

WINNERS ARMY INTER-UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, 1927.

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## EDITORIAL

WE have a pleasant duty to perform in welcoming the 2nd Battalion home again, after eight years in India and the Sudan; we wish them all good fortune during their tour of home service.

With this number we commence Volume II of the Journal. Very few copies of the first four numbers are now available, and any reader who requires them for binding should make early application. Particulars as to binding cases, prices, etc., will be found in the Editorial Notes at the end of this number.

Some particulars of an old Colour recently presented to the Museum at Norwich Castle were sent to us a short time ago. This Colour is blue, with the Jack in the corner and in the centre the Cypher "C.R." surrounded by the Garter and surmounted by the Crown, the whole centre being surrounded by Rose and Thistle embroidery. A scroll under the centre bears the words, "The Queen's Royal Volunteers." Efforts are being made to trace the history of the Colour, and we shall be glad to receive any information.

We congratulate the regimental fencing team on again winning the Inter-Unit Team Fencing Championship. A slip inserted in our last number announced the fact, and we now publish an account of the final. With the help of the 2nd Battalion we shall look forward to a repetition of this success next year.

We referred in our last number to a suggestion that the illustrations in Nos. 1 to 4 (Volume I) should be collected and bound up separately, for use either as a souvenir or with a calendar. We have received no requests for this to be done, and the suggestion will therefore not be proceeded with.

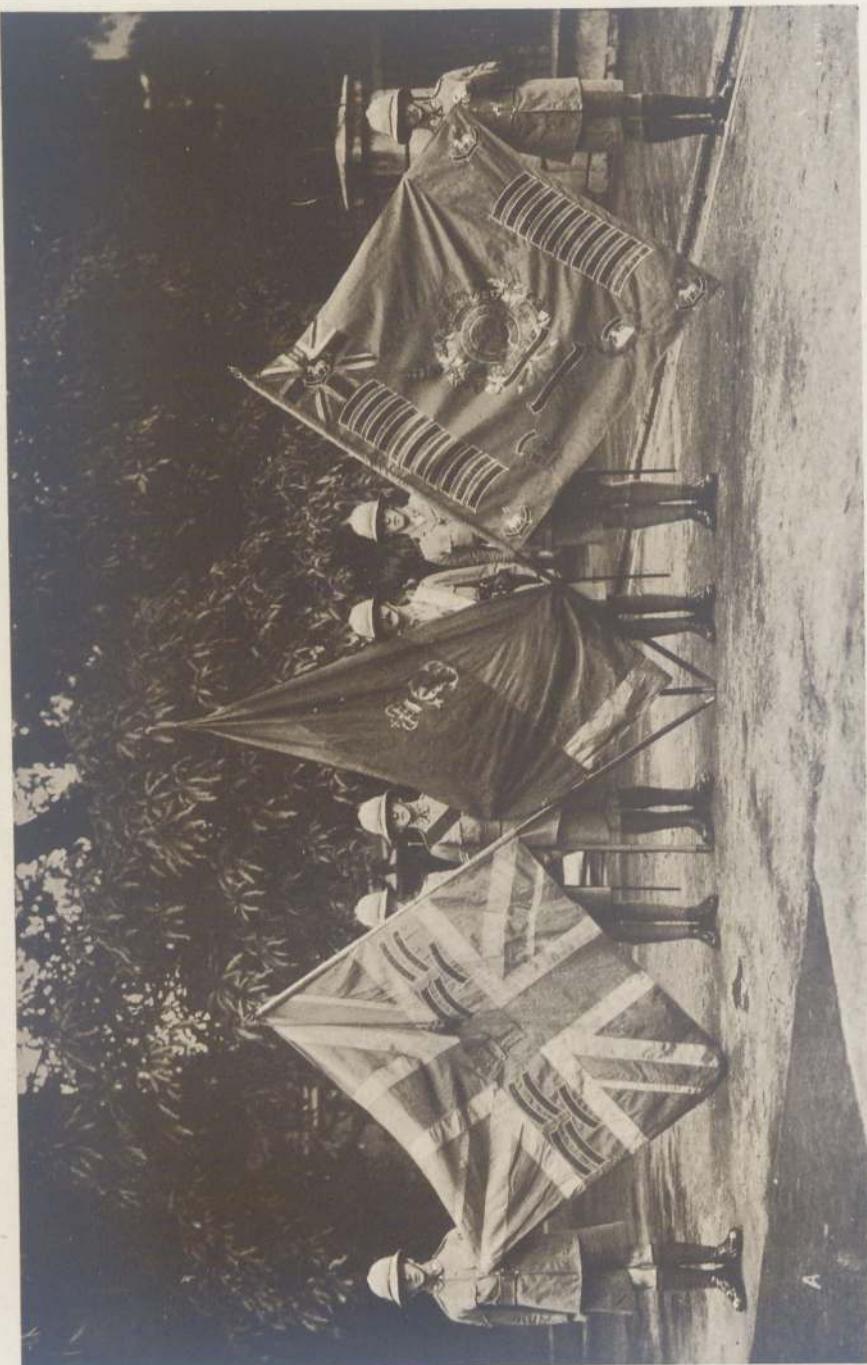
In this number we commence the publication of the personal diary of an officer of the 1st Battalion during the Great War. We hope to follow this up with other personal diaries and narratives, and we shall be grateful if those who have any material of this sort, and who are willing that they should be published, will send them to us.

We are glad to be able to report that after two years working the accounts of the Journal show a balance on the right side. The large number of illustrations make the expenses of publishing heavy, but we are inclined to think that the illustrations are much appreciated by our readers and we shall therefore continue them. In spite of the fact that the financial position is good we shall welcome more subscribers, and we ask our readers to bring the Journal to the notice of their friends who are interested in the Regiment. Particulars as to rates of subscription are published in Editorial Notes.

Our readers will remember that in our issue of May last we published the proceedings of the Committee on Regimental Badges and Buttons that sat in 1922 and 1923. Provided that there is sufficient demand, we can supply copies of these proceedings, with sketches and coloured plate, at a charge of 1s. 6d. post free.

Our next number will be published in May, 1928, and we shall be glad to receive communications intended for publication not later than April 15th.

We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Major-General H. Pye Phillipps, which took place on July 25th. General Phillipps was in his 91st year, and was the oldest surviving member of the Regiment. We publish elsewhere a statement of his services. He took the keenest interest in the doings of the Regiment right to the very last, and only a short time before his death we received a letter from him setting forth his appreciation of the Journal.



[Ming Yuen, Hong-Kong.]

THE COLOURS, 1927.

Photo]

## 1st BATTALION

THE doings of the Battalion, from the time we left England until our arrival in China, have been dealt with very thoroughly elsewhere. Some time was spent in settling down in a new country and learning new ways. An early call was made on the Battalion's drill powers when we were informed that four companies, each one hundred strong, would be required to take part in the King's birthday parade on June 3rd. The parade was a very large one, consisting, as it did, of a composite battalion of the Royal Navy, a battalion of the Royal Marines, the permanent garrison, and the units of "Reforce." Everything went off very well, in spite of the heat, which was rather trying to some who had never been East before.

It was a great disappointment to us that we were unable to entertain H.M.S. *Excellent* this year before our departure for foreign service. However, the "Glorious First" was not forgotten. A large party of our officers were entertained at dinner on board H.M.S. *Frobisher*, the Flagship of the Light Cruiser Squadron, by those old *Excelscents* who were present in the ships of the Fleet. Greetings were also exchanged with H.M.S. *Excellent* and H.M.S. *Frobisher*.

Hong-Kong, crowded as it now is with so many troops, does not afford us much opportunity for sports, and we find it very difficult to take enough exercise to keep us fit in the hot, damp weather. There are, however, facilities for bathing, and many of us have learned to swim since we came out here. The Battalion as a whole, and more particularly the officers, owe a deep debt of gratitude to Lieut.-Col. Haley Bell, D.S.O., the Chief of the Chinese Maritime Customs in these waters, and to Mrs. Haley Bell. They have been indefatigable in the organization of picnic bathing parties on their launch, and Col. Haley Bell's advice and knowledge of the country and customs have been invaluable.

During the war Col. Haley Bell commanded the 10th (Service) Battalion of the Regiment when it was serving in France and Flanders. The Fleet, and particularly H.M.S. *Frobisher*, have also been very kind to us, and many of us have enjoyed short cruises in one or other of His Majesty's ships.

On July 9th the Commanding Officer granted a holiday to the Battalion, on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the presentation of our present Colours.

Since our arrival in China we have lost Lieut.-Col. G. J. Giffard, D.S.O., and Lieut. G. D. G. Bottomley, the former to take up his appointment as an instructor at the Staff College and the latter on retirement. We wish them both the best of luck in the future.

Instructions have just been received for one company and a machine-gun section to proceed to the island of Shameen, at Canton, to relieve a company of the K.O.S.B.

On August 20th we were subjected to a very severe "blow" as the result of a typhoon which reached the coast south of Macao. A fair amount of damage was done, especially at Lyemun, where almost every roof was badly damaged and the rooms flooded out.

We hear we are to receive a draft of 260 from the 2nd Battalion in December, and we are looking forward to renewing our acquaintance with many old friends. This draft will take the place of the Section "A" reservists who came abroad with us, and who are due for repatriation this trooping season.

The air is full of conjectures as to the probable length of our stay in China,

but in spite of rumours from every imaginable source we have still no definite information. In the meantime we are making ourselves as comfortable as the circumstances permit, and hoping for a really good station to follow.

