competitions the officers and their friends ended the proceedings in the Mess.

The presentation of a splendid new cup by Mark Nutter, Esq., of Skipton, has made a valuable addition to our collection. The Nutter Cup is to be won annually by the best shot in the Battalion. Its first winner has already been shown above (C.Q.M.S. Harwood).

Armistice parade arrangements for 1935 were again ambitious; large detachments from each company paraded at Skipton on the morning of Sunday, 10th November. Accompanied by a very strong muster of ex-Service men, under the command of Lt. R. Duckett, together with numerous representative public bodies, the column marched to the Parish Church. After the service the Battalion and public bodies formed up at the Memorial and due tribute was paid to our fallen comrades. After the return march Lt.-Col. J. S. Spencer presented Territorial efficiency medals to Sgt. M. Robinson, "C" (S.) Company, and L/Sgt. H. Mooney, "C" (S.) Company. Sir Donald Horsfall, Bart., and G. W. Rickards, Esq. (the re-elected Member for the Skipton Division), were among the guests entertained by the officers to lunch. During the afternoon the Battalion was transported to Barnoldswick, and marched through the town to the sports ground, where a special drum-head service was conducted by the Rev. Canon F. C. Hood. The service was attended by a large number of ex-Service men and attracted large numbers of the townspeople. After the service several members of the Barnoldswick Council were entertained to tea. During the evening the Regimental Band gave a concert in the local theatre, and it is understood that the Benevolent Fund of the Barnoldswick Branch of the British Legion will benefit considerably. It is many years since such a parade has been held in Barnoldswick, and, in view of the public interest displayed, it is hoped that many recruits will be forthcoming to the ranks of "A" Company.

The following Sunday, 17th November, "D" Company (Capt. J. T. Bairstow) held a special church parade combined with "H.Q." Detachment at Keighley, where Civic Sunday was celebrated. The men of "D" Company and "H.Q." turned out at full strength and formed a guard of honour to the Mayor and Corporation. Again the senior chaplain of the Division conducted the service.

The officers, past and present, gratefully acknowledge the splendid gift of a set of chairs for the Officers' Mess. These have been presented by Capt. Sir Donald Horsfall, Bart., in memory of his brother, Capt. Cedric F. Horsfall, who was killed on active service with the 1/6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in France on 18th September, 1916. A plaque to that effect is to be engraved and placed upon the C.O.'s chair.

The ball season commenced with "H.Q." Company (Capt. C. E. Pawson), whose function was celebrated at the Black Horse Hotel, Skipton, on 6th December. Space will not allow the mention of the many distinguished guests who graced the proceedings by their presence. The function was entirely successful, and other companies will be following suit in due course.

The following officers are to be congratulated on passing their promotion examinations :—Capt. C. K. T. Faithfull, Lt. R. M. Bateman, Lt. T. H. Kinder, 2nd Lt. K. W. McHarg, 2nd Lt. J. M. Horsfall, 2nd Lt. M. G. Hutchinson, 2nd Lt. E. S. Stell.

7th BATTALION NEWS.

THE usual reaction after the activities of camp leaves us with few military events to chronicle, unless the payment of bounties may be so described. The only training carried out by the men has consisted of a few late comers firing at Deerhill and the machine gunners firing their Part III ; this involves, year after year, the mental exercise of pretending that a 500 yards range is 1,000 or more.

Our most interesting news is rather of changes in officers. Col. Chambley's period of command ended in October, and he takes with him our good wishes for his future in the quiet corner of Wales where he has now settled. In his place we are glad to welcome Lt.-Col. W. A. Hinchcliffe. The other consequent changes are : Major Howcroft to be second in command, Capt. G. Taylor to be major and to command " B " Company, Lt. H. Stratton to be captain, Lt. H. Bridge to command " C " (S.) Company, Capt. F. Spencer to command " H.Q.," and Lt. A. W. Milne to be Transport Officer. We congratulate all these officers on their promotions and appointments. Lt. Satterthwaite, whose work has taken him to London, has gone to the Reserve and, we believe, got married. Our new medical officer, Dr. Halton, and Lt. Milne also joined the ranks of the married men shortly after camp, and we hear rumours of at least one more wedding before very long. Congratulations and good wishes to all of them ! We have to welcome one new officer, 2nd Lt. L. F. Kershaw, who, we are told, has hitherto ridden a horse at camp. A change awaits him !

In December the Battalion lost an old friend in the person of Major A. S. Bruzard, R.A.M.C., to whom a further reference will be found elsewhere. We provided a bearer party and a number of officers attended the funeral.

A detachment parade attended the usual Mayor's Sunday at Mossley and got very wet. The date, 17th November, was rather later than usual, and we missed the cold, dry weather which has almost always favoured us at these parades. After dinner, the Band played in the Drill Hall while the people of Mossley gathered to listen and to contribute to a collection for the Mayor's benevolent fund.

Our annual dinner and dance took place this year in Oldham, and was, as usual, a very great success. The Union Club, admirably fitted for such a function, was delightfully decorated, and so far as one could judge, all our guests had an exceptionally good time. The date of ill omen, Friday, 13th December, brought no calamities with it.

The prize distribution at Springhead was held on 7th December, when Lt.-Col. Hinchcliffe distributed the prizes, and to his astonishment was later taken across the road to distribute some more prizes at a British Legion function. The management of a prize distribution at Springhead, with its large contingent of men and its scanty accommodation, is no easy task, and Capt. Waite and his officers and N.C.Os. are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts. Many kindly references were made to the instructor, Sgt. Mountain, who left Springhead a few days later. We had the opportunity of meeting Sgt. Anderson, who takes his place.

The Adjutant has been very energetic in running lectures and exercises for officers at Mossley and Slaithwaite and lectures for N.C.Os. have just begun. The two were combined in a lecture which the brigade major, Capt. Kimmins, very kindly gave us, in which we considered the artillery's contribution to one of the battles of Scarborough.

The last item of news as we go to press—in fact, after we ought to have gone to press—is a very jolly children's party at Mossley, where Mrs. Bridge began her new duties by giving the presents to the children. The idea is becoming popular, for we hear of a party shortly to take place at Slaithwaite. Let us hope there will be less fog than there was at Mossley !

33rd BATTALION (A.M.F.) NEWS.

Since the June issue of the IRON DUKE the 33rd Battalion has experienced an important change, in the retirement from its command of Lt.-Col. W. S. Forsyth. Owing to pressure of business Lt.-Col. Forsyth has transferred to the Reserve of Officers. He was farewelled by the officers of the Battalion at a Mess dinner held at Tamworth on August 17th, 1935, when our guests included the Divisional Commander, Brigadier J. L. Hardie, the Brigade Commander, Colonel E. Harnett, and representatives of many public bodies of Tamworth. Reference was made to the excellent work done by Lt.-Col. Forsyth in the re-establishment of the 33rd Battalion as an active unit of the Australian Military Forces.

Pending the appointment of a new Commanding Officer the command of the Battalion is being administered by Capt. P. S. McGrath, Australian Staff Corps.

On the week-end 17th-18th August, 1935, all officers assembled at Tamworth to review the tactical exercises planned for the annual camp.

The annual camp was held at Rutherford (near Maitland) from 8th to 14th September, and was highly successful, although we struck a very wet week. The other battalions of the 1st Infantry Brigade were in camp with us. The heavy rain which fell made it necessary for us to switch over to our wet weather syllabus, and the Battalion marched out some twelve hours earlier than had been intended. Still, as the weather had been very dry, necessitating the hand-feeding of stock in our country districts and causing heavy losses, the rain was welcome. The members of the New England Regiment looked on it with smiling faces as being one of the good things of life. Since camp our training has been confined mainly to night parades.

On the week-end 2nd-3rd November an exercise will be held at Maitland for officers of the 1st Infantry Brigade. The exercise will be on "the battalion in the attack," and officers attending from our unit will be Capts. Icton, Dougherty and Assheton, and Lt. Hague.

From 18th to 23rd November a 21A course (tactical training and examination) for promotion from captain to major will be held at Penrith, 34 miles west of Sydney and at the foot of the Blue Mountains. Capt. E. A. Icton (Gunnedah) and Capt. I. N. Dougherty (Armidale) are booked to attend, but are not yet sure that they can do so.

Our congratulations are due to Lt. C. Tuckwell (Tamworth) on having passed all his exams. for promotion to Captain, and to Capt. Icton (Gunnedah) and Lt. A. G. Hague (Quirindi), both of whom have qualified in those sections of their promotion exams. which they have so far attempted.

Since our last notes training at Glen Innes has become an actual fact, and we have there an excellent half company. The Glen Innes detachment has for its senior officer Lt. H. C. Menzies, who participated in the Gallipoli landing in 1915, and then served with the Light Horse in Palestine.

In conclusion, may we convey our best wishes to all units of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and to the IRON DUKE.

H.M.S. IRON DUKE.

At Portsmouth,
31st December, 1935.

Dear Mr. Editor,

It is with regret that we must say "Au Revoir" to THE IRON DUKE, both ship and magazine, for a time. My Lords have decided that we are rather a luxury in this period of stress, and so decreed that we shall reduce our complement to a handful of officers and men, and place the ship into reserve. When the war clouds disappear we shall come to life again, but for the time being—R.I.P.

Probably "hectivity" prevented a letter being sent for your October number, and we hasten to apologise to your many readers for this omission. In continuation of our April letter, the M.N.B. gave us an insight into the workings of the "military-minded," for such were the Royal Marines we embarked for the exercise. Luckily the Royal Corps can speak two languages, and as one of them is our own, we felt quite happy playing with them. The adventure lasted nearly four weeks, and during that time had (apparently) successfully set up a defended point "somewhere in Scotland," defended it against all forms of aggression, de-mobilised it and returned all participants to store. Little did we think at the time that the very same people would soon be sailing on the same mission to "somewhere in the Mediterranean."

After this enterprise, *Iron Duke* went into dock at Portsmouth for a short refit, and at the end we were given nine days in which to embark some 240 cadets from Dartmouth, and get the ship up to Review standard. The cadets embarked and showed the ship's company what enthusiasm can, or should be, worked up over scrubbing-brushes and "Bluebell" rags. They worked hard, and on the day of judgment *Iron Duke*, who had the distinction of being the only ship present that was also at the 1914 Review, had no flies on her when we took up our position at Spithead.

The Jubilee Review will probably go down in history as the "review of obsolescents," but with us, the firework display in the evening will ever be remembered as the most spectacular event of the day. The cadets manned the ship's side with the remainder of the ship's company, and also the tops of turrets and control positions. After the Review at Spithead, we went to sea with the Fleet, and after a few manoeuvres, left for Torbay to return the cadets, who by now considered themselves "old sea-salts."

Navy Week then attracted our energies, and we had ten days in which to rehearse our display. We endeavoured to show the great B.P. in 50 minutes of what a day in the life of a sailor consisted; but when our last performance was over, and with true feeling our band had played "Little Man, you've had a Busy Day," for the last time, we were glad that all days were not passed at that pressure. The sailor who habitually fell over the side and caused a lifeboat to be sent to him was court-martialled on the last day, and as a punishment was hanged at the yard-arm. So ended "Willie Float" for another twelve months.

It was about this time that a section of Africa came into the public eye, and this resulted in our having to surrender some of our sailors for other and more urgent work, and the ship being forced into a period of inactivity. Later, however, we assumed yet another rôle—that of boys' training ship—and until a few weeks ago were busily employed training the "young idea;" and for sea experience, made many trips between Portsmouth, Weymouth, Torbay and Plymouth. In addition to the boys and an unusually high number of R.N.R. ratings up for training, we had twenty-eight Royal Marine second lieutenants embarked for their course in seamanship. Seamanship in this case included learning another language, but in all fairness they made considerable progress, and by the time they were returned to their military barracks, seldom said "pulley" when they meant "block" or "come up behind" instead of "lie to." So we feel they have learned something.

Whilst we were at Spithead for the Review, the late Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Jellicoe, made his annual visit to the ship; and this time, in addition to inspecting the ship's company, he gave a few words of advice to the younger generation of officers—the cadets. Those who heard him will not readily forget the charm and sincerity with which he spoke, and all must have felt a shiver down the spine and a swelling chest as one of the best loved and respected men of the older generation stood there before us. Four months later it was our honour to send a small detachment to represent his flagship at his funeral, and there we felt that we had lost in him a friend who for all time will make the name *Iron Duke* famous.

And now, 'midst all the "changing scenes of life," we must say "Au Revoir," hoping that it will not be very long before we are in active employment again, and steaming in and out of Portsmouth Harbour keeping the War Memorial well in line with the clock on Wellington Barracks.

In the meantime we wish all your Battalions, at home and abroad, a very Happy New Year.

THE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATIONS.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (1st, 2nd and 3rd P.S. BATTALIONS)

THE reduction in the number of applications for assistance during the period from 1st July to 14th December has been continued during this year, 1935, only 127 having been received against 139 for 1934, 157 for 1933 and 176 for 1932. The reduction is really more than is apparent from the figures shown, owing to the fact that during the period of the current year the grants, usually made at Christmas time to those who are aged or incapacitated, are included in the figures for the year. In previous years, they were not paid till a subsequent date. Of the 127, more than half are from those who have previously been assisted, only 53 being new cases.

Special efforts have been made by the N.A.E.R.S.S.&A. to obtain employment for those leaving the Royal Navy and the Colours, most especially in the Halifax and Huddersfield area, where Lt. V. B. Sanders, the "job-finder" has been untiring in his efforts to place men of all the Services who are on his register, and, of course, those of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment have benefited in due proportion. These reasons, in addition to the general improvement in trade, may be the cause of these reductions.

Eighty-nine applications (including Christmas grants, 13) have been received from those who have served in the two Regular Battalions; 63 of whom were assisted by grants (£100 18s. 3d.), 1 by loan (£10) and 1 clothing only. Of the others, 3 were not recommended, 5 did not reply to queries, 1 refused to complete the form, 2 were found to be not in need, 1 was granted a pension from the M.O.P., and 8 were refused for various reasons. In addition to the 1 mentioned above, 4 applications were received for loans, 1 of which was refused owing to the applicant not having repaid a former one, 1 was not a member, 1 not recommended and 1 made other arrangements.

3rd Battalion.—Ten assisted (£6 16s. 2d.). 9th Battalion.—Four applications, 3 assisted (£4) and 1 not recommended. 10th Battalion.—Seven assisted (£12 6s. 7d.). Regimental Charitable Fund of the 2nd Battalion.—Four assisted (£12 2s. 11d.). (One man was assisted from the O.C.A. Fund, 1st and 2nd Battalions, and also from the Charitable Fund of the 2nd Battalion, another from the 3rd and 10th Battalions funds.) One man did not serve with the Regiment, 1 did not know the battalion, 6 were referred to Territorial Battalions and 1 had been in the 8th Battalion. Outstanding, awaiting result of investigation, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 1; 3rd Battalion, 1; 9th Battalion, 2; and 10th Battalion, 2.

The Committee have to thank Lt.-Col. W. G. Officer and Capt. T. St. G. Carroll for gifts of clothing.

The annual general meeting of the Association took place in the Reading Room of the Depot on Saturday, 19th October, 1935, about 50 members attending. Our President, Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner, was in the chair. A summary of the proceedings will appear in the Annual Report for 1934-35.

After the meeting the annual dinner was held at the Alexandra Café, Halifax. Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner, Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and was supported by Col. C. J. Pickering, Col. J. C. Burnett, commanding 147th Brigade T.F., Col. E. M. Huntriss, late 9th Battalion, Major R. O'D. Carey, commanding Depot, Major E. P. Learoyd, 4th Bn. O.C.A., and Capt. Lumb, late 10th Battalion.

The following also attended the dinner:—

Lt.-Cols. W. Boocock, W. G. Officer, W. M. Ozanne, Majors S. F. Marriner, R. H. W. Owen, Capts. W. Callaghan, E. Brook, J. Chatterton, W. J. Clarke, C. R. T. Cumberlege, J. V. Gibson, J. A. Lennon, Lts. G. Foster (4th Bn.), W. Harris (Munster Fus.), D. Rumble (6th Bn. S. Staffs. Regt.), V. R. B. Sanders (Yorks. Regt. and representative of N.A.R.S.S.&A.), W. Shorthouse, H. C. H. Taylor and A. H. P. Laurence. Guests.—In addition to those of the 4th, 9th and 10th Battalions shown above, the following attended as guests from the respective Old Comrades' Associations:—5th Battalion, R.Q.M.S. N. Hobson; 6th Battalion, D.M. M. Dunn; and 7th Battalion, Sgt J. Downs; Depot, R.S.M. H. Coates, R.Q.M.S. O. Ramsbottom, C.Q.M.S. S. Broadbent, C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) E. Alexander, Sgts. J. Hartwell, J. E. Johnson, A. Roberts, T. Sharman and G. Townend, Cpl. G. Annersley; 6th Battalion, R.S.M. W. Bagshaw; 7th Battalion, R.S.M. F. Jowett; Messrs. G. K. Birkett, B. Booth, J. Bravery, W. H. Brook, G. Carney, T. Chambers, H. Crawford, J. W. Crossley, T. Davidson, J. A. Dennison, G. Dickens, G. F. Duncan, M. Dunn, A. J. East, J. W. Firth, B. A. Foley, W. Geary, D. A. Glcave, H. Hardisty, J. B. Holmes, N. W. Jarman, J. T. Kennedy, W. Lambert, J. Lee, A. Marsland, J. W. Paling, S. Parratt, J. Partridge, A. C. Payne, F. Pearce, H. D. Pearson, E. Pogson, T. Power, H. Rawson, F. Robins, J. Rollinson, J. Rushton, G. F. Schofield, C. Shea, T. Shorrocks, H. Simcox, A. Simpson, H. Smith, G. Storey, S. V. Stripling, W. Sturman, C. Surety, A. E. Tanner, W. Taylor, F. W. Thomas, W. Thorpe, E. M. Ward, C. L. Waterhouse, H. Winn, A. Woodacre, J. Yaxley, S. Yaxley, H. W. Harwood (representative of the *Yorkshire Observer*, who has attended all the dinners held in the North of England since the first one in 1913, when he represented the *Halifax Courier*), Reporter of the *Halifax Courier & Guardian*.

Prior to dinner being served, the Chairman requested those present to stand in silence in memory of those who had "passed out" in the last twelve months.

In addressing the assembly after the Loyal Toast and the toast of the Regiment had been honoured, General Turner said:—

"This year we are without a Regular Battalion at home. Both of them are in what might be termed storm centres, although for the one in the hills of India the storm is more or less over, and for the other in Malta we trust it will not come.

"During the year we have, by subscriptions, presented two portraits of the first Duke of Wellington to our Allied Battalions in Canada and Australia and I had a very grateful letter from each of the commanding officers. I think they really very much appreciated the gifts.

"At a meeting held in the 1st Battalion Mess, when the officers gave a luncheon before going abroad, it was brought up and decided that the Regimental tie should be worn by all ranks of the Regiment, past and present, and also by our Allied Battalions, thus making it a really Regimental tie.

"We have this year celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Their Majesties. As you know, it called forth a wonderful show of enthusiasm and loyalty in which we all joined.

"This year in May THE IRON DUKE had its tenth birthday. I think you will all allow that Col. M. V. le P. Trench and his wife (whom we often call the assistant editor) have run the paper for ten years in the most wonderful way. We hope Col. Trench will continue to run it. He rather threatens he will not go on, but we hope he will. (Applause.)

"In THE IRON DUKE, No. 32, there is, as a frontispiece, a group of officers at the Territorial camp this year, and the officer commanding the Depot has lately received a letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Command thanking us very much for doing him the honour of putting him in. I think, perhaps, the honour is ours. I am sure you will agree that it was very nice of him to write.

"Col. R. Chambley, lately commanding the 7th Battalion, proposed to me at the beginning of this year that we should get an engine named after us. Quite a number of Regiments have had this honour. I have approached the L.M.S. Railway Company on the subject and they fell in with the idea at once. Our engine, one of the Royal Scot type—I think I am right in saying—is very nearly ready. The name-plate is being made, and above the name-plate will be the Regimental crest. (Applause.) I don't know when it will be finished, but somewhere in the not far distant future.

"In our Memorial Chapel, in York Minster, we are putting up a tablet in memory of Sir Herbert E. Belfield, our late Colonel. The form which the tablet is to take and the inscription has been settled, and the Minster authorities have had it in hand for some time.

"As far as games in the two Regular Battalions are concerned, we have very little news. I take it that both are too busy to do much, although I know the 2nd Battalion rigger team went to Bombay but were recalled. This year, as last year, the Depot have entered a team for the Army Cup at home, and I can't say any more than that we have great hopes. In fact some are very optimistic about it.

"There is one thing I want to ask you Old Comrades, and that is to keep your eyes open for likely recruits. It is such a tremendous thing in the Regiment to have the sons of those who have been in before, and, if you have not those, look out for good likely men who will come in.

"This year I am glad to see Col. C. J. Pickering here. (Applause.) Last year he sent a telegram. This was addressed "Dukewell" and it went to a wedding where the parties were named Duckwell, and one may imagine how surprised the bride must have been to receive a telegram from Col. Pickering expressing his regret at not being able to be present." (Laughter and applause.)

The Chairman then read messages of greeting to the gathering from the 1st Battalion, the Halifax and District Royal Naval and Royal Marines O.C.A., at dinner at the Crown Hotel, Halifax, Capt. R. A. Scott, Major N. H. Moore, Lt. McDowall, Capt. C. Oliver, Major Ince, A. Westbrook ("Tiger"), and C. J. Puplett (Nova Scotia).

In response to the message from the Halifax District R.N. and R.M., the Chairman read a copy of a message he had sent in reply:—"Duke of Wellington's Old Comrades' Association thank you very much for kind message and send best wishes to you in return for to-night and in the future. Your message received with acclamation."

6th BATTALION.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Association was held at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, on Saturday, 30th November, 1935. There was a satisfactory attendance at the dinner. Major H. Dixon, of Steeton, presided, and was supported by Mr. G. W. Rickards, M.P. for the Skipton Division, Col. N. B. Chaffers, Major C. P. Cass, Capt. Wood and other officers. The annual meeting of the Association preceded the dinner.

Mr. Rickards, proposing the toast of the "Old Comrades' Association," expressed pleasure at being present, and congratulated the company on their attendance, considering the inclement weather. One of those present, he reminded them, "joined up" as far back as 1875, and had travelled by rail from Bingley in order to attend. It was that kind of spirit in the olden days that made England what it was. They knew how proud anyone was to belong to a county regiment like the "6th Dukes." They knew how in 1914 France would have been beaten by the German army and Paris taken but for the small British Army. They must never forget that the bulk of that detachment was not composed of famous Guards regiments or overseas troops, but of county regiments, like theirs. He believed that in the years to come it would be held that the most brilliant battle waged throughout the whole of the war was that at Neuve Chapelle, fought entirely by the Territorials attached to the county regiments. The world owed a great debt of gratitude to the Territorials who filled the gap long before Kitchener's army could be mobilised.

