

No.43 June 1939



THE IRON DUKE

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

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

VOL. XV.

No. 43 :: JUNE 1939

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.

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VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN TO BORDON, 13th April, 1939.

THE IRON DUKE

EDITORIAL.

WE think our readers will excuse us for making no allusion to international events that are constantly present to all our minds, nor to their effects on the Army; we have our fill of them in the daily Press and on the wireless.

We offer our congratulations to the 1st Battalion rugby football team on winning the Aldershot Command cup; their last success in this event was in 1934. Injuries to members of the team spoilt whatever chance they had of getting into the final of the Army cup, but they put up a very good fight. The Battalion played its part in the demonstrations given to Their Majesties The King and Queen when they visited Bordon and in those given to Members of Parliament at Aldershot.

The 2nd Battalion had very bad weather for their Brigade training near Kohat, as illustrated opposite page 80 and referred to in their company notes. The Battalion is to move to Delhi next trooping season, and we hope that they will enjoy the change of scene and the gaieties of the capital.

Lt.-Col. W. M. Ozanne has been selected for the command of the 147th Infantry Brigade in the autumn, and we offer him our sincere congratulations. We also offer our congratulations to Lt.-Col. J. M. Haigh on his appointment to the command of the 43rd (5th Duke of Wellington's) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, R.E., and to Major I. N. Dougherty on being appointed to the command of the 33rd Battalion, Australian Military Forces.

As mentioned elsewhere, we have been invited to exchange journals with the 7th Regiment, New York National Guard, and we welcome this *entente* with our American comrades.

We have to thank the Editor of the *Aldershot Command News*, and Messrs. Wm. May & Co., Ltd., the publishers, for the use of the block of the photograph of the 1st Battalion rugby football team which appears opposite page 73.

Late News.

We regret to announce the death of Capt. Lawrence Bellew, D.C.M., on 23rd December, 1938, at Folkestone. The information did not reach us in time to include an obituary notice, which will appear in our next issue. Capt. Bellew will be remembered by older members of the 2nd Battalion as a sergeant-major of outstanding repute. Since 1909 he had been a member of The King's Body Guard.

1st BATTALION NEWS.

On 13th April the station was honoured by a visit from Their Majesties The King and Queen. On their arrival at Bordon Their Majesties were received by the G.O.C.-in-C., Lt.-Gen. Sir John G. Dill, and proceeded to inspect the new Guadeloupe Barracks. They then drove to Kingsley Common where the Brigade had taken up a defensive position. Here Their Majesties were given the opportunity of observing a brigade in a prepared and camouflaged defensive position. The Brigade were then attacked by the enemy, represented by the 2nd Battalion The Norfolk Regiment. After the exercise the Commanding Officer was presented to Their Majesties, who inspected one of the Battalion platoon positions in detail. Afterwards they inspected the Headquarters of the 2nd Battalion K.S.L.I., the gun positions of the R.A. and an A.D.S. At the conclusion of the tour the Brigade lined the route by which the Royal Party drove away, and all ranks of the Battalion were given the opportunity of seeing Their Majesties and giving them a very hearty cheer.

Later the following Special Order was issued by the G.O.C. in C. Aldershot Command.

"Aldershot, Thursday, 13th April, 1939.

"I am commanded by His Majesty The King to express to the Troops of the Aldershot Command his warm appreciation of the various Exercises which he and the Queen witnessed to-day. He and Her Majesty were very interested in and much impressed by all they saw.

"Their Majesties were glad of the opportunity of seeing so many Troops of the Command, and greatly appreciated the welcome they received."

Since the Battalion returned from Christmas leave we have been very busy with individual training. Every year the amount of knowledge which the infantry soldier must possess increases by leaps and bounds; however, by dint of much hard work we hope that we have acquired that knowledge, and are at present only handicapped by shortage of numbers. It is of interest to note that a completely new drill has been finally adopted, and that the formation of "Fours" has gone for ever, and in future whenever the Battalion parades it will be in "Threes." Anyone who has been away from the Army for over a year and returned now would indeed be surprised at the changes which have taken place. Almost the only thing they would recognise would be the old rifle which we still carry; otherwise everything has changed—organization, drill, routine, dress, and, most important, weapons.

At present a batch of 26 reservists who left the colours about 18 months ago are with us for eleven days' training, and other batches are to follow. Also 8 officers of the Reserve are coming to us for a fortnight each during the training season. We are always pleased to welcome back old friends, and will do our best to give them valuable training.

In February a detachment of the Battalion took part in a demonstration of modern weapons and equipment given in Aldershot for the benefit of Members of Parliament and representatives of the Press. Our part of the demonstration consisted of showing all the new weapons with which the Infantry is equipped; the new field dress, Danert wire, a field office truck, and modern methods of cooking in the field. The M.Ps. took a great interest and asked many questions.

We are now in the midst of firing our annual weapon training course and the Battalion rifle meeting is taking place on the 20th and 21st April. We hope to obtain the results in time to publish them in this issue.

The Battalion rugby team won the Aldershot Command Championship by beating the 18th Field Regiment, R.A., by 26 points to nil in a game played in deep snow. We congratulate them on their performance. In the semi-final of the Army Cup we were beaten by rather a large margin by the 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment. We were, however, handicapped by an injury to 2nd Lt. C. F. Grieve in the first few minutes of the game.

The soccer team finished top of the V. Division of the Aldershot Command soccer league, an achievement on which we congratulate them. In the Command championships decided between the leaders of the five senior leagues we beat the 2nd Battalion The Coldstream Guards in the first round, but were defeated by a narrow margin by the R.A.S.C. Training Centre in the second.

We are now the oldest inhabitants among the Infantry in Bordon, all the battalions who were with us last year having left. We were sorry to say goodbye to The Buffs, The Northumberland Fusiliers and The Royal Irish Fusiliers, but are very pleased to welcome the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters and The 1st Battalion K.S.L.I., who are in the Brigade with us, and also the 2nd Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment, who belong to the 4th Brigade but are stationed here.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Once more we have to record that we have lost still more members of the Mess. Major Grimley and Captain Cumberlege have left us to join the 2nd Battalion, Captain Turner is exercising his linguistic capabilities at the War Office, Lt. Beuttler has taken up an appointment in Egypt, Lord Mornington has gone to shoot lions with the K.A.R., Lt. Harrison is leaving very shortly for duty as a Territorial adjutant, and 2nd Lt. Reynolds is going to the Depot. We wish them all luck in their new spheres.

There is but little time for Mess entertainments during the intense training at Bordon. We were, however, much honoured to have the opportunity of entertaining the Divisional Commander, Major General The Hon. H. R. L. G. Alexander, at a guest night on 21st March. Members of the Mess who had served under him in Nowshera were especially glad to have this chance of meeting him again. General Alexander was accompanied by Col. McCreery, Col. Mansergh and Captain Phillpots, and we were very pleased to have the Commanding Officers of other units in Bordon, Lt.-Cols. Latham, Gamble, Glover and Hayes as our guests at the same time.

At another guest night we "dined in" 2nd Lts. Ince and Firth, who have joined us from Sandhurst. Both are the sons of officers of the Regiment, and it is gratifying to see the Regimental tradition thus maintained. We have also had 2nd Lt. Christison (the son of Col. Christison, who lately commanded the 2nd Battalion) with us for training from Oxford University. We hope we shall be seeing him again soon.

Major Marriner has presented us with a very interesting set of medals for which we are extremely grateful. They belonged to Major and Quartermaster J. T. Seaman, and must be unique in that they contain the Abyssinian medal and both South African War medals. We wish to thank Major Bushnell for a very interesting letter written by the Duke of Wellington, and an engraving of the Duke of Wellington; also Col. Stevens for an "assignat" which had once been the property of Peter Baisley, a soldier of the 33rd Regiment, who was taken prisoner by the French in 1795 when in hospital in Germany.

We welcome Major F. P. A. Woods from the Depot, and Captain Lauder from the 2nd Battalion, and hope they will enjoy their time in Bordon. We congratulate Lts. Strangeways, Cartwright and Upjohn on their marriages, and wish them the best of luck.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

According to recent Press reports, members of the I.R.A. have been very active of late. A stranger to our Mess might well be excused if he thought that we had received a visitation from their representatives, for the lino which covers the floor of the Mess looks as if it might have been in contact with several bombs of the home-made variety. Happily, though, I am able to explain this phenomenon and thus relieve the I.R.A. of any onus in that direction. The explanation is very simple, really; so many members of our Mess are built like policemen that it is an unfair handicap for any floor.

It is very pleasant to be able to report that our fortnightly whist drives and dances have proved to be the success of the Garrison, and the Mess is NOT large enough to hold all those who wish to attend, despite the disgraceful state of the lino, referred to above.

The usual annual billiards and snooker tournaments have been completed, with success for some and bad luck for others. The "straight" billiards tournament resulted in a win for R.Q.M.S. Smith, with L/Sgt. Stork a good runner-up. The handicap for the "Tidmarsh" cue was won by Sgt. Cooper (plus 10) who beat Sgt. Townend (plus 25) in the final; whilst the snooker competition was won by L/Sgt. Stork, who beat Sgt. Reed in the final. The biggest breaks were scored by Sgts. Ambler and England respectively.

Once again we entertained the Petersfield Police to a football match followed by a games evening, but owing to injuries we were unable to field a representative side, and were easily beaten 5—0. We have also entertained the members of the Messes of the Foresters and K.S.L.I., our Brigade neighbours, and it was unanimously agreed that these evenings were huge successes.

At the Battalion annual rifle meeting, Colonel Cox's gold medal, the premier award, was won by L/Sgt. Stork, who, incidentally, seems to have been mentioned quite a lot in these notes—who is this paragon? The runner-up was Sgt. Peacock, last year's winner.

It is with great regret we have said goodbye to R.S.M. T. Jowett, who has sailed for India to take up his duties with his own Battalion after spending a long interim period with us. We wish him all the success he so richly deserves. Sgts. Townend and England have once again left us, this time for duty with the expanding Territorial Army. We know they will like that, but when the rugby season arrives, I wonder if we will like it! We welcome C.S.M. R. Jones from the 2nd Battalion, who joined us on the 13th February on relief by C.S.M. D. Ward, and hope that he will soon settle down with us and so not miss his old friends of the other Battalion.



RUGBY FOOTBALL

In the last issue of *THE IRON DUKE* there appeared an account of the Battalion rugby up till the beginning of December, when the leave period arrived and caused a temporary pause. We had begun the season with few young players, as the Battalion had been in Malta for three years, and it was left to those who had already seen their best playing days to get the game and the enthusiasm for it going once again.

The period before Christmas had been an encouraging one. We had immediately begun by winning a series of matches against, in some cases, good sides, such as The Harlequins "A," The Welsh Guards and the R.M.C. Sandhurst "A"; and when we had lost it had been by a small margin of points. In the Army Rugby Cup we had accounted for the R.A.M.C. by 16 points to nil, and by beating the R.Es., Aldershot, on their own ground by 25 points to 6, we had qualified to meet the 18th Field Regiment R.A. in the final of the Aldershot Command Cup.

The team returned from leave earlier than the rest of the Battalion and at once began training for the final of the Command Cup. The weather at this period was rather spiteful, for the frozen grounds prevented us from having properly organised practices. Sgt. Sutherland very kindly offered his services to train the team, and we began having

VISIT OF T.M. THE KING AND QUEEN TO BORDON, 13th APRIL, 1939, AND DEMONSTRATION OF MODERN WEAPONS
TO M.P.s. AND THE PRESS AT ALDERSHOT, FEBRUARY, 1939.



Their Majesties The King and Queen at Bordon.



Men of 1st Battalion showing Bren Guns.



Men of 1st Battalion showing Trench Mortars and Bren Guns.



Men of 1st Battalion wearing the new Service Dress.

By Courtesy of Messrs. Gile & Pollen Ltd.



By Courtesy of Messrs. Wm. May & Co., Ltd., Aldershot.

1st BATTALION RUGBY FOOTBALL TEAM. WINNERS ALDERSHOT COMMAND CUP, 1939.

Back row.—Pte. W. ROUND, Cpl. A. KIRKPATRICK, L. Sgt. J. BARNETT, L. Sgt. J. STORK, L. Sgt. B. BOON,
Sgt. A. ENGLAND, Cpl. W. WOOTTON, L. Cpl. A. BRADLEY, L. Cpl. J. BAILEY, Cpl. C. BIRCH.

Front row.—Sgt. G. TOWNEND, 2nd Lt. C. F. GRIEVE, Lt. J. HARRISON, Lt.-Col. W. M. OZANNE, M.C.,
Lt. G. V. CARTWRIGHT, 2nd Lt. F. J. REYNOLDS, Sgt. G. ANNESLEY.

special P.T. classes and road walks in addition to training on the actual rugger field itself. 2nd Lt. Reynolds, who, up till Christmas, had been unable to play as the result of a cartilage operation on his knee, an injury sustained in South Africa when on tour with the British rugby team last summer, began turning out once again. His re-appearance on the field lent a great deal of confidence to the rest of the team, but unfortunately he was unable to play at fly-half, his proper position, and where he would have been invaluable, but played at full-back instead.

At this period our prospects of winning the Aldershot Command Cup and the Army Cup were very rosy. Our forwards had improved a great deal before Christmas and had definitely welded themselves into a pack. The front row, composed of L/Sgt. England, Cpl. Birch and Cpl. Wootton, was compact and low in the tight scrums, and plenty of shove was coming through from L/Sgt. Annesley and L/Sgt. Boon in the second row. In the back row there was plenty of experience with Lt. Cartwright, Captain Troop and L/Sgt. Stork, and Lt. Cartwright was always ready for the inside pass from the fly-half. However, in the loose the pack did not show enough fire and dash, which was perhaps our big weakness forward. At half-back Pte. Round and 2nd Lt. Grieve were beginning to form some sort of understanding, and with a three-quarter line composed of Lt. Harrison and Sgt. Townend in the centre and Cpl. Kirkpatrick and L/Cpl. Bradley on the wings there was plenty of scoring power. Behind in the last line of defence 2nd Lt. Reynolds had his great experience to get the team out of any tight corners.

Owing to cancellations and inclement weather we were able to play only two matches before meeting the 18th Field Regiment, R.A. in the final of the Aldershot Command Cup. We lost to Thames Valley with a weak side, but this defeat was nothing in comparison with the loss of Sgt. Townend for the remainder of the season with badly damaged ribs sustained in the game. We had thus lost one of our principal scoring agents. On the morning of the England—Wales match at Twickenham we played Richmond "A" at Richmond, when we won by 25 points to 3. The team showed good all-round form, which argued well for our match against the 18th Field Regiment. On the same afternoon the whole XV. watched the International Match, and were able to learn much from the magnificent performance put up by the English forwards.

On the 25th January we met the 18th Field Regiment on the Aldershot Command ground. Snow had fallen all the previous night, and it lay some three inches deep on the ground. It was still snowing when the teams took the field. We proved to be a much stronger side in every phase of the game, and despite the adverse conditions we played open football and ultimately won by 26 points to nil. We had thus won the Aldershot Command Cup and had qualified to meet the Welch Regiment in the semi-finals of the Army Cup. Every member of the team had done his part well, but we suffered another permanent loss for the season as Captain Troop, who always seemed to get something extra out of the forwards when he played and led them, damaged his cartilage badly. Three club games now followed. We beat the O.M.Ts. "A" and a R.M.C. Sandhurst "A" XV., but we lost to a very strong St. Mary's Hospital "A" XV.

On 16th February we played the Welch Regiment in the semi-final round of the Army Cup on the Leicester club ground. It was a fine, sunny afternoon and favoured open football. We took some time to settle down, and it was not long before we were five points in arrears. Cpl. Kirkpatrick then kicked a beautiful penalty goal from near the half-way line, but before the game was 15 minutes old, 2nd Lt. Grieve had pulled a hamstring muscle and was reduced to hobbling about behind the full-back. This meant that Lt. Harrison had to play at fly-half, that the three-quarter line was disorganised, and that our pack was reduced to seven men. However, we finished the first half pressing strongly, and a try was missed when a forward dropped a scoring pass. In the second half our pack played up splendidly, in particular L/Sgt. Annesley and Lt. Collins, who had taken Captain Troop's place, but the strength of the Welch behind the scrum gradually made itself tell, and our "strange" three-quarter line, though tackling hard, could not

hold them out, and they ultimately beat us by 25 points to 3. We were beaten, but one came away with the idea that with a full side including those unable to play through injury the tale might have been a different one. Sgt. Townend was greatly missed at centre-three-quarter.

There followed a few matches to complete our fixture card. We beat "G" and "B" Divisions of the Metropolitan Police and the Metropolitan Police "A" XV. However, we finished with two severe reverses, Roslyn Park "A" XV. beating a weak side by 49 points to 3, and Lensbury beat a second XV, our first team having gone on leave, by 54 points to 3.

To encourage and bring out young players a novices' league was started, which immediately produced some keen and enthusiastic games, and several promising beginners have been found who will be of great value next season.

The Aldershot Command "seven-a-side" tournament was cancelled owing to lack of entries. It was a pity for we might have done well in this.

Before closing these notes a word of thanks and appreciation must be extended to Sgt. Townend, L/Sgt. Annesley and Drum-Major Goodwin for turning out for yet another season to help the Battalion out. Their experience was of tremendous value, and their keenness was a great example to the younger members of the team. A special vote of thanks is also due to Sgt. Sutherland for the trouble he took and the hard work he put in to make the XV. thoroughly fit.

We are sorry for the sake of our President, Lt.-Col. W. M. Ozanne, that we were not able to win the Army Cup in his last year of command, but considering the fact that it has been our first season at home for a few years, it has been a good beginning, and we can look forward with optimism to next year.



ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

It is so long since a copy of soccer notes appeared in our Regimental magazine that we are rather worried about the effect such a strange sight may have upon the old diehards. However, here goes.

This season has not been quite so successful as last. We managed to retain the championship of the Bordon and Longmoor Division of the Aldershot Command Senior League, losing only two out of 14 games; and in the championship play-off, which has just been completed, we were beaten 4—3 by the R.A.S.C. Training Centre, the eventual champions. In the Army Cup we beat the 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., in the first round 2—1 after extra time. In the second round we were opposed by the Gordon Highlanders, fancied candidates for the trophy, and after a good game managed to beat them 2—1, thanks to a very good goal by that excellent, hard-working centre-forward, Cpl. Connolly. In the third round we were drawn to meet the 18th Field Regiment, R.A., on their ground. At the end of full-time the score was 1—1, and the ground was like a quagmire. However, in accordance with the rules of the competition, extra time must be played. During this extra period we scored again through L/Cpl. Thornhill, and held on to this slender lead until 11 minutes from the end, when the referee decided that he must abandon the game. What a disappointment! However, as 90 minutes' play had been completed

before the abandonment we were entitled to replay the tie at Bordon. This duly took place and resulted in a draw 4—4, after more extra time and after we had held the lead at every point in the game.

This draw necessitated another replay. We were informed that this must take place the next day on the R.A.M.C. ground at Aldershot. We were now greatly handicapped by injuries to key men of the side; C.S.M. Ward, our veteran captain, was suffering from a strained thigh, L/Cpl. Staniforth was in hospital with a broken collar bone sustained in the first match of this marathon, and now, to crown it, L/Cpl. Thornhill, our right winger, was also unable to play owing to a knee injury. This meant that we must take the field with a sadly depleted team, and our chances of victory appeared to be so slight that the bookmakers did not think it worth while to open a book on the match. However, lose though we did, we went down with our colours flying, losing 2—1, again after extra time. Thus the season ended. A very satisfactory season if only from the point of view that we now have more promising youngsters than for many years past. Let us hope that they may be spared from drafting abroad at least, until they have proved that as a team they have the ability to win the Army Cup.

It is not fitting that we should close these notes without paying tribute to those old stalwarts, C.S.M. Ward, Cpl. Connolly and Pte. Rumboll, who are now no longer with us. C.S.M. Ward, a great full-back with a great heart, has left us to serve and play in the hotter clime of India; he had captained the Battalion 1st XI. for more seasons than we care to remember, and we wish him luck in his new sphere. Cpl. Connolly, a really first class centre-forward, who has recently secured representative honours, has just left us for the insecurity of civilian life, but in these days when there is a paucity of centre-forwards, he should never be without a club and game. Now for Pte. Rumboll, the evergreen. Has also played for the Battalion 1st XI. for a number of seasons, but even at this advanced stage of his playing career he would have been certain of representative honours this season as a constructive centre-half-back, had he had the luck to escape drafting commitments during the late trooping season. Good luck and good football to each of them.



HOCKEY.

We have not had many opportunities of playing hockey since we arrived at Bordon. At the beginning of the season a few friendly matches were played in our search for an all-conquering team, and the team eventually chosen for the Army Cup matches acquitted itself creditably.

In the 1st round we defeated the 2nd Field Regiment, R.A., by 6 goals to nil. In the 2nd round we met the 24th Field Regiment, R.A., who were the winners of last year's Army Cup, and drew with them on the Officers' Club ground at Bordon. The replay was left until after the annual furlough, with the result that when it was played some of the regular members of our team were still on leave and we were defeated by 5 goals to 1.

A friendly match between the Battalion and Wellington College was particularly enjoyable, although we were well beaten by youth and stamina.

Our team is at present showing much improved form in friendly matches, and we hope to be able to give a better account of ourselves next season and to bring the team back to its old Malta form.

HUNTING.

Since the last notes were written the "Regulars" have been reinforced by the addition of Mrs. Bray, which has brought the numbers up to six, although Mornington has since left us to hunt in East Africa. Armitage, who is now at Aldershot, has also hunted regularly on Saturdays, and sometimes on Fridays, with the H.H. Unfortunately, Herr Hitler has deprived us of a great deal of our leisure, and we have not been able to get out so often as we would have liked.



Excellent hunts were enjoyed on the following days:—7th February—H.H. Greatham Moor. On this occasion Captain Wathen's horse jumped into a bog and he didn't! 18th February—Bordon Drag—after the Hunt Ball. A red letter day for Captain Bray. 11th March—H.H. Hill Farm, Bentley, when only five followers got away with hounds. By a stroke of luck Majors Sayers and Armitage were among the lucky few. 18th March—H.H. Golden Pot—Reported to be the best run of the season.

We must not conclude these notes without a mention of Gerrard, who competed in the officers' chargers race at the Aldershot race meeting.

2nd BATTALION NEWS.

WITH the return of "A" Company from Amritsar on 23rd January, the Battalion was together again for the first time since April, 1938. We celebrated this event by promptly deserting Multan for Kohat and brigade training. Tales of woe about ceaseless rain and flooded camps are told elsewhere: suffice it to say that Kohat is an extremely attractive place, and that most people seemed to enjoy their enforced rest considerably more than one might imagine, judging from their remarks about the weather and waste of time.

The activities of our various battalion sports teams have been greatly curtailed owing to the Lahore district assault-at-arms coming at the same time as our brigade training at Kohat, and we have had to concentrate on inter-company events, all of which are reported elsewhere. However, it has been decided to enter the soccer team in the De Montmorency football tournament, and, in the more distant future, the rugger team for the Cawnpore and the All India Tournaments.