#### FOOTBALL NEWS.

Since our arrival in Hong-Kong we have played the following matches:—

- v. H.M.S. *Frobisher*. Won, 3—0.
- v. 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment. Won, 1—0.
- v. H.M.S. *Hermes*. Lost, 5—4.
- v. Chinese Athletic. Lost, 3—1.

Owing to the heat and ground difficulties, we have not played as many matches as we could have wished.

In a team selected from "Reforce" to play the Chinese Athletic Association, the Battalion was well represented. L./Sergt. Hooper (captain), Ptes. Larking and Centor played, and did credit to the selection committee, "Reforce" winning by 3—0. It must be said that the Chinese Athletic Association has a very good team and play good football.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES.

The Battalion being split up, it was found necessary to form three messes. The main mess, which is shared with the Royal Artillery, is situated in Victoria Barracks, and is used by members of "H.Q." Wing and two companies. We are extremely fortunate in being able to use this Mess, inasmuch as it is comfortably furnished and has a billiard table, piano, etc.

A detachment mess for one company has been formed at Dragon Garage, Happy Valley, about one and a half miles from Headquarters, for the use of the company stationed there. This mess is not very comfortable—due to the lack of accommodation.

The members belonging to the company at Lyemun, some three miles from Headquarters, share a Royal Artillery detachment mess, and are fairly comfortably placed. Companies change round periodically, so we more or less share advantages and disadvantages.

Since being here we have held four very enjoyable whist drives, followed by short dances.

On July 2nd a most entertaining evening was held in the Mess at Headquarters, the occasion being a farewell to our "Buddies" of H.M.S. *Frobisher*, who were leaving for Shanghai the following day.

About the middle of July, an old friend of the Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Haley Bell, late commanding 10th (Service) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, invited a party to take possession of his steam launch for the afternoon and evening. Everything conducive to a successful outing was most thoughtfully provided, even to a diving board and water horse, and a most enjoyable afternoon's swim was held in Repulse Bay. On the return journey, which incidentally completed the circuit of the island, the party, lounging in deck chairs, looked thoroughly pleased with themselves. All who went voted this the most enjoyable day since leaving England.

On August 11th a shooting match against the Lyemun detachment (including the Royal Artillery detachment) was followed by a series of games of billiards and cards. During the evening C.Q.M.S. Cooper was most unfortunately out of form both at billiards and his favourite card game. The teams for the shoot were as follows:—

*Headquarters*.—R.S.M. A. Fulbrook, C.S.M. W. Watford, C.S.M. E. Hartridge, Clr./Sergt. J. Hammerton, Clr./Sergt. C. Cromwell, C.S.M. Marchant, and C.S.M. E. Collins.

*Lyemun*.—Sergt. T. Dodds, Sergt. G. Jude, Mr.-Gnr. Bailey (R.A.), L./Sergt. T. Norman, Sergt. Rule (R.A.), Clr./Sergt. A. Eastman, and Sergt. Harding (R.A.).

The score was: *Headquarters*, 73; *Lyemun*, 72.

Another shoot was held at Fanling Ranges on August 13th, the winners being: 1, C.S.M. H. Marchant; 2, S.I.M. P. Handscomb; 3, L./Sergt. G. Hooper. In connection with this shoot the S.I.M. organized a sweepstake, the winners being: 1, Clr./Sergt. C. Cromwell; 2, L./Sergt. C. Smitten; 3, C.S.M. W. Watford.

#### CORPORALS' MESS NOTES.

After our glorious voyage out to Hong-Kong, which has been written about elsewhere in the Journal, we are now getting settled down in our different messes. There being insufficient accommodation, the Mess has been split up into four different messes at Wellington Barracks (Battalion Headquarters), Victoria Barracks, Dragon Garage, and Lyemun.

The luckiest are at Lyemun, where the facilities for bathing and sports are very good, and, in consequence, various visits have been made there by other messes.

A few games of football have been played with other regiments, but owing to the heat, and the grounds, which we were not used to, we found it rather difficult; nevertheless, we won each game. Now the cooler weather will be along shortly, we shall no doubt be able to have plenty of games.

Two bathing picnics have been arranged since our arrival, the first to Repulse Bay. We chartered a W.D. launch, and, after a nice trip round part of the island, we arrived at the bay and commenced to indulge in swimming. After a good afternoon (as "Mitch" can prove, he being the skipper of the rowing boat which we had, and which a few members tried to turn into a submarine, with "Mitch" the unlucky one) we commenced the trip back round the other way.

Tea was taken on the return journey, which was by way of channels amid some of the most wonderful scenery, which abounds all along the coast.

The second one was just as good as the first, the only difference being that at Clear Water Bay, where we went, the water is so clear that one can see the bottom, and one can also see the jelly fish, which cause some unpleasant moments if they sting one. The return journey was made amid tunes from the "jazz band," which rendered good service throughout the afternoon.

Our greatest thanks go out to "Padre" Bohn, the skipper of our party on each occasion, and everybody agreed that he did his work very well.

The greatest topic of the moment is, when are we going to move to Malta? The usual rumours are going the rounds, but the Corporals' Mess has decided to await the fate of the gods. A good many of the members do not want to move, because they can bargain with the various dealers that we have in the place, and I am sure that some of them would give the greatest of "Shylocks" a run as regards bargaining for various goods, which in the long run turn out to be goods brought from England or stolen from other places.

"Paddy's Market" is a favourite place, and one can always see members there asking "how much," and having a good look round for anything cheap.

To see them, people would think they are just in Hong-Kong for a holiday, and no doubt everyone is taking advantage of the good facilities which the place holds for enjoying themselves.

## DIARY OF THE VOYAGE TO CHINA.

(Continued.)

April 23rd.—We arrived at Port Said at 9.30 a.m. The harbour was full of shipping and we passed three homeward-bound passenger liners, lying off the front.

The passengers cheered us enthusiastically as we passed them, and we responded heartily. Our ship was berthed beyond the Canal Offices, with our stern close in to the quay. We were told by the embarkation authorities, on arrival, that we would disembark and go for a route march, and a long pontoon was swung out from the quay alongside the ship. The notice was very short, but we succeeded in getting ashore by 11 a.m., and with the band and drums we went for a march through Port Said for about one and a half hours. Everyone much enjoyed the march and the chance of seeing Port Said. We were all on board again soon after one o'clock. The route march was distinguished by the fact that Q.M.S. Marsh and Q.M.S. Wakeford did their first route march since they arrived back in England with the Cadre in 1919.

We started down the Canal about 6 p.m., and reached Suez at 8 a.m. next day, after having had to tie up four times during the night to allow other ships to pass us.

April 24th.—We left Suez soon after 9 a.m., and with a following wind started down the Red Sea. Although it had begun to warm up, it was extraordinarily cool for the time of the year. We were lucky to see the two big P. and O. ships, *Macedonia* carrying the Bombay mail and *Cathay* the Australian mail, at Suez when we got in. They left almost immediately for Port Said and England.

It began to get much hotter, and everyone realized that the Red Sea can be quite warm. It was, however, much cooler than is usual at this time of the year.

April 26th.—The wind entirely ceased and it was hot, but the Captain promised a head wind to-morrow and cooler weather. We exchanged telegrams with the 2nd Battalion at Khartoum. We cabled to them at Port Said, "Wish you were coming with us. Greetings to all ranks," and they replied by wireless, "Greetings from all ranks, 2nd Battalion, wish reciprocated, best of luck and safe return."

May 1st.—We have been going steadily along, doing an average run of 310 miles a day. We passed Perim early on the 28th at about 6 a.m., and were reminded of the story of the officer who, years ago, commanded the detachment there. No one could understand why he liked being there so much, and the first time that he applied for an extension of his time there no one thought anything more than that he was a little cracked. When he applied to complete a third tour of duty, however, everyone thought him quite mad. That he was quite sane and very idle was, however, proved soon after, when his General, home on leave from Aden, suddenly met him in Piccadilly at a moment when he should have been at Perim. It was then discovered that he used to sign up all the forms required for three or four months and then go home. He was usually inspected about once a year, so that it was quite safe.

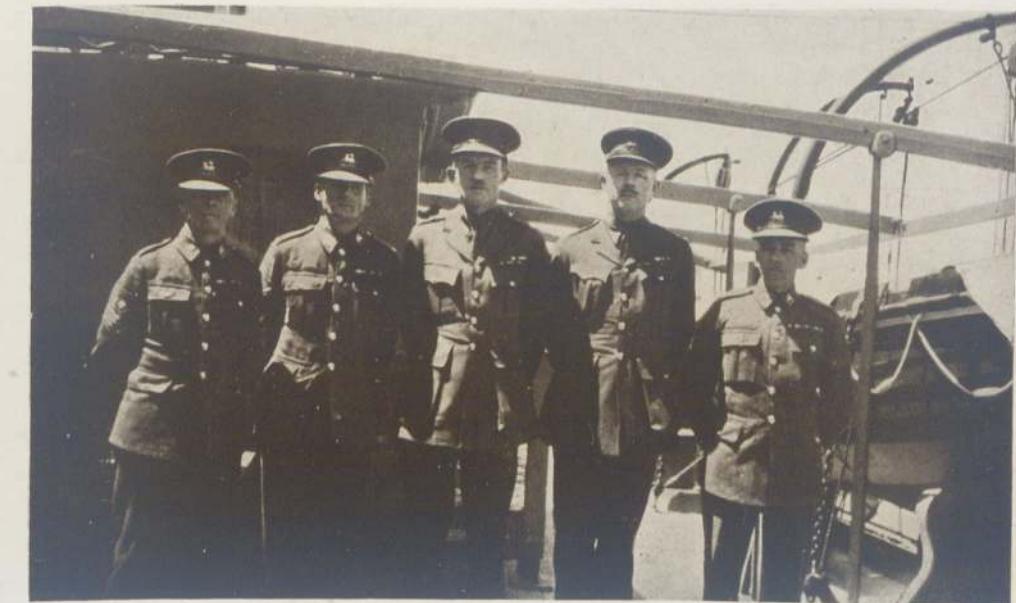
We passed Aden at 2 p.m. on the 28th inst., but at a great distance—we were about twenty-five miles away, and could only just see it. We steamed all along the north-west coast of British and Italian Somaliland, and passed Cape Guardafui at a distance of about two miles. Somaliland is a wild, dusty-looking country. We shall see nothing more until we pass the island of Minikoi, 400 miles west of Colombo, where we are due at 6 a.m. on the 5th.