In the absence of Col. C. M. Bateman (president), Major Dixon responded to the toast. Making a strong appeal for increased support from the members, he said that some of them were reaching an age when not a lot could be expected of them, but their hearts were still in the movement, and they were always ready to do their "bit" whenever the call was made. During the past twelve months the Association had had a rather trying time, for they had lost two staunch members in Col. John Birkbeck, of Settle,

and Mr. G. H. Parker, of Cononley, whose services not only for ex-servicemen, but in all spheres of public life, had been very marked. In addition, they had received the resignation of Capt. John Churchman, their secretary and treasurer, on account of ill-health. After all Capt. Churchman had done for the Association it was with difficulty and great reluctance that they had accepted his resignation, but really they had no alternative, for it would not be fair either to Capt. Churchman or to his family to expect him in his present condition to carry on. He was a painstaking and conscientious officer, and his anxiety to do his duty thoroughly, when physically he was not fit, might further endanger his health. They all trusted that, being relieved of his duties in connection with the Association, might do something towards restoring his health.*

The toast of "The Officers and Committee" was honoured on the call of Col. N. B. Chaffers, who supported the Chairman's appeal for increased activity among the members.

Capt. R. Wood, who replied, explained that he had temporarily taken on the duties of secretary and treasurer at the request of Capt. Churchman. The present membership was 172, a decrease on the figures of a year ago. He urged the members to give their whole-hearted support to the Association.

Major C. P. Cass proposed the toast of "The Visitors," and Mr. J. Bateson, of Gargrave, replied. Thanks were also accorded the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. W. Leach. During the evening musical items were provided by Mr. R. S. Thornton, Bandmaster of the 6th Battalion, at the piano, Mr. R. Phillip (violin), and Messrs. Agar and Schoon, variety artistes, of Keighley.

8th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

A proposal has been made to start a re-union dinner and Old Comrades' Association for ex-members of all ranks of the 8th (Service) Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Will all old members of the Battalion, who are interested, please communicate with Mr. W. Ham, 76 Westgate, Bradford, or Mr. M. H. Baxter, 113 Westfield Road, Heaton, Bradford, Yorks., and pass the news on to any other members they know who may not see this notice.

9th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

The re-union dinner of the 9th Battalion will be held at Collinson's Café, Tyrol Street, Bradford, on Saturday, 22nd February, 1936. Tickets, 3/- each, can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. W. Fletcher, 16 Thorn View, Claremont Road, Boothtown, Halifax. Those wishing to attend are particularly requested to make early application for tickets. Dinner to commence promptly at 6 p.m. Wines, beers, etc., will be supplied by Messrs. Butterworth, of Halifax.

10th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

We have not yet definitely found a "home" for our annual re-union dinners, principally because our numbers are too great for all except the best hotels in the city—but most will agree that Belle Vue Barracks, Bradford, where this year's function took place on Saturday, 26th October, constitute the most convenient place we have yet engaged. There is adequate accommodation for everyone, although the arrangements for cooking a meal for more than 200 men are a little inadequate, and present problems to the caterer which would not arise if there were more boilers and ovens.

Lt.-Gen. Sir James M. Babington and Maj.-Gen. Sir Henry Thuillier, our former Divisional commanders, were unable to be with us, but we had the great satisfaction of welcoming Brig. A. B. Beauman, who commanded our Brigade (the 69th) in Italy, and who is now stationed at York with the 15th Infantry Brigade. Had we been aware

*We regret to report that since these notes were written Capt. Churchman has died; an obituary notice appears on page 72.—ED.

that he was living at York in 1934 we should most certainly have invited him to our dinner that year, when Gen. Babington was with us, but seemingly he still carries with him that unobtrusive nature which marked his career in the war, and did not care to "let on" he was so near. However, it was splendid to have him with us this year.

He proposed the toast of "The 10th Battalion O.C.A.," and paid a most glowing tribute to the efficiency of the Yorkshire soldier. He particularised in regard to the 10th Battalion by remarking: "I can say it with great sincerity, that I have always had a very great admiration for your Regiment. During the war I had to call on you to carry out various tasks. Some of them were very arduous and dirty tasks, but whatever I called on you to do you always responded, and I always knew that if it was humanly possible for the job to be done you would do it. During the Battle of the Piave, which was the only big battle in which I had the honour to command you, you took a leading part and your work was beyond all praise. That battle, I think we can justly claim, had a considerable influence on the successful and quick finish of the war. As regards your work in France, I had no personal experience, but I can tell you this: when General Lambert handed over the 69th Infantry Brigade to me, he spoke of you in the highest terms, and said that your work in France had been of the very highest order.

"It has been my good fortune to command Yorkshiremen both in peace and war. In the war I had the honour to command a Brigade made up entirely of Yorkshiremen, and after the war I commanded the 1st York and Lancaster Regiment, which, in spite of its name, is recruited entirely from Yorkshire. Although I am not a Yorkshireman myself I wish to say that I never want to command better soldiers than Yorkshiremen, and, if I had to go to war to-morrow, I would sooner have a command of Yorkshiremen than men from any other county in England."

Such remarks put us in great good humour, and it was unfortunate that the reply of Lt.-Col. F. W. Lethbridge, our commander in Flanders and Italy, and who has now returned home from France where he has been in business since the war, was spoilt somewhat through the activities of autograph hunters. They swarmed round the top table, and the speaking did not proceed until their demands had been satisfied. The result was that the men did not all return to their places and Col. Lethbridge's remarks were made amid considerable hubbub. However, he did not seem to mind, and referred to us as "his boys," just as he did during the war. He was in reminiscent vein, but found time to express his great admiration of the work of both General Babington and General Beauman, and to express the opinion that "there was no battalion in the whole Army better than the 10th Duke's"—a statement with which we all cordially agreed! He spoke about the Veldhoek bugle—which, by the way, occupied a place in front of him at the dinner—and of "Fritz" (the Battalion's mascot); of the manner in which the late Capt. D. W. P. Foster never failed to get his rations through to the front line; and of the great work which Major R. Harwar Gill had accomplished in the establishment of such a successful O.C.A. as that of the 10th Duke's.

Brig.-Gen. R. E. Sugden followed with the toast of "The Chairman." He and Major Harwar Gill (the Chairman) are close friends—well, they go shooting together anyway—and they were thus able to do full justice to the toast by personal anecdotes about one another. It was all very good fun. Major Gill, by the way, expressed especial pleasure at the presence of "some of the older men"—Major H. R. Hildyard, who was one of the first officers the Battalion had at Frensham, and Major J. C. Bull, who was Major Gill's junior captain when he (Major Gill) first joined the Battalion. He added that in future years he hoped even more officers would attend the dinner.

The function was completed most satisfactorily by telegrams from His Majesty the King—in reply to one from the O.C.A. expressing the loyalty of the members to H.M. the King and his throne; from General Babington, wishing us a happy re-union and thanking "my old and gallant comrades" for their greetings; from Lt.-Col. S. S. ("Slasher") Hayne, who sent his heartiest good wishes on a special greetings telegram



10th Battalion Memorial Service.

Right to Left:—LT. M. A. S. WOOD, M.C., MAJOR W. N. TOWN, LT.-COL. F. W. LETHBRIDGE, D.S.O., MAJOR R. HARWAR GILL, D.S.O., BRIGADIER A. B. BEAUMAN, D.S.O., SERGEANT H. HOLMES, MR. W. BROOK, LT. F. WILKINSON, M.C., MR. E. DRACUP (holding wreath), MR. B. BOUNDS, MR. L. PICKLES (wearing glasses), LIEUT. A. A. JACKSON and LIEUT. J. R. DICKINSON.

By Courtesy of "The Yorkshire Post."



1st Battalion Cricket Team, Malta, 1897 (Winners of the Governor's Cup).

Standing.—PTE. CASSIDY, L/SGT. ALLEN, SGT. MANGLES, L/SGT. WILLIAMS.
 Sitting:—Bd.-SGT. THOMAS, 2ND LT. EXHAM, 2ND LT. TYNDALL, LT. STAFFORD, 2ND LT. UMFREVILLE.
 Lying:—PTE. VENABLES AND L/Cpl. PETTIGREW.



Lt.-Colonel F. IRISH, M.C., Commanding 4th Battalion.

and Major E. Borrow, sending greetings from the 12th and 13th Durham Light Infantry, who were dining the same evening in Newcastle-on-Tyne. We were unable, most unfortunately, to reciprocate the cordial D.L.I. message because we were not aware of their gathering until we were actually at dinner. Letters also came from Lt.-Col. L. E. Buchanan and many other officers, and one which did not arrive until a week after the dinner, although it was dated in Athens on 13th October (evidently some delay on the part of the postal authorities), from Lt.-Col. the Rev. R. Richmond Raymer.

Considerations of space preclude the possibility of giving a full list of the officers present, but amongst the guests were Lt.-Col. F. Irish (O.C. 4th Battalion), Major J. M. Haigh (5th Battalion), deputising for Lt.-Col. Keith Sykes, who was unavoidably prevented from attending, Major R. O'D. Carey (O.C. Depot, Halifax) and Lt. H. C. Harker Taylor (Adjutant at the Depot).

On the following day, Sunday, we held our annual memorial parade in Bradford. The weather was most inclement, but, despite this, close upon 100 officers and men attended and marched through the centre of the city to the Cenotaph, under the command of Brigadier Beaman. Once again we had the assistance of the full Band and Drums of the 4th Battalion, through the generosity of Lt.-Col. F. Irish, the commanding officer, and the service (held in pouring rain) was conducted by Capt. the Rev. H. W. Todd (the Battalion's Padre during the war), Capt. the Rev. H. Sparling (now Vicar of Dent) and Capt. the Rev. T. J. Williams (the O.C.A.'s local Padre). The service was very impressive, and at the end Brigadier Beaman placed at the base of the Cenotaph a memorial wreath from the Association. Before dismissal the Brigadier spoke a few final words to those on parade, and thus ended the 1935 observances.

Whether the Editor will be able to allow us any more space I do not know, but there are two or three matters which ought to be mentioned briefly. The Committee are to take into consideration the possibility of holding next year's parade at an earlier hour (possibly at about noon), and to change the arrangement to a service in Bradford Cathedral; the provision of a simpler meal at the dinner and seating by companies.

Lt. A. A. Jackson, of Mytholmroyd, has been elected President of the Hebden Bridge Branch of the British Legion. He was one of "A" Company's officers. On 19th October Lt. E. L. M. Lumb represented the Association at the annual dinner of the Regimental Association at Halifax. He also took command of the 10th Battalion section at the Bradford ex-Servicemen's joint Armistice service on Sunday, 10th November.

Capt. R. Bolton, Capt. the Rev. H. W. Todd and Lt. Bain met at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 9th November, and attended the inauguration ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance. They placed a 10th Battalion badge wreath on the space allotted to the "Duke's" and noted that others were there from the Regular and the 9th Battalions. In a letter to the Association Capt. Bolton wrote: "The 'Duke's' was the only plot which had as many as three badge wreaths in it"!

Letters of appreciation of the O.C.A.'s good wishes on the occasion of the annual dinner of the 8th Yorkshire Regiment on 2nd November have been received from Lt.-Col. Miles Backhouse and Capt. W. E. Bush.

The Committee are discussing the possibility of arranging a social function, probably a supper, at Brighouse some time in January.

At the Association's annual meeting on 26th October the business was more or less formal, but the reports showed that the organisation was in a healthy condition. The number of men on the roll was close upon 500. The report of the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Harold Bray) showed that the year ended with a credit balance of £44 14s. 1d. and that 32 new members had been made during the twelve months. All the officers were re-elected and vacancies on the committee were filled by the election of Mr. A. Holden, Mr. J. Shackleton and Mr. W. Brown, whilst Mr. W. E. Gibson (Huddersfield) and Mr. H. Squire (Brighouse) were added to the district representatives.

G.

E

THE IRON DUKE

THE FIVE SAILORS.

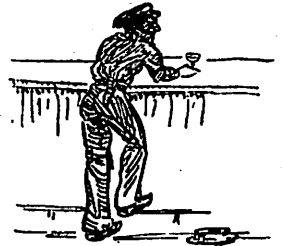
I've sailed around this bloomin' World more times than I
can count,
And some 'ookers what I've sailed in 'asn't been of much
account,
But I'm not a'goin' to tell you all about the diff'rent ships
'Oose foc's'les I 'ave slep' in on my circum-what's-it trips.



No, I'll tell you of the messmates what 'ave bunked along o' me
On my perry-o-grinations of the rollin', roarin' sea,
In liner, tramp and sailin' craft; and if you'd like to 'ear,
I'll tell you one thing what I've learned in forty-seven year.

'Ow many nationalities 'ave took up their abode
From the frozen shores of Greenland to the Southern Antipode?
You'd think there's sev'ral 'undred, or likely even more.
But (barrin' of ourselves, of course), I says there's only four.

Yes, just four 'uman races; White and Yeller, Black and Tan,
Into which you can divide the 'ole community of Man.
Or anyways all those 'oo sail in ships what swim or sink :—
The Dutchman and the Dago, the Nigger and the Chink.



The Dutchman's mostly from the North; a strong and silent cuss;
A Sailor to 'is finger tips, and second best to us.
And if someone starts a rumpus up and down some furrin' coast,
I'd sooner 'ave a Dutchman back to back with me than most.



Dagoes is mostly greasers and they 'ail from Sunny Spain,
From Italy and the Levant, Brazil, the Spanish Main.
'E's lazy but 'e's cunning and you bet your bloomin' life
I keeps clear of 'im in gin shops—'e's too 'andy with 'is knife.

The Nigger's just a Nigger and you can't tell what 'e thinks.
'E isn't in the picture when it comes to standin' drinks.
But 'e's not too bad a sailorman, and if you treats 'im right
You might 'ave many worse than 'im beside you in a fight.

Then what about the Chinky, with 'is graven image look?
There's one good thing about the bloke; 'e does know 'ow to cook.
'E worships 'is ancestors and 'e puts 'is money by
To ship 'is corpse to China when it comes 'is time to die.

So there you 'ave the four of 'em what sails the Seven Seas
In calm and 'owlin' 'urricane, in fog and balmy breeze.
There's no more sailors (savin' us) whatever you may think,
But the Dutchman and the Dago, the Nigger and the Chink.



NEWOR.

Loe Agra Operations, 1935.

SECOND PHASE.

(Continued from page 202, No. 32 (October), 1935.)

Although the column had carried out its allotted task of blazing a trail through the salient and establishing a levy post in Loe Agra, the march had not produced the decisive effect that was expected. Perhaps its very rapidity had militated against its success; perhaps the glimpse of our power had been too brief for the inhabitants to grasp its significance. Whatever the reason, no sooner had the column left Dargai on its way home than the Fakir re-organised his lashkar and on 6th March crossed the Swat once more and threatened the levy post. The garrison abandoned it, and Loe Agra, preferring the devil it knew to the devil with whom it had formed such a cursory acquaintance, welcomed him with open arms. The salient had once again relapsed into lawlessness and independence.

News of the Fakir's intended action reached Nowshera very promptly, with the result that on 5th March the 3/2 Punjabs were sent by motor transport to form an advanced base at Bargholai, while the rest of the Brigade set out on foot, picking up the Guides, as before, at Mardan. By 8th March it was encamped again at Kot, and 9th March was spent in preparing for the advance to Loe Agra.

During the night of the 7th the 3/2 at Bargholai had been heavily sniped, and on the next night laid a most successful ambush. Two platoons were sent out after dark to a junction of nullahs about half a mile from the camp. Here the tracks from Loe Agra and Bargholai village, which lay some distance to the north of the camp, joined, and this place was chosen as a likely rendezvous for the snipers. Expectations were justified. About 10.30 p.m. a party was heard approaching from the direction of Bargholai and rapid fire opened at very close range. The enemy clearly suffered casualties, for half an hour later a second party approached and, in spite of heavy fire, succeeded in dragging away the fallen. Owing to the darkness and the broken ground their numbers were never discovered, but it is believed that eighty Asils took part in the affair, of whom at least six were killed. This difficult operation, well conceived and carried out, put an end to all sniping for the time being.

The plan for the re-capture of Loe Agra on 10th March was as follows:—2nd D.W.R. were to march at 2 a.m. from Kot and take over the camp and picquets at Bargholai from the 3/2 Punjabs at dawn. An hour later the remainder of the column were to advance right through to Loe Agra, picking up the 3/2 Punjabs on the way.

The night was pitch black when we started, and the first part of the track, which lay along the bed of a stream, was difficult to pick up and afforded very rough going. As we reached the top of the Kelo Pass, however, dawn began to break and we arrived in Bargholai in time to complete the relief before the rest of the column came up. Loe Agra was occupied without opposition and for the next week the three Indian battalions remained there, while we stayed in reserve at Bargholai.

Without a mental picture of the country between Bargholai and Loe Agra it is difficult to understand the operations that followed, as our movements were largely governed by the geographical features. Both villages lie in deep valleys separated from one another by a razor-backed ridge rising in places to nearly 5,000 feet. About a mile and a half west of Bargholai however the ridge ends suddenly in a steep bluff and drops 2,000 feet, to rise again equally abruptly and join another ridge lying at right angles to it and forming the eastern bank of the Swat river. Through the gap so formed runs the track to Loe Agra, rising gradually to the Agra Kandao and then descending sheer into the village. It will be seen therefore that, although the distance as the crow flies from Bargholai to Loe Agra across the top of the ridge is comparatively short, the actual track makes a considerable detour, following the Bargholai valley westwards for a mile

and a half as far as the end of the ridge and then striking north through the gap. Throughout its length it is commanded by considerable hills, and the security of any force using it can be obtained only by very heavy picquetting. In the face of even normal opposition more than two battalions would be necessary to picquet a distance of some four miles, and would take a full day to do it.

Our first two days at Bargholai were spent in improving the track to Loe Agra, which ran for the most part along the bed of a stream. Bridges and embankments were built, streams diverted and in a short time "Dukewell Avenue," as it was called, was almost fit for motor traffic. It was further adorned with appropriate notices and the Regimental crest cut in the rocks above. On the third day we were switched off on to another piece of work. The Brigadier had been widely reconnoitring the hills about Loe Agra, and was struck by the enormous advantage that a track over the intervening ridge would confer on any force advancing to Loe Agra. Not only would such a track reduce the distance by half, but it would avoid the valleys and cut down the picquetting troops to one or two companies. The effect would be that provided Bargholai and the ridge were secured, for which task a battalion was adequate, a column would be able to march the whole distance from Kot to Loe Agra in four or five hours without fear of opposition.

This new task was put in hand at once, the Battalion building the part leading up from Bargholai, while the remainder of the Brigade started from Loe Agra. It was not easy, for the track had to follow a narrow spur, the face of the hill was so precipitous as to render zig-zagging necessary, and a great deal of rock had to be hewn away. As we were amateurs at the job and had no expert assistance, parts of the track were laid at too steep a gradient, and being washed away later in the rains, had to be reconstructed. However, at the time speed was the consideration as the Brigade could not leave Loe Agra till the track was finished, and for many weeks it did yeoman service and held up successfully against a daily flow of traffic.

By 10th March the track was finished and the Brigade withdrew to Kot, leaving us forward at Bargholai. Peace appeared to have been established, the lashkar had vanished, and the necessity of keeping the Brigade concentrated in the area disappeared. The 2/15 Punjabs and the Guides therefore returned to their peace stations by motor transport; the 3/2 Punjabs were ordered to relieve us at Bargholai and provide moral support to the levies in Loe Agra, we were to go back to Kot and keep open the communications. Meanwhile the construction of a motor road from Kot to Bargholai was begun.

Our camp at Bargholai was originally chosen for its safety from sniping, but it was not suitable for prolonged occupation. Tucked away in the head of the valley among rocks and nullahs it was more like a rabbit warren or the catacombs than the pictures of perimeter camps in the Field Service Pocket Book. There were no proper standings for mules, no roads, no space for pitching tents. We lived like troglodytes, each in his own little cave, Battalion H.Q.s. being irreverently known as "Snobs' Alley." On 18th March therefore we built a new camp to the north of the existing one, and handed it over to the 3/2 Punjabs and the Frontier Constabulary next day. It eventually became the permanent home of NOWCOL, expanding and contracting according to the requirements of the force. On 19th March we returned to Kot, where our tents were waiting for us, and settled down in expectation of a long stay. The distribution of the force was now as follows:—Bargholai, 3/2 Punjabs, one section 4th Hazara Mountain Battery, detachment Frontier Constabulary; Kot, 2nd D.W.R., one section 15th Medium Battery, 4th Hazara Mountain Battery (less one section).

Kot was an unsatisfactory camp, straggling and difficult to defend. Owing to the number of mules present, it was the favourite haunt of all the flies in the countryside and its sanitary condition always a matter of anxiety. In addition to seven camp picquets we had to find road patrols and a permanent picquet of two platoons on the Kelo Pass.

which was about three miles distant and commanded the track to Bargholai. This picquet was commanded by an officer and was responsible for detailing two subsidiary picquets daily. It was relieved every four days.

On 21st March reports from the air and intelligence indicated the presence of rope bridges across the Swat and the possibility of a lashkar attacking Khanuri, a village a few miles to the west of Kot. A reconnaissance was therefore carried out by the 4th Mountain Battery, two platoons of "C" Company and a platoon of "D" (S.) Company. The threat failed to materialise, but in view of its probable recurrence it was determined to strengthen the force available for the support of the levies in Loe Agra and protect them if necessary by fire. On 22nd March therefore the 3/2 Punjabs carried out a reconnaissance and established a permanent picquet consisting of one company and one platoon of machine guns on 4767, a commanding peak on the ridge between Bargholai and Loe Agra. The maintenance of this picquet would have been impossible but for the foresight of the Brigadier in constructing the track over the ridge. On the same day the Battalion moved forward again to Bargholai, leaving "B" Company and "D" (S.) Company, less one platoon, to guard Kot.

During the night of the 24th heavy rain fell and many of the tents, all of which were well dug down against sniping, were flooded. The dry nullahs became roaring torrents in a moment, and many of us woke up to find the buoyant articles of our kit floating serenely on top of the water, beneath which our boots and equipment lay immersed. Next morning revealed the entertaining spectacle of a section of "D" (S.) Company fishing with pickaxes for their weapons, which lay at the bottom of a pond three feet deep.

On the morning of the 24th the Battalion, less "C" Company and one platoon "D" (S.) Company, who remained to assist the 3/2 Punjabs, returned to Kot. The next ten days were the most strenuous and uncomfortable in the whole operation. Duties were very heavy. Every man did picquet duty for twelve hours every second night, in addition to being employed on continual reconnaissances and patrols during the day. For much of the time rain was almost incessant, and as it was impossible to dry clothes or blankets, conditions in the picquets were miserable. Some men used to go up dressed only in their greatcoats, leaving their blankets and clothing in camp, so as to have something dry to put on the next morning. As the nights were still cold, they suffered considerable hardships, which they bore with admirable cheerfulness and fortitude, and cases of sickness were few and far between.

On 1st April the detachment at Bargholai took over the picquet on Pt. 4767 from the 3/2 Punjabs. On three successive nights attempts were made by tribesmen to get into the picquet. One tribesman succeeded in entering a tent and cutting a rifle chain, but was surprised and made off. The picquet opened fire on each occasion, and were reported to have inflicted some casualties. These attempts were at the time believed to have been the work of individual rifle thieves, but in the light of future events it is more probable they were organised reconnaissances.

On 5th April the 3/2 Punjabs again took over. Also on this day providentially arrived a small supply of wire, enough to provide a single apron fence for part of the picquet. Providentially, because on that night the picquet was attacked with recklessness and a ferocity that has had no parallel on the Frontier since the Ambeyla campaign of 1863. It is possible that but for the newly erected wire the garrison might have been overwhelmed at the first onslaught. The picquet was split up into two main portions, one on the summit of the hill consisted of the machine gun platoon and a rifle platoon, the other formed by the remainder of the company was some three hundred feet below on a ridge overlooking the tracks to Loe Agra.

At about 5 p.m. bugle calls sounded on the hills about Loe Agra and the picquet could see large numbers of tribesmen assembling in the village below. At 7.15 p.m., just after dark, drums were heard beating below the machine gun post, and this signal

was immediately followed by a charge of swordsmen shouting "Allah Hu Akbar," while at the same time heavy rifle fire was opened on the picquet from the ridge to the east. The first rush swept over the wire and the tribesmen crouched under the sangar walls, endeavouring to climb up, and actually grasping the muzzles of the machine guns in an effort to pull them out of their emplacements. The garrison beat back the attack with revolvers, bayonets and stones. But no sooner was the first party thrust back than another was re-organised in the dead ground below the crest and launched within a few minutes. In the meantime assaults were being made on the other two sangars, but in no case actually reached the sangar walls; the picquets on the summit, however, had to move out of its defences in order to bring effective fire to bear.

The attacks were continued relentlessly throughout the night until 5 a.m., when electric torches were flashed from several points. These were the signal for the withdrawal, which the enemy carried out in perfect order, leaving one corpse hanging on the wire.

All this time the force in Bargholai were kept informed by signal of the progress of the fight. Except by artillery fire they were unable to help and the shortage of ammunition increased their anxiety. The mountain battery had 115 rounds a gun available for support, and thanks to the admirable directions received from their F.O.O., were able to put down their fire within fifty yards of the picquet.

Repercussions of this attack were soon felt in Kot. Before midnight an urgent message was received requesting assistance and further supplies of ammunition. At 4.30 a.m. "B" Company, with a hundred ammunition mules, left Kot, and after a forced march in pitch darkness, arrived in Bargholai at dawn in time to assist in the relief of the hardly-trying picquet.

This action of the enemy is notable for its unexpectedness and its careful organisation. It is true that a report had been received to the effect that an attack was imminent, but it had not been confirmed, and the position of the picquet, perched on an almost inaccessible peak, justified the assumption that it was impregnable. Moreover, no lashkar had been reported on our side of the river, and the secret concentration of such a large force was admirably carried out. The Fakir of Alingar directed the operation and was assisted by Badshaghul I. and Fagfur. Enemy casualties were reported to be twenty-eight killed, but this number was probably very much larger. The 3/2 Punjabs lost two killed and seven wounded.

There was every reason to believe that this attack would be followed by further offensive action, indeed intelligence reports indicated that the next objective would be the camp itself. During the next day every effort was made to improve our defences. One extra camp picquet was built and the remainder enlarged, where possible, to accommodate bigger garrisons, and wire entanglements were strengthened. Supplies of reserve ammunition and grenades were increased, and communications with the camp improved. Meanwhile the lashkar was reported to have swollen to about 1,000 men and the Brigade was ordered again to concentrate at Bargholai, while the 1/4 Bombay Grenadiers (less one company) took over the garrisoning of Kot.

The concentration was completed on 8th April and on that night a party estimated at 200 attempted to approach two of our picquets. They were met by L.A. fire from the picquets and machine gun and artillery fire from the camp, and moved off to assemble again to the north-west of the perimeter, where they again came under fire from "C" Company. Later the same party appear to have worked round the north edge and were fired on by the 3/2 Punjabs and the Frontier Constabulary. They were now acting with unusual boldness. On 9th April a party carrying banners appeared on a ridge within easy range of the camp in broad daylight and were dispersed by artillery fire. During the night the camp was very heavily sniped. On this occasion a party reputed to be led by Fagfur himself approached down a nullah from the east and got within three hundred yards of the perimeter, where they were fired on by "A" Company. In this sniping one man of "D" Company was slightly wounded and five mules were hit.

The Brigadier's intention was that on 10th April an attack by the whole Brigade supported by the medium battery from Kot, should be launched to drive the lashka, out of Loe Agra. A preliminary reconnaissance took place on 9th April, but unfortunately on the day chosen weather conditions were so unfavourable for air co-operation that the attack was postponed till 11th April. The operation was then carried out as follows:—The Battalion moved from camp at 6.45 a.m. and by 8.25 a.m. secured the ridge north of Bargholai without opposition. At 10 a.m. the Guides went through our position on to the Agra Kandao, while simultaneously the 2/15, supported by one of our machine gun platoons, attacked the enemy positions on the hills to the east of the main track to Loe Agra. The latter in the early stages met with considerable opposition, but as the advance of the Guides on the enemy's lines of withdrawal made itself felt, the lashkar retired, and by 12.30 p.m. our forces were in possession of all the heights south and east of Loe Agra. It now remained to clear the village and make good the heights to the north. This further advance was carried out by the 3/2 and the 2/15, supported by our machine guns. They were met with heavy fire from the crops and fields, and had some difficulty in capturing their objectives, but before dark the operation had been successfully completed. It was during the latter phase that Mr. Best, the Political Agent for Malakand, was killed. He had accompanied the leading troops into the village and was shot from an ambush on its outskirts.

That evening the Battalion returned to Bargholai, and on 12th April the situation was as follows:—Loe Agra, 4th Mountain Battery R.A., 3/2 Punjabs, the Guides, 2/15 Punjabs; Bargholai, 2nd D.W.R., detachment Frontier Constabulary.

As a result of the attack the lashkar was driven across the river and dispersed, but it was decided that the Brigade should remain concentrated in the area until the road was through to Bargholai. Brigade H.Q.s. and the 3/2 therefore withdrew to Bargholai, where we were also joined by the 3rd Light Battery. On 15th April Badshagul and the Fakir held a jirga at which it was agreed that further hostilities should be postponed till after the harvest.

For the next month the Battalion remained in camp undisturbed by hostile action, except for one bout of mild sniping on the night of 23rd April. Duties still remained heavy, for in addition to road patrols, camp picquets and small reconnaissance parties, we supplied, alternatively with the 3/2, a company on 4767. The climb up to this picquet from the camp was roughly equivalent to the ascent of Snowdon, and the daily supply of water, firewood and food was no light task. Any spare men were kept busy on improving the tracks. An excellent bathing pool had been constructed by the Sappers and Miners, but other recreations were hard to find. We managed to raise a team of officers to play the rest at football for a cup reputed to have been presented by the Fakir of Alingar, but the ground lacked the spaciousness of Wembley and gave little scope for science. In the end we won by four goals to two.

Small leave parties were sent in every few days and a favourite relaxation was to watch the coolies working on the new road. To our impatient eyes progress seemed incredibly slow: two men to work each shovel and four others to cry "shabash." Blasting was almost incessant and its results quite unpredictable. Sometimes hours of work produced a harmless puff of smoke, sometimes enormous rocks would come crashing down on to the tents. The coolie camp with a favouring wind was well within nasal range of our lines and earned for itself the name of "Smellcoll." However, the work went on steadily and on 6th May, for the first time in history, a wheeled vehicle, in the shape of the contractor's car, was seen at Bargholai.

On 10th May the Battalion marched back to Kot and from there returned to Nowshera in lorries.

In spite of the weather, which was unpleasantly wet at the beginning and unpleasantly hot towards the end, and in spite of the very crowded conditions under which we lived, the health of the Battalion remained excellent throughout. The total number of admissions to hospital from all causes averaged only one a day.

The following statistics may be of interest.

In eighteen days the Battalion marched over two hundred miles. Of this period, six days were spent in clearing the Loe Agra Salient, and two in barracks.

Between Kalangai (1,914 feet) and Kot (1,700 feet) the column crossed eight passes, two of over 4,000 feet and the remainder averaging over 3,000 feet.

On each of the first four days the Battalion sent picquets up 2,000 or more feet above the line of march.

Some 1,200 mules were required to move the column from Kalangai to Kot.

(Concluded).

O. P.

The Field of Remembrance.

The object of the Empire Field of Remembrance is fourfold:—1. To honour the memory of the Fallen by planting a cross or poppy. 2. To provide a means whereby relatives of the Fallen can express their remembrance at small cost. 3. To increase the sale of poppies and crosses made by the badly war-disabled men working in the poppy factory. 4. To help distressed ex-service men and their dependents.

In the first Field of Remembrance in 1928 two crosses only were placed, one "In Memory of Private Tommy Atkins" and the other "In Memory of Field-Marshal Earl Haig." Every year since the inauguration an increasing number of people have visited the Field to remember the sacrifices made during the war; many of them like to remember both the individual and the regiment in whose ranks he served, and therefore a memorial space is arranged for each regiment.

In the centre of the large poppy cross in the middle of the Field is placed a cross from the grave of an unknown British soldier in France. Anyone wishing to do so may plant crosses near this cross, or poppies on the Flanders field.

The crosses, after being removed from the Field by Scouts of the Westminster Association, are placed in the precincts of the Abbey for some months; they are then burnt and the ashes scattered on the graves in France.

The planning of the largest part of the Field has been based on the map of the United Kingdom in order to facilitate the placing of the crosses.

It is moving and inspiring to see men, women, and children planting their crosses or poppies in this hallowed lawn nestling in the shadow of the historic Abbey. The Fallen have been remembered by Fields of Remembrance throughout the Empire, and it is hoped that every town and village will thus remember their Fallen so that not one of the million dead will be forgotten.

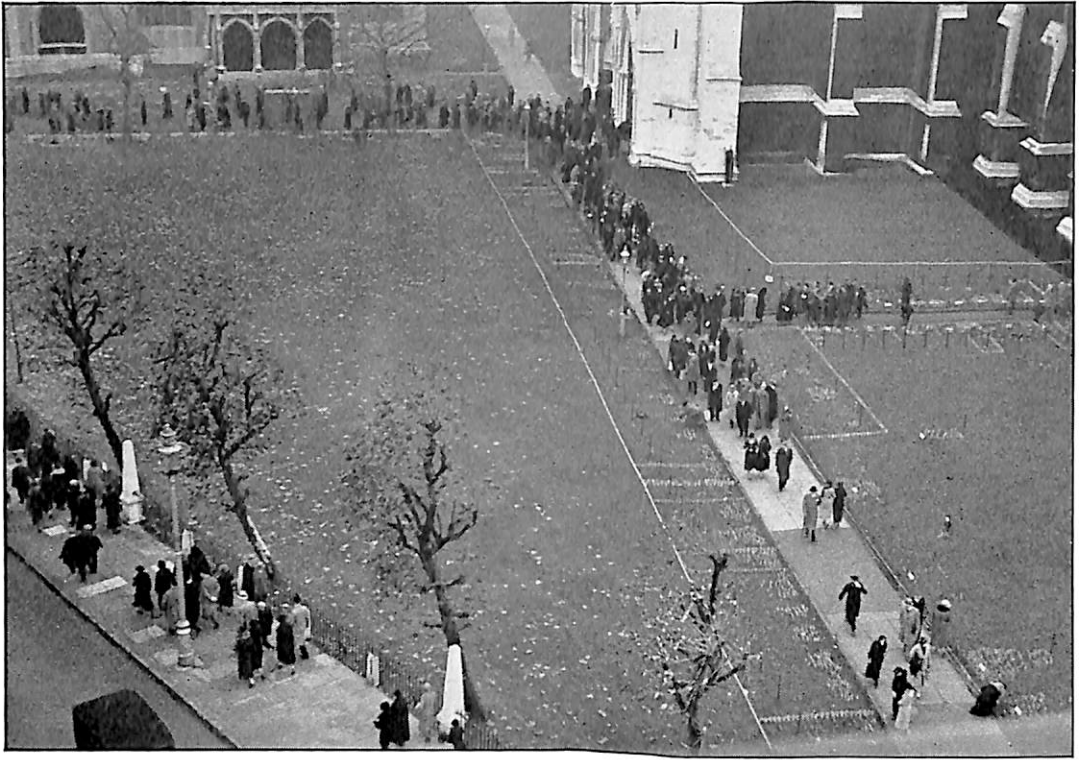
REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL SPACE.

The large cross which stands near the head of the memorial space has been planted by the organisers of the Field to remember the Fallen of the Regiment as a whole.

Old comrades' associations and other organisations can remember the Fallen in the following ways:—

(1) By surrounding their memorial space with remembrance crosses. This normally takes about 60 crosses, and by special arrangement the cost of the crosses for this purpose is ten shillings. These may be planted by the old comrades themselves, or by the organisers of the Field as desired.

(2) By placing a badge wreath fixed to a cross in the memorial space. If this badge wreath is to remember the Fallen of any particular unit, special wording may be affixed.



FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE.

THE BENNETT FAMILY.



**Sgt. William Bennett (76th Foot) and
Mrs. Susan Bennett.**



**Captain G. P. Bennett, D.C.M.
(2nd and 9th Battalions).**



**Pte. W. J. Bennett
(Hampshire Volunteers).**



**Mrs. Eva Harper
(née Bennett).**

The cost of the badge wreath, inclusive of the cross, is one guinea, and it may be placed by old comrades themselves or by the organisers of the Field. To ensure that these badge wreaths are ready in time they should be ordered before 31st October.

(3) By placing remembrance crosses in the memorial space.

On 10th November, when I went down and purchased 33 crosses, there were already a few crosses planted in the space allotted to the Regiment, but when I went down in the evening of the 11th there were over 100 crosses and three badge wreaths, one each from the 1st, 2nd and 10th Battalions, and the crowds were stopping in front of our space and admiring it. Certainly it was one of the best spaces in the whole Field of Remembrance, if not the best.

I arranged for photographs to be taken of it, and they are reproduced in this issue opposite page 40. Anyone wishing to purchase copies can do so by writing to Messrs. Bertram Park, 43 Dover Street, London, W.1., and enclosing 2s. 6d.

I must thank all those who helped to make our Regimental space look so beautiful. I received £2 12s. in contributions, of which £1 1s. was from the Regimental Memorial Fund, 10s. from the Depot, and the remaining £1 1s. from individual subscribers. I only hope that even more people will send me their subscriptions next year.

R. H. D. B.

Notable Family Records in the Regiment.

No. 10.—BENNETT.

William Bennett was born at Hurstbourne-Tarrant, Hampshire, on 23rd September, 1823, and enlisted in the 76th Foot at Portsmouth on 17th March, 1844, serving with them for 21 years until his discharge in December, 1865. He died on 5th April, 1903. His daughter, Mrs. L. A. Harper, has kindly given the following information about his service:—"Not much is known regarding his service prior to his marriage in Nova Scotia in 1856, with the exception of his working in the shoemakers' shop, where he was promoted to corporal and appointed master-shoemaker. During this period he served in England, Malta and the Ionian Isles, either with the Regiment or on detachment. Of his service in Crete he spoke of trouble the troops caused by occasionally interrupting religious services in the churches. He later went with the 76th to Nova Scotia, serving in Halifax, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, and at the latter station he married Susan Cook, of Halifax, N.S., on 8th November, 1856. In 1857 he proceeded with the Regiment to Ireland, serving in Dublin, the Curragh, Cork and Waterford, and in 1860 to Scotland, where they were stationed at Ayr. In 1862 they went to Aldershot, and in 1863 the Regiment was presented with new Colours. In an old letter, which I possess, written by my mother's sister, she mentions the fact, adding, 'I expect William feels a few inches taller since his Regiment has such a good name, which is more than can be said of those in Halifax now.' The Halifax (N.S.) papers had evidently copied the account of the presentation of Colours from the English papers.

"From Aldershot the 76th proceeded to India, and it is worthy of note that the voyage took 104 days. The Regiment was stationed at Madras. In 1864 my mother returned home with Captain and Mrs. James Vertue (I am not sure whether Captain Vertue belonged to the 76th or not), and remained with them in Edinburgh until my father returned home in 1865 and took his discharge with the rank of sergeant. Civilian life, however, never appealed to my father, and he drifted to Sandhurst College, where he became master of the shoemakers' shop (gentleman cadets). The urge to return to uniform conquered, and he gave up the shoemakers' shop and became a gatekeeper at the R.M.C. He finally retired from this office in 1892. For many years during this service he suffered from a spinal complaint, but was allowed to retain his post.

"My father was a great authority regarding dates, and 'Bennett's' opinion was often sought when any matter was in dispute, as he had a most remarkable memory. The Regiment was always very dear to both him and my mother, and anyone connected with it (often men who were down and out) always found a welcome, and a meal if they needed it. I sometimes think that good nature was imposed on, but all that was ever done was 'for the honour of the Regiment.' One of his great ambitions was to go to Southampton to welcome the Regiment's return from India, but he never lived to do so. My mother shared that wish and I escorted her on 27th November, 1905, to Southampton when the 2nd Battalion arrived home." Mrs. Bennett died in 1911.

Captain G. P. Bennett relates a remarkable experience his father had on the voyage to India:—"My father was washed overboard during a storm, but as he went he grabbed a hencoop; this undoubtedly saved his life, as he hung on to it and another wave carried him on board again, still attached to the hencoop; one advantage of sailing ships."

(Sons and daughter of Sgt. William Bennett.)

George P. Bennett enlisted in the 2nd Battalion at Aldershot in July, 1886, at the age of 14 years 7 months. On 6th October he sailed with the Battalion for Bermuda and served with them throughout their foreign tour—West Indies, South Africa, India and Burmah, except for six months' furlough and a gymnastic course at Aldershot in 1896, and furlough again in 1903. While in Burmah he was for a time in 1901 on detachment at Meiktila, and in 1905 was on detachment at Dum Dum while the Battalion was at Dinapore. He came home with the Battalion in October, 1905, and served at Lichfield, Tidworth and Dublin until discharged to pension early in 1914, with the rank of R.S.M., after 28 years' service with the Battalion. His steps in promotion were, corporal 1896, sergeant 1897, colour-sergeant 1901, R.Q.M.S. 1906 and R.S.M. 1907.

On the outbreak of the Great War he re-enlisted, and was appointed R.S.M. of the 9th Battalion, joining at the Depot, Halifax, and proceeding to Bovington Camp. He proceeded with the 9th Battalion to France in July, 1915, and served with them until September, 1918, when he was invalided home. He was through all the heavy fighting in which the Battalion was engaged during those years. He was awarded the D.C.M. in 1916 for his work in the gas attack at Ypres; asked by the compiler of this record concerning this, he replied, "No particular act, Colonel Hayden told me afterwards that he had heard it was for using bad language"! In September, 1916, after the heavy fighting on the Somme, he was given a commission, and in October was promoted lieutenant and appointed adjutant; in January, 1917, he was promoted captain. After coming to England he was posted to the 3rd Battalion at North Shields, and for a time served with a cyclist battalion, and at a demobilisation camp. He was posted to the Depot in 1919 and in December of that year was demobilised, with the rank of captain, at the Crystal Palace, where his old commanding officer, the late Colonel Gibbs, was in command at that time.

Captain Bennett won the Whittingham medal twice, once at Rangoon and the second time at Lichfield, and he states that his father also won it. With regard to the remarks about the wearing of the medal made by Mr. Brennan in the last issue of *THE IRON DUKE* (see p. 222), Captain Bennett says, "It was never worn on parade during the time I held it, but it used to be worn on church parades. I can particularly remember a Sgt. Harrison wearing it when we were in Halifax, N.S."

Captain Bennett was married in 1910 to Miss Berry, of Southport, and they have two sons; the elder is in Barclay's Bank; the younger in the employment of the L.C.C. Mrs. Bennett's sister married Sgt. Sims, who was for many years Officers' Mess sergeant of the 2nd Battalion. Sgt. Sims was discharged to pension in 1912, and then became civilian mess caterer of the Officers' Mess of the 4th Hussars at Tidworth. He

was later steward of the Athenæum Club, Pall Mall. During the war he was given a commission in the Air Force, but did not serve abroad. He died at Harrogate in 1927. Mrs. Sims is now living at Bridlington.

William J. Bennett served with the Hampshire Volunteers, and went to Canada in 1906, where he still resides.

Eva M. Bennett was born at the R.M.C., Sandhurst, on 23rd March, 1876. In 1908 she was married to Mr. Leon Harper, whose record in the Regiment appeared on page 141 of No. 31 (June, 1935) of THE IRON DUKE.* The following reminiscences are given in Mrs. Harper's own words:—

"My parents were married fifteen years before the children began to arrive. When my brother was born he was considered the eighth marvel of the world and more than one visitor from some distance who had known our parents in their old Army days simply came to verify the rumour that there was a little Bennett. Prior to this at various times they had taken children unfortunately placed, either by the death of a parent, or family illness, and treated them as their own, for they were both passionately fond of children.

"When he was born there was little hope for either mother or child. He was wrapped in cotton wool for three months, and was not taken out of the bedroom until the warm days arrived. Those who have known him in the Regiment will hardly credit his tender health in his early days, but he is a true 'chip of the old block.' Neither of them could gauge their strength when in their prime.

"On one occasion my parents were stationed where there was no accommodation for women. My mother insisted on accompanying my father (she evidently agreed that it was not good for man to be alone), and for three months she lived in a corner of the "shop." This was screened off with Army blankets and eighteen men slept in the remainder of the room.

"I think I heard of that more often than of any other Army experience. And she always added when relating it, 'I was never shown greater respect by anyone.' Frequently one man would be sent to ask her if he could get anything for her, by way of excuse to find out whether she was 'at home' or not. And if one man began to talk without first ascertaining 'at home' or not he was promptly 'shut up' with 'See if the missis is in'!

"My father often spoke of a certain doctor whose name has escaped my memory, but you will have read of 'him.' The facts were recalled in the daily papers during the 'Col. Barker' case. 'He' used to smack the recruits who were finely built, saying 'You'll make a fine soldier.' 'He' afterwards proved to be feminine gender. My father knew 'him' very well and liked 'him.' I believe it was during his service in the Ionian Islands that he came across 'him.'

"Regarding the voyage to India, the Regiment was transported in two sections. I believe my father and mother travelled in the *Atlanta*. Many stories regarding the voyage of over three months were told me by my mother.

"The C.O. was, according to account, rather a pompous man. The sailing vessel on one occasion was practically at a standstill in a calm which lasted for ten days. Time hung heavily and, as usual, 'Satan finds,' etc., was true, then, as now. There was a tremendous noise in the cabin. The orderly, when questioned regarding it, replied, 'Only some of the women skylarking, Sir.' 'Skylarking in the cabin, man. How dare they! I must see to it!'

"My mother was discovered with a pot of jam and a bag of flour decorating a young subaltern while other women were holding him down. He was a good-natured boy who on any and every occasion teased the women. They thought to teach him a lesson. Anyhow, he was equal to the occasion. A dance was to take place and, waiting for my mother to appear on deck, he confronted her with a tar-brush. He spoiled her dress to such an extent that she threw it overboard. Such was the discipline in those good old times!!

* We regret that in error the date Mr. Harper joined the 2nd Battalion was given as 1883, instead of 1885.

"My father was a strong swimmer and during these 'calm' days he had permission to swim—a boat being always handy in case of emergency. He was thoroughly enjoying himself one day when he heard voices from the vessel crying, 'Make for the boat, Bennett.' Without delay he did so. A shark was after him. Anyhow, they got him aboard safely, and then turned their attention to the shark. This was eventually hauled aboard and when they opened it they discovered the leg of a pair of trousers, cutlery, and a child's toy for which the child had been crying. My father's query afterwards was regarding the leg belonging to the part of the trousers. Was that ever found?"

"When the vessel was about four days out from England a woman, fully dressed, walked out of the hold. Of course, she was taken before the C.O., when the captain of the vessel was told that he must stop the first vessel they met and ship the woman back to England. 'Very good,' said the captain, 'will you pay her passage money?' The C.O. was boiling with rage. 'What!' Pay the passage of a woman who stoned me in the streets of Glasgow?' And the woman remained.

"Some of the women were sorry for her. Of course she had followed one of the men, and amongst them they fed her. Others were not so generous. When she passed them there was much pulling aside of skirts, which in those days were voluminous, and many taunts flung at her. She bore it all as long as she could, but at last could stand it no longer. She turned on them and in a loud voice for everyone to hear, she confronted them. 'Yes. You all know what I am, but God Himself only knows what the rest of you were before the Regiment made decent women of you.' Imagine the result!"

"She was left severely alone, doing kindnesses and helping wherever she could. When they reached India, somehow they clubbed together to get a lodging for her, and she kept herself respectably, being forbidden the barracks. The C.O. it seems kept his eye on her and eventually he gave permission to the man whom she had followed to marry her. I believe that they were very happy!"

"My father was a good cricketer, and once when my brother was playing for the Regiment in India, an old spectator, whom he met, referred to having seen his father play so many years before.

"The following story, though not connected with the Regiment, may be of interest:— In a certain station the sentry had orders to shake and kick the door of the 'dead house,' as it was then called, to frighten the rats. One night the sentry did so according to instructions, when a voice from inside cried, 'Let me out!' The sentry left his post and rushed to the guard room with the news. The fright turned his hair quite white. The 'dead' man was removed to hospital and eventually recovered. A rat had bitten his toe and thus restored him to life!"

"I started my scholastic career in the schoolroom situated in the basement of the College at the age of three years. From that day (I remember the occasion, I made one of the teachers carry me home on her back) I loved school better than anything, and made up my mind I would never leave it. When I married I was compelled to. Meanwhile I passed from one school to another, serving my pupil-teachership in the Yorktown Schools, hoping eventually to transfer to the Army list. I never accomplished this. I was the child of ageing parents, and I saw where my duty was, as an only daughter.

"Eventually I became headmistress under the Aldershot Education Committee, from which town I was married to Leon A. Harper, who had been my brother's chum from the day he enlisted. Leon was told off to look after the new recruit. Hence the romance!"

"My husband was a bachelor when he retired simply because he thought that 'some day' I would change my mind. Well! 'Constant dropping,' etc. But how I did hate leaving school! And the irony of it all is that only yesterday the L.C.C. proclaimed that marriage is no bar, now."

(Next number: **The Fricker Family**.)

Thoughts on Sport.

I had quite made up my mind that the last of this series of "Thoughts" had appeared in the October issue of THE IRON DUKE, but the Editor thought otherwise, so the readers of the Regimental magazine will have to bear with one more—positively the last!

The big noise in the rugger world this year comes from over the sea away past Australia, and though they've had a somewhat uneven career and a good many lucky escapes, they've only been actually beaten twice, each time by a Welsh team, and have two of three international matches to their credit. There still remains the last of the international matches, that v. England, to be played. Although the New Zealanders are not quite up to the last lot that were over here, they are a very useful side, full of opportunism and dash.

In September and October a series of letters appeared in *The Times* dealing with early rugby football and written by *Old Stagers*; they interested me because they started with reminiscences of about the time I was born, and those of later date covered the period of my schooldays' football. The letters mostly were concerned with pointing out the differences between the game as played in the seventies and eighties and the game as at present played. For those "young fellows" now playing rugger it may be of some interest to mention certain of these points. In the early eighties the game was governed by a referee with a whistle and two judges armed with flags: if both umpires held up their flags the referee was bound to whistle; if one of the two umpires held up his flag the referee either blew his whistle or not according to his own opinion on the point in question; if neither umpire held up his flag he could not blow his whistle whatever his own opinion was; from which it will be seen that he was not really a referee in the true sense of the word. When this method was started, I don't know. In those days also there was a thing called a *maul in goal* which came to pass if a player crossed his opponents' line with the ball but was held—both hands on the ball—by one of the defending side: it was then a battle between the *maulers* as to who should gain undivided possession of the ball and ground it. The maul, though usually a scrap between the two players, was not necessarily confined to two, it might have two or even three against one. So far as my memory serves me, there was no time limit and the remainder of the players and onlookers formed a ring round the contestants, shouting their encouragements. Then again there was no dead ball line; and at Cheltenham the 1st XV. ground had at one end only about 20 yards before an iron railing barred the way, and at the other end there was about 150 yards or more, and I've seen a player use quite a hundred yards in order to get round the back and ground the ball right behind the posts.

The only experience I had of the rugby hacking game was provided by a boy who had been at Brackenburys, where they still played the hacking game, before coming to Cheltenham; and who in his first game, so far forgot himself and the new rules under which he was playing as to hack over a boy running with the ball. It was considered so dreadful, even worse than tripping, that the unfortunate young man (I refer to the *hacker* not to the *hacked*) was nearly lynched by the remainder of us before we could be made to understand that it wasn't done of *malice aforethought*! The number of players, the scoring, and many other rules and customs have been altered since running with the ball was introduced into the game as played at Rugby School in 1823. Originally I believe there was no limit to the number of players, but in 1871 it is recorded that twenty aside played in the first match between England and Scotland, and it was not till 1877 that teams in international matches were reduced to the present fifteen. The scoring also has undergone many changes; previous to 1875 a match could not be won unless a goal was scored, but in that year the rule was changed and it was enacted that, if no goal was scored, or if an equal number were scored, matches should be decided by a majority

of tries gained, but it was not till 1886 that the Rugby Union decided that a numerical value should be given to goals and tries and the game decided by the number of points scored. Scoring by points had existed at Cheltenham College in the sixties, and when I was there in the eighties we still stuck to our old style of scoring in all house cup ties—9 for a goal, 3 for a try and 1 for a touch down ; as you can imagine, the score, when a strong house was playing a poor one, was sometimes prodigious, especially as we played for a good bit longer in house matches than in college ones against outside teams. If my memory serves me right, 147 was the biggest score made by our house in a cup match whilst I was there. These are, of course, only a few of the differences in the game as played fifty years ago.

I noticed in the paper the other day that the Dominion Rugby Conference held in London want, amongst other things, to bring up before the International Board the laws referring to the scrummage, which they assert are interpreted by referees in so many different ways as to cause considerable confusion among players. These different interpretations of the same rule are very evident to any spectator who understands the game and sees a number of different referees in action.

Before leaving rugger, I must say a word of commendation to the Depot team who went down to the Gloucesters with colours flying in the third or fourth round of the Army Cup ; they were ten points down at half-time and were only beat 13—10, a score which speaks for itself. Our optimists hoped for greater things, but I think our heartiest congratulations are due to all concerned at the Depot for their very creditable effort. They are apparently not chucking up the sponge, as I hear they are now redoubling their efforts in chasing the Yorkshire Shield.

Touring cricket teams are very much in evidence this year. India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, all are being visited by such teams. From South Africa comes the news of a new record, which has a special interest for the Regiment. *Young Nourse* (as opposed to *old Nourse*, well known to our older readers), in the second test match between the Australians and South Africans made 231 in their second innings. Bravo, *young Nourse*.

And now it only remains to say "Adieu."

OLD STAGER.

OLD ENGLAND.

(Being just a few thoughts of an officer on leave.)

When sitting lone and dreary at the Flickers
And buying only bitter at the bar,
I wonder why the lonely isle of England
Is the place we hanker after from afar.

When eating at a coffee-stall in Soho,
And standing till the pit will let me in,
I long to sign a chit at Trocadero,
Or book a row of stalls on Ahmed Din.

Nowshera isn't bothered with Belishas,
No notices say "Thirty miles an hour."
A camel never stops when once it's started,
So traffic lights are useless in Peshawar.

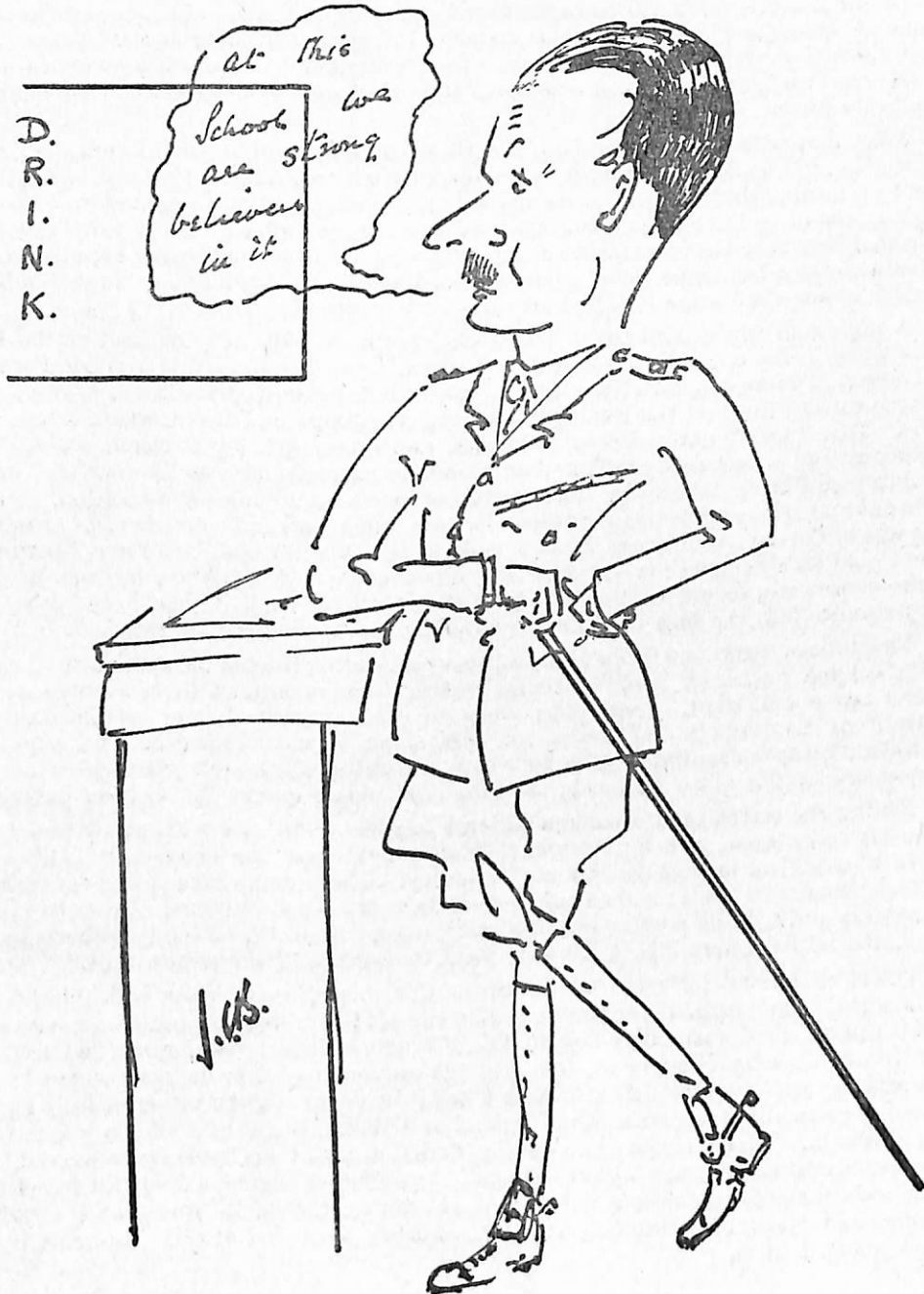
But often I've an urge to see a tribesman—
The tallest tight in Tooting isn't tough ;
Compared with life as led at Loe Agra
The "Lancer's lives" was very fancy stuff.

I stagger to a favourite haunt in Preston,
But cries of "Time, please," echo from the
pub ;
What would the Colonel's language be in Poona,
If bearers came and shoved him from the club ?

But even when in bed with influenza
Or facing fog and drizzle by the sea . . .
There's just a little something about England
That India simply hasn't got for me.

R.

S. A. S. TEACHING.



Mounted Infantry in the South African War, 1899-1902.

(Continued from page 197, No. 32, October, 1935.)

In our last article, it will be remembered, we left the Burma M.I. about to embark on one of the major phases of the war—namely, Prinsloo's surrender at the Golden Gate. The Golden Gate was a "Poort" or pass into a fertile plain in the south-eastern part of the Orange Free State. Prinsloo was one of the principal commandants or leaders of the Free State forces.

After the battle of Diamond Hill, Ian Hamilton's force of mounted infantry, with the Highland Brigade supporting it, was ordered back to Pretoria, there to refit with a view to returning south to join in the operations directed against Commandant Prinsloo, who was stated to have some 5,000 men and a few guns under him. It will be well to remember here that the recrudescence of the fighting spirit in the Orange Free State was undoubtedly due largely to the disaster sustained by the British forces at Sannah's Post, in which action the Burma M.I. had played a very creditable part.

A rapid refit was carried out at Pretoria during the middle of June, and on the 19th of that month the column, augmented by Gordon's 3rd (Cavalry) Brigade, left Pretoria at 6.30 a.m. From the 19th June to 7th July this force moved south *via* Springs (the extreme eastern town on the Rand), Heidleburg, Frankfurt and Rietz, where a halt was made. This "trek" covered over 190 miles, and minor fighting occurred daily. The fighting was of a harrassing rather than a serious nature, and usually consisted of an advance guard being held up by small parties of Boers occupying some position, such as kopje or kloof, where there was good cover for men and horses and a covered line of retreat (this was in the days before aeroplanes were known). When these "hold ups" occurred, there would be a deployment—an encircling movement—and possibly a few rounds fired by the guns if any target, such as a body of Boers, offered itself. Then would come the disappearance into the blue of the enemy and the advance would be resumed.

The various towns and dorps (villages) occupied during the march were vacated again as the column moved on, and invariably brother Boer re-entered them as soon as the column was out of sight. Later on, permanent garrisons were left at certain strategic points; but the dispersal of forces and difficulties of communication and supply—remembering the vulnerability of supply convoys unless adequately guarded—rendered it necessary at this stage to vacate the inhabited places except for visiting patrols.

During the march of this column General Ian Hamilton met with an accident and broke his collar bone, and Sir Archibald Hunter took over the command. This gave rise to a great jest among the mounted infantry. The column was given the title of Hunter's Mounted Troops; and as one of the first column orders issued related to saving our mounts and forbade moving out of a walk, except in action or on an order from an officer, the initial letters "H.M.T." were used to denote "He Mustn't Trot."

Before describing the main operations in this phase, an incident which happened in the actual formation of the column affecting the 1st Battalion M.I. must be mentioned. On 14th June my Commanding Officer, Col. "Watty" Ross, sent for me and told me that the 3rd Cavalry Brigade was missing. It was supposed to be somewhere in the Magaliesburg and I was to find it! This was fairly vague, as the range of hills named covered a space about the breadth of England and Wales, but it was all the information I could obtain. Without going into details, find Gordon's Cavalry Brigade we did, and were able to return and report within 72 hours. So our stock soared, a doubtful advantage, as the only tangible result—bar some personal pats on the back—was that if anything difficult and unpleasant had to be performed, while we were part of this command, it was always allotted to us.

The actual Wittebergen operations, for which a special clasp was afterwards given, were officially dated 1st to 29th July, 1900, but in reality they commenced on 7th July, when the developments showed the possibility of driving Prinsloo into the Brandwater Basin, a large fertile hill-enclosed district extending for some 30 miles from Relief Nek to Golden Gate. It must be understood that the wall of hills surrounding this district could be crossed at many points, other than the places mentioned, by infantry or mounted troops, but it was impossible to take guns and wagons over cattle tracks; and the Boers at this stage depended for their supplies almost entirely on what they could collect and carry in their wagons, which not only served as a supply train, but were also their dwelling places. The Boer, although primitive in his ways, was no more keen on enduring the rigours of the climate, unprotected from the weather, than we were; their covered wagons gave admirable shelter from the wet and cold.

Two additional columns under Generals Paget and Clements were ordered to co-operate with Hunter. Covering all four points of the compass these three columns, assisted by a small independent body of Colonial troops, succeeded in hemming Prinsloo in at the cost of a series of daily skirmishes, and on 29th July he sent in a flag of truce asking for terms of surrender. The reply to his request was "unconditional surrender, personal property, other than arms, of the burghers under his command, to be respected."

There were in all five distinct commandoes in this force. Four of these agreed to the terms, but the fifth, under Commandant Olivier, broke off negotiations and squeezed its way between Paget's and Clements' columns, making for Harrismith, which district was practically untouched so far. This was a sound move on Olivier's part, as he had to leave the whole of his wagons behind, but was able to re-equip himself in the above-named area. This break-away occurred on 30th July. On 31st July the Burma M.I. went to escort Gen. Bruce Hamilton, who acted as Sir A. Hunter's plenipotentiary, within the Boer lines. The interviews were favourable, and with the before-mentioned exception (Olivier) all agreed to join Prinsloo in his surrender.

Various mounted units were now sent into the valley to take over the burghers' arms, under Col. de Moulin (Royal Sussex Regiment). The Burma M.I. were one of these units, and escorted five wagons loaded with ammunition and the guns of the U Battery, R.H.A. (captured by the Boers at Sannas Post) to the headquarters camp. One thousand five hundred men, with 1,700 stand of arms, several million rounds of rifle ammunition and a considerable quantity of explosives, guncotton, etc., were found. The infantry took charge of the men and the stores and arms were destroyed. As a matter of fact there was very little fighting in this operation, manœuvring and rapid movement chiefly carried it to a successful conclusion.

This success changed the character of the war in the Free State area to a considerable extent, and the subsequent movements were governed by an endeavour to prevent concentration of commandoes, nip intended raids on the railway lines in the bud, and occupy the main towns and strategic centres with permanent garrisons to prevent their utilisation by the enemy. Rundle's Division (known as the Hungry 7th, as they always managed to miss their supply train) was appointed to this task. The 7th M.I., which included the Burma M.I., were lent to Macdonalds' (Hector of that ilk) Highland Brigade, which formed the advance guard to the Division.

Harrismith, Heilbrun, Bethlehem and Lindley were in turn occupied. The only active fighting took place after the occupation of the latter town. This action will be recounted in the next issue, as I fear my allotted space has already been filled.

H. K. U.

(To be continued.)

Extracts from The Havercake Lad.

No. 4.—Malta, 15th December, 1897.

EDITORIAL.

"Fever is not nearly so prevalent as it was during the hot weather, though the band are still dogged by bad luck. The death of Lance-Corporal Dunn was a grievous blow to them, and it will be some time before we get another cornet player as good as he. A handsome tombstone is being put up to his memory by his comrades, in the Annonciata cemetery. At the time of writing several members of the band are in hospital with jaundice, but we sincerely trust they will soon be out and about again."

"SNACKS."

(A whiff from the "Café de Dip," Marsamuscetto.)

"We have all enjoyed 'Snacks,' from the half-dozen natives and glass of 'pink' wine to the humble—though none the less hearty—cheese, rooty and onion with the 12 o'clock pint. A friendship with the company cook also comes in handy when you have a bit of a vacuum in that portion of your anatomy which is encircled by the waistbelt, for he will give you an early drain of jipper. But for a real 'Snack' observe a Maltese man somewhere about 10.30 a.m., and then you will see how a *bonne bouche* can be enjoyed. The first thing he does is to get a huge hunk of bread, peculiar in taste and make to Malta, and a bit of garlic. These he produces from a large handkerchief of such varied hue as to easily knock spots out of the celebrated Joseph's only garment. A knife—distinctly of German make—is then unearthed. In an excited manner he cuts a triangular piece out of the centre of his 'Mungi,' and makes for the nearest depot of 'Snacks' (it does not require the nose of a hound to find one). Oil in the crudest form, extracted from olives grown on the sunny slopes of Sicily is then poured into the fissure; then, banked up on top, comes the savoury itself. It may be, as a most hospitable Maltese once informed me, 'ze leetle fishes roasted.' This means a fish that looks like a sardine, anchovy, or 'tack in skins' (sausage). It is certainly savoury. Sometimes as a great luxury he gets a small bit of a fish, larger in calibre, a fish peculiar to Malta, a fish that it is difficult to describe. For many months I observed the natives eating this species of fish without knowing that it *was* a fish! It looks for all the world like a bit of pipe-played boot leather. But when put into the cooking pot it immediately turns saffron yellow in colour. I don't know the name of this fish, but it is caught in large quantities by the natives at the outfall of the main sewer—a favourite resort of anglers.

He hacks away at this little lot in a dexterous manner and, like a badly drilled soldier, shews no pauses in his movements. But where he shews consummate skill is in trimming the loaf so as not to lose a drop of oil, in order that a real rancous mouthful may be had as a fitting *finale* to the whole snack. After licking first his lips and then his fingers for some minutes, he slips into a grog-shop and washes the repast down with a libation *ambiete*, or native wine. This poison is warranted to make an unwary soldier a 16th story-maniac, or to turn red serges black where it comes in contact with them. Having assuaged his thirst with nectar of this description, his next care is to find a shady place (the nearer a drain the better he likes it) and have his *siesta*. How he ever wakes to continue his mad career on this peaceful earth, Goodness only knows."

REGIMENTAL NEWS, ETC.

"The retirement of Major-General Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency deprives the West Riding Regiment of its last remaining Crimean representative on the active list. He joined the regiment in the trenches before Sebastopol, was at the assault on the 8th September, and left the Crimea with the

33rd in July, 1856, when head-quarters were at Gibraltar. Gen. Erskine,* now senior survivor and honorary colonel of the Regiment, had already left the 33rd on promotion to an unattached lieutenant colonelcy, and the regiment was brought away by Col. Mundy, who had commanded it at Inkerman, and died nine years later whilst still in the prime of life."

OBITUARY.

"On October 7th†, suddenly, at 53 Lee-park, Blackheath, S.E., aged 82, GENERAL GEORGE ERSKINE, Colonel of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

General Erskine joined the 33rd Regiment on August 17th, '32; became lieutenant 3rd July, '36; captain 1st May, '40; major 20th June, '54; lieutenant-colonel 12th December, '54; colonel 12th May, '60; major-general 6th March, '68; lieutenant-general 1st October, '77; general 1st July, '81.

He was appointed colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders June 9th, '88, and was transferred to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment June 30th, '95.

The following is a list of his war service, taken from Hart's Army List:—"General Erskine served with the 33rd Regiment in the Eastern Campaign of 1854-55, including the battle of Inkerman and siege of Sebastopol; he commanded the pickets of the Light Division on the 14th October, 1854, when they repulsed the attack made on them by the enemy (medal with two clasps, brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel, 5th class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal).'

The following reference to his death appeared in battalion orders of October 17th:—"It is with much regret the commanding officer announces the death of Lieutenant-General G. Erskine, Colonel of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and who served with distinction in the 33rd Foot in the Crimea, 1854-55. As a mark of respect to the memory of their late Colonel the officers of the battalion will wear mourning, in uniform, till 14th November, next.'

This is a portion of the obituary notice which appeared in the *Army and Navy Gazette* of October 16th, '97:—"Plain 'General George Erskine!' Not even a C.B.! And yet he was 'a veteran of fame and service,' a most valiant captain, a sturdy soldier of ancient type—no time-serving suppliant courtier of the fountains, which pour out streams of ribands and orders on those who delight to honour them; but a man who did his duty with heart and soul, body and mind, in peace and in war, in the barrack and in the field; and who saw with silent wonder, for year after year, gazette after gazette, appear week after week with the names of his comrades who were not, we will not say better, but as good as he, but who were lucky, which he was not. He wondered, because he could not understand why they were taken and he was left out in the cold. And how was it? Had he no friend to knock at the military secretary's door, and say a word for the grim, taciturn, kindly little warrior who had fought so well at the Alma, in the trenches, and all through the great siege, an example to the regiment of which he was so proud—the Duke of Wellington's—and to exclaim, 'You surely are not going to leave George Erskine out again?' It would seem as if there was not; and it is quite true, in contravention to the old saying, 'Nothing comes to him who waits—from Pall Mall.' 'Hang out the knocker! That's your only chance,' said Hastings Doyle to an old friend who asked him what he was to do for an appointment. But General George Erskine had no hand for the knocker, and so nothing came to him but a sense of wrong. The new Boards will perhaps give heed to the claims of patient merit in like cases in times to come."

*Since deceased (Ed. H.L.).

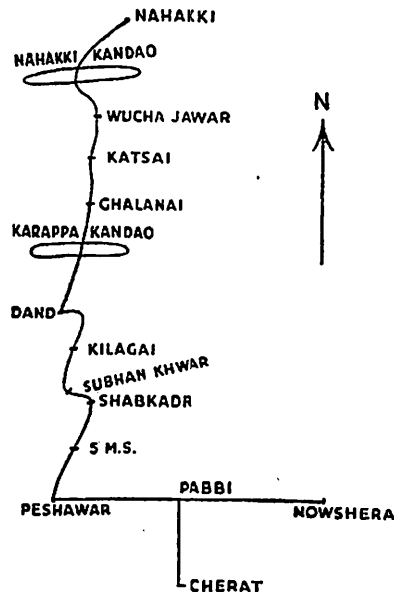
†1897

Mohmand Operations, 1935.

On 14th August, 1935, a lashkar of some 400 men of Burhan Khel and Isa Khel, under the command of Badshah Gul. I., was reported to have taken up positions on the Gandab road between Dand and the Karappa Kandao. They commenced damaging the road on the night 14th/15th August. In consequence of this, Peshawar Brigade was ordered out and proceeded to Michni on the afternoon of 15th August, moving to Pir Kala the following day.

On 17th August the Battalion received a warning order to stand by ready to move at 24 hours' notice. At this time "C" Company, under the command of Capt. S. B. Kington, was on detachment duty in Nowshera, and in order to relieve this Company, one machine gun platoon moved by motor transport to Nowshera the following day to take over all internal security duties and the defence of No. 3 Sector (Khartoum Barracks).

On the morning 18th August, "C" Company left Nowshera by march route together with Brigade "H.Q." (commander, Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox), 4th Mountain Battery and 2/15th Punjab. The Battalion, less "C" Company (and "A" Company, who were to remain in Cherat for internal security duties), under the command of Capt. V. C. Green, were ordered to join Nowshera Brigade at 5 M.S. Peshawar-Shabkadr road by 14.00 hours on



19th August. The move was carried out by motor transport. Intelligence reports received on the evening 19th August showed that the strength of the lashkar had increased to about 1,500 and that further damage had been caused to the Gandab road. During this period the R.A.F. were employed to drop warning messages on the Isa Khel and Burhan Khel villages.

On 20th August the Brigade marched to Subhan Khwar, where two days were spent, and where all ranks were inoculated against cholera. R.A.F. bombing, which started on 19th August, was continued, and reports were received that the lashkar was gradually dispersing. 5th F.F.R. joined the Brigade at Subhan Khwar on 21st August.

On 23rd August the Brigade advanced to Dand, the Battalion, less "B" Company, being detailed as rear guard. "B" Company formed part of the Brigade main body. The Battalion left Subhan Khwar at 05.45 hours, under the command of Lt.-Col. M. N. Cox, who, the previous day, had handed over command of the Brigade to Brigadier the Hon. H. R. L. Alexander. Throughout the day the advance guard encountered considerable opposition and the Battalion was subjected to continuous long-range sniping. The country between Kilagai and Dand was admirably suited to the tactics of the tribesmen, the road being flanked on either side by broken hills intersected by deep valleys which made perfect getaways. At selected positions well-sited stone defences had been built, and judging by the stocks of food and water found in them, it was obvious that a stubborn resistance had been intended. The hills also abounded in natural caves in which the tribesmen were able to lie up concealed, and from which they brought effective fire to bear on the transport column which formed part of the Brigade main body. The advance guard reached Dand at about 18.00 hours, and "B" Company was called on to attack and occupy a ridge overlooking the selected camp sites. In gaining their objective the Company came under heavy and accurate rifle fire, thereby suffering four casualties. The remainder of the Battalion eventually reached camp at 10.50 hours, having withdrawn fifteen road picquets *en route*, most of which had to be called down in the dark. The fact that the rear guard was not followed up was proof of the severe defeat the enemy had suffered. Enemy casualties were reported as being not less than 60 dead and 40 wounded. Our own casualties were 9 killed and 21 wounded (including one B.O.), together with 3 of the Battalion's charwallahs who were wounded in Dand camp by snipers.

On 25th August, Peshawar Brigade moved through Nowshera Brigade and secured the Karappa Kandao by 12.30 hours and Ghalanai camp by 14.00 hours. Only slight opposition was encountered, and it appeared that the lashkar had almost entirely dispersed into Upper Mohmand country. Consequent on this move, the Battalion moved back the previous day to Kilagai to take over road protection duties, remaining there until 1st September, and being joined by "A" Company from Cherat on the 26th August. During this period the road was opened from 08.00-16.45 hours, and two rifle companies and one platoon "D" (S.) Company were detailed daily to find the necessary road picquets.

On 31st August the 3/2nd Punjab Regiment arrived at Kilagai from Nowshera, and the following day the Battalion moved forward again to Dand to join the remainder of the Brigade. On arrival, four day and night camp picquets were taken over, the strength of picquets varying from one section to a platoon. The Battalion remained at Dand until 8th September and again was employed daily on road protection duties.

The stay at Dand was without doubt the most trying time that the Battalion experienced throughout the whole operation. The day shade temperature averaged about 104 degrees, and as the camp was shut in on all sides by high hills, what breezes that blew were never felt. Along one side of the perimeter flowed a sluggish stream which formed a perfect breeding place for mosquitoes, and the several hundred mules which lived inside the perimeter produced a swarm of flies which added to the discomforts. All ranks were dosed daily with quinine, but this, as was proved later, did little to prevent malaria. The task of opening the road became most monotonous, continuing as it did for sixteen days without a break. No relaxation could however be allowed, for it was known that small bands of armed tribesmen were in the neighbourhood, and advantage would certainly have been taken of any slackness on the part of picquets.

During the above period Peshawar Brigade remained at Ghalanai and carried out a number of reconnaissance marches. The enemy lashkar which had been steadily increasing had formed the habit of coming down from the hills to the Halimzai villages in the Upper Gandab for the night and returning at break of dawn. With a view to catching them by surprise before they left the villages for the hills, Peshawar Brigade carried out a night march up the Gandab Khwar in the early hours of 3rd September. The operation was

successfully accomplished, and the Brigade arrived in time to surprise the lashkar and inflict the following casualties :—Dead 21, wounded 59. Attempts were made to follow up the withdrawal, but the light tanks, by a movement to the eastern side of the Khwar, successfully got behind the lashkar and caught them in rear.

On 8th September Nowshera Brigade advanced to Ghalanai, road protection being taken over by 3rd Infantry Brigade, who had arrived from Jhelum. Midway between Dand and Rattray's Post the column came under fire from a small body of enemy who were lying up for one of our patrols. A section of the 4th Mountain Brigade was, however, quickly brought into action and the enemy withdrew. It is interesting to note that at this same spot (Marble Rocks) in 1931, a similar party of the enemy ambushed and completely scuppered a Sikh patrol which was on road protection duty. The strength of the lashkar at this time was reported as being about 600 in the firing line with a further 600 in adjacent villages, and at least 500 more available to join at fairly short notice.

The camp at Ghalanai was found to be a great improvement on Dand. Having crossed the Karappa Kandao, the country opens into a wide plain and although the dust was, if anything, worse, the nights were pleasantly cool and hardly a mosquito was seen. Unfortunately, however, the damage had been done and the number of daily fever cases grew steadily larger. Between 8th—18th September, 192 men were evacuated, and on the latter date the effective strength of the Battalion had dropped to 310.

The 9th and 10th September were rest days, and on the 11th the Brigade moved forward to Katsai, an advance of about five miles, which took us to existing road-head. Lt.-Col. Cox had meanwhile taken over command of Peshawar Brigade, the command of the Battalion devolving on Capt. A. E. H. Sayers.

As a result of the operation on 11th September the following special order of the day was issued by Brig. C. J. E. Auchinlech, Commander Moh. Force :—

" I wish all ranks who took part in yesterday's operations to know how very much I appreciate the magnificent way in which they worked. To establish a brigade in camp at Katsai, to build and occupy three permanent picquets, all of which were in difficult locations and one of which was situated on a precipitous crag, to instal a piped water supply five miles from its source and, at the same time, to give the enemy more than he bargained for, was no mean achievement and one which reflects the greatest credit on all concerned.

" These tasks could not have been completed had there not been the maximum of efficiency on the part of the leaders, and the greatest determination, energy and physical endurance on the part of the led.

" The fact that there were no casualties gives me the greatest satisfaction and is an additional proof of efficient leadership.

" I congratulate you all."

" Katsai camp will long be remembered by those who were there, if only for the sniping. On one side of the perimeter, which was open, the country was intersected by a mass of nalas, which made perfect approaches, and by which the tribesmen were able to creep unobserved to within a few hundred yards of the sentry posts. On the first night the firing, which in all cases was well controlled, started at about 19.30 hours and continued spasmodically until 3 o'clock in the morning. It was estimated that at least a thousand rounds were fired into the camp, and it seemed a miracle that there were no casualties within the Battalion. After four very disturbed nights, the 66th Field Battery came to the rescue by laying their night lines on the places from whence the sniping usually came and firing a round or two whenever the tribesmen disclosed their presence. This form of retaliation proved highly successful and we were never troubled again.

Intelligence reports about this time showed no important change in the situation. It seemed, however, that the lashkar, in spite of air activity, was holding together better than previous lashkars. Each man was stated to have about thirty rounds of ammunition except for the maliks, or leaders, who carried about fifty rounds.

On 14th September the force made a reconnaissance up the Toratigga valley, the intention again being to catch the tribesmen who haunted the valley, whence they directed their sniping operations. With this object in view the 5/10th Baluch. Regt. and the 5/1st



Punjab Regt. (both Peshawar Brigade) carried out a long and difficult night climb over exceedingly rough and precipitous country to a knife-edge crest over 3,500 feet high. Their object was to get above the area known as Black Rocks, which dominates the junction of the Toratigga and Gandab valleys and which was one of the refuges of the snipers. Starting at 23.30 hours, these two battalions manhandled their Lewis guns and machine guns over a distance of six miles of unreconnoitred and extremely difficult rocky mountains.

Meanwhile Nowshera Brigade proceeded with its task of searching the villages in the valley. Intermittent firing was encountered during the day, but no tribesmen were found, merely some stolen M.E.S. waterpipes. The advance of Peshawar Brigade completely surprised the tribesmen, consequently the operation was unopposed and the withdrawal not followed up.

On 15th September, a representative jirga of the Musa Khel, who professed to be able to negotiate on behalf of all the Upper Mohmand tribes, came in with the object of making peace overtures. There were, however, no signs of a real change of heart in the tribes, and the jirga having been dismissed, a proclamation was issued stating that the Government intended continuing the road to Nahakki village.

The operation to cross the Nahakki Kandao was quite a new departure in mountain warfare, three infantry brigades moving about almost simultaneously by night on separate night marches, culminating in six battalions climbing the precipitous hills on either side of the Kandao, ascents of 1,200—2,500 feet. As, however, was learnt later, the lashkar had started to disperse on the 18th, and such as were left slipped away without a shot being fired. The causes given for this defection, as given out by their leaders, were our unpleasant habit of climbing the hills at night, and the casualties they had sustained particularly by the guns, and the accumulative effect of the harassing and continued offensive action of the R.A.F.

The task of the Battalion on this day is best explained by quoting an extract from Mohmand Force Intelligence Summary of 20th September :—

"There is one piece of work which merits special notice. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment provided carrying parties for the 5th F.F.R. picquet (Knight's picquet) which was 1,500 feet above the nullah and on a particularly steep hill. They carried barbed wire, entrenching tools, pickets and water pakhsals to the top of the hill, and their officers were seen carrying loads up on their heads. The work of these carrying parties was beyond all praise."

By 18.00 hours, 19th September, troops of all three brigades employed were safely in camp without a casualty. Peshawar Brigade (Lt.-Col. Cox) into Nahakki, Nowshera Brigade into Wucha Jawar and 3rd (Jhelum) Infantry Brigade back into Ghalanai.

The first few days at Wucha Jawar were spent in improving the camp defences and in building a camel track over the Kandao. Although there were more than two thousand mules with the force, these were insufficient and had to be supplemented by camel convoys. At the same time a coolie camp was formed and work commenced on the motor transport road.

There was no doubt but that our presence at Wucha Jawar and Nahakki was deeply resented and although most of the Upper Mohmand maliks were reported as being in favour of peace, a number of irreconcilables remained among the various sections. Both camps were sniped regularly at night, and on one occasion the enemy were unsporting enough to fire at and disperse a soccer match which was in progress, and which happened to be one of the deciding games of the "Mohmand League." Attempts were also made to rush certain of the camp picquets, but in all cases the attacks were easily beaten off.

Peace overtures continued, and on 21st September the Kamali Halimzai tendered their submission to Government and agreed to accept any terms laid down. Closely following the arrival of the Kamali jirga came the submission of the Burhan Khel and Isa Khel, who arrived with a fully representative jirga at Ghalanai on the 22nd. The attitude of these two tribes was completely submissive, and they stated that they had

MOHMAND OPERATIONS.



Our Brigade Commander with his Staff at Wucha Jawar.
 From left to right.—Lt. LAUDER, 2ND D.W.R., B.I.O.; Lt.-Col. FULTON, commanding 2/15 Punjab Regiment; Lt.-Col. Cox, commanding Nowshera Brigade; Major Bull, Staff Captain; Major King, Brigade Major; 2nd Lt. DAWES, U.L.I.A. Brigade Orderly Officer; —, Signals Officer.



A supply convoy on its way up the track to Nahakki Pass.
 Peshawar Brigade camp was down in the plains just right of picture. Nahakki village can be seen in the forefront.



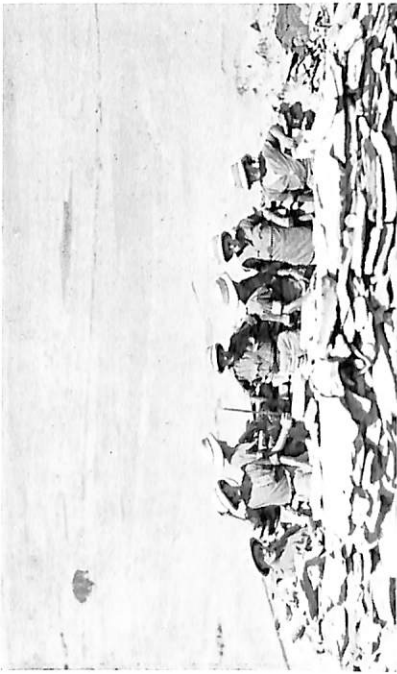
Digging our perimeter camp after arrival at Chalanai in September.



A "Hore Belisha" beacon at foot of the track leading up to Nahakki Pass. On the right half-way up hill, coolies working on the road to Nahakki.

[Photos by Meta Ram & Sons.]

MOHMAND OPERATIONS.



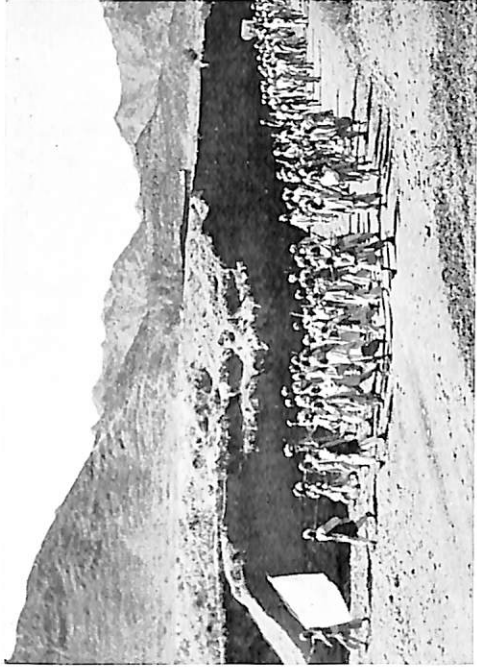
A picquet just above Wucha Jawar camp.



Side view of one of the picquets guarding Wucha Jawar.



The "Human Touch"



Tribesmen returning to their homes after the Peace Jirgah on 15th October. After crossing Nahakki Pass they ran into a battle going on between Peshawar Brigade and some locals!!

[Photos by Meia Ram & Sons.

come in to throw themselves on the mercy of Government, whose terms they were prepared to accept unconditionally. Pending the announcement of the final settlement, the jirga produced a number of rifles and hostages as a security for their good behaviour. Finally, on the 23rd, an agreement was reached, and the aerial bombardment having been called off, the tribes were told that they had permission to return to their homes.

From the foregoing it would appear that hostilities had come to an end. On 27th September, however, there were indications of the lashkar increasing in the west and 100 Afghans and 400 Kunhari were reported to have arrived in the Khapak area. Previous to this date Nowshera Brigade had encountered slight opposition when carrying out a water reconnaissance along the Wucha Jawar valley. On this occasion the Battalion acted as advance guard and picqueting troops to the Brigade, Section 2nd Light Tank Company and 3rd Light Battery (less one section) being placed under its command. During the advance and establishing of picquets no opposition was encountered, but as soon as the withdrawal was commenced attempts were made by the enemy to follow up, and the rear party and one section "D" (S.) Company came under fairly close range fire. Targets were engaged by the artillery and the withdrawal was successfully completed, covered by the light tanks. Major O. Price, who had recently arrived from the Depot, commanded the Battalion during this operation.

In spite of the peace negotiations referred to above, the sniping of Wucha Jawar and Nahakki camps continued regularly each night. On the night 28/29th September, therefore, the three brigades (Nowshera Brigade, Peshawar Brigade and 3rd Infantry Brigade) moved out to take up positions before daylight to enable Peshawar Brigade to round up the Muzi Kor area, and Nowshera Brigade the Wucha Jawar valley. 3rd Infantry Brigade started the day with a particularly successful ambush by 1/14 Punjab Regiment. This party took up its position by 00.30 hours and completely surprised a gang of about 40 men on their way to snipe Wucha Jawar camp. About 12 casualties were inflicted and two bodies, five rifles and a sword were picked up.

By 06.00 hours the brigades were established on the high ground which flanked both sides of the Wucha Jawar valley, no opposition having been encountered except by the 5th F.F.R. (Guides) who received a few shots as they climbed the last crest to Pt. 4080. This opposition was replied to by automatic fire under cover of which a company was established on Pt. 4080 itself. This hill proved to consist of much dead ground, in which the enemy collected for the best part of an hour within close range of the Company. At about 08.00 hours these enemy, several hundred in number, rushed the crest from three sides and drove the Company off after severe hand-to-hand fighting, the casualties of which fell into the hands of the tribesmen. Owing to the situation of the hill and the close nature of the fighting it was impossible to assist them by fire. When the situation clarified, this area was heavily shelled with very good effect, thus allowing the remainder of the Guides to withdraw. There were a number of attempts made to follow up Nowshera Brigade's withdrawal, but the excellent shooting of the six inch field and light batteries checked any such attempt. During the day the Battalion was called on to find two picquets and an escort to the field batteries and to Brigade H.Q. and later to cover the withdrawal of the forward troops from the valley below.

Enemy casualties (known) were reported as being 46 killed, 73 wounded and 25 missing. Our own casualties were British officers, 2 killed and 4 wounded; other ranks, 37 killed and 49 wounded.

Reports received indicated that the lashkar engaged was between 1,500 and 1,800 strong, including about 60 Kohistanis, who formed the personal bodyguard of Saiyid Abbas Abdshah of Islampur. These men were armed with long swords and daggers and were described as being "frightful ruffians and wild looking."

On 2nd October, under orders of the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, a fully representative jirga of the Khwaezai, Baezai, Utmanzai, Dawezai, Safis and Kamalis, were seen by the Force Commander and Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar. The attitude of

the jirga was extremely satisfactory. They were told that the road would be completed as far as Nahakki village, but no further; they were required to disperse their lashkars, to send away Afghan subjects and other outsiders, to cease hostilities towards Government and to be responsible for all unlawful actions of bad characters within their own tribes.

In view of the punishment already inflicted, it was announced that Government did not intend imposing any fine of money or rifles or to demand hostages. The jirga left declaring that they would comply with the orders of Government and would return for final settlement with H.E. the Governor when required. It is noteworthy that this was the first occasion on which the Khwaezai and Baizai sections came in to deal direct with Government.

Hostilities having ended, every endeavour was made to hurry up with the road. In addition to the coolies employed, all available men were armed with picks and shovels and worked daily under the expert guidance of the Sappers and Miners. For this a generous Government paid each man four annas per working day, the specialists, such as blacksmiths and masons, receiving double this amount.

On 15th October H.E. the Governor and the Army Commander, for the first time in history, saw a fully representative jirga of all the Mohmands, over 700 strong, near Wucha Jawar camp. The terms, already announced on 2nd October, were ratified, and again the attitude of the jirga was very satisfactory and submissive. H.E. the Governor explained that Government had abandoned as useless the old policy of inflicting petty fines upon a tribe which had shown itself unable to appreciate forbearance; and that the extension of the road to Nahakki, which the Mohmands had now seen, was a symbol of the new policy which had been adopted, and which it was in the power of the tribes themselves to regulate. The jirga was attended by all ranks not on duty, and the Battalion had the distinction of providing a guard of honour of 100 rank and file.

The withdrawal commenced on 31st October, on which date Peshawar Brigade withdrew from Nahakki to Ghalanai camp. On the following day Nowshera Brigade evacuated Wucha Jawar and, having spent the night 1st/2nd November also at Ghalanai, continued the march to Subhan Khwar the following day. From Ghalanai protection was afforded by 2nd Infantry Brigade ('Pindi), who withdrew to Katsai on 3rd November. All phases of the withdrawal were completed without incident.

Finally, Nowshera was reached on 5th November, the Battalion having marched across country to Charsadda, completing the last 39 miles in two days.

R. K. E.

Night of the 4th.

The C.S.M. prefaces his report with an effusive expression of pleasure at seeing me restored to health. Speaking for the company as a whole, he can honestly say that all ranks are over-joyed at my recovery, and the lack of spirit shown whilst practising the slow march with reversed arms has paid a fine tribute to my popularity.

However, everything has gone on quite satisfactorily during my absence. He has deviated slightly from the winter programme as laid down by headquarters, because he thought it would be a good idea if the troops were employed in cleaning the drill hall. The numbers on parade have rapidly decreased, but he thinks this is due to the weather. One subaltern has appeared once—to look for his pipe.

On the night of the 4th the main electric light in the hall died a natural death. Why it should suddenly fail is a mystery which has baffled him and enraged the Quartermaster, who had the bad taste to doubt his word.

That rickety chair in the canteen has gone at last. On the night of the 4th a policeman sat on it and the strain proved too great. A picture—the one of Napoleon

being helped out of a cab at Waterloo—was also included in the catastrophe, owing to the victim thoughtlessly enlisting its aid when climbing back to his feet. The remains have been preserved for my inspection.

On the same night, Pte. Higgs, whilst acting in the capacity of a waiter, fell over a policeman and broke seven glasses—all of which by a merciful dispensation of Providence—were empty at the time. Pte. Higgs sustained minor injuries, to which he added a little mental suffering by way of reproof.

A case of beer, ordered specially for the night of the 4th, was found to contain no fewer than fifteen bottles of flat beer, and as he, the C.S.M., was unable to report the matter to me, he took the liberty of speaking his mind to the wine and spirit merchant. The man, a very unpleasant type, refused to listen to either cool reason or warm abuse, and has threatened us with an action for slander. We have changed our wine and spirit merchant and he hopes it's all right.

The typewriter has gone to be repaired. On the night of the 4th a policeman, who was brought into the orderly room for a change of air, fell asleep on it, and all the keys became jammed through trying to register the entire alphabet simultaneously. The offending constable, he adds, apologised like a perfect gentleman and insisted on shaking hands to show there was no ill-feeling.

I find the C.S.M.'s continual reference to the night of the 4th intriguing. It seems to have been a memorable occasion, and the combination of breakages and policemen strikes me as being unusual. What, I demand, is the explanation?

The C.S.M. smiles one of his rare smiles and paws nervously at his moustache. He has some good news for me, he says. He has been looking forward to my return so that he could surprise and delight me with it. A fine feat has been achieved during my absence. For the very first time we have triumphed over the police small-bore rifle club. We have, according to the C.S.M., wiped their eyes for 'em good and proper.

This news is indeed amazing. The police team is the most formidable we have to meet; and my bewilderment increases when the C.S.M. reluctantly discloses the composition of our own team. It includes three of our worst shots and none of our best. Pte. Stubbs, one of its members, always closes his eyes and shoots by instinct; L/Cpl. Macginty, evidently a keen billiards player, likes to go in off the wall with a ricochet, and Pte. Dobbs firmly believes that by imparting a rotary motion to his weapon he is increasing his chances.

An inspection of the targets does nothing to lessen the mystery. After examining ours it seems incredible that those of the police can be any worse. But they are. Their crack shot has nothing on his at all except a huge thumb print and some blobs which suggest that the unhappy marksman has wept over it.

The C.S.M. thinks that perhaps the police were not at their best. They appeared to treat the contest too lightly. In fact it would not be exaggerating to say that there was a marked hilarity in their demeanour. Everybody noticed it. And before he forgets, there is a rather sad item of news to record.

He slips out of the orderly room and returns with a cardboard box full of broken glass. As he stirs the fragments with a thick finger, he has a tragic story to recount.

The glass, he informs me, represents the disintegrated remains of two bottles of whisky. Side by side they stood on the top shelf in the bar and, unknown to anybody, the vibration from passing traffic was all the time secretly working for their downfall. Gradually they crept nearer and nearer to the edge, until, on the night of the 4th . . .

I am afraid it will be a long time before we beat the police again; for I have decreed that the bottle of lime-juice, which has successfully resisted the vibration on that fatal shelf for more than three years, shall remain in splendid isolation as a monument to our victory and the virtues of temperance.

P. M. L.

Reminiscences of an Ex-Territorial Chaplain.

It is a somewhat serious undertaking for a "back number" far advanced in his 86th year to attempt to fill the rôle of a contributor to such a popular and well-known publication as THE IRON DUKE, especially when his previous experience of authorship has been confined to monthly paragraphs in a humble local parish magazine. So I crave at the outset the kindly indulgence of my readers if I seem to have obviously attained that period of life termed "my anecdotage."

My connection with "The Duke's Regiment" began in 1889 when the command of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion was held by Lt.-Col. E. P. Arnold Foster, who offered me the post of an a/chaplain, and attached me to the Burley-in-Wharfedale Company, as I was Vicar of Menston-in-Wharfedale. I was not entirely ignorant of volunteer duties, for as early as 1872 I had served for a time as a private in the ranks of the Cambridge University Rifles and had been with troops at the Easter Monday review at Brighton. It was not a very successful experience from a military standpoint, for, as far as I can remember, we of the C.U.R. Volunteers wandered about, somewhat aimlessly, "from morn till eve," and failed to join up with the forces to which we were nominally attached. However, in the familiar words of a well-known humorist, "We powthered up and down a bit and had a rattlin' day." In the autumn of that same year, serving again as a private in the C.U.R.V., we were brigaded with the Oxford University Rifles, the "Inns of Court," the "Artists" and some Regular units, including the 12th Lancers. One of the latter most considerately acted as my "guide, philosopher and friend," taking on the responsibility of batman, supervising my kit, cleaning my rifle, etc. We spent a happy fortnight at the autumn manœuvres on Salisbury Plain, where we were more or less licked into shape.

We received minute instructions on the subject of patrol and sentry duties, the saluting of officers, especially field officers, etc., and were so keenly anxious to display our efficiency that some few of us went the length of coming smartly to attention when on sentry go and presenting arms as we saluted even a mounted trooper who happened now and again to pass our post. During these 14 days, amongst other duties, it fell to my lot to act as tent-orderly, also as temporary assistant in the kitchen, and on one very stormy night, when all my comrades appeared to be peacefully sleeping, to face the wind and rain and turn out to slacken the guy-ropes of our tent, which was threatened with disaster.

As assistant cook I had met a comrade who had run down a hare and another who had knocked over a wood-pigeon. That day the meat supplied for the Regiment had gone bad, and a fresh supply had been provided at short notice just before we camped. It was fresh killed and therefore was only half-cooked. I added the hare and the wood-pigeon to our ration, but it was still quite underdone at dinner time. Next morning, about 5 a.m., I re-cooked both meat and game together, and we made a satisfactory breakfast.

After being tent-orderly, one day, about 7 p.m., I changed into my so-called full-dress kit and clean boots, etc. Just as I was setting out for an hour in the adjacent canteen, the adjutant looked in and told me that our transport horses, commonly designated "Cardwells" in compliment to the then War Minister, had broken down, and some of us were required to go down the hill and haul up the water-carts holding the camp supply. This involved filling the barrels, whilst standing in mud and puddle, and rope-hauling them back to our quarters. When the work was done "Lights out" had sounded, but the adjutant kindly lighted me to my tent and let me settle in between my sleeping comrades—we were eleven of us in each tent, and it was before the days of electric torches.

One of our most successful efforts during these autumn manœuvres was when we started one morning about 6 a.m. from camp, marched or doubled a good many miles, and intercepted a body of yeomanry who were on their way to join our opponents of the

Northern Division. They had dismounted, leaving their horses in charge of a few of their comrades, and were refreshing themselves inside a public-house on the main road. We surrounded and made them "prisoners of war," and having attached white linen "brassards" to their arms, sent them back to their local depot as being out of action, thus depriving them of the opportunity of joining their division or distinguishing themselves for the rest of the manoeuvres.

In 1872—December—I took Holy Orders, and as a curate at Middlesborough had no opportunity of Volunteering until in 1888 I was invited to go as a voluntary assistant chaplain to A/C Capt. Calvert of the 1st V.B. K.O.Y.L.I. (Wakefield), then commanded by Col. Albany Charlesworth. We were encamped for seven days on the Castle Hill, Scarborough, a very inadequate camping ground, on which in a previous year some West Riding artillery had done their gun-practice while camped there.

A story was current that on the second day of their practice at a target moored off the coast they were greatly delayed and embarrassed by the presence in the immediate vicinity of the target of an elderly man in a rowing boat, persistently paddling round the target. Unsuccessful efforts were made from the shore of the Castle Hill to warn him off by signals, and to flag him off from the danger zone, but these he persistently ignored. Eventually a boat was sent off from the shore to warn him of the risk he ran, and to clear him off. For a time he declined to obey the order, alleging as his reason that during the previous day's practice he had been an interested onlooker, and had come to the conclusion that the only place on the horizon where one might consider the risk they spoke of as negligible was in the immediate vicinity of the target. The story was current and popular that year, and I believe was never provocative of a libel action.

In 1889 as a chaplain to the 3rd V.B. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, we were encamped on the sands at Morecambe, where our night's rest for some seven days was considerably discounted by the attentions of the all-pervading sand-hoppers. It was in that year that I donned for the first time the regulation chaplain's uniform. It was a curious, and at times a distinctly embarrassing "Rig-out," consisting of a frock-coat and trousers of superfine black cloth, the former being ornamented (?) with a narrow inter-woven grey and black worsted braid on the breast and cuffs of the sleeves. It had the appearance of having hung for some time, when not in use, in a very damp cupboard and so irremediably mouldied. I speak of it as embarrassing, not I think unreasonably, for as I waited on Keighley Station platform to join the 3rd V.B. troop train for Morecambe, I was accosted by a young woman, who said, "Mister, what time's the next train for —?" I replied, rather shame-facedly, but I hope courteously, that I was sorry I could not tell her as I didn't know. She evidently felt herself aggrieved for she replied, somewhat irritably, "Ye doan't know. Well, then, ye ought to." My regulation kit had palpably suggested that I was a sort of super-platform official of the Midland Railway Company and wholly incompetent at that.

On a guest night in one of our subsequent camps, I think at Saltburn or Redcar, we were honoured by the presence of the G.O.C., a very distinguished and genial soldier. Whilst we were assembling in the ante-room before mess, the General, in conversation with our Colonel and others of us, mentioned that he thought he might safely claim to be the oldest Volunteer in point of lengthy service, of any of us, for he was a Volunteer before being gazetted to the Regular Army, as long ago as 1874. I ventured respectfully to submit that my first connection with Cambridge University Volunteers dated as far back as 1872, and the General took it quite nicely, saying that in the future he should not advance his claim to seniority if I was present.

On another occasion the brigade major, an artilleryman, related one of his experiences as field officer of the day. He addressed a sentry on duty, asking what were the instructions he had to remember and act upon. It was during the reign of Queen Victoria. The sentry replied, "Keep an eye on all Queen's property within sight of my post." "Good," said the major. Secondly, "In case of fire, alarm the guard." "Very good."

Thirdly, "Carefully exclude from the lines all field officers, prostitutes and other undesirable persons." The brigade major did not make any appreciative response to this, but said to us that he regretted to find himself in such questionable company.

S. H. H.

(To be continued.)

A Trip Round the British West Indies.

Being stationed in Barbados and having five and a half weeks' leave, I was naturally very anxious to see as much as I could of the neighbouring peoples and islands. I decided to go first to Jamaica by the Elders & Fyffe Line, which calls at Trinidad, Venezuela and Panama, and is at the same time the quickest means of getting to Kingston; the journey occupying eight days or only two days less than the voyage to England. I left Barbados on Sunday, 24th June, and arrived early next morning at Port-of-Spain, the capital of Trinidad. I was up early to see the entrance to the harbour, which consists of a series of straits through a line of small islands. These straits are called Bocas (from the Spanish *Boca*—Mouth). The small bays and inlets each have their own bungalows where the more wealthy people from Port-of-Spain spend their week-ends or short vacations.

The harbour at Port-of-Spain is very shallow, and steamers have to anchor some way out; there is, however, a plan being put into operation which will provide for a long mole with deep water allowing steamers to berth alongside.

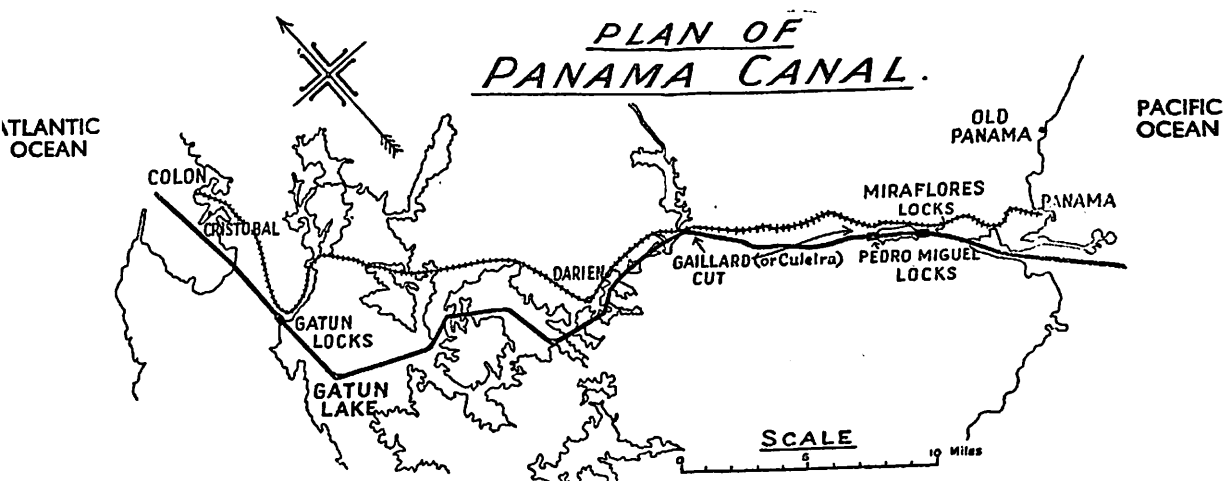
Trinidad itself is the largest of the British West Indies except Jamaica. It lies off the delta of the Orinoco and is rectangular in shape and about the size of Lancashire. There is little doubt that at one time it was connected with the mainland and mountains of the Spanish Main.

Trinidad is tropical and fairly mountainous, the highest points being just over 3,000 feet. I had 24 hours in Trinidad, and a letter of introduction to the Comptroller of Customs, who gave me a splendid drive across to the north-east coast. On the way we passed through jungle, sugar, cocoa and cocoa-nut plantations, and visited Bolandra Bay where there is a very good bathing beach. Although on this occasion I only had a day in Trinidad, I was fortunate enough to visit it again a few months later when taking part in the local inter-colonial rifle meeting. Trinidad gets its wealth and importance from its oil field, and ranks first in the Empire as an oil-producing country; other important and interesting features are the Pitch Lake and the Angostura Bitters factory. I also visited on this latter occasion the new waterworks and reservoir, which are being constructed in a valley in the jungle where a dam is being built.

Grape-fruit, oranges and limes are also grown, and I went over a very interesting factory where these fruits are graded, washed, ripened, coloured, waxed and polished and packed in crates for export. Port-of-Spain is very cosmopolitan and not unlike Singapore in its climate and amenities. There are three rugger clubs in addition to numerous cricket and football clubs, while the Country Club boasts some excellent tennis courts and a good restaurant and ball room. After spending a very enjoyable day and going to one of the cinemas, I re-embarked on the S.S. *Cavina* at midnight; we sailed at 8 a.m. next morning, again passing through the Bocas on our way to La Guayra, which is the port for Caracas, the capital of Venezuela.

La Guayra lies at the foot of precipitous mountains and is most picturesque from the sea, particularly in the early morning when the rising sun shines directly on the gaily coloured buildings and red soil of the mountains. The town was founded in 1588 and there is an old fort overlooking the harbour which was the scene of much fighting in the War of Independence. I got ashore soon after breakfast and chartered a car to take me up to Caracas. The distance is only 6½ miles as the crow flies, but by road, which rises to 4,000 feet, it is about 25 miles. The road is very well graded with an excellent surface and passes above the Pan-American Airways landing ground just outside La Guayra.

The latter town, like so many of its type which are picturesque from the sea, was uninviting at close quarters, with narrow, smelly streets and poor buildings. Caracas, on the other hand, was clean and well kept and had some fine streets and roads in its residential area. Knowing that there was an old school contemporary of mine in the oil company at Caracas, I looked him up and he took me out to the Country Club, which is one of the best I have ever been to, in a lovely situation 3,000 feet up, with big mountains rising in the background—not unlike the golf club at Kuala Lumpur. It had a good nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and a swimming pool with very good changing and recreation rooms after the Spanish style. After an excellent lunch at the club, we went for a short drive and then it was time for me to return to the ship, my friend advising me to run along the coast for a short distance and have tea at the Miramar Hotel, which is a seaside and week-end resort for the Venezuelans, and to which American visitors also go. I did this and caught my ship with five minutes to spare, and watched the mountains of the Spanish Main sink with a glorious sunset.



Two whole days at sea and then we arrived at Cristobal, the entrance to the Panama Canal. Here I was met by an officer of the American Army, the A.D.C. to the General, to whom the American Consul in Barbados had very kindly written. He asked me what I particularly wanted to do and if I had any plans, and I told him I wanted to see the Gatun Lock and then get across by land to Panama and see the old city. I saw from the time schedule of Isthmian Airways that I could get a 'plane back just in time to catch the ship. He said that I would have to go by train from Gatun to Panama as there was no road, but that we could just do it, and that he would also have time to show me the military cantonment, the seaplane and submarine base, and the officers' club. I introduced the A.D.C. to Colonel and Mrs. Trenchard, who were making the round trip from England on six weeks' leave. Colonel Trenchard, who is Chief Engineer Western Command, had previously commanded the Training Battalion when the 1st Battalion played them in the Army Rigger Cup, so we had plenty to talk about.

We all started off in the A.D.C.'s car, having made an early breakfast, and visited the military headquarters and various places of interest in Colon and Cristobal, which are modern cities of the American type and rather hot. Then we went out the five miles to Gatun and had a good view of the Canal and Gatun lake, the dam and spillways. We were taken across the lock and up into the control tower.

The lock consists of three tiers of double locks, so that steamers can be sent simultaneously in either direction, the whole operation being controlled electrically from the central tower. The control house contains a horizontal switch-board on which is a model of each gate, valve, fender, chain, etc. Alongside the model—for example of the leaf of a gate—is a switch by which the actual gate leaf in the lock is operated and by a system of gearing also operates the model. This arrangement enables the control house operator to see at a glance the position of any piece of equipment and whether it is moving properly. Should the electrical equipment fail, the machinery can be operated by hand. After an all-too-hurried visit to Gatun, we said good-bye to our very obliging guide and caught the train to Panama. The railway runs along the side of the Gatun lake with its dead tree tops poking out of the water, illustrating its artificiality, then beside the Canal through swamps and low foothills covered with jungle, which made me appreciate the tremendous achievement of the Canal.

Alighting at Panama City, we hired a car and drove the $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles or so to the ruins of old Panama, which was sacked by the English pirate Morgan who, after landing at Colon in 1668, marched across the Isthmus by way of the old treasure trail, defeated the Spaniards, sacked and burnt the city, and returned without his guns but with his wagons and limbers laden with treasure, some of which he sent as a present to King James, in return for which he was given a free pardon and made Governor of Jamaica. After gazing at the Pacific for a short while and trying to realise that we were further East than our ship in the Atlantic, we returned to New Panama, which is a hot, busy town, filled with every race and colour, red, white, black and yellow men and every combination of them all. We caught our 'plane—an eight-seater seaplane—with ten minutes to spare and flew along the south bank of the Canal at an altitude of about 1,200-1,500 feet. The 'plane was full and I was lucky to be put, not in the passenger compartment, but in the seat next to the pilot, from where I got an excellent view, the only disappointment being the temporary confiscation of my cameras. The air line distance from end to end of the Canal is 43 miles and takes about half an hour, while the steamer takes eight hours to traverse the Canal. About 5,000 steamers make the passage every year. There is a military garrison at each end of the Canal, guards on each lock, and numerous oil tanks, guns and fortifications, some of which can be picked out clearly from the air, but the majority of which are concealed from the south, no 'plane being allowed to fly along the north bank of the Canal. After doing a little shopping in Colon, I had to run to catch my ship, which I did with about three minutes in hand, having had a very pleasant day packed full of interest.

(To be continued.)

SELIM.

Notices.

SANDHURST OFFICERS' CLUB.

A club, to be known as the "Sandhurst Officers' Club," has been formed for all officers who at any time have served or are serving as members of the R.M.C. staff.

The object of the club is to encourage and enable past and present officers of the R.M.C. staff to keep in touch with each other.

There is a nominal life subscription of 5s. All officers, as above, who are willing to join the club should forward their subscriptions, together with a permanent address, to: The Chaplain, Hon. Secretary, Sandhurst Officers' Club, R.M.C., Camberley, and should state the dates of the tenure of their appointment on the R.M.C. staff.

It is intended to hold an annual re-union of members when "Past and Present" cricket, tennis and golf matches will be played.

The date of the first "Re-union" will be notified later.

A TRIP ROUND THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.



N.E. Coast Trinidad.



Near Toco, Trinidad.



Road La Guayra—Caracus.



Section of Gatun Lock, Panama Canal.



Ruins of Old Panama.



General John Elias Collings, C.B.



Medals and Decorations of General J. E. Collings, C.B.

- Sardinian.
- Legion of Honour.
- Fifth Class of the Medjidie. C.B.
- Abyssinian.
- Crimean.
- Turkish.

Echoes of the Abyssinian Campaign, 1868.

We are indebted to Mrs. Ellison, step-daughter of the late General John Elias Collings, C.B., for permission to publish correspondence, inherited from her step-father, dealing with the Abyssinian Campaign in 1868. As mentioned in Depot News on page 18, Mrs. Ellison has very generously presented the Regiment with General Collings' orders and medals, as well as documents and correspondence, some of which latter we reproduce below.

General Collings joined the 33rd Foot as an ensign on 21st June, 1839, and served with them through the Crimean War, being present at the actions of Alma, Inkermann, Siege of Sebastopol, and Assault on the Redan, for which, in addition to receiving the Crimean medal with clasps, he was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel, and was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour. He also received the Sardinian medal, fifth class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal. On 17th November, 1857, he was appointed to the command of the 33rd, which had been sent to India in the previous August from Mauritius to take part in the closing scenes of the Indian Mutiny. Colonel Collings held the command until 28th October, 1867, when, just as the 33rd were embarking for Abyssinia, he was promoted brigadier-general, and appointed to the command of the 2nd Brigade of the force being dispatched to Abyssinia under Sir Robert Napier. The 33rd formed part of the 2nd Brigade and took part in the march to and assault of Magdala on 13th April, 1868. For his services General Collings was mentioned in despatches and made a C.B. He was placed on half-pay on 28th October, 1868, promoted Lt.-General 18th September, 1879, and General 1st July, 1881.

To appreciate the following correspondence the reader is advised to study the events of the campaign given in Lee's History of the 33rd Foot.

The march to Magdala started from Zoolla on the Red Sea early in January, 1868. Zoolla is near Massawa, in what is now Italian Eritrea, and it is interesting to note that the route taken by Napier is the same as that being taken by part of the Italian forces in the present campaign.

The first letter printed below is in the handwriting of Sir Robert Napier (later Lord Napier of Magdala); the date of it is unfortunately torn off, though the signature is intact. It would appear to have been written about the end of March, 1868. The handwriting of some of the documents is difficult to decipher, and where there is any doubt, question marks in brackets are inserted after such doubtful words.

Dear General Collings,

I have heard from a private letter that the people of the country at Antalo plundered the Bazar[?] people, their own countrymen, on the 21st and announced their intention of plundering the mules; but did not do so.

I regret very much to hear of this occurrence, and of the burning of the grass around you, as evincing the disaffection of someone of influence, or that the people presume on your small garrison. There are four companies of the 45th on their way to you, and you may retain the Headquarters of the 10th Cavalry, and as much of the Regiment as reaches you. Gen. Malcolm will also send you what he can spare of his garrison. The 4th Brigade is on its way from Bombay, and I trust the 26th [?] Regiment will arrive at Zula and be sent up. You have of course reported the circumstance to General Malcolm. In future you must have a proper guard at the Market, and a person on the path [?] of Murchá-Wurka [?] and of Balgudden-Medhen [?] to prevent any men coming with arms to the Market.

If the people of the Market are plundered at our Bazar [?] of course they will not come.

I have no doubt I shall hear from you an account of the business, and what steps Rassam's agents have taken in consequence.

I trust it will not turn out more than a small riot, but it will not do to permit it to occur again.

The Bengal Battery of Artillery is ordered up, and with the four companies of the 45th and the 10th Cavalry will make your force of respectable strength.

We are about a week's march from Magdala—all well.

Yours very sincerely, R. NAPIER.

THE IRON DUKE

From Sir R. Napier
To Sir Stafford Northcote, India Office, London.
Headquarters and first Brigade at Abdicoom ten miles from the Yedda River. Second Brigade twelve miles in rear, with Elephant batteries. Will concentrate at Sindiay on left bank of the Yedda, while Theodore's road across is being repaired. Distance from river Bechalo twenty miles, from Magdala thirty miles.

Latest news from Prisoners twenty-fifth of March—all well.
Troops all well—April 1st.

This message to be forwarded to Zoolla by wire and thence to the Telegraph office at Suez.
By order, M. R. DILLON, Mil. Sec.

April 1st, 1868.

To The Officer Comdg. at Antalo.

From Sir Robert Napier
To Sir Stafford Northcote, India Office, London.
Bashilo, April 9th.

I hope to-morrow to take position under Magdala.
Magdala more formidable than anticipated. Country difficult.
I have been detained three days waiting coming of troops and collecting provisions. Provisions now coming in freely from neighbourhood of Dalanta.
I have written to Theodore. No reply received.
Belief general that he will fight.
All well.

By order of Sir Robert Napier, M. R. DILLON (Mil. Sec.).

Telegram

From Magdala
From Sir R. Napier

To London
To Secy. of State for India.

Yesterday morning descended three thousand nine hundred feet to Bashilo River and approached Magdala with First Brigade to reconnoitre it. Theodore opened fire with seven guns from out work one thousand feet above us, and three thousand five hundred men of garrison made a gallant sortie which was repulsed with a very heavy loss and the enemy driven into Magdala. Infantry closed with Bayonet. Steel guns and Rockets did good service. British loss twenty wounded, including Captain Roberts, King's Own Regiment, severely in arm. Theodore has now sent Lieutenant Prideaux and Mr. Flad to my camp to offer terms. I demand unconditional surrender of European Captives. Two of the leading Chiefs killed yesterday. Health of the Troops continues excellent. Second Brigade joined me during last night.

Under Magdala. By order of H.E. the Commander-in-Chief.
9.45 p.m. 11th April, 1868.

M. R. DILLON, Lt.-Col., Military Secretary.

Telegram

From Sir R. Napier
To the Secretary of State for India.

14th April, 1868.

Theodore's Army much disheartened by the severe losses of the 10th instant. A portion of the Chiefs surrendered the most formidable position of Selassie, and many thousand fighting men laid down their arms. Theodore retired to Magdala with all who remained faithful. Magdala taken by assault on the thirteenth, under cover of Armstrongs, steel guns, eight-inch mortars and Rocket Battery. Ascent to gates most formidable. Theodore killed defending to the last. Our loss small. Army will return immediately.

By order, M. R. Dillon, Lt.-Col., Military Secretary.

ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

GENERAL ORDERS.

By His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Adjutant General's Office, Head Quarters, Camp Dalanta Plain, 20th April, 1868.

"Soldiers and Sailors of the Army of Abyssinia."

The Queen and the people of England entrusted to you a very arduous and difficult Expedition; to release our Countrymen from a long and painful Captivity, and to vindicate the honour of our Country, which had been outraged by Theodore, King of Abyssinia.

I congratulate you with all my heart, on the noble way in which you have fulfilled the Commands of our Sovereign.

You have traversed, often under a tropical Sun, or amidst storms of rain and sleet, four hundred miles of mountainous and rugged country.

You have crossed ranges of mountains (many steep and precipitous), more than ten thousand feet in altitude, where your supplies could not keep pace with you.

In four days you passed the formidable Chasm of the Beshilo, and, when within reach of your enemy, though with scanty food, and some of you even for many hours without either food or water, you defeated the Army of Theodore, which poured down upon you from its lofty Fortress in full confidence of Victory.

A Host of many thousands have laid down their arms at your feet.

You have captured and destroyed upwards of thirty pieces of Artillery, many of great weight and efficiency, with ample stores of Ammunition.

You have stormed the almost inaccessible Fortress of Magdala, defended by Theodore and a desperate remnant of his Chiefs and Followers.

After you forced the entrance to his Fortress, Theodore, who himself never showed mercy, distrusted the offer of it held out to him by me, and died by his own hand.

You have released not only the British Captives but those of other friendly Nations.

You have unloosed the chains of more than ninety of the principal Chiefs of Abyssinia.

Magdala, on which so many victims have been slaughtered, has been committed to the flames, and now remains only a scorched Rock.

Our complete and rapid success is due, Firstly—To the mercy of God, whose Hand, I feel assured, has been over us in a just cause; Secondly—To the high spirit with which you have been inspired!

Indian Soldiers have forgotten the prejudices of Race and Creed to keep pace with their European Comrades.

Never did an Army enter on a War with more honourable feelings than yours. This it is that has carried you through so many fatigues and difficulties; your sole anxiety has been for the moment to arrive when you could close with your enemy.

The remembrance of your privations will pass away quickly; your gallant exploit will live in History.

The Queen and the people of England will appreciate and acknowledge your services; on my part, as your Commander, I thank you for your devotion to your duty, and the good discipline you have maintained throughout.

Not a single complaint has been made against a Soldier, of fields injured, or villagers wilfully molested, either in person or property.

We must not, however, forget what we owe to our Comrades who have been labouring for us in the sultry climate of Zoolla,—the Pass of Koomaylee, or in the monotony of the posts which maintained our communications. One and all would have given everything they possessed to be with us; they deserve our Gratitude.

I shall watch over your safety to the moment of your re-embarkation; and shall to the end of my life remember with pride, that I have Commanded you.

R. NAPIER, Lieutenant General, Commander-in-Chief, Abyssinia.

To Brigadier General J. Collings,

Commanding Antalo Garrison, Abyssinian Exped. Force.

[We print below some reminiscences of those days, sent us by a friend now in his 91st year.—ED.]

Theodore was as mad as a hatter. He applied to have English artizans to teach his people handicraft. These were sent. He took offence about something and imprisoned them. Lord Russell—I suppose the most incompetent Foreign Minister we ever had—dug Hormuzd Rassam, a Chaldean by birth, out of Mosul, and sent him to Theodore's court at Magdala to negotiate their release. Rassam had conducted the excavations at Nineveh for Layard most successfully. He understood the tribesmen whom he employed, kept them at work and in good humour, and was most popular with them. I met him first at Damascus, two or three years after his release. He had married a young English wife, and they used to joke about him in the hotel—"the most expensive man in the world; cost the country six millions."

I next saw him two or three years later at Mosul. I was on my raft on my way down to Baghdad, and I stayed with him at his beautiful house at Mosul. He came down with me on the raft to Nimroud, twenty miles below, where he showed me the excavations. The tribesmen met us, we fired the pitch stream, had rather a weird night, and parted next morning. It was agreed that I should ride back from Baghdad to Mosul, and cross the desert together to Aleppo, which we did.

Rassam performed his job at Mosul very well; he understood the Assyrian tribesmen thoroughly, and knew how to handle them; but a knowledge of Asiatics does not make a man competent to deal with Africans.

Rassam, however, was sent to negotiate the release, and shortly after his arrival had fetters put on his feet. I have seen the fetters: two circlets, a link about three inches long to each, connected by a ring; so that he could hardly get his feet more than nine or ten inches apart. These were not taken off until his release 18 months later.

Theodore was a man of overweening conceit, claiming descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. He considered himself superior to all the kings of the earth. It is said that he sent our Queen a proposal of marriage, and rage at the answer, or no answer, that he received caused him to clap into prison all of her subjects on whom he could lay his hands. Rassam's life during these 18 months was "not a happy one." He told me that one morning Theodore would send for him and tell him to prepare for instant death; another, he would say, "Mr. Rassam, I love you, you are my best friend, I cannot think what makes me treat you like this."

In the meantime there was great indignation in England, and it was said our prestige was suffering. To imprison workmen was one thing, to touch the sacred person of an envoy was another. Months passed, nothing done. I asked my one Whig uncle why. "Can't get at him," was the reply. Then the order was given; the soldiers and sailors took the job out of the hands of the politicians, and things moved rapidly. General Napier, who had done well in the Frontier passes of India, was given command. The regiments whose turn it was were warned, and in a very short time the expedition started. They had a small railway in stock at Woolwich which they took out. Fortunately there was no *Daily Mail*; there was no fuss, no sensational posters. The men who knew how the thing should be done, did it.

I was a Volunteer at the time, but not only we, but also the Militia, had muzzle-loaders. The Army had just had Sniders, which, I think, were the old rifles converted. A great deal of that was being done; my father had his own old gun converted.

A specimen of the way in which difficulties were met is afforded by what took place just after the troops were landed. Water was wanted for the mules. A ship was moored as close as possible, a pipe-line was laid from the ship's boiler to a drinking trough, and the condensed water drawn from the sea was sent along it. They made a railway for the first six miles, until they reached the foot of the mountain passes. Then they marched steadily up, leaving posts at different distances. I met the man once who was left in charge of the last post twenty miles from Magdala where he had to remain until the returning force picked him up again; hard luck for him.

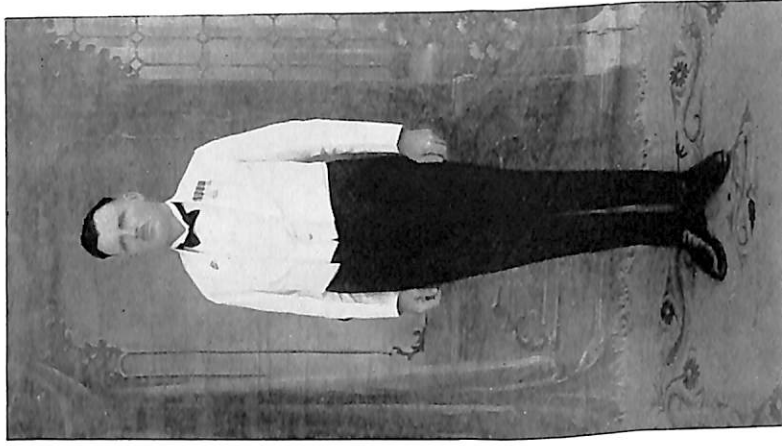
They collected the prisoners, stormed Magdala, situated on a precipitous hill; killed Theodore; turned round, marched down again, re-embarked, leaving the railway as not worth the trouble of removal, and came home again. Little fuss, no triumph, no "mafficking."

Your Regiment that stormed Magdala was of very different composition to what it is now; young recruits, and old soldiers of more than 25 years' service, many unable to read or write. . . . The old order passed away and gave place to the new. Yet while admitting the absolute necessity of the change, I am glad that the Abyssinian expedition, and the quiet, efficient way it was carried out, when after a year's vacillation, the order was once given, demonstrated to future generations that though the Army of those days became obsolete, it never was effete.

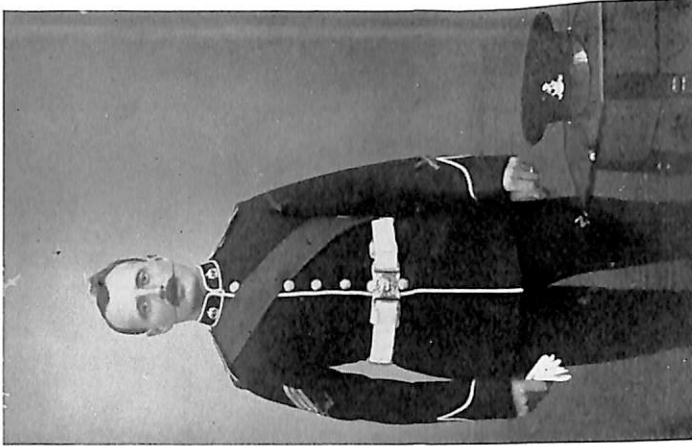
Our Celebrities.

R.S.M. F. ALLSOP, 1ST BATTALION.

R.S.M. F. Allsop enlisted in July, 1919, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Pembroke Dock. He went with the foreign service details from Sheffield in December, 1919, and joined the 1st Battalion at Kantara, serving with them in Egypt, Gibraltar, Turkey, Ireland and England. In 1923 he was posted to the Depot for a tour of duty which lasted until 1927. Shortly after his return to the 1st Battalion he was appointed



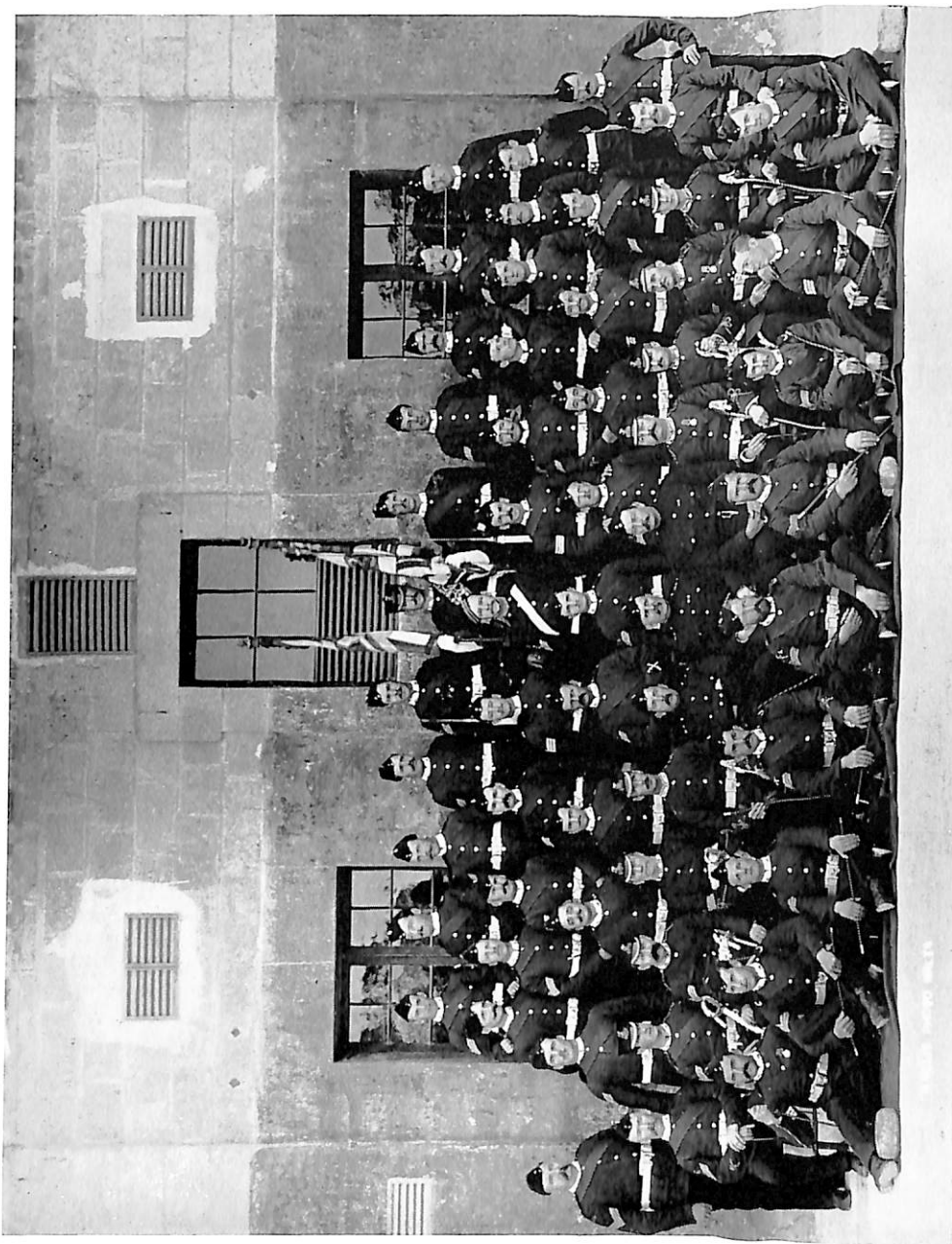
R.S.M. W. E. Brenchley, 2nd Battalion.



The late C.S.M. H. Cott.
(See page 73).



R.S.M. F. Allsop, 1st Battalion.



SERGEANTS' MESS, 1st BATTALION, MALTA, 1896.

Left to right. Back row.—Sgt. ALLEN, Sgt. CASSIDY, Sgt. HEAP, Sgt. JOLLY, C/Sgt. GRIFFITHS, Dr.-Maj. CLARKE, C/Sgt. WHATMUFF, Sgt. PARKINSON, Sgt. SIMMONDS, Sgt. BAXTER, Sgt. HART.
 Second row.—Sgt. LLOYD, Sgt. WILMAN, Sgt. CARROLL, Sgt. GEORGE, L/Sgt. ANNIS, A.S.S. CALBRAITH, L/Sgt. BOTTOMLEY, Sgt. WATTERSON, Sgt. TUCK, L/Sgt. HEATON, L/Sgt. MOORE, L/Sgt. KNOWLES.
 Third row.—Sgt. HARE, Sgt. EVANS, C/Sgt. BROOK, C/Sgt. WALLER, C/Sgt. HALL, C/Sgt. THOMPSON, C/Sgt. OLIVER, C/Sgt. SUGDEN, L/Sgt. DIMBLEBY, Sgt. ROLLISON, Sgt. TROUP.
 Fourth row.—Sgt. WATTS, Sgt. MCGOVERN, Sgt. Mr. Tailor CRAVE, Q.M.S. BROWN, S.M. KEARNS, CAPT. F. J. DeGEX, Lt.-Col. C. CONOR, Lt. W. SEAMAN, Band-Mr. NEILL, Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) CARROLL, Sgt. DOWD, Band-Sgt. THOMAS, Sgt. FAWCETT.
 Front row.—L/Sgt. KING, Sgt. LISTER, Sgt. JOHNSON, Sgt. JONES, Sgt. BEE, Sgt. McMAHON, L/Sgt. BERRINGTON, L/Sgt. CADMAN, Sgt. LIDDEMORE.

to the Army Technical School (Boys), Chepstow, as acting C.S.M. He returned to the 1st Battalion in March, 1931, for promotion to C.Q.M.S., and was promoted C.S.M. in 1934 and R.S.M. in October, 1935.

It will be seen that R.S.M. Allsop's rise has been very rapid, and he must surely be one of the first R.S.Ms. without war service. We wish him the best of luck in his new rank and a continued rise in due course.

R.S.M. W. BRENCHLEY, 2ND BATTALION.

R.S.M. W. Brenchley enlisted in the Grenadier Guards at the beginning of 1915. Transferring to the Guards Machine Gun Regiment in 1916, he stayed with them until their disbandment in 1920, when he was transferred back to the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. He saw service in the Great War and afterwards in Turkey and Egypt, transferring to the "Dukes" as R.S.M. in February, 1934, since when he has seen quite a lot more service. States his height was 6ft. 1in., but since joining the "Dukes" is down to 6ft.

THE REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL.

CAPT. A. G. Smith and Lt. W. Clarke represented the Regiment at the Armistice Day service in York Minster on 11th November, 1935. A chaplet of poppies purchased from the British Legion Poppy Factory was placed by them in the Regimental Chapel on behalf of all Battalions of the Regiment.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance brought forward 1.1.35	...	34 5 3	Upkeep of Lamp of Remembrance, oil, etc.	...	10 8 1
Subscriptions	...	54 4 6	Gratuities, Chapel sextons	...	4 0 0
Receipts from box in Chapel	...	10 17 2	Subscription to, and printing in, THE IRON DUKE	...	1 9 0
Children's Flower Fund, per R.S.M. Smith and R.S.M. Allsop	...	1 5 6	Medici Society, storage of Histories	...	0 11 8
Interest on deposit	...	0 19 10	British Legion Poppy Factory, 11.11.35	...	2 2 0
Sale of Histories	...	0 6 0	Field of Remembrance, Westminster	...	1 1 0
			Postage, Hon. Treasurer	...	0 1 6
			Balance credit	...	82 5 0
Total		<u>£101 18 3</u>	Total		<u>£101 18 3</u>

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at bank	...	81 0 9	Due to Children's Flower Fund	...	97 11 3
Cash with Hon. Treasurer	...	1 4 3	Balance credit of Fund	...	184 13 9
On deposit at Messrs. Lloyds Bank, 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1	...	200 0 0			
Total		<u>£282 5 0</u>	Total		<u>£282 5 0</u>

N.B.—An additional sum of approximately £74 is held by the O.C. 4th Battalion on deposit for the credit of the Minster Fund.
Littlecroft, West Clandon.
8th January, 1936.

C. W. G. INCE, (Major),
Hon. Treasurer.

Personalia.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's, Worplesdon, on 10th October, 1935, of Capt. C. K. T. Faithfull, second son of the late Colonel H. T. Faithfull and Mrs. Faithfull, of Yately, to Jane, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Bliss, of Raddon Lodge, Worplesdon Hill, Woking.

Mr. J. W. Paling has sent us a letter he received recently from Mr. R. Grady from Toronto. Mr. Grady, who was sergeant drummer of the 1st Battalion, went out to Canada some five years ago, and joined the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. He mentioned several old Duke's men he has met out there: Mr. E. Abrams, who was a colour-sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, and who has served as quartermaster of the Queen's Rangers, Canadian Militia; Mr. P. Keates, late of the 1st Battalion, who married "Snowball" Howarth's widow. "Snowball" will be remembered by many old members of the 1st Battalion as the fair-haired drummer boy who accompanied the 1st Battalion to South Africa in 1899. Keates is R.S.M. of the Queen's Rangers, and Leslie Howarth, "Snowball's" son, is a sergeant in the same corps. Two other old 1st Battalion men Mr. Grady met, are Mr. F. Rainbow, the ex-heavy-weight boxing champion, and Mr. J. McManus, an old rugby half-back, who was badly gassed in the Great War. Mr. Grady mentions that last year when the Kneller Hall Band was out there he entertained two of them who had been band boys in the Regiment: Student W. J. Atkins, late 2nd Battalion, now bandmaster of the Wiltshire Regiment at Singapore, and Student J. Wallace, late 1st Battalion. Mr. Grady's daughter, Gertrude, was, when the former wrote, about to go out to Singapore to be married to Bandmaster W. J. Atkins. Mr. Grady had also had a visit from Capt. L. M. C. Collins, who served with the 6th Battalion in the War.

We have to thank Mr. Maurice Hill for a copy of the souvenir programme of the Leeds Armistice Festival of Remembrance, held at the Paramount Theatre, Leeds, on Sunday, 10th November, 1935. Mr. Hill is not only editor of the souvenir programme, which is, as usual, a very fine production, containing many interesting war photographs, but in addition acted as vice-chairman of the Festival, and had the arduous duty of managing 130 performers, a heavy task to be carried out in his spare time in the evenings and at week-ends. The Festival was a great success, every seat in the theatre being sold, and over £100, which included £20 profit on the sale of programmes, was handed over to charity. Mr. Hill mentions that the rôle of Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., in the pageant was ably taken by ex-drummer J. W. Devine, who served with the 1st Battalion in Dover, Malta and the South African War, and with the 2nd Battalion in France, and the Durham L.I. in North Russia. Miss Beatrice Steele, daughter of ex-R.Q.M.S. Steele, late 1st Battalion, took the leading lady's rôle of "Spirit of West Yorkshire." Mr. Hill says: "Like myself, she rather regretted that it was not a pageant of the 33rd and 76th we were putting on, but of course Leeds is rather out of our own recruiting area; three-fifths of the Leeds men killed in the Great War belonged to The West Yorkshire Regiment."

In a letter to the Colonel of the Regiment, Conductor J. Lancashire, I.A.O.C., writing from Allahabad, mentions that Mr. Longbottom, who was senior corporal in the 1st Battalion in Ambala in 1908, is now head of the list of warrant officers in the Indian Army Service Corps, and should be getting his commission as lieutenant and assistant commissary shortly. He was in "H" Company in the 1st Battalion, and served through the South African War and was wounded. Conductor Lancashire recently met another

ex-member of the Regiment in Allahabad, ex-Pte. Carruthers, who retired from the 2nd Battalion when they were in Rangoon, and went on the railways, from which he has now retired. He has now taken a post in the Ordnance Club in Allahabad.

Yarns by Another Old Soldier.

No. 1.—INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATION.

When we were stationed in Barbados there was one famous character in the Regiment, Pte. Gallagher, who was usually on defaulters when he wasn't in the guard room for drunkenness; there it usually took the whole of the guard to get him inside the prisoners' room, the said Gallagher being a very powerful man and mighty obstreperous in his cups.

One night, having by good luck finished his defaulters' drill, he decided that it was time he paid the natives a call in Bridgetown, so he proceeded to the town forthwith. Having had a royal time, he started off for barracks again, and on his way he passed the house of the Venezuelan Consul, in whose garden there was a flag-pole with the Venezuelan flag floating proudly in the breeze. Pte. Gallagher spotted this and took a violent dislike to it and, having reconnoitred the position, invaded the garden, scrambled up the flag-pole and removed the flag. All might have been well with him if he had left it at that, but having observed its bareness, he decided that another flag should fly in its place; so he divested himself of his dirty grey shirt, climbed the pole again and affixed it to the mast-head. Unfortunately for him, he had forgotten that the said shirt had his regimental number emblazoned on it in black type (per quartermaster's stores) and this was his undoing.

In the morning the Consul, on going to the window, was horrified to see a soldier's dirty grey shirt floating proudly in the breeze in place of his national emblem. The shirt having been hauled down, it was forwarded to the Regiment with a most indignant letter to the Commanding Officer. The shirt was then inspected and Pte. Gallagher's regimental number having been duly found stamped thereon, he was called upon to give an explanation as to how it had left his back and placed itself in such an unorthodox position. The explanation offered not being satisfactory, Pte. Gallagher was placed in durance vile forthwith.

The Colonel had to write a letter of apology to the Consul, and Pte. Gallagher had to pay for his evening's sport in the stone jug.* No international complications followed.

BOWS AND ARROWS.

Obituary.

We regret to have to record the following deaths:—

BROWN.—On 1st September, 1935, at St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, William Brown, aged 58 years. Mr. Brown enlisted in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on 19th February, 1897, and after a short period with the 1st Battalion, then stationed at Malta, he joined the 2nd Battalion in Bangalore. He served with that Battalion until its return to England in November, 1905. Whilst in India he obtained a certificate as gymnastic instructor, and acted as an instructor with the Battalion until he was posted to the recently formed Special Reserve Battalion in 1908. He was discharged at his own request in April, 1910, in order to take up an appointment as P.T. instructor at Messrs. Courtalds, Coventry, with which firm he remained until the outbreak of the War. In September, 1914, he joined the 9th Warwickshire Regiment, and served with that Battalion in Gallipoli, where he was severely wounded. On recovery he served with The K.O.Y.L.I. and the 1st Battalion The Buffs in Ireland, till his discharge to pension in April, 1920. He was afterwards employed as instructor to the Boys' Welfare Club,

* The troops' name for the military prison in Barbados.

B.D.A., Bradford, where he remained till the club was closed down, and was then employed in the works of the B.D.A. For the last few years and up to the time of his death he had been employed as steward of the Little Horton Cycling Club.

BRUZAUD.—On 9th December, 1935, in Oldham Infirmary, Major A. S. Bruzaud, R.A.M.C. Dr. Bruzaud joined the 7th Battalion as medical officer very shortly after its formation in 1908. He was able to bring to it, in connection with a St. John's Ambulance class, an exceptionally well-trained body of stretcher-bearers, who did very valuable work for the Battalion during the War. Capt. Bruzaud, as he then was, went out with the Battalion in April, 1915, and stayed with it till the end of that year. Early in 1916 he was transferred to a base hospital where he worked for the rest of the War, receiving a French decoration, the existence of which he would never explain except by some humorous and obviously untrue story. After the War he returned to his practice in Greenfield, which he continued, struggling for many years against failing health, to the time of his death.

CHURCHMAN.—On 28th December, 1935, at his home, 29 Brougham Street, Skipton, Capt. John Churchman, D.C.M., late 2nd, 3rd and 6th Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 68. Capt. Churchman was born at Upper Holloway, London, in 1867 and enlisted in the 2nd Battalion on 12th December, 1885, at the age of 18. He joined the Battalion at Aldershot after a few weeks at the Depot, and in 1886 went out with them to Bermuda, serving there and at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in Jamaica. He reached the rank of sergeant at the age of 26, which was quick promotion for those days. He later came home and was posted to the permanent staff of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion, and went out with them to the South African War in 1900, in which he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.C.M. In April, 1903, he was posted as colour-sergeant instructor to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment (now the 6th Battalion T.A.) at Skipton, and in September of that year was appointed acting sergeant-major. In June, 1911, he was appointed lieutenant and quartermaster of the 6th Battalion. He went out to France with them in 1915 and served continuously throughout the War, being mentioned in despatches in 1916, and being promoted captain on 1st July, 1917. He came home with the cadre to Skipton in 1919, and continued as quartermaster until November, 1924, when he retired on pension after 39 years of exemplary service. Even then he did not sever his connection with the Battalion for, to quote *The West Yorkshire Pioneer*, "he continued in the capacity of commanding officer's clerk until the beginning of last year, when he retired altogether on account of ill-health. In addition to the D.C.M., he held both the Queen's and King's South African Medals, the 1914-15 Star, General Service Medal, the Victory Medal, King George's Coronation Medal, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Two of his sons also served in the Great War, and one of them, Cpl. Jack Churchman, made the supreme sacrifice.

"After the War Capt. Churchman became deeply concerned about the welfare of ex-service men, and in 1921 he was actively concerned in the foundation of the Skipton branch of the British Legion, of which he became hon. secretary the following year. After he had relinquished the position in 1934 owing to failing health, he was made an honorary member of the Legion in recognition of his splendid work, being presented with a framed certificate of membership in February last. It was a well deserved tribute and one that was much appreciated. Up to this year he had shouldered the burden of organising the Poppy Day collections, and the gratifying results achieved are perhaps the best testimony to the thoroughness of his work in this direction."

In addition, he did much good work for the town in which he lived, being a Councillor of the Skipton Urban District Council, and serving on many committees, to some of which he acted as chairman.

The following tribute to him appeared in *The West Yorkshire Pioneer* :—"The death of Capt. Churchman will be regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He was a man of sterling qualities. A certain grim tenacity of purpose was one of them. It

enabled him to rise from the ranks to a captaincy in the Army and stood him in good stead in the difficult days of the War, when, as quartermaster, it was his duty to see that the companies in the trenches were kept well supplied with food and the many other things necessary to their comfort and well-being.

"His strict sense of duty and his sympathetic regard for ex-service men who had hit on hard times also earned him general respect. After the War he threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the British Legion, and was instrumental in getting many grievances as to pensions redressed, and in effecting relief in many cases of hardship. Every ex-soldier knew that he could turn to Capt. Churchman for advice in the hour of trouble, and his work in this direction alone forged many enduring friendships."

The funeral, which took place on 1st January, 1935, was one of the largest and most impressive that Skipton has known for many years, and was attended by large numbers of ex-service men and representatives of public bodies, besides the many officers, past and present, of the 6th Battalion; and full military honours were accorded by the Battalion. A portrait of Capt. Churchman appeared opposite page 193 of No. 29, October, 1934, of THE IRON DUKE.

COTT.—On 7th September, 1935, at the Halifax Royal Infirmary, Henry George Cott, aged 58 years. Mr. Cott enlisted in The Duke of Wellington's Regiment on 18th October, 1897, and, after a short period with the Provisional Battalion at Shorncliffe, joined the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Bangalore, Mysore. He was invalided home shortly after the Regiment left Rangoon for Calcutta, joining the 1st Battalion in March, 1903. After a period of service with that Battalion and the Depot, he was posted again to the 2nd Battalion on its arrival home in November, 1905. After six years he was again sent to the 1st Battalion, then in India, and served with them till after the outbreak of war, when he was posted to the home establishment for training recruits of the New Army. He saw service overseas in France, and was discharged as medically unfit with the rank of C.S.M., on the 7th May, 1918. He was afterwards on the clerical staff of the M.O.P., Halifax Area, until its absorption into the Leeds Area. At the time of his death he was employed in the Inland Revenue Office, Halifax District. A portrait of Mr. Cott appears opposite page 68.

YATES.—On 11th September, 1935, at his residence, Robin Post, Hailsham, Sussex, very suddenly and without any previous illness, Hubert W. Yates. Mr. Yates was educated at Harrow and Leeds University, was gazetted on 25th February, 1914, as second lieutenant and joined the 2nd Battalion later in that year at Dublin. He went to France on 30th August, 1914, and was promoted lieutenant on 3rd March, 1915. On 23rd October, early in the morning during an engagement with the enemy in the vicinity of Rue D'Ouvert, he was badly wounded in the head by a rifle bullet which entered his forehead and traversed his head; at the time he was considered mortally wounded, but made later on a most remarkable recovery, though unhappily he lost his sight and was subject to fits of an epileptic nature. He was in possession of the 1914 Star, War and Victory Medals, and was placed on retired pay on 30th May, 1916.

He married on 20th September, 1917, Kathleen Maude, third daughter of the late Dr. O'Kelly, of Chipping Norton. They had eight children, of whom five girls and one boy survive. In 1923 he went to reside in Sussex and commenced poultry farming on a large scale, and at the time of his death was regarded by St. Dunstan's (whose pupil he was) as having one of the best run and most extensive farms they knew of. Writing of him, one who knew him well says: "He was the staunchest of friends, a most loveable man, held in esteem by all who came in contact with him; he never complained of the stroke of ill-fortune which deprived him in one moment of his sight, his means of livelihood and the right chance and opportunity of following his father in the family business of W. E. Yates, Ltd., of Leeds." He was buried on 20th September, 1935 (the 18th anniversary of his wedding), at Hailsham Cemetery; the ribbons of his regimental colours, which had adorned his bride's bouquet, decorated her wreath.

Reviews.

TIME'S DELINQUENCY, by Major Leonard Handley (Hutchinson, 18/-).—This is a travel book of an unusual kind. Its author describes it as "an endeavour to snare, on paper, some of the impressions I have watched drift, like smoke, across India's uneasy face during the last twenty-five years." Very good in its best parts, for Major Handley has the gift of vivid descriptive writing, and always has the courage of his very individual points of view, the book as a whole is uneven and a little irritating. His picture of life in cantonments is decidedly overdrawn; not all Anglo-Indians are petty and suburban-minded; and in our view he weakens his case against "indianization," too, by over-statement. Still, he knows his India well, and the chapters on Goa and the Malabar Coast, on the sacred city of Khatmandu (by C. R. Handley), and the exciting story of his meeting in Peshawur with Shezada, the abductor of Miss Molly Ellis, are especially well worth reading. The book is one for those who like to travel, actually and in imagination, off the beaten track.

THE ROAD TO GLORY, by F. Britten Austin (Thornton Butterworth, 7/6).—In this historical novel the author has aimed at describing Napoleon's first Italian campaign, from the point of view of the young General Bonaparte himself. He has "seriously endeavoured to make every detail historically accurate"; but the story would be much clearer and easier to follow if there were a good map. Interspersed with the accounts of battles and marches are translations of Napoleon's letters to Josephine, whom he had just married, and with whom he was still infatuated. The resulting mixture of military history with a strong "love interest" is more readable than it sounds, probably because of the extraordinary interest of the subject; it would be difficult to write a dull book about Napoleon. For a reader with little previous acquaintance with the subject, and a taste for historical fiction, the book, a complimentary copy of which we acknowledge with thanks, may be recommended.

MIDDLEBROW.

THE BOOK OF SPEED (Messrs. B. T. Batsford, Ltd., price 5/-).—We are indebted to Messrs. B. T. Batsford for a complimentary copy of the second edition of this work, which we reviewed on page 74 of No. 30, February, 1935, of *THE IRON DUKE*. The new edition contains a short supplement by Mr. Barré Lyndon incorporating the events of the recent year, and a number of new illustrations. The original letterpress has not been altered.

TABLE BADMINTON, by E. E. Natali (Edward Goldston, Ltd., price 1/-).—The enthusiast for indoor games will welcome this little book, which describes, and gives the rules of table badminton, a game which the author claims "will rival its elder brother table tennis in world-wide popularity." The difficulty which had to be overcome in making the game possible in a confined space was to produce a true-flying shuttlecock, and this has now been done. In a letter accepting a copy of the handbook, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales says that he was interested in the game, which he thinks should be a good one. There is a foreword to the book by Jack Hobbs in which he says: "I commend the game especially for the physical fitness it certainly encourages in its players." The game should make a useful addition to indoor amusements during the winter months, and we thank the publishers for the complimentary copy which they have sent us.

EDITOR.

War Office Notes.

The War Office,
London, S.W.1,
18th Nov., 1935.

GILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS AT BRIGHTON COLLEGE
FOR SONS OF ARMY OFFICERS.

It is officially announced that one or two Gill Memorial scholarships and two exhibitions, all at Brighton College, are offered for competition among sons of Army officers in 1936.

Candidates will take the ordinary June common entrance examination at their preparatory schools. Admission to compete for the scholarships and exhibitions is by nomination, and candidates must be:—(1) Under the age of 14 years on 1st June, 1936, and (2) the sons of officers who hold or have held a commission in the Regular Army or, failing such candidates, the sons of officers who hold or have held a commission in the Reserve or Auxiliary Military Forces.

The annual value of a Gill Memorial scholarship is £75 and of an exhibition £50, thus reducing the amount payable by a parent or guardian to approximately £75 for a scholar and £100 for an exhibitor, inclusive of necessary extras. Scholarships and exhibitions are tenable for three years, but the period may, on the recommendation of the headmaster, be extended to four years.

Successful candidates will enter Brighton College at the end of the summer holidays.

Applications for nomination by the War Office (accompanied by birth certificate and certificates of conduct covering the previous two years) should reach the Under-Secretary of State (C.1), The War Office, London, S.W.1, not later than 30th April, 1936.

Correspondence.

"THE 33RD IN NOVA SCOTIA.

"Ingramport, Nova Scotia,

"17th Sept., 1935.

"Dear Sir,

"I have forwarded the enclosed which is in answer to my request for information regarding the 33rd Regiment's stay in Cape Breton. If you require the references mentioned, I will make a request for them. It is a pity that Lee's History does not make mention of that period.

"The weather here is now turning cold and we have had some rain storms. I was out to Sherbrooke, named after Colonel Sherbrooke, 33rd Regiment, last Sunday and made a few enquiries, but it came to nought and for my pains got caught in a heavy rain storm over a very rough country road of some 125 miles, had a couple of flat tyres and had to change them in the rain.

"I remain,

"Yours sincerely,

"C. J. PUPLETT."

"PUBLIC ARCHIVES, Halifax,

"Nova Scotia,

"16th Sept., 1935.

"C. J. Puplett, Esq., Ingramport, N.S.

"Dear Sir,

"In reference to your inquiry of the 12th instant, which Professor Harvey referred to me, I have found that the 33rd Regiment arrived at Halifax from New York in October, 1783. They remained at Halifax until July, 1785, and were then transferred to Sydney, Cape Breton, where a new barracks was built to receive them. They were the first troops to go to Cape Breton after the new Government was established there. In August, 1786, they left the Island, presumably for Europe, because they did not return to Halifax and the 42nd Regiment took their place at Sydney.

"It may be of interest for you to know that the 33rd Regiment returned to the Nova Scotian command in December, 1843, and remained until April, 1848. There is no record to show that they came back for a third time.

"This information has been gathered from documents in the Public Archives. If you wish to have the actual references I can send them to you on request. You will also be able to find some of the above information in Richard Brown's History of Cape Breton Island, published in London in 1869. Brown gives some account of the squabbles between Lt.-Col. York, commanding the 33rd, and Lieutenant-Governor Des Barres.

"Hoping that this information may be of use to you,

"I am,

"Yours sincerely,

"J. S. MARTELL."

Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following regimental journals:—*The Covenanter* (Sept., Nov.), *The Tiger & Sphinx* (Sept.), *The Dragon* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Snapper* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Bugle* (Sept., Dec.), *The London Scottish Regimental Gazette* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Hampshire Regimental Journal* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The St. George's Gazette* (August, Sept., Oct., Nov.), *The Tiger & Rose* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Light Bob* (Oct.), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (August, Oct.), *The Brilannia* (Oct.), *Ca Ira* (Sept., Dec.), *The Lion & The Rose* (Nov.), *The K.S.L.I. Regimental Gazette* (Oct., Dec.), *The East Lancashire Regimental Gazette* (Sept., Dec.), *The Sapper* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Wire* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *The Military Musician* (Oct.), *Our Empire* (Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.), *Owl Pie* (Christmas, 1935).

DEKKO!

DEKKO!

THE IRON DUKE

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) Articles and stories, especially those of a light nature.

(b) Personal notes.

All contributions to be in
B  **15th April.**

Punctuality in this respect helps publication to time.

Annual Subscription 3s.

Single copies and back numbers from the Business Manager, 1/3 per copy, post free.

When six or more back numbers are purchased a reduction of 25 per cent. will be made.

3 Numbers each year.

FEBRUARY
No 33
OCTOBER

♦ ♦ JUNE ♦ ♦

TREASURER'S REQUIREMENTS

Outstanding Subscriptions
Subscribers with banking accounts are reminded that Bankers' Orders do away with "outstanding subscriptions."

Subscribers are requested to let the Business Manager know at once of any change of address.

Every new subscriber helps, so show this copy to any "Old Duke" who doesn't subscribe.

Messrs. LAWRENCE BROS, Ltd., Weston-super-Mare, bind the three numbers, issued annually, into one volume for 5s., return carriage paid. Annual indexes are supplied by Messrs. Lawrence Bros., or by the Business Manager free of charge.

Subscriptions and Business Correspondence to:—
THE TREASURER & BUSINESS MANAGER
Kilsyth, Storey's Way, Cambridge.

Contributions and Correspondence to:—
THE EDITOR,
Llwyn-Celyn, Pennal, Machynlleth, North Wales

Advertisements to:—
COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS,
67-68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, S.W.1.

Editor: Lt.-Colonel M. V. le P. TRENCH.

Treasurer & Business Manager: Brig.-Gen. P. A. TURNER, C.M.G.

Advertising Managers: COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS.

Sub-Editors:

1st Battn.: Capt. R. G. TURNER. 2nd Battn.: Capt. S. B. KINGTON. Depot: Lieut. A. H. P. LAURENCE.
4th Bn.: Lieut. J. G. MILNES. 5th Bn.: Maj. J. M. HAIGH, T.D. 6th Bn.: Major E. H. LEWELLYN, M.C.
7th Battn.: Major G. B. HOWCROFT, M.C. 1st Yorkton Regt.: Major I. A. N. BEADLE, M.C.
33rd Battn. Australian Infantry. Capt. I. N. DOUGHERTY.

THE IRON DUKE.

(INSERT YOUR BANKER'S NAME) To..... Date.....

Please pay to Lloyds Bank Ltd. (F Section), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1, for the account of the above, my Subscription of for the current year and continue to pay 3/- annually on 1st February until further notice.

Address to which Magazine should be sent (Signature).....

2d.
Stamp.

NOTE.—Please send this form when filled in to the Hon. Treasurer at the address given above.

Digitised by The Regimental Archives