The word on everybody's lips is Delhi. Since the last issue of the IRON DUKE we have heard that this is to be our next station. A greater change cannot be imagined than moving from the deserts of Multan into the social life of Delhi, and to obviate the feeling of the "Country cousin coming to Town for the first time," we have already started practising our guard drill. The general feeling seems to be that we shall be more than compensated for the extra guard and ceremonial drill required in Delhi by the added social and sporting amenities.

In another six weeks' time the first party leaves for Dalhousie, and Battalion "H.Q." and the married families will, in all probability, have seen the last of Multan. Looking

back, most people will agree that, although it has not been an exciting station, it has, at least, been quite pleasant in the cold weather. Being stationed in Multan does make one realise that it is not only the place itself, but the Regiment in it, and the attitude which it adopts towards it, which makes a station liked or disliked. At all events, the Dukes definitely got the best out of Multan, and enjoyed it as much as they could, just as they intend to do in Delhi.

OFFICERS' MESS.

Winter at Multan this year has been somewhat dull for the simple reason that the number of the fair sex present has been absurdly small. Multan Week was held at the beginning of December and helped to brighten life for a short time.

There have been two Regimental guest nights. On the first, our guests were:—The Lord Bishop of Winchester, Mr. Ram Chandra, the Commissioner, Lt.-Col. Watson, commanding the 2/1 Punjab Regiment, and the Rev. Claydon, Chaplain of Multan. The Bishop was on his way to Lahore, and was visiting Multan, as his father had been the first Chaplain there. On the second occasion we entertained Mr. Lewis of the Punjab Police, and Major Sainter and Captain Smith of the 2/1 Punjab Regiment.

On Christmas Day we all went to the 2/1st Mess for a very enjoyable "Black Velvet" party on the lawn before lunch. In the evening the married officers and their wives entertained the bachelors at Colonel Beard's bungalow. The spectacle of officers, who had just partaken of a very good Christmas dinner, angling for bottles with tackle consisting of a curtain ring at the end of a piece of string, tied to a stick, was most entertaining.

On New Year's Eve the bachelors, as usual, dined the married officers and their wives in the Mess. The number of guests was unfortunately very small; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Mrs. Beard, Captain and Mrs. Orr, Captain Sir Nugent and Lady Everard, and Lt. and Mrs. Coulter being the only married couples in the Station. After dinner we went on to dance at the Club, but finding no one else there, raided the Sergeants' Mess, where a dance was in full swing, and which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

At the time of writing these notes the Battalion is at Kohat, having just completed collective training. The weather has won all our battles, and drawn us in from the Brigade camp at Dhoda, and from the District exercise. Officers are billeted around the Cantonment, and are messing in the Frontier Force Mess in far greater luxury than at Camp.

Since the last notes were written we have lost Captain and Mrs. Orr to the Staff College, Quetta, Captain Lauder to the 1st Battalion, Lt. Marett to a T.A. adjutancy at Bombay, and 2nd Lt. Lunt to the Burma Rifles. 2nd Lt. Savory joined us from the 1st Battalion about the end of December, Captain Dalrymple has just arrived from an instructorship at the R.M.C., and Major Grimley from the 1st Battalion should reach Multan about the same time as we return to Kohat.

Major Chatterton got married just in time to come on training; we offer him and Mrs. Chatterton our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Owing to the generosity of the late Major H. W. W. Wood, who left the Mess a legacy, we have been able to buy a number of things which we have been wanting for some time. Six very fine Snaffles pictures now hang in the ante room, and a set of silver ash trays and silver menu holders for the dinner table, and cigarette lighters for the ante room, are arriving shortly.

Having nothing more to say, and, furthermore, feeling that he is threatened with frost bite, and can no longer hold his pencil, the author will now stop. No doubt his successor, who will be burdened with writing the next lot of mess notes, will complain that as the fans have ceased to work and being "all in a muck sweat like," he will down tools likewise.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

Just prior to leaving Dalhousie for Multan we said goodbye to Sgt. and Mrs. Garrett, who left us for discharge, and Sgt. and Mrs. Willcox, who left us for the Depot; we wish them the best of luck.

We left Dalhousie on the 21st October, dropped our "A" Company members and picked up "B" Company at Amritsar on 22nd October, and arrived at Multan that evening. We held an opening dance on arrival in Multan, and settled down to our winter programme of functions, which opened with a farewell dinner on the night of the 26th November to R.Q.M.S. Park, who has left us for a vocational training course in the U.K., C.S.M. Southall to the Depot, and C.S.M. Jones to the Home Establishment; we wish them all luck in their new spheres. The dinner was a huge success, speeches being delivered by the departing members. The after dinner gathering was well entertained, and the turns and tales told were not exactly "drawing room" type; however, we all enjoyed ourselves and our A.E.C. Instructor (Harda Lucka) Sgt. Hart, was very entertaining.

A fancy dress dance was held on 10th December, and it was pleasing to see some excellent costumes (the number of "Pathans" with kit from our S.I.M's. store was very noticeable). Prizes went to:—1st ladies, Miss Boughton, "Mickey Mouse"; 2nd ladies, Mrs. Dalton, "Peter Pan"; 1st gentlemen, Sgt. Farrell, "Adolf Hitler"; 2nd gentlemen, P.S.M. Robinson, "A Christmas Stocking." The prizes were given away by the Commanding Officer.

Christmas festivities opened with the childrens' tea and draw on 21st December. We must thank Mrs. Bell for her work in preparation for the tea; and Sgt. Wardle and the lads for their amusing efforts in ventriloquism, which we are sure pleased the children very much.

On 23rd December the adults' Christmas draw was held and we are sure that the entrants were pleased with the prizes: we must thank the organisers of the draw for their selections. Mr. "Blank" attended the draw as usual, but Victor was not present to turn the barrel. We made the most of the evening by holding a small dance after the draw.

As an aftermath of Christmas we played the officers at soccer (or rugger) on Boxing Day, and managed to win by 3 goal-cum-tries to 2. We learned not to introduce rugger in soccer games (against unknown rugger talent) in future. We have managed to defeat the officers at hockey on two occasions since Christmas.

The single members of the Mess held their annual dinner on New Year's eve, and the New Year's dance followed, the single members being "At Home" to the married members and families. We must thank "Joey" for the preparation of the rum punch, which we consumed at midnight to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne." The dance continued into the small hours of the 1st.

Armourer L/Sgt. Garland, R.A.O.C., left us for Home Establishment during January, and we wish him the best of luck. We welcome from the United Kingdom C.S.M. and Mrs. Ward, Sgt. and Mrs. Green and Armourer Sgt. and Mrs. Wall, R.A.O.C., and we wish them a pleasant stay with us. We extend our congratulations to C.Q.M.S. James on his promotion to C.S.M., C.Q.M.S. Foster, Sgts. Caulfield, Varley, and Robinson on their promotion to warrant officer class III., Sgt. Lyons on his promotion to C.Q.M.S., L/Sgts. Bartrop, Brighton and Mears on their promotion to Sergeants, L/Sgts. Quirk, Norton and Beech on being granted pay of their appointments, and L/Sgt. Hardisty on being appointed unpaid L/Sgt.

We finally got our Amritsar members back on the 23rd January, and the Mess was together again for the first time since April, 1938. R.S.M. Jowett has just joined us from the 1st Battalion and we offer him our congratulations on his promotion and welcome him and his family back to the Mess, and wish them a pleasant stay with us. The R.S.M. is an old member of the Battalion, and of the Mess; he joined the 2nd Battalion on its return from France from the 3rd Battalion, and left us for Home Establishment in late 1935.

CORPORALS' MESS.

Since the last notes we have again been split up, "A" Company being in Amritsar, and "H.Q.," "B," "C," and "D" Companies at Multan. This did not, however, spoil the arrangements we had made for the ball which was held on our return to Multan, and with the attendance of the aristocracy of Multan, and other of our friends, a happy evening was enjoyed by all.

We take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to R.S.M. Jowett on his arrival, and of saying good-bye, *bon voyage* and good luck to our friends "Jimmy" Lowe and "Jock" Drake. We wish them every happiness and success in their new sphere. Also *bon voyage* to the leave party. Our congratulations go to Cpls. Carter and Heaney who have reached the "double decker" stage.

COMPANY NOTES.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY.—We are now, for once, appreciating the warmth of Multan after the cold of Kohat. Some of us are perhaps appreciating the flat monotony of it too, although our old campaigners tell us that the mountains are really very "chota wallahs." However, their judgement may have been slightly warped by the fact that their tops were usually lost to view in the clouds, and that eventually "Rain stopped play."

In sport "H.Q." made a most auspicious start. Playing for the first time as two companies, in the inter-company hockey tournament we proved our indubitable superiority by providing an all-Headquarter final. "H.Q." "B," consisting of the Carrier Platoon and Employed men, beat "H.Q." "A" who are composed of the Signal Platoon, and the Band and Drums. In the cross-country "H.Q." again led the way, "H.Q." "A" this time winning the championship, followed by "H.Q." "B." In the rugger tournament the two "H.Q." teams unfortunately met in the first round, the strongly fancied "H.Q." "B" team being held to 11 points. "H.Q." "B" finally went on to win the competition by beating "C" Company in the final by two tries and a penalty goal to nothing. At the conclusion of the game cups were also presented to the victorious billiards and darts teams of No. 4 Platoon, who had won both of these coveted trophies.

And now for the pleasant task of welcoming our latest arrivals to the company. First, we welcome no less a personage than the Adjutant, and heartily congratulate Lt. R. de la H. Moran on his appointment. Secondly, we welcome R.S.M. Jowett whom we hear will be with us any day now. To the other equally worthy arrivals from the 1st Battalion, who are unfortunately too numerous to mention by name, we extend an equally cordial welcome. To those who have left us this season, and they include several very fine athletes, we would say how sorry we were to see them go, and wish them all the best of luck.

"A" COMPANY.—We start our survey of events with the departure of the Company from Dalhousie to take over from "B" Company the duty of internal security troops at Amritsar. The first few weeks were spent in perfecting ourselves in "Riot Drill" procedure; realism was supplied by our band of rioters—"Afiz Boocock, Abdul Crosland, and Fakir Kenchington." When Brigadier Beckwith Smith came down to see us he assumed the rôle of magistrate, and the rioters were allowed to stone him (left hand only) in a most realistic manner. After we had reached the required standard, we sat down to wait for a real riot, but although the Company never had cause to be called out, one of our mules, more warlike than the rest, went out to discover a riot, and while it was away made friendships that it could not break and, sad to relate, never came back.

The Regimental Dance Band came up from Multan to liven things up for us. We had three very enjoyable evenings at the detachment "Free and Easy" dances. Besides

these performances the Band had some outside engagements, at all of which it was an undoubted success.

Christmas at Amritsar was a quiet affair ; just the right amount of Christmas " Spirit " seemed to circulate, and the holiday period passed with no casualties.

We said a reluctant goodbye to a draft of old soldiers, which took away from the Company some of our more notable sportsmen such as Ptes. Greenwood, Peat and Brent, besides many others who have rendered great services to the sporting activities of the Company. We wish them every success on their return to civil life. Their departure is counter-balanced by the arrival of Sgt. and Mrs. Green, and 25 other ranks from the 1st Battalion, to all of whom we extend a hearty welcome, and the hope that they will soon take their place in the life of the Company, and emulate in the sporting world the achievements of those who have departed.

Before we left Amritsar we set to, and started to learn mountain warfare. We spent several days picqueting mountain tops and going out on column in the " mountainous " country around Amritsar. By this, and sand table work, we managed to grasp the elements of mountain warfare. So that, when we said goodbye to Amritsar and rejoined the Battalion at Multan, we had some knowledge on the subject. In Multan we had another period of company training before going to Kohat. This training, and packing up, fully occupied our time until our departure for the mountains of Dhoda.

In the sporting realm we acquitted ourselves as well as could be expected owing to the fact that we had just rejoined the Battalion, and considering the lack of time and facilities for training at Amritsar. Ptes. Bowan and Lockwood secured 1st and 2nd places in the cross-country race. In the rugby we drew a bye, and then met " H.Q. " " B " in the semi-final, and after a hard game lost by 3 points (a penalty) to nil.

We expect to read in the Officers' Mess notes a lament at the passing of our company commander from the realms of celibacy. We heartily congratulate both Major and Mrs. Chatterton. We hope to benefit from the new venture, by the introduction of married officers' trade union hours of work into our Company office.

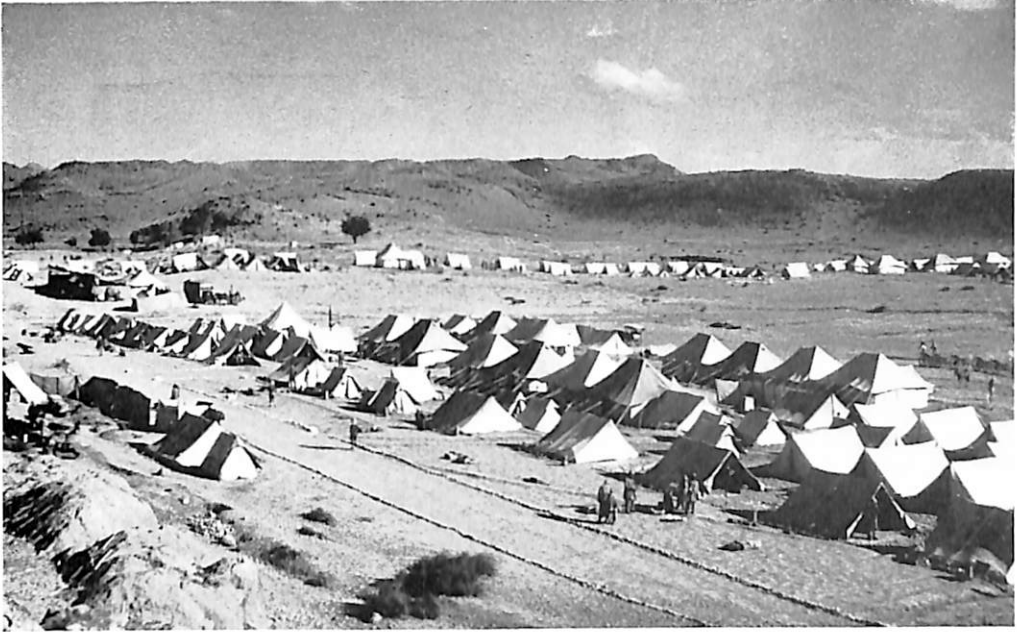
" B " COMPANY.—Although one or two disadvantages have come to light during our enforced occupation of the Fort, we have had compensation for it. We have the best hockey pitch in the Station, and the Fort is not really as bad as it seems. Company training at Muzaffargarh went off very well, in almost perfect weather. The nights, however, were cold (Who mentioned rum ration?). Everybody was fit after it, and the march in of 18 miles was completed in 5 hours 40 minutes.

At sport this cold weather the Company have had annoying luck. In the hockey we were defeated by " H.Q. " " B " in the second round. In the soccer tournament we were very unlucky to lose after having reached the final. " C " Company were the victors by 3 goals to 1. In the soccer league, however, we were more fortunate. " H.Q.—A, " " A " Company and ourselves tied for first place on points, but we won on goal average.

In the rugger, we were knocked out in the semi-final after a scrappy but exciting game with " C " Company., Unfortunately many of our old hands say that they are getting too old for such a rough game. It would hardly be fair to leave our sporting column without making reference to the fact that we have had some excellent games of soccer and hockey against the 2nd Battalion The 1st Punjab Regiment, and the Multan and Muzaffargarh Police, all of whom we found to be good sportsmen.

We take this opportunity of congratulating L/Sgt. and Mrs. Jacques on the birth of twin daughters. These are the only arrivals we can record, but our departures are rather distressing. 2nd Lt. J. D. Lunt has left us for a period of three years to serve with the 4th Battalion, The Burma Rifles in Mandalay. We have also said goodbye to 2nd Lt. Mukhter Singh, who has helped us considerably at both soccer and hockey, and who has made a reputation for himself with the Company as a sportsman and soldier. He has joined the 5th Battalion, Rajputana Rifles in Hong Kong.

2nd BATTALION.



"A" and "H.Q." Company Lines in Brigade Camp at Dhoda (near Kohat).



The Guard Tent at Dhoda.



"C" and "H.Q." Company Lines at Gumbat Camp.



Lt.-Col. J. M. HAIGH, T.D., Commanding 43rd (5th D.W.R.) A.A. Battalion, R.E.

"C" COMPANY.—Kohat District training, and the preparations it entailed, has occupied most of our time since the last notes. We are still in Kohat, but hope to return to Multan in a few days' time. We might just manage to get warm and dry again before the end of the hot weather.

Much to everyone's surprise (including our own), we defeated "B" Company in the final of the inter-company soccer 3—1. In the rugger we also put up a creditable performance, reaching the final before losing to "H.Q." "B" team.

We welcome our latest draft of 28 men from the 1st Battalion and hope they will soon settle down, and worthily replace those veterans who have left us for the U.K. during the last three months. They have already had their first experience of the Frontier, and we are pleased to say that the number that has fallen by the khudside is negligible.

During the period under review we have had several changes in company commanders. Captain C. K. T. Faithfull, who had commanded the Company for so long, left us in December to take up a staff appointment at Jhelum. He was relieved by Major D. Paton, who stayed with us for about a month and then handed over the baby to 2nd Lt. D. M. Harris, who has commanded the Company throughout the training period. We understand a further change is imminent, and take this opportunity of welcoming Captain Dalrymple, who will take over on our return to Multan.

We regret having to record the death of Pte. Tindle, who injured himself while bathing at Dhoda Camp. He was a very popular member of the Company, and a very good swimmer and water-polo player.

"D" COMPANY.—As is usual, our IRON DUKE notes were scribbled in a hurry. For the second time in succession in order to write them, space has had to be cleared, on the Company office table among heaps of maps, general ideas, special ideas, narratives operation orders and messages. We have a new company clerk to whom small blame attaches that after typing, our notes were headed SECRET and read as follows :—

1. INFORMATION.—(a) Own Troops.—Since Muzaffargarh Camp our Company palmist has retired from business—he was not sufficiently clairvoyant to foresee the results to himself of his readings of the future. We have been re-inforced from the 1st Battalion by C.S.M. Ward and Family, Cpl. and Mrs. Aynsley and 22 other ranks. We heartily welcome them. With regret we publish a casualty list including C.S.M. Jones and Family, and 10 other ranks evacuated to the U.K., and C.S.M. James to "C" Company (congratulations on his promotion). All our troops have become mountain-minded for the Kohat offensive, but as the N.W. Frontier threatens to be inundated, a nautical morale should be devieoped.

(b) Enemy.—Rain Storm Battalions have been located in all directions around Kohat, and twice in a fortnight have rushed us under the tent-flaps and rendered our positions untenable.

2. INTENTION.—"D" Company will return to Multan and capture all the trophies for competition in the Battalion.

3. METHOD.—As we now have 80 "drafties" of the 1938-39 vintage, the greater majority of whom have less than two years' service, they must be protected from signal and M.G. officers and other ravagers of rifle companies, so that, at their present rate of improvement and development they will soon be able to overcome all challengers.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE.—"Q" side of the Company is now in the hands of C.Q.M.S. Lyons (more congratulations). We should receive "Chunks" of everything.

5. INTER-COMMUNICATION.—Visual communication in the cross-country championship has not been possible with "H.Q." Company in front, but has been established with "A," "B" and "C" Companies in rear. An effort to get in touch with the rugby championship was frustrated by "C" Company who crossed our "line" in the 1st round. They did the same thing to us in the soccer knock-out. Several narrowly unsuccessful

attempts in the soccer league found us unable to reach any of the other companies except one, but our young players, in all departments, are expected to establish terminals in all these trophies in the future.

BAND.—At the time of writing these notes the Band is at Kohat, doing its share of Brigade training, which, as usual, seems to be taking place in the middle of the rainy season. Anyway, that is the impression that we get, as we have been washed out of our original camp at Dhoda, and have marched back into Kohat. Here we are in rather more comfortable quarters, and are still busy scraping the mud off our kit.

We spent Christmas in the usual festive spirit, and it was a very happy party which assembled at the Bandmaster's house on Christmas night. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Caldicutt very much for their hospitality.

The only outstanding event in sport was the soccer match which we arranged between past and present members of the Band. This proved most amusing, and also produced some surprising talent. However, the Band was too strong for the "Old crocks," and the final result was several bruised limbs, and a score of 2—1 in the "Youngsters' favour."

The trooping season has, as usual, claimed some of our members. This time we have lost no less than nine: Cpl. Lawrence and Bds. Dale, Askham, Vaughan, Snelgrove and Goodman have left us for civil life, and Cpl. Kingston, and Bds. Coupland and Stevens have gone for a spell of duty with the home Battalion. To all of them we extend our heartiest wishes for every success and happiness. Finally, we must welcome Bds. Chivers and Cunningham, who have both joined us since the last issue of the IRON DUKE.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.



Since our last notes there has been a great revival of soccer enthusiasm, such as existed in the Battalion some years ago. It is in the nature of a soccer renaissance, and it is quite clear that soccer now holds first place in the affection of a large proportion of the Battalion. Unfortunately, it is not due to the winning of any laurels within the last few months, because we have not taken part in any outside tournaments, but have concentrated on tournaments amongst ourselves.

A very successful inter-city tournament took place before Christmas. Football of a high standard was seen, and it was won by "Sheffield Rovers," who defeated "Doncaster United" 1—0 in the final. The next important competition

was the inter-company knock-out shield, which produced some excellent football, played with great vigour and enthusiasm. The shield was won by "C" Company who defeated "B" Company 3—1 in the final after a great game. "A" Company unfortunately, was unable to enter a team for either of these competitions, as it was on detachment duty at Amritsar.

An inter-company League competition was held in January and as will be seen from the final placings some keenly contested games were witnessed. "B" Company won this competition heading the league on goal average, closely followed by "A" (who had just returned from Amritsar) and "H.Q.," who both had the same number of points as the winners.

A number of trial games have been organized recently with the intention of "spotting"

any new talent in the Battalion. Selected men are undergoing rigorous training daily under B.M. Caldicutt, and it is considered that a very useful side can be trained in readiness for the De Montmorency Tournament, for which we have just decided to enter. This tournament is held at Lahore and attracts a fairly large entry of military sides, so it should be a pointer to our chances in any of the bigger tournaments.

Company and platoon teams have had some enjoyable games with the Indian Regiment stationed in Multan (2/1 Punjab Regiment). Although soccer is quite a recent innovation in this Regiment, what the Sepoys lack in experience they make up for in enthusiasm.

This opportunity is taken of saying goodbye to Cpl. Lowe, L/Cpl. Madley, and Ptes. Davis and Johnson who have gone to the U.K. Prior to their departure these men were awarded soccer caps, which they had earned by years of sterling service in the Battalion team. The best wishes of the Battalion go with them. Finally, a cordial welcome is extended to C.S.M. Ward and Pte. Rumboll who, it is hoped, will do much to stimulate interest for soccer in the Battalion, and whose long football experience has already assisted greatly in the recent soccer revival. May their stay be a happy one.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

Since the Battalion's return to Multan from Dalhousie little rugger has been played owing to the demands on players for other forms of sport. The inter-company rugger tournament was held at the end of January and was completed before the Battalion left for Kohat for training, in the second week of February. The games provided keen football, although it was not of a particularly high standard. "H.Q." (B), who were the eventual winners, were strongly fancied from the beginning, but as the results show, all their matches were keenly contested, and their opponents deserve credit for the way in which they played against a heavier and more experienced side.