We have been busy all this week with the platoon tug-of-war competition. There were sixteen entries. It was won by No. 7 Platoon, The Queen's, with No. 15 Platoon, The Queen's, runners-up. No. 10 Platoon, Northamptonshires, which had a very good team, was only knocked out in the semi-finals after a great

## 1ST BATTALION



Going Ashore at Colombo.



Officers and N.C.O.s. who returned with 1st Bn. to England from Aden in 1910 and accompanied Battalion to China in 1927.

C.O.M.S. Eastman. Cpl. Cressey. Lt.-Col. Hunter. Lt.-Col. Giffard. C.S.M. Stedman.

struggle. There were some very fine pulls in the earlier rounds, and the competition was a great success.

We are now in the throes of our second dose of enteric inoculation. The results have been very painful, and an exceptionally large number of people have been laid out, with high temperatures.

We had a concert on Tuesday, which was very amusing, and was much enjoyed by everyone.

*May 4th.*—The great event of the past few days has been the great shark hoax, an account of which has been written by one of the originators. It was one of the best "leg hauls," as the Navy puts it, that has taken place for a very long time. We are due in Colombo to-morrow, and are to spend the day ashore, which will be a very great boon, as we shall be out of the coal dust. The ship is due at 6 a.m., we disembark about 8 a.m., march to the rest camp about half a mile from the jetty, and re-embark about 5.30 p.m.

It is getting very muggy indeed, and the south-west monsoon cannot be far off. It is due normally at Colombo on the 15th.

We should reach Singapore on the 11th and Hong-Kong on the 17th. We shall all be very glad to get off the ship and stretch our legs again.

*May 5th.*—We reached Colombo at 5.30 a.m. and were tied up in the harbour by 6.30. As the result of wireless messages all arrangements for landing the troops had been made, and we were all ready by the time that the tug and lighters came alongside about 8 a.m.

Col.-Comdt. Higginson, commanding troops at Ceylon, came off to meet us with his staff officer.

We were very much surprised to see the other two ships, carrying the remainder of the 15th Brigade, still in harbour. The *City of Marseilles* had 15th Brigade Headquarters, 2nd Bn. The Scots Guards, and two companies of the 1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment on board, while the *Derbyshire* was carrying the 2nd Bn. Welch Regiment and details. As we had started two days behind them, we were very pleased with our ship. A wag on the lower deck advised the Scots Guards, as we passed the *City of Marseilles*, to get out and push.

As a matter of fact both ships had been delayed coaling at Colombo, owing to rain. They left during the day, the *Derbyshire* in the morning and the *City of Marseilles* in the afternoon.

We were all ashore by 9.15 a.m., and then marched by companies, independently, a distance of half a mile to the barracks, where we were allotted barrack rooms and E.P. tents for the day. We brought bread and cheese from the ship, and were able to buy tea, minerals, fruit and other things, which, incidentally, were very expensive, at the coffee shop.

Permission was then given for everyone to go out in parties of ten and twelve, and very soon the whole of Colombo was full of men seeing the East for the first time.

We had had pay-day the afternoon before we reached Colombo, and all ranks were busy buying singlets, stockings, writing-paper, postcards, mementoes, etc.

It was very hot and sticky, as the small monsoon had broken and Colombo had had six inches of rain during the twenty-four hours before our arrival.

We paraded for our return at 5 p.m., started re-embarking in the lighters at 5.30, and were all aboard again by 6.15.

We found H.M.S. *Yarmouth* lying in Colombo, under the command of Capt. Custance, R.N., an old *Excellent*. Directly we came in he sent an officer across to ask what he could do to help us. The Colonel and five officers went over to call about 11 a.m., and were welcomed with the greatest hospitality and made to feel at home at once.

We were also surprised and pleased to receive a visit from Mr. A. Gammon, who served in the 8th Battalion during the war and is now in business in Colombo. Incidentally, he is the head of the local branch of the Comrades of the Great War. Directly he heard that troops were coming through to China he set to work and collected books and magazines, and on every transport as it goes through he takes large boxes of books and magazines. It was a most kind and generous thought, and was much appreciated.

Officers and warrant officers were allowed ashore again during the evening.

Next morning we got under way at 7 a.m., and as we passed close to H.M.S. *Yarmouth* the band played "Life on the Ocean Wave" and other tunes. We exchanged the following signals as we passed:—

From Captain, *Yarmouth*:

"We bid you good luck. The Queen's will find many old *Excelsiors* in China."

To Captain, H.M.S. *Yarmouth*:

"Thank you. Your old marines of 133 years' standing wish you all good luck. We shall be at home in Chinese waters. From Commanding Queen's."

We steered south along the coast of Ceylon, had cleared the land by 2 p.m., and were heading for the north end of Sumatra.

We started the inter-platoon obstacle races that afternoon, but were unable to continue them, as, owing to the rolling of the ship and the rough and wobbling obstacles, too many casualties occurred.

On Sunday, the 8th, we played the 1st Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment at cricket and were badly beaten, the scores in the first innings being: Queen's, 2 runs; Northamptonshires, 27 runs for six wickets. We played eight-a-side.

May 9th.—After two very dull days, during which we did not see a single steamer, we passed the north end of Sumatra at 7 a.m. and entered the Malacca Straits, down whose narrowing length we steamed to Singapore, where we are due at 8 a.m. on the 11th. We should reach Hong-Kong early on the morning of the 16th.

May 10th.—We had boxing contests last night, and there is a sing-song this evening. We held our own in the boxing. This afternoon, inter-platoon boat races are in full swing. The "boat" consists of an oar, across which eight men sit astride with their backs towards the finishing line; the coxswain alone faces in the right direction, and he is responsible for steering them. It is a most amusing competition. We are all getting rather tired of the voyage, and shall be very glad to reach Hong-Kong, as we should next Monday.

May 11th.—We arrived at Singapore pilot station at 6 a.m. and the pilot came off at about 6.45, when we went into the harbour.

The approach to Singapore is beautiful, as the channel twists and turns among numbers of small but wonderfully green islands. While we were waiting for our pilot we were surprised to see the *City of Marseilles*, which had left Colombo fifteen hours before us, come steaming up behind us.

She actually went in ahead of us, but, as she was ordered to take in coal, which we did not have to do, she went alongside the quay, while we anchored in the harbour some two miles out.

Officers and non-commissioned officers were allowed ashore, and left at 10.30. They returned at 2.30 p.m., and we sailed soon after 3 p.m.

Singapore is a fine-looking town from the sea, with magnificent buildings. The harbour was full of shipping of all nations, British, American, Japanese, French, German, Dutch and Italian ships being there.

Just before we left we received a telegram from the G.O.C. South China, asking for our strength by companies, which looks as if we, at least, are likely to land there; other units did not get this cable.

We passed out of the Straits by 7 p.m. and set out on our course for Hong-Kong, where we are due at 7 p.m. on Monday, the 16th inst.

Our last few days on board ship we spent in finishing off the various competitions and in packing the different things that had been used on board. We were not told, however, that we were definitely going to disembark at Hong-Kong, and the only information we received was through the Captain of the *Nevasa*, who was ordered to berth his ship at No. 5 Naval Buoy on arrival on Monday, the 16th. We did get a wireless message finally on Sunday (15th) evening, to say that we should not disembark on Monday. We reached Hong-Kong at 7 a.m. in the morning. The entrance is very beautiful, as the island of Hong-Kong rises to a height of 1,400 feet, while the leased territory is also very hilly.

When we arrived the top of the island was in clouds, which, however, cleared off in a few hours. The island itself is very green, and is dotted with houses all over. At night their lights give a wonderfully fairy-like look to it, when seen from the deck of a ship in harbour.

Soon after we moored at No. 5 Naval Buoy the officers of the embarkation staff arrived, and we heard that we were to be split up into three detachments in various barracks on the island; that the 2nd Scots Guards and 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment were to occupy an enormous, but unfinished, hotel at Kowloon, on the mainland on the opposite side of the harbour, and the 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment were to go to a huddled camp about four miles from Kowloon. When we had seen our quarters we quickly decided that we had undoubtedly the best of the bargain. True, we were split up, but we were in buildings properly built for troops, and had all our workshops, guard-room, canteen, etc., in our various barracks. Headquarters and Headquarter Wing were allotted Wellington Barracks, "B" and "D" Companies were sent to Victoria Barracks, on the opposite side of the road; "A" Company shared barracks with a battery of R.A. at Lyemun, seven miles away; and "C" Company was put into a newly-built garage which had been converted into barracks, about two miles away at Happy Valley.

Disembarkation of kit began at 6 a.m., and as we had to cross to Hong-Kong all our baggage was put into lighters. Rifles and equipment were drawn during the morning, and companies were ready to disembark by 3 p.m., at which hour they marched off the ship and embarked in the tugs which were to take them across.

We found lorries and coolies waiting for us on the other side, and the latter at once began to empty the lighters, which had been towed across by the tugs. Headquarter Wing had only about 200 yards to march, and "B" and "D" Companies but a little farther. "C," on the other hand, had some two miles to go. "A" Company went direct to Lyemun with their baggage, by tug and lighter.

All officers, except those of "A" Company, were billeted in the King Edward Hotel, all but the most senior having to double-up.

Work ceased that day at 7.30 p.m., when everyone was glad to have a rest. Work had started at 6 a.m. and had been done in a very trying climate. The temperature of Hong-Kong is not really very high, about 85 degrees, but the humidity is tremendous, and, to men fresh from home, very enervating.

Unloading the lighters was completed next day, and everyone began to settle down.

We were all much amused at seeing the new sights—the Chinese men and women with their enormous hats, both sexes dressed in jumpers and trousers.

usually made of black silk; the one-man rickshaw; the junks and sampans in the harbour, all commanded by women; and all the different trees and fruit. The way in which it can rain here was an eye-opener to men who had never seen a tropical downpour before, and to many who had.

The town of Victoria, which is the capital of Hong-Kong, is most modern, five or six-storied buildings being the rule rather than the exception. There are trams, too; a funicular railway to the top of the Peak, the highest point of the island; and literally hundreds of motor cars and cycles. The two units in the garrison—the K.O.S.B. and the battalion of the Cameronians that had been in our Brigade at Aldershot—did all they could to help us.

May 28th.—Our chief occupation during the past week has been fitting clothing which had been issued at Dover or brought out in bulk, but which we had not had time to alter. We also have been practising hard for the King's birthday parade, which is to take place on the Racecourse in the Happy Valley on June 3rd. It is the biggest parade that Hong-Kong has probably ever seen.

The units taking part are a naval battalion of 400 men, detachments of R.A. and R.E., 2nd Scots Guards, ourselves, 2nd Bn. The Welch Regiment, 1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. K.O.S.B., 1st Bn. Cameronians, 2nd/5th Punjabs, the local Volunteers and various other small units. Machines of the Fleet Air Arm are also to fly past. As the parade is timed for 9 a.m. we shall all be very hot before it is over.

The bathing here is first-rate, but it needs considerable arrangement, as most of the bathing places are some distance away. Stonecutters' Island, half an hour distant by launch, is the best, and the Regiment is allotted the launch periodically for "B," "C" and "D" Companies and Headquarter Wing. "A" Company is luckier, as they have bathing at their door at Lyemun.

We are at the moment wondering whether a typhoon is going to reach this place, as No. 1 signal is now flying. They can be extremely violent, and there was a very severe one in 1906, when thousands of people lost their lives. This is the beginning of the typhoon season. There is an elaborate code of signals, numbered from 1 to 7. No. 1 indicates that a typhoon has formed and may come over our way, while No. 7 means that we shall certainly get it, and every precaution is to be taken.

The precautions are very elaborate and entail the fixing of typhoon bars to windows and doors, the stoppage of all traffic in the harbour, and mules in stables on the mainland are turned loose, as their mashed stables would certainly blow down, and everything is made as secure as possible. Steamers have been known to have to steam at twelve knots to keep themselves to their moorings in harbour. Last week on Sunday and Monday we had ten inches of rain! It does not do things by halves.

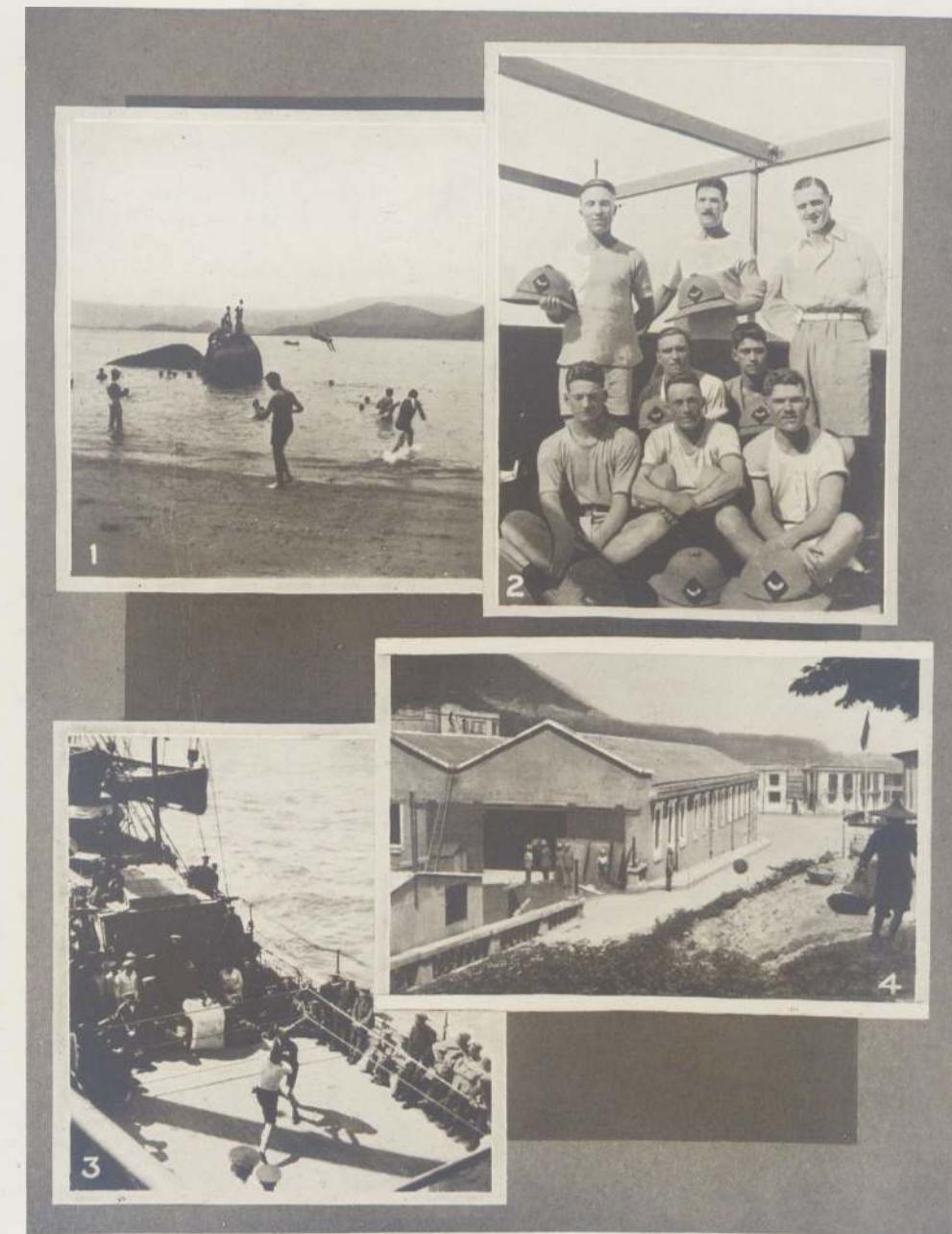
We have already got in touch with the *Excelsiors* serving in the Fleet here. At present we have the 1st Cruiser Squadron—H.M.S. *Frobisher* (flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Boyle), H.M.S.'s. *Danae*, *Dauntless*, *Delhi*, *Dragon*, H.M.S. *Hermes* (the aircraft carrier), a division of destroyers and several submarines.

The Commander of H.M.S. *Frobisher* is organizing a series of visits for the officers and men of the Battalion to see the ship, so that we hope to maintain our liaison with the Navy.

The *Excellent* officers serving at Hong-Kong organized a dinner in H.M.S. *Frobisher* on June 1st, and the officers of the Battalion went. We had a most cheery evening, as usual.

June 3rd.—We paraded at 7.35 a.m. to march to Happy Valley for the King's birthday parade. It turned out extremely hot even for Hong-Kong, and as troops did not get back to barracks till after 11 a.m. we felt the heat very much. Very

## 1ST BATTALION.



1. "D" Coy. Bathing at Stonecutter's Island, Hong-Kong.
2. "C" Coy. Team, Winners Inter-Company Cricket, s.s. "Nevasa."
3. Boxing Tournament on s.s. "Nevasa."
4. "C" Coy.'s quarters at Dragon Garage, Hong-Kong.

few men fell out—actually none were absent from the march past, which was very successful and well carried out.

This parade brought out a most interesting point in our regimental history, that the Colours now in possession of this Battalion have been carried in China before, when the Regiment took part in the fighting in China in 1860.

We were certainly the only regiment on parade—and are probably the only regiment in the Army—that can say this.

The Admiral Commanding 1st Cruiser Squadron very kindly invited an officer and fifteen non-commissioned officers and men to embark for ten days in H.M.S. *Frobisher* and go to sea to take part in certain exercises which the 1st Cruiser Squadron was to carry out. The party embarked on Sunday, June 5th, and sailed on Monday morning. Officers and men of the ship were kindness in itself, and did all they could to make the visit as interesting as possible.

*July 3rd.*—The past month has passed without incident, the Battalion settling down to do what little training is possible in the conditions under which we are stationed here.

We played H.M.S. *Frobisher* at football on Monday, the 18th, and beat them. After the match the band and drums beat "Retreat" on the football ground.

One of our amusements is guessing the next rumour, of which there are many. An officer or non-commissioned officer will say good-morning and then tell you he met a man who has a friend in the wireless section of the Royal Corps of Signals who told him that he read a wireless message in the middle of the night on its way from Shanghai to England. The message contained the exact dates of the moves of all the units of the brigade to England or the Mediterranean. Next morning someone else will say that he met a man in the club who had seen in writing in the brigade office that The Queen's would leave for Malta on September 16th in the *City of Marseilles*.

No rumour is so impossible or unlikely that it will not be believed and spread as absolutely true.

Meanwhile the weather gets hotter and damper. The typhoon season is now upon us, and everyone wonders what a typhoon will be like. I believe that once you have seen one you don't want to see another.

*July 28th.*—We have had a bit of a typhoon, as one passed fifteen miles north of here last Sunday. The local people thought nothing of it, as the wind speed only reached 72 miles an hour. In 1923 it was as much as 123 miles an hour. As it was, one ship's moorings parted and she collided with another close by. Very little damage was done on the whole.

There has been nothing new to record, except that more rumours are circulating, as we have had a cable from a Malta brewer asking for the contract. What is it worth?

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#### WORK FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

During August 150 soldiers completed their courses of training in the Army Vocational Training Centres, Hounslow, Aldershot and Catterick, and were discharged from the Army on the termination of their Colour service. Of this number 115 obtained immediate employment in civilian life, the majority going to bricklaying, carpentry and agriculture; the next most favoured trades were boot-repairing, painting and decorating, plastering, groundsman and market gardening. Of thirty-two men who were recorded in the July returns as having no employment to go to on completion of their course, twenty-one have since found employment.

## SHARKS

IT was Saturday. His Majesty's transport *Nevasa* was bearing us eastwards towards China, along the Somaliland coast, and we had just passed Cape Gardafui when the luncheon gong sounded. The sea was as smooth as the pond in Kew Gardens, and the temperature was just like that hottest greenhouse where all the tropical plants are grown—damp and hot—and one's shirt stuck to one's back. There was no prospect of seeing land for a week.

Our table consisted of the following: At the head was that excellent fellow, one of the ship's officers whom we will call "Troops." He was a perfect William Whiteley, the Universal Provider, and it was only necessary to ask him to produce anything for the benefit of the soldiers on the ship and it was forthcoming. He could find anything from a stage, fully equipped with footlights, to grease marks on the troop-deck mess tables.

Next to him came "Bim." Whatever the temperature he babbled on like a mountain brook. He babbled so fast that nobody could understand him, but that made no difference to him.

Jack came next. He had been inoculated that day and was trying to cut up his meat with his left hand, and was certain that the M.O. had left half the needle in his arm. He was softly humming, "God send you back to me." You see, he had been married three days before sailing from home.

The "Fat Boy" was next. The more the temperature rose the redder he got in the face, and the more he dripped with perspiration, but his stature did not decrease. It is reported that one night, in the Red Sea, when he was Captain of the day, he was going round troop-decks in white mess kit, when a voice from some dark remote corner said, "What time does the balloon go up?"

On the other side of the "Fat Boy" came the Major. He only woke up for meals. It is said that Sokotra, which we were due to pass that night, is inhabited by cannibals. Had they known that such a valuable prize was passing their front door they would have done something to gain such a wonderful specimen. His liver would have provided many breakfasts for the royal household.

Then came "Boss." After some years spent on the west coast a temperature of anything up to 130 degrees had no effect on him. He had also been punctured by the M.O., but he did not mind.

Hubert came next. One could see from the expression on his face that he was considering the best means of washing the men's socks, or whether it was possible to make a pocket to their canvas trousers in which they could keep their money and Woodbines, so that they would not lose them during the night.

We were all sitting more or less in silence when the last of our party came in, mopping his brow. This was "Pills." From the name you might imagine he was the M.O., but not a bit of it. He was the Adjutant. He looked at various hot dishes, and finally decided to toy with a small piece of cold beef and some salad. What a change from the first week of the voyage, when he started at the top of the menu and went straight through! After he had taken about half a mouthful of cold beef he informed us that the C.O. had decided, as the following day was Sunday, after foot inspection, church parade, paying out, helmet fitting, and one or two other small duties, that the rest of the day would be observed as a holiday.

"What shall we do? What shall we get up a cricket match?" said Bim.

Those of us who were not too hot said "What?" After he had repeated it three times we came to the conclusion that he wished to indulge in some violent form of exercise. None of us were for it.

"Troops" then had a brain-wave, and said, with that twinkle in his eye, "What about shark fishing?" "Pills," being a thorough sportsman, was on it like a knife. "The very idea," he said, "but tell us what we have got to do. Can you lend us a tackle? What sort of a hook is used? What about bait? Where do we do it from? I say, Major, have you ever seen them caught when you have been at sea before?"

The Major had been to sea about half a dozen times, but pretended he knew considerably more about it than he actually did.

He lifted one eye from his plate of cheese and biscuits and said "Yes," and immediately subsided, taking a long drink of tonic water. (It was said to be tonic water, but gin is the same colour!)

The Major was not given to long outbursts of conversation. "Troops" said he could provide the hook and line, and suggested a visit to the chief steward, who would probably provide a leg of pork which had left the cold storage before its time, as bait.

By this time everybody had come to life again and was interested. Preparations were pushed ahead. Jack had given up humming, and suggested that No. 7 Platoon, which had won the ship's tug-of-war the day before, should be asked to be present to haul in the shark as soon as he was hooked.

The regimental butcher was also to have a hand in it, but it was undecided how the final blow was to be given. "Pills" was in favour of cutting its throat with a sharp knife. "Troops," however, said, the twinkle in his eye again appearing, that the usual mode was to hit it at the back of the neck with a hatchet, after the manner of killing a rabbit. It was decided that this was a minor point which could be settled when the shark was landed, provided the butcher was present. "Troops" said he would arrange that no swill should be thrown overboard after 11 a.m. on Sunday, so that the shark would be hungry and looking for more food by 2 p.m., the hour fixed for the start of the expedition.

The second officer, whose tour of duty on the bridge was due to come round at that time, was asked to keep a special look-out for any sharks which might be near the ship and take bearings on them, so that the chances of our hooking one might be increased. This he promised to do.

After Breakfast on Sunday, "Pills," being Adjutant, did not attend the parades detailed by the C.O., but carried out one or two of the other small duties already mentioned, and was preparing to observe the day in the spirit indicated, and therefore had plenty of time to carry out the necessary preliminaries for the fishing expedition. He produced the largest hooks in modern times, which were fastened by wire to a new log line about 600 yards long. The leg of pork was produced, and would have tempted the best-fed shark in the Indian Ocean. No. 7 Platoon was warned to be present and the butcher detailed to sharpen his knife and axe.

Two o'clock arrived, and, everything being ready, we duly paraded at the stern of the ship. Stories of our undertaking had gone round the ship, and many spectators arrived, but were turned back—the deck space, being very limited, was reserved for members of our table and the necessary extra men to haul in the shark, when caught.

"Troops," still with a slight twinkle in his eye, was the chief worker, having had previous experience, as we thought. The bait was duly thrown overboard and the line paid out. Everything went splendidly, and the pork sank just below the water. At this moment the telephone which leads to the bridge rang, and "Troops" answered it, after having told us to make fast the line. He said the

second officer had news and would we send someone up to the bridge to receive the report. "Pills" volunteered, and the Major was the other to go up and bring down the message. The ship's officers and crew on duty on the bridge seemed delighted to see the deputation, judging by the smiles on their faces, and the second officer invited them into the chart room to read the message he had received. The message was as follows:—

PETERS NEVASA STOP

CHEERIO OM STOP BAR 2922 KMG MINIKOI STOP HAS OR  
NS STOP KAR C STOP TELL TROOPS POSSIBLE SHARK OR  
PORP ACCORDING FISHERIES BOARD COLOMBO STOP SEE YOU  
LONDON 15TH IF YOU COME STRAIGHT BACK STOP D. S.  
WINDLE MATIANA.

The Major and "Pills" read the telegram, and an absolute blank came over their faces. The second officer seemed amused, presumably by the vacant looks of the deputation.

"It sounds rather complicated, but I'll explain matters to you," said the second officer, introducing the charts, dividers, compasses, parallel rules, to say nothing of various other instruments the names of which are only known to those versed in naval matters and deep-sea fishing.

"These first words mean 'Cheerio, old man,' and Bar 2922 tells me that the density of the water is such which has always been suitable to sharks. The following words give me the following bearings," and he plotted and drew lines in varying directions on the chart, thus forming an irregular figure. He then shaded in the whole area and said, "There—that is the area in which sharks or porpoises might be caught. This is the ship's position at noon to-day." The ship's position was at the beginning of this area.

He then suggested that the Major and "Pills" should proceed to the bridge to see whether a fin or other indications of sharks could be seen.

"Look at that," he said suddenly. "You see that dark patch on the water. That is a sure sign of sharks."

The deputation looked in the direction indicated, and, sure enough, there was a large dark patch.

"We must closely scan that patch. You take these glasses," said he, handing a pair to "Pills." At the same time he handed another instrument, the name of which is unknown, to the Major, who took it and tried to use it.

"I can't see a darned thing through this instrument," said the Major.

"You have got it tilted," said the Second, "hold it straight."

"Ah, that's better," said the Major. "But look here, the sea is upside down."

The Second laughed.

At that moment the telephone bell rang, and the Second went to answer it. "Quick," he cried, "'Troops' says he has got a bite. You had better hurry aft to see the fun."

No further word was necessary. "Pills" was off like a knife, and would have done the hundred in 9 2/5th. He was followed by the Major, puffing like a grampus, who arrived purple in the face, which looked as if it had fallen in the sea, with which he mopped his brow. It was a good race. Two minutes divided first and second.

The stern of the ship by this time was a sea of wild excitement.

"We've got one," said "Troops." "Haul on the line, but take it gently. Now then—all together—HEAVE."

Our table, together with No. 7 Platoon, heaved as if our lives depended on it.

## "KIRKE'S LAMBS."



### EXECUTION OF REBELS.

"Kirke's Lambs" are still remembered in Somerset. Only last June they were introduced into the Bridgwater Pageant, one of the scenes dealing with the Battle of Sedgemoor, in 1685. Monmouth's Troops were shown in retreat, followed by a company of the "Tangier Regiment" with Colonel Piercy Kirke at their head. The uniform of the Regiment was faithfully represented, and the producer had evidently studied the drill of the period, for it was executed with all the old words of command that one learns were then used.

## THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

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Small pools of water formed on the deck where it fell from our brows. The butcher stood, axe in hand, ready for the fatal blow.

"Give a bit," shouted "Troops." We gave a bit. "We must play him. Pay out twenty fathoms." None of us had any idea what a fathom was, but we paid out.

"That's better. I can feel him lashing his tail. He's tiring. We'll land him soon. Now then, all together—HEAVE." Again we heaved, and it must have been at least sixty fathoms which came. To some of us it felt like sixty thousand.

"HEAVE," said "Troops," at intervals of a few seconds. We heaved for a period which seemed hours.

At this moment "Fat Boy" fell-out and sat on a bollard which happened to be handy. He looked like nothing on earth. By this time "Pills" eyes were almost starting out of his head. Whether this was from excitement or exertion it was impossible to tell. The Major seemed reduced to a jelly. Hubert said, "I say, you fellows, I can't go on much longer."

There was another period of playing the shark.

"Six more strong pulls," said "Troops," "and we shall have him. Stand-by, butcher. Now then, one—two—three—four—five—six. Stand-by. Stop. Make fast."

"Troops" leaned over the side, bowie knife in mouth. We were all too exhausted to see much.

After a short interval, "Troops," straining every muscle, raised that which had cost us so much energy. There, before the eyes of us all, was the finest specimen we had ever seen—a Yarmouth bloater!

## RETURN OF RESERVISTS FROM CHINA

### AN APPEAL TO EMPLOYERS.

It is officially stated that the men of Section "A" of the Army Reserve who were called up last January for service in China, will return home between the middle of October and the end of November.

These men, numbering some 1,650, responded promptly to the calling-up notices, although most of them were in civil employment at the time and many of them were married. Their conduct while with the Colours in China has been very favourably reported upon.

It is understood that many employers have agreed to reinstate those men who were previously in their employment; and the Secretary of State confidently hopes that this patriotic example will be followed by all the men's former employers.

Those men who have no employment to go to on their return home will be advised to register their names with the local representatives of the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, and any employer who is desirous of offering employment to any individual should communicate with the local representative of the National Association, or with the head offices of the Association at 119 Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

## 2nd BATTALION

OUR stay at Khartoum is nearly at an end, as we leave Port Sudan for our various destinations early in October. We will none of us, I think, be sorry to go, but Khartoum has not turned out nearly such a bad place as it was painted, and we have not had at all a bad year here.

Amusements, for other ranks at least, have not been numerous, but there has been a consolation in the opportunity for saving money. Over £5,000 has been invested in National Savings Certificates since June, 1926, and there are comparatively few who will not have quite a comfortable sum invested when they get home.

Sports are dealt with elsewhere, but a feature of Khartoum has been the interest taken in the troops by the Bishop and other clergy. The Clergy House suppers have been most successful shows and very much appreciated.

Most platoons, etc., have been able to get occasional trips to Omdurman, or picnics on the Nile banks. The Regimental Cinema has, by the energy of Sergt. May and L./Cpl. Moss, become quite a good show. The weekly dances there have been very popular.

Training has been difficult. There is any amount of desert available, but as it is dead flat, with the corpses of occasional donkeys as its only landmarks, it is not an inspiring training area.

"C" Company and a section of the Machine Gunners very enterprisingly marched out some thirty miles down the river for a fortnight's training. The country there was much better for training, but for camping it was not ideal. When there was wind there was dust, and when there wasn't wind there were flies.

Training was quite good, however, and culminated in a most realistic battle against the Omdurman Mounted Infantry, a very well-trained and workmanlike lot. The encounter between their turning movement and our counter-attack led to a most dramatic situation which so excited some of the combatants that it was quite difficult to keep them apart. A feature of the camp was the periodical and picturesque arrival of Sergt. Stafford with his mounted escort and the mails.

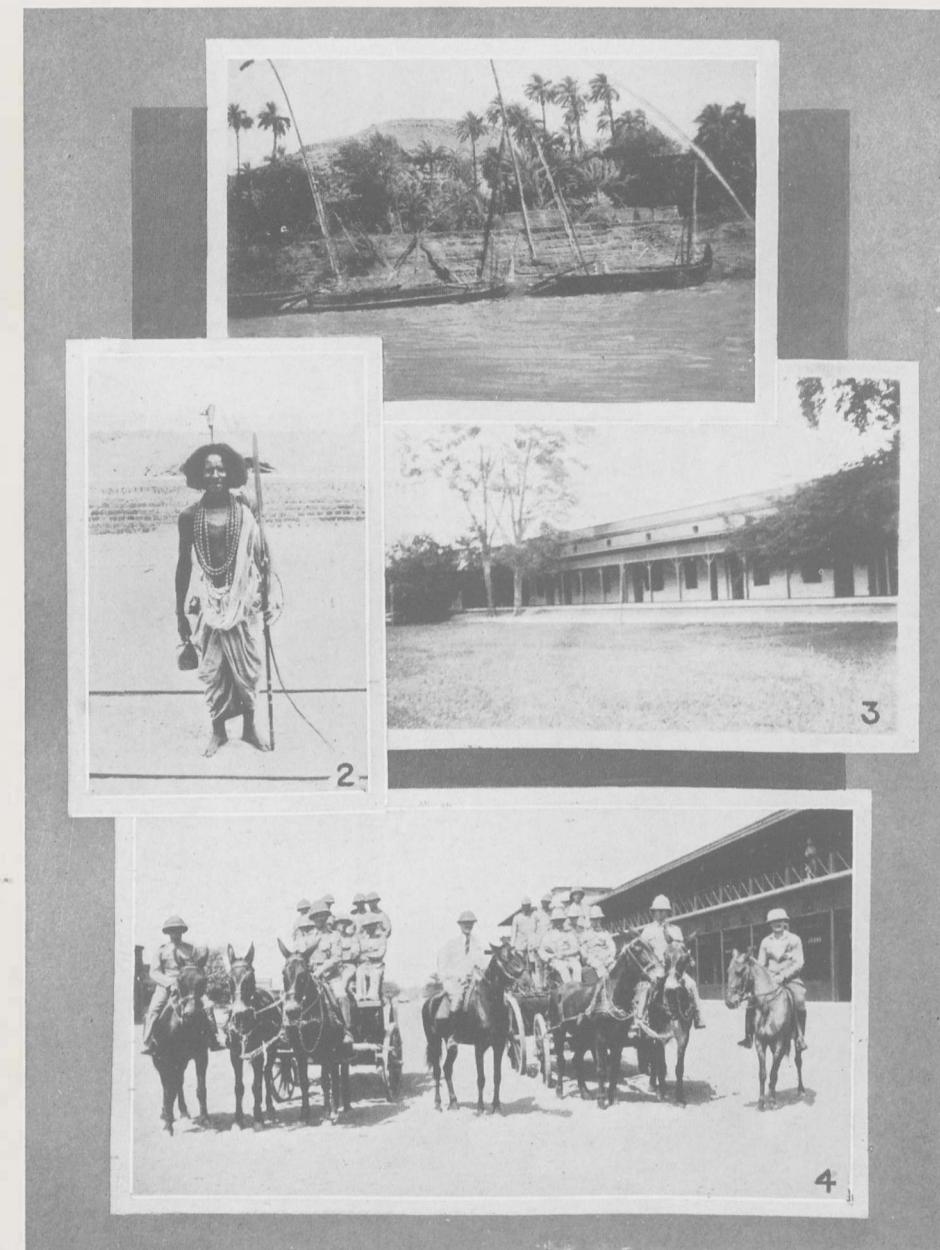
Companies went up in turn for six weeks at a time to Gebeit, in the Red Sea hills. This nominal hill station was little, if at all, cooler than Khartoum, but it was free from "Haboobs." There the companies fired their rifle and Lewis gun courses, with very satisfactory results. The rest of the Battalion, in Khartoum, was meanwhile mainly occupied with specialist training.

We have also tried seriously to improve the communications in barracks, and, before we leave, hope to complete quite an extensive system of roads. What a boon this will be can only be realized by those who had to plough everywhere through six inches of soft sand, as we had to do last winter.

Leave in the Sudan is very generous, and nearly all officers got three and a half months. Half a dozen went shooting down south, and met with considerable success. Their various bags included a record koodoo for the Sudan, two elephant, two lion, besides buffalo, hippopotamus, and buck of different sorts. They also brought back a fine batch of mixed diseases.

We have been most lucky in our weather this year, and, by Indian standards, can hardly be said to have had a hot weather season at all. The last part of May and June was unpleasant, mainly from the "Haboobs." These vary in strength and beastliness, but to be caught outside in a really bad one is a terrifying experience. It becomes as dark as midnight, while the howling wind blows the

## 2ND BATTALION.



1. A Fishing Village on the Nile.  
2. A "Fuzzy-Wuzzy."  
3. Officers' Quarters, Khartoum.  
4. The Transport Section starting for a Picnic.

dust into every crevice, and one's eyes, nose and mouth become choked with dust and mud. Like everything else, however, they are reported to be "not half as bad this year as usual."

At this time of the year, too, people are liable to fits of the deepest depression, corresponding, I suppose, to the "cafard," described in Wren's books on the Foreign Legion. They are supposed to be due to the dryness and electricity of the air. A few people seem immune, but most succumbed at least once.

However, the rains came early and were the best Khartoum has had for years. As a result the weather now is delightful, and the sand in the barracks has become firm and easy to walk on, and the desert has become a grassy plain. What would be "Haboobs" are now thunderstorms, and pretty violent ones at that. One of these tore off seventy feet of the verandah from the south side of the Officers' Mess, lifted it completely over, and deposited it on the lawn on the north side. As it occurred during a guest night dinner, we might quite easily have had to find a new band.

As a farewell to Khartoum we gave a small Torchlight Tattoo (with the following programme). It was the first time anything of the kind had been attempted in the Sudan, and it seemed much appreciated, especially by the Sudanese officers, who all went home with the firm intention of carrying out a "Troop" themselves at the first opportunity. One never realized till that night how big a population Khartoum had. The officers entertained about 250, the sergeants 250, and the corporals 200. In addition, "Pte. Criddle and the privates" issued invitations to all the privates, gunners, and airmen of other units. A number of sheiks, most distinguished-looking old gentlemen, also attended and seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

#### PROGRAMME.

##### FIRST POST

###### GOD BLESS THE PRINCE OF WALES

1. THE BAND AND DRUMS	...	(a) "Silver Trumpets"	...	...	...	...	...	Viviani
		(b) "Vanished Army"	...	...	...	...	...	Alford
		(c) "Clarion Anglais"	...	...	...	...	...	Parkes
2. CLUB SWINGING : —								
THE DRUMS	...	...	...	May Blossom				
3. THE BAND	...	...	...	Indian Love Call	...	...	...	...
4. THE DRUMS	...	...	...	(a) "Sirius"	...	...	...	...
				(b) "Orange Drums"	...	...	...	...
5. A PART OF THE CEREMONY OF TROOPING THE COLOUR : —								
SLOW MARCH	...	...	...	Scipio	...	...	...	Band and Drums
MARCH	...	...	...	10th Regiment	...	...	...	Band and Drums
MARCH	...	...	...	British Grenadiers	...	...	...	Band and Drums
SLOW MARCH	...	...	...	Rule Britannia	...	...	...	Band and Drums
MARCH PAST								
SLOW MARCH	...	...	...	Coburg	...	...	...	Band and Drums
6. THE DRUMS	...	...	...	(a) "Leonora"	...	...	...	...
				(b) "Clarendon"	...	...	...	...
7. TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION : —								
THE BAND—MARCH	...	...	...	The Desert Song	...	...	...	Romberg
8. THE BAND AND DRUMS	...	...	...	(a) "Georgia"	...	...	...	Miller
				(b) "The Parade of the Tin Soldiers"	...	...	...	Jessel

###### REGIMENTAL MARCHES

###### THE LAST POST

###### THE KING

###### LIGHTS OUT

###### EVENING HYMN

The following are two of the many letters received in connection with the Torchlight Tattoo:—

"I am directed by His Excellency the Acting Governor-General to express to you his appreciation and keen enjoyment of the Torchlight Tattoo given on Saturday last by the regiment under your command.

"His Excellency desires me further to say that such an excellent result reflects the greatest credit on all who were concerned with it. Such a result could not have been achieved without perfect organization and very hard work, and His Excellency is sure that all who witnessed the Tattoo, and especially the native element, were very much impressed.

(Sd.) "E. N. HYLTON,

*"Assistant Private Secretary to His Excellency  
"The Acting Governor-General."*

"I wish to take this opportunity of expressing the deep gratitude of all members of our department to the officers and men of your Battalion, for enabling us to see the most interesting and impressive show we have yet witnessed in this country.

"I can assure you that the organization entailed, and the splendid result achieved, were very greatly appreciated by all of us.

(Sd.) "J. E. CRAIG,

*"Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government."*

We have now settled down to packing up, though even as late as this (three weeks before we leave) some of us do not yet know our destination. We do know, however, that we are losing 280 to the 1st Battalion, and a further 180 to Reserve, so will start at home a mere shadow of ourselves. Many of those we are losing have been with us four years or longer, and it is melancholy work looking down the lists. They have played the game well in the Battalion, and one can be sure that they will continue to do so, whether in the 1st Battalion or in civilian life. The very best of luck to them all.

Meanwhile the rest of us are looking forward rather doubtfully to the chilly downs of Dover and the strangeness of home soldiering. Still I expect it will not be long before we are acclimatized to both.

#### SPORTS GENERALLY.

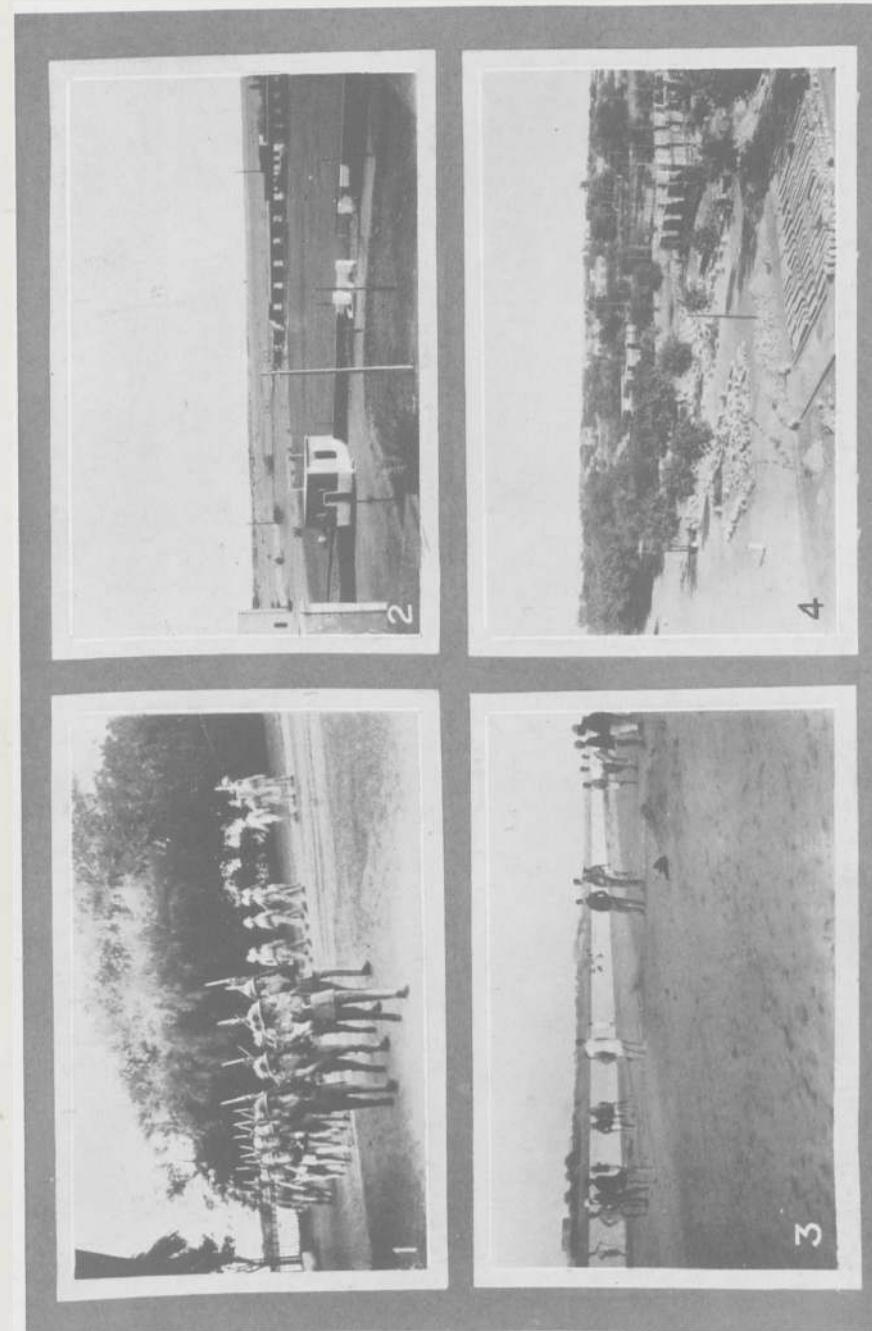
After Allahabad, where we had grounds for every company and then some over, we have felt very much the shortage in Khartoum, but we have made full use of those available.

It really seems we have at last the nucleus of a good regimental football team, but football is dealt with in detail separately.

There was no cricket till March, when a short but hectic season set in till the end of April. The Battalion took on the rest of Khartoum on three occasions and won each time. This was quite a good performance, as Khartoum at full strength includes players of county class.

There is any amount of enthusiasm and quite a lot of talent in the Regiment, and it is a great pity that it became too hot for the inter-company cricket to be held. Numbers of matches were played on matting wickets, laid on the sand in barracks, and quite good form was shown.

#### 2ND BATTALION.



1. Battalion Guards marching-off.  
Sept. 20th, 1927.

3. "Standards."

2. Football Ground and Transport Lines at Khartoum.

4. Khartoum from the Palace.

Hockey has not flourished much, as only a poorish ground is available and that is under water half the time. The inter-company was accordingly not held, and there were practically no opponents for the regimental side.

The Sports occupied six weeks in March and April. The first part, as usual, was "Standards," now an established institution and a most excellent one. Each man can gain seventy points for his platoon if he can do the necessary seven standards.

The competition was won by No. 1 Section Machine Gunners, with No. 2 Section Machine Gunners second. The winning section, although over thirty strong, was only three standards short of a possible—a good result, as any man sick or in hospital had still to count on his platoon strength.

The Sports proper this year consisted mostly of inter-platoon team events, with comparatively few individual ones. Nearly every platoon entered a team for all events. The result was a triumph for No. 14 Platoon. This was largely due to L./Cpl. Arbour, who very sportingly scratched from several individual events which he would have had a good chance of winning, in order that he should be all the fitter for the platoon events.

The winners and times were as follows:—

#### PLATOON EVENTS.

*400 Yards Relay*.—1st, Band "A"; 2nd, No. 5 Platoon.

*One Mile Relay*.—1st, No. 14 Platoon; 2nd, No. 2 Platoon.

*Two Mile Relay*.—1st, No. 14 Platoon; 2nd, No. 4 Platoon.

*High Jump*.—1st, No. 14 Platoon; 2nd, No. 15 Platoon.

*Long Jump*.—1st, No. 14 Platoon; 2nd, M.Gs. 1.

*Putting the Weight*.—1st, No. 16 Platoon; 2nd, No. 13 Platoon.

#### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.

*High Jump*.—1st, Bdsn. Hurst (Band "A"), 5 ft. 1 in.; 2nd, Dmr. Charlesworth (Drums "A"), 4 ft. 11 in.

*Long Jump*.—1st, Cpl. Mitchell (No. 14 Platoon), 18 ft. 5 in.; 2nd, Lieut. Haggard (M.Gs. 1), 17 ft. 10 in.

*100 Yards*.—1st, L./Cpl. Burnett (No. 5 Platoon), 11 sec.; 2nd, Bdsn. Fleckney (Band "A").

*Mile*.—1st, Pte. Mitchell (No. 13 Platoon); 2nd, Pte. Mitchell (No. 4 Platoon).

*Garrison 440 Yards*.—1st, L./Cpl. Arbour (No. 14 Platoon), 57 $\frac{1}{2}$  sec.; 2nd, Lieut. Grimston (No. 8 Platoon).

*Tug-of-War*.—Winners, "H.Q." Wing; runners-up, Drums.

The inter-platoon cross-country was run on February 26th, over a pretty tough course of about five miles, mostly sand. Out of 120 starters, 112 completed the course. Pte. Mitchell, of No. 13 Platoon, won in thirty minutes, with L./Cpl. Bradley, of M.Gs. 2, second. The winning team was No. 13 Platoon, consisting of: Cpl. Tuckwell, L./Cpls. Court and Elkins, Ptes. Mitchell, Hutchins and Windridge. No. 11 Platoon were second.

An inter-company bayonet-fencing competition was also held, and won by "A" Company, who beat "H.Q." Wing in the final.

The local sailing club gave a water sports regatta and asked us for entries. There was an immediate response of over 250, which was rather more than the committee bargained for and strained their organization considerably. However, they managed to rise to the occasion and got through the programme. A regimental water sports was projected, but forestalled by the sudden rise of the river.

## FOOTBALL.

In the last number of the Journal we expressed great hopes of bringing home with us a good team—these hopes have been rather shattered owing to the shortage of grounds during the summer months, and also to the fact that we are to lose some of our best players, who are transferring to the premature Reserve this trooping season. Nevertheless, we are able to put a fairly good side in the field, and must hope for improvement with practice at home.

The following games have been played since our last report:—

February 11th, 1927.—International F.C. Battalion won, 7—0.

February 17th, 1927.—The Gordon College. Battalion won, 5—0.

March 2nd, 1927.—The 58th Regiment. Battalion won, 3—0.

April 28th, 1927.—The Gordon College. Draw, 1—1.

A list of goal scorers appears at the end.

The Battalion entered one team per company and Headquarter Wing, and a team each from the Band and Drums, for the Davis Bryan Cup. Some well-contested games were seen, the closest of which was when our Band lost to "C" Company of the 58th Regiment (1—0) in the final, the latter being the better team. The hero of the game was, without a doubt, Bdsn. Smith, who kept goal like an international!

On arrival in England the Battalion hopes to be accepted for the Army Cup, and the same leagues as was the 1st Battalion. By the time men have had their leave it will be rather late in the season, but gives some time for the necessary practice of the team under home conditions.

During the hot weather a platoon competition was held at Khartoum. "C" Company was, at the time, in camp at Gebeit, but the ruling of the competition allowed for them to put their best platoon against the winners at Khartoum on their return, by whom, if they were beaten, they had the right to challenge the runners-up. Band "A" (the Band entered two teams) proved themselves the winners of the competition, after beating No. 9 Platoon (champion platoon of "C" Company). No. 9 Platoon then challenged Drums "B" (who also entered two teams), the original runners-up, but again proved unsuccessful, thus leaving Drums "B" the "final" runners-up.

Nothing more, worthy of note, has taken place this season.

List of Battalion goal scorers since arrival in Khartoum: Bdmstr. Fleckney, 13; Cpl. Coles, 5; Cpl. Keates, 3; L./Cpl. Dennis, 1; Cpl. Jones, 1. Goals scored for, 23; goals against, 6.

## SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS.

In our last contribution no mention was made of life at Khartoum, and now that we are asked to write we find, to the delight of all, that our days in the Sudan are numbered. As soon as we had got settled, visits were paid to the various messes and clubs, and we received visits from them. There is very little to do in Khartoum, one great loss being the lady element. No families are stationed here, and the few ladies who belong to the civilian officials go to England as soon as the hot weather sets in. The Drum-Major, however, soon found a substitute in the entertainment line, his first being the trip on the *Pibor* up the Nile. Stores for the journey were taken aboard under the supervision of Steward Palmer, of the Sergeants' Mess staff, and sharp at the appointed hour we set sail. The journey was spent in viewing the various boats and the countryside, cameras



2ND BATTALION.

[Khartoum, Khartoum]

FOOTBALL TEAM, 1927.

Dmr. Andrews. Pte. Byrne. Pte. Clarke. Cpl. Tuckwell. L./Cpl. Dennis. L./Cpl. Barr. Pte. Miller.  
B.M. Fleckney. Lt. Chitty. Lt.-Col. Rainford Hannay, D.S.O. R.S.M. Waspe. Lt. Grinston.  
Cpl. Coles. L./Cpl. Keates. Cpl. Youngman.

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doing very good work in recording the views. Having gone about ten miles up the river, we had to land. This proved rather a difficult operation, since it was discovered that our "liner" could not get close into the bank. We were, however, fortunate in having among the "passengers" several seafaring members, who managed to carry us "older" members to land, with the provisions for tea, etc. While tea was being made we managed to get several views of the villages and general surroundings, and one got an excellent idea of the life the native of this country has to put up with. At this spot acres of fields were covered with tomatoes, ripened off beautifully. We were offered about half a bushel for the sum of five piastres (a piastre is 2½d.). These we took to the river bank, where we had tea. Being unable to eat all of them, we had to dispose of them in a miniature battle practice. The following members were mentioned in despatches for doing good work throughout this trip: The Armourer (who, we are glad to say, is coming to Dover with us), Drum-Major C. H. Smith, Willie Hankin, and several cameras.

Other sources of amusement have been in the shape of trips to Omdurman, which in most cases were arranged by the Adjutant, to whom the Mess owe a great deal of thanks.

We have had several interesting games of football and hockey with the Northamptonshire Regiment, who are sharing the pleasures of the Sudan with us. On Easter Monday the Battalion entertained them to a comic football match, after which all members were at home to the football team and the members of their mess. A very pleasant evening followed, several good turns being given by Sergt. Tostin, of the 58th, who is a born comedian. The result of this was a return "at home" with the 58th at their mess. The afternoon was spent at tennis, which was followed by a social in their mess. We were awarded a handsome cup (made from biscuit tins by their Armourer) for community singing.

During the last few months we have been anxiously awaiting wires from the English brewers (they usually know first) to know when we were to move, and where. This news has now arrived, but we are all very uncertain whether all members are safe in having their boxes painted "Dover" or "China." Whatever happens, we have the consolation that one of the Commanding Officer's wishes of the last Journal will be fulfilled, that is, we shall have a Christmas in England. By the time this has appeared in print we hope to be settled at Dover (or China for some of us), and we shall have had the pleasure of seeing all the members who have left us during our stay abroad.

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#### "C" COMPANY'S MARCH TO SURURAