

No.117 July 1960



THE IRON DUKE

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

THE IRON DUKE

The Regimental Magazine of

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT

*Dettingen
Mysore
Seringapatam
Ally Ghur
Delhi, 1803
Leswarree
Deig
Corunna
Nive
Peninsula
Waterloo
Alma
Inkerman
Sevastopol
Abyssinia
Relief of Kimberley
Paardeberg
South Africa 1900-02
Mons 1914
Marne 1914, '18
Ypres 1914, '15, '17*



*Hill 60
Somme 1916, '18
Arras 1917, '18
Cambrai 1917, '18
Lys
Piave 1918
Landing at Suwla
Afghanistan 1919
North-West Europe
1940, 1944-45
Dunkirk 1940
St. Valery-en-Caux
Fontenay-le-Pesnil
Djeboul Bou Aoukaz 1943
Anzio
Monte Ceco
Burma 1942, '43, '44
Sittang 1942
Chindits 1944
The Hook 1953
Korea 1952-53*

Vol. XXXVI

JULY 1960

No. 117

BUSINESS NOTES

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HALIFAX

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CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| <i>An Appeal for "The Iron Duke"</i> | 79 |
| <i>News and Notes</i> | 80 |
| <i>Regimental Headquarters</i> | 82 |
| <i>York Minster</i> | 86 |
| <i>The Yorkshire Brigade Depot</i> | 87 |
| <i>Roosendaal and "Polar Bear" Division</i> | 89 |
| <i>1st Battalion</i> | 90 |
| <i>5th/7th Battalion, T.A.</i> | 98 |
| <i>Premature Demolition</i> | 104 |
| <i>The Sittang Battle</i> | 106 |
| <i>Correspondence</i> | 108 |
| <i>From "The London Gazette"</i> | 110 |
| <i>Officers' Regimental Club</i> | 111 |
| <i>Regimental Association</i> | 112 |

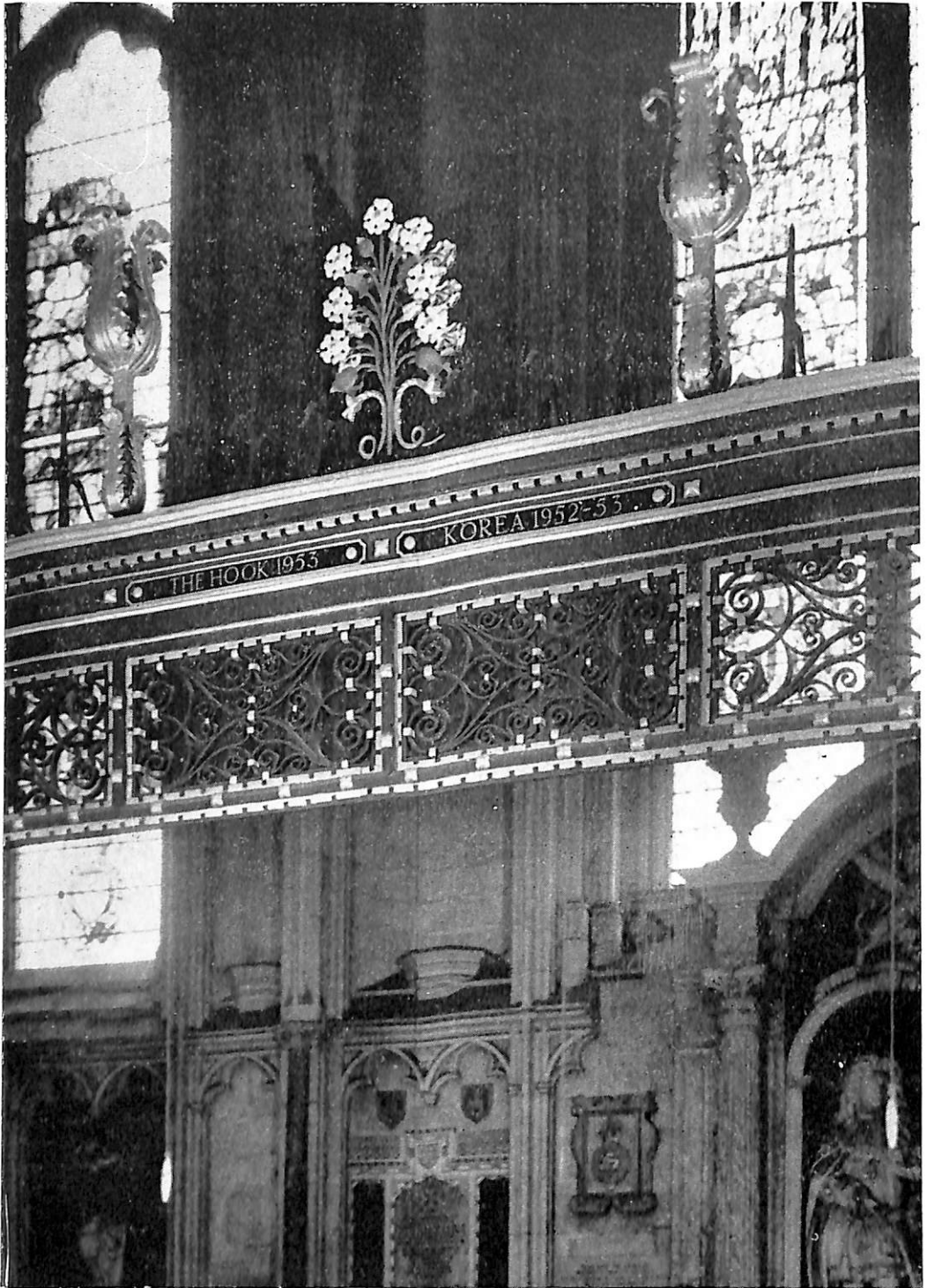


Photo: K. Pettinger, A.I.B.P., 39 Micklegate, York

YORK MINSTER

The Korean Battle Honours on the Screen of the Regimental Chapel (see page 86)

An Appeal for "The Iron Duke"

From the Colonel of the Regiment

MANY readers of THE IRON DUKE will know that the Magazine's financial position is precarious. The present income, from all sources, is only sufficient to produce four times a year a number of 32 pages with one or two photographs—if that.

However, for the past year we have produced a magazine of 36 or 40 pages with many more interesting photographs and I believe you will agree that this is the minimum standard we must have for our Regimental Journal. But the result of this policy is that:

"The Iron Duke" is Bankrupt

Our three main sources of income are advertisements, grants and subscribers.

Advertisements should produce a substantial part of our revenue but, at present, we are not getting nearly enough from this source. We are working hard to improve this but it will take time.

As regards grants, we have, in the past year, received a grant from the Regimental Association and increased grants from the O.C.A. and Retired Officers' Association, but there is a strict limit to what we can expect from such sources.

We do not wish to increase the present subscription, except in one minor respect mentioned below, because we know that, generally speaking, the people who enjoy the Magazine most are those who can least afford to pay more—namely the Old Comrades. The one change we do intend *will only affect new subscribers*:

The present rates are: Officers, 10s.; Others, 6s.

We propose to change this to: Serving soldiers below rank of W.O., 6s.; All others, 10s.

To put THE IRON DUKE on a sound financial footing for 1960 we need to raise £350 this year. Thereafter we must raise its annual income from the present £650 to £900.

TO DO THIS I APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

Veterans' Copies

We send free copies to some 25 Veteran Old Comrades and would like to send more. Before the last war there was a scheme whereby volunteers paid for these copies. There are only three of these volunteers now left: Brigadier E. W. Rogers, Lt.-Col. O. Price, and Mrs. K. J. Cameron (née Turner). Will you volunteer? You can name your veteran or leave it to us to choose one.

Complimentary Copies

We also send copies to many schools, units, recruiting establishments and VIPs. Again we really should send more. Possibly you have an interest in and would "adopt" one which is on our list—or should be. If so, name it or say if you are prepared for us to send a copy, at your expense, where it will be a good advertisement for the Regiment.

Photographs

If you agree that photographs make all the difference will you make yourself responsible for one or more per issue or per year? The cost of blocks ranges from £1 10s. (minimum) to about £3.

Advertisements

Can you help to place, or persuade your firm to place, a regular/half-year/yearly advertisement in the Magazine? If you are in a position to do this please write, in the first instance, to the Business Manager, Lt.-Col. D. J. Stewart, at Halifax.

Money Making

If you are good at organising and can run anything from a jumble sale to a tattoo, then do so in aid of THE IRON DUKE. 1 D.W.R. is taking the lead and will run a "fête" in aid of THE IRON DUKE at Meeanee Barracks on September 17. Come and support this.

Your Own Subscription

While we propose not to raise the subscription generally I hope you will consider doing so individually. If you feel this appeal is in good cause, and can afford it, raise your own subscription to whatever you feel like, preferably by banker's order. If you don't want to commit yourself too far ahead, send a single contribution, however small.

Our Regimental Magazine has always been of an exceptionally high standard and we must keep it so. I have no doubt at all that we can raise the funds to put THE IRON DUKE on a sound footing if we all make a personal effort. Let our motto be:

"Do It Now"

So turn now, at once, to the banker's order and proforma inserted in this issue

K. G. Exham

NEWS and NOTES

Right—if you've all filled in your proformas we can proceed.

LAST OUT

Once again the "Dukes" have been last out. This time, however, it was only out of Warley barracks which were closed on May 10 after the 1st Battalion's move to Colchester. *The Times*, reporting this under the heading "Barracks closed after 82 years," records that Warley barracks had been an Army centre since 1878. Before 1878 the barracks were the property of the East India Trading Company.

It is understood that the Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales, used to be stationed in Warley barracks when the depot of the Welsh Guards was there.

The National Press of May 11 reported the retirement of Mr. Gilbert Beyfus, Q.C., at the age of 74, owing to persistent ill health.

The Legal Correspondent of *The Times* wrote: "The retirement of Mr. Beyfus deprives the Bar and the nation of one of its most colourful and distinguished advocates. . . . Appearing, as he has done, in many recent *causes célèbres*, noticeably in the field of libel and slander, it was sometimes rumoured that he had been briefed by the party which sought to avoid his relentless and deadly cross-examination, which he would modestly describe as 'answering a few of my questions.'"

Mr. Beyfus was called to the Bar in 1908 but, when war broke out, was evidently one of the earliest volunteers as he was gazetted to 3rd (Res.) Battalion D.W.R. on August 14, 1914. Serving with 2nd D.W.R. he was wounded at Hill 60 on April 18, 1915. He rejoined the battalion within a few days but was again wounded and taken prisoner in the German gas counter-attack on May 5. He spent three years and nine months as a wounded prisoner of war.

In spite of this, Captain G. H. Beyfus, Q.C., as he appears in our records, has been a faithful supporter of the Regiment. He has subscribed to the O.C.A. since 1920 and, until recent years, regularly attended the Regimental dinner. He came last in 1958.

Readers will join us in hoping that retirement will enable Mr. Beyfus to regain good health.

We take the following from the May issue of our contemporary "The Tiger and Rose." "Major Emmett has left us with his golden bowl in one hand and a bowl of curry and rice in the other. He is at present undergoing a course of civilianisation and on behalf of the whole Battalion (1 Y. & L.—Ed.) and especially "C" Company, I should like to thank him for all the hard work he has put in."

From the "Tiger and Rose," also, we cull the following which has not been reported to us by any other source. It comes from the notes of the

1st Battalion Y. & L. in Berlin. "We were delighted to hear that a fellow-member of the Yorkshire Brigade was in the rugby final and immediately asked the 'Dukes' if they would be our guests for the period. We were therefore pleased to see Col. 'Pip' Moran, Col. Tony Firth and all the members of the rucker team. Alas, they were defeated. . . . I sympathise with our guests though we cannot wish them victory next year as we are reserving that for ourselves. It was extremely nice to welcome them to the mess, and in return the 'Dukes' officers presented us with a charming silver cigarette box inscribed 'From the Dukes to the Tigers.' This delightful gift was as acceptable as it was unexpected."

Mr. W. Baring Pemberton, of the Manor House, Billingshurst, Sussex, wrote to us to say that he was engaged on writing "The Battles of the Crimean War" for Batsford's new series of British battles, and asking if the files of *THE IRON DUKE* contained any otherwise unpublished accounts of these battles "in which the old 33rd played so distinguished a part." We were able to send him several items for which he seemed sincerely grateful.

We also sent, in response to his letter in the *Sunday Times*, to Colonel Peter Fleming, the well-known explorer and writer, some letters from two sergeants of the 2nd Battalion who were attached to the Younghusband expedition to Tibet in 1904. Replying, Colonel Fleming said that he was fascinated by the programme of events for a gymkhana held in Lhasa (it appeared in I.D., Vol. I) and hoped to include it in a footnote to his book.

We are extremely grateful to Brigadier Sir John Smyth, Bt., v.c., m.c., for his ready co-operation with Captain John Stacpoole over the article on the Sittang Bridge which appears on page 104. This collaboration has produced, we think, a most unusual and interesting study. A pleasing by-product has been the discovery that Brigadier Smyth is the grandson of Colonel Henry Smyth, c.b., who commanded the 76th from 1859 to 1863.

The 5th D.W.R. Officers' Dinner Club held its 33rd annual dinner on October 9, 1959, in the Drill Hall, Huddersfield, and 60 members and guests sat down to dinner. At the last minute the chairman, Colonel G. P. Norton, c.b.e., d.s.o., t.d., d.l., was unable to attend (only the second time he has missed since the dinners started). Colonel K. Sykes, o.b.e., m.c., t.d., j.p., stepped into the breach and took the chair.

The toast to the 5/7th Battalion was proposed by the Mayor of Huddersfield, Alderman J. L. Brook, j.p., who, evidently feeling that he was among friends, cast aside his prepared speech and gave a very interesting account of his vain attempts to join the T.A. before the 1914-18 War. He also caused amusement by saying that when the Corporation had had the Northend-Nichols Cup (which was presented by the 5/7th Battalion to mark its centenary last year—see I.D., No. 114, page 121)

valued for insurance they had found it to be worth more than the Corporation had spent on entertaining the battalion during the centenary celebrations and were pleased to feel that they were "in-pocket."

Mr. D. Seed, who was Bandmaster to the 1st Battalion for some ten years up to 1956, is now assistant instructor in music at Sedbergh School, Yorkshire.

We understand that the "Duke's" family in Aden was further increased for a fortnight in June by a party from the 1st Battalion which went there for "acclimatisation trials." We hope to get some account of this for the next issue.

Major Douglas Jones-Stamp, so he informs us, won the Reserve Champion Bitch at the M.B.H.A. Show at Aldershot with his Craigcleuch Rhapsody. She was also third in the novice class and first in the "pure-bred entered and unentered class" (though what that means we have no idea) with which went the Keevil Cup. We gather from other sources that Rhapsody is a basset hound, so deduce that that explains the middle part of M.B.H.A.

WEDDINGS

Hayes—Bluett. At St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, on November 18, 1959, James, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. J. Hayes of Kiel, Germany, and Mary Elizabeth, daughter and step-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Bluett of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.

When sending us this notice (which we must confess should have gone into the last issue) James Hayes wrote that he is coming home on leave at the end of this year and with a bit of luck will be able to attend the Regimental dinner in June 1961. His address is c/o The Colonial Secretariat, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong.

Hereford—Code. The first wedding ceremony in the Regimental War Memorial Chapel in Halifax Parish Church took place on March 26 when Mr. Jack Hereford, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Hereford of 5 Lane End, Shibden, was married to Miss Barbara Code, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Code of 172 Willow Gardens, Halifax. The service was conducted by the Archdeacon and Vicar of Halifax, the Ven. E. Treacy, M.B.E.

The bridesmaids were Miss Janet Code (sister of the bride), Cindy McIlroy and Rosemary Padgett. Mr. R. McIlroy was best man and the groomsmen were Mr. S. Ward. The reception was held at the Arden Road Drill Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Hereford will be living at 112 Allangate, Rochdale Road, Halifax.

It is appropriate that the chapel should be used in this way by those closely connected with the Regiment and particularly fitting in this case as Mr. Code was a prominent worker in the scheme to establish the chapel and has done so much to make it what it is. Barbara, herself, was born in the Regiment and many readers will remember her from Bordon days.

Cumberlege—Leahy. Jeremy, eldest son of Colonel and Mrs. C. R. T. Cumberlege, of Dalby Rectory, Terrington, York, was married on April 30, at St. Luke's Church, Milland, to Elizabeth, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs. A. G. P. Leahy, of Ladysmith House, Liss. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. T. Rees; Mr. Ewan Cameron was best man and a guard of honour was provided by officers of the Regiment.



Photo: Portman Press Bureau

A reception was held at the No. 1 Officers' Mess of the Army Transportation Centre, Longmoor, which Brigadier Leahy commands. An unusual and picturesque going-away vehicle was provided by the Brigadier, and Jeremy and Elizabeth left Longmoor Station in a vintage inspection coach drawn by a diesel.

This Victorian wagon has had an illustrious past and is now an experienced film star, having featured in "Melba," "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness," and "The Best Years of our Lives." Ava Gardner was pulled aboard it by her hair in "Bhowani Junction" and we are told that Jayne Mansfield is currently being filmed leaning over its balcony.

This had been garlanded by the troops at Longmoor with spring blossom which provided a pretty sight—though outshone by the bride's going-away hat—as the train, in the words of the local press, "puffed away down a single track to a secret rendezvous."

Among the "Dukes" at the Cumberlege—Leahy
(continued on page 86)



Photo: Halifax Courier

Marching into Halifax Parish Church for the St. George's Day Service

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The main news item for this issue is our Regimental week-end, April 23/24, centred on the opening of the Regimental museum at Bankfield.

O.C. R.H.Q. used to visit Bankfield regularly to watch progress and, as time drew on, got progressively more alarmed at the apparent disarray. Assurances that it would be "all right on the day" had an all too familiar ring. It was, in fact, very much "all right on the day" but the Director, Mr. Innes, and his staff had had to put in some very long hours. One of the difficult items was the diagram of the battle of Waterloo with lights to show troop movements at the various phases. At one stage the French cavalry got out of hand and looked as though they were determined to reverse the generally accepted solution.

The opening ceremony was preceded by a civic luncheon at the Town Hall to which were invited the Colonel, Deputy Colonel and representatives of the regular and territorial units of the Regiment.

Outside the museum the Colonel, accompanied by the Mayor (Alderman Miss Mary Pickles, J.P.) inspected a guard of honour, composed of D.W.R. recruits under training at Strensall, and two medium guns of 382 Medium Regiment R.A.

(D.W.R.) T.A. These guns came one from "P" Battery (4th D.W.R.) and one from "R" Battery (6th D.W.R.); they were attended by W.O.2 Dillon and W.O.2 Reed. At the main entrance stood, also, two sergeants of 5/7th D.W.R. Thus it may be said that all the two regular and four territorial battalions of the Regiment as it used to be were represented at the ceremony by their descendents.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was well attended and had the atmosphere of a family gathering. The Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress (Miss E. A. Oakley), asked the Colonel to open the museum. In her speech she displayed a remarkable knowledge of our regimental history. This prompted General Exham to say that he wished he could send some young officers to her for instruction. He then briefly declared the museum open.

Alderman Fred Sharp, J.P., in his own inimitable style, then asked General Exham to accept on behalf of the Regiment a silver cigarette box to mark the occasion. The box bears on its lid a replica of the Mayor's badge and will be particularly valued as our only piece of silver showing the arms of the Borough of Halifax.

A vote of thanks was then proposed to General Exham by Councillor C. A. Mitchell and supported by our sailor friend, Alderman "Charlie" Lucas, O.B.E., M.C., whom it was pleasant to hear "making comparisons." The timing of the ceremony was adjusted by the addition of a few words from Alderman Dryden Brook, a friend of long standing, who we were delighted was able to be present.

In replying, General Exham spoke of the ties which exist between Halifax and the Regiment. He recalled that the museum was first established at Wellesley Barracks in 1921 by Colonel Trench who was now, he believed, our oldest surviving officer. Many other names deserved mention in connection

Arthur Sunley

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with its growth, in particular those of Major Scott, whom he was so glad to see present, Major Savory, who did so much for the museum after the last war, Brigadier Webb-Carter and Major Tedd who had been specially concerned with the move to Bankfield.

General Exham said that the move to Bankfield had been made possible by the generosity of the Halifax Corporation and their interest in their own County Regiment. Everyone would be greatly impressed by the display of our regimental treasures in the splendid setting provided. It was particularly nice, also, to have the silver of the old 4th D.W.R. (Halifax's own T.A. battalion) housed as a continuation of display.

It was his pleasant duty to thank all those who had been responsible. In particular he would like to thank Her Worship the Mayor who, during her term of office had shown herself a true friend of the "Dukes," the several gentlemen who had spoken so kindly of the Regiment at this ceremony and, lastly, the Director of Halifax Museums, Mr. Innes, to whose knowledge and enthusiasm we owed a very special debt, and his deputy, Mr. Magson.

We then inspected the museum (it is hoped that an account and photographs of it will appear in the next issue). On display for the opening were eight of the nine V.C.s won by men of the Regiment. The ninth, that of Pte. Magner, is thought to be somewhere in the Antipodes. Two of the V.C. winners were present: Mr. H. Tandey, v.c., D.C.M., M.M., came from Coventry and Mr. R. H. Burton, v.c., made a longer journey from Kirriemuir in Angus. The son of Sgt. Loosemore, v.c., D.C.M., who came,

said he was made so welcome that he felt quite like an "old Duke" himself. If he were a little younger we would have tried to enlist him.

It would take too much space to write an adequate appreciation of the work of Mr. Innes and his staff in making this what must be the best laid out regimental museum in the country. We are supremely grateful to them.

This doesn't mean we don't want more items. We do: we lack, for instance, the general service and campaign medals of the 1939-45 war to complete the case of campaign medals. We were pleased recently to accept Lt.-Colonel Sam Hoyle's kukri which he carried in Burma when commanding the 33rd Column. Another welcome recent acquisition are the medals of the late Major Sir Robert Henniker, B.T., which are headed by what is believed to be the first M.C. won by the Regiment in the 1914-18 war.

HAVERCAKE

Tea was provided at the museum. Mr. Innes, alert to Regimental tradition, arranged for havercake to be offered. Though havercake was once popular throughout the district, these had to be brought from as far away as Skipton.

That evening R.H.Q. held their first cocktail party. A measure of anxiety was noticed in the Administrative Officer who was obviously regretting that he is now even less in the position of the biblical centurion. We had to lean heavily on others and must thank Lt.-Colonel Gadd for the willing and ready help we got from the 5/7th Battalion.

The mess itself has not changed much. Visitors



THE OPENING OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Colonel of the Regiment
inspecting the Guard of Honour
provided by recruits
from the Brigade Depot at
Strensall

Photo: Halifax Courier



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will see on arrival the three scrolls, commemorating the granting of the Freedoms of Halifax, Huddersfield and Spensborough, now hung above the statuette of the Duke on the hall table. A collection of medals has been put in the dining room, now the conference room. Included are the Kennedy family medals, an interesting set earned by Sgt. M. Kennedy, with Crimean and Abyssinian medals, and his two sons spanning the Boer war, 1914-18 war and 1939-45 war. Had I read IRON DUKE No. 25 I would not have fallen into the error of thinking it the record of three generations—to be taken to task by the third generation who, nevertheless, promised to add his own, though in the fullness of time. Another set of interest to those who served at the Depot is Bill Sturman's who lived for so many years with his dog and cat in the harness room of the stable in the north-east corner of the barracks.

CHURCH PARADE

On Sunday, April 24, the first of what is to be an annual church parade was held in Halifax. Representative detachments of 382 Medium Regiment R.A. (D.W.R.) T.A., commanded by Major A. Favell, 5/7th D.W.R. (T.A.) and the O.C.A., led by the Colonel of the Regiment, marched from George Street to the Parish Church behind the band of the 1st Battalion. White roses were worn.

The service was conducted by the Vicar assisted by the Rev. J. C. Gethyn-Jones. The lessons were read by General Exham and by Councillor George H. Smith, president of the Halifax branch of the Royal Society of St. George who were also attending the service.

The theme of Archdeacon Treacy's sermon was that the heroism of peace is in many ways greater than that of war. Everyone, particularly when young, has a natural desire to prove that he "has what it takes." There are few legitimate opportunities to do so today. Youngsters who kill themselves and others on super-charged motor-cycles or in gang warfare are menaces in peace but might be heroes in war.

The heroes of today are the men and women who shoulder their responsibilities and carry out their usually dull routine tasks both at work and at home without glamour or publicity. "I tell you it needs a greater courage to go on bearing these burdens year in and year out than it does to land on an enemy beach."

MR. TOM McMAHON

After the St. George's Day service in Halifax there was an informal ceremony on the lawn outside the Parish Church. The congregation and military detachments watched the Colonel of the Regiment present Mr. Tom McMahon with an inscribed silver cigarette box to mark his completion of more than 50 years' consecutive service with the Regiment.

General Exham, who recalled that when he himself first joined he had learned his weapon training from Sgt. McMahon, said that the latter's completion in January last of 50 years' continuous service was an occasion which could not be allowed to pass without recognition.



Photo: Halifax Courier

Mr. McMahon with his wife, son-in-law, daughter and granddaughter examining the cigarette box

Thanking the Colonel and those who had subscribed to the gift, Mr. McMahon said that his 50 years with the "Dukes" had all been years of which he was proud, but this occasion made him very proud indeed. He hoped that many more people would qualify in the future for recognition of 50 years' service with the Regiment. "For me, and I hope for all of you," said Mr. McMahon "there is only one regiment—and you can count the Guards in as well—and that is the 'Dukes.'"

Fifty Years a "Duke"

Young Tom McMahon enlisted into the 4th Battalion D.W.R. in January 1910. He served with that unit in France and Belgium. After being wounded at Thiepval on July 1, 1916, he was evacuated to the U.K. On discharge from hospital he was posted to 3 4th Reserve Battalion as a drill instructor at Clipstone Camp. He remained there until February 1919, when he re-enlisted for four years under the bounty scheme and was posted to 1st Battalion Foreign Service Details at Catterick, joining the 1st Battalion in Palestine in August. He subsequently saw service with the battalion in Egypt, Gibraltar, Turkey, U.K. and Malta. From Malta McMahon was posted to the Depot as R.Q.M.S.—he had previously served a tour there as C.S.M. He stayed as R.Q.M.S. at the Depot from 1936 to 1941 when the Depot moved to Brancepeth. He went to Northern Command H.Q.

(continued page 86, column 2)

YORK MINSTER

The Regimental Chapel

The frontispiece of this issue shows the Korean battle honours which, as reported in the April 1959 issue, are now in position on the screen of the chapel.

The battle honours have also been added to the Roll of Honour in the chapel, as have also the names of those officers and men who were killed in Cyprus. The work has been beautifully done by Messrs. Bumpus of London, in fact by the same craftsman who prepared the 1939-45 Roll of Honour.

We are indebted to the Exham family—Mrs. Exham (widow), Major-Generals K. G. and R. K. (sons) and Mrs. Laing (daughter)—who have presented an antique silver ecclesiastical cruet to our chapel in memory of the late Colonel F. S. Exham, D.S.O., who served with the 1st Battalion from 1895 to 1902 when he transferred to the R.A.O.C. Colonel Exham served with the Battalion throughout the South African war being present at, among others, the battle of Paardeburg; he died on December 17, 1951. The cruet is a most welcome addition to the chapel's equipment as, on previous occasions when Holy Communion has been celebrated there, a cruet has had to be borrowed from another chapel.

Arrangements are being made to hold a Regimental service in the Minster on November 1. It is hoped to make this an annual event on a date as near as possible to All Saints' Day.

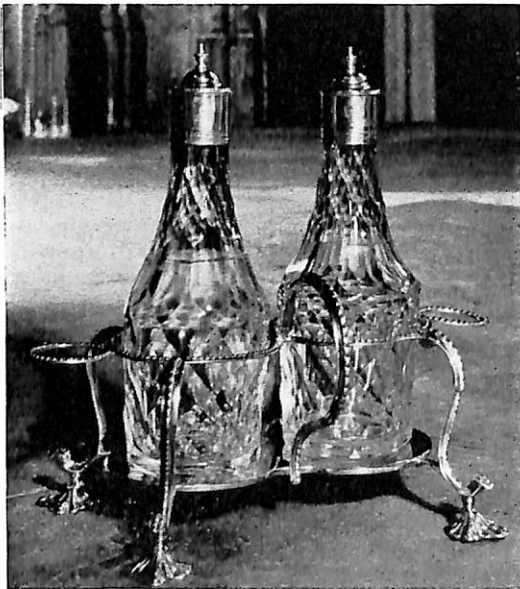


Photo: K. Pettinger, A.I.B.P., 39 Micklegate, York

Ecclesiastical Cruet presented in memory of Colonel F. S. Exham, D.S.O., by his family

(continued from page 85)

about this time as their R.Q.M.S. and remained with them until his discharge to pension in 1946. He had earned the following medals: 1914/15 Star, 1914-18 General Service and Victory Medals; 1939-1945 British War Medal and Defence Medal; L.S.G.C. and Meritorious Service Medals; K.G.V Jubilee and K.G.VI Coronation Medals.

On his discharge he took up employment at the Depot as a civilian clerk and is still so employed as a clerical officer at R.H.Q.

The McMahon Family

Tom's father, ex-Colour-Sgt. J. McMahon, enlisted into the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1881; he purchased his discharge after attaining the rank of sergeant in 1889. He then re-enlisted into the "Dukes" on April 20, 1890, and served with the mounted infantry detachment of the 1st Battalion during the South African War; he was twice wounded and gained a mention in despatches. He was discharged to pension, in the rank of colour-sergeant, on August 31, 1903. On the introduction, in 1908, of the scheme to employ civilian orderly room clerks, Mr. McMahon was the first to be appointed to our depot. He served on there through the strenuous times of the 1914-18 War until he reached the age limit in 1926. His courtesy and general bearing were much appreciated by the many commanding officers and adjutants under whom he served throughout his 18 years at the Depot.

Tom's son—Donald—served as a national serviceman from 1951 to 1953 in the 1st Battalion and then joined 7th D.W.R. as a volunteer until 1956 when he was discharged in the rank of sergeant. Tom's daughter—Kathleen—served in the A.T.S. for two years, 1944-46, and gained the 1939-45 British War and Defence Medals.

(News and Notes continued from page 81)

wedding were Colonel and Mrs. Chatterton. They were "on the bride's side," having known her since she was "so high" as the result of Colonel "Chatty" being Secretary of the R.E. Mess, Chatham. Both were looking very well but we were sorry to learn that he is not, in fact, too fit and has to take things very quietly.

Reddington.—On May 31, 1960, at St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, to Catherine (nee Burgess) and John Reddington—a son (Jonathan).

Pressure of space on this number has been such that we have had to hold over the next instalments of "Pte. Sunley's Diary" and "Twenty Years Ago," also three articles by new contributors. We hope to publish them next time though, if we are back to 32 pages by October, we may find it difficult even then.

We have also again had to omit the page "The Regiment." Apart from the changes of command and station of the 1st Battalion, which will be known to readers, the only amendment to the last page published is "Major R. O. Robinson" vice "Major R. Scott-Evans, M.C." as C.O. of 5/7th Cadet Battalion D.W.R.

THE YORKSHIRE BRIGADE DEPOT

The Brigade Depot has now been formed for ten months and we have settled down into the easy rhythm of a well-established school. The pessimists will be confounded to learn that, although we live and work in perfect harmony with our sister regiments, we have lost nothing of our rugged West Riding individuality and independence. However, we know how to give way graciously on occasions; C.S.M. Webb's service dress cap is a concession in this spirit.

There have been two passing-out parades during the period under review. On Maundy Thursday, Brigadier G. E. C. Sikes, D.S.O., York Area Commander, took the salute. Arras Platoon (Sgt. White, Green Howards) won the inter-platoon shield and Pte. Dawson (Y. & L.) was the best recruit. The best rifle shot was Pte. Hicks (Bradford), D.W.R.; the best L.M.G. shot, Pte. Hanson (Pontefract), D.W.R.; and the cross-country winner, Pte. Sharkey (Halifax), D.W.R. The parade, for which the Carabineers' Band kindly played, was held in a gale and sandstorm recalling Arabia rather than Strensall.

On the second, on May 19, Lord Savile presented the inter-platoon shield to Sgt. Brown, D.W.R., of Anzio Platoon. The cross-country was won by Pte. Band, D.W.R. (Sowerby Brig.) The best shot on each weapon and best recruit went to Pte. Heath, D.W.R. (Upper Denby, nr. Huddersfield). On each occasion parents were invited to lunch and declared themselves very pleased with the standard and variety of the meal, which was in no way different from that served daily.

On St. George's Day we furnished a guard of honour at the Bankfield Museum, Halifax, for the Colonel of the Regiment and the Mayor. The standard of drill and turn-out was very high considering that many of the guard were recruits of no more than five weeks' service.

On April 5 and May 10 we were treated to two very enjoyable evenings of recruit boxing. Q.M.S.I. Beach is to be congratulated on the even matching of the contestants. On the first evening Colonel P. Cleasby-Thompson, M.B.E., M.C., the Officer i/c Infantry Records and a self-confessed adherent of the Red Rose, presented the prizes and congratulated the fighters. He doubted whether they could do better in Lancashire, and who are we to disagree? On the second occasion the prizes were presented by the C.O. Our band played during the intervals and officers and guests were kindly entertained afterwards in the sergeants' mess.

On York Military Sunday the Brigade was represented at the service in the Minster. Afterwards representatives of the Services marched past the Lords Lieutenant of the three Ridings and the Lord Mayor. The parade was commanded by the Brigade Colonel, supported by Captain Dasent and R.S.M. Mottram as parade adjutant and sergeant-

major respectively, and escorted and protected by Sgt. Fee.

The boys in "Yorkshire Brigade Juniors Wing," as it is now called, have enjoyed a full and interesting curriculum. They have camped out, run, swum, fished, climbed and ski-ed in Scotland, sailed, painted, flown with the R.A.F., canoed, "toxophilited," watched birds—in fact have had nearly everything bar a weekend at Le Touquet. It is surprising that they have found any time to be educated or blow their instruments. However, they must have done; for have they not won one senior, 15 intermediate and 43 junior class certificates, and have we not heard them play?

On Friday, April 1, there was a parents' day. The date was fortuitous—something to do with school holidays we believe. Fathers and mothers watched Retreat beaten "in the morning" and were entertained to luncheon and tea. Afterwards all went off on leave. We have already met and beaten the Fusilier and Lancastrian Boys at athletics and measured ourselves on the track against the C.O. and Adjutant.

Shortly there is to be a triangular contest in Harrogate between the Army Apprentice School, the Lancastrian Boys and ourselves for the honour of representing Northern Command at athletics.

We have received visits from the new Chief of Staff, Major-General Shephard, and Lt.-Colonels Saunders and Firth, Commanding 1st Y. & L. and 1st D.W.R. respectively. All have welcomed the opportunity to see something of the work of the depot and to talk to the recruits.

Finally we must say how sorry we are to lose in mid-July, Colonel Halford, the Brigade Colonel. The successful formation of the Brigade Depot is in no small measure due to his wise forethought and supervision. We congratulate him on his promotion and appointment to command 147 Brigade and wish him and Mrs. Halford every happiness. In his place we welcome Colonel C. Nixon, M.B.E., late E. Yorks, who comes to us from that torrid stronghold of "Dukes"—Aden. We hope his tour as Brigade Colonel will be happy and successful.

OFFICERS' MESS

During the last two months we have had workmen ripping up the floor of the kitchen, laying new tiles and painting the bits they had overlooked last time. We also have a new stove, so that excuse can be made no more.

With all this upheaval below stairs we have had no chance to hold a regimental guest night. We have welcomed Brigadier Sikes and Lord Savile to luncheon after the two passing-out parades. We have also had luncheon parties for the Chief of Staff, Colonel David Saunders and Colonel Tony Firth.

On May 13 the last tile was laid in the kitchen and on May 14 the Middleton held their point-to-point

ball in the mess. The point-to-point at Whitwell-on-the-Hill, one of the most attractive in the country, was as usual blessed with lovely weather and good racing. In the evening some 180 people danced with great abandon until 2.30 a.m., others till even later. The writer crept home to bed with a pitiless sun beating down upon him.

Of our other activities, the shoot undoubtedly takes pride of place. The P.R.I.'s office, the mess lawn, the Q.M.'s, the band store, the garrison church—each has its coop of chicks or ducklings watched by a group of proud foster parents. That they must be put down is sad; that they must be shot is almost unthinkable. On second thoughts to shoot them would not be so bad provided we do it and not our neighbours. Fishing also has its devotees and we have at last acquired a horse and formed a saddle club around it. The rowing officer writes to say that we have a "maiden four" with ambitions for a regatta at Leeds. As this is an activity which is carried on with some secrecy—we can only wish it, or them, good luck. The tennis players share the mess courts with a family of blue tits, which have chosen to nest in one of the posts. Golf is a game which so far only the Brigade Colonel has found time for. He has been supported on occasions by our lodger, Terry Message, R.A., whom we are sorry to lose; he has at last been compelled to exchange his aiguillette for a jungle hat and wireless set. In his place we welcome Patrick Hodson, a Greenjacket, who will be with us until the autumn when the Army Commander's house will be ready. We also are pleased to harbour two Yeomen and their horses and motor-cars. Readers will like to know that we have revived our association with Ampleforth; several Officers and N.C.O.s have helped them with training and Cert. "A", and it was good to see Father Peter Utley with some of his officers and boys at Strensall again.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last notes our members remain unchanged, with the exception of Dick Fenn, who after a suitable send-off, has rejoined the 1st Battalion and whom we all congratulate on his promotion to C/Sgt.

At the beginning of April after the recruits' boxing we entertained the officials to a curry supper; and were very pleased to have with us as well, Colonel Waller and Major and Mrs. Roberts.

On April 25 we were honoured by a visit from Colonel Firth who met all our members in the Mess.

Other visitors during this period included R.S.M. Frier, C.S.M.s Arundel and Erswell, C/Sgt. Bob Pearce, Sgts. Spring, Wild and Wood. Needless to say the usual celebrations took place and the bar profits soared.

On Saturday, August 6, we are holding a ball on the occasion of the first anniversary of the formation of the Brigade Depot. This is to be the big event of the year, so we are looking forward to entertaining as many past and present mess members of the Regiment as are able to attend.

In closing it should be noted that C.S.M. Webb

managed to fix C/Sgt. Sullivan (after secret practice in his stores) to do right guide for the guard of honour at the Bankfield Museum.

RUGBY

The Brigade Depot's first rugger season officially ended on a really satisfying note the evening before the Easter leave with a resounding victory over York R.U.F.C. The "Duke's" contingent were fortunate enough to play further games for the 1st Battalion during its Yorkshire tour the following week. The Brigade seven-a-side team—owing to an expansive moment on the part of the Adjutant in the Halifax Rugger Club bar—found themselves playing in the Halifax "sevens"; although knocked out in an early round, they acquitted themselves passably.

Previous to this the Depot XV, with a large "Duke's" majority, had enjoyed a series of convincing wins with only one defeat during the season. But it was the sevens team, consisting of Captains Newton and Dasent, Lt. Warrington (Green Howards), 2/Lt. Lowe, Ptes. Renilson, Reid and Curry, who captured the limelight by winning the Yorkshire Brigade sevens against strong opposition from R.A.F. Linton, K.O.Y.L.I. and 38 Corps Engineer Regiment. The following week we all but carried off the Northern Command sevens competition from under the noses of the Royal Signals.

CRICKET

A full and varied list of fixtures has been arranged for the coming season. We open on April 27 against York Area and close on September 14 which, although half-way through the rugger season, is possible because of the well-known "Indian summer" up here in the north. We have fixtures with the depots, P.W.O., Green Howards and K.O.Y.L.I. and also with certain Wednesday elevens, civilian of course, and a number of R.A.F. Stations of which there are many in the beautiful country hereabouts. The "Dukes" are well represented in the team by, among others, L/Cpls. Haddrell, Johnson, Threapleton, Pts. Hudson, Curry, McNulty and, for a short time, the invaluable Reid (who played in the Army trial game).

After a good tussle we have some excellent new equipment which enables the team to turn out in whites, new pads and gloves and to swing new clubs!

The team is excellent in the field. The variety of our bowling is only offset by a certain lack of prowess with the bat. Could this be rectified, we should undoubtedly have a really good side. A resigned gnarled sunburnt old Yorkshire cricket lover has been heard to mumble resignedly, "Well, I suppose practice makes perfect."

We look forward to an enjoyable cricket week and are only sorry that 1 D.W.R. will be soldiering at this time. We have a first-class square and a very good outfield and are set fair for an excellent season under the shrewd captaincy of Captain Dasent.

ROOSENDAAL and THE "POLAR BEAR" DIVISION

From the Colonel of the Regiment

On May 5 I attended the unveiling of a memorial erected by the town of Roosendaal in Holland to commemorate its liberation in 1944 by the 49th (West Riding) Division.

Roosendaal was liberated by the 49th Division on October 30, 1944: 1/7th D.W.R. played a leading part in the operations and Major Barry Kavanagh won his M.C. there.

I was originally invited by the Burgomaster to represent the "Dukes." General Callendar was invited to represent the Royal Leicester Regiment which also took part in the liberation. As he was not able to accept, I was then invited to represent the Division also.

The celebrations started on the evening of May 4 with a "silent march" through the town to its memorial to the victims of the German occupation. Here I laid a wreath on behalf of the Division and this was followed by a requiem mass in church.

Next morning we again marched through the streets to the main central square of Roosendaal where the Polar Bear Memorial was unveiled by the Burgomaster.

The memorial is a stone column, about 20 ft. high, surmounted by a polar bear and designed by a local sculptor, Mr. Vlak. The base of the column is square; on two of its four faces are carved the crests of the D.W.R. and Leicesters and on the other two the arms of the town of Roosendaal and the province of Brabant.

After the unveiling there were speeches and the laying of more wreaths. I had to follow the Burgomaster's speech; I then had to light the "flame of liberation" and lay my wreath.

The final ceremony was a reception in the Town Hall.

My wife was invited to accompany me as an official guest for the unveiling of the memorial. We were received with the very greatest kindness and everything possible was done to make our stay enjoyable and comfortable. We were the guests of the town for the occasion and were made to feel very much at home.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

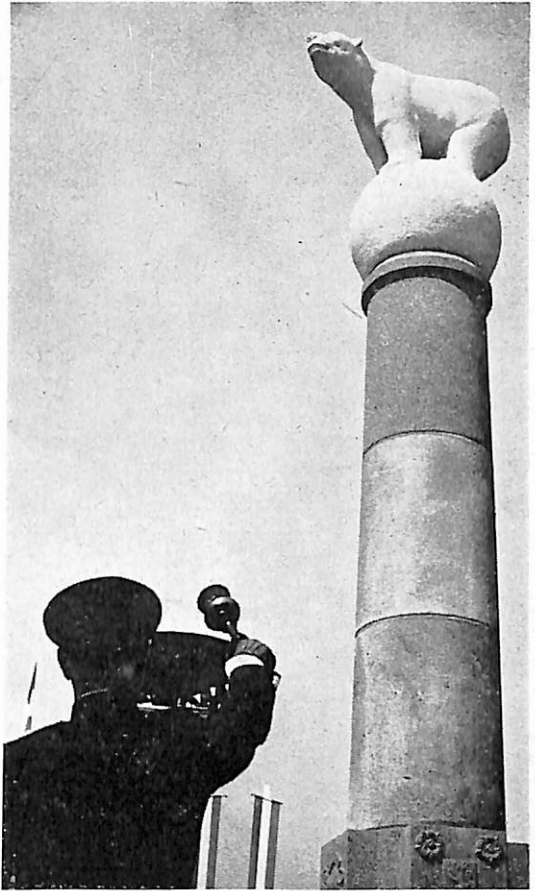
The British Legion's journal, "The Old Contemptible," always includes a column under the above heading. In a recent issue one of the men enquired for was:

Dowsing, W. H., "D" Company, 2nd Duke of Wellington's.

Should anyone know Mr. Dowsing will they tell him to write to: Hon. Secretary, City of Oxford Branch B.L., 57 Stratford Street, Iffly Road, Oxford.

We also have some missing "chums." April

And will all subscribers please notify the Business Manager if they change their address ?



Lighting the Flame of Liberty at the foot of the Memorial

The Polar Bear Division, as it is always called there, is still remembered with admiration and affection as the liberators of Roosendaal. The town is most anxious to keep its association with the Division alive and hopes that old comrades will visit them and see the memorial.

I hope that we can develop a link between Roosendaal and the 5/7th Battalion, the descendant of 1/7th D.W.R. and perhaps interest Huddersfield, the home town of the 1/7th, in the association.

copies of THE IRON DUKE sent to the undermentioned subscribers have been returned marked "Gone away" or something similar. Will they, or anyone else who can, send the Business Manager their new addresses.

Major V. S. King, 21 Clive Way, Pound Hill, Crawley, Sussex.

J. Mayers, Esq., c/o National Provincial Bank Ltd., 96 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Mr. K. A. Waterman, 7 Forest Road, Ley Hill, Falfield, Gloucestershire.

1st BATTALION

SUB-EDITORIAL

It is I, Sub-Editor, who writes to you again, from Camulodunum. Again? Why not, indeed, for it is written "Muzzle not the ox that treads his master's corn." From Camulodunum? Yes, for it behoves me to report that the 33rd Cohort of the XIV Legion has moved with bag and baggage, impedimenta, and some camp followers to Colchester, Britain's oldest recorded town. To here in A.D. 43 came the Emperor Claudius with the Praetorian Guard and a corps of war elephants. To here in A.D. 61 came Boadicea, "a Briton of royal race and breathing more than female spirit; most terrible of aspect, most savage of countenance and harsh of voice, having a profusion of yellow hair which fell down to her lips." To here in 1066 came William the Conqueror to build the Towers of London, Rochester and Colchester. To here in 1648 came Lord Fairfax, commanding the Parliamentary forces, to besiege the Royalist town and drive it into surrender through starvation. To here in 1960, close upon the heels of Mr. Soames's builders, came a new garrison, most royalist though boasting that its title denotes no royal patronage.

Here we find ourselves in brand new barracks, named "Meeanee." A script in Part I orders tells us of Sir Charles Napier that, in 1843, he drove the Baluchis to the drink of destruction (very potent) after they had made a Gandamuk. At the fall of Sind, which followed, Sir Charles issued a joyous cry: "Meeanee" (Hindu for "Whoopee") and sent his famous telegram by Cable & Wireless, "Peccavi" (I am hungry). To him at his death was raised a statue by public subscription of which it is said (though never can it be said of this journal) "the most numerous contributors were private soldiers." Thus do we understand why we live under the sign "Meeanee."

The barrack blocks are soldierly living *par excellence*, even to the generous glass doors at their entrance. One of these, distressing to record, was recently kicked in when five teeth were kicked out one dark paynight. The barrack square is a broad expanse shared by ourselves and the Queen's Surreys; their drill squads march its length at a smart 140 to the minute while our band swaggers across its breadth playing the Wellesley at 120 to the minute. Our M.T. park and most of the vehicles are shared by the M.T.O. and the Unit Emplaning Officer, one bowing before what must happen while the other scratches his head about what might happen. Our guard room and officers' mess front are shared by us with any of the public willing to take a 1½d. bus ride on the top deck. It is an officers' mess whose Victorian façade disguises curving-walled halls, bamboo-patterned papering, star-spangled ceilings and conversation to match:—

"Nice Mess they've made; pity they had to put the carpet on the ceiling."

"Who put that picture there?" "The Colonel—isn't it a perfect position."

We now sit on the edge of our beds, and live on the edge of our nerves, waiting for the Secretary of State to visit us and declare the barracks officially open. Then we can bang nails into the walls, make dirty paw marks around the light switches, and plaster our pin-ups where they belong.

It has been a varied three months. We began it at the Amphibious Warfare School at Poole in Dorset where, between visits to the Poole Pottery works, we had rides in rubber boats with outboard motors. Platoon by platoon we landed up a creek (without the use of paddles), marched through Wareham past the tomb of T. E. Lawrence, skirted other towns and reached a couple of radar towers, 25 miles inland, in the early hours of the morning. These we sabotaged and, after other excitements, returned home with blisters like balloons.

"B" Company then went to Stanford in Norfolk to do the chores for two fortnightly cadet courses. Some of us stopped being No. 2 on the bren and became Jeeves's (I use the name Jeeves, because the name "The Admirable Crichton" is already reserved). Others swept up for one day, shot a rocket-launcher the next, went motor-cycling the next and played enemy on the P.T.A. to our own "A" and "D" Companies the next. While there we were visited by General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, and Major-General Talbot, G.O.C. East Anglian District.

The end of April saw the Battalion athletics meeting, a visit by General Sir Nigel Poett, G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, a visit by the Assault Pioneer Platoon to Weymouth, nominally on business, and a change of season. This last I have on good authority, not just because of the cricket pads but because Part I orders categorically stated "the winter season ends with effect from 29 April." What more evidence could a man ask for?

We then moved to Meeanee Barracks, to virgin quarters. "Very nice," was the consensus, "—when you get used to them." We were at once visited by Major-General R. G. S. Hobbs, G.O.C. 1 Division, who said good-bye to us, and Major-General C. H. P. Harington, G.O.C. 3 Division, who gave the Unit Emplaning Officer a mighty headache.

The latter part of May was taken up in classification and the Battalion rifle meeting. What do the coming months hold for us? Let us have a shifty glance at the training directive:—

"Middlepiece officer, whose Voice is impeccable, will be excused by the Adjutant."

"W.e.f. May 31, all members of Battalion Orderly Room will participate in or watch sport every Tuesday afternoon."

"Companies will practise beaching from L.C.A.s, using mock-ups and imagination, and will tackle the problem of regaining control." We fear our imaginations aren't that vivid.

OFFICERS' MESS

There has been a considerable activity in the mess but social events have been restricted by "the Move." During the period we seem to have been "about to move," "moving," or "settling in after the move."

In fact "the Move" to our new-pattern mess was completed on May 10 and normal service was resumed for dinner that night. The main changes are a moonlight-blue star-spangled ceiling in the dining-room and rather odd wallpaper in the card room. There are some regrets over the loss of our croquet lawns in Brentwood but the subalterns are spared the fear of defeat in this highly competitive sport at the hands of the fiendishly clever field officers. There is more sincere regret at losing our lodgers from the Depot, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, led by Major John Kitto (whose mail was finally received addressed Major J. Kitto, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment!). We presented a copy of our Regimental History to him on our departure and he returned the compliment with a fine croquet set.

Since arriving in Colchester we have entertained to lunch Major-General Hobbs, G.O.C. 1 Division, on our leaving his command, and Major-General Harington, G.O.C. 3 Division, on our coming under his command. We have also dined out Baron Emmett and John Butterfield on their retirement and, although this was a splendid opening to our new mess, it was a sad occasion for us all. We look forward to seeing them again and we should have clean shaves in the future thanks to John and Gillette.

Our other changes are of a less permanent nature and include the move of Barry Kavanagh to Nigeria and the arrival of Hugh Le Messurier as 2IC. We have been glad to welcome 2 Lt. Allan Bardsley (N.S.) and note with only partial regret that he is not a rugby player!

We also welcome Duncan Lupton back from the Parachute Regiment and Elizabeth Cumberlege who has been brought by Jeremy to join our camp followers.

The officers of the 1st Battalion wish to thank all subscribers to the Retired Officers' Fund for the scarlet silk table runner which they have so kindly presented to the Mess to replace the old one which was getting very shabby. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. K. G. Exham who chose the silk. The members of the Mess all hope that as many retired officers as possible will come and see the table runner while the Battalion is at Colchester.

Vale

In July 1939, while the war clouds were gathering, John Butterfield was gazetted to our regiment from Sandhurst as a second-lieutenant. Now as a major he has left us, after 21 years' service, to join the Gillette Company as an assistant personnel manager. We wish him and his family all success in the future.

As soon as the war broke out John Butterfield joined the 2nd Battalion in India, commanded by Colonel Hugh Fraser, whose adjutant was Captain Bob Moran. Within two years he found himself transport officer, both of animals and vehicles. In the winter of '43 and early summer of '44 he was

administrative officer of 76 Column of the Chindits (under Colonel Sam Hoyle) in two Chindit expeditions.

After the war, and after an "A" grading on an airportability course, John Butterfield was appointed to the Training Wing, and then to be a staff officer at the A.A.T.D.C. for four years.

He then joined the Vth Fusiliers at Gibraltar *en route* for Korea. There he found that "Pop" Hardisty was his company sergeant-major and Brayshaw and Curling were also in the battalion.

He returned to Staff College in 1952 where he "got my name on the board" by captaining the hockey team. He continued to play hockey during his next staff appointment, playing for what he joined as H.Q. Gold Coast District, left as Gold Coast Military Forces, and is now Ghana Military Forces.

Since then John Butterfield has been with the 1st Battalion, except for a year at the R.A.F. Staff College at Bracknell and a couple of months at the Royal Military College of Science. He joined us at Chiseldon and has been to most places we have been to since, commanding always either "C" or Support Company. He has done much for us particularly in the sphere of planning, where his quiet manners and his penchant for staff problems have done so much to make things a success.

He has been a guiding influence most particularly in the officers' mess and in the two companies he commanded. His example on the hockey field has been a great asset, and he showed himself no less capable in squash and tennis, where the opportunity arose.

We hope that he and his wife will regularly return to see us.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

For this edition of our Regimental Magazine we find ourselves in the much publicised new barracks of Colchester. No doubt those readers who have not seen them will have heard about them or seen pictures in the national papers or on T.V. and the question that will come to their minds is "Are they really all that good?" The answer is that they are and though we have criticisms we can find only one major one of the mess, and that is that it is rather small. But, as most of our members will be moving into married quarters when their time comes round, this will resolve itself. Our advanced party came a few weeks before the main party and were put up by our old friends and supporting Regiment, the 20th Field Regiment R.A. of Korean days. We thank them for the trouble they took to make us comfortable and we welcomed old friends and faces.

Sgt. (Joe) Bailes is at Arbourfield where he is weapon-training sergeant and we are pleased to hear that he is doing a very fine job there and keeping the name of the Regiment up. We congratulate him and his wife Irene on the birth of their son. We also congratulate Bandmaster Bowyer and Joan, his wife, on the birth of their son, Jeffery, and Sgt. (Ben) Gunn and Jean on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth. But we are sorry to hear that



W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess silver

Ben will leave us in the near future: it is his intention to go to his home-town, Middlesbro', and take a job with I.C.I. there. We wish him the very best of luck. We also regret that C.S.M. Paddy Sheehan has departed to take up an E.R.E. job—this because of his medical downgrading. So much for the departures.

Our arrivals consist of the return of two old members, Sgt. (Big) Smith from the Junior Leaders Training Battalion at Portsmouth and Sgt. Dick Fenn from Strensall. Smudger immediately went back to his old company ("B" Company) and to Portsmouth to get married; we congratulate him and give him our very best wishes. We congratulate Dick Fenn on his promotion to Colour-Sergeant but Sgt. Bob Chilvers is disappointed that he will not be able to hand over the B.O.S. orders to his old friend. Cheer up, Bob; we all congratulate you on your marriage and wish much happiness for your and your wife's future. The wedding was in N. Ireland and some members from this mess went there including Sgt. Jack Sykes.

The drill courses go on and the latest victims are Band-Sgt. (Nobby) Crawshaw and C.S.M. (Bill) Costello. The former should get a very good result, if the chief drill sergeant is a racing man, and we have little doubt as to what Bill's result will be. Bill is also to be congratulated on his promotion to C.S.M. Many of our older readers will remember him as a band boy in Malta pre-war. Next to go is the other band-sergeant, (Jeff) Jennians. He will forsake the Oval for the square; Pirbright M.I. room

has been duly informed to stock up with enemy pills, etc. Now Sgt. (Cliff) Wass is green with envy as it has always been his ambition to do one of these fine courses but, being of a quiet nature, he does not like to ask the R.S.M. to send him (Hint).

T.V.G. has forsaken his many jobs and decided that he will go where the money is and transfer to the R.A.P.C. He will certainly be missed and our hope is that he will eventually rejoin us as Pay Sergeant so that at least we will regain his very likeable personality and his help on the sports field and at mess functions.

The caterer for the next quarter is Sgt. (Tom) Pratt who has the honour of being the first of the new mess. Now go and get us a snooker table fixed up, Tom! C.S.M. (Ray) Batty has taken over president, so please send complaints to him and not the writer of these notes. We also have another change in staff: our faithful barman, Pte. Fabretti, has gone back to civvy life and his place has been taken by Pte. L. Davis. Cartridge goes on for ever.

That unusual hush in the mess was not due to any new type of insulation, as believed by some members, but to the fact that the Colour-Sergeants had gone back to Warley to hand the barracks over!

Sgt. (Frank) Creighton is rumoured to be after the job of P.T. Sergeant when T.V.G. goes. This may be due to the fact that he recently won a race in which Sgt. (Johnny) Sargent came second. This phenomenon was witnessed by C.S.M. Nichols.

We are glad to say that Sgt. (Ric) Almond is back at work again after being rushed to hospital with an

appendicitis. After a rough time he is now none the worse.

After our arrival we were honoured by a visit from Major-General Hobbs, G.O.C. 1 Division. No doubt we will have many visits from other important people and also from old comrades. Of the latter we have a promise of a visit from ex-R.S.M. Bob Pearce and ex-R.Q.M.S.s Bert Filter and Tommy Dalton. They will be most welcome, but we have yet to see those two renegades (lend uz a pun) McKenzie and Bill Pounder. They reckon to be on the staff of the M.C.E. but we wonder now if they aren't in it.

We thank Mr. Hancock for his welcome and interesting letter concerning the two brass elephants. The history of them can now be put on record and if he will visit us he will find them in their usual place, on the mantelpiece.

Though we are now installed here in Colchester many of our members still live in married quarters at Brentwood and have a long journey to and fro daily. The pale face of C.S.M. (Bill) Burke is proof of late nights and early mornings. It is to be hoped that in the near future it will be no longer necessary for the members to be scattered so far.

In our next notes we hope to be able to report a postponed Paardeburg Ball. Meanwhile we give our best wishes to all readers and past members.

EXERCISE "MARCH BROWN"

Our life during the first fortnight of March was centred on the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre, at Poole in Dorset, which we used as a base for a series of three-day raids. For a bit we became nautical—we ate in the galley, slept in cabins, and went "ashore" to get a pint of ale. "Cheers" became "Down the Hatch." There were warning notices in the officers' quarters, "polish on the deck, careful how you walk." C/Sgt. Wilson had to render daily victualling states, and troops with blisters had to report to the sick bay.

An umpire and administrative team remained at Poole for the whole period; platoons came down in succession for four days. The day they arrived they were given life jackets and tommy cookers—a curious combination of kit. The following day they went down to the Royal Marine Assault Wing hard, where they were introduced to landing craft, rapid disembarkations, and mud. Then the Marines took platoons out in L.C.A.s to the open sea, through the large bay of Poole harbour, *en route* giving two or three men at a time rides in rubber dinghies with outboard motors.

That afternoon there were briefings, and at dark the platoons were landed well up the Wareham Creek by rubber boat, the engines so muted that they could only be heard from the bank in the last 30 yards. Thereafter began a gruelling march 25 miles inland, uphill to a pair of radar masts defended by some of "A" Company. One of these had to be blown up by a raid "against alerted defenders," after which the exhausted attackers melted into the nearby woods to lie up for the day. That night, under cover of darkness and harried by enemy



Training on the Hard with a Gemini collapsible rubber boat

patrols, they slipped out of hiding and plodded footsore back to the coast to a "rendezvous with a submarine."

It was a fine test of fitness and character, and opened our eyes to weaknesses in our training. "B" Company took the honours, their two entered platoons being placed first and second. The umpires probably marched the greatest distance: every yard of the route was covered by an umpire at one time or another. The C.O. also marched the whole 25 miles uphill in the dark when shadowing the first patrol.

Footnote: One of our mortar bombs was handed back to us, with a label attached to it addressed to the "Officer-in-Charge, Army Exercise." On the back was written: "This landed on one of the cottage roofs last night. Please be more careful for the rest of the week!"



Lt.-Colonel Firth and Sgt. Battye

Have you filled in the proforma yet?

SADDLE CLUB

The Officers' Mess has reopened the Saddle Club, and we are now in possession of one and a half horses.

Beau Soleil is a 16.2-hand thoroughbred bay gelding, 8 years old, who has joined the "Dukes" on a regular engagement from Yorkshire. He was in training in a chasing stable but was expelled as he was not fast enough. He is a charming animal with highly polished manners.

The half horse is Albert—a 12-hand bay gelding. He broke out of barracks after four days of army life, having taken umbrage at a herd of cows (non-pedigree) who invaded his field. He was absent for just under three weeks; then, as a court of inquiry was being convened to declare him absent, he was found in a field 10 miles away.

Our groom is Pte. Longbottom who has brought his own horse with him. We owe much to the Longbottom family as it was Pte. Longbottom's father who acted as our agent in Yorkshire, bought our horses for us and lent us a fine horsebox.

RUGGER

Our last notes took us to the Army Cup Final in Berlin. Since then we have had some enjoyable friendly matches, the Yorkshire tour and two seven-a-side tournaments.

Captain Michael Hardy arranged a welcome match against the R.M.A.S. where he is an instructor. Our team was composed solely of officers and, although we were seen off by the cadets, it was an excellent visit.

An evening match against a full-strength London Scottish side followed. As some of our players were away, we borrowed 2 Lts. Arnold and Birch, who had been with us in Northern Ireland. Pte. Reid played a good game at fly half for us and, all told, we acquitted ourselves extremely ably against a good side. The most memorable movement was Reid's break from inside our twenty-five and his pass to 2 Lt. Grahame Allan who had sufficient steam up to carry him the 60 yards to the Scot's try line.

We entered two "sevens" competitions, the one at Chatham and the other at Colchester. In the former we fielded the two Campbell-Lamertons, Marshall as hooker, 2 Lt. Paul Davis, Lts. John Greenway and Danny Marsay, and Pte. Reid. They played extremely well, except in the final where they threw away their opportunities and went down to an inferior team. The second competition was won outright without a point being scored against us. Gilbert-Smith came in for Marshall and Keegan for Reid who was engaged at Woolwich in the Command Final.

The Yorkshire tour was the grand finale to the season and consisted of four matches: Otley, Halifax, Hull and E. Riding, and Huddersfield.

Rightly or wrongly we held back all our strength for the Halifax match. Consequently in the first match against Otley we fielded most of our reserves. We were very unlucky to lose Captain Peter Hoppe after 10 minutes with a dislocated shoulder which has ended his rugger-playing career. We thereby lose a tower of strength and a very fine front-row

forward who has been a stalwart of "Dukes'" rugger for the past 10 years. More immediately, as regards the Otley match, we had lost our biggest forward, pack leader and captain for the day. Unfortunately the "Dukes" did not recover from this until the second half when they staged a rally and we saw a magnificent breakaway try by Greenway and Marsay and a second very determined one between the posts by Captain Newton. Despite this, we went down 18—8.

Against Halifax we were at full strength, except for Captain Hoppe, and we had a magnificent, keen and evenly-fought match. This was rugger at its best and the team really pulled all the stops out to beat a strong side 11—5. Everyone played to their utmost and it was a pleasure to see M. Campbell-Lamerton completely dominating the line-out whilst 2 Lt. Davis and Reid at half-back played a very sound and distinguished game. 2 Lt. Bruce Lowe also shone in the second row. Lt. Greenway played on the wing and distinguished himself with two tries in his debut in that position.

In the third match, against Hull and E. Riding, it very much looked as if we would be overwhelmed. We were again forced to play all our reserves owing to injury or unavailability of players. Consequently we almost entirely failed to get possession of the ball in the first half and our tackling was woefully weak, owing mainly to the hard ground. When we changed round we found ourselves 3—16 down; however, we fought back with determination (particularly Atkinson, a 2nd-XV player in his first 1st-XV game) and caught up to 11—16 at one time. The game became very open with plenty of good handling and we swapped score for score, till it eventually ended 16—27. It was a game thoroughly enjoyed by spectators and players alike. Lt. Marsay on the right wing was our outstanding player.

Our last game was against Huddersfield. We were again under-strength and consequently kept the match tight in the first half. These tactics paid off and we led 6—0 at half time. After this we threw the ball about with gay abandon and produced some really excellent movements. The pack played in great form, with M. Campbell-Lamerton again winning and busting through the line-outs, well supported by 2 Lt. Mundell and 2 Lt. Lowe. Renilson was in an aggressive mood in our back row and played his best game for us to date. Marsay was again in grand form on the wing. We finished with a resounding victory of 19—3.

The season, in retrospect, has been an excellent one. We started by a never-to-be-forgotten victory over an Ulster XV at Ravenhill, and we went from strength to strength until we reached our peak against the Welsh Guards in the U.K. final. Up to then we had beaten all-comers in England and had run up the remarkable total of 173 points in the Army Cup matches without conceding a single point. Then we slumped badly owing to some players playing too much, some being distracted by club and army games, but most of all to lack of incentive. The cup was in the bag: we were hot favourites; we would beat the record number of points scored (203); the K.O.S.B. were weak, and

so on. It is almost contradictory to be such odds-on favourites and then to be expected to play as if your life depended on it, as the K.O.S.B. did. Still we had a fine side that trained and practised hard and gave to the best of its ability in all matches. It is not often that a regimental side can take on the might of Ulster, O.U. Greyhounds, London and Yorkshire first-class clubs and give such a fine account of itself.

It is invidious to single out individuals for special mention particularly as, at one time or another, each member of the team produced really fine form. Let it suffice to say from the captain that he got great pleasure and pride from his team not only for their playing ability and fine performances in matches but also for their keenness and support.

YORKSHIRE TOUR PLAYERS

Pte. Keegan, 2 Lt. Golding, Lt. Marsay, 2 Lt. Allan, Pte. Currey, Lt. Greenway, Capt. Dasent, Pte. Reid, 2 Lt. Norris, 2 Lt. Davis, Capt. Hoppe, Cpl. Brown, Capt. Cowell, 2 Lt. Mundell, Pte. Marshall, Lt. M. Campbell-Lamerton, 2 Lt. Lowe, Pte. Atkinson, Capt. Newton, 2 Lt. Charlesworth, L/Cpl. Hughes, Pte. Renilson, Capt. Gilbert-Smith.

Others who have played for the 1st XV this season:—

2 Lt. R. Campbell-Lamerton, 2 Lt. Pugh, 2 Lt. Duckney, Cpl. Scroby, Cpl. Field, L/Cpl. Davis, Lt. Bray, 2 Lt. Bellamy, 2 Lt. Crook, Capt. Shuttleworth.

1st XV RUGGER RESULTS

| | | FRIENDLY MATCHES | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| September | 1959 | v. Civil Service | .. .. | Won | 14-6 |
| " | 1959 | v. Collegians | .. .. | Lost | 8-11 |
| " | 1959 | v. Ballymena | .. .. | Won | 10-0 |
| " | 1959 | v. Queens University | .. .. | Lost | 11-16 |
| " | 1959 | v. Ulster XV | .. .. | Won | 19-5 |
| October | 1959 | v. Instonians | .. .. | Draw | 6-6 |
| November | 4, 1959 | v. Blackheath Presidents XV | .. .. | Won | 24-0 |
| " | 18, 1959 | v. Richmond Presidents XV | .. .. | Won | 19-6 |
| December | 15, 1959 | v. Royal West Kent Regiment | .. .. | Won | 42-9 |
| January | 13, 1960 | v. London University | .. .. | Lost | 3-8 |
| February | 3, 1960 | v. London University | .. .. | Won | 19-0 |
| " | 10, 1960 | v. O.U. Greyhounds | .. .. | Lost | 3-12 |
| " | 17, 1960 | v. St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford | .. .. | Won | 22-3 |
| " | 24, 1960 | v. London Hospital | .. .. | Lost | 11-13 |
| March | 11, 1960 | v. B.A.O.R. XV | .. .. | Won | 29-3 |
| " | 30, 1960 | v. R.M.A.S. (Officers only) | .. .. | Lost | 3-6 |
| April | 6, 1960 | v. London Scottish | .. .. | Lost | 8-18 |
| " | 19, 1960 | v. Otley | .. .. | Lost | 8-18 |
| " | 20, 1960 | v. Halifax | .. .. | Won | 11-5 |
| " | 23, 1960 | v. Hull & E. Riding | .. .. | Lost | 16-27 |
| " | 25, 1960 | v. Huddersfield | .. .. | Won | 19-3 |

ARMY CUP COMPETITION

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|------|--|
| 1st Round | a bye | | | | |
| 2nd " | v. 34 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. | .. .. | Won | 49-0 | |
| 3rd " | v. Guards Depot | .. .. | Won | 28-0 | |
| 4th " | v. S.M.E. Chatham | .. .. | Won | 24-0 | |
| 5th " | v. Mons O.C.S. | .. .. | Won | 32-0 | |
| 6th " | v. 3rd Training Battalion, R.A.O.C. | .. .. | Won | 25-0 | |
| Army Cup U.K. | Final v. Welsh Guards | .. .. | Won | 14-0 | |
| Army Cup | Final v. K.O.S.B. | .. .. | Lost | 0-9 | |

ANALYSIS

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points for | Points against |
|------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|------------|----------------|
| Friendly Matches | 21 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 305 | 147 |
| Army Cup | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 173 | 9 |
| Total | 28 | 17 | 1 | 9 | 478 | 156 |

2ND XV

On a windy afternoon of April 13, the Battalion 2nd XV faced the 1st XV of 1 Royal West Kents on the R.A. ground at Woolwich, in the finals of the Eastern Command Cup. The match was being watched by General Sir Gerald Lathbury, Major-General R. G. S. Hobbs, and the Colonel (who was our sole supporter from the Regiment—but a very enthusiastically vociferous one). Our apothecary, David Lindsay, was touch judge and our Band played the Wellesley in the middle of the pitch while we were sucking oranges at half time.

John Golding kicked off, and soon scored the first points; these he added to by converting. Huddart was away and unable to play for us, so Hodgson from the Sergeants' Mess was called in as scrum half: he left the Battalion for good the next day. John Golding scored again and converted. Watson played a very good forward game, particularly in the line-out. John Golding scored again and converted. Among the forwards, Taffy Hughes played a storming game, so much so that someone pointed out that the only thing which covered the ground more than him was grass. John Golding scored again. The score ended as 27-3 to us, John Golding having scored every point on our side.

Michael Crook was presented with the Eastern Command Cup by the G.O.C.-in-C. The team was as follows:—
Crook; Golding, Sykes, Norris, Summers; Reid, Hodgson; Marshall, Bellamy, Cowell; Watson, Atkinson; Renilson, Hughes, Foster.

SOCCER

The soccer team achieved what it set out to do: we won the Southend League and the league cup. The league cup was quite a thrilling game; the score was 3 all at half time but a re-shuffle of the team just before half time proved successful and the "Dukes" emerged winning by 5 goals to 3. This match was played on Southend United's ground and quite a large crowd saw it.

The "Dukes" had quite a good match against Brentwood and Warley, who were at the time leaders of the Delphian League (one of the top London leagues). It was quite a good game but the "Dukes" lost 1-0.

The great occasion for the team was when eight players were selected to represent the Wednesday League against the District League, the match being played at Southend United's ground under floodlights. Unfortunately the Wednesday League lost 1-0 but, without any excuses, were very unlucky to do so.

Again eight players were selected to play against the Borough combination and the match was won by the Wednesday League 3-1; again the Wednesday League were unlucky not to win by a greater margin.

We were sorry to lose L/Cpl. Simpson who played nearly every game of the season, but did not take part in the cup final.

Our latest team line-up is: goal, Pybus; backs, Waite, Brown; halves, Wilson, Cameron, Bridge-wood; forwards, Cousins, Grainger, Sylvester, Hodgson, Hollows; reserves, Pte. Lumb, Pte. Kendrew, Sgt. Pratt.

Cousins has played for Southend United Reserves on quite a few occasions, and Pybus is now the regular goalkeeper for Ilford.

We hope to start the next season with a big bang; training will commence about the beginning of August. We also hope to take the Army Cup and with this team we should go a long way.

SHOOTING

The era of the No. 4 rifle has passed and that of the 7.62-mm. self-loading rifle has arrived—for the Regular Army; the No. 4 is still being used by the other Services and by the Territorial Army, and we have had experience of competing with the new rifle against opponents using the old. The new rifle proved more accurate in rapid and snap practices but compares unfavourably in deliberate practices particularly at longer ranges. Those used to the No. 4 found difficulty in adapting themselves to the S.L.R. at first but, once having mastered the handling of it, have come to like it—despite the fact that it takes twice the time to clean after firing!

The quest for young soldier shots began during the winter when C.S.M. Norman took all likely candidates to Rainham Ranges on the banks of the Thames. Here, under his experienced eye, they underwent a series of tests with the result that a dozen or so joined the "old stagers" at serious training just after Easter on the same ranges.

Ten days' later, on April 29, we took part in the East Anglian District Rifle Meeting held at Middlewick Ranges, Colchester, ranges with which we have since become familiar and fond. The results of this meeting will be found below. The team remained at Colchester to continue training, staying with 20 Field Regiment R.A. until the Battalion moved there, then moving to live with "A" Company in Cavalry Barracks. During this period of two weeks our efforts were directed towards the practices to be fired at Bisley. Since the team to compete at Bisley is limited to 10 for all weapons the task of selection is difficult and competition is keen.

As culmination to these two weeks of training we entered for the S.R.A. section of the Essex County Rifle Association Meeting held at Middlewick on May 15. It was on this occasion that we competed with our S.L. rifles against opponents using the No. 4 rifle. We entered two teams for the rifle team match which required a team of six to fire two deliberate and one rapid practice. The match was both exciting and interesting, since it proved the disadvantage of the S.L.R. in deliberate shooting; after one deliberate practice our "A" team, composed of older shots, was seven points below the leaders and eventual winners, H.M.S. *Ganges*, using the No. 4 rifle; after the rapid practice the position was reversed; finally, after the second deliberate, our team was one point down. Our "B" team, composed of young soldiers, did well to come third in this team event, 24 points behind the "A" team. C.S.M. Norman and Pte. Firth won the L.M.G. pairs match with a score of 99 points out of 120 and Ptes. Porter and Metcalfe were second with 97 points.

Then came the Battalion Rifle Meeting, held at Middlewick on May 24 and 25 in perfect summer weather. The sun, though welcome to those who seldom get a chance to spend a day in it, made visibility difficult especially in the falling plates match.

There were two notable features of the meeting. "B" Company won every event in the Company Championship not to mention the one team event

outside it, the falling plate knock-out competition. The other feature was a personal triumph for Pte. Parker of "A" Company who won the Cox Medal for the champion shot and, since he is a young soldier, the Ozanne Medal as well. Pte. Parker has been shooting well all the season and won with a clear lead of 10 points; a creditable performance.

Training for Bisley continues and the 19 Infantry Brigade Rifle Meeting looms close. It may be of interest to those who have been "Bisley Bullets" and have been drenched on ranges at Strensall, Chisledon, Ballykinlar and Pirbright, to mention a few, to hear that, this year, only once has the team had rain on the ranges. Can this be a record and can the good weather last?

EAST ANGLIAN DISTRICT—RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL RIFLE (H.P.S. 200)—

Open:

3, C.S.M. Norman, 148 pts., best W.O. and sergeant

4, Major Wood, 146 pts., runner-up to best officer

Young Soldiers:

2, Pte. Parker, 131 pts.

5, L/Cpl. Atkinson, 117 pts.

E.A.D. COMPANY TEAM MATCH (H.P.S. 480):

2, "B" Company, 331 pts.

YOUNG SOLDIERS TEAM (H.P.S. 222):

1, 1st D.W.R., 186 pts.

Team: L/Cpl. Griffett, Ptes. Metcalfe, Hoddinott, Parker, Firth, Porter and Goodyear

STERLING MATCH—

Team (H.P.S. 680):

1, 1st D.W.R. "A", 517 pts.

3, 1st D.W.R. "B", 438 pts.

Individual (H.P.S. 180):

1, Major Wood, 140 pts.

2, S/Sgt. Kingdon, 138 pts.

L.M.G. PAIRS (H.P.S. 80)—

Open:

1, Capt. Cowell and Sgt. Foster, 61 pts.

2, Capt. Robertson and C/Sgt. Fenn, 57 pts.

3, C.S.M. Norman and S/Sgt. Kingdon, 55 pts.

Young Soldiers:

1, L/Cpl. Griffett and Pte. Metcalfe, 64 pts.

2, Pte. Parker and Pte. Firth, 61 pts.

3, Pte. Hoddinott and Pte. Goodyear, 44 pts.

REVOLVER (H.P.S. 120)—

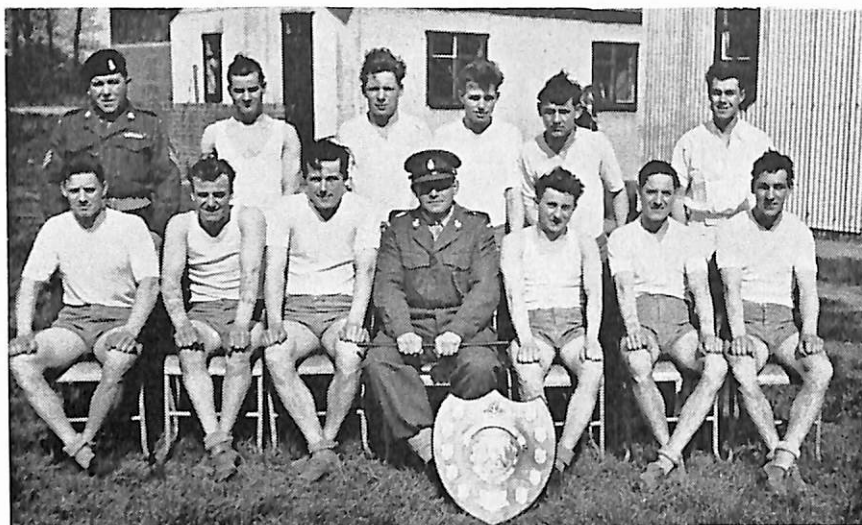
2, S/Sgt. Kingdon, 72 pts.

RESULTS OF BATTALION RIFLE MEETING, 1960

1. Champion Company—Winners of Inter-Company Shield: "B" Company
Runners-up: "D" Company
2. Champion Shot—Winner of the Cox Medal: Pte. Parker ("A" Company)
3. Champion Officer—Winner of South African War Cup: Captain Cowell
4. Champion W.O./Sergeant: C.S.M. Norman
5. Champion Corporal or below: L/Cpl. Gott ("B" Company)
6. Champion Young Soldier—Winner of the Ozanne Medal: Pte. Parker ("A" Company)
7. Champion L.M.G. Pair: L/Cpl. Griffett and Cpl. Lodge ("A" Company)
8. Champion S.M.C. Shot: Major Wood
9. Champion Falling Plate Team: "B" Company "B" Team

BOXING

The inter-company novices boxing took place on the afternoons March 31 and April 1. Competition was extremely keen and there were many good fights. The outcome rested on the result of the final bout between Pte. Parker ("H.Q.") and Pte. Wood ("A") fighting as first string welters. A hard-hitting bout ended in a win for Pte. Wood on a knockout. Other fights of note were between Pte. McDougall ("A") and Pte. Vains ("H.Q.") in the light-welterweight competition, and between C/Sgt. Wilson ("S") and Pte. Taylor ("A"). C/Sgt. Wilson concentrated his attacks on the body and forced Pte. Taylor to take two counts. Eventually better boxing and fitness earned Pte. Taylor a worthy points victory. Pte. Short ("D"), boxing as a light-heavy, showed himself a powerful fighter;



"A" Company
Boxing Team

Winners of
Inter-Company
Competition, 1960

his first fight against Pte. Brook ("S") was the best fight of the competition from the point of view of the tremendous pluck showed by both boxers. Pte. Brook was awarded the prize as the best loser. In the heavyweight 2 Lt. Mundell proved himself a little more skilful and fitter than Pte. Pashby ("D") in a very hard-hitting bout.

Individual winners and the result of the competition are given below.

"B" Company were unable to enter a team owing to C.C.F. Camp commitments.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bantam | Pte. Lee | "D" |
| Feather | Pte. Mitchell | "A" |
| Light | Pte. Ripley | "H.Q." |
| Light-welter | Pte. Spencer | "S" (1st String) |
| Light-welter | Pte. McDougall | "A" (2nd String) |
| Welter | Pte. Wood | "A" (1st String) |
| Welter | L/Cpl. Mitchell | "H.Q." (2nd String) |
| Light-middle | Pte. Taylor | "A" |
| Middle | 2 Lt. Norris | "H.Q." |
| Light-heavy | Pte. Short | "D" |
| Heavy | 2 Lt. Mundell | "A" |
| Best Loser | Pte. Brook | "S" |
| 1st | "A" Company | |
| 2nd | "H.Q." Company | |
| 3rd | "D" and "S" Company | |

"A" COMPANY

The past quarter has seen the Company complete a more than usual amount of field training. In March and early April we made two trips to the Stanford P.T.A. in Norfolk and completed two periods of training of three days and six days respectively. During the first visit, training was concentrated on section and platoon field firing and some night patrolling, navigation and the digging of defensive positions. We were extremely fortunate with the weather and the sun shone throughout our visit; C/Sgt. Dickie produced some first-class grub, and all seemed to thrive on outdoor work. Our second visit was longer; it started with our inter-platoon flag competition which was won, after many exertions, by 3 Platoon with 1 Platoon second and 2 Platoon third. The highlight of this competition was the snatching of 2 Platoon's flag by Cpl. Cooper (1 Platoon). This feat was accomplished by a simple ruse and relay procedure. The final three days were spent on an exercise culminat-

ing in a company dawn attack on the famous "Frog Hill," watched by the Commanding Officer.

On returning from Easter leave the Company classified on the rifle and L.M.G. at Rainham Ranges. Again our efforts were attended by fine weather and our results were good.

"A" Company sportsmen have again showed their prowess in Battalion events. This time the place of honour must be given to our boxing team who fought their way to a narrow victory in the Inter-Company Novices Competition. The team was as follows: L/Cpl. Walton (R.A.P.C.), bantam; Pte. Mitchell, feather; L/Cpl. Kent, light; Pte. Mantell (1st string) and Pte. McDougall (2nd string), light-welter; Pte. Wood (1st string) and Pte. Ellerby (2nd string), welter; Pte. Taylor, light-middle; Pte. Greenwood, middle; Pte. Ward (11), light-heavy; 2 Lt. Mundell, heavy. The whole team showed pluck and determination and well deserved their victory; outstanding were Ptes. Mitchell, McDougall, Wood and Taylor, and 2 Lt. Mundell, all of whom won their weights. 2 Lt. M. Stacpoole seconded all our fighters and he and C/Sgt. Dickie, assisted by Pte. Dandridge, helped to attune our team. Another of our outstanding performers in the "noble art" is Pte. Dandridge who represented E.A.D. at the Eastern Command Individual Boxing held at Chatham. He lost a very good bout to the eventual winner of his weight.

In the Inter-Company Athletics our team came fourth, beating "H.Q." Company. Cpl. Lindsay again was our best performer. For one reason or another our team didn't hit their best day; we had the potential for a better performance.

Our better shots are training hard with the Bisley team. In the E.A.D. competition they were third and in the Battalion, second to "B" Company. Our Company team is: Ptes. Smith (06), Ward (11) and Keegan, Cpl. Lindsay, Ptes. Leach and Keevil, Cpl. Lodge, L/Cpl. Griffett, Ptes. Metcalfe and Parker, and Sgt. Foster. Sgt. Foster with Captain

(continued on page 115)

5/7th BATTALION, T.A.

SUB-EDITORIAL

In exactly one week's time the unit moves to camp. Those who served with us in years gone by will know what a hive of industry we are at the moment. Therefore these notes will be brief.

Before dealing with outstanding activities let us welcome two newcomers to the unit: first Sgt. Pilkington, back on our permanent staff as a driver (acting M.T. clerk) after a break of a few months on relinquishing the duties of caretaker at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall; secondly, our first officer cadet, O. Cdt. C. Kilner. Kilner will go before the commissioning board after camp and we take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck.

We are most grateful to Colonel K. Sykes for presenting his sword to the unit. This sword has one very special quality—it is made for use by men of small stature. It has been loaned to the R.S.M. *pro tem*.

Since January we have sent four volunteers to the regular "Dukes" and we are hoping to send some more before too long.

We deeply regret to record the death, as the result of a motor accident on June 1, of Pte. K. Emms, of 2 Casson Street, Cowlersley, Huddersfield. Pte. Emms enlisted into the Battalion in May 1959. All ranks extend their sincere sympathy to his widow.

ALL RANKS' DANCE AND PRIZE-GIVING

This annual event took place at St. Paul's Street Drill Hall on Saturday, April 9, and was a great success. The music was provided by the dance band section of our unit band. This year we invited all the ex-"Dukes" now serving on our National Service Reserve; about thirty, accompanied by their wives and friends, turned up, and we hope that at least some of them may have been sufficiently impressed to consider enlisting as volunteers. Altogether about four hundred attended the occasion. Speeches were made by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Howcroft, and the Commanding Officer, and prizes were presented by Colonel Howcroft. Prizes won were as follows:

1. *The Dean Cup* (Master-at-Arms). Awarded to the soldier with the highest combined score on rifle and L.M.G. Winner: Sgt. D. Booth ("A" Company).

2. *The Officers' Cup*. Awarded to the officer with the highest combined score on the rifle and L.M.G. Major H. S. Heaton (2IC).

3. *Ladies of the District Cup*. Awarded to the warrant officer or sergeant with the highest combined score on rifle and L.M.G. (Cash Prize £1.) Winner: Sgt. D. Booth ("A" Company).

4. *The Lockwood Cup*. Awarded to the corporal with the highest combined score on rifle and L.M.G. (Cash Prize £1.) Winner: L/Cpl. Hollas ("H.Q." Company).

5. *The Braithwaite Cup*. Awarded to the private soldier with the highest combined score on rifle and

L.M.G. (Cash Prize £1.) Winner: Pte. J. Fossard ("A" Company).

6. *The Blackburn Cup*. Awarded to the best recruit on the combined score on rifle and L.M.G. (Cash Prize £1.) Winner: L/Cpl. R. S. Woodhead ("C" Company).

7. *The Norton Prize*. Cash prize (£2 10s. 0d.) presented annually by Colonel G. P. Norton, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., J.P., for the best all-round man below the rank of sergeant. Winner: L/Cpl. R. S. Woodhead ("C" Company).

8. *Inter-Company Falling Plate*. Winners: "C" Company.

9. *The Pearson Frontiersmen's Prizes* presented by John Pearson, Esq., born at Milnsbridge and now living in Victoria, B.C., Canada, to encourage shooting in the Battalion. Winner: Rifle—Cpl. E. Williamson ("C" Company, £2); L.M.G.—C/Sgt. F. Dews ("D" Company, £1); L/Cpl. C. Hollas ("H.Q." Company, £1); L/Cpl. Sheehan ("D" Company, £1). Best P.S.I. (combined rifle and L.M.G.): Sgt. A. Spring ("C" Company, £2).

10. *Turn-out Prize*. Awarded to the smartest man below the rank of corporal on parade tonight. (Value £1.) Winner: Pte. G. Saville ("A" Company).

11. *Recruiting Tankard*. Awarded to the soldier introducing the most recruits. Winner: Bandmaster F. Roberts.

ST. GEORGE'S WEEK-END

Over the week-end April 22-24, as no doubt reported elsewhere, various events in celebration of the opening of the Regimental museum and St. George's Day took place in this area. This unit played an enthusiastic part—in fact we staged the first round when many Regimental guests were invited to a formal guest night in our Huddersfield officers' mess. This occasion is described more fully later. The following day we provided two N.C.O.s to assist at the Bankfield Museum and, later in the day, several senior members of the Battalion who are members of the Dinner Club attended a most successful cocktail party thrown at the Regimental H.Q. in Halifax. On Sunday, April 24, we provided a uniformed detachment headed by Major Webster, commander of our Halifax company, on the parade at Halifax Parish Church. The Commanding Officer and Adjutant were also on the parade, but in their capacity as (honorary!) Old Comrades.

PRESENTATION OF DRUMS

On Thursday, March 10, the Adjutant, representing the Commanding Officer who was unavoidably absent, presented two drums to Rishworth School C.C.F. contingent. These drums had once been the property of 5 D.W.R. and have now been presented to the C.C.F. as a token of the close link existing between them and the Regiment. To mark the occasion the C.C.F. Commander, Lt.-Comdr.

P. Job, R.C.N.(R.), laid on a most impressive display of countermarching by his contingent band and drums.

OFFICERS' MESS

The past three months have been quiet and have seen only monthly suppers and the occasional Sunday luncheon—with the exception of our Regimental guest night on April 22.

We were extremely fortunate to have with us as guests Major-General Exham, Brigadier Webb-Carter, Colonel Turner, Lt.-Colonel Firth, Major J. Davis, Major Tedd, Captain Gilbert-Smith, Lt. Cumberlege, Lord (George) Savile and Brigadier Commings, commanding 146 Infantry Brigade. An excellent meal arranged by Captain Crowther and extremely well prepared by our mess cooks under Sgt. Wallace was appreciated by all officers. Sgt. Ward, ex-"D" Company (formerly Mess Sergeant to 1st Battalion K.O.Y.L.I.), having taken over duties in the mess was officiating at his first function and came up smiling at the end in spite of having a majority of untrained mess waiters to assist him. We hope his association with the mess will be a long and happy one.

As reported elsewhere, the Annual Prize-Giving and Dance was held on April 9. A better turn-up from the subalterns was anticipated but, nevertheless, it was another occasion when the mess was put to good use—especially with our ladies to brighten the scenery.

Although there were, again, many officers who were unable to attend it was a pleasant occasion when we were able to entertain a dozen or more officers from the 1st Battalion after their rigger match in Huddersfield in late April. Fortunately those of our officers who were able to "do the honours" were well known to most of our visitors so the unavoidable absence of many senior officers this time was probably not so noticeable. We were extremely pleased that the "Dukes" won their match over the local side so handsomely.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last notes were written the Sergeants' Mess has had a rather quieter time than usual. Two social evenings have been held, both at Arden Road. The first was the normal monthly social and was, as usual, confined to members and their friends. The second was a much larger affair and was held on the evening of the opening of the Regimental museum at Halifax. On this occasion the "Old Comrades" of all branches were invited as our guests; extremely large numbers accompanied by their wives were entertained and a good time had by all.

Now, of course, that time of trial for the Territorial Army is fast approaching—annual camp. For the last couple of weeks most of the work carried out has been in that direction. Members of the Sergeants' Mess can still be encountered in

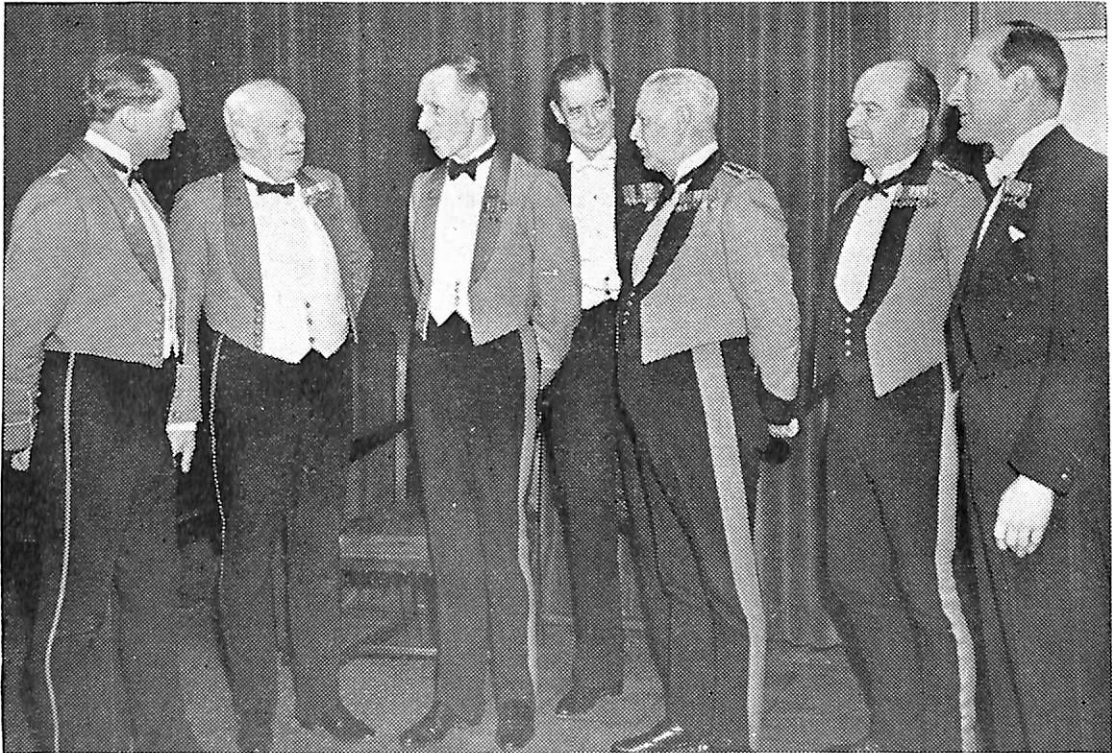


Photo: Huddersfield Examiner

Left to right: Lt.-Colonel Firth, Colonel Howcroft, Lt.-Colonel Gadd, Brigadier Webb-Carter, General Exham, Brigadier Cummings, Lord Savile

the cellar and garages busily searching for packing cases, etc.

Camp this year will be at Otterburn in Northumberland and, owing to its isolated position, all pointers indicate that most of the members will be spending their spare time, if any, in the mess—which, of course, is good for the bar takings.

It is with regret that we say farewell to Sgts. Sach, Deane and Philpot who have finally taken their discharge. They will always be welcome guests in the mess should they care to come down to the drill hall. Congratulations on his well-deserved promotion and a welcome into the mess must be offered to Cpl., now Sgt., G. Simpson.

TRAINING NOTES

Since March this unit has been fully extended completing a most varied and interesting training programme. The highlight was the adventure training of March 26-27, but we have also engaged in M.T. cadres, company classification shooting at Strensall, a C.D. exercise in conjunction with the Huddersfield Civil Defence Corps, the Divisional M.T. rally and three major signal exercises.

On these latter the signallers trained by Captain Hawkins and abetted by Sgt. Binns have earned themselves many commendations, and the officer R.T. training carried out over the winter has amply proved its worth.

ADVENTURE TRAINING—MARCH 26/27

Training this week-end was divided into two parts: on the Saturday, company teams raced assault

boats up the Leeds-Liverpool canal; on the Sunday we all went fell-walking north of Settle.

Saturday's competition proved to be a real test of junior leader initiative and skill, team stamina and sheer guts. The course lay over an eleven-mile stretch of canal and obstacles to be overcome included a very strong head wind over part of the course and a lock, round which boats had to be carried.

As these boats weighed 400 lb. each, that took no little organising. Also, along the route, teams were instructed to race to the top of an 1,100-ft. hill, and no team was allowed to descend until the last man had reached the summit and reported to Sgt. Wild who was waiting there to see fair play. So they had to make the ascent a team effort.

Competition was keen and at first all the teams had the greatest difficulty in handling the flat-bottomed boats. Very soon, however, "D" Company led by Lt. Sharp and "X" Company (a composite team) led by 2/Lt. Foster found the secret and began to forge ahead. Others were not so lucky and at one time two teams trying to pass each other were going round in circles like a dog-fight, each accusing the other of deliberate obstruction *à haute voix*.

The winning team, "D" Company under Lt. Sharp, made extremely good time and finished in 4 hrs. 12 mins.; next came "X" Company in 4 hrs. 48 mins. The losers, "H.Q." Company, only got into their stride after half-way, but would undoubtedly have been higher up the list had they not stopped to do some shopping in Skipton on the way!



Adventure Training, March 26-27

The Winning Team: Lt. Sharp, C/Sgt. Laherty, Cpl. Howard, L/Cpl. Sheehan, Ptes. Conway, Mosewell, Gardner and Ryan

Once again we spent the night in the disused school at Helwith Bridge which we had used last December.

The next day, two teams scaled the 2,414 ft. Whernside, going up the steep side first, and three teams went up Ingleborough, 2,373 ft. This time we were in luck for it was a bright, windy day and we were treated to the most wonderful views of the surrounding countryside as we climbed.

Once again the cooking and administrative arrangements were controlled by R.Q.M.S. Machen and his devoted band of volunteer cooks and fatiguemen. These people are rarely mentioned, but the success of exercises depends to quite a large extent upon their efforts.

SHOOTING

The unit small-bore competition has been revived and the first rounds fired off but, at the time of going to press, the first results are not known.

All companies took part in the T.A.R.A. Winter League and "H.Q." Company won their league with a win over "C" Squadron of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in the final of nine rounds. A consignment of medals is now awaited.

At Leeds on May 8 a representative team from the unit shot well against keen competition and, although we were unplaced in the team championships, our results were the best we have ever achieved in this competition. R.Q.M.S. Machen failed by one point at 50 yards to qualify to shoot in the final 20 at 100 yards. Our nominated team of six—Lt. Dye (R.A.P.C.), R.Q.M.S. Machen, Sgt. Ward, Sgt. Bacon, Sgt. Booth and L/Cpl. Hollas—was placed sixth in the overall aggregate. However, by getting seven men qualified to fire at 50 yards, we achieved a personal "best" and were well above the average.

In the knockout competition our "A" and "D" teams shot against each other in the semi-final and "D" team—Sgt. Bacon, L/Cpl. Atkinson and L/Cpl. Woodhead—were just beaten in the final.

ATTACHMENTS

One of the interesting features of this year's training has been the attachments of Major Woodhouse and Pte. Gratton to regular units in lieu of camp.

Major Woodhouse was attached to the Yorkshire Brigade Depot at Strensall for two weeks. He was given every facility for acquainting himself with all the latest weapons and methods of training. One direct result of this has been the arranging on two consecutive week-ends of demonstrations of the new S.L. rifle and the Stirling sub-machine-gun; a large number of our T.A. members were given an opportunity of firing these weapons. This proved most interesting and we were very grateful to the Depot, and especially Captain Newton and C.S.M. Webb, for their co-operation.

Pte. Gratton was attached to 1 D.W.R. for two weeks in order to study the duties of M.T. clerk. This, again, was a novel experience and proved to be of exceptional value. We are most grateful to O.C. 1 D.W.R. for his co-operation in this matter.

Footnote.—On the recent divisional signals exercise our representative C.O., Major Young,



Civil Defence Exercise, May 8
Cpl. Pierce and Sgt. Preece

received a personal commendation from the Brigadier. Apparently Major Young won the battle by carrying out a most brilliant stroke in defiance of the umpires' "pink." The enemy, and our own general, were completely outwitted.

"A" COMPANY

It was noted in the April issue that a certain company in the Battalion has difficulty in finding material for its notes. "A" Company, however, is in the happy position of having almost too much copy and having to resist the temptation of embarrassing the editor into increasing the size of his publication.

The outstanding event on the training side was the adventure training week-end. Unfortunately "A" Company could not repeat their previous success and only managed third place, being no match for the winners who had some notable, or notorious, seafarers in their "eight." However, the team of Major Webster, Sgt. Booth, Cpl. Pierce, Ptes. Moore, Hill, McFarlane, Thompson and Vaughan made up for lack of navigational skill by showing (at times) great determination to complete the course. Perhaps the outstanding event of the week-end was the fact that one P.S.I. actually climbed. No! Not out of bed but a small mountain—and with a 31 set on his back! We know it's true—we all had to go to the top to look at him.

The summit of Whernside was the objective on the Sunday morning—it was grand on top and wonderful coming down!

April 9—the Regimental Dance and Prize Distribution with "A" Company invading St.

Paul's Street to carry off most of the silver. Congratulations to Sgt. Booth, L/Cpl. Fossard and Pte. Saville.

St. George's Day marked the start of a rather busy week-end for some members of the Company with the opening of the Regimental Museum in the afternoon and a Sergeants' Mess social in the evening to which all members of the O.C.A. were invited. To a casual observer it seemed that they must have all accepted! A notable feature that evening was the presence of two V.C.s in the Drill Hall—Sgt. Burton and Pte. Tandy—and of Mr. Loosemoore representing his father. This rather hectic occasion was followed on the Sunday morning by a Regimental church parade in which "A" Company was represented in the Battalion contingent. We were very pleased to entertain the Colonel of the Regiment at Arden Road after the parade albeit only for a very short time.

More recently we had a company week-end at Strensall and we managed to put most of the Company through their classification, thus allaying any doubts about bounty!

Civil defence training reared its ugly head again a short time ago when we co-operated with the Huddersfield Civil Defence Corps on an exercise in that town. Lt. Sugden hopes that next time he is informed of the "close down" although for all we know he may have been a "casualty," joy-riding round town in an ambulance!

Sgt. Bacon is now a veritable fountain of knowledge about shooting (perhaps he always was?) having attended a range coaching course.

Congratulations to Cpl. Pierce and L/Cpl. Fossard on their promotion.

It is difficult to believe that by the time these notes are published Camp 1960 will be only a memory. This year we are fortunate in that most of "A" Company personnel will form the basis of the Recruits' Company at camp; thus the comradeship fostered throughout the year in the drill hall will be a great influence on the enjoyment and standard of training.

" B " COMPANY

In recent months the Drill Hall at Mossley has become a hive of activity. During the past year the strength has almost doubled itself.

A special welcome is given to the brothers L/Cpls. Peter and Norman Coleman who recently rejoined. They previously joined the "Dukes" in 1938. We are hoping that more of their friends will rejoin us in the near future.

We regret having to say good-bye to L/Cpl. E. O'Neil who has had to leave us to do his national service training, but the loss is not too great now that we know that he is joining the 1st Battalion after his recruit training at Strensall. We wish him good luck in the future.

We wish to welcome into our midst, Officer Cadet C. Kilner who at present keeps a watchful eye on the Cadet Platoon.

The "B" Company football team has completed a successful season with the Saddleworth League. The team shows great promise and although it won only a few games it enjoyed every game. Some of

the team members were: Cpls. B. L. Howard and H. Gibbons, L/Cpls. Knott and E. O'Neil, Ptes. E. Smith, Hadfield and V. Williams, and others too numerous to mention but whom we wish to thank for their help.

" C " COMPANY

A muffled cry rises from under the dust sheets. It is the voice of Thongsbridge in the throes of being decorated. We shall soon be the most tastefully appointed drill hall—sorry, T.A. centre—in the area. Those of conservative taste who demanded the traditional cream and green were soon shot down by the Battalion interior decorating (Q.M. type) consultant, Captain Cyril Kenchington, whose pastel and contemporary shades are rapidly transforming the whole place. The Company Commander can now relax among blush rose and soft dove grey tones, but the pastel green and terracotta in the canteen seem to put the snooker players off their strokes.

In March the drill hall bathed in the aroma of frying onions and sausages as the cook performed on the No. 2 cooker as part of our recruiting effort. On the whole business was not as brisk as we had hoped and C.S.M. Wood had no difficulty in controlling the queues of would-be volunteers. However, we all extend a hearty welcome to volunteers (now Ptes.) McKenna, Webster, Eastwood and Gray, and hope their service with "C" Company will be enjoyable and instructive. Another hearty welcome to Cpl. (now Sgt.) Simpson, a warrior who joined us from paratroops via "D" Company. His experience is most valuable.

We must register congratulations to L/Cpl. Woodhead on his "clean up" at the Prize Distribution. His arm must have ached with saluting and carrying away the loot. Congratulations also to the falling plate team, who were mentioned in our last signal.

No notes would be complete without a mention of George Bamlett who still does sterling service behind the bar, ably assisted by Captain Hutchinson on the books . . . And so to camp, which will be another story . . .

" D " COMPANY

Adventure training figures large in our company notes, and this time we have another triumph to record. On March 26/27 our team, consisting of Lt. Sharp, C/Sgt. Laherty, L/Cpls. Howard and Sheehan, and Ptes. Ryan, Conway, T. Maxwell and Gardner, competed against the other companies, coming in first on both days.

The Saturday saw us paddling along the canal. Everyone gave of his best, and C/Sgt. Laherty (who had commandeered all the packs to sit on) yelled to us about "port" and "starboard," but the ignorance of the other seven members of the team forced him to change it to "left" and "right." We are glad to say we won by more than an hour (*Training Notes do you an injustice, then—Ed.*) but it is with deep regret that we record our Lt. Mather's inability to read a map. We had lent him out to another team, having warned them that he invariably got lost, but assuring them that nobody could go wrong on a canal. Don't ask how it



Civil Defence Exercise, May 8. Bringing out a "casualty"

A nervous young lady said, "Lor' Ma!
We're asked to fill in a proforma!"
Her Mum said, "My dear,
Do take care, for I fear
That was what caused the downfall of your Ma!"

So she didn't. And just look what happened to her!

happened, but somehow he managed to find a stream leading the wrong way!

On the Sunday we climbed Ingleborough, and again reached the winning post—the Hill Inn—first. We should have arrived sooner, but Lt. Sharp decided to demonstrate that the long side of a triangle is shorter than the sum of the other two sides. The team set off straight up the slope and then along edge; Lt. Sharp went diagonally to the top. He arrived a good 15 minutes after the others, thereby proving that the long side of a triangle is considerably longer than the sum of the other two!

During the last month we have fired our classification, and helped by the fine weather at Strensall, have produced some very fair results

At this moment we are preparing for camp, a task which has been made considerably more difficult than usual, as the painters have taken over the company office and very successfully turned the place upside down. As we write these notes Major Woodhouse is crawling around on his knees look-

ing behind the pipes for the company roll book.

We are glad to report the promotions of C/Sgt. Laherty to Prov./C.S.M., and Sgt. Bailey to Prov./Colour-Sergeant, and also to welcome our new recruits who have joined us during the last quarter.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The Company has re-organised administratively and, having taken this in our stride, we can report that our team for the last adventure training did very well and would no doubt have won had the Drum-Major and his men not stopped for a meal in Skipton.

The shooting team under Captain Curry's expert guidance came out top in the .22 league, and the signals platoon had three very successful exercises. The last one was with the Divisional Signals and the platoon received the congratulations of the Brigadier.

The band and drums, thanks to the Bandmaster, have increased their strength, and also the standard of playing. So much so, that many favourable comments have resulted from their outside engagements.

Recently we have been to Strensall, and 70 per cent. of the company have now classified.

Lastly we wish to congratulate Pte. Vernon on his appointment to Lance-Corporal, and at the same time wish Sgts. Sach and Deane the best of luck now that they have reached the end of their engagements. We shall miss them both very much.

PREMATURE DEMOLITION?

The Battle of the Sittang Bridge, 1942

On the same day that Singapore fell 2nd D.W.R. arrived in Rangoon, trained in the plains of India, equipped from the arsenals of Pindi, prepared for their first taste of war.

A week later they found themselves in the area of the fated Sittang Bridge, as part of the 17th Indian Infantry Division, composed largely of Indian and Gurkha troops. Two days later they crossed the Sittang River to join one of the brigades that were holding the bridgehead as the front contracted in the face of the dread Jap. These were the dark days of the war, punctuated monotonously by retreat.

The battalion fought its first battle on February 23, 1942. By nightfall on the following day, 10 days after the Duke's had landed in Burma, their C.O. lay dead, murdered in a Burmese village, a hundred of the men had been killed, drowned or captured, while the remainder, all but one company, were scattered and exhausted, many of the men clad only in their pants and having abandoned their weapons and equipment on the far side of the river. The Sittang Bridge stood shattered, blown up by British sappers, and now useless to either side.

"Operationally," wrote Brigadier C. N. Barclay in the Regimental History, "the crux of the campaign (the Burma retreat) was the premature blowing of the Sittang River Bridge, with so many of our troops on the wrong side." Sir Arthur Bryant, in "The Turn of the Tide," supports this comment in reporting that "three British brigades were trapped and destroyed through the premature destruction of the only bridge over the Sittang." This judgment is one of the controversies of modern military history, and argument flows endlessly over the decision.

Whose decision? Why? What had he to say about it?

It was the personal decision of Brigadier Sir John Smyth, Bt., V.C., M.C., then commanding 17 Indian Infantry Division, now Conservative M.P. for Norwood. In his book, "Before the Dawn—Two Historic Retreats" (a later book by Brigadier Smyth which also deals with this subject is "The Only Enemy."—Ed.) he recounts the episode and discusses his decision.

"The Sittang Bridge," he has written, "had been throughout the most vital link in our lines of communication. Although many miles behind the divisional battlefield, it had been included in our area of responsibility owing to the army commander's lack of other troops for its protection. The bridge itself was built entirely for rail traffic and for some time all the engineers who could be made

available from army resources had been engaged on making the bridge passable for road traffic and marching columns. This was by no means an easy business and necessitated the cutting and laying of thousands of wooden planks and sleepers. The bridge was a big, strong, iron affair, and a very easy target for bomber attack, particularly as we had no anti-aircraft guns with which to protect it in the early stages, and only a couple now; but the Japs were just as anxious to keep the bridge intact as we were, and the pilots had quite obviously strict instructions to go nowhere near it. It was their direct means of approach to Rangoon, and although they were extremely quick at bridging the smaller rivers the Sittang was a very different matter, and the destruction of the bridge would obviously entail considerable delay. They were out to get it by ground attack if they could, and we were out to prevent their doing so at all costs."

Soon, however, the bridge was no longer many miles behind the front. The 17th Indian Division was forced to retreat before the Japanese attack. This followed a pattern that was to become familiar: while their main force advanced along the main axis strong mobile parties were sent to infiltrate on the flanks and threaten encirclement.

As soon as this threat became a reality the Divisional Commander ordered the withdrawal of all wheeled transport across the bridge, to be followed by the rest of the division. Before the greater part of the transport had reached the bridge Japanese infiltrating parties established themselves on ground dominating it and made further crossing of transport impossible by daylight without heavy casualties.

So began a desperate fight to gain time for the transport and then the rest of the division to cross the bridge. It was an iron girder railway bridge; it had only just been planked to take troops and transport and in many places the planking was extremely loose. The approaches had been churned into quagmires by the working sappers and their lorries. It required a well-trained driver to take his vehicle on to the bridge in daylight. Now, this had to be done in the dark. One lorry overturned in the middle of the bridge and there was nearly two hours' delay while the obstruction was being cleared.

Throughout February 23 the defence of the bridgehead was carried on with ever-increasing difficulties of command and communication. All day long through those sweltering hours units fought on against the growing strength of the Japanese thrust, being in places penetrated, cut off and dealt with piecemeal. But the bridgehead was still held.

Night brought some easing of the Japanese attacks but increased the difficulties of command.

Intelligence had largely broken down and few units knew for certain who was on their right or left or exactly where the Japanese were. But still the bridgehead seemed to be holding.

And then, shortly before dawn on the 24th, loud explosions told the troops in the bridgehead that the bridge had been blown behind them. But, apart from they themselves, most of the transport and two-thirds of the division had yet to cross! Premature? You're — telling me, chum!

Among the troops still on the east bank was the bulk of 2nd D.W.R. It is not the intention to retell their exploits here; they are to be found in Brigadier Barclay's history. But a summary of the experiences of part of the unit is relevant to the above view.

2nd D.W.R. had joined the 46th Infantry Brigade only in time to take part in the last stage of the retreat to the Sittang. Before they moved forward "D" Company (Captain Coningham) was detached to reinforce the troops guarding the Sittang Bridge.

On the evening of the 22nd, "B" Company (Captain Simonds) was sent to reinforce the outpost line. It was to have rejoined the battalion next morning before the retreat continued but was unable to do so. On 23rd, therefore, 2nd D.W.R.

was reduced to 15 officers and 260 other ranks. It was acting as rearguard to the brigade, the other units of which were one battalion of Ghurkas and one of Dogras.

During the day a fierce battle developed with a strong Japanese infiltrating force. As a result the already depleted battalion became split into several groups. It must be remembered that the jungle was so dense in this area that "troops almost had to link arms to keep contact."

The biggest group, with Major Robinson and Captains P. P. Moran, Firth and Christison, soon managed to strike the main road, continue their withdrawal and link up with other troops of the brigade. Late in the evening, after an exhausting and harrowing day, they reached a village two miles from the bridge and were detailed to act as protective screen to brigade headquarters for the night.

Some 140 strong, they were allotted an area with no cover; no digging tools could be obtained; enemy snipers were active. Holes had to be scraped with bayonets and hands and they worked most of the night. They had had nothing to eat or drink and it was bitterly cold after the hot, humid day.

And it was under these conditions that, in the early morning, they heard the explosions signalling the destruction of the bridge.

The battle on the east bank went on but by



The Sittang River, 1942. Infantry moving in open order

11 a.m. their position had become untenable. No boats were available and orders were issued to construct bamboo rafts. The river was wide and swift; many of the rafts disintegrated and many non-swimmers were drowned; most men had to abandon their clothing, arms and equipment to get across. In the words of Brigadier Barclay's history: "It was an appalling and depressing sight to see a procession of virtually naked men walking in groups to rallying points after crossing the river."

Early that morning "C" Company, under Major Robinson, had again been detailed for detached duty. After various adventures this company reached the bridge at 1600 hours. Attempts to cross by daylight were prevented by Jap fire. At 1650 hours swimmers in the company started to make a life-line from pier to pier of the bridge. Enough rope could not be found, so Major Robinson, Cpl. Fox and L/Cpl. Roebuck swam to the west bank, 1,100 yards away, swam back with more rope and completed the life-line. This perilous work was carried on under constant fire.

As soon as it was dark the company, including non-swimmers and some 500 Indian troops who had joined them, were successfully evacuated to the west bank, Major Robinson, Fox and Roebuck remaining in the water the whole time to encourage the non-swimmers. For this action Major Robinson

(tragically, he was killed a month later) was awarded the Military Cross and Cpl. Fox and L/Cpl. Roebuck, Military Medals.

It could not be thought surprising that men who had endured these experiences, as a result of the bridge being blown, should consider the blowing premature.

And then it seemed to them that the Japanese did not follow up the crushing defeat they had inflicted or seize the bridge. They remained on the east bank, comparatively inactive, for a few days, digesting what they had captured rather than pushing on to Rangoon now, for the moment, apparently open to them for the taking.

There was much to digest on the east bank, the remnants of a very strong division, including a great part of its wheeled transport, caught by the blowing of the bridge. If the bridge had not been blown when it was would they have been able to carry straight on without any pause for digestion, and could they so quickly have seized the bridge in the face of the troops still in position on the west bank, who included "D" Company of the "Dukes" which had so far suffered only two casualties?

So, the question remains—was the order premature?

H.A.J.W.S.

FOOTNOTE ON THE SITTANG BATTLE

BY BRIGADIER SIR JOHN SMYTH, Bt., V.C., M.C., M.P.

I was very interested to get Captain Stacpoole's extracts on the Sittang Bridge operation, and gladly gave him permission to publish them in your journal. Also, as requested by him, I enclose for publication in the journal the following footnote:

It is, I think, always interesting to compare an operation as seen by one of the battalions concerned with the same operation as it appears in the eyes of the Higher Command, and I was very interested to read the battalion point of view.

Perhaps I would make just one criticism of the extracts where it says: "There was much to digest, the remnants of a very strong division, including a very great part of its wheel transport caught by the blowing of the bridge." It must be remembered that the 17th Division had had a pretty good battering before they got to Sittang. One brigade had been mauled at Kawkareik. Another had lost heavily at Moulmein, and the Division had been fought to a standstill on the Bilin River before they were finally permitted by the Higher Command to withdraw to Sittang. Units were not at full strength to start with: the division was very short of artillery, there had been a great deal of sickness and, on the way back from Bilin to Sittang, they had been badly bombed and shot up from the air.

At the time of the blowing of the bridge two Japanese divisions were in close contact with our two rather disintegrated brigades and the weak bridgehead defences on the far bank of the river. As these brigades had no pack wireless they were out of touch with divisional headquarters once they had been forced off the road. The bridgehead defence troops on both sides of the river were

under command of one of my brigadiers, Brigadier Hugh-Jones; I and my chief of staff, Brigadier "Punch" Cowan, were a little way back at advanced divisional headquarters whence I was due to depart at crack of dawn to meet the Army Commander half-way between Sittang and Rangoon.

The fate of Rangoon, and indeed the fate of Burma, depended at that moment on the Japanese being prevented from crossing the Sittang. The bridge had been prepared for demolition, and no one was in any doubt that it must not be allowed to fall into the hands of the Japanese. As the official war history states, at 2 a.m. Hugh-Jones asked Orgill, the sapper commander, whether, if the bridge was not demolished during the night, he could guarantee that it could be successfully blown up during daylight with the enemy holding the far bank and the bridge under observed fire. Captain Orgill could give no such guarantee. The official history goes on to state: "As the night wore on, enemy pressure increased, and the situation within the bridgehead appeared to be getting rapidly worse. After consulting two of his battalion commanders, Hugh-Jones came to the conclusion that if the Japanese were to launch an attack before dawn the bridgehead could not be held." He accordingly rang me at 4.30 a.m. to tell me he could not guarantee to hold the bridge for more than another hour, nor could he guarantee to blow it at all once it got light; he therefore requested my permission to blow the bridge immediately.

Now this was a very unpleasant decision for any commander to have to make. If we blew, it was in the knowledge that two-thirds of my division would be cut off on the far bank, but if we didn't, the way

was open for the Japanese divisions to march straight on to Rangoon. Although the decision was a very grim one it was not, in a true military sense, a very difficult one and "Punch" Cowan and I were not at the time, nor have we ever been since, in any doubt as to what the answer had to be. If the bridge could not be held it must be destroyed.

It can of course be argued in the light of after events that the Brigadier's appreciation of the situation was not correct. But the fact is he made it *on the information he had at the time* and after consulting two very experienced commanding officers. As I was consulted by the commander on the spot and was asked for a decision, I have always maintained that the responsibility was then entirely mine and not that of any of my subordinates.

The reaction of the Japanese divisions to the blowing of the bridge was immediate. They undoubtedly had urgent orders to cross the river and take Rangoon and the moment they saw they were frustrated at the Sittang Bridge they started to move upstream, where in the course of the next fortnight they effected a crossing.

My great consolation in the light of after events was that, had the bridge not been blown, our troops on the far bank engaged by two Japanese divisions would have undoubtedly suffered death or capture. As it was the greater proportion of them swam or ferried their way across the river, which they were permitted to do in broad daylight. I was very interested to read that part of the regimental history which describes this. I certainly can't take any credit for that, as I couldn't foresee what action

the Japanese would take on the blowing of the bridge.

I think that the most unpleasant thing which a commander has to suffer after an operation of that sort is the natural inability of the fighting units concerned to appreciate the why and the wherefore. The "Economist" in reviewing my book, "Before the Dawn," at the end of December 1957 says: "However late in the war it was, the newcomer to the 17th Indian Division would be told almost at once about the disaster at the Sittang Bridge in the 1942 retreat. There were few survivors left to tell the story, but the horror of it lived in the collective memory. The stories told were confused, exaggerated, contradictory, bitter, and angry."

I can quite understand those feelings. It is of course still more difficult to understand why two Japanese divisions should have been allowed to engage the 17th Division at all on the far side of a broad river spanned by only one bridge when the initial initiative was entirely ours; to appreciate that I suggest those interested should read the official history, "The War Against Japan," Vol. II, together with my own two books, "Before the Dawn" and "The Only Enemy." Although this first part of the Burma campaign of 1942 was largely fought as a divisional battle by the 17th Division, it formed part of a much bigger picture at a critical stage of the war in which a mere divisional commander was only a somewhat minor pawn in the game.

"I think it must be realised quite clearly that the first Burma Campaign of 1942 was a disaster which could only have been avoided if it had been possible to provide the Army Commander in Burma with the adequate number of trained troops and air forces for which he had asked. The British Prime Minister urged that two Australian Divisions should be diverted to Burma, but that turned out not to be possible.

"It then became clear that the so-called 17th Indian Division would have to take on the brunt of the Japanese invasion. Two brigades of this new and completely untrained division had already had to be sent to Malaya, and the rest was a collection of odd units hastily assembled from all quarters, which had to be flung into the battle as they arrived. My plan was to get the division across the Sittang River at least a week before the two Japanese divisions opposing us made contact, and to fight the main battle on ground of our own choosing. But in operations of this sort one has to conform to the over-all strategic plan, and even if the Sittang disaster had never taken place, the final result would have been the same, i.e., an overwhelming defeat for the British. Every informed commander from General Slim downwards has been quite emphatic that that was the inevitable outcome.

"Nevertheless, I am glad that we have had this opportunity of examining one of the most controversial little operations of war ever undertaken by British Arms from the points of view of a unit very vitally concerned in the battle, and a divisional commander faced with a difficult but challenging decision."

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Kincardine,
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DEAR SIR,

I thought you might be interested to have a photograph of the fountain on the Lecht Road to Tomintoul, a few miles north of Cock Bridge. The inscription written with an economical use of strokes, reads:

A - D 1754
FIVE · COMPANIES
THE · 33RD · REGIMENT ·
RIGHT · HONBLE · LORD
CHAS · HAY · COLONEL
MADE THE ROAD FROM
HERE · TO · THE
SPEY ✕

Yours etc.,

B. C. BRADFORD
(Brigadier, late the Black Watch).



We were most interested to get this letter from Brigadier Bradford, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. Reports and photographs of the memorial stone have appeared in THE IRON DUKE on more than one occasion. In 1931 it was learned that the well was in bad condition: "The masonry is falling to bits; gypsies have lit fires by it and soiled it." On that occasion the Regiment took steps to have it restored. The last report that we had of it was in 1938 and we have, in fact, been trying to find someone who could visit it and report on its present condition.

In a second letter Brigadier Bradford wrote that, as can be seen from the photograph, the stone has again become weather-stained but that, apart from this, it had not struck him as being in bad condition. He has said that he will examine it more carefully next time he passes that way. It does, however, appear from the photograph that the well could well (sorry!) do with a protective surround more in keeping with its age and considerable historical interest to the Regiment.

The Red Horse Inn,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Oxford.

DEAR SIR,

It was with great pleasure and interest that I read the letter from "Twink" Atkins in the April issue of THE IRON DUKE.

I enlisted with him, having come from the same school in London where we were both in the school band which was conducted by an ex-"Duke," Bandmaster Murgatroyd.

I also went to the Royal Military School of Music with Atkins on the pupils' course in 1926. However, I found the all-day-and-every-day music a bit irksome and did not take it as seriously as I might.

So I did not return there for the students' course and I lost touch with "Twinkle," as I knew him, when I left the 2nd Battalion for the 1st in 1928.

I, foolishly, left the "Dukes" at Aldershot in 1934 and have not done anything in the music line since. My 12 years with the "Dukes" in Egypt, Singapore, and at home, were years to remember.

I hope that, when Captain Atkins pays a visit to this country, he will find time to visit his old enlisting pal at this inn which I manage for a well-known Midland brewery.

Yours faithfully,
Ex-4606247 Bdsm. L. A. (Bullet) WEAVER.

4340 Glanford Avenue,
Royal Oak,
British Columbia.

DEAR SIR,

On perusing THE IRON DUKE of January 1960, page 17, 1st Battalion "W.O. and Sergeants' Mess Notes," I found it most comforting to read of the present members' intention to have invited me to their Mess dinner in November last had I still been residing in Brentwood. So, through the medium of THE IRON DUKE, I take this opportunity of tendering my very sincere thanks to all members of the Mess for their kind thought for an ex-member of the Regiment.

I know many of the older members of the Regiment were aware that I was employed with the

Barrack Department, R.A.S.C., as B.I.A. at Warley Barracks from 1938 to 1955 when Father Time caught up with me and I retired on attaining the age of 65. During that period I had the pleasure of marching many regiments "in and out" of Warley Barracks, always hoping that one day the "Dukes" would be coming along. Alas, this happened after I had left and marched myself out of the U.K.

It may be of interest to many old comrades who knew my family, when I was serving, to hear how they have fared. My son, Gerald, is serving with the R.E.M.E. and is Major G. H. Smith, A.M.I.E.E., O.C. 1 (Br.) Corps Troops Workshop, R.E.M.E., B.F.P.O. 39. He is married and has two daughters. My daughter, Nellie, now Mrs. N. Caine, married a P.O. Class I (Royal Canadian Navy). They are stationed at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. They have a son and a daughter.

My wife and self are at present staying with my daughter at that address. We eagerly look forward to receiving THE IRON DUKE. Although many years have passed since I left the Regiment my roots are still there.

E. SMITH,
Ex-R.S.M. 1st Battalion.

H.Q. Kuala Lumpur Garrison,
c/o G.P.O. Kuala Lumpur,
Malaya.

DEAR SIR,

In your article on Lt.-Colonel P. P. de la H. Moran you state that he first joined the 2nd Battalion in Nowshera in 1936.

I've always been under the impression that Mr. Moran, as he was, was on board the *Somersetshire* when my draft left Malta on December 22, 1937, for India. We arrived at Karachi on January 4, 1938, and proceeded to Multan where 2 Lt. Moran was my platoon officer at the Fort.

The draft was commanded by Captain C. W. B. Orr and Captain Sir Nugent Everard. 2 Lt. (Jimmy) Lunt was already on board with C.S.M. Tommy Dalton and Cpl. Smith who had been on six months' U.K. leave.

(As far as we can make out from back numbers of THE IRON DUKE both the original article and R.Q.M.S. Imray, the writer of this letter, are at fault. 2 Lts. P. P. Moran and R. E. Sugden were welcomed in the 2nd Battalion Officers' Mess notes in the issue of June 1937 so they presumably arrived some months before that, certainly before the December 1937 draft but hardly as early as August 1936. Perhaps Colonel "Pip" will be kind enough to write to us to put the record right and, at the same time, give us the news from Aden.—Ed.)

You ask for comments or criticism of THE IRON DUKE. All I can comment on is the fact that we so-called old soldiers who support the journal do so for one main reason. We like to read about people whom we served with—officers and men. I pride myself on still remembering officers' initials, an important part of recruit training in my day.

Also, people like me, who are E.R.E. and have been shanghaied into other regiments, want to feel we still belong. Reading of officers we knew and men we served with proves, if only to ourselves,

that we are, in heart at least, "Dukes" still. And when we boast of the "Dukes" and critics say: "You! You're not a 'Duke'," we can pull out our IRON DUKE and point to people like Colonel Moran and say: "Look! I knew him when he was a Second-Lieutenant, God bless him. I'm still a 'Duke'."

Yours sincerely,
J. IMRAY (R.Q.M.S.).

26 Buxton Road,
Brighton.

DEAR SIR,

As a collector of military badges I am always trying to obtain specimens of obsolete British Army cap badges. I recently wrote to the R.H.Q. of your Regiment asking if it might be possible to supply me with certain badges which I need and they suggested that I ask you to publish my request for these badges. Then any old member of the Regiment might care to contact me if he has these badges to spare.

The O.R. cap badges I am trying to obtain are the all-brass badge which was worn between 1916 and 1918 as an economy measure, the all-white-metal badge worn by Militia or Volunteers pre-1908, and also any of the Volunteer Battalion badges (I believe there are three) worn pre-1908. The latter are, as far as I know, similar to the regimental badge but bear the battalion numeral and the title "Volunteer" somewhere upon them.

I need scarcely add that any help you can give me in this matter will be most gratefully appreciated by me. At the moment the only badge of the "Dukes" I have in my collection of 1,700 items is the standard regimental badge and I am very anxious to obtain the above-mentioned types to add to it.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. MAJOR
(Member, The Military Historical Society).

Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race

Note.—2 Lt. Pugh and Pte. Hutchinson of "B" Company were placed 8th out of 120 entries in this year's race.—Ed.)

The idea of entering teams for this race came while the Battalion was still in Ireland but very little canoeing could actually be done until a month before the race.

This is not to say that the canoe club was idle for, during the latter part of the winter, under the capable eyes of Cpl. Watts and his "apprentice" L/Cpl. Douglas, building was going on of the National Chine Kayak (N.C.K.2)—very much an experimental type to enter for such a race.

Although it was intended to build three, only one of the Reddish pattern N.C.K. left the workshop; another, to a different design, was built but not raced. However, we had no shortage of canoes and, as we had decided to start our training by a complete recce of the course, the team, consisting of Lt. Pugh, Cpl. Wren, L/Cpl. McPartland and Ptes. Nash and Hutchinson, set out on March 14 with five single canoes strapped to a three-tonner. During all our canoe training we took camping kit and compo.

While the team were on the water the "H.Q." Group of Ptes. Scholes and Whitehead were kept busy checking that no canoe had overturned, preparing meals en route and setting up camp at night at a pre-arranged spot.

However, there were no mishaps the first week and we reached Newbury before we came in to collect pay, patch up damage and generally clean ourselves up.

It took us, all told, 10 paddling days to reach Westminster. We broke ourselves in fairly gently with the result that we had no blisters or sores. We paddled for eight or nine hours a day, gradually increasing the distance covered from the 16 miles in eight hours which was all we managed on the first day. In the third and fourth weeks it was our aim to work up to 50 or 60 miles in one stretch.

For the third week we based ourselves outside Maidenhead and were lucky enough to find an ideal camping spot in a brigadier's back garden. Here we erected our arctic tent as a permanent base to return to after a hard day's canoeing. Training was going very well but now we had trouble with the second double kayak which had been completed and sent to us for trials. Neither McPartland nor Wren were happy in it and, as Pugh and Hutchinson were working up a good partnership in the Reddish N.C.K., it was regretfully decided to abandon the new kayak in favour of a stouter and more stable canvas canoe.

During the final stage of that week we did an all-night run from Reading to Shepperton lock and clocked roughly eight hours which was highly gratifying as it was just about 50 miles. Finally, five days before the race we canoed from Devizes to Reading in 15 hours. This gave us a fair guide for planning our tactics in the race so as to catch the tide at Teddington.

The team for the race itself was Lt. Pugh and Hutchinson in the Reddish N.C.K. and Cpl. Wren and L/Cpl. McPartland in a homebuilt canvas canoe. The course was 125 miles and included 77 portages. Rules were strict and all food and drink, except water, had to be carried in the canoe.

We sent Wren and McPartland off at 2.30 p.m. on Friday afternoon in a steady drizzle but no wind. We were to start at 0400 hours on Saturday morning, but on Friday night had a sudden rush of confidence and decided to try and cut our time to under 30 hours instead of 34. So we had an extra couple of hours in bed which was very welcome.

We set off at 7.30 a.m. with a strong head wind, but luckily a clear and dry day. We set our sights, on "Reading in under 12 hours" and, in fact arrived there 12 hours and 5 minutes later. After a complete change of clothes and a hot meal we set off again to complete the next 60 miles during the hours of darkness. Everything went well and, apart from shipping a lot of water that had to be emptied out periodically, the canoe behaved magnificently; during the latter stages we were thankful indeed for the extra slip lines and the light-weight paddles.

We reached Teddington lock at exactly high tide so were able to make good progress for the last
(continued at foot of next column)

From the London Gazette

Supplements dated March 8 to June 6, 1960.

WAR OFFICE

REGULAR ARMY

Brig. W. H. Summers, late R.A.S.C., retires on retired pay, 27th Apr. 1960. (Reserve Liability.)

COMMANDS AND STAFF

Maj.-Gen. R. K. Exham, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., late Inf., relinquishes his appointment as Director Land/Air Warfare, War Office, 12th May, 1960.

INFANTRY

D.W.R.

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt. D. M. Pugh to be Lt., 7th Mar.

Lt. S. A. Berry to be Capt., 21st May.

Maj. A. D. Firth, M.B.E., M.C., to be Lt.-Col., 1st Mar.

Capt. (Qr.-Mr.) A. Parr to be Maj. (Qr.-Mr.), 25th May.

Maj. J. E. V. Butterfield retires on retired pay, 29th May. (Reserve Liability.)

Short Serv. Commn.

Lt. (Qr.-Mr.) B. Dawson to be Capt. (Qr.-Mr.) 22nd Mar.

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

2nd Lt. R. D. Campbell-Lamerton to be Lt., 28th Apr.

Cadet David Alan Bramwell Bardsley to be 2nd Lt., 2nd Apr.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Class III

Lt. M. J. Granger from A.E. Res. of Offrs., Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 20th Nov. 1959, retaining his present seniority.

Short Serv. Commn.

Lt. A. B. Skinner from Active List, to be Lt., 16th Oct. 1959, retaining his present seniority. (Substituted for notfn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 2nd Oct. 1959.)

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

NATIONAL SERVICE LIST

Lt. E. Duckney from Reg. Army, Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 30th Jan., with seniority 3rd May 1959.

2nd Lt. S. R. Arnold to be Lt., 8th Apr. 1960.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. K. M. McDonald to be Capt., 16th Nov. 1959.

16 miles and arrived at Westminster exactly 28 hours 28 minutes after leaving Devizes. Much of our success was due to the tireless energy, enthusiasm and consistently good blade work of Pte. Hutchinson who finished the course vowing that he felt better than at the beginning.

The other canoe did not, unfortunately, finish the race but their hardships in a canvas canoe did not make themselves felt until the latter stages of the race when a broken back-rest added to the hazards.

(continued at foot of next page)

The Officers' Regimental Dinner Club

The annual regimental dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, June 3. The Colonel of the Regiment took the chair. There were three guests: His Grace The Duke of Wellington, G. H. Stainforth, Esq., the headmaster of Wellington College, and Colonel M. C. K. Halford, D.S.O., O.B.E., Colonel of the Yorkshire Brigade.

Eighty-nine officers had notified intention to be present. This would have been a record number but 12 were prevented from attending; the resulting total of 77 is one less than the attendance in 1939 which, therefore, remains the record.

Among those who were unable to attend were General Ozanne and Captain Bolton, the previous secretary of the club, who were both prevented by illness.

After the toast, General Exham read H.M. The Queen's message of thanks for the assembly's loyal greetings, and telegrams from "Dukes" unable to attend. These were too numerous to list; those that had come the furthest were from Captain Berry in Dar-es-Salaam and from General Bray, Lt.-Colonel Moran, Major Harms, 2 Lts. Bray and M. Stacpoole in Aden.

Welcoming the guests General Exham said we were very pleased to have with us His Grace The Duke of Wellington who had been unable to be present last year; we were again most indebted to him for permission to use the Duke's study at Apsley House for the council meeting that morning. He (General Exham) was very pleased to welcome Mr. Stainforth as our guest for the first time; we were most anxious to maintain a strong link between the Regiment and Wellington College. It was very fitting that Colonel Halford should also be our guest as the Regiment owed him a debt of gratitude for his wise and helpful leadership during the first years of the Yorkshire Brigade and the formation of our Brigade Depot.

General Exham then gave a full and interesting account of events during the past year in the life of the 1st Battalion and of the Regiment as a whole. In conclusion he gave warning that an appeal on

(continued from page 110)

To sum up, we proved that a completely untrained team can, with a month's training and the right sort of canoe, expect to finish in well under thirty hours a race which is termed the toughest canoe race in the world. It is vital to go over the course beforehand and even more vital for each pair to train together under the very worst conditions. Some of our training was done in really pouring rain so that we would know what to expect if the weather turned foul during the race.

But I would not consider it wise or useful to go all out to win the race. Rather would I like to see this race used to further our interest in long-distance canoe touring; there are many rivers in England and on the Continent where tremendous enjoyment can be had with a canoe, a tent and a companion.

behalf of THE IRON DUKE was imminent and would concern everyone present.

The following officers of the Regiment attended:

Major-General K. G. Exham (Colonel of the Regiment), General Sir Philip Christison, Bt., Major-General R. K. Exham, Brigadiers F. H. Fraser, G. Laing, H. G. P. Miles, C. W. B. Orr, E. W. Rogers, G. F. Upjohn and B. W. Webb-Carter.

Colonels F. R. Armitage, L. E. Bishop, C. R. T. Cumberlege, G. B. Howcroft, R. G. Turner and G. C. H. Wortham. Lt.-Colonels J. H. Dalrymple, J. Davidson, A. D. Firth, F. R. Gadd, H. Harvey, D. E. Isles, O. Price, A. E. H. Sayers, D. J. Stewart, N. R. Whitaker and F. P. A. Woods.

Majors W. Blakey, R. H. Burton, R. V. Cartwright, J. H. Davis, C. F. Grieve, J. P. Huffam, D. S. D. B. Jones-Stamp, A. B. M. Kavanagh, H. R. Kavanagh, B. M. Kilner, J. H. S. Lane, H. S. Le Messurier, J. A. Lennon, J. G. Lepper, C. J. Maclaren, R. A. Scott, J. K. Sugden and D. H. Wood.

Captains J. D. P. Cowell, E. J. H. Dasent, D. S. Gilbert-Smith, P. B. L. Hoppe, C. R. Huxtable, J. R. M. Keatley, H. Middleton-Hands, C. D. Miller, J. A. Miller, J. M. Newton, W. F. C. Robertson, the Lord Savile, D. W. Shuttleworth and H. A. J. W. Stacpoole.

Lts. Barkshire, M. J. Campbell-Lamerton, R. D. Campbell-Lamerton, C. R. Cumberlege, J. R. P. Cumberlege, R. C. Everard, J. H. Gladwin, J. B. K. Greenway, D. Marsay, T. L. Mesquita, W. R. Mundell, P. Naylor, D. M. Pugh, G. A. Reddington, J. M. Reddington, J. A. Shenton, R. L. Stevens and M. W. Summers.

The Tea

The ladies' tea was held the same afternoon, also in the Hyde Park Hotel. Mrs. R. M. Tidmarsh was invited as a guest of the club. The gold hunter watch and the signet ring made from the gold of King Theodore's throne, which were bequeathed by Colonel R. M. Tidmarsh to the 33rd Regiment, were on display; the watch was made to repeat its playing of "God save the Queen." Also on display were the silver cigarette box and the salver presented to the Regiment during the past year by Halifax and Spensborough respectively. Major-General and Mrs. K. G. Exham received the members; the following attended (some later than others):

General and Mrs. K. G. Exham, Brigadier and Mrs. Webb-Carter, Colonel and Mrs. Armitage, Major and Mrs. Cartwright, Colonel and Mrs. Cumberlege, General and Mrs. R. K. Exham, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Firth, Brigadier Fraser, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Gadd, Captain and Mrs. Hoppe, Colonel and Mrs. Howcroft, Major and Mrs. Huffam, Captain and Mrs. Huxtable, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. C. W. G. Ince, Major Barry Kavanagh, Mrs. Kirkland, Lady Landon, Major and Mrs. Le Messurier, Major Maclaren, Brigadier and Mrs. Miles, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Price, Mrs. Rusbridger, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. Sayers, Major and Mrs. R. A. Scott, Lt.-Col. Stewart, Mrs. Tidmarsh and Colonel Turner.

This attendance was an appreciable increase on last year. At the meeting of the Regimental Council in the morning it was decided that, in view of this, there need be no question at present of discontinuing the annual tea. It was, however, also decided that, as the 1st Battalion was expected to be still in Colchester in the autumn, another Regimental cocktail party should be held then. Date and place have yet to be decided; they will be notified to members of the Dinner Club in due course.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner, 1960

The annual general meeting and reunion dinner of the O.C.A. and Regimental Association will take place at the Drill Hall, St. Paul's Street, Huddersfield, on Saturday, October 8, 1960.

The A.G.M. will be in the men's recreation room at 5.30 p.m. and the dinner will be in the main hall at 7.15 p.m.

Tickets are 9s. 6d. each and can be obtained from The General Secretary, R.H.Q. D.W.R., Wellesley Barracks, Halifax—or from branch secretaries.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES

BRANCH—REUNION DINNER

The annual re-union dinner of the London Branch of the Regimental Association was this year held at the Chevrons Club, Dorset Square, London, and was presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General K. G. Exham.

The change of venue, from the Westminster Dragoons' Drill Hall to the Chevrons Club, was considered by everyone a great success as the spacious lounge gave us far more room and comfort for the "get together" before and after dinner. About 90 members and their wives sat down to dinner. It was much regretted that among those absent through sickness were Major-General

Ozanne and Chelsea Pensioner Simonds; it is hoped that by the time this report appears in THE IRON DUKE they will be quite well and about again. Also amongst the missing were Tom and Mrs. Norman and four of the other ranks from the Battalion, but maybe they got lost in London trying to find the Chevrons Club.

During the get-together in the lounge and also after dinner it was grand to hear the loud hum of conversation as old friends met, the greetings shouted across the room as familiar faces were recognised, when the owners had not seen one another for years, the retelling of incidents which were probably recounted at most of the dinners before this, and in all probability will go on being repeated whenever Old "Dukes" meet for re-union dinners.

At the commencement of the dinner grace was given by our President, Colonel F. R. Armitage, whilst the toasts of "The Queen" and "The Regiment" were ably proposed by Dave Benson and Jim Myatt respectively. The following message from the Private Secretary to H.M. The Queen

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VETERAN

(See page 79)



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was then read out by the chairman of the branch: *"Please convey to the members of the London Branch Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association dining together this evening the sincere thanks of The Queen for their kind and loyal greetings which Her Majesty greatly appreciates."*

The Colonel of the Regiment was then called upon for the speech of the evening and gave an excellent account of the Regiment's activities both in training and in sport. He also brought up the question of a closer association between the Battalion and the London Branch and hoped that many of them would register as members. The question of a visit by the London Branch to Colchester was also mentioned by General Exham and was duly noted by the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel Firth, whom we all were very pleased to see at the dinner, supported by the Adjutant, Captain Huxtable and Major Blakey.

The secretary's report came last and in it Ben Hearsom stated how pleased we all were to have the Colonel of the Regiment with us, and also thanked the Secretaries of the Halifax and Gosport branches for turning up with such good supporting numbers. He said how nice it was to have two of our Chelsea Pensioners with us in the persons of Fred Stephen-

son and W. Bridges and the little speech of Fred's in which he thanked the Regimental Association for their help and his pleasure in meeting Old Comrades was well received.

Among those present, the London Branch were happy to see Captain Bolton who was the President when the Branch was first started.

In conclusion, it is hoped that everybody had an enjoyable evening, that we shall be able to hold the dinner again at the Chevrons Club next year and that you will all be there "On Parade" again.

Amongst those present were: Major-Generals K. G. Exham and R. K. Exham, Brigadier Fraser, Colonels Armitage and Turner, Lt.-Colonels Harvey, Dalrymple and Firth, Majors Huffam, R. A. Scott, Johnson,* Lennon, P. Connoley, B. Lowe, W. Blakey and A. Randall, Captains R. H. D. Bolton and C. R. Huxtable, C.S.M. W. Norman, Messrs. T. Drewitt,* F. Crouch, D. Coppack,* D. Benson, A. Ancill,* J. Myatt,* E. Cherry,* W. Callahoun,* J. Hartwell, F. Richardson, R. Temple, H. Matthews, S. Ambler, D. Guy, B. Fitter, D. Leach, R. Handyside, D. Frame, A. Wilde, I. F. Kennedy, J. Watts, P. G. Howell, B. Hearsom,* J. Church,* B. Woods,* S. Code,* F. Webster,* J. Newby, R. Greagsby, P. Johnson, R. Pearce, G. E. Belfitt, W. Casson, J. Garrod, F. Pearce,* J. Birch,* T. McMahon,* J. Yaxley,* A. Pells,* F. Stringer,* F. Kennedy,* M. Reed,* G. Kenny* and C. Samples,* Chelsea Pensioners F. Stephenson and W. Bridges.

*Denotes accompanied by wife.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Brigadiers Webb-Carter, Orr and Grimley, Colonels Cumberlege and R. Moran, Lt.-Colonels C. W. G. Ince, W. Woods and P. Woods, Major A. Savory, Captain W. Barber, Messrs. A. Harrison and A. G. Wallis.



THE LONDON DINNER—COMPETITION PICTURE

The senders of the first letter opened by the Editor from (a) someone who was at the Dinner, (b) someone who was not at the Dinner, which intelligibly identifies (surnames only) all those in this group of "old and bold" will each be presented with a £1 premium bond

4th BATTALION (T.A.) O.C.A.

The annual meeting and reunion supper of the Old Comrade's Association of the 4th Battalion took place on April 23 at the Prescott Street Drill Hall, Halifax.

Mr. H. Collinge, of Brighthouse, presided at the annual meeting, in the absence of the retiring chairman, Mr. F. E. Lumb, J.P. Among those present were Sir Alfred Mowat, Mr. D. A. Sutcliffe and the Rev. J. C. Gethyn-Jones, M.C., one of the padres of the Battalion in the 1914-18 War.

After the annual meeting, there was a dinner at which Mr. Collinge again presided and the chief guests were the Archdeacon of Halifax, the Ven. E. Treacy, M.B.E., and Mr. S. E. Code, M.B.E., general secretary of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment O.C.A., and Regimental Association.

(We are very sorry that shortage of space allows us to publish only this short extract of the report which was sent us.—ED.)

Obituary

We deeply regret to record the following deaths:

Mr. F. G. Baldwin

Mr. F. G. Baldwin died on January 16, at his home, 16 Cope Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire, aged 59 years.

"Pop" Baldwin joined the 1st Battalion at Gibraltar on transfer from the 4th Battalion The Rifle Brigade when that unit disbanded in 1923 and served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions until discharged to pension in August 1938. Recalled in September 1939 he served at the Depot until November 1940, when he was discharged as medically unfit.

Old "Pop" was universally liked throughout the Regiment. A quick-witted cockney with a great fund of his own brand of repartee, his unfailingly cheery disposition made him a worth-while companion to be with at any time.

His service with the "Dukes" took him, apart from Gibraltar, to Turkey, Egypt, Singapore, India and Malta. From 1919 to 1923 he had also seen foreign service with the R.B.

He leaves a widow and a son of 16 years. The O.C.A. are interesting themselves in the family.

Mr. H. Briscoombe (Ex-Sergeant 1st and 2nd Battalions)

Mr. H. Briscoombe died on March 13 in hospital where he had been removed for an operation following a few weeks' illness at home. He was aged 72 years.

Harry Briscoombe enlisted into the Regiment in May 1909 and after a few months' service with the 3rd Reserve Battalion joined the 2nd Battalion at Tidworth the following November. In February

1912 he went to India and joined the 1st Battalion and served with them until the Battalion returned to the U.K. in 1921 to Tidworth. He almost immediately volunteered to rejoin the 2nd Battalion and went out to Egypt early in December 1922. He remained with them, reaching the rank of sergeant, until 1927, when the Battalion was stationed in Singapore; then a motor-car accident caused him to be invalided to the U.K. and, after some months at Netley, he was discharged as medically unfit with 19½ years' service. He never really recovered from the effects of the accident and had chest trouble for many years.

For many years Harry was employed as a War Office messenger and retired seven years ago at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife and two married daughters.

Alderman J. L. Brook, J.P.

Alderman Joseph Louis Brook, the Mayor of Huddersfield, died on March 26, aged 79.

Alderman Brook was a generous benefactor to the Huddersfield area, notably to Storths Hall Mental Hospital of which he was Chairman of the Management Committee. He began his career of civic service in 1942 when, as Conservative candidate, he was elected to the Crossland Moor ward. He became an alderman in 1955 and Mayor of Huddersfield in May 1959.

As Mayor, he co-operated wholeheartedly with the 5/7th Battalion during its centenary celebrations which followed hard upon his election. He accompanied the Colonel of the Regiment in his inspection, and on the dais, at the parade of the Battalion, old comrades and cadets in Greehead Park on June 20. In July he and the Corporation entertained the whole 5/7th Battalion to an official civic dinner in the Town Hall.

He was, and is, held in great esteem and real affection by past and present members of the Regiment in the Huddersfield area. As reported on page 80 he was the guest of honour at the last annual dinner of the 5th Battalion Officers' Dinner Club.

Mr. John Gill

We have received from Mr. H. F. Hallaghan of Ossett and formerly of the 2nd Battalion (he was in the Signal Section in Ahmednagar) a press cutting reporting the death in May of Mr. John Gill of Beechwood Grove, Horbury, where he lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. F. Innes. The cutting records that Mr. Gill, giving a wrong age, served with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the Boer War. In the 1914-18 War he again saw active service with the "Dukes" and later with the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was awarded a Military Medal in 1917 and a bar in 1918, attaining the rank of company sergeant-major. In the last war he trained the Home Guard at Gargrave, where he was in business as a butcher.

Mr. Gill was not a member of the O.C.A. and Mr. Hallaghan wrote that, although he knew him, he had not known until he read the press cutting

that he was an "Old Duke." Some readers may, however, have served with him and remember him.

The obituary column of "The Old Contemptible," the magazine of the British Legion, has recently contained the names of two other ex-"Dukes" who were not members of the O.C.A. and of whom Mr. Code has no record. They are:

Cosburn, C. W. Doncaster Branch British Legion, formerly No. 10305, Pte.—"D" Company, D.W.R. Died December 26, 1959.

Williams, F. Leeds and District Branch, formerly Sergeant, 2nd Battalion D.W.R. Died February 28.

Mr. W. C. Harte

Mr. Harte was a member of the related Harper and Harte families whose record of service in the Regiment was given in THE IRON DUKE, Vol. XI, 1935, where there is a photo of him as Boy Harte in 1904. He died at his residence, "Bartley's Rest," New Road, Youlgreave, Derbyshire, on February 29, at the age of 72, after an illness of only two weeks.

W. C. (Bill) Harte was the younger son of Q.M.S. Charles Harte (33rd Regiment 1856-89) and Sophia Harper whose three brothers, two nephews and two great-nephews all served in the Regiment.

Boy W. C. Harte joined the Depot in 1903 at the age of 15 and was posted to the 1st Battalion in York. He went out to India with them in 1905 but, unfortunately, his service was cut short as he was invalided home and eventually discharged from the army in February 1907 with the loss of his right leg.

For the rest of his life Mr. Harte was connected with the cinema industry in Yorkshire, rising to be general manager of the Rotherham Hippodrome. He retired from this position in 1956 and moved to Derbyshire.

He leaves a widow and a son and two daughters by a previous marriage. (The son, Charles, joined the Royal Corps of Signals.) Mr. Harte's brother, Frank, served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions for 26 years and seven months, from 1893 to 1920, as a private, being regimental storeman of the 2nd Battalion for 17 years. Mr. Frank Harte, who sent us the notice of his brother's death, now lives at 14 Jewitt Road, Kimberworth Estates, Rotherham.

Mrs. Florence B. Oliver

Mrs. F. B. Oliver died at her home, Nord Cote, Broderick Road, Hampden, Eastbourne, Sussex, at the beginning of May. She was aged 77 years. Mrs. Oliver was the widow of the late Captain and Q.M. Charles Oliver who served in the Regiment for 37 years.

Captain R. A. Scott wrote to tell us that Mrs. Oliver had passed away; she had been in failing health for the past five years. She was cremated at Eastbourne and the funeral was attended by Mrs. E. M. Watson (daughter), Lt.-Comdr. R. C. Oliver, D.S.C., R.N. (stepson), and Mrs. R. C. Oliver.



No. 3 Platoon at work

1st Battalion Notes

(continued from page 97)

Cowell ("D" Company) were the winning pair in the L.M.G. shoot in the E.A.D. Competition.

We have had many new arrivals and our numbers are the highest for a long while past. The platoon commanders now use both fingers and toes to count their men. To them all we extend a hearty welcome. We particularly welcome Cpl. Gee back from 29 Brigade N.I.C. and Cpl. Brooks from "S" Company. Congratulations to Sgt. Gay on obtaining his substantive rank.

We are pleased to congratulate Cpl. Terry and Mrs. Betty Laherty, of 15 A Block, Warley Barracks, Brentwood, Essex, on the birth of a daughter on April 14.

We are sad to publish the obituary notice of Jim, our war dog, who began to have fits; he will be sadly missed.

"B" COMPANY

It has been a quarter of much success. In exercise "March Brown," described elsewhere, 4 Platoon, commanded by 2 Lt. Crook, Sgt. B. E. Smith as platoon sergeant, was judged first: 5



Lt. J. B. K. Greenway winning the 440 yds. relay for "B" Company

Platoon, commanded by 2 Lt. Bellamy, Sgt. A Collman as platoon sergeant, was second. We felt extremely tired after it, but pleased with ourselves.

Almost immediately the Company was ordered up to Stanford Practical Training Area, to administer a camp for two courses of school cadets training in leadership during their Easter holidays. We took over West Tofts Camp for a month, ran an officers' mess for 30 officers, and administered ourselves, about 20 attached and 120 cadets. During this period we completed a continuation cadre for a draft newly joined from Strensall, including the firing of rocket launchers, Energa grenades, and the throwing of H.E. grenades. While we were there the battalion had its novices boxing competition which we thereby missed.

On return, we swept the board at the Battalion athletics meeting. We came first in the 4 x 100, 4 x 220, 3 miles, high jump; we came second in the 4 x 880, long jump, pole vault, shot, javelin; we were third in the mile. In the 3 miles we came in *en bloc*, Wyatt, Ramsden, Joy and Grainge 4, 5, 6, 7, which was a splendid effort. These results gave us the day, but only by the smallest margin over "D" Company.

In the world of shooting we have been highly placed. At the East Anglian District Meeting, L/Cpl. Atkinson came fifth and Hoddinott 10th in the Young Soldiers Cup and we came second in the Company team match (team: Hoddinott, Porter, Goodyer). Major Wood won the sten, and Hoddinott and Goodyer came third in the Young Soldiers L.M.G. pairs.

At the Battalion Meeting, we won the rifle match, section match, L.M.G. pairs, S.M.G., and falling plates which, not surprisingly, gave us the cup.

We congratulate on their promotions the follow-



As they say in *Time* magazine, "Harper and Friends"

ing: L/Cpls. Atkinson, Bird, Cameron, Dixon' Gott, Kierman, McPartland and Pybus.

We congratulate also Sgt. B. E. Smith on his marriage in March, Pte. Fuller on his marriage in April, and Pte. Graham on his in May.

Sgt. Galley has left us for a posting at the M.D.C., Millom. Pte. Jackson has gone to the Boys Battalion at Plymouth and Pte. Williams has gone to H.Q. 19 Infantry Brigade a stone's throw away.

"D" COMPANY

We welcomed Major B. M. Kilner as our new Company Commander some months ago, but this is the first opportunity of doing so publicly. We feel that it will be a successful combination.

Last issue saw the Company looking forward to the trials and tribulations of "March Brown." Only 12 Platoon competed as the platoon commanders of 10 Platoon and 11 Platoon were "up for 't cup" in Berlin. Although 12 Platoon did not win they did gain a good deal of experience in raiding techniques. With the return of the gladiators the Company was back up to strength and "proceeded" to Stanford P.T.A. to put into practice some of the lessons learnt from "March Brown." We soon found out that windproof is not rainproof and many an ingenious "hoochy" leaked. However, everyone learnt a number of ways of keeping warm and dry and of making some form of protection from the elements which seem to delight in chucking the rain down whenever we go training. Although everyone was soaked at least once a day morale was quite high.

The very next week the Company again proceeded to Stanford to practice the advance to contact, taking up a defence position and patrolling from it, finishing with a company attack. It was exhausting at first but the Company soon got into the routine and so did the weather! Battling Bravo provided an aggressive enemy for us, but C.S.M. Burke saw off a platoon night attack single-handed, countering the attack by issuing orders to an imaginary platoon to cut off their withdrawal. Many a bush and tuft of grass died a horrible death by failing to answer a sentry's challenge.

The next event was annual classification which produced a considerable number of marksmen and first-class shots. The casuals who missed the first opportunity of shooting kept up the standard by producing 29 marksmen out of 33 to shoot (the officer in the butts was "2 Lt. Anonymous").

10 Platoon are now an all-regular platoon, commanded by Lt. D. Marsay. They are the Company I.S. specialists and they are becoming proficient in their riot drill. Heaven help the first rioters to cross their batons as there cannot be a more ferocious mob than these.

The Company sports meeting, which was won by 11 Platoon, produced much talent. In the Battalion meeting the Company came a close second, the result being in doubt until the last race. Lots of soccer has been played with 10 Platoon having the best side in the Company. After our first cricket trial it looks as though we should have a good cricket side too; Pte. Stead and L/Cpl. Hollows are in the Battalion 1st XI along with the Company Commander. We all seem to be in training for the

Battalion athletics team including L/Cpls. Reidy, Hollows and Coll, Ptes. Sharkey, Atkinson, Rhodes and Nash, Cpls. Clarke and Connor, and Lt. Marsay.

There have been a number of promotions and we congratulate Ptes. Merrin (now a ferocious provost), Coll, Jones, Hollows, Young, Marshall and Reidy on being made lance-corporals.

We say good-bye this time to a lot of old reliables, including Cpl. Scroby, L/Cpl. Wilkinson, Ptes. Linfoot, Hill, Greenwood, Marney, Blakey, Rhodes (00) and Robson, and wish them the best of luck in the future.

"S" COMPANY

Captain "Sam" Robertson, after a brief stay, has left us for the "higher" realms of "H.Q." Company and we welcome in his place Captain David Gilbert-Smith, M.C. Recently our company commanders have been as fleeting as French prime ministers, but it seems we will have those well-known initials, D.G.S., on our bump for some time.

We also welcome Lt. John Greeway who comes from "B" Company and who is to combine the duties of Company 2IC and Assault Pioneer Officer. The pioneers have been away for a fortnight learning and practising "bangs"; their strength is about to be increased, so they will make even more noise.

The Company should have an excellent cricket team this year, and it is going to take quite a lot to prevent us winning the inter-company competition.

Finally, as a Company, we would like to wish Lt. Jeremy Cumberlege and his new and very charming wife the very best of luck in the future.

MORTAR PLATOON

Spring has been a fairly eventful season for us. In March we went to Stanford for an excellent week of training. We did some Part II shooting, ran a cadre for section 2ICs, and continued our practice of almost destroying the M.M.G. merchants. To round the week off, the platoon commander and one section laid on a rather smooth demonstration of pit-blowing for the Brigadier.

In April, Sgts. Broomhead and Batty each took a section to Stanford to support "A" and "D" Company. This was the first time that the numbers had lived in the open; the result was quite satisfactory for a first effort.

On the sporting front, events have gone very well for us. The football team continued its winning run and our athletics team carried off the spoils at the company athletics meeting.

Next week, our six newcomers will be introduced to the mortar, and the two trained sections begin to prepare for a fortnight's concentration at Larkhill in June.

M.M.G. PLATOON

In early March the Platoon took over the unaccustomed role of rifle platoon-cum-marine command, when we took part in the exercise "March Brown" in and around the Poole area. As a whole we did not fit the picture too well, but Sgt. Stewart

and Pte. Brown are to be congratulated on carrying out an extremely efficient and successful raid.

After this painful lapse to mundane matters we turned back to our own weapons when we went up to Stanford P.T.A. to do a week's interesting and informative training, blessed by fine weather but marred by our "friends" the 3-in. Mortars who again did their utmost to wipe us out—no doubt out of jealousy.

We started to run a cadre in April with our five new members: Ptes. Carter, Ellis, Saxton, Cartlidge and Crookes but, due to various events which were beyond our control, it was only partially successful and we have to "brush up" in the near future.

We have moved into our new home at Colchester and, once we have got over the initial strangeness and teething troubles, we should be very comfortable. Fatigues are a thing of the past and training and sport should blossom.

Sgt. Middleton and Cpl. Baines are at Netheravon being trained up; they are due back at the beginning of June, when no doubt they will be bursting with newly found information and itching to try out their knowledge—beware all rifle companies!

The Platoon is to be heartily congratulated on winning the Machine Gun Fire Control Cup, a competition open to the whole of the Army—an exceptionally fine effort. We are off to Larkhill in June to fire the Machine Gun Cup, and we hope to win that also this year.

Finally may we say that we hope, when we again share the ranges with the mortars at Larkhill, that they will keep this rivalry out of their shooting and keep off our heads. Or maybe it is just because it is not a very accurate weapon anyway . . .

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The great event in the last few months was our visit to the R.A.C. Gunnery School at Lulworth to fire our guns. The platoon commander's liaison with the met office worked well, and the fine weather he indented for months in advance arrived as ordered. We travelled the 150-odd miles each way on our open land-rovers, and our first rain fell within half a mile from barracks on our return trip.

The R.A.C.'s organisation at Lulworth was excellent, providing everything from range safety picquets and radar ops. to hot tea on the firing-point. There was a good selection of hard targets to engage, ranging from 1,300 yards to about 600 yards. Considering that no one had fired this type of gun before, the results achieved, over 85 per cent. hits with the main armament, were very good. We had the usual crop of nignogs who suffered from range nerves and let the gun off without due warning but, by the judicious use of a pick helve, we maintained our sanity and Sgt. Curling's hair has not gone grey. On our last day we visited the tank museum. It was useful to see the correct proportions of many A.F.V.s we had studied so often in pictures.

We have done three exercises with anti-tank guns now, all at Stanford. We have learnt much about digging and sighting weapons. We also learnt that instantaneous fuze does not work like

cortex (Cpl. Senior please note) and that hares are not as clever as the beagling merchants make out.

We have some new members—Ptes. Pearson, Dixon (17), Wheatley, Broadbent, Sayer, Saltonstall and Whittaker (10). We welcome them to our select band.

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Cole on his promotion. With the advent of the new pay code we are not, as expected, thigh deep in Rolls Royces and certain members, including Pte. Knut, must get their 3rd Class.

"H.Q." COMPANY

I sit writing these notes ringed with "cases wood packing" for, in four days' time, we move to our new barracks at Colchester. Our sub-editor has requested us, when writing our notes, to browse through routine orders, desk dairies, files, etc. This can be most enjoyable, especially when most of them have been packed. Good soldiers, however, always do as they are told and we do enjoy knocking the nails back in.

Our fortunes have fluctuated during the last quarter. In some activities we did quite well, in others we held up the remainder of the Battalion. This was perhaps due to pressure of work on some of our departments; nevertheless, by not getting the full support of the Company into some of the competitions we failed miserably.

We tied with "A" Company in the inter-company boxing with 29 points, they gaining the award on the result of the 1st string welter fight. P.E. tests were carried out and we reached the top of the ladder with 90.6 per cent. passes.

Athletics proved a different proposition for we were the most consistent Company on the field—we lost most events. Unfortunately, our team was only represented by the Band/Drums and Signal Platoon; those that did take part tried hard, but their best was not good enough to win. We are at the bottom of the ladder for saving money. But the M.T. Platoon are runners-up to 20th Field Regiment R.A. for having the greatest number of accidents in the Brigade for last month; so, once more, we are on the way up.

I notice an entry in my diary "C.S.M. Burke, Batman." This does not mean that C.S.M. Burke is now allowed a batman, but that Major Kilner, on leaving the Company to take over command of "Delta," requires a good batman there. The Company was sorry to see him go. He sorted us out for our new role of airportability and held the reins in many of our activities—not only could he tell us who the footballers were but he could tell as soon as a new blade of grass appeared on the field.

His successor, Captain Robertson, is not new to the Company. He has served on and off for quite some time in "H.Q." but we welcome him for the first time as fully fledged company commander. A major part of his time is taken up shooting with Jock Norman, S/Sgt. Kingdon, and his "Bisley Bullets." Not to be forgotten is our future 2nd C.Q.M.S., "Jock" Fenn, who has also joined this band of gladiators.

Congratulations go to Pte. Wyatt (Officers' Mess) for coming second in the Western Command 25-

Mile Cycle Road Race. Also to Major Kavanagh on his appointment to 2IC of the Battalion, Lt. D. M. Lindsay, our doctor, on his promotion to captain, and to Lt. (Q.M.) B. Dawson, the M.T.O., on his promotion. Sgt. B. Crawshaw (Band) is now substantive; so is S/Sgt. Kingdon our Armourer and, not forgetting the men that count, Ptes. Wylde (Q.M.), McNiel (Band), O'Donnell (Sigs.), Stone (A.C.C.), Stringer (I Section) and Slinger (R. Police) all go to lance-corporal.

Our farewells have been too numerous to do other than say good-bye to all and thank them for their services. We welcome Cpl. Robinson (Weapon Training), Pte. Frampton (Company Clerk), Cpl. Hobbs (A.C.C.), Pte. Campbell (Battalion Orderly Room), L/Cpl. Merrin (R. Police), Pte. Perkins (M.T.), Ptes. Bancroft (M.T.), Bramley (M.T.), Hall (M.T.), Hanson (M.T.), Hicks (M.T.), Wheelwright (M.T.), McCormack (M.T.), Freeman (Band), Kennedy (Band), Wilson (Band), Garlick (Drums), Slater (Drums), Mace (Sergeants' Mess), and Whitham (Sergeants' Mess).

We are now 296 strong, without our officers, so a few more will make little difference either way. Why should we worry—it's Major Kavanagh's job to fit us into the new barracks.

The Signals and Band received a visit from Lt.-General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O., on April 12, and the Q.M. entertained the Command Secretary between April 4-7. The first visitor left behind a favourable impression; he is an officer who soon puts you at ease. The Command Secretary, on the other hand, worried the C.Q.M.S. for days with his ration state and would insist that Sgt. Garrity and L/Cpl. Hey must have their leave warrants entered in their pay books; and that the Messing Officer should arrange for the disposal of his bones.

Cpl. Stanworth is being posted to Brigade at Strensall. He has been the company clerk for 18 months and has done a first-class job. We don't want to lose him, but we feel it is to his advantage to establish himself in the Brigade orderly room. Thank you for your work, corporal, and may you have good fortune with your wife and family in your new job.

SIGNAL PLATOON

The platoon has started morse training in earnest, ready for the exercise in Africa where it is expected that we will have 100 miles between sub-stations. "Heaven help Control."

Some comedians have been trying morse on makeshift tom-toms (having read a pamphlet "Get to Know Your Country") with outstanding rock-and-roll success. One can foresee the follow up of native dances, something like "H.Q." muster parade. When that happens it has been suggested that the T.V. film unit from "Tonight" comes down to do a Meeanee folk lore programme.

On parade the latest craze is to murmur morse prosigns! A conversation could go like this:—

R.S.M. (shouts to platoon sergeant): "Get that signaller's !!! rifle straight."

Platoon sergeant (to signaller): "INT QRM."

Signaller: "ZUG."

Platoon sergeant: "Get that bayonet upright."

Signaller: "What? ZOE."

Platoon sergeant: "ZUG ZKD of yourself,
INT QSA."

Signaller: "QSA 5."

Platoon sergeant: "ZBI of R.S.M."

The platoon has done well in the inter-platoon football league and shared top position with the Mortar Platoon. We congratulate the following on getting in the Battalion final football trial: Ptes. Rushman, Rhodes, King and Bridgewood. Bridgewood got his place in the Battalion 1st team and played two games before breaking his ankle; we are glad to say that he is well on the road to recovery.

L/Cpls. Cairns, Lawrence and Howard are preparing themselves for the Hythe R.S.I. course in July. We wish them all the best and hope their gradings will be "B" plus.

Some weeks ago the platoon did a demonstration for Major-General Kusheshi of the Imperial Iranian Army and his staff which was a great success. Some of the men who took part are shown in the photograph. Left to right: Cpl. Kelly, Pte. Chatterton, L/Cpl. Bowles (Dvr.), Ptes. Garside, Livesey, Holdstead and King.



THE BAND

We have left Warley Barracks for the luxurious and ultra-modern Meeanee Barracks. We all enjoyed our stay at Brentwood and were pleased by expressions of appreciation from the local populace.

We offer our very best congratulations to Bandmaster Bowyer on the birth of a son. Also to Bds. Parr and Harrison (25) on their marriages.

L/Cpl. (Swill) Gill has left us after many years for the sunnier climes of Gibraltar. We shall all miss him and hope that he does well with his new regiment.

We welcome into our fold Ptes. Freeman, Wilson and Kennedy who have joined us from Strensall.

The summer season is about to start and the Band has said good-bye to its weekend "lie in." We hope we shall have many pleasant engagements to fulfil.

Judging by the number of cars now in the Band we've "never had it so good." Sgt. Jennians wishes to dispel rumours that we are having a team in the London to Brighton veteran car run.

Our final thoughts (and sympathy) are with

"Knobby" Crawshaw, now undergoing the terrors of a drill course at Pirbright. He has our prayers every night.

UNIT PAY TEAM

The office successfully completed the move from Warley to Colchester without incident although the quantity of kit moved seemed to have increased by 50 per cent. since Holywood—probably due to all those tennis rackets.

On arrival at Colchester we were suitably dazzled by the splendour, but nonetheless impressed by the dire warnings of damages (as yet unknown), and consequent financial hardship, issued by Major Kavanagh.

The office was planned as a company store. There were, therefore, numbers of shelves which had to be removed from the centre of the room before anyone could sit down. This has been done, and the effect is, remarkably, that of a pay office. The unsullied beauty of the floors causes headaches; which polish is suitable, and how much is required? These, we are led to believe, are floors out of this world, the *dernier cri* in fact.

Snags? Merely that U.P.M. and P.R.I. have renewed the "jolly old pals" act, and share a telephone. Net result, 96 out of every 100 calls are for P.R.I., and the main phone is in the Paymaster's office; there is, however, a delightful bell, which emits a snarling military sound. The P.R.I. stands up to it very well.

Chief talking points recently have been:—

- (a) The selection of L/Cpl. Hey to play tennis for the Army against Cambridge University.
- (b) The proximity of the Band practice room.
- (c) The athletic accomplishments of L/Cpls. Watkins and Large (track suits into the bargain).
- (d) The marriage of L/Cpl. Nobes, who sent an original situation report from the peace of South Devon.
- (e) The valuable assistance given by Sgt. Garrity, who has been accepted for a transfer in course at Devizes in October.
- (f) The proximity of the Band practice room.
- (g) Staff and his "Vespa," complete with "helmets crash," and "gauntlets, pairs."
- (h) Sgt. Kirk assisting "H.Q." Company in their rifle meeting, and becoming the second typist (there is so much to type).
- (i) The proximity of the Band practice room.
- (j) The rugger success of L/Cpl. Hughes, coupled with his 2 not out on the No. 1 cricket ground (a feat watched by 25 people and two dogs).
- (k) Tennis again, with L/Cpl. Walton joining in against District Pay Office, Shorncliffe.
- (l) U.P.M. and "Boanerges," an elderly two-wheel passing his final days of service by travelling five miles or more daily with questionable tyres and suspect brake blocks.
- (m) The proximity of the Band practice room.
- (n) **THAT PROFORMA!**

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