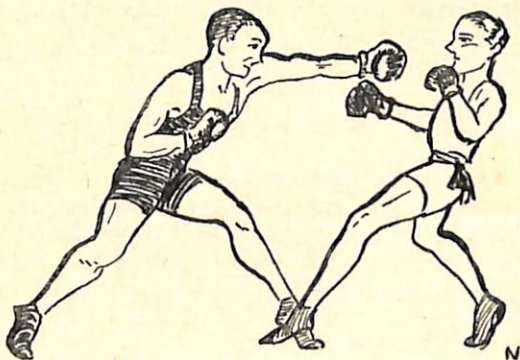
The results were as follows. First Round.—"C" Company 4 points v. "D" Company 0; "H.Q." (B) 6 points v. "H.Q." (A) 0. Semi-Finals.—"C" Company 3 points v. "B" Company 0; "H.Q." (B) 3 points v. "A" Company 0. Final.—"H.Q." (B) 9 points v. "C" Company 0.



BOXING.

The boxing team went to Lahore to compete in the Lahore District boxing tournament in the Army and Royal Air Force Championships.

In the semi-final we met the East Yorkshire Regiment, who were with us the previous summer in Dalhousie. We had staged two fights against them, both of which we lost, but considerable doubt was left in our minds as to who would have won had we both had our full teams. The fight was as close as it had promised to be, and it was very gratifying to us to win on the result of the last



fight, between Cpl. Hobson and Pte. Joy of the East Yorkshire Regiment, who provided the outstanding bout of the evening. Pte. Walls and Pte. McCabe also fought well, the latter being unlucky enough to be damaged sufficiently to prevent him fighting in the final.

Although we lost to the East Lincs. in the final by 20 points to 11, it was by no means the rout it appears to have been judging by the score. Walls again fought a very good fight, which he won, Brown being the only other successful member of our team. Bird was unlucky not to have won his fight.

HOCKEY.

The rumour about going to Kohat early in February, and thus missing the Lahore District assault-at-arms this year, proved correct in the end. This damped our spirits a good deal, at least as far as hockey was concerned. Various inter-company events had to be fitted in the two months of December and January, and everybody seemed pushed for time. Inter-company hockey and soccer knock-out tournaments ran concurrently between the 9th and 23rd December.

In the opening game "D" Company lost to "C" Company by 2 goals to 1. After a replay, "B" Company went down to "H.Q." "B" by the only goal of the game. In their second game "C" Company, who could not play three of their best players, put up rather a poor fight against "H.Q." "A." Thus the final became a domestic affair for "H.Q." Company. "H.Q." "B" were the worthy winners in a keen game, the score being 3 goals to 1.

Several Battalion games were arranged during the cold weather and our supremacy in local hockey was well maintained. The idea of training a Battalion XI. being out of the question, quite a number of "possibles" and "probables" were given a chance to play in Battalion games. This helped us to pick out new talent. As a result of better grounds and good opponents, the standard of Battalion hockey is bound to go up in Delhi. The officers versus sergeants matches are always keenly fought. They afford useful recreation and exercise to some of us, and we are ashamed to have to say that the officers lost both the matches played.

We are sorry to lose Cpls. Kingston and Lilley, and Pte. Lilley from the Battalion team and also to have to give up the Lahore District Championship without contesting it.

GOLF.

Our numerous activities and successes on the golf course during the past few months appear worthy of a few notes to themselves.

At Dalhousie we were particularly successful. The Captains' Prize (two rounds medal play) was won by Bob Moran, and Coulter was runner-up. Colonel Beard and Coulter won the inter-unit foursomes, a scratch competition. In the first round they beat the East Yorkshire Regiment, whose representatives were, incidentally, five and six handicap men. In the semi-final and final they accounted for two teams from District H.Q. The mixed foursomes were won by Lt. Coulter and Mrs. Beard. In fact it is no exaggeration to say that we swept the board at Dalhousie, Coulter being responsible for a lion's share of the good work.



During Multan Week, the golf competition, 18 holes medal play, was won by Maclaren, Major George of the 2/1st Punjab Regiment being runner-up. Meanwhile at Amritsar, Major Chatterton and Lunt battled through several rounds to win the local inter-services foursome Competition.

The annual competition for the silver and wooden putters was as great fun as ever, although there were only three bold men to battle against nature for the latter instrument. Everard is reported to have scored the greatest number of direct hits on palm trees, whilst Burton eventually emerged from the jungle to win the coveted trophy by a short head from Savory.

The scoring in the silver putter competition was not as good as last year, the chief reason being that most handicaps had been considerably reduced. Pip Moran won with a score of seven down on bogey over thirty-six holes. As he only started playing golf in April this was a very creditable performance. He was hotly pursued by his brother and Maclaren with nine down each, and Orr was fourth with a score of eleven down.

POLO.

There is very little to report since the last issue. Polo has been played more or less regularly three days a week, but we are still short of players, and more especially of ponies. The boarders, which we had hoped to get, failed to materialise, with the exception of three from the 2nd Lancers in Jullundur. Multan is certainly not the best centre for getting bargains in horse flesh, but we should do better in Delhi. Keeping the ground in order has proved difficult and several lame ponies have been the result. Indeed we have never been in the fortunate position of having all our ponies sound at the same time. Since Christmas we have had to be content with three-a-side chukkers.

We have now a well appointed polo pit in the Mess compound, but up to the present there has not been a queue of people waiting to use it.

Gregory has been unable to play since Christmas owing to a bad fall, not from a pony, but from a bicycle. The following have played regularly:—Lt.-Col. Fraser, Lt.-Col. Beard, Major W. G. Foster (R.A.M.C.), Mr. P. O'N. Tandy (Political Service), Everard, Moran, Harris, Davis and Jones-Stamp. The following have played occasionally:—Fallon, Sugden, Holland (U.L.I.A.).



DEPOT NEWS.

DURING the winter, a great part of the Barracks has been in the hands of the builders, and this made it necessary to send many squads to Bordon after only a few weeks at the Depot, to complete their recruits' training (under their own instructors) with the 1st Battalion. This temporary dislocation of our Depot organization, with the attendant inconvenience of having to improvise store-rooms, etc., and to endure the incomparably depressing litter of broken masonry, will be amply rewarded very soon when the work is finished and we find ourselves with really well equipped barracks.

The new gymnasium is expected to be particularly palatial, and our satisfaction with it is only tempered by the sad reflection that S.I. A. W. Easton, A.P.T.S., will not be here to perform the rites of its high priest, even at its opening. He is leaving us on

the 25th April, and we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the splendid work which he has done while he has been with us.

Recruiting, which had been excellent for many months, at the time of writing shows signs of flagging somewhat, and we presume that other branches of the Service have proved temporarily a greater attraction.

Probably the main excitement (notwithstanding a fire in barracks early one morning) was the trip to Leicester on 16th February to see the semi-final of the Army Rugby Cup, in which the 1st Battalion had our full sympathy in losing to their old rivals, the Welch Regiment. The Christmas and Easter leave periods both fell during the months under review, and the weather, particularly at Easter, was exceptionally kind.

We have been visited by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel C. J. Pickering, on the 13th and 14th January, and later by Lt.-Col. W. M. Ozanne, commanding the 1st Battalion, on the 25th March; other visitors included Col. G. L. Brown, Director of P.T. at the War Office and Col. A. J. K. Piggott, Assistant Adjutant-General at the War Office.

Liaison has been continued all round. Capt. Bunbury and Lt. Davidson conducted the certificate "A" examination at Giggleswick School; and Depot representatives attended the Old Comrades' dinners of the 4th, 8th and 9th Battalions, and also the dinners of the Volunteer Company D.W.R., South African Field Force and the South African War Veterans. The semi-final round of the N.C., T.A. boxing team championships was held in the gymnasium on the 12th January. The Depot has also provided a representative for the Halifax National Service Committee, and on Sunday, 26th March a detachment under Capt. Bunbury took part in a large National Service Rally in Halifax. Home Nursing courses are being run, in which Mrs. Rose (wife of Sgt. Rose, R.A.M.C. attached to the Depot) has lectured. Cpl. H. Beech ran a short course for the 7th Battalion from 2nd to 6th April, and Territorial Army cooks have been attached to the Depot.

We are sending a squad of recruits to take part in the Northern Command Tattoo at Leeds; they will perform in a massed display of P.T. and club-swinging.

We are still under establishment in officers, as no retired officer has as yet been appointed.

OFFICERS' MESS.

During the last three months there has been little social activity, at least, as far as the Mess as a whole is concerned. We entertained Lt.-Col. Ozanne and Captain Wathen to lunch on the 25th March, 1939, and found that they had been wiser than us in their Grand National fancies. Lt. Davidson has been the sole occupant of the Mess, and has reduced the messing and himself to a fantastically slim figure.

The improvements to the Mess which have already been completed include a new kitchen range and the installation of hot and cold water in all bedrooms. The re-decoration—our hope for ages past—is, we hear, shortly to be undertaken, and we are trying not to continue to regard it as a dream for years to come. The present fine weather has already brought the tennis court into use, and this, too, is to be extensively repaired.

SERGEANTS' MESS.

We hope that the ears of the workmen employed in the building of the new Sergeants' Mess have not been burning unduly. Much has been said about them, not all uncomplimentary. Much speculation is rife as to the probable date of our officially taking over. Some pessimist said "Hitler will be in Iceland before we get in there." Nevertheless, we are sure that it will be a distinct improvement on our old home.

Naturally, our social activities have been much curtailed since we handed over the old Mess to the contractors. At the present time we are unable to say whether we shall be able to hold our annual Waterloo Day ball or otherwise.

The Corporals challenged us to a football match and proceeded to trounce us to the tune of five goals to one. This despite the valiant efforts of the Adjutant and Lt. Davidson, who, as we had difficulty in raising an eleven, kindly turned out for us, but once again youth was served.

The annual billiards and snooker handicaps are also in abeyance until such times as we can hold them in the new Mess. We hear that several members are, however, getting a bit of practice in elsewhere.

We have to welcome C.S.M. H. Southall and L/Sgt. A. Hemblys on their arrival to do a tour of duty with us, and hope they find pleasure as well as work whilst with us. Sgt. Mills, Sgt. Hickox and L/Sgt. Brannon have recently rejoined their units on completion of tours (Brannon a short spell), and we wish them luck.

SPORT.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.—The list of fixtures arranged for the present season has now been completed. Twenty-two matches have been played, of which four have been lost, three drawn and the remainder won. Quite a good record considering that in each game played at least half of the side has been composed of recruits. We were not able to complete the recruits' inter-squad league, mainly owing to various squads having to proceed to Bordon after only a few weeks' training at the Depot.

Our team-building efforts for the Northern Command Inter-Depot competition also suffered as a result of these premature moves. Having received a bye in the first round we were called upon to travel to Pontefract to play the Depot, The York and Lancaster Regiment in the second round on 21st January. Owing to our ground being unfit for play for five weeks previous to the game, the team had not had an opportunity to play together, so that they were of rather an unknown quality. However, they acquitted themselves very well in the circumstances. Lack of team work proved mainly responsible for their defeat by three goals to one. Ptes. Caleb, Booth, Cooper and Sykes showed up very well, Booth in particular, as he played in goal without previous experience. Pte. Dyson, who captained the team, gave his usual sterling display.

BOXING.—For the past three months our efforts have been concentrated on finding a team to represent the Depot in the Lindsay Clark Cup competition, of which we are the holders. For this year's competition only those recruits who have not completed a total of fourteen weeks (including the forming period) at the Depot on the day of the finals will be eligible. Unfortunately, we have had to send half of our prospective team away to Bordon after only seven weeks at the Depot, and consequently cannot rebuild the team in the short time remaining; we have had therefore, reluctantly to scratch from the competition—a great disappointment.

Regimental Museum.

In connection with the re-modernisation of the barracks, the hut encroachment which has hitherto held the museum exhibits is to be replaced with a stone building. This will enable us to show our possessions to greater advantage and protect them to a larger extent against climatic conditions.

We have received no additional exhibits since the last publication of THE IRON DUKE.

Presentations and donations should be addressed to the Commanding Officer, The Depot, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Barracks, Halifax, Yorks. These will be duly acknowledged.

58th Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A. (4th D.W.R.) News.

We have now had some four months' experience as an Anti-Tank Regiment. It has been, and still is, a period of re-organisation in which everyone has had to learn his job afresh. Our news, therefore, is a somewhat dry chronicle of work and statistics. We received our first guns in January, and by reason of their scarcity and the somewhat inadequate accommodation afforded by the infantry drill halls, training has had its handicaps. The old "A" Company has now become the 229th Battery, "D" Company 230th Battery, "B" Company 231st Battery, and "C" Company 232nd Battery. The permanent staff instructors have been increased from four to five and now include two gunners. Involved in the foregoing is the abandonment of the Sowerby Bridge drill hall, because of its design and inaccessibility. It is now occupied by the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Training has proved most interesting, and considerable efficiency has been achieved in the handling of the new weapons. This state of affairs has not been attained without physical effort, in that part of our new work involves two unfortunates whose duty it is to support 16 cwts. on the end of a crow-bar, whilst a third, with feverish haste, attaches or detaches a wheel.

The following promotions have been made :—Capt. L. E. A. Foster has been gazetted to Major, Lt. and Quartermaster G. Foster to Captain and Quartermaster, Lt. H. S. Heaton to Captain and 2nd Lt. J. Brook to Lieutenant. We welcome to the Regiment 2nd Lts. R. B. Clegg and R. Smith, and take this opportunity of wishing them long and happy service with the Regiment.

The following are to be congratulated on the award of the efficiency medal (Territorial) :—Sgt. Bryan, Bdr. Cadwell, Gunner Davies, Gunner Howard, Sgt. Millar, B.S.M. Woodhead and Sgt. Hemingway, and B.S.M. Hoddinott on the award of the efficiency medal (Territorial) first clasp.

In the promotion examination for majority at York on the 2nd April, Capt. W. B. Sugden was successful, and for captaincy Lts. H. J. H. Gillam, G. S. Barrett, R. W. Asquith and 2nd Lt. P. A. Smith.

The Regimental P. T. team is to be congratulated on winning the Divisional physical training competition held at Wakefield on the 30th March, and 2nd Lt. A. Bilbrough on having trained the team so satisfactorily.

R.S.M. T. Jowett left us in December and was re-posted to the 2nd Battalion in India. Sgt.-major H. H. Clark, who was P.S.I. at Brighouse, is to be congratulated on his appointment to R.S.M.

On Sunday, 26th March, the Regiment was represented at the National Service Church Parade, when various organisations attended the Halifax Parish Church. The monthly suppers, preceded by lectures, have continued and have been well attended. A programme of week-end training has been arranged for all batteries. This will take place before camp.

Camp this year will be at Reedsdale, and commences on 18th June. Since troop commanders are mounted on motor bicycles, some pre-camp training will be necessary, if this is not to prove disastrous.

In concluding these notes it is satisfactory to record that the Regiment has now reached war strength, that is, 29 officers and 512 other ranks, and it is hoped that before very long considerable progress will have been made in the establishment of the second line.

43rd (5th D.W.R.) A.A. Battalion R.E. News.

On 17th February Major J. M. Haigh was promoted Lieutenant Colonel, and was appointed to command the Battalion. We wish him the very best of luck, and a successful period of command.

Nothing of very outstanding importance has occurred during the last few months. Recruiting, particularly in Huddersfield, has been good, and our strength has been steadily increasing. Today the numbers stand at 1,055, and it is gratifying to be able to record that the two Huddersfield Companies are now up to establishment, and have started to recruit the 30 per cent. excess which they are entitled to do. Since the National Service drive was started, the local authorities have taken a little more interest in our activities, and have endeavoured to assist recruiting; at a recent recruiting demonstration in a certain local town the Mayor, although doing his best to be helpful, was a little unfortunate in his choice of words, by referring to us, before conversion, as an "infamous" Battalion.

Individual training has taken up most of our time during the last few months, and with the vast numbers and variety of subjects with which we have to deal, this requires a great deal of organisation, especially when it is borne in mind that our accommodation is still very limited. Improvements, however, have received approval, and work on the new drill halls for Holmfirth and Penistone will soon be started. Extensions have also been approved for Leeds Road and Mirfield drill halls.

It has not perhaps been realised in the past how much office work there has been running a search-light company, and how many hours have been taken up apart from drill nights; belated, though welcome, approval has now been given to the appointment of four full time officers per Battalion, who function more or less as company adjutants. They are known as administrative officers, and three of these appointments have been filled from within the unit, viz:—Major T. D. Roberts (formerly Quartermaster), Capt. G. E. Gooch and Capt. W. L. Thornton. Capt. J. W. Scott, R.A.R.O., is the fourth.

A story vouched for as authentic is perhaps worth noting (this presumably originated before the arrival of the administrative officers). An officer, on joining a T.A. Search-light Battalion enquired how much time it would take up, and was told it would be one night a week. About a year later, this officer's wife complained to the C.O. that her husband was always at the drill hall and hardly ever at home, and she understood when he joined that it would only be one night a week. "Oh yes," replied the C.O., "only one night a week at home." Perhaps it was the same officer who afterwards wrote to his father and asked him to pull strings to have him transferred to the Regular Army, so that he might be able to devote more time to his business.

On 11th March the officers had an opportunity of meeting other members of the 31st (N.M.) A.A. Brigade, when a very successful dinner was held at Queen's Hotel, Leeds.

We should like to record that the following have been awarded the Territorial efficiency medal:—C.S.M. H. Blake, Sgt. T. W. Burrell, Cpl. C. E. Tibbott, Cpl. E. Wood, Spr. C. Berry-Mallinson, Ex-Spr. J. W. Fowler. C.Q.M.S. C. Hardcastle and Drum-Major W. Noon have also been awarded the clasp to the Territorial efficiency medal.

Four officers have been gazetted since the last notes, viz:—2nd Lts. G. M. Walker, J. F. Overton, A. W. R. Brook, and Lt. and Quarter-master H. Cooper; we wish them the best of luck. Lt. W. L. Thornton is to be congratulated on his promotion to captain.

6th BATTALION NEWS.

The diarised fact that THE IRON DUKE notes were due was unfortunately covered with so much additional matter consequent upon the Government's decision to give birth to twins, together with the primary duty of the moment, that of signing attestation papers, nearly caused a catastrophe. However, now I have received a reminder from the Editor—here goes.

As I have intimated, the weather is bright but we are more or less snowed under. The 6th Battalion is to be duplicated, and having completed our first line a few days ago, we are now producing the second. Among other things we have been allotted an additional recruiting area and the country goes to the city. The new area to be administered covers some portion of ground from which the splendid 9th Service Battalion was recruited early in the war—namely, Baildon, Shipley, Saltaire, certain parts of Bradford and south to Denholme; so there is some D.W.R. tradition to work on. The recruits we have been getting are of first-class quality and we have experienced a very healthy response to special recruiting efforts and appeals made.

The future no doubt will be important reading; the present is disturbing, so reverting to history the following is a résumé of events:—As reported in the February issue of THE IRON DUKE editorial, Colonel J. S. Spencer was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours, and all ranks record herewith their sincere congratulations on this splendid recognition. Colonel Spencer was duly presented and on return the Mess dined him out. Doubtless this is the first occasion when the C.O. has been a guest within his own Mess. The speeches, which were given by one major, one captain, one lieutenant and one second lieutenant, improved as they went down the line.

In contrast, a subalterns' night was organised in February. This, however, developed into a performance of inter-Battalion prowess in all sports from rugby football to all-in wrestling. Nevertheless, in due course it was reported that they arrived more or less whole at their respective homes. The Mess is rapidly becoming more and more inadequate to the demand put upon it, and we are grateful for bricks and mortar in the yard. These foretell certain extensions which are to include a new ante-room and a Sergeants' Mess—a most necessary adjunct to the Battalion.

The Regimental ball, held on 17th March, was a splendid success. We had the honour of the presence of Brigadier and Mrs. Daly, Major and Mrs. Lawlor, many representatives of our neighbourly units and old and new friends too numerous to mention. Capt. R. M. Bateman deserves a mention for most successful staff work.

The sergeants held their annual dinner in April, and this also was an outstanding success. No less than one hundred members and guests were present, and the speeches were almost as good as the meal.

Space forbids a detailed account of recruiting activities now in full swing; sufficient to say that the Band and Drums are playing an important part in the general programme of national defence.

Congratulations to 2nd Lt. G. M. Holroyd on his commission; to Capts. Bairstow and Bateman and Lt. C. Hill on their passing for further promotion when the time comes—the latter obtained a "D"; to Miss Bairstow on her appointment to command our W.A.T.S.

An obituary notice of the late Colonel N. A. England, D.S.O., appears elsewhere in this issue.

7th BATTALION NEWS.

Any Territorial news written in April, as this is, must be coloured by the exciting times in which we are living. The recurrence of crisis after crisis in international affairs is at last driving home the lesson that the Territorial Army has a serious function to perform, and that we are an important part of the country's defences.

The first and most obvious result of all this is an influx of new officers. Since our last issue we have to welcome 2nd Lts. T. L. Gillison, E. J. B. Mowat, S. R. Hoyle, H. M. Whitwam and J. Birkhead, while several other gentlemen are expecting to be gazetted shortly. Mr. A. H. Wilby has joined our reserve and Mr. T. Grundy the officers' Emergency reserve.

The recruiting of other ranks has gone on satisfactorily, and we are now, for the first time for some years, above peace establishment. A long road still lies in front of us; we need seventy or eighty more men to reach war establishment before we can begin the larger task of raising a second battalion. Preparations are being made which should, before long, produce satisfactory results, especially as our recruiting area now includes Huddersfield, which, of course, has no other Infantry unit. News of the success of our efforts here is not available at the moment.

The usual series of lectures and discussions for officers has produced very full attendances; we have had explanations by the Adjutant of the new organisations and establishments, and Brigadier Daly lectured on the preparation of Tactical exercises. With the increasing seriousness of affairs we have felt that much has been learnt at these lectures and the discussions of wider problems that have inevitably arisen.

Training of N.C.Os. has been pushed on, with classes at Springhead, Milnsbridge and Mossley; we are indebted to the Depot for assistance with instructors. At first, with only five Bren guns, training of men was handicapped, but since we have had ten guns it has been possible to organise instruction on better lines, and the knowledge of our new weapons is now spreading rapidly.

Social affairs, which are usually our chief item of news at this time of the year, seem curiously remote. Our dance in January was a great success (though it *was* on Friday the 13th) and we had to restrict the issue of tickets a week or so before the date.

Slaithwaite prize distribution was held on 21st January; Councillor Ellam, chairman of the Colne Valley Council, gave the prizes, and Brigadier Daly and Colonel Mellor were there. On 4th February Colonel Mellor gave the prizes at Springhead, where once again the difficulties of the small drill hall were very apparent. It was announced for the first time that we are probably to have a new drill hall at Springhead, and we look forward when the promise materialises, to great improvements. Finally, in March there was the usual very successful and very crowded gathering at Mossley, where Col. Sir Gilbert Tanner gave the prizes.

To go back to the beginning of the period, we have to congratulate Major H. Bridge on his brevet promotion and Sgt. Laming on being awarded that rather rare distinction, the Medal of the Order of the British Empire. A further reference to this appears on page 123. We should also record that four of our subalterns—in fact, all who are qualified to take the exam.—passed their exam. for promotion to Captain, and Lt. Evans led the field and distinguished himself by scoring '8.

One more item of news; Pte. N. Bramham won the Divisional boxing at Leeds in his class (light-heavy weight); he went on to the T.A. meeting in London, but was unfortunate in meeting a very good opponent in the first round there.

Our cross-country team, for the first time for many years, had no Norcliffe in it, and did not score any success.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Autumn manœuvres in Yorkshire next September—always provided we are not involved in manœuvres elsewhere before that date. Probably, therefore, our next issue will have no news of camp.

33rd BATTALION A.M.F. NEWS.

Since our last notes were forwarded, the command of the unit has passed to Major I. N. Dougherty, as forecast in the last issue. Major P. S. McGrath, Staff Corps, who has been administering the command, has departed for his new duties in Base H.Q., Sydney. The officers and citizens joined in a pleasant dinner and social function to farewell Major and Mrs. McGrath at the Barracks. Our new C.O. joined the Battalion from the Sydney University Regiment as captain, and has been serving in the unit for the past five years. The appointment is a popular one, and the officers in all centres are expecting plenty of exercise in T.E.W.T.S. The first of these series was held in Armidale on the week-end 18/19th March, and was well attended. The exercises included the passage of a defended river crossing.

Lt. A. C. McInnes has been transferred to Tamworth as adjutant and Q.M., and we are learning that Mac's pleasant smile masks a driving efficiency that is making us all get "on our toes." Our two new members of the P.S., S.M. Johnston and Dosseter are very welcome additions, as the 33rd, in common with all militia units, is coping with an influx of recruits which is keeping the P.S. and militia N.C.Os. busy with "turning by numbers," etc. It is not long, however, before the majority definitely pass from the recruit stage and show promise of being excellent soldiers. Enthusiasm is high, and all ranks of the community have responded to the Government's call for enlistments.

To quote one instance: Inverell, a Northern N.S.W. town some 80 miles from here, has nearly 300 men in "C" Company—a new sub-unit formed in our Battalion. Fortunately we were able to secure Capt. Varley for the first company commander, and S.M. Johnston has been transferred to that centre as P.S.I. The first parade was held at the Show Ground at night with the light supplied by the headlights of members' cars. Conditions are improving, and the morale of "C" Company is reported "tails up." Good luck to them. Nearer home, at Manilla (25 miles out), a further 80 men have enlisted and form part of "D" Company. The O.C. "D" Company, Capt. Tuckwell, with his usual dash, thinks nothing of getting there in 30 minutes; what happens to chickens, rabbits, etc., *en route* is not recorded. Quirindi (Capt. Hague), Gunnedah (Capt. Studdy) and Armidale (Capt. Faint) have all received a large increase in numbers, and all officers and N.C.Os. are brushing up their little red books to instruct new members in the initial mysteries.

Last camp was regarded by all as instructive and interesting, albeit strenuous. Defence of the coastline was the underlying tactical lesson, and although the country back from the beaches is thick scrub with occasional tracks, and only two arterial roads, the occupation and subsequent withdrawal at night was carried out to the satisfaction of our new I.G., Lt.-General Squires. The I.G.'s close interest in all phases of the work was much appreciated by the troops. The inevitable relief was supplied by the staff officer who fell over a wire entanglement in the dark. It is understood that he did not appreciate the skilful layout of the entanglement as much as the O.C. Company expected. Indeed, there were some recriminations on the question of the sentry failing to challenge.

This year a four days' camp is to be held at Easter, for this centre at Tamworth, and for the northern centres at Inverell. The syllabus is designed principally to give our new members their first experience of collective camp life. Late in October we expect a 12 days' annual camp in the southern manœuvre area, of which more anon. Apart from the change of command, several movements of officers have occurred since our last notes. Capt. R. K. Phillips joined from 20/54th Battalion (Parramatta and Blue Mountains Regiment), Sgts. Buckley, Thornton "D" (S.) Company, C.Q.M.S. Knowles "B," Sgt. Marshall "A," have gained their commissions. Capt. Assheton (Glen Innes) has passed in all subjects for Major. Lts. McCandless and Windeyer have completed their exams for promotion.

A divisional gas course was held here recently at B.H.Q., and the local inhabitants, especially the small boy, got thrills out of watching the "blurbing" noises emanating from the strange creatures on the lawn. It was noted that Mac's dog stood the gas better than some of the candidates with respirators.

On the social side of our activities, the last Regimental ball held on the King's birthday in the Tamworth town hall was well attended. At present we are organising a gymkhana and tattoo to be held on the show ground in the afternoon of Anzac Day. The services, at which we co-operate with the Returned Soldiers' League, are held in the morning, and the League are helping us with the afternoon's display. The 12th L.H. troop are participating, and if the weather deity is kind to us, the Regimental fund should receive a welcome credit for troops' comforts. Our Regimental ball, of which more in our next, will be held on the King's birthday.

In the country this season's harvest has been good, and the dry spell has been broken by three inches of rain.

We all send our good wishes for 1939 to The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and THE IRON DUKE.

H.M.S. IRON DUKE.

At Portsmouth,

14th April, 1939.

Dear Mr. Editor,

The ship's activities have been more than usually intense during the period since last I wrote. Exercises at sea and in harbour have ensured that there has been never a dull moment; not since Christmas, which was very dull and cold, with the ship lying alongside the Dolphins at the entrance to Fareham Creek.

Capt. A. J. L. Phillips, much to our regret, bid farewell to the ship on 23rd February, and Capt. R. D. Oliver, D.S.C., took over his command. Capt. Oliver has recently spent two years in New Zealand as Second Naval Member of the New Zealand Naval Board.

At the end of the month we sailed for Weymouth Bay for exercises with the Torpedo School. The inside of each of three weeks was spent in Weymouth Bay, the ship returning at week-ends to Portsmouth. The weather was better than usual and both exercises and training were carried out.

The boys' divisions then held their boxing championships, where great vigour and spirit were displayed. The Captain, after distributing the trophies, aptly described their boxing as being like the *Iron Duke*—more guns than armour!

13.5" turret drill and 6" drill became more and more frequent in preparation for the Gunnery School firings, which eventually took place on 2nd and 3rd March. The first day was disappointing as no full-calibre firing could be carried out until late in the afternoon, owing to an accident damaging the target-towing gear in the tug. Large numbers of spectators, film and newspaper cameramen who were on board had an interesting day. The following day the firings were completed successfully, each turret having fired about 40 rounds per gun and each 6" gun about 30 rounds.

On arrival in harbour, there was a general exodus to witness the Army v. Navy rugby match in which we had a very personal interest, having two representatives from the ship playing:—Lt. Vavasour and Sub.-Lt. Bridger.

At the end of March we co-operated with the Army at Culver and provided ourselves as a target for range-finding.

A.R.P. has made itself felt more and more in the last few months, and frequent harbour defence exercises take place in the Portsmouth area. Barrage balloons have been flown from Southsea Common, and sandbags and shelters are intensive parts of any view of the Dockyard.

The four French destroyers who escorted M. Lebrun from France visited the port during the President's stay in London and we exchanged calls.

There have been one or two changes in our officers. Paymaster Commander Pine has left us to take up his appointment as secretary to Admiral Moore in the Mediterranean, and Paymaster Lt. Gilman has gone to the Signal School prior to joining the Commander-in-Chief's Staff at Malta. Their places have been taken by Paymaster Commander Calcutt and Paymaster Midshipman Boxer.

We are all enjoying what we consider a well-earned Easter Leave.

With best wishes to all Battalions,

Very sincerely,

YOUR CORRESPONDENT,

H.M.S. *Iron Duke*.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATIONS.

(1st and 2nd BATTALIONS).

The committee has to record a slight increase in the number of applications received during the period 1st July last to mid-April, the result, no doubt, of the rather unsettled condition of the industrial market owing to the international situation. The following figures serve as a guide over a period of a few years : present period-164 ; 1938-150 ; 1937-170 ; 1936-202 ; 1935-212.

One hundred and ten applications were received from ex-regular soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and in 90 cases a total of £161 17s. 4d. was disbursed as grants ; 14 cases were not considered for various reasons, 3 did not reply to further enquiries, 2 cases are pending and 1 requested clothing only, which was supplied. Fourteen cases were dealt with in regard to the 2nd Battalion Charitable Fund and to 12 of these a total of £18 7s. 0d. was distributed, while 2 were not proceeded with. To 21 cases the sum of £15 7s. 6d. was disbursed from the 3rd Battalion Fund and in 10 applications received in respect of the 9th Battalion Fund, grants totalling £15 19s. 5d. were made, while 2 cases were not proceeded with. Four cases were considered by the administrator of the 10th Battalion Fund, and to 3 of these grants to the total of £11 10s. 0d. were distributed and 1 case was withdrawn. Five cases were referred to O.C.As. of Territorial units, regarding men who had not served as regular soldiers. In addition to the above, six parcels of clothing were given to applicants who had proved to be deserving.

The committee tenders its thanks to Lt.-Col. W. M. Ozanne for clothing received.

The annual London dinner took place at the Union Jack Club on Saturday, 6th May, Colonel C. J. Pickering presiding. The dinner was attended by 109 members and their friends and proved a very successful and pleasant function.

After the loyal toast and that of the Regiment, the Chairman read telegrams and messages conveying good wishes from Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner, Lt.-Cols. F. H. Fraser

and M. V. le P. Trench, all ranks of the 1st Battalion, Major H. R. Kavanagh, and Mr. Wale, an ex-band-sergeant of the Regiment, who left in 1904 and is now resident in South Africa.

The Chairman remarked that he felt it a pleasure and honour to be at the gathering for the first time as Colonel of the Regiment, and said that he had, just before the dinner, despatched a wire conveying the best wishes of those present to Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner, who was unavoidably absent in obedience to doctor's orders.

Referring to the Field of Remembrance, he said he had visited our plot on Remembrance Day, and had formed the opinion that ours was the best plot on the Field. Our thanks were due to Capt. Bolton for this, and he asked those present to show their appreciation by forwarding to Capt. Bolton at Bow Street Police Station their sixpences, and thus ensure a well-kept plot in the future.

Touching on the topic of sport, he was pleased at the progress made by the 1st Battalion at Bordon, by winning the Longmoor and Bordon Soccer Cup, the Aldershot Command Rugby Cup, and the two teams' very fine efforts in both Army Cups. Our congratulations were due to Sgt. Peacock, who had achieved the great distinction of getting into the Army Eight. The 2nd Battalion were finding it difficult to make much headway in sport, but there was no doubt we should hear more of them on their coming change of station.

Regarding the Old Comrades' Association, he thought all would agree that the last balance sheet showed a very fine state of our affairs, and great credit for this was due to Mr. Paling, who had spared no effort on the Association's behalf.

He then referred to the loss the Regiment had sustained by the transfer of two of their Territorial Battalions, one to the Royal Artillery as an Anti-Tank Regiment, and the other to the Royal Engineers as a Searchlight Anti-Aircraft Battalion. He had visited the old 4th Battalion at Halifax and the 5th Battalion at Huddersfield. Both were splendid Battalions, well officered and recruited up to establishment, and he was certain that both these units would receive the best wishes of all those present for their future.

Mention was made of the growth of the London and Home Counties Club, which meets on the last Saturday of each month at Allenby's Club.

In conclusion, the Chairman said he would always be glad to do the best he could for the Regiment, the O.C.A. and for individuals.

The following were present at the dinner :—Lt.-Cols. M. N. Cox, W. G. Officer, W. M. Ozanne, H. K. Umfreville, Majors V. C. Green, C. W. G. Ince, O. Price, A. E. H. Sayers, Capts. G. P. Bennett, R. H. D. Bolton, D. Looney, J. H. Moore, C. Oliver, C. St. J. Phillips, J. A. Whitaker, Lt. E. J. Readings. Depot.—R.S.M. H. Coates, R.Q.M.S. T. McMahan, L/Sgt. R. Pearce, Cpl. W. Stone, L/Cpl. A. Fairclough, Ptes. W. Bye, F. E. Clarke. 1st Battalion.—R.S.M. F. Allsop, R.Q.M.S. A. R. Smith, C.S.Ms. J. Glasbey, B. Hearsum, P.S.Ms. S. Gill, J. E. Johnson, E. Roach, Sgts. G. Annesley, A. Hellowell, T. Peacock, J. Sutherland, L/Sgt. F. Stringer, Cpls. A. Frost, H. Hall, P. Hopkins, C. Murphy, L/Cpls. G. Beatty, S. McCracken, J. Staniforth, Ptes. J. Graham, H. Marson, J. Shaw, A. Whittaker. Ex-serving.—Messrs. C. Absom, F. Balls, R. Barraclough, W. E. Battisson, G. Baxter, A. W. Bird, W. Bowls, D. Benson, H. Cates, F. C. Clarke, W. Coventry, W. Cowling, F. Crouch, J. W. Crouch (two guests), J. Cunningham, A. Dell, G. Finding, G. Fricker, J. Garner, L. Harper, A. Halfacre, J. J. Hart, J. Hodkin, B. Knee, A. E. Maltby, H. Matthews, A. R. Martin, W. Maskell, A. Mallinson, F. S. Meillear, H. Mikesch, E. Moseley, F. Naylor, R. Norris, J. W. Paling, J. Parker, J. F. Parker, E. Pogson, A. W. Richards, W. Rush, L. Rutley, G. H. Shaw, T. J. Sheridan, W. J. Simmonds, A. C. Smith, J. J. Smith, J. A. Stafford, F. Stephenson, S. F. Swift, E. C. Taylor, J. O. Thompson, A. D. Ward (and guest), A. Whittaker, F. G. Williams, F. M. Williams, J. H. Willis, J. Yeates, C. E. Yeo and A. J. Young.

Brig.-Gen. P. A. Turner writes :—" Many of our readers will remember that during the time the 1st Battalion were at Malta No. 4613275 Pte. P. Whitfield had to have his leg amputated owing to blood poisoning and was sent home for discharge.

" There was much ink expended in a wordy argument between those connected with the Regiment, splendidly backed up by Mr. R. Warde-Aldan, Whitfield's father's employer, and the authorities, military and civil, as to whether Whitfield was to be helped to qualify to earn a living, and to be granted a pension. The battle raged long and furiously, and eventually, after the expenditure of much red tape, Whitfield was granted a disability pension ; but no Government Department would do anything in the way of training him to earn his living. Eventually the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops waived some of their regulations, and said they would take him if the necessary money for his training could be found, although he had not lost his leg on active service. This was arranged between Mr. Warde-Aldan, the 1st Battalion, the Regimental Retired Officers' Fund, the O.C.A. and Whitfield himself.

" On 5th April last a letter was received from Miss E. M. Acton, C.B.E., the Secretary of the Incorporated Sailors and Soldiers Help Society, and Comptroller of the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops, stating that Whitfield had completed his fifty-two weeks' training, and that he had become an employee of the Workshops, and, as such, was a self-supporting trained worker. Miss Acton has taken a great interest in Whitfield during his time as a ' learner,' and has reported favourably from time to time on his progress ; and she closes her letter by writing ' . . . and I trust that he will continue to make the best of the opportunity which has been given him.'

" The Incorporated Sailors and Soldiers Help Society kindly gave Whitfield a kit of tools, so that he is well equipped for his work. The fact that he is now in permanent employment in the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops is a most satisfactory ending, as at one time it looked as though Whitfield would be left without any Government pension, or other visible means of subsistence.

" Whitfield desires to return his most heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all those who helped him in his misfortune, and both he and the Regiment desire to express their appreciation of Mr. Warde-Aldan's great help in arriving at the successful issue of the affair, and also for his most generous subscription to the fund required for the training at the Lord Roberts Workshops."

9th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

The sixteenth annual re-union dinner of the Association was held in Bradford on Saturday 4th March, 1939, and there was a large assembly under the presidency of Major M. Robertson. Among those present were Colonel P. R. Simner, Lt.-Col. E. M. Huntriss, Lt.-Col. S. Danby, Major Driver, Captains A. E. Miller and C. Kingston, Mr. A. D. Bonham-Carter and the Rev. C. Stephenson, and the guests included Lt.-Col. W. F. Denning, Majors V. C. Green and W. N. Town and Captains J. S. Stanley and J. H. Sharp. The President, Lt.-Col. F. A. Hayden, was unable to be present.

In reply to a message expressing loyal devotion, the following telegram was received : " Please convey to all ranks the King's sincere thanks for their loyal assurances, which his Majesty much appreciates."

Giving the toast of the Battalion, Col. Denning said he had been astounded at the manner in which men of the Battalion, who had been recruited from all parts of the country, when it was formed, had turned up for the function. It was obvious that the same spirit of comradeship existed as was in being over twenty years ago. " What about the British Empire when it can be shown to the world that men who have served and known the beastliness of war, can attend like this ? " he asked. " Men, who, if it is ever necessary, will go again." The Battalion, he said, had had the rather unusual honour of having been mentioned in despatches.

Major Robertson, replying, said the dinner was one of the year's functions which he put before all others. He read messages from several former officers, including Col. Hayden, and referred to the illness of the secretary, Capt. C. E. Johnson, mentioning that Mr. G. N. Lord, of Halifax, was deputising.

Col. Huntriss, who also responded, described the unveiling at Fricourt in July of the tablet in honour of the dead of the 17th Division which he and Col. Simner attended. He also referred to the dedication of the 9th Battalion Colour at Halifax Parish Church, and described the parade as one of the finest he had seen. He expressed his keen appreciation of having been asked as their representative, to command the Somme Parade at Bradford, which over 1,200 ex-servicemen attended.

Proposing the toast of "The Guests," Col. Simner paid a tribute to the work among ex-servicemen of Col. Denning, and added that there was a strong liaison between the Halifax Depot of the Regiment and the O.C.A. of the 9th Battalion and between the latter and the O.C.As. of the 8th and 10th Battalions, whose representatives they heartily welcomed.

Captain Miller proposed "His Majesty's Forces," and in response Major V. C. Green said that with memories of the Halifax Depot in the old days, they should now visit it. They would find at the present moment that it was just as uncomfortable as when they were there, but in another six months' time they would find it a very different place, for it was being re-built and re-constructed. The old barracks blocks remained, but they were getting a new dining hall, sergeants' mess, gymnasium, etc. There would be central heating in the barrack rooms and hot and cold water laid on—(applause and cheers).

The fact that men turned up from all parts of the country to attend the annual dinner—that the battalion was still living—was of extreme value to the young soldier, as it was a peg on which he gave a lecture to every squad that arrived at the Depot. The old soldiers were still serving their country by their fine *esprit de corps*.

On Sunday, 5th March, the annual remembrance parade and service was held at the Halifax Parish Church. The parade, which was commanded by Col. P. R. Simner, assembled at the Halifax drill hall and marched from there to the Parish Church. In addition to a large number of men of the 9th Battalion Old Comrades' Association, there were representatives of the 4th, 8th, and 10th Battalion O.C.As., Halifax and King Cross Branches of the British Legion, South African War Veterans, Royal Naval and Marine Association, Legion of Frontiersmen, British Red Cross Society and Sea Cadets. There was also a detachment of 30 men from the Depot, under the Commanding Officer, Major V. C. Green.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. C. Stephenson (padre) and the service was conducted by Canon P. E. James, M.A., Vicar of Halifax.

The 17th Division Officers' Dinner Club has had published a booklet as a souvenir of the pilgrimage made to Fricourt, Somme, on the 17th July, 1938 to unveil a memorial to the 17th (Northern) Division in Fricourt Church. All arrangements for the erection of this memorial were made by the Dinner Club committee, and its cost was borne by the club funds. The souvenir booklet contains a reproduction of the memorial to the Division and of the Thiepval Memorial (commemorating 75,000 soldiers who have no known grave, including many of the 17th Division), a very fine sketch by Captain Fred May (an officer of the Division), an account of the pilgrimage, Padre Rushby's address at Albert, the Order of Battle of the Division, etc.

A brief account of the unveiling of the memorial was given on page 167 of No. 41 of THE IRON DUKE, and a photograph of the tablet appeared opposite page 36 of our last issue. Ex-members of the 9th Battalion will be interested in this booklet, and Captain A. G. Allen, D.S.O., M.C. (Hon. Sec., The 17th Division Officers' Dinner Club), 3 Finch Lane, Threadneedle Street, E.C.3., will be glad to supply copies, post free, at 1/6 for single copies, 2/6 for three copies and 5/- for seven copies.

10th (SERVICE) BATTALION.

The past month or two is regarded as the quietest period in our Association year, yet there have been occurrences—grave and gay—which deserve record, and, actually, there has been “quite a lot doing” in a small way.

On 6th February the Association suffered a serious blow by the death of Mr. Walter Brook (Brighouse), who had been on the committee ever since the O.C.A. was formed in 1933. His death came as a great shock, because, although we knew he was in the Bradford Infirmary we had no idea his condition was so serious. He was a most enthusiastic and loyal worker for the Association, and will be greatly missed. Major W. N. Town (our President) and a number of members of the committee and Association were able to attend the funeral, and they brought along with them the O.C.A. Banner and a wreath to mark their esteem and respect for “Walter.”

The news about Lt.-Col. F. W. Lethbridge, who is in a poor state of health in France, is rather better, and we are hoping that, with the coming of warmer weather, his condition will continue to improve.*

This year's London Re-union—at the Empire Restaurant, Piccadilly, on 25th March—brought together a larger number of members than in 1938, and congratulations are due to Capt. R. Bolton and Capt. P. J. Sainsbury for the very adequate arrangements they made for a most enjoyable evening. Major J. C. Bull was in the chair, and others present included Lt.-Col. S. S. (“Slasher”) Hayne, Capt. C. D. Hely-Hutchinson (Hon. Secretary, 23rd Division Officers' Association) and Capt. the Rev. L. N. Phillips (our former Adjutant). It is hoped that many of those who attended the London Re-union will be with us in Bradford on 28th and 29th October, when we hold this year's re-union and memorial parade. Capt. Sainsbury has promised to come, and Capt. Phillips says he will do his best to attend.

On 18th February the committee held a private dinner and whist drive in the Bradford and County Conservative Club, as compensation to their ladies for allowing them “time off” for meetings and other O.C.A. work during the year; on 28th January the Huddersfield section held an encouraging meeting and pie supper, when Lt. Fred Dyson and Mr. H. T. Frise were elected chairman and hon. secretary respectively; and on 11th March the Halifax section held a supper and whist drive. If only we could get the Keighley members to move!

We were glad to be represented at the 9th Battalion re-union on 4th March and their parade in Halifax the following day, and also at the 8th Battalion re-union on 25th March—when Major Town (who is chairman of the 8th Battalion O.C.A. as well as president of our Association) was in the chair. These functions were very successful, and again proved the strong *camaraderie* of the “Dukes.”

When in London on 25th March we were informed that Lt. S. R. Wilson had been the victim of a big robbery in January. His studio in the Strand was entered, a number of his pictures were stolen and others—including, unfortunately, the oil painting depicting the 10th Battalion going “over the top” on 7th June, 1917—were ripped. It is believed the outrage was the work of an international gang. We offer our sympathy to Lt. Wilson in his loss.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMPANY, D.W.R., SOUTH AFRICAN FIELD FORCE

The annual dinner and re-union of the above were held at the Royal Hotel, Brighouse, on the 21st January, 1939 under the chairmanship of the President, Major W. Roper.

* Since this was written we regret to have heard of the death of Lt.-Col. Lethbridge. A brief obituary notice appears on page 124.—Ed.

Member J. W. Crossley deputised during the earlier part of the meeting, when, owing to inclement weather, the President was delayed.

The following members attended :—J. W. Brook, J. Carter, Law Taylor (Southouram), D. Preston, J. Schofield, J. Kirk, A. Brook, F. North, W. H. Eastwood, A. Parkin, S. T. North, W. Quarmby, J. Holmes, T. A. Summerson, S. R. Kitching, J. R. Woodhead, J. W. Crossley, C. Pownall, J. Whiteley, J. Bailey, H. Tweed, F. Sykes, and the secretary, E. M. Ward (16 Forrest Avenue, Edgerton, Huddersfield).

Amongst guests and patrons were :—the Mayor of Brighouse (Alderman H. Marshall), Capt. Lavarack (representing Major Green, O.C. Depot), Col. Grylls (O.C. 4th Battalion), Major E. P. Chambers, Capt. J. W. Whittaker and Brig.-Gen. R. E. Sugden. Letters of regret at inability to attend were read from members F. E. Eastwood (from South America), T. Hudson, J. Goodyear (since deceased), F. J. Cooke (since deceased), W. R. Alderson, H. Wordsworth, J. Shaw, E. Turner, whilst similar letters were to hand from Col. K. Sykes, Major Green, Col. R. R. Mellor, Col. W. F. Denning, Major V. E. Sugden (O.C. 58 Anti-Tank Corps, R.A.), Thomas Levy, Esq., M.P. for Brighouse and W. Mabane, Esq., M.P. for Huddersfield.

In his report the Hon. Secretary mentioned the death of members H. Brown in South Africa, J. I. Eastwood and Law Taylor, both of Huddersfield. Strenuous efforts were still being made to obtain financial help for needy members from the funds. Even though the numerical strength of the Association was diminishing, the financial position was satisfactory, there being a balance of upwards of £25. Benevolent assistance was made possible through the generosity of Major Roper, Col. Sykes, Col. Denning, Col. Mellor, Gen. R. E. Sugden, members Handy, F. Eastwood, Crossley and Ward, as well as the collecting box. The associated members numbered 31. It was decided to hold next year's re-union at Halifax.

At the subsequent smoker, the usual toasts were submitted and acclaimed as of old, whilst pleasing items from Billy Linda, a local entertainer, and old friends Drum-Major Miller and Ex-Sgt. Langley, with Sgt. A. Smith as accompanist, all from the 4th Battalion provided a very enjoyable re-union.

D.W.R. SOCIAL CLUB, LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES.

The members at the first meeting held on 26th July, 1937, when the club was formed numbered ten. Since that evening our numbers have increased to eighty-five, a remarkable achievement, more especially as our first secretary was obliged to resign owing to his business taking him away from London.

Many pleasant functions have since been held, the most successful being on 14th January, 1939, when 116 past and present "Dukes" sat down to supper, followed by a dance and cabaret. Captain R. H. D. Bolton presided. He spoke of the well-being of the club, and the great pleasure it gave him to be able to spend the evening with such a happy company of "Dukes."

Owing to limited accommodation it was impossible to seat all at supper, but those who were unable to get seats joined us later at the dance and cabaret, when the company was increased to over two hundred. The party broke up at about 11.45 p.m., everybody going home satisfied that they had spent a most enjoyable evening. One social has been held since on 25th March, and was attended by about 80 members and ladies. The great success of the evening was due to the amount of talent in the club that supplied the entertainment. Our next and last function of the season will be a dance on 13th May.

We hope to spend a day at the sea, and another day with the 1st Battalion during the summer.

The British Rugby Touring Side in South Africa, 1938

(Continued from page 46, No. 42, February, 1939.)

From here on our way to Cape Town by train we crossed the Orange River, another battleground during the Boer War. We had our first taste of night travelling which, like the uneventful and uninteresting day journeys, we accepted as part and parcel of the tour. A word about "Mac," our baggage master, who joined the party at Cape Town on our arrival. He was a Scot who had emigrated to South Africa before the Boer War, and had been an employee on the railways for 40 years. He was the team's nursemaid and general bottle washer, besides doing his more recognised duties of looking after 180 odd pieces of luggage. At every town we visited all these had to be shifted from the carriages and guard's van to the hotel and distributed to the different rooms; when we left, the reverse process had to be carried out. In addition to this "Mac" was responsible for laundry arrangements both of our ordinary clothes and also our "rugger" togs! Truly a mammoth undertaking, but not once did he falter or mislay a single item for which he was responsible.

At Cape Town again we put in some further stiff practices. Our next match, on the famous Newlands ground, was against the Town and Country. Newlands itself is a suburb of Cape Town and the ground nestles beneath the shadow of Table Mountain. The turf is very fine and the whole layout is similar to Twickenham on a small scale and accommodates nearly 30,000 at full capacity. Our staunchest supporters were the Malays, whose red fezzes added splashes of colour to the crowded stands. On the trees on the open side of the ground they were to be seen clinging on seemingly by their eyebrows, so precariously were they balanced. It was a grand match in which we were narrowly defeated by 8 points to 11, losing in the last minute by a penalty goal kicked from the touch-line on the ten-yard line by the celebrated "Jerry Brand," the Springbok full back.

Our next destination was Oudtshoorn, a small district in the heart of the Dutch farming community some 200 miles from Cape Town. On the way we passed by train a village whose sole (?) occupation is boot manufacturing. The entire population is strictly teetotal; the local Mayor and owner of the factory is one who traces all unhappiness to alcoholism. The reader is entitled to form his own opinion! The next morning at Oudtshoorn we set off to a famed tourist spot—the Cango Caves. They were discovered quite by chance in 1792, by a Dutchman who followed a wounded spring buck into the entrance of the cave. They are similar though much larger than the Cheddar Caves in Somerset. Returning, we stopped to look over a tobacco factory which manufactured chewing tobacco for the natives at 9d. per pound. On the Wednesday morning of the match we paid a visit to an ostrich farm. They are timid birds until roused or during the mating season, when they become extremely vicious. They attack a human being with a downward clawing movement with their sharp three-toed feet and can easily rip a man open. When cornered by an ostrich the best thing to do is either to throw oneself into the middle of the nearest prickly bush, or to lie prone on the ground, when the bird cannot carry out its slashing attacks. On the other hand it may first trample upon the victim and/or sit on him. It is left to the discretion of the hapless person to decide for himself which is the lesser of the two evils! An added ostrich egg which was taken back to the hotel caused a great deal of trouble before being deposited in some one's bed smelling strongly and oozing gently!

We returned to Cape Town for our next match against the formidable Western Province, a side regarded as the strongest provincial team in the country. Once again Newlands was crowded to capacity. A slight drizzle fell for fifteen minutes; this was the only rain during the whole tour up to our last match nearly three months later.

No mention has been made of our evening entertainments. On the evening before our matches on Wednesdays and Saturdays we were invited by the management to a

9th (SERVICE) BATTALION RE-UNION.



The Dinner on 4th March, 1939.



Memorial Service Parade marching to Halifax Parish Church on Sunday, 5th March, 1939.

THE BRITISH RUGBY TOURING SIDE IN SOUTH AFRICA.



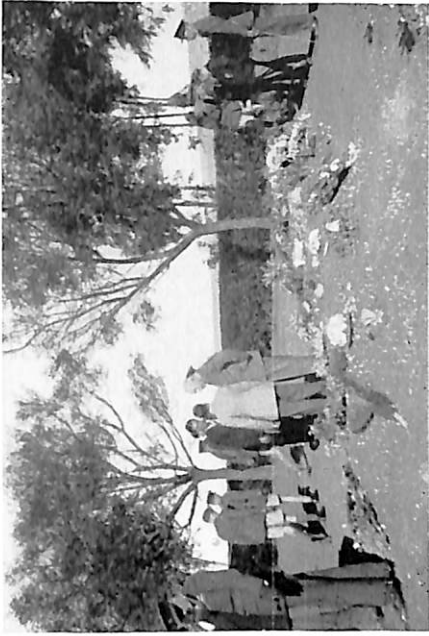
Oudtshoorn Ostriches.



Crown Mines. Native Dance.



Ellis Park, Johannesburg. The pitch where the M.C.C. recently played.



Laying a Wreath on the Graves of the R.A.F. Boxers, Robert's Heights.

cinema show There was a dance given in our honour on the evening of our matches wherever we happened to be playing. On some nights we were allowed 100 per cent. whoopee, on others it was only 50 per cent., depending on the importance of our next match! Being in constant shape was, of course, essential, but it was necessary (to put it bluntly) to have something to sweat out of the system when we trained.

Potchefstroom, our next port of call, is the centre of a distinctly Dutch element in the Free State; it is an unpretentious little town whose only qualification of note is the possession of the longest rifle range in the world.

At Bloemfontein, in addition to our match against the Orange Free State, there was the South African Ladies' hockey tournament taking place. Many of them stayed in the same hotel as the team, and made themselves thoroughly unpopular by giving each member of the British team an apple-pie bed!

Kroonstadt proved a one-eyed place, and so to Johannesburg, the golden city or New York of South Africa. We were now 6,000 feet up, and the effect of the altitude was even more noticeable than at Kimberley. Even commonplace actions as walking rapidly along the street or climbing stairs made one a little wheezy. It takes several weeks to become properly acclimatised. On the Saturday we played a match against the Transvaal at Ellis Park, later to be the scene of the first test match against the Springboks. It is a lovely ground situated in a depression with stands all round forming the sides, and holds about 38,000 spectators. It is interesting to note that this ground is the largest in South Africa, but has only just over half the capacity of Twickenham. The turf was perhaps the finest we played upon. The effect of the altitude, to which we were unaccustomed, and a depleted side resulted in a defeat by 9 points to 16 points. We finished the match with only 12 players and in the last 15 minutes our altered scrum formation read 3—2—0! Transvaal took full advantage of this by accepting scrums instead of line-outs.

Most of the team went down a gold mine, an experience which proved valuable and interesting, even though, as at Kimberley, we came away empty handed! I would like to refer here to the extraordinary generosity of people who willingly lent us motor-cars. On several occasions we came into contact with the police for either speeding or parking infringements. The mere mention of the British rugby team acted immediately like an "open sesame." We were neither prosecuted nor even asked to display our licences—presumably they realised that that would have been a waste of time! It would be entirely wrong to imagine that we were deliberately provocative, but the Police Force proved some of our best friends and deserve our gratitude.

The day after our strenuous match the team visited the Crown Gold Mines to witness native dances. The performers were attired in various types of costumes, as can be noticed from the photographs, the effect therefore was not as realistic as it might have been. Johannesburg is never still for one moment. The pavements are crowded with a jostling mob of Europeans and natives, and there is rush and bustle everywhere. Fifty years ago Johannesburg was a mere collection of corrugated huts; to-day it is the largest and most prosperous city in South Africa and in it is accumulated most of the financial wealth of the country.

After five days in the city we left by car for Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal and the administrative capital of the Union. For six months of the year Parliament sits in Pretoria and then moves down to Cape Town for the other half, an arrangement which appears to work uniformly well in practice. Corresponding to our Houses of Parliament are the Union Buildings, an imposing structure standing on a hill overlooking the town. Here also are the residences of the Governor-General, the Prime Minister (General Hertzog), the Deputy Prime Minister (General Smuts) and also other Government officials. It is said that every other person in Pretoria is a civil servant, a statement which is very

close to the truth. The manager, assistant manager and the four army officers in the team lunched at Roberts' Heights—the Aldershot of South Africa, and afterwards, at the military cemetery, laid wreaths on the graves of the R.A.F. boxers who were killed in the Limpopo air disaster last June.

F. J. R.

(To be concluded.)

A Pigsticking Incident.

On page 6 of the February issue there is a very interesting account of our new Colonel's services in the Regiment. May I add to it? Colonel Pickering as a young man was not only all that is said of him there, but he was also a good man after pig. I remember when I was with the 2nd Battalion at Dinapore one day in May, 1904, a party of us was out after pig near the Sone river, that included Pickering, John Anderson, Arthur Harris of the 5th Native Light Infantry (who joined the 33rd with me at Lucknow early in 1881), and probably Burnett (now Colonel) and Healing (now Colonel), as well as some others whose names I cannot remember.

We put up two boars together, which went off in different directions, and our party split up. Harris and Anderson and I were with one party and Pickering was with the other. We both killed eventually, but as I afterwards heard, Pickering's party's boar met his death in an unusual way. The brute, after having been pricked slightly, took refuge in a dense crop—it might have been sugar-cane—and wouldn't come out. The party had no means of getting him out, so Pickering got off his pony and, spear in hand, went "blind" into the crop, found the brute, brought him to bay and killed him there and then. *Some nerve!*

F. A. H.



H. C.

Standing Orders of the 33rd Regiment.

In numbers 20, 21, 22 and 23 of THE IRON DUKE we published the Standing Orders of the 33rd Regiment, compiled by the Duke of Wellington, when, as Lt.-Col. Wellesley, he commanded the Regiment. We have now received on loan from the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion, the Standing Orders which Colonel Gore revised in 1813 when he was in command.

The orders are printed in a small brown leather covered book, measuring $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The first page bears the name of "J. Castle, 33rd Foot," written in ink above the following note:—

Colonel GORE, having found it necessary to revise the STANDING ORDERS of the 33d Regiment, has adopted the following, which are to be strictly conformed to in future. Each Officer is immediately to furnish himself with a Copy. Any points that may not herein be noticed will be found fully detailed in the General Orders and Regulations for the Army, dated August, 1811.

This is followed by the Standing Orders, and Regulations and Orders to be observed by Guards. Unfortunately pages 15—18 of the Standing Orders are missing. The pages of print are interleaved with blank ones, presumably for additional orders to be entered when required; and as will be seen in a later instalment, the owner of the book has entered one in 1815.

The complete orders will appear in instalments in this and future issues.

STANDING ORDERS.

The Dress of the 33d Regiment, must at all times be conformable to His Majesty's Regulations, as laid down for the guidance of the Army.

An Officer of the 33d Regiment, is at no time when doing duty with the Regiment, or on Detachment, to appear out of Barracks or his Lodging, in any dress but the established uniform of the Regiment, and with his Sword and Sash on.

The Jacket buttoned across up to the Collar, with white cloth Pantaloons, half Boots, and the Regulation Cap, is the Parade dress of the Regiment and to be at all times worn.

A long Coat laced in the facings, and which are to be buttoned back, may be worn as a full Dress in Society; but, it must be invariably observed, that such is considered *only* as a *full Dress*; Stockings, white Breeches, Shoes and Buckles, are to accompany the full dress; Shoes and Breeches are *never* to be worn with *Jackets*; neither are *Boots* with the *Long Coat* except by mounted Officers; Long Coat never to be worn on Parade. Officers are on no account to attempt to wear any article of Dress, attached to the uniform of the 33d Regiment, that is not strictly regimental; or at any time to think of making any alteration in the form of the Jacket or Coat, or the pattern of any Regimental Article; the uniformity of Dress shews the regularity and discipline of a Regiment, as much as any thing; and Officers may be assured that no fancy of Individuals can be admitted of, in preference to the Standing Regulations; the Epaulette fixed on by a strap of Lace, having been long the uniform of the 33d, is never to be omitted; Epaulette and Strap to be lined with red Cloth.

All Officers are expected to be perfectly acquainted with the Articles of War, as well as with the Standing Orders of the Regiment; and are recommended to keep a copy of the former by them, as they are enjoined by His Majesty's Regulations, to keep the Standing Orders of the Regiment; the Regulations and Orders of His Majesty's Army, and the Formation and field exercise, commonly called *Dundas*.

No Officer to be absent from the Parade of the Regiment without the leave of the Commanding Officer, obtained with the sanction and knowledge of the superior Officer of his Company.

When an Officer is taken ill, it is to be immediately made known by him to the Adjutant; but no Officer is to send word at the time of Parade to the Adjutant, that, he

is 'sick and cannot attend,' without at the same time obtaining the sanction of the Medical Officer for so doing. Officers while in the sick Report, are to confine themselves to their Quarters, unless permitted by the Medical Officer to go out for air. No Officer after recovery is to appear in public, until he has attended one Parade of the Regiment, and been present at the Mess dinner.

When an Officer obtains leave of absence, he is to make known to the Adjutant, by what address a letter will reach him in the shortest time; and no Officer is to quit the quarters of the Regiment, without doing this, under penalty of being reported 'Absent without leave.' On return from Leave of Absence, an Officer is to read and make himself acquainted with all Orders that have been issued during his absence; no excuse can be received for ignorance of Orders, as the Orderly Serjeant ought to be made to shew them to him.

No duty to be exchanged without the sanction of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and Officers must recollect that this is not to be applied for on every trifling occasion, as his duty ought to be considered by an Officer, as paramount to every other idea of convenience or amusement. When duties are permitted to be exchanged, the Officers exchanging are mutually to agree to take all other duties that may fall out, for each other, of whatever description, during such exchange; and are to make the exchange known to the Adjutant, to be entered in the Orderly Room.

Officers are, at all times, to notice any irregularity or drunkenness in *any* man of the Regiment, and in any situation; and are to be very attentive that both Sentries and Men off duty pay the proper compliment in passing. Officers however are never to neglect, in themselves, noticing the compliment paid them by Soldiers.

As the comfort of the Soldier is what will attach him most to the Regiment and Service, it is the chief duty of the Captain of the Company, to be watchful over it; he is frequently to visit the Barracks, Quarters, or Tents of the Company, to see that they are kept clean and regular; and that the comfort of the well disposed men is not destroyed, by the negligence of the others; he must be particularly attentive to the state of the Messing, and to the quality and quantity of provisions bought.

By the Articles of War, the Captain is responsible for the preservation of the Arms, Accoutrements, and other Public Stores of the Company; he must therefore take care that they are ever preserved in good order and repair; the dress and cleanliness of the Men can only be kept up by his vigilance. To this he is to require the constant assistance of his Subalterns, who are implicitly to obey his orders, in whatever regards the Company, or any thing connected with it: and the Commanding Officer will look to the Captain of the Company, for the regularity of Dress, and other points connected with their station, in the Subalterns, as much as in any Non-commissioned Officer or Private in the Company.

No Subaltern, Non-Commissioned Officer, or Private, is to make direct application to the Commanding Officer for leave of absence, or other point of duty without the previous knowledge of the Captain of the Company.

When a Captain of a Company leaves the Regiment temporarily, on leave, or on Duty, he is to make known to the Commanding Officer, the name of the Officer whom he wishes should take charge of the Pay of the Company, during such absence; and his reason for not giving it to the senior Subaltern, should such a case occur. When a Subaltern has the charge of a Company, in the absence of the Captain, all the interior responsibility of the Company, as laid down for the Captain, devolves on him, and his conduct in such charge, will shew his eligibility or not to promotion.

Arms and Accoutrements lost or destroyed are immediately to be reported to the Commanding Officer, and entered in the Casualty Book of the Company: should this report be delayed, so that the tracing the loss is not practicable, the Captain or Officer in charge of the Company is to be responsible for the loss.

(To be continued.)

In the old days,
one couldn't do much about a tin hat
one either wore it -



Strictly according
to Regulations



a strictly conforming
to Regulations



a well - Regulations
anyway



but nowadays



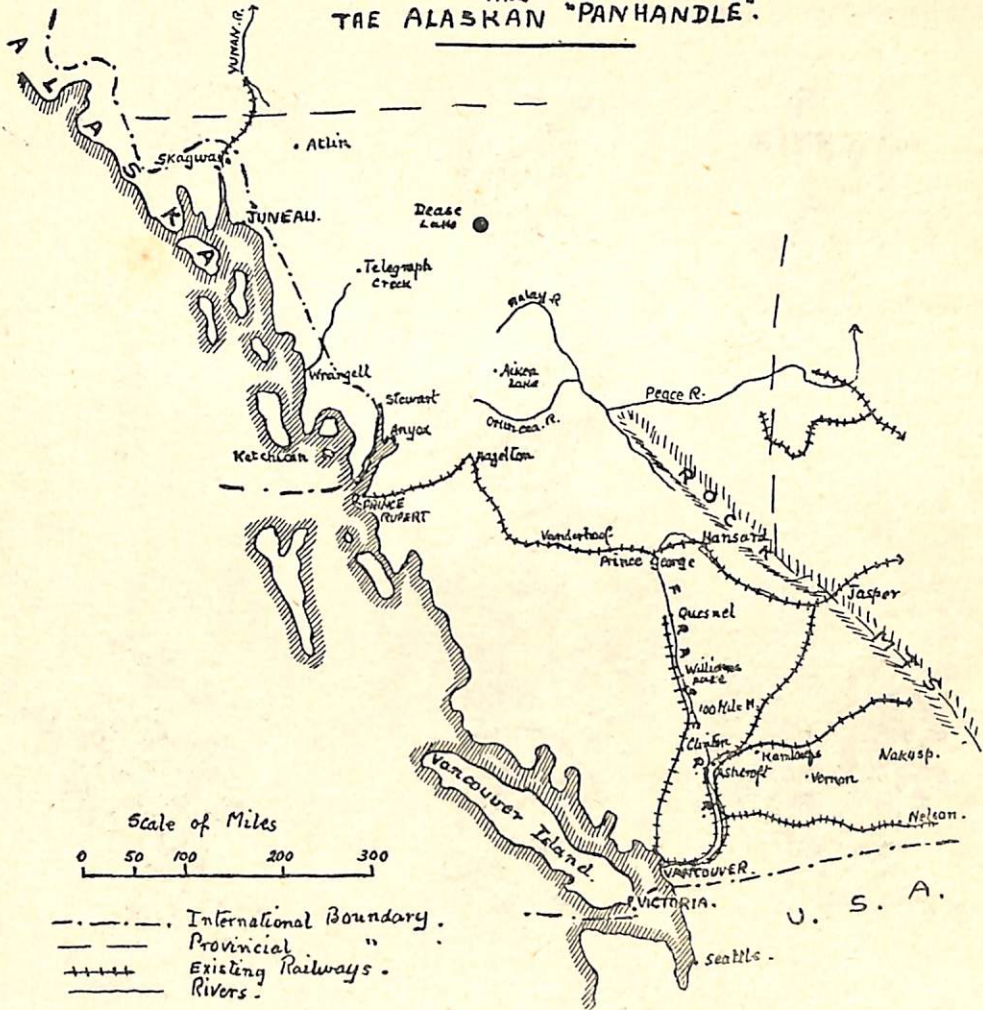
There is much more scope for originality

R.F.

