

*With the Editors' Compliments*

# THE HAVERCAKE LAD.

REGIMENTAL PAPER

OF THE

1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGT.

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

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MALTA, 15th MARCH, 1897.

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# The Havercake Lad.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

No. 1. ]

MALTA, 15th MARCH, 1897.

[ Price 3d.

## EDITORIAL.

It is now some years since a regimental paper of the "Dukes" was published. It was then known by the title of the "Duke of Wellington's Journal" but died a natural death when the Battalion was serving in the "Shiny." In introducing the present periodical to our readers a few explanatory remarks regarding the title adopted may not be out of place.

In 1814 the recruiting sergeant of the Regiment usually preceded the recruits with an oatcake, or havercake, stuck on his sword, and the following anecdote of a recruiting sergeant who belonged to the Regiment, which was then called First Yorkshire West Riding Regiment, is thus told; Addressing his wondering Yorkshire listeners, he said "Come my lads, dont lose your time listening to what them fool sojers says about their ridgements. List in my ridgement and you'll be alright. Their ridgements are obliged to march on foot, but my ridgement is the gallant 33rd, the First Yorkshire West Riding Ridgement, and when you go from headquarters ye'll all be mounted on horses."

We the present editors, being new to the work, are naturally diffident as to the future of the journal, but are confident that all interested in its welfare will do their utmost to help us. It will be our chief aim and object to strengthen the "Esprit de Corps," and to bring past and present members of the regiment into touch with one another. We shall therefore be most happy to publish any communications that may be sent us by former members of the old 33rd.

A column will always be left vacant for correspondence, so hoping to produce a periodical acceptable to all our friends, and that they will not be too severe on our efforts.

We remain

THE EDITORS.

## RESUMÉ.

Sixteen months have passed since we of the regiment left the chalky cliffs of Dover behind us. After a pleasant and uneventful voyage on the good ship "Pavonia" we landed at Malta on 6th October, 1895, and took up our

quarters at Verdala where we remained until July last. In March the strength of the Regiment was increased by a big draft of 320 N. C. O's. and men under Major Thomson—from the depôt.

On the departure of the 2nd King's Royal Rifles for South Africa in the middle of July, we exchanged Verdala for Floriana, and the writer of this article has a vivid recollection of the day, it being one of the hottest of a hot summer. The general health of the Regiment has been good, for, though there have been many men in hospital we have escaped with two casualties, one of which was the result of an accident.

As regards sports, the Regiment has shown up well, our Rugby Football team bringing us to the fore as usual. We were unlucky in the Cricket Cup but hope to make a bold bid for it during the coming season.

Hockey seems to have "caught on" and elsewhere in these columns it will found to be fully dealt with as, too, will other sport.

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## REGIMENTAL NEWS.

### YULE-TIDE REJOICINGS.

The first thing that strikes the casual observer as he makes his customary round of "Tommyland" at this festive season of the year in Malta is the total absence of barrack room decorations. There are no garlands of pink, green, or yellow paper suspended from the gas-brackets; absent are the large elephants or lions holding the Iron Duke's pennant; vanished are the different mottoes adorning the whitewashed walls, wishing "Health and prosperity to Captain and Mrs. A." etc. etc!

But in spite of the absence of these usual signs of the Season it is doubtful if our friend Tommy enjoys his Xmas any the less. The dinner boards in the barrack-rooms simply groaned under the good cheer, and no depression of spirits was noticeable. But to our knowing observer there was yet another sign to denote that Santa Claus was with us again. This was the great number of strange faces met at every turn. On making enquiries our k. o. was informed that these were "employed" men, and they certainly had sufficient employment during dinner hour. In fact the only mortals who did not seem to be absolutely enjoying themselves were the sentries and men on guard.

Having said quite enough about Xmas Day itself, it is necessary to chronicle the treat given some few days afterwards to the married people and children of the battalion. This function was a success in every way. As the hour for commencement approaches, one is particularly struck by the smart and punctual attendance of all the drummer boys; they have not come to beat a "Retreat" in this instance, however, and if one enters the room directly after the appointed hour, the cause of their punctuality is apparent in the artless manner in which they enjoy the buns and tea. The tea was, in fact, very well attended, and all the little ones looked very smart in their best frocks. The next thing on the programme was the distribution of presents, kindly undertaken, as usual, by Mrs. Connor. Then came a spirited little play in which Miss Connor and Miss Seaman took parts. After the play the guests took their departure, well pleased both with themselves and the entertainment. A description of the Sergeants' Dance will be found in another column.

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 THE LAMENT OF THE SUBALTERN ON GUARD.
 

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The following stanzas are copied from the original manuscript on the walls of the Officer's room in the Main Valletta Guard-house.

It seems a thousand pities that a poet of such stupendous genius should have hidden his light, so to speak, under a bushel; for had he been of a pushing or forward nature he might have aspired, not without a chance of success, to the laureateship. As however, he was either unwilling or too modest to blow his own trumpet; we think that in performing the above feat for him we are merely discharging a debt due to Society at large.

For it goes without saying that, once a specimen of his work is published in "The Lad," his fame is assured. Out of several productions on different subjects and in varying metres from the same pen—or rather pencil—we have chosen this particular one, as we consider it to be his masterpiece.

## 1

When marching on the Palace Square  
With shouldered arms and vacant stare  
The first thing now that greets you there

Is "Guard turn out!"

## 2

The old guard having marched away  
You settle down to pass the day  
With book and pipe, as best you may,

When "Guard turn out!"

## 3

Oh d...n the awful sentry's cry  
That brings you out so hurriedly  
With gloves half on and hat awry!  
The General is passing by,

So its "Guard turn out!"

## 4

At intervals throughout the day  
That blessed sentry shouts away,  
As if he'd nothing else to say

But "Guard turn out!"

## 5

To Governor, Bishop, and armed corps,  
As well as Generals galore,  
Armed parties, and to half a score  
Of other kinds of awful bore

'Tis "Guard turn out!"

## 6

Nor yet at night d'you get repose;  
Just as you're settled for a doze  
The sentry bellows all he knows

"Halt ..... Guard turn out!"

7

Off you scuttle down the stair  
 To find Grand Rounds are waiting there ;  
 Then back again to curse and swear !  
 You've had enough and do not care  
 What happens next. It isn't fair  
 To place the island in your care.

D—n "Guard turn out!"

8

Reveille sounds and up you get ;  
 Your duties are not over yet,  
 But how keenly now you're looking out  
 For your relief both strong and stout !  
 At last you hear a joyful shout.

of "Guard turn out!"

### COMINGS AND GOINGS.

The 4th February was an unusually eventful day in the Garrison, and it was noteworthy in more than one particular. To begin with, the sun shone forth in all its splendour out of a cloudless sky, whilst the atmosphere was cool and fresh.

This in itself may not, perhaps, be anything out of the ordinary, but it is so when one remembers the month or more of dull, unpleasant days which preceded it. It seemed, in fact, quite providential that such a fine day was procured for the busy scenes which were enacted in it.

Very early in the morning might be seen, majestically wending her way into the P. & O. harbour, the hired transport "VICTORIA." She was outward bound, and had on board about 500 men of the 1st Seaforth Highlanders (the old 72nd.) After having experienced the delights of Aldershot they have been sent to taste those of Malta. Uncommonly smart did they look, robed in the "Garb of old Gaul", and medals on their manly breasts were as plentiful as flies round a jam-pot.

The Seaforths were relieving the Lincolns, from whom they were taking over the Lower St. Elmo Barracks. The Lincolns went on to Egypt by the "VICTORIA," and we wish them all good luck, for they were most excellent fellows, and no two regiments could wish to get on better together than did the 10th and the 33rd. The 72nd are our friends of a very long-standing, and we had the honour, conjointly with the Highland Light Infantry, of entertaining the men at dinner on their disembarkation, helping with baggage etc. They are expecting to be brought up to strength by a large draft from their Indian Battn., which will probably have arrived sometime before this goes to the press.

This has not been the only move in the Garrison during the short period 97 has so far run. For early in January, the Warwicks left for Egypt and were replaced by the 2nd Bn. Dorsets. So altogether the months of January and February were fairly full of leave-takings and be a no-makings, marked by good-fellowship and the mutual hope of meeting again on another occasion not far distant.

## OBITUARY.

### *GENERAL EDWARD WESTBY DONOVAN.*

General Edward Westby Donovan, an old representative of the 33rd Duke of Wellington's Regt., died at Southsea, on January 21st, in his 76th year. Gen. Donovan received his first commission in the Regiment in 1840; served in the Crimean Campaign, being present at the battles of Alma and Inkerman; was severely wounded whilst in the trenches during the siege of Sebastopol (mentioned in despatches, medal with three clasps, brevets of Major and Lieutenant Colonel, Legion of Honour, 5th Class of the Medjidie, and Turkish medal.) In 1864 he exchanged to the 100th as Lieut. Colonel. He became Lieut. General in 1881, was placed on the Retired List with the honorary rank of General in 1887, and was appointed Colonel of the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1891.

General Donovan was one of the six surviving Generals who landed with the Army in the Crimea, and after taking part in all the battles and the siege of Sebastopol subsequently served on and held Generals Commands until they attained the rank of Lieutenant General, but have never received the distinction of any English Order. The others are Generals Geo. Erskine (Colonel of the Duke's,) T. H. Pakenham, A. Macdonald, J. H. Dunne, and E. Markham. Although the two former are recorded in the Official Army List as having been mentioned in despatches, the reason for the three latter not having been made Companions of the Bath on the occasion of the Jubilee was that it was against the rules of the Order, owing to their names never having been mentioned in a despatch published in the London Gazette. But in poor Donovan's case there is no doubt whatever that his name was published in a despatch of May 2nd 1855. His memory had latterly failed, and when asked a few days before his death as to what he did on that occasion, he said something about taking a Russian gun, and added, "Russell (the Times Correspondent) knows all about it." He felt bitterly in his latter years the way his long and good service had been overlooked, and it seems quite unaccountable that he was not made a C. B. years before his retirement in 1887. He was of a very retiring nature and reluctant to advance his claims personally. In May, 1887, before the Jubilee honours came out, he was informed by the Military Secretary that he was not then eligible to be made a C.B., in consequence of being on the Retired List.

General Donovan, whose younger brother Henry was killed as a subaltern of the 33rd at the storming of the Redan, was 7th on the seniority list of the 33rd when it left for the Crimea under Colonel Frederick Rodolph Blake, and was the immediate junior of the late General Collings and General Geo. Erskine who in his 82nd year is "Father" of the Regt. and its senior survivor of the only great war in which the Duke's has served since Waterloo. Its Crimean roster comprises the following officers—Gen. Geo. Erskine, Lieutenant Colonels Henry Charles Fitzgerald, Thomas Wickham, and Thomas Basil Fanshawe (who now has a son in the 33rd); Colonel Sir Charles Mansfield who was not, however, with the Regt. but on Sir Colin Campbell's Staff throughout the war; Major Alexander Bruce Wallis; Lieutenant Colonel Charles Moore Brabazon Siree;

Captain John Ralph Carr-Ellison of Hebburn Hall; Captain John Thornton Rogers; Lieut. General Arthur E. Ellis, C.S.I.; Gen. Viscount Montfort de Montmorency; Colonel John Douglas Johnstone, and Major Francis A. Ball.

Captain Joseph Clarke, retired Qr. Master, represents the gallant N. C. O.'s one of whom—John Thompson—won the Inkerman ensigncy awarded the Regt. and died paymaster of the 76th in India in 1874. To the list of officers before mentioned might be added Major General E.W. Bally, Captain William Henry Parr, Burton Martin Kendrick, and John James Greenwood, but the three latter have long since sold out of the service, and we have no record of their being alive. (*From the Army and Navy Gazette.*)

### CAPTAIN F. H. A. SWANSON.

Captain Frank Harrison Ainsworth Swanson, 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment, died at Pietermaritzburg of fever on Saturday January 22nd on return from Mashonaland, at the early age of 32. He was the eldest son of the late Lieut. Colonel F. Swanson, Royal Artillery. He joined the Duke's from the R. M. College, Sandhurst, on February 7th 1885, and became Captain on February 11th 1891, after the short period of six years' service. He will be best remembered by the men of this battalion as having been stationed at the dépôt a year or two ago.

### A FAREWELL SMOKER.

*The following is from the "Daily Malta Chronicle" of January 29th 1897.*

The warrant officers, staff sergeants and sergeants of the 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment entertained the corresponding ranks of the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment to a farewell smoking concert in their spacious messroom at Floriana Barracks on Wednesday night the 27th inst. Social functions of this nature, at which the height of good fellowship is invariably reached, and friendships formed which distance and years can do naught to sever, are ever looked back upon with real pleasure by all those whose good fortune it is to participate in them. Hence it follows as a matter of course that invitations thereto are not left unanswered long, or that it would take something more powerful than a frisky team of wild two-year-olds to prevent the invited one from betaking himself to the hospitable and, as night advances, cloud-enveloped board, around which jovial song, mirth-provoking story, titillating joke and the best of good cheer and company are both the order of the day and the only desiderata of the happy convivialists. Thoughts such as are here given vent to were uppermost in our mind as, snugly enveloped in a thick, warm military greatcoat, for the night was inclined to be chilly, we crossed the pebbly parade ground on our way to the well-remembered mess, nor did we find ourselves far out in our calculations as to the coming night's festivities when we set foot inside the brightly lighted and cosily arranged room in which the "smoker" was to be held, for the tables literally groaned beneath the weight of the good things placed thereon for consumption, inhalation and emission, and every face of the assembled company bore that contented and self-satisfied look which it does one's heart good to see.

The chair having been taken shortly after 8 o'clock by Sergeant Major Kerns, and the hosts and guests having seated themselves around the board, glasses were filled, pipes and cigars were set agoing, the health of the Queen was proposed from the chair and right loyally drunk and the harmony of the evening



was comenced by Sergeant Cadman, West Riding, singing the fetching ditty "She was in," which he supplemented later on by "How I listed for a soldier" Sergeant Allen, West Riding, who, by the bye, sings bass in the choir of St. Paul's Church, was at the piano, and nothing seemed to come amiss to him in his self-imposed task of accompanist throughout the whole long entertainment.

Those others who freely obliged with practical demonstrations of their vocal abilities and the songs they gave were as follows:—Sergeant Heap, West Riding, "Sweet by and bye," "Exchange is no robbery;"—Sergeant Stone, Lincoln, "I wish there were no prisons;"—Sergt. Duell, West Riding "Shout boys shout," capital parody on "Just before the battle mother," "Monarch of the wood;"—Sergeant Bean, Lincoln, parody on "The miner's dream of home;"—Sergeant Wildy, Lincoln, "Strolling round the town;"—Colour Sergeant Thompson, West Riding "Boosing;"—Colour Sergt. Ley, Lincoln, "Soldier Jim;"—Staff Sergeant Green, Gymnastic Staff, "They're waiting there for me;"—Mr. Fitzgerald R.N., "The spirit hand;"—Sergeant Jones, Lincoln, "The pardon came too late;"—Barrack Colour Sergeant Douse, "Patsy Brannigan;"—Sergeant Fraser, Lincoln, "Say au revoir but not good-bye;"—Sergeant Drummer Moss, Lincoln, "Clara Nolan's ball;"—Sergeant Mc Mahon, West Riding, "On board the Calabar;" "Sunny summer."

Sergeant Heap, West Riding, also gave a very spirited rendering of the touching recitation entitled "Shamus O'Brien," and Armourer Sergeant Smith, Lincoln, greatly amused the company with a neatly executed dance, being the wind up of a song the chorus of which commences with "She's my charmen, she's my queen," or words to that effect, as the 'charge sheet' has it.

When it is added that the conclusion of each and all of the foregoing items was met with the vociferous singing by all present of the now well known Malta refrain, it can readily be understood that at times we had grave doubts about the holding together of the rafters, which were made to ring again and again with the rolling, catchy chorus:—

Song, song, very well sung,  
Jolly good fellows are we every one,  
If you think you can beat it  
You're welcome to try,  
But always remember the singer is dry. Song!!!

Among the other toasts was that of "Our Guests the Lincolns" proposed by the chair, enthusiastically drunk, and ably responded to by Sergeant Major Church.

The invited visitors present were:—Staff Quartermaster Sergeant Maude, Mr. Fitzgerald E.R.A., H.M.S. Polyphemus; Mr. Short, Army Ordnance Department; Barrack Colour Sergeant Douse; Staff Sergeant Green, Gymnastic Staff; Band Sergeant Keating, 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers; and several other naval friends.

## OUR 2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION.

A recent issue of the cycling weekly "*The Hub*" contained a reproduction of an excellent Photograph of the cyclist section of one of our Volunteer Battalions, with the following complimentary reference:—

"The Cyclist Section of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) was formed on September 18th, 1889, and was one of

the earliest in a movement which has since spread so largely, not only among Volunteers, but every arm of the service. Colonel Freeman, who had command of the Huddersfield Rifles, was the original promoter of the movement. During the winter months classes were held and well attended, for signalling, cycling drill, and topography, and in this latter feature the section have been highly complimented on several occasions by Gen. Wilkinson, C.B., Col. Fenn, and Brigadier Wilson. In 1894 the section sent a team to compete in the "Volunteers Infantry Cyclist Long-distance Contest," better known as the "Savile Cup" at Blackwater. The day was a frightful one, the rain coming down literally in torrents for a greater part of the journey. The 2nd West Riding finished second out of the twelve teams that started."

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### PIPE PUFFS.

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The late Lieut. A. C. Thomson, Leicestershire Regt. who was killed the other day in West Africa whilst serving with the Niger Company, was a first-rate footballer. In the Chatham Garrison Match of, 94 in the Kent Rugby Cup Competition—our solitary reverse since coming South from Yorkshire—he may be remembered as a centre  $\frac{3}{4}$  back who was an uncommonly strong runner, and who was the first to cross our line on that ill-starred day.

Sometimes "Station Orders" are unintentionally funny. There had been a dance at Rawal Pindi at the Club House. Next day the following appeared in orders—

"Found in the compound at the Club House after the dance last night a lady's mackintosh and a field officer's spur. The same will be restored on application to the Secretary of the Club." (From the Sporting Times February 6th 1897.)

Apropos of the intended scheme of sending the Guards to the Mediterranean stations, a most amusing cartoon appeared in "Punch" of February, 13th. The letterpress is headed "The Exile from Mayfair," and the cartoon depicts a typical officer of Grenadiers—complete with heavy moustache, eyeglass, and cigar—sitting on the summit of the Rock of Gibraltar. He is surrounded by a jabbering circle of Barbary Apes, and, as he languidly takes his Havanna from his mouth, he asks: "Aw—let me see. Do I know any of your people?"

Under the mistaken impression that all the Guards are to be sent abroad a petition to the Secretary of War has been circulated amongst the servant maids of London, and has already obtained some tens of thousands of signatures. (From the Sporting Times, February 13th 1897.)

It is reported on reliable authority that the inhabitants of the trees on the N. W. side of the Floriana parade ground are in a starving condition.

We read of one of the early Saxon Kings of England who offered a bounty for every wolf's head that was brought him. Would it not be a good thing if a similar system were applied to the Floriana cats?

Horrible disclosures reach us from India as to the inefficacy of the present 303 Lee-Metford rifle bullet in stopping rushes of savages. It has been left to Captain Bertie of the factory at Dum Dum to invent and bring out a bullet that is warranted to stop the fiercest onslaught of the wild Hill tribesmen of India or the gallant Fuzzy Wuzzy of the Soudan.

## “MANDALAY” IN REALITY.

Perhaps no contemporary writer has a more legitimate claim on the gratitude and admiration of the British Soldier than Mr. Rudyard Kipling. We are all familiar with his world-famous Barrack Room Ballads, his realistic descriptions of the soldier's everyday life, and his stirring military romances of the Indian hills. One of Mr. Kipling's most popular ballads “On the Road to Mandalay,” has been made the subject of a parody by a soldier who writes from Mandalay over the signature of “Moung Win.” The parody first appeared in “The Allahabad Pioneer,” and is reproduced in full:—

They talks a lot of Burmah, and they talks of Mandalay,  
And to folks who 'avan't bin there, it's a decent place, they say;  
But I've done three years in Burmah, and I've lived in Mandalay,  
And thank Gawd and all the prophets that I haven't got to stay.  
On the road from Mandalay,  
Which ain't 'arf the place they say,

Where those bloomin' big mosquitoes tear  
And tease you night and day.  
On the road from Mandalay,  
Where the gentle cobras play,

From the place where flyin' fishes  
Don't exist—as some folks say!  
Where yer cheeks become like cold boiled pork

An' enteric's runnin' free,  
The cry for “East o' Suez”  
Some'ow don't appeal to me.  
An' I'd give yer Theebaw's treasure—

If I 'ad it in my 'and—  
For a penny ride on a 'bus, outside,  
With an 'ousemaid down the Strand.  
On the road from Mandalay  
Where we cursed the livelong day,

Where the rain come down like thunder  
When the 'eavens feels that way.  
On the road from Mandalay  
Burnin' shine, then sodden grey  
'Bout the dawn there seem some blunder,  
For there ain't no bloomin' bay!

\* \* \* \* \*

Yes, it's all a bloomin' sell,  
Rubies, loot, and girls as well,  
And if you're bound for Burmah, don't you swaller all they tell.

Lawd, what do they understand  
Of this Gawd-forsaken land—  
When at times it blows that 'eavy  
That it fills yer up with sand;  
Out they jumps upon the strand,  
Stop a day and 'ears the band,  
Then they're off again to-morrow  
With their note-books in their 'and,  
And we stay to 'ear the Dead March  
Practised daily by the band.  
On the road from Mandalay  
Which 'aint arf place they say,  
Thank the Lawd and the prophets that

I'm off—at least away—  
On the road from Mandalay  
Spicey smells 'an all—good day;  
For I've wrote and told my Polly that I'm comin' ome to stay.”

## LEISURE MOMENTS ON GUARD.

## THE GOAT.

Buffon not being a part of a soldiers kit, I must perforce sit on my haunches and cull from my treacherous memory something descriptive of this animal of which on this island we see and smell so much. It is of the Maltese breed that I write. Go where you will, you will see straggling herds of these shaggy, stupid-looking quadrupeds. One of the staple trades of Malta is the collection and sale of goat's milk. As far as you can judge they are milked and fed at all times—if fed at all. They seem to relish any refuse, bits of stale bread, cigarette and cigar ends, etc., and they appear to have no resting place, but particularly hug the outside of barrack-guard-rooms, doubtless because the herdsman (if so he can be called) generally get a bits of "rooty" and the hardest-hearted Tommy cannot resist the appeal for "mungy for de goat," and has he not immortalized it in song, which is taken up with great gusto on the march—"Gibla mungy for de goat"? If there is one soft spot in the heart of a Maltese it is for his goat. I once saw a goat just grazed by a passing cart in Strada Reale, and the scene of gesticulating, frenzied Maltese defies description. Had the French again landed, a greater commotion could not have occurred. Apart from the lacteal qualities of the Maltese goat it has yet another, and that is the powerfulness of its smell. They are also very inquisitive, and a good story is told by Cpl. Ananias of the landing here of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. When they got to Verdala, outside the cook-house were struck with amazement at such a clean, bejewelled dandy, got up regardless of expense, and crowded round him like bumboats around a trooper, either with a view to exchanging fleas or knocking him out, but Billy drew back, and putting all the corn and beer he daily consumes into one fell rush, disembowelled one on the spot. He was clinked and crimed with "tampering with the regimental milk", but got a washout. I have another goat story—a true one. A few years ago, at a large seaport town in Wales there was a European consul, whose wife was consumptive. She was ordered goat's milk by her medical attendant. The consul was no agriculturalist, and had never in all probability seen a goat except in Zoological gardens. He advertised and was soon fitted up with a handsome specimen. It was to arrive at a certain time at his chateau, and he had an admiring group of friends, who knew as much about the business as he did and many were the conjectures as to the amount of milk per diem which could be extracted. It arrived and was at once handed over to the gardener with many instructions. The gardener couldn't look at the goat for laughter much to the annoyance of his master. It took a lot of explaining, but it finally dawned on the consul that he had bought a Billy—a he-goat. He will not even wear kid gloves now best they remind him of the painful occurrence.

GAUCHO.

## HOCKEY.

"Polo" has been designated hockey on horseback and inversely hockey may be termed polo on foot. Its origin is, like that of nearly every game, shrouded in mystery. But despite its doubtful ancestry hockey is fast pushing its way to the fore—at any rate in Malta, and there are few ships or corps

that cannot boast of a team. In our own battalion the game seems to have found a considerable amount of favour, for besides the officers' team the sergeants have numerous devotees to the art, and before very long we shall no doubt see all ranks participating in this healthy and 'weight-reducing' pastime.

But, like the proverbial 'course of true love,' which is said to not always run smoothly, there are certain little contretemps which have to be met with, put up with, or overcome, in playing hockey out here.

To begin with, a good ground is a luxury seldom met with—though we are glad to see that a ground *with real grass on it* is being prepared down at the Marsa, along a portion of the straight half-mile course. This ground at present only needs rolling to turn it into a very fairly good one, and it has the additional advantage of not interfering in any way with the different games of football that may be going on. The other "fields" on which the game is at present played are the Floriana parade-ground, Corradino, and Imtarfa. A description of the soil and surface of these grounds would be superfluous information to most of our readers.

Another slight hindrance to the speedy development of hockey here is the paucity of proper sticks. The manager of the various athletic shops in Malta seem to take a fiendish delight in importing their consignment of hockey-sticks by two or three at a time, so that on the second day of asking they are all "sold out". This may sound like a frivolous complaint, but it has been no unusual thing for us to arrive on the ground, ready to begin the contest, and find only half the players equipped with proper weapons. The procedure usually adopted under the above conditions is as follows—all the sticks, proper and make-shift, are put together and divided into two equal portions among the two teams. Thus a man who has his own pet hockey-stick may have to put up with a 'fourpenny touch' from the Junior A. and N. Stores, and also run the risk of getting his own club smashed against a rock by the person using it.

A resume of the chief hockey matches played by our officers' team will be found below, and we shall be glad to publish from time to time any other matches that may be sent us for insertion in "The Lad."

v. Lincoln Regt.	Drawn.	Three goals all.
v. King's Own Regt.	Lost.	Eight goals to nil.
v. Worcester Regt.	Lost.	Four goals to three.
v. H.M.S. Cambrian.	Won.	Four goals to one.
v. King's Own Regt.	Won.	Two goals to one.
v. Worcester Regt.	Won.	Two goals to one.
v. Castille.	Drawn.	One goal all
v. Lincoln Regt.	Won.	7 goals to nil.

### THE SERGEANTS DANCE.

The annual Dance given by the sergeants of the Regiment was held in Valletta Gymnasium on New Years eve, and proved to be the most successful function of its kind in recent years, and will long be remembered by those present as most enjoyable in every way. The arrangements were most complete and thorough and reflected great credit on all concerned.

In the unavoidable and regrettable absence of Sergeant Major Kerns, the duties of president devolved on Band Master Neill, while Colour Sergeant Waller acted as M. C.

Between 200 and 300 people were present and dancing was kept up with great spirit until the early hours. Colonel Mrs and Miss Conor and most of the officers were present.

## REGIMENTAL NEWS.

The following appeared in the official programme of regimental reliefs for 1897-98:—2nd Battalion West Riding Regt., Natal to India.

Major Thorold came in for a good deal of work during the troubles in South Africa at the end of last year. He held a command of considerable importance, and may thus be said to have been instrumental in restoring quiet. Last, but not least, his photo appeared in one of the weekly illustrated papers.

On February 9th Captain Taylor and Lieutenant Bainbridge won the Golf Challenge Cup, beating the H.L.I. team. Captain Taylor also won the Singles handicap Class I (handicap under 12,) and Lieut. Bainbridge that in Class II (handicap over 12.)

On February 2nd a draft was embarked for England under 2nd Lieutenant Bray, who is relieving Lieutenant Acworth at the Provisional Battalion. The draft included the veteran footballer Sergeant Duell whose time is up. Sergt. Duell has done yeoman's service in our Rugby XV. and in fact may almost be termed the father of it.

The Regt. trooped the colour on the Palace Square on Thursday, February 11th 1897.

February 10th and 13th were the days set apart for the "Valentine" Race Meeting of the Malta Jockey and Sporting Club at the Marsa. On more than one occasion the maroon and white colours of the old Duke's were borne to the front under the skilful horsemanship of Captain Godfrey.

The following have been granted Good Conduct pay between January 1st and March 1st this year:—

				AT LD.			
No. 4555	Lie. Copt. J. Catton,	A Coy.	No. 4494	Pte. F. Cannaford,			
" 4558	Pte. W. Cadham,	"	" 4501	" J. George,	"		
" 4559	" P. Wilkinson,	"	" 4502	" J. Goulding,	"		
" 4562	" G. Fieldhouse,	"	" 4505	" G. Johnson,	"		
" 4563	" W. Fishe,	"	" 4425	" J. Martin,	"		
" 4560	" G. Johnson,	"	" 4643	" G. Bowers,	"		
" 3105	" A. Oram, (restoration),	"	" 4649	" W. Foster,	"		
" 4276	" A. Smith,	"	" 4653	" J. Hartley,	"		
" 4643	" G. Bowers,	"	" 4665	" E. Stephenson,	"		
" 4694	" W. Wright,	"	" 4525	" A. Brown,		F Coy.	
" 4495	" F. Wheelhouse,	B Coy,	" 4504	" J. Duke,	"		
" 4489	" J. Bettice,	"	" 4517	" C. Hawes,	"		
" 4485	" J. Mason,	"	" 4520	" W. Elkington,	"		
" 4421	" A. Parish,	"	" 4521	" F. Payne,	"		
" 4466	" J. Darvil,	"	" 4601	" C. Bishop,	"		
" 4567	" T. Driscoll,	"	" 4602	" A. Bedford,	"		
" 4571	" A. Vennamore,	"	" 4603	" W. Kelly,	"		
" 4574	" F. Rainbow,	"	" 4604	" A. Brand,	"		
" 4625	" A. Tippett,	"	" 4602	" C. May,	"		
" 4588	" L. Waterhouse,	"	" 4607	" J. Weston,	"		
" 4679	" W. Heathfield,	"	" 4475	" S. Worthing,	"		
" 4680	" G. Moffatt,	"	" 4576	" F. Parsons,		G Coy.	
" 4681	" T. Cooper,	"	" 4486	" C. Wade,	"		
" 4579	" A. Lord,	C Coy.	" 4530	" J. Vott,	"		

" 4581	" A. Nauman,	" "	4534	" D. Hill,	" "
" 4582	" A. Rolt,	" "	4535	" A. Tichener,	" "
" 4587	Lt. Cl. H. Bromley,	" "	4622	" J. Melia,	" "
" 4585	Pte. J. Joslin,	" "	4657	" A. Rayner,	" "
" 4627	" G. Cremer,	" "	4658	" W. May,	" "
" 4622	" H. Nely,	" "	4659	Lce. Cpl. J. Horsfall,	" "
" 4630	" L. Daniells,	" "	4621	Pte. T. McDonald,	" "
" 4631	" E. Dearman,	" "	4661	Lce. Cpl. B. Hall,	" "
" 4632	" H. Thomas,	" "	4639	" G. Webster,	H Coy.
" 4634	" T. Squires,	" "	4551	" W. Scales,	" "
" 4510	" A. Blagden,	D Coy.	4542	Pte. F. Barron,	" "
" 4511	" T. Humphreys,	" "	4543	" F. Kernot,	" "
" 4594	Lce. Cpl. F. Bridge,	" "	4545	" C. Smith,	" "
" 4592	Pte. B. Lawson,	" "	4549	Lce. Col. T. Martin,	" "
" 3703	" R. Craze,	" "	4550	Pte. H. Batt,	" "
" 4638	" G. Fisher,	" "	1654	Lce. Cpl. F. Whiteley,	" "
" 4639	" J. Eyles,	" "	3915	Pte. W. Price,	" "
" 4640	" H. Rogers,	" "	4686	" G. Kelly,	" "
" 4642	" C. Riley,	" "	4669	" J. Styles,	" "
" 4492	" J. Berry,	E Coy.	4670	" J. Cowper,	" "
" 4487	" E. Summersgill,	" "	4673	" H. Blackman,	" "

AT 2d.

No. 2922	Lce. Cpl. C. Keighley,	G Coy.	" 2375	Pte. H. Richards,	H Coy.
" 2941	Pte. R. Edinborrow,	F Coy.	" 2058	Pte. H. Anderson,	H Coy.
" 2924	Pte. G. Ward,	F Coy.			

AT 3d.

No. 1100 Pte. C. Perry, C Coy.

The Colonel commanding has been pleased to make the following promotions and appointments in the Battalion:—

To be Lance Corporals, ( unpaid )—

No. 3203	Pte. J. McGovern,	C Coy.	No. 4994	Pte. E. Garrison,	B Coy.
No. 3008	Pte. E. Waller,	B Coy.	No. 4242	Pte. H. Tatham,	B Coy.

To be Lance Corporals, ( paid )—  
( unpaid )

No. 2976	Lce. Cpl. R. Alderson,	A Coy.	No. 2939	Lce. Cpl. C. Keighley,	G Coy.
No. 4773	Lce. Cpl. P. Richardson,	A Coy.	No. 4665	Lce. Cpl. E. Stephenson,	H Coy.
No. 4417	Lce. Cpl. W. Drewery,	C Coy.			

To be Corporals—  
( paid )

No. 4228	Lce. Cpl. W. Huggon,	F Coy.	No. 4791	Lce. Cpl. W. Morgan,	B Coy.
No. 3626	Lce. Cpl. J. Wallace,	B Coy.			

To be Lance Sergeant—  
( unpaid )

No. 4148	Copl. C. Dimbleby,	H Coy.	No. 2958	Lce. Sergt. C. Parkinson,	H Coy.
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To be Sergeant—  
( unpaid )

No. 3520	Lce. Sergt. J. Cadman,	A Coy.
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SHOOTING. It is notified for information that Letter "F" Coy. is the best shooting company in the battalion. The sergeants of this company will, therefore, wear the prescribed badge.

—o—

EXAMINATIONS. No. 4902 Pte. P. Farnhill, "A" Company obtained a First Class Certificate of education at the examination held on 27th October last. The following passed in Group I—No. 1960 Colr. Sergt. R. Waller, "B" Coy., No. 3985 Lce. Sergt. W. Knowles, "F" Coy., and Lce. Cpl. W. Morgan, "B" Coy.

The following officers have passed in subjects (a) for promotion—Cap. F. D. Behrend, 2nd Lieutenants R. St. J. Carmichael, F. S. Exham, H. K. Umfreville, and P. G. Lea.

—o—

No. 5127 Pte. G. Brooks, "F" Coy., having become non-effective by death on the 12th instant, is struck off the strength of the battalion from the 13th instant (February.)

The following have been appointed Battalion Range-Takers—No. 4589 Lce. Corporal H. Bromley, ("C" Coy.), No. 3083 Lce. Copl J. Bramley, ("D" Coy.), No. 3105 Pte. F. Allen, ("D" Coy.), and No. 5065 Pte. G. Muir, ("E" Coy.)

### CRICKET.

Cricket in Malta is, at its best, but a poor imitation of the genuine article. The reason for this is not hard to find. The wickets encountered, certainly, are hard and true, and no soft or sticky ones are met with to delight the heart of the poor bowler. But even under the above trying conditions, the lot of the trundler is infinitely preferable to that of the fielder. In addition to having to leatherhunt under the sun of a Maltese summer, he runs considerable risk of being hit by the ball in its vagaries. For the surface of the grounds in the vicinity of the actual pitch is somewhat rough, to say the least of it, as anybody who has been to the Floriana parade can testify. Yet there are old stagers who well remember the day when this same Floriana was the Garrison Ground! The outfielding at the Marsa is much better, and the pitches being made of clay instead of concrete are not quite so fast.

The Annual Cup Competition between the regiments in Garrison took place in August and September last year. Being part of the second leave it was impossible to place quite a representative side in the field. But it was a great, if somewhat lucky achievement for us to overcome the redoubtable "Gunners" in the first round. In the second round we had to meet the Xth, and at the end of an innings apiece there was very little to choose between us. In our second innings however, bad judgment in running combined with the deadly bowling of the veteran Sergt. Stevens, sealed our doom. The Company Challenge Shield produced some keen and exciting games, which shall receive a paragraph to themselves. Below are the scores made in our matches in the 1st and 2nd rounds of the Cup. It may be mentioned that in the final the Lincolns lost to the Royal Welch Fusiliers by 5 runs only.

### CRICKET GARRISON CHALLENGE CUP.

1ST ROUND. 1ST D. W. REGIMENT, v. ROYAL ARTILLERY.

PLAYED AT THE MARSA, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH 1896.

1ST D. W. REGIMENT.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.		
F. J. Siordet,	St. Brady b. Logan,	22	b. Trayner,	2
Sergt. Evans,	b. Francis,	2	c. Francis, b. Trayner,	4
Cpl. Williams,	b. Francis,	8	l.b.w. b. Francis,	12
Pte. Cassidy,	b. Bradley,	15	c. Brewin, b. Trayner,	47
P. B. Strafford,	c. James b. Trayner,	20	b. Brewin,	21
Pte. Venables,	b. Francis,	22	c. Logan, b. Murch,	29
Cpl. Pettigrew,	not out.	5	not out,	19
Cpl. M' Cudden,	b. Trayner,	3	b. Trayner,	1
Sergt. Thomas,	b. Trayner,	0	b. Trayner,	0
Pte. Kelly,	b. Trayner,	0	b. Trayner,	12
Pte. Trotter,	b. Francis,	4	c. Logan, b. Trayner,	0
	Byes. etc.,	7	Byes. etc.,	14
	Total,	108	Total,	161



## ROYAL ARTILLERY.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Sergt. James, b. McCudden,	0	l.b.w. b. McCudden,	11
Sergt. Devey, l.b.w. b. M' Cudden,	0	b. Venables,	20
Capt. White-Thomson, b. McCudden,	8	b. Kelly,	18
Sergt. Brady, b. McCudden,	8	run out,	7
Capt. Logan, st. Kelly, b. Siordet,	15	b. Venables,	38
H. Murch, c. McCudden, b. Siordet,	8	b. Kelly,	5
B. R. Brewin, b. McCudden,	2	b. Kelly,	7
E. M. Birch, st. Kelly, b. McCudden,	11	c. Pettigrew, b. Cassidy,	57
Bomdr. Francis, not out.	2	b. Venables,	3
Gr. Trayner, b. Venables,	3	not out,	5
Gr. Bradley, c. Cassidy, b. McCudden,	1	b. McCudden,	0
Byes, etc.	15	Byes, etc.,	9
Total,	73	Total,	183

## 2ND ROUND. 1ST D. W. REGIMENT, v. 1ST LINCOLN REGIMENT.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
Sergt Dr. Moss, b. Venables,	34	b. Cassidy,	27
Pte Hirst, b. Venables,	3	b. Venables,	0
C. J. Rennie, c. Venable, b. Siordet	2	b. Venables,	4
Sgt. Fraser, c. Pettigrew b. McCudden,	18	b. Venables,	1
Corp. Graves, b. Venables,	35	st. Trafford, b. Siordet,	41
Pte. Ross, c. Tyndall b. Siordet,	6	c. Pilgrim, b. M'cudden,	16
Sgt. Steves, c. Pettigrew, b. Siordet,	1	b. Venables,	16
Capt. Newbery, b. Venables,	8	b. Venables,	0
Pte. Gage, c. M'cudden b. Siordet,	7	b. Venables,	2
J. R. Marsh, not out.	8	run out,	3
Pte. Mills, c. Venable, b. Siordet,	2	not out,	0
Byes, etc.	13	Byes, etc.	11
Total	173	Total	121

## 1st D. W. REGIMENT.

1ST INNINGS.		2ND INNINGS.	
W. E. Tyndall, b. Stevens,	13	run out,	5
F. J. Siordet, run out.	32	b. Stevens,	14
Pte. Cassidy, b. Stevens,	50	c. Graves, b. Marsh,	18
P. B. Trafford, b. Marsh,	0	c. Newbury, b. Marsh,	16
Corp. Williams, b. Stevens,	0	run out,	1
Pte. Venables, st. Newbery, b. Marsh,	0	c. Graves. b. Stevens,	4
Corp. Pilgrim, b. Marsh,	28	b. Stevens,	12
Corp. Pettigrew, b. Marsh,	0	b. Marsh,	3
Corp. M'cudden, b. Stevens,	1	not out,	5
Pte. Kelly, not out.	0	c. Graves, b. Marsh,	0
Pte. Sykes, c. Mills, b. Stevens.	3	b. Stevens,	0
Byes, etc.	0	Byes, etc.	0
Total	128	Total	79

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Worcestershire Regiment Pembroke Camp and detachment at Gozo, ...	do. do.
Dorset. Regt. Isola Gate and detach. at Vittoriosa and St. Francesco, ...	do. do.
Highland Light Infontry, ...	Beer.
Seaforth Highs., Valletta, and detach. at St. Angelo and Salvatore, ...	Beer and Groceries.
Medical Staff Corps, Cottonera, ...	do. do.
Detachment A.O.C. Marsauscetto, ...	do. do.
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Testimonials from Regiments that have quite recently left the Island:—

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(Signed) B. Y. HANFORD FLOOD, MAJOR,  
1st BATT. THE QUEEN'S,  
President Canteen Committee.

MALTA, March 3rd, 1893.

FLORIANA, MALTA, 5th March, 1894.

I have much pleasure in stating that MESSRS. J. E. MORTIMER & Co. have supplied our Canteen and Sergeants' Mess with Ale and Stout since our arrival here in January, 1891, and have given every satisfaction.

About May last they commenced supplying the Regiment with Groceries, all of which have been of good quality and reasonable in price; further, I have always found the Firm most civil, obliging, and attentive in every way, and can strongly recommend them.

E. W. BRODRICK, LIEUT. COLONEL,  
Commg. 1st Battalion The Queen's.

J. E. MORTIMER & Co. have supplied the Canteen of my Battalion with Beer, &c., since the arrival of the Battalion in Malta in 1892, and have given every satisfaction.

MALTA, 23rd June 1894.

G. L. C. MONEY, LIEUT. COLONEL,  
Commg. Cameron Highlanders.

It affords me great pleasure to testify my high approval of the good work done for this Battalion by MESSRS. MORTIMER & Co., since our arrival at this station. Messrs. MORTIMER have supplied us with groceries entirely. With the quality of these and their prices, I am quite satisfied. They are agents for Messrs. Younger, whose Beer is not to be surpassed on the Island. I have always found Messrs. Mortimer equal to any emergency and have implicit reliance in their capabilities of carrying through any reasonable demand.

I can strongly recommend them to consideration of any Regiment proposing to serve in Malta.

MALTA, 10th June 1896.

(Signed) F. LONGBOURNE, COLONEL,  
1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

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