A North American Link.

I.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE ALASKAN "PANHANDLE".



THE GREAT IDEA.—Yesterday, the local paper* came out with a leading article headed by the caption "Drive from Kootenay to Cape Town." It quotes the *American Magazine* in speaking of an "automobile transportation system" over which people will drive, in our time, from New York to Paris, from Buenos Ayres to Brussels and from Chicago to Cape Town.

This spectacular idea is not new, and a main link was projected for a rail system "around the turn of the century" through British Columbia and Alaska, across the

* The *Nelson Daily News*, Kootenay British Columbia, 12th January, 1939.

56 mile Bering Straits by bridge or tunnel and through Siberia. The plan was killed in 1905 at Japan's insistence, and a clause "dooming the trans-Canadian, Alaskan and Siberian Railway was written into the Portsmouth Treaty that ended the Russo-Japanese War."

Recent developments in "the discovery of gold deposits in the Siberian north-east have caused Russia to push construction of 5,000 miles of new roadway which should reach East Cape in 1942."

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE "PANHANDLE."—Personally, it seems to me that the very thought of all this will be too much for "Lizzie" and that Wiley Post, Hughes and even Mr. Chamberlain have blazed a much better trail for establishing contacts.

But, to return to earth, there are three considerations which may bring into the realm of practical politics that section lying between the United States and the Bering Straits:—(1) The increased political and commercial demand for a tourist road up the west coast from San Francisco to Alaska; (2) recent mining developments, by large interests, in Northern British Columbia between the Peace River District and Atlin; (3) the advantage to the U.S.A. of having direct rail connection from the manufacturing "Middle West" (*i.e.*, Chicago) to Alaska, both for its development and its defence.

These do not always pull together. The tourist road requires a scenic route as near the coast as possible. For a defensive scheme such a route, which could be cut anywhere from the sea, is obviously undesirable, and a link with San Francisco (except by air) is not necessary; while a safer and more direct route would lie behind the screen of the Rockies to the Peace River and thence to Atlin and the Skagway-Yukon Railway, where it would have the further advantage of developing new mining areas and paying its way.

A word about the "Panhandle," that strip of American territory which cuts off Northern British Columbia from the Pacific. The Canadian-Alaskan boundary dispute was settled by a mixed arbitration Court, and the strip was finally ceded to the States by the casting vote of the President, Lord Alverstone. Feeling ran high, and the *Daily Mail* correspondent cabled from Winnipeg, "You cannot over-estimate the injury done to the Imperial idea by this award.† The solution of the difficulty for Canada is to be found in making this area face east and not west into the ocean. This can only be done by building a rail connection between the Canadian system and the Skagway-Yukon Railway, with roads as feeders from the mining centres and possibly a rail link to Stewart, the most northern port which the award has left to Canada.

I was determined to see something of all this and on 8th August I said *au revoir* to Lizzie and made my way to Nelson. The first day I spent from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. sitting in "auto-buses" of the Greyhound Line. There were three of them, the middle one being actually a touring car to make it easier for us over Monachee Mountain between Nakusp on the Arrow Lakes and Vernon in the Okanagan Valley. Kamloops, under these circumstances, was more than welcome. It is where the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway relinquish their side-by-side tracks from Vancouver and make for different passes over the Rockies. It has at least two good hotels and I found an excellent restaurant and a C.N.R. "sleeper" on a siding ready to receive me.

The next day we arrived at Jasper, a tourist "Park" in the Rockies just east of the Yellowhead Pass. There I had to spend the night, returning the next day through the Pass, and after one more night in the train reached Prince Rupert on the ocean. An attractive place with well laid out gardens "housing" a fine collection of "totem" poles, it is chiefly famous for the largest fish refrigerator in the world and serves the east of Canada, New York and even Europe with tons of "fresh" fish. I made friends with the staff of the Road Department, who, like many engineers and surveyors in British Columbia, were very Scotch—in both senses. Situated on an island connected by a railway causeway

† "Edgar Wallace," by Margaret Lane, p. 171.

with the mainland, but with no road connection with the country's road system, Prince Rupert has been "news" lately as one of the Pacific ports to be placed in a state of defence.† Fishing is its main industry and a large proportion of the boats on this part of the coast are owned and worked by Japanese.

Places of interest on the way from Jasper are :—Hansard, to where the inhabitants of the Southern Peace River Block are cutting a road through Monkman Pass as a route to export their produce; Prince George (of which, more anon), the base for mining activity to the north and in touch by air on "scheduled" lines for points between Vancouver and Atlin, and by "taxis" with all mining centres; Vanderhoof where a summer road already exists (for lorries which feel strong enough to stand it) for 160 miles north towards the mining developments on the Omineca River and at Aiken Lake; and Hazelton, from which there is a rather difficult route for a road north to Telegraph Creek. People of interest were :—A party of lads from Toronto University returning from a trip up to the Finlay River, which I think shows the trend of mining interests in the east, interests which hold our future in their maw—although we don't like to confess it; thoroughly browned, they had obviously had "a whale of a time." And a native village, where the whole train, rather surprisingly, disembarked and inspected the houses and school, making the imps feel rather like animals in the zoo; but, as a large proportion of the passengers were "teachers" on vacation, like all holiday crowds in the States and Canada, it may possibly help to spread a more intelligent interest in native life.

From Prince Rupert I went up the coast to Skagway on a Canadian Pacific boat, dropping the surveyor at Wrangell (U.S.A.) on his way to Telegraph Creek via a launch up the Stikine River. We called at Ketchikan and Juneau, the capital of Alaska, and home of the largest gold ore producer in the world.

Two years ago, I came up the coast from Vancouver to Stewart, at the head of the Portland "Canal" and a centre of big-company mining, and Anyox, the only Canadian smelter on the coast, then closed down owing to the competition of Rhodesian copper, its main ore. So now I have seen the whole of this wonderful "inside passage" from Vancouver to Skagway. Sheltered by wooded islands nearly the whole way, with magnificent scenery and light effects, it is an ideal holiday cruise for those unaccustomed to the sea who dread internal complications (in public), and fully justifies the massed tourist ships which navigate its intricate passages.

On my return in September, rather hurried by war rumours, I came down the same bit of coast, landed at Prince Rupert and arrived by train the next day at Prince George. Here were all types of the mining fraternity from "big shots" with private 'planes to the ordinary "you's and me's" simply looking for a job. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Vancouver coming up the Fraser Valley never reached it but died a natural death at Quesnel to the south, strangled, some say, by the desire to throttle Prince Rupert as a port for the Far East in the interests of Vancouver. Who knows but what it may be coming into its own! For its stretch up the valley it closely follows the "Caribou Trail" of the gold-rush days, and down which I went by bus to Ashcroft, not far from Kamloops, and by train to Vancouver.

It is strange how close one feels out here to the days of the "old" gold rushes. One of the "service" car drivers used to drive the "stage" coach bringing gold, under a galloping escort, down to civilisation.

The "Caribou" trail was excellent, but very long. Leaving Prince George at 8 a.m., with lunch at Williams Lake and supper at Clinton, it was not till 11 p.m. that we drove into Ashcroft, to wait on a cold wet platform till 2 a.m. for the train.

† *Times Weekly*, 29th December, 1938. "Re-armament in Canada—An Awakening."

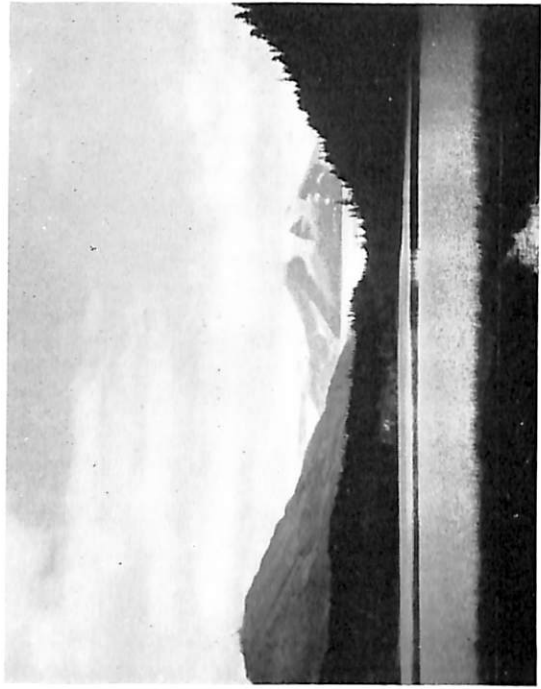
COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE PANHANDLE OF ALASKA.



The Portland Canal, B.C.



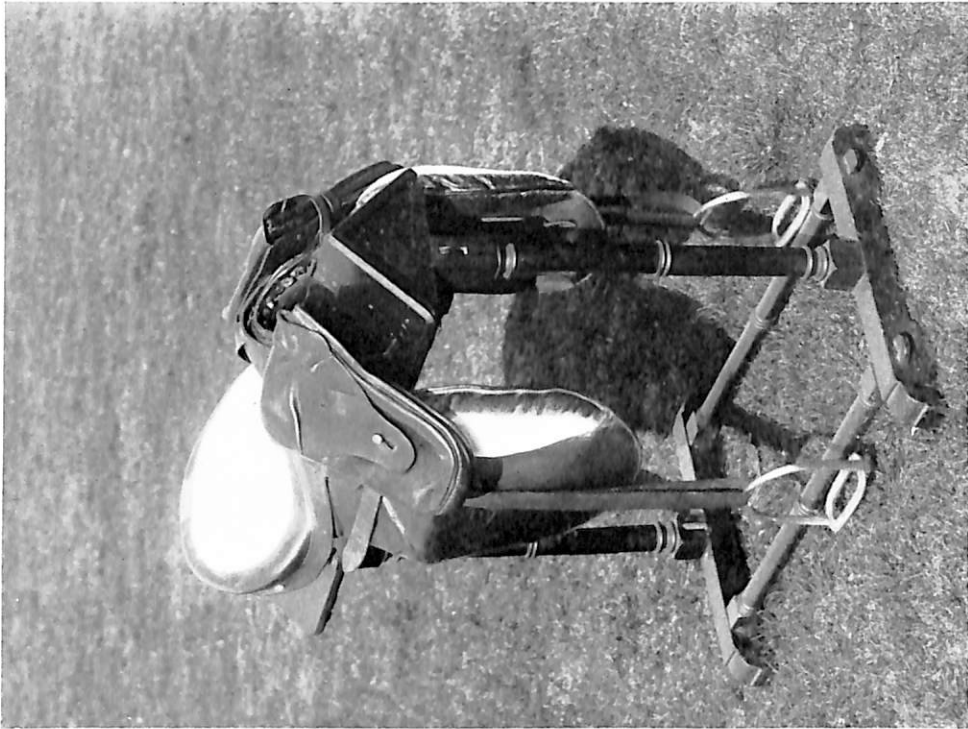
Stewart, B.C.



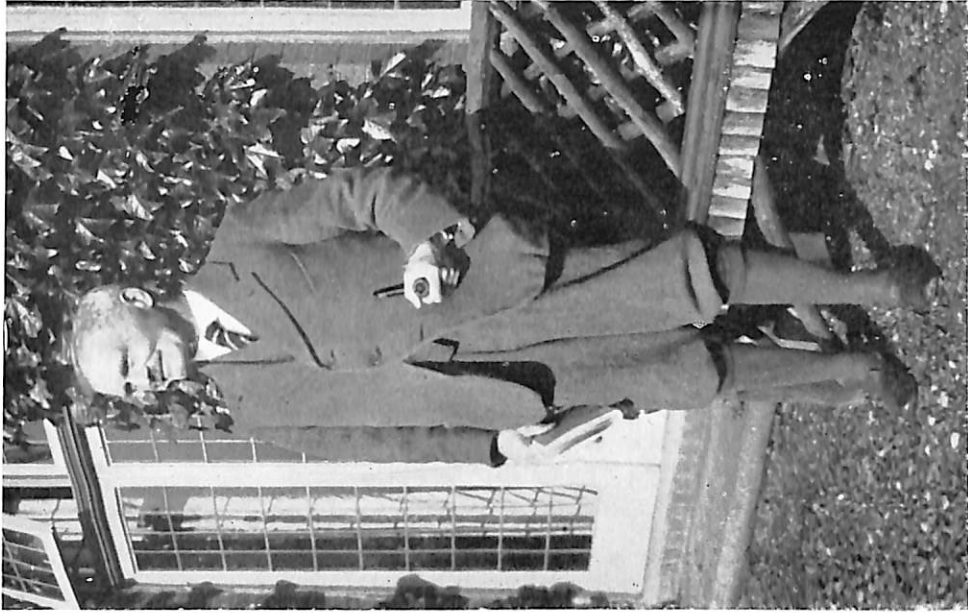
Auk Lake, near Juneau (Alaska Panhandle).



Ketchikan (Alaska Panhandle).



President Kruger's Saddle.



The late Capt. J. L. Watson, M.C., late 5th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (see page 125).

Quesnel itself is of interest as being the centre of an area suitable for "land-minded" settlers in large quantities. It is an area of small "individual" mining where sometimes 1,200 men are engaged in the summer in "placer" mining, and about half that number throughout the year in "lode" mining. They therefore feel that a more favourable balance would be made by the addition of farmers.

Further south, particularly west of Williams Lake and round Clinton, it is open rolling "cattle" country more suitable for large scale ranching backed by capital. And again towards 100 Mile House and at Ashcroft we return to areas where the "small man" can get a deal.

(To be continued.)

"TINKER."

President Kruger's Saddle.

The late President Kruger's saddle came into possession of the Regiment during the South African War at Pienaars River, and has ever since been one of the most treasured possessions of the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion. Recently it was decided by the unanimous vote of serving and retired officers that the rightful place for the saddle was in the Union of South Africa. Accordingly it was offered to the Government of the Union through the High Commissioner, whose Secretary sent the following reply:—
"Dear Sir,

"I write to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 24th February, in which you state that your Regiment has already decided to present President Kruger's saddle to the Government of the Union of South Africa, and to say that this kindly action will be greatly appreciated in the Union.

"If you will be so good as to forward the saddle to this office, arrangements will be made for its immediate despatch to South Africa.

"The High Commissioner desires me to convey to you and the Officers of your Regiment an expression of his grateful thanks."

The following is an account by Colonel B. St. J. Le Marchant of how the saddle, and also President Kruger's rifle, which Colonel Le Marchant is giving to the Union of South Africa, came into his possession.

Re THE SADDLE AND RIFLE OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KRUGER.

"It is now some 38 years ago that I was stationed with my Regiment, the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at Pienaars River, Transvaal, South Africa. Lt.-Col. Rivett-Carnac was in command of the Battalion, he having succeeded to Colonel Lloyd, who had been killed in an engagement we had at Rhenoster Kop in November, 1900 against Commandant Viljoen. (I am not absolutely certain about the dates.)

"In 1901, about August or September I think it was, I was at the outposts one morning, when I saw a man on a pony with a white flag coming towards the post. When he came up to me he said he wished to surrender and that he was President Kruger's servant. I took his rifle and escorted him to the Orderly Room to Colonel Carnac. I forget the man's name. On his pony was a saddle with the Transvaal Coat of Arms on it. He said the saddle and rifle belonged to President Kruger. I asked Colonel Carnac for the rifle and he gave it to me. The saddle he gave to the Officers' Mess of the Battalion."

The saddle will be presented to the Union of South Africa as soon as arrangements for handing it over can be made. We are happy to know that it will be preserved in the Kruger Museum in Pretoria.

IF BRITAIN DONNED THE MAILED FIST!

[A despicable doggerel impelled by the announcement by the *Lokal Anzeiger* that the invasion of Czecho-Slovakia was caused by the "Czech menace to Germany" and by Count Ciano in similar vein about Albania.]

Hitler's announced that Germany was menaced by the Czechs,
 And then by Lithuanians, Ukrainians, and Letts;
 So poor "defenceless Germany" was in a sorry plight,
 Being menaced with invasion by Lithuania's might.
 Albania now has menaced the peace-making Italians
 Who boldly faced Albania *and* her "big battalions."
 It seems to me that Britain is being menaced too
 By headhunters in Borneo and Indians in Peru,
 By unemployed in Yucatan and armaments in Chile,
 By shoe-blacks down in Istanbul and rioting in Scilly,
 By import duties on beef tea and export ones on yaks,
 And battleships that Honduras are building up in stacks.
 So it's time that Mr. Chamberlain exposed our menaced state,
 And sent our cruisers cruising from Greenland to the Plate;
 Demanding land off everyone, and bullying the Jews,
 And being rude to countries who don't approve our views.
 And H. G. Wells should write a book to show our "sacred mission,"
 And Chamberlain should do the same instead of "going fishin',"
 All about 'his struggle' to bully other nations,
 And how he loved and lived for peace (of course with annexations!)
 Oh, I could ramble on and on with this and other drivel,
 The tragedy's that it's believed by Germans—it's their Gospel!!

J. D. L.



OUR R.S.M.
 TRIES APPEASEMENT.

S. J. L.

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

(Continued from page 41, No. 42, February, 1939.)

In referring to the notes of the late Colonel "Jacky" Gibbs I find he emphasises the dislike—expressed in my former articles—of the destruction of live stock and homes carried out to bring the recalcitrant Boers to terms by depriving them of their sources of supply and rallying points. It must be understood that as long as the farms and dorps were occupied the occupants could supply the commandos with information as to the strength and movement of columns, etc., so even the Kaffirs had to be herded into reservations, where an eye could be kept on their activities. This latter was, perhaps, the more difficult task. It could only be carried out by people who had spent a great part of their lives in the country and were thoroughly cognisant of the ways of living of the natives, and knew their tribes and proclivities. As a general rule the Kaffirs—and by Kaffirs I mean the coloured people generally—Basutos, Pondos, Zulus, etc., preferred the British, but there were exceptions, and in this lay the danger. A South African native was capable of covering great distances on practically nothing in the way of food and at an extraordinary speed. Fifty to eighty miles per diem, with only a minimum of rest, was thought nothing of. This "running" was on their own feet, so they were difficult to spot, as they naturally made use of cover, and their colouring harmonised with the landscape. The "Cape Boy," a term used to define tribeless mongrel natives—mostly the product of township compounds (native quarters outside and separate from the "whites'" dwellings)—were more intelligent from a European point of view than the kraal-bred tribesman, but physically they were inferior, and rarely possessed of the courage of the Bantu people.

Considerable use was being made of Kaffir scouts at this period. It was supposed that these employed Kaffir scouts were not to be armed, but in many cases they were armed by individual commanders, and although they were hopelessly bad marksmen as a rule, they were a valuable asset. If captured by the Boers they were brutally murdered and, as I personally witnessed, horribly mutilated in many cases, so it was only fair at least to give them a chance of defending themselves. I found some of the Basuto scouts extremely intelligent, and after a very few explanations capable of reading a map and even drawing up—or out—rough, but fairly accurate, maps of their own.

But to resume the narrative notes of the 2nd Battalion Burma M.I. Colonel Gibbs mentions the difficulty in overcoming the reluctance of the Boer ladies to leave their farms and come to the concentration camps. He adds that many of them were "most truculent." This was an undoubted fact, but a very clever ruse was adopted to obviate the difficulty. This was invented by a student of female psychology and even the C. in C., K. of K. himself, was known to smile grimly when the method was described to him. The captured Boer fighters were taken overseas to Bermuda and Ceylon chiefly. Pictures—even photographs, slightly doctored—and press cuttings were secured, showing these warriors having a really hectic time with the ladies of their respective places of exile. This was altogether too much for the Boer Vrouws. If their menfolk were having a high old time with other charmers, two could play the same game. There were stories of "life" in the concentration camps, so the goose could play the rôle acted by the gander. The trick almost invariably succeeded, and caused quite a lot of light-heartedness in an otherwise sordid game.

Colonel Gibbs gives a brief account of a personal experience during one of the "roping in" expeditions, which I will quote verbatim . . . "On the 14th April I happened to be 'Captain in Waiting' (I must explain this term. The columns under the system now existing had a little more leisure, so it was not necessary for everyone to be present in camp, but a roster was kept and one company commander was always on duty in

case of emergency) when a scout came in and reported that a clearing patrol had been ambushed, the officer killed and the patrol scuppered. I reported at once to General Pilcher, who gave me 300 men and two guns to go in pursuit of the ambushers. The scout guided us to the scene of the ambush and we had a very tough time getting there. A thickly wooded kloof (ravine) had to be negotiated and we found this occupied by Boer pickets.

"The guns came into action and the Lyddite (H.E. shells) cleared out the pickets and we got through with only one casualty and a few horses slightly wounded. On emerging from the kloof we found that what was left of the patrol were holding their own on a small bluff. The officer was not dead—severely wounded (he recovered later); out of the 7 other ranks with him five were wounded, and but for our arrival they would have been wiped out. The native scout had acted most intelligently, and it was undoubtedly due to him that this patrol of the Buffs was saved from annihilation. General Pilcher had accompanied me, and now ordered a retirement. We had a strenuous rear guard action, hampered as we were by the wounded. The Boers swarmed round our rear and flanks, in no case presenting a target for the guns, but eventually we shook them off and got into the open veldt where there was no cover and they dispersed. Our losses excluding the patrol were a dozen in all. The next day General Pilcher decided to rout out this commando, whose haunt was the Koranaburg, a big Tafel Kop, covered with bush and small kloofs, between the great and lesser Vet rivers. We, the Burma M.I., knew this ground by heart so took the right flank of the advance guard and were almost at once in the "danger zone," but the column's artillery soon caused the Boers to think better of it, and clear off the high ground which we at once occupied. The column's A.P.M. would insist on trying to "count" the Boers and wished a nearer view, so, against my advice, rode through my patrol with one of his police and both were promptly scuppered. We had great difficulty in recovering them, as they were badly hit, but not killed. We counted over 500 Boers leaving the high ground for the bush nearer the river, which was low at the time and could be crossed almost anywhere. Our guns had worried them considerably, but there were individual snipers left who caused a lot of trouble.

"We continued to advance in the direction of Senekal through a rough hilly country, meeting with no serious opposition beyond heavy sniping. Pilcher now decided that we must 'divide to rule'—in other words, make an effort to encircle or break up the opposing commando, which could be effected by the whole column solemnly plodding along in its wake. Accordingly the 5th M.I. and a pom-pom section under Aubrey Taylor (Gloucesters) were detached to make an enveloping move on the right flank. We pushed through some difficult ground, a mass of kloofs, and debouched into the open, viewing a long line of wagons trekking in a northerly direction—little over two miles away. Taylor at once ordered us to pursue. The D.W. M.I. made a detour to head off the wagons, covering about five miles at good speed with only one check. This was caused by ten aged Boers, who tried to hold us up behind a small rise in the ground. These we easily outflanked and scuppered the lot, and then made for the convoy, which scattered. We succeeded in cutting off and capturing nine of the wagons, two cape carts, and four bunches of cattle. Other companies also captured the greater part of the convoy, only a few cape carts escaping. The total bag was 17 wagons, 8 cape carts, 2 scotch carts and between 800 and 900 head of good cattle in prime condition. Several of the wagons were packed with families (various!!) and their household goods—some 30 families in all. This was a really grand haul, and saved a lot of trouble, as they were later on conducted straight to the concentration camp at Kronstadt. We were able to hand over this impedimenta the next day to the local garrison at Bethlehem, and proceeded thence to Senekal, which was being threatened by a different commando. The country round this district had become pestilential from the amount of slaughtered stock, bloated flies simply swarmed and the carcasses reeked to high heaven. Jackals, hyenas and aasvogel (vultures) were so gorged that they could barely crawl or fly, and the water supplies—such as they were—

became breeding grounds for enteric, which was rampant. Every drop had to be boiled, no small difficulty, as except in the bush country fuel was almost non-existent, cow-dung being the staple for that purpose. Since the cattle had all been slaughtered or removed that commodity was scarce.

"We had some quite heavy fighting from the 7th to the 10th May, acting as screen to the column, suffering casualties, and were glad to reach Vet River Siding on the 25th.

"Here we were told off to Thorneycroft's column, which was operating in cleaner country, thanks be. We had four days' rest to re-fit and clean ourselves. Actually between the 14th March and 25th May we had covered over 767 miles in a bee line; this does not take into account movements to flanks, etc., and included four days' rest. Practically the whole time on the move, we were being sniped, so life was not a bed of roses.

"Thorneycroft's column now consisted of:—His own M.I., all good type colonials numbering several of my old Matabele Land friends. The Burma M.I., now only about 200 strong. Some new Imperial Yeomanry—for the most part utterly useless. Two sections R.F.A. (76th Battery). A pom-pom section.

"We moved off on the 2nd June in the direction of Brandford (O.F.S.). Our job consisted in clearing, cattle driving, patrolling, and, needless to say, endless sniping. No really serious fighting, but just enough to keep one constantly on the *qui-vive* and make outposts at night most exhausting work. The column was split into two parts to work more rapidly and cover more ground. We (the D.W.R.) made some important captures."

Details of these will be given in the next issue.

H. K. U.

(To be continued.)



H.C. 4/2

"Route March! got blimey I could have swore that
blinking Recruiting Sergeant said Best Riding Regiment!"

The Babu.

Everyone who has served in the East is familiar with the queer English that the native clerks use in their various letters and applications. In India these "malapropisms" have gradually come to be known as babuisms. Those of us who have read Kipling's "Kim" will remember the "verree fearful man" Hurree Chand Babu, and until we actually encountered the type that Kipling so carefully described we may have thought it a somewhat fanciful picture; once having met the average babu working in government and private offices in the East, one quickly realises that it was in no way a mere flight of the imagination. In fact many babus seem to lack the virtues that Kipling gave to Hurree Chand. Those of us who have been held up at a railway station in a hurry to catch some special train have cursed the race of babus to the uttermost ends of the earth, as slowly and painstakingly the booking clerk goes into every aspect of one's life before granting the ticket. Or again the apparent complete lack and understanding of the babus who sit in the various accounts offices and quibble over the grant of even one anna in a claim for back allowances has been responsible for more than one attack of "Poona liver."

However, there are some jewels to be found in nearly every pig-sty, so we are led to believe, if we look hard enough for them; and there is a lot of amusement to be gathered from a collection of babuisms, such as are set out below. The babu as a clerk has at his command more often than not a "failed B.A." from one of the many Indian universities or colleges, and during his time there an extensive study of the English language has led him to believe that more often than not one long word, quite irrespective of context or relevance, is worth at least three with some bearing on the subject matter in hand. Hence some of the sentences and expressions I have put into this article.

The babu, when he is sending in a petition requesting a favour, is a great believer in fulsomeness of address. Many an English woman in India has been addressed as "Holy Mother," but one of the best is the address given to a former general in charge of mule transport in Simla, "Almighty Ass-Master." Again a Deputy Commissioner received a petition addressed to "My lord, my saviour, and my what-not" and which concluded "may the Almighty bless you with everlasting L.S.D."

The babu is not naturally a modest person, and is wont to enumerate all his various virtues when applying for a job. Hence this sentence from an applicant to show he had "done his best" in the war: "On the advent of the Great war I took to the sword and became clerk in the Military Accounts department." A petition from a babu requesting a rise in salary asks "how on this exiguous salary can I make the two ends of my grandmother meet?" A particularly difficult task if the average size of an elderly Indian lady is taken into account! Another babu applying for a job in which he had stated the size of his family wrote, "my family consists of two adults and three adulteresses." At a certain examination for babus desirous of entering government employment, one of the papers consisted of an essay which could be about any subject the candidate chose. One bright lad headed his "A natural history of the Bugs: not to be found in any of the books." He then went on to say in the essay: "if a man were put in a box with the bugs, he would immediately become sick upon. And the more bugs in the box, the more sickness would jump upon!" A letter from an applicant for a post ran as follows; "Honoured sir, During my father's lifetime having been wel-Petted and wel-Breaded, I now knock on your honour's mercy, clean and clothed in white. In short I depend on you and God, having no cousin or relation."

Sometimes letters to firms elicit amusing replies. Here is one from a firm of polostick makers in reply to an irate customer whose order had failed to arrive up to time. "The delay is due to the death of our grandmother which is to be excused. For when the Maker calls the Make, what can we be doing?" Another amusing reply was received to a complaint from a customer to a tailoring firm, who had patched the seat of his trousers in a different coloured material from the rest of the garment. "We warn your honour

Sometimes the babu lapses into verse. As long as the words rhyme the meaning is of little account. A love poem runs as follows :

" Oh come my love, Oh come,
Of love you are the sum,
I love you to heart's Bot-tom,
Come ! "

And here is one to a retiring Commissioner :

" Search well in every nation
Such men you will find with caution
Do not run hither and thither
Search only in your liver. "

The following was printed on cotton handkerchiefs and handed round to the guests at a garden party :

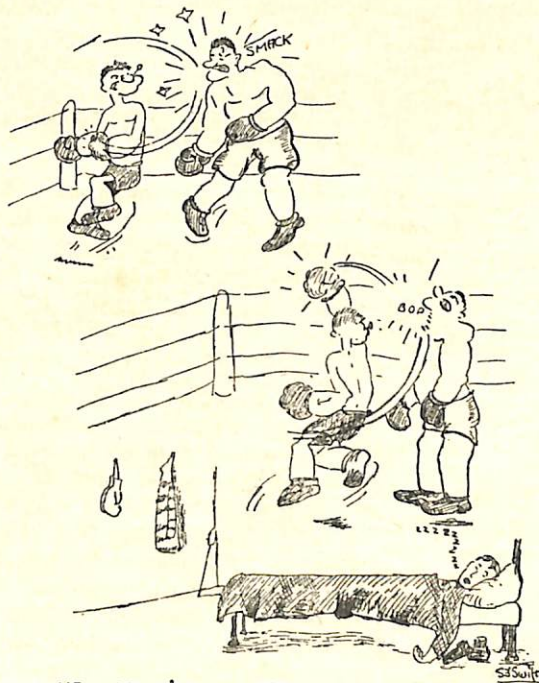
" Each year God bless you more and more
with garden parties from his bounteous store. "

Finally we come to the pick of the whole collection. Lines from a poem written on the death of Queen Victoria.

" Dust to dust and ashes to ashes
Into the Tomb the good Queen dashes. "

These are but a few of the many perpetrations made by babus all over India year by year, but even in these few one can find more unconscious humour than in a hundred so-called funny magazines. Most of them would be unbelievable unless one knew that the babu is capable of even worse distortions of the language of which he fondly considers himself master.

J. D. L.



OR MR NASH'S MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM
POPEYE JOINS THE DUKE'S

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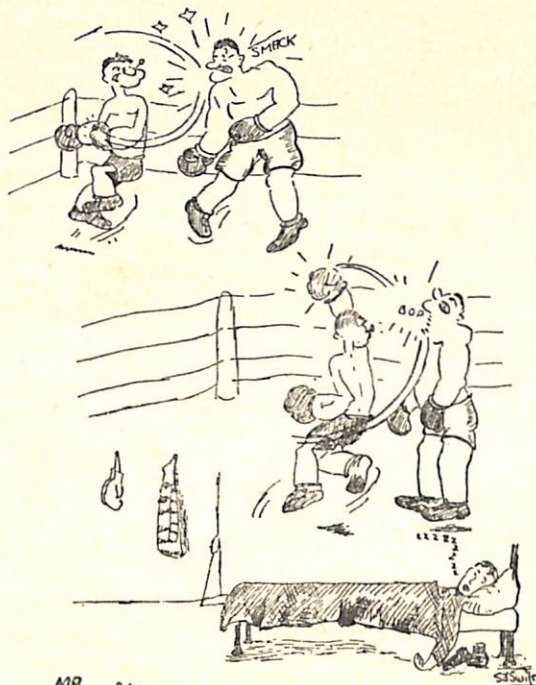
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A Battlefield Tour.

(Continued from page 54, No. 42, February, 1939.)

THIRD DAY.—COMPIEGNE TO ST. MENEHOULD.

About three miles from Compiègne, in the southern edge of the *Foret de Lainge*, there were assembled, on November 11th, 1918, the representatives of England, France, America and Germany, and it was in a clearing of the forest that the Armistice was signed.

On reaching this spot, one is first confronted by a French monument which, in a sense, is typical of the many memorials we saw, and which represents the spirit in which the Armistice was signed. It consists of a stone column with, at its base, the German Eagle lying with broken wings; and, being French, it is dedicated to those who fell in liberation of Alsace and Lorraine.

Across the clearing run two parallel railway lines on which were drawn up the coaches carrying the representatives of the Allies and Germany respectively, and beyond them a statue of Marshal Foch. The Allied coach, in which the Armistice was signed, has been preserved, and in it can be seen the actual tables and chairs used, and index cards showing where the various delegates sat. It came as a surprise to learn that no British soldier was present at this historic meeting. Our delegation comprised two British Admirals, no doubt as representatives of the Senior Service, but hardly as representative of our national war effort.

Continuing to the east we followed the valley of the River Aisne, and passing through Soissons crossed the river at Venizel.

Here it was that the advanced guards of the 4th Division arrived on the evening of the 12th September, 1914, after the Battle of the Marne; and it was here that the divisional commander decided that his leading brigade, the 11th brigade, which was already bivouacked, should continue the advance that night and establish itself on the *Chemin des Dames*—a hill feature running parallel to the river and about two miles to the north. As a result the high ground to the west of the *Chivres Spur* was occupied with little opposition, and before the German defence had a chance to stiffen; a fine end to a trying march of thirty miles in pouring rain. Elsewhere, where attacks were postponed until the following day, objectives were either not reached, or only gained after heavy casualties had been incurred. It was this effort to establish ourselves along the length of the *Chemin des Dames* which constitutes the Battle of the Aisne.

The *Chivres Spur*, referred to above, forms a salient jutting out from the remainder of the ridge; and it was here that there arrived, at a critical moment, a German Corps just freed from the investment of Maubeuge, having carried out a march of forty miles in twenty-four hours, and thus closing the gap still existing in the German Line.

Following the valley of the Aisne we passed through Vailly, and near to the village of Soupir stopped to examine the last of the British cemeteries which we were to see. In every case, the graves showed the date May, 1918, and the writer was very puzzled to know how it was that British troops were fighting so far south at this period of the war. The raconteur of *Le Cateau*, however, unravelled the mystery. Apparently, four British divisions were resting in this "quiet" sector, where they had been sent to recuperate after their exertions in the battles of the Lys, in return for French reinforcements, which had gone north to aid the British in the later stages of that struggle. Here they arrived just in time to be engulfed in Ludendorff's third great offensive of the year, the break through to the Marne, an offensive which achieved astonishing captures of ground and prisoners, due principally to faulty French dispositions and a refusal to believe intelligence forecasts. The graves which we saw, including that of one private soldier of the Regiment, were of men who died in this battle.

Climbing to the top of the Chemin des Dames we passed a memorial to the Loyals at Vendresse and then, following the main road to Rheims, we entered that city from the north. Here we visited the Cathedral, after which we set out on the last fifty miles through Suippes and Valmy to St. Menehould.

This drive through Champagne carried us through the area of the Nivelle, April, 1917, offensive, which ended so disastrously, and culminated in the French mutinies. Nivelle, who had that year succeeded Marshal Joffre, asked the British to take over more of the front south of the Somme, so as to release more troops for the Champagne offensive, and, as a result, the start of the offensive was postponed a month. This delay was, in the circumstances, to prove fatal and resulted in Sir Douglas Haig deciding to continue "the full pressure of the British offensive. . . . in order to assist our allies," and so prolong our attacks in the mud of Flanders. The country in this area is largely open grass land, with the old trench lines still plainly visible.

FOURTH DAY.—ST. MENEHOULD TO EPINAL.

Twenty miles to the east of St. Menehould is the French fortress of Verdun, around which a battle was fought, lasting from February to December, 1916. In an attempt to stress the intensity of the fighting, I here quote the words of a military historian. "No battle of the whole war was more heroic or more dramatic in its course, or made so vivid an appeal to the sympathies of the watching nations. It was France's supreme sacrifice and her supreme triumph, and to the splendour of her achievement all the world paid homage."

Some previous knowledge of those eventful months greatly increases the value derived from a visit to Verdun, and, even though I re-tell what is now an old story, I shall endeavour to describe the battle in certain detail.

The war policy decided upon by the German Supreme Command for the year 1916 was to "bleed France white" by attacking a spot, sooner than lose which the French nation would fight to the last man. The choice of such an objective lay between Verdun and Belfort, and Verdun was chosen because it was a menace to the German communications, formed a salient cramping the defenders, and, above all, on account of the moral issue. In 1915, and as a result of the quick fate of Liege and Namur, Verdun had been de-classed as a fortress and deprived of most of its men and armaments. It was, therefore, in a very poor state in which to meet the bombardment which started, on both banks of the Meuse, at seven o'clock on the morning of February 21st, and which, at five o'clock that evening, was followed by lines of attacking infantry.

Indications of the coming offensive had been noted during the preceding weeks, but little had been done to organise the defence. Even when the blow fell, the French Higher Command awoke slowly to the gravity of the situation; but on February 25th General Petain took over command at Verdun, together with the nucleus of a reserve army which was then assembling. His immediate problem was one of supply, made critical owing to the fact that only one road remained open. This was the road from Verdun to Bar-le-Duc, later to become immortalised as "the Sacred Way." Along this road each milestone is, today, crowned with a French steel helmet.

No attempt will be made to describe the various German attacks. Suffice it to say that by February 25th Fort Douaumont had fallen, and that, until this date attacks were continued to the east of the River Meuse. Then followed a slight lull, during which we took over Arras from the French Tenth Army.

On March 4th the German Crown Prince called on his Armies for a supreme effort to take Verdun, but, although the attack was extended to the west of the river, the defence held. A war of attrition followed and on June 7th Fort Vaux fell. Finally on the 23rd the Germans all but established themselves on the Belleville Height, overlooking Verdun,

and in consequence we were asked to hasten our offensive on the Somme. While this offensive may have saved Verdun, the gallantry shown by the French Army will remain a proud memory.

A tour of the battlefield of Verdun is, in itself, a big undertaking, and more than one day would be necessary in which to see everything. Here I can do no more than indicate the route we followed and the places of interest which we passed.

From St. Menchould we followed the road which leads through the Foret D'Argonne to Le Claon, and thence north via Lachalade to Varennes. The road took us past a number of memorials erected in connection with the fighting, and also the headquarters used by the German Crown Prince during the battle. The latter lies about half a mile off the road, but as it was raining at the time we did not undertake the walk.

A further ten miles and we reached Chattancourt with close to it Mort Homme, the ridge against which the Germans battled during the March offensive. The French memorial here takes such form as the name implies, with below the now immortalized words "They shall not pass."

Continuing the encirclement of Verdun we reached Fort Douaumont, where can be seen what I think must be the largest War Cemetery in France or Flanders. Row on row of graves stretching into the distance, the whole a blaze of flowers, while behind and above stands a Memorial Chapel.

We missed Fort Vaux, as time was short, and continued direct to Verdun itself. As it is a garrison town, the Army was very much in evidence, and we saw many Moorish troops, the pick of the French Colonials.

And so we came to the last stage—Verdun to Epinal. We left by the Nancy Road, and after a run of about twenty-five miles, stopped to look at the American Memorial and Cemetery at St. Mihiel. The Memorial has been erected to commemorate the battle of St. Mihiel fought by America's first Army in September, 1918. The object of this battle was briefly as follows. Throughout the war a huge salient existed in the French line, south of Verdun, with its apex at St. Mihiel, and this salient crippled the chance of any French offensive into Lorraine. The American Army, making convergent attacks from the flanks of the salient, successfully pinched it out, when they launched their offensive here on September 12th. This attack was a prelude to the Meuse-Argonne Battle carried out north of Verdun later in the month, and part of the combined offensive plan which brought the war to a victorious finish.

The cemetery is beautifully laid out, but will continue to look rather bare until such time as flowers add a touch of colour. Inside is a small Chapel, and also a room where, carved on the walls, are the Rolls of Honour, and a map of this sector of the front. The map shows the position of each of the American divisions which took part in the offensive. Above the cemetery the American flag was flying, contrary to the custom in our own cemeteries, where the Union Jack is not flown.

A last sixty miles took us through Nancy to Epinal, and along the foot of the Grand Couronne. Here it was that the Kaiser arrived, in September, 1914, to witness the attack carried out by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria's sixth Army, and with the intention of making a triumphal entry into Nancy. But the French held on, and thus saved the town, and, with it, the Allied right were saved.

We had started our tour in the Ypres Salient, and ended in the area of Verdun and the Grand Couronne de Nancy. Each saw, during the years 1914-1918, the supreme triumphs of Britain and France respectively, and the memory of those triumphs, and the sacrifices made, will surely remain for all time.

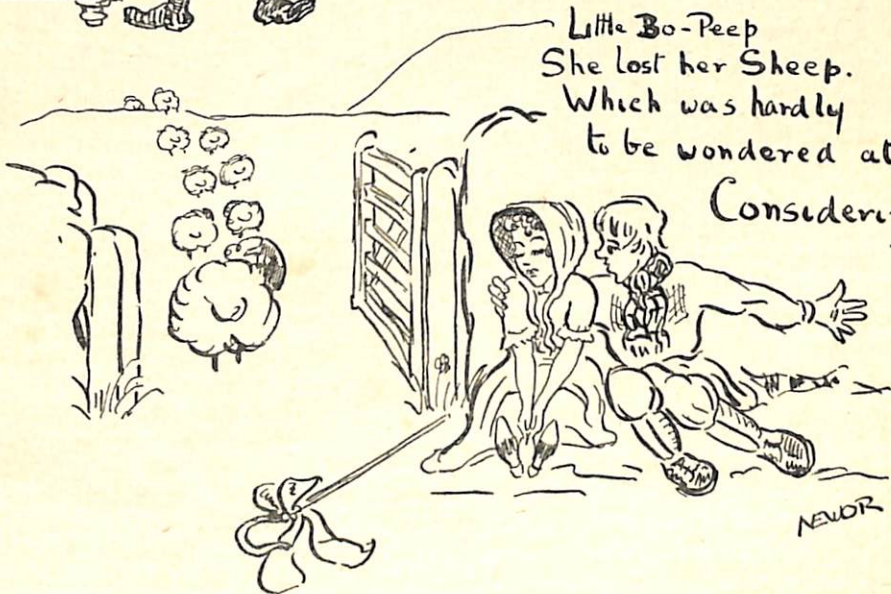
R. K. E.

(Concluded.)

NOT-SO-NURSERY, NEAR-RHYMES.



Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the Cupboard
To get out a bottle of Gin.
When she found
The Bottle was empty,
She naturally
Blamed the Dog.



Little Bo-Peep
She lost her Sheep.
Which was hardly
to be wondered at
Considering.

NEVOR

Winter Sports.

Outside, the thermometer registered sixteen degrees of frost, but inside the ward-room two electric radiators and a coal fire, aided by glasses of Mr. Whitbread's Special, were doing their best to keep the cold from the souls of the assembled officers.

The Engineer was protesting against having to pay for a round of drinks. He had been tried and found guilty of "putting over a dirty one, in that he did play on his grey hairs to the discomfiture of the messmates." He had said that he was entitled, by reason of his forty-nine years, to sit in the warm "While you kids charge about like pre-war cab-horses."

"Anyway," said the Captain, "With Engines being too old, and with three others being either sick, lame or lazy, the ward-room cannot raise a team to compete in the six-a-side football competition. The Chief Petty Officers are in a bad way, too, so I think that Sub and Guns should help them to make up a team."

This met with the approval of all except the two unfortunates who were to play. Guns gave a short but masterly display of invective, starting with "Seventy-seven suffering celestial cats," and ending with remarks about "Snow-bound sporting sailors."

Uttering loud cries for Ah Liem and Ah Wah, their respective servants, Sub and Guns went down to their cabins to change. Getting dressed with Ah Wah as an attendant was a noisy job. Guns swore that the boy was a "Confusionist" despite Ah Wah's protest that he meant "Confucionist."

At last both Sub and Guns were arrayed for battle, and the threats regarding saffron-stomached stupids and blue-behinded flies had died down. A dozen or so men, all muffled up to the eyes, proceeded ashore in the motor-boat.

Conditions for football were not ideal. The field was under a covering of snow which was, in some places, a foot thick. There were drifts, too, some of them three and four feet in depth.

"There will be no offside rule," said the referee, "Nor will there be any laws about anything except handling, rough-housing and the ball going out of play. After the match the losers will pay for the beer at the canteen. Should the result be a draw, both teams will buy beer."

One team consisted of the members of Number Six mess and, by the way, they were all members of the ship's soccer team. The other team was composed of four senior Chief Petty Officers, and the two officers. Both sides threw off their heavy coats and gloves, and some removed their fur caps. Sub kept his on, because "We have to head this ruddy ball, even if it gets wet with snow."

The whistle blew, and the teams began to rush about the field. The referee and the linesmen were mere passengers and were often told to go to blazes by irate footballers. "I wish I could go there," said one official, "It'd be a darned sight warmer than watching idiots like you. Besides, why don't you do something with the ball instead of burying your silly head in the snow every time somebody leans against you?"

Things were getting worse and worse for the "Old Vets." Four goals had been scored against them. Sub and Guns barged about and, with malice aforethought, attacked every man on the opposing side who dared to put boot to ball. No use! The practised footballers merely stepped aside and watched, with astonishment, the efforts of the two to keep right side up. On one occasion, Guns missed a charge and dived, headfirst, into a drift behind the goal-line.

At last virtue was rewarded. The Engine-room artificer got the ball, and kicked it down the field. The ball sailed straight for the goal, and the opposing full-back-cum-goal-

keeper came running to meet it. Ball, goalkeeper, Sub and Guns all arrived at the same point at the same time. When they were sorted out, it was found that the ball was in the net. The whistle blew for half-time, and the players limped off the field and hurriedly resumed their coats.

During the interval the Vets. held a conference. "It's a case for low cunning," said Sub. "They've got the legs and the wind of us."

"Got it!" exclaimed the Chief Boatswain's Mate, after great thought. "All you chaps played rugger? Well, listen to this."

"That's all right," said the Master-at-Arms, when the Buffer had expounded his plan, "But first of all we must act as though we are dead-beat. They might let us score a couple of charity goals. We might pull it off then."

The referee emerged from the canteen, wiping his mouth. The whistle sounded, the spectators cheered, and the Homeric struggle re-commenced.

Six mess were inclined to be merciful. They already had four goals to the Chiefs' one. As a result, Guns got a "baby-liner," and soon afterwards the Chief Stoker broke away and got another goal. Six mess still smiled. They poured derision on the Old Crocks, left their goal empty, and watched Sub dribble yet another goal. Four goals to four, and three minutes to play.

The PLAN was now brought into operation. There was no offside rule. Six mess advanced to the attack. The Chiefs surrounded the hapless player who had the ball, bundled him incontinently into the snow and, keeping the ball in their midst, they carefully walked, *en masse*, through their opponents goal.

"Goal!" howled the Chiefs and the spectators, in unison.

"Foul!" yelled Six mess.

"Free kick!" shouted some.

The referee blew his whistle and pointed to the canteen. He started to run.

"Free beer!" he bellowed.

"ARCO."

The 7th Regiment Gazette.

We recently received a copy of the *7th Regiment Gazette* for December, 1938, from the Editor from New York, U.S.A., and an intimation from him that he would appreciate receiving regularly a copy of THE IRON DUKE, and that he would be glad to send his journal in return.

We very much welcome this exchange of journals, which, as the Editor says, he hopes to make between regimental publications in this country, in the interest of friendly relations between the 7th Regiment, U.S.A. Army, and regiments of the British Army.

The *7th Regiment Gazette* is published four times a year in New York and is the oldest military publication in the U.S.A. It is edited and published as a non-profit organ by members of the 7th Regiment as a volunteer activity.

On the first page of the copy sent us is a reprint of a page from No. 1, Vol. 2 of the *Gazette*, dated 1st December, 1887, and contains an article on Europe and its armies. In referring to the English soldier the article says:—"The English soldier is a model in appearance. He is strong, athletic, very erect, with a most soldierly carriage. His uniform is clean, handsome and well fitted, and when seen off duty with a natty little cap perched jauntily upon the side of his head, cane in hand, and well gloved, he is in appearance the most distinguished soldier in the world. He is reserved and respectful,

but very proud and self-reliant. You have only to look carefully at the English soldier to know that he will fight, and that he will stand by his colours to the last. Distinctive uniforms add greatly to the *esprit-de-corps* of the English Army, for every uniform has a history and a record that is to be maintained. The English volunteers are a powerful adjunct for national defence, and though the organisation and system is inferior in many respects to that of our National Guard, it is probably the best that is possible in England."

The *Gazette* contains many articles of great interest, covering National Safety, Army and Navy Air Defences, Industry and the Next War, Chemical Warfare, all written by experts in these matters. It is extremely well got up, with numerous photographs of high quality and interest. For a single Regiment to produce such a journal is remarkable. It compares favourably with many professional Service journals in this country.

LAMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

The rules and regulations which pertain to Mountain Warfare,
Were fashioned with considerable skill,
And we've contrived to force them on our simple British confrère
Whenever we've been fighting on a hill.

Now pundits who have troubled to examine the complexities
Of tactics in a mountainous terrain
Have given native names to all the various perplexities,
Which make them even harder to explain.

There's the dushman, and the lashkar, and the thing called peri-meter ;
And the sangar in the case of certain camps.
The talwar, and the mullah, and the holy counterfeiter,
The jirgah, and some other jolly ramps.

So isn't it a rudeness that in Whitehall when they chatter
Of the mysteries to which I have referred,
They should use for such a difficult and complicated matter
Such a short and very virile little word ?

R. G. C.

Personalia.

Colonel C. J. Pickering was presented to His Majesty The King at the Levee held at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 8th March, on appointment as Colonel of the Regiment, by the First Lord of the Admiralty. Colonel Pickering then presented the following officers to His Majesty:—Lt.-Col. W. M. Ozanne, on appointment to command of the 1st Battalion, Lts. J. Harrison and G. Cartwright, 2nd Lts. F. Reynolds, C. Grieve, P. Hall, A. Firth and D. Ince, and 2nd Lt. A. Mitchell, of the Supplementary Reserve, on first appointment.

We hear that Capt. C. K. T. Faithfull, who recently left the 2nd Battalion to take up a staff appointment at Jhelum, has had a three weeks' tour of Wana and Mir Ali, when he saw two columns at work. We should like to mention here that we should welcome news of the doings of any officers or other ranks who are away from the Regiment.

The engagement is announced between Dick Anders Wilson, eldest son of the late Mr. G. A. Wilson, of Gothenburg, Sweden, and Mrs. Wilson, of The Steeple, West Camel, Somerset, and Miss Ann Gabrielle Moss Horsfall, youngest daughter of the late Lt.-Col. A. G. Horsfall, D.S.O., The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and of Mrs. W. M. Watson, Wales House, Queen Camel, Somerset.

The 7th Battalion has of late years achieved fame in the Press as the Battalion which takes a mayor to camp as mess sergeant. We were very glad to see in the Honours List last January that Sgt. Harry Laming had been rewarded for his long service to the 7th Battalion and to his town by the award of the medal of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. From what we know of Sgt. Laming we are sure that few men have better deserved such an honour, and we offer him our sincere congratulations.

Sgt. Laming has served with the 7th Battalion for 32 years, and since the war has been employed as Officers' Mess sergeant. He has taken a great interest in the public work of his home town of Mossley, and has held office as Mayor and Deputy Mayor as under :—1932-33, Mayor ; 1933-34, Deputy Mayor ; 1934-35, Mayor ; 1935-36, Deputy Mayor ; 1936-37, Mayor ; 1937-38, Deputy Mayor. He is also an Alderman and a Justice of the Peace, and is at present Chairman of the Public Assistance Committee, a Governor at the Infirmary and the Lake Hospital, Chairman of the Highways Committee and a member of the New Industries Committee. As Officers' Mess sergeant he has displayed the greatest initiative, and all his spare time and interests are devoted to the welfare of the Battalion.

Mrs. Yeoman, widow of the late Capt. W. H. Yeoman, writes that her son, Bill, who was in the 6th Rajputana Rifles, has recently been transferred to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, and posted to Ferozepore. He was married on 14th April last. Mrs. Yeoman's grandson, son of her elder daughter, Mrs. Gibson, went up for Sandhurst last term, but unfortunately failed, and has now enlisted in the D.C.L.I. ; we hope that he will eventually rise to commissioned rank.

Obituary.

We regret to have to record the following deaths :—

ENGLAND.—On 12th January, 1939, as the result of a motor accident at Skipton, Lt.-Col. Norman Ayrton England, of Town Head, Gargrave, late 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 52. Colonel England was educated at Harrogate and Shrewsbury, and was a well-known figure in the Craven District. He was a member of the old Volunteers, and was on the Reserve of Officers. On the outbreak of the Great War he joined the 2nd/6th Battalion and went out to France with them. His brigade commander at that time was Brig.-General R. L. Adlercron, now Hon. Colonel of the 6th Battalion, and since the war they had been close friends. At the beginning of 1918 Colonel England was appointed second-in-command of the 2nd/7th Battalion, and in March of that year was given command of the 8th West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles) with which his service in France, and with the Army of Occupation in Germany continued, until he was demobilised in 1919.

During his period of command, the Leeds Rifles greatly distinguished themselves by the capture of the Montaigne de Bligny in 1918, which feat won for the Battalion the Croix de Guerre. This decoration is incorporated in a plaque in the Chapel of the West Yorkshire Regiment in York Minster. Colonel England was wounded three times, was three times mentioned in despatches and was awarded the D.S.O. and the Croix de Guerre *avec palm*. He won the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when commanding a battalion. The announcement of the award appeared in the *London Gazette* of 11th November, 1918, when it was stated that he had commanded his battalion with marked success during severe fighting which culminated in the brilliant assault and capture of an important enemy position. The spirit and dash shown by all ranks of the battalion had been largely due to the fine example he had continually set them.

Colonel England kept up his association with his comrades after the war, chiefly through the re-unions of the Old Comrades' Associations of the 6th Battalion and 2nd/6th Battalion, of the latter of which he was a past president. He was a sportsman in every sense of the word—an excellent shot, a keen angler, a follower of the local packs of hounds, an amateur rider at local point-to-point steeplechases, and a keen tennis player. He was twice married and leaves a widow and three children.

LETHBRIDGE.—On 24th April, 1939, at Solignac, near Limoges, France, Lt.-Col. Francis Washington Lethbridge, D.S.O., late the 8th and 10th Battalions The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 72 years. Before the war Colonel Lethbridge had served

in the 5th Gurkha Rifles, from which he retired with the rank of captain in 1901. He rejoined the Army on the outbreak of war and was with the 8th Battalion at Suvla Bay, where he was seriously wounded. He took over command of the 10th Battalion in 1917. For his services he was awarded the D.S.O. (1917), the Italian Silver Medal for Valour and the Italian Military Cross. He is survived by Mrs. Lethbridge and one daughter.

MIDDLEMOST.—On 23rd November, 1938, at 28 Cambridge Road, Huddersfield, Lt. D. P. Middlemost at the age of 43. Mr. Middlemost served in the 5th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment before and during the war, and went to France with the Battalion in April, 1915. He was of a somewhat retiring disposition but greatly liked by all with whom he came in contact. Military honours were accorded at the funeral.

NOTT-BOWER.—On 4th February, 1939, at his home in Richmond, Surrey, Capt. Sir William Nott-Bower, K.C.V.O., late the 33rd and 8th The King's Regiments, aged 89. Sir William Nott-Bower was educated at Cheltenham and Sandhurst and joined the 33rd Regiment as ensign on 13th July, 1867; he transferred to the 8th The King's Regiment on 8th July, 1868, and retired on 21st August, 1869. He later served in the 5th West Yorks Militia and the Royal Irish Constabulary. He was appointed Chief Constable of Leeds in 1878, and held that post until he went to Liverpool in 1881. In 1902 he was appointed Commissioner of Police of the City of London, serving as such for 23 years until his retirement in 1925.

Sir William had experience of many famous cases during the half century he spent in the police service. When he was Chief Constable of Leeds the trial took place there in 1879 of Charles Peace. Shortly after Nott-Bower's arrival at Liverpool bomb outrages occurred, and there were numerous attempts by the Fenian Party to blow up public buildings. In 1889 he had charge at Liverpool of the case in which Mrs. Maybrick, the poisoner, was condemned. Shortly after he came to London there was a notable case in which a policeman was shot in Houndsditch. That resulted in what is sometimes called the "battle of Sidney Street." Sir William recalled those and many more thrilling experiences in his book "Fifty-two Years a Policeman," which was published in 1926. A great deal of re-organization of the police forces was due to his work in London and Liverpool, and he was one of the first to introduce compulsory training of police in first aid. He was created a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in recognition of his services in connection with ambulance and first aid work. In 1911 he was made C.V.O., and in the same year was created a Knight. He was advanced to K.C.V.O. in 1918. His decorations included the King's Police medal and a number of foreign orders.

RICHARDS.—On 14th April, 1939, at Erdington Hospital, Birmingham, after a long illness, ex-Cpl. Henry Walter Richards, aged 69. Mr. Richards enlisted in the Regiment on 23rd August, 1887, at Halifax, and went out to join the 2nd Battalion at Halifax, Nova Scotia. After service there and in Barbadoes he was invalided home with enteric fever. He later served with the 1st Battalion at Dover and Malta, and was discharged on 23rd August, 1899. He rejoined the Regiment on the outbreak of the Great War, and served at the Depot, Halifax, for 3½ years as Officers' Mess sergeant, when he was recalled to the Birmingham City Gas Works by his employers, and worked there for a number of years. He was married in 1893, his wife accompanying him from Dover to Malta. Their eldest son, Douglas P. Richards, served for 12 years as a bandsman in the Regiment.

PEIRSON.—On 25th February, 1939, at his home in Beckley, Sussex, after two years' illness, Capt. Charles F. W. Peirson, late the 6th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, aged 66 years. Capt. Peirson was the son-in-law of Colonel the Rev. S. Howard Hall, S.C.F. retired, late of the 6th Battalion. He served during the war at Atbara, Egypt, as Deputy Assistant Director of Railway Transport.

WATSON.—On 22nd January, 1939, at Meltham, near Huddersfield, Capt. James Lewis Watson, M.C., aged 71. Capt. Watson joined the 5th Battalion The Duke of

Wellington's Regiment about 1910 and was musketry officer before the war and also commanded the Meltham section. At the outbreak of war he was appointed staff captain of the 147th Infantry Brigade and later became D.A.Q.M.G. of the 6th Division. Afterwards he rejoined the 5th Battalion and was a most fearless company commander. Although the oldest officer in the Battalion, he set a great example of *esprit de corps* and courage and was bitterly disappointed when he was severely wounded in October, 1917, in the fight for Passchendaele. Capt. Watson was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Military Cross. He continued to take a great interest in his old Battalion after the war and was a trustee of Huddersfield Drill Hall. The funeral was of a semi-military character and was attended by large numbers of his old comrades.

Our Contemporaries.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following regimental magazines:—*The Covenanter* (Jan., March), *The Dragon* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Snapper* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Bugle* (Dec., March), *The London Scottish Regimental Gazette* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Hampshire Regimental Journal* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The St. George's Gazette* (Dec., Jan., Feb., March), *The Tiger & Rose* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Light Bob* (Jan., April), *The Suffolk Regimental Gazette* (Dec., Feb.), *Ca-Ira* (March), *The Lion & The Rose* (Feb.), *The K.S.L.I. Regimental Journal* (Feb., April), *The Sapper* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Wire* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *Our Empire* (Jan., Feb., March, April), *The Territorial Magazine* (Jan.), *Aldershot Command News* (weekly), *The Military Musician* (April), *Service* (Australia) (Feb.), *Seventh Regiment (U.S.A.) Gazette* (April).

Correspondence.

Alexandra Hotel, Folkestone,
9th February, 1939.

The Editor, THE IRON DUKE.

Sir,

It may interest you to know that a branch of the South African War Veterans' Association has been formed in Folkestone and district.

We have a good number of members, and I have pleasure in informing you that our first President to be elected is Colonel R. M. Tidmarsh—and myself, treasurer—both late of the 'Duke's.' In addition we have other old "Duke's," namely Messrs. W. Austin, J. Welsh and W. F. Tobin. The latter was page-boy to Colonel Hodges in Limerick, 1882, and joined the Regiment in January, 1887.

However, it is with regret that I have to inform you that we have lost an old friend in S.M. Lawrence Bellew, D.C.M., who passed away early in January. Until recently he was a member of The King's Bodyguard.

Yours truly,

F. May, late Sergeant, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTION AFFORDED TO ANY MAN ENTERING THE POST OFFICE SERVICE AS A POSTMAN.

Speaking at the 53rd annual general meeting of the National Association, an ex-saddler, quarter-master-sergeant, Royal Artillery, said he would like it to be known how much it means to ex-Regulars to realise that there are gentlemen who have severed their connection with the Services and others

who have not served at all, who are willing to interest themselves in the welfare of Regular ex-Service-men. He continued :—

“ I should like to give you my own personal experience. Realising that my trade of saddler had practically ceased to exist, I was faced with the fact that I should have to enter some other occupation on re-entering civil life, which, as I was 41 years of age, was a difficult proposition. I visited the office of the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at 62 Victoria Street, and, on the advice of the employment manager, I registered my name for employment in the Post Office. He informed me that entry was restricted to the appointment of postmen and porters, but that I could enter a limited competition for the appointment of sorter (London), subject to an age limit of 45 years and with the proviso that I competed within the first three years of Post Office service.

Shortly after nomination I was instructed to appear for an interview with the postmaster at Aldershot, after which I was medically examined by the Post Office medical officer. Within three months of registration I was asked to attend at Battersea on 31st October, 1936, and from there I was sent to the London Postal School for instruction. Instruction is given in general postmen's duties in a class under the one instructor for a period of three weeks. It consists of sorting for London districts and primary sorting for the provinces, with a number of lectures and visits to the principal offices in London. Sorting instruction is given on a series of cards in groups, on which a standard pass for efficiency is set.

On completing the course and passing the sorting test, I was sent to my office at S.W.14, there to take up my duties as a postman, and I received further instruction in the local sorting and other duties in that area. I was granted a Civil Service certificate in March, 1937. In the same month I entered the first examination, and, in consequence of the position I obtained in the competition, I was appointed a sorter, Inland Section E.C.1. On appointment I again entered the London Postal School, on the 20th March of this year. Instruction is spread over a period of four weeks, in which instruction is given in the sorting of mail into districts and the general principles of despatch, visits are paid to the offices concerned and practical instruction is given in all duties peculiar to the class. As in the case of a postman, it is essential to attain pass standards in sorting. On completing the course, I joined my office, where further instruction was given in duties peculiar to that office.

The points that I wish to emphasise are that the intending applicant for postal employment, whether he has a first or second class certificate of education, should make himself familiar with the geographical position of counties, principal towns, railways and packet routes within the British Isles, and gain some knowledge of the London postal districts. These are important both for the preliminary interview and for assistance in the subsequent instruction at the London Postal School.

The Post Office offers the ex-Service man permanent employment and a chance of advancement on higher pay, with a pension and a gratuity, based on service, at 60 years of age.

I wish to thank, in the first place, the National Association for putting me into touch with the Post Office, the instructors in the London Postal School for their interest in the advancement of their trainees, and the staff at S.W.14 for their help and guidance and the friendly co-operation afforded me in that office.”

(From the General Secretary, National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, 14 Howick Place, London, S.W.1.)

Notices.

TOC H.

Toc H was born during the Great War in Talbot House, Poperinghe, a small town about 7 miles west of Ypres. It was a unique club, or rest house, founded by an Army Chaplain, the Rev. P. B. Clayton, in December, 1915. The name Talbot House, so named to commemorate a young officer of the Rifle Brigade killed in July, 1915, was shortened by general Army usage into “ Toc H.”

Field-Marshal the Earl of Cavan has written of it :—“ I can say from experience that Welcome met me at the door, Happiness lived within, and the Peace that passeth understanding could be found by those who sought it, in the Upper Room.”

The House developed a fine and happy spirit of comradeship and service, while inspiration and fresh courage came from the Chapel or Upper Room (the old loft at the top of the House), and the personality of its Padre who used it as a way to reconcile man with God and man with man.

Following the War many of those who had known and appreciated Talbot House came to miss its happy spirit of friendship and warmth of welcome, and sought for something in civil life of the same kind, where they could forget the pre-war and post-war prejudices and divisions. As a result in 1920 Toc H was reborn. Though started by ex-Service men they realized that, were it confined to such, it would fade away, as they would fade away. Thus it opened its doors to young men of 16 years and upwards so that to-day the average age of its membership the world over is probably in the late twenties, and the percentage of ex-Service members decreases year by year. Apart from its Houses, as a rule it has no permanent quarters, but is divided into Branches and Groups, and is in no sense a Service

Club. On the other hand personal service of every description for the welfare of others, both individual and corporate, is required of its members, who are pledged to endeavour to deal with the problems of life in the spirit of simple Christianity. Toc H has no material advantages to offer to its membership, and in no sense is it a secret society. Its meetings are open to all comers, who are always welcome.

Toc H endeavours to contribute in the following ways, among others, to the enrichment of the life of the community in general :—

1. By surmounting barriers of denomination, class, and party interests, it brings men of all different types together in active work towards a common goal. It is not a society for the furthering of any one set of opinions, but endeavours, with a great measure of success, to prove that men can differ widely on many things and can yet live and work together happily and to their mutual advantage.

2. By re-asserting the truth that neither a man's life nor his value to society consists in the abundance of his possessions, and affirming that the worth of the individual to the community should be estimated by character rather than by possessions, by being and doing rather than by merely having.

3. By developing a body of public opinion free from prejudice so that party contests would no longer be fought on a basis of personalities and prejudices, but would be debated on a basis of principles and issues.

4. By developing the initiative of the individual in all his relationships and stimulating freedom of expression in his thinking, thus encouraging every man to make his contribution to the common life in a spirit of self-sacrifice rather than of self-glorification.

In order to dispel any possible misunderstanding it would be, perhaps, well to quote a letter, issued by the Army Council in February, 1930, reading as follows :—“ It has been represented to the Army Council by Field-Marshal Viscount Plumer and the Reverend P. B. Clayton, in an interview which took place on the 29th January, 1930, between the above mentioned and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and the Adjutant General to the Forces, that an impression has got abroad that officers and men of the Army are, by reason of their profession, cut off from active membership of Toc H. It may be as well, therefore, to state here, quite distinctly, that there is nothing either in the obligations of an Army career or the membership of Toc H which are antagonistic. Quite the reverse. Toc H was born of the Army in War, and there is no reason why officers and men should not exercise, should they so desire, full membership in peace as they did during the War. Nor is there any more reason why an officer who is a member of Toc H should not meet a private soldier who is also a member of Toc H in the course of their activities in connection with the fellowship, than there is that he should not play football, cricket or any other game that is, as is well known, played by officers and other ranks in their ordinary every-day regimental life.

“ The Army Council feel that it would be unfortunate indeed if the present ignorance of the aims and objects of Toc H were perpetuated by its parent, the British Army, and wish it to be understood that, for their part, they desire once and for all to state that there is nothing in the constitution of either to prevent officers and other ranks of the Army from becoming members of Toc H. Those members of Toc H who joined that fellowship when at school—as so many do—may carry on their membership throughout their Army career, and others may join without any misgivings.”

THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CLUB.

The International Sportsmen's Club is a London social club with international membership open to ladies and gentlemen who are members of recognised clubs of standing in their respective countries. Its members can be afforded the fullest information on the various forms of sport prevailing in Great Britain as well as abroad, and can be given every opportunity of viewing or taking part in them under the best auspices.

CLUB HOUSE.—The Club is situated at the junction of Upper Grosvenor Street and Park Lane with entrance in Upper Grosvenor Street ; its amenities include—besides those usual in a social club—snack bar, swimming pool, turkish baths for ladies and gentlemen, four squash rackets courts and a splendidly equipped gymnasium. Arrangements can be made for members to have the exclusive use of a room for private cocktail and other parties. The bedrooms form a very special feature of the Club, each room having its own bathroom. The accommodation includes single bedrooms, double bedrooms, and both double and single suites. In addition, there are a few small bedrooms with an adjoining bathroom.


OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORT.—The Club specialises in affording facilities to its members to take part in all sports and games. Members and their friends can be given the entrée to Hurlingham, Roehampton and the leading London ice skating and lawn tennis clubs, and also to many of the principal golf courses to which the Club is affiliated.

INFORMATION BUREAU.—An information bureau is maintained where every kind of information relating to sports is available ; at which, also, theatre and travel tickets can be obtained and motor cars hired.

The secretary of the I.S. Club, Lt.-Col. H. W. Snow, informs us that special terms are now being offered to serving officers of the Regular and Territorial Armies, the Supplementary Reserve, and the Auxiliary Air Force, whereby they are admitted to membership without entrance fee, and at an annual subscription of £7 17s. 6d. instead of £15 15s. 0d.

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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.

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THE IRON DUKE.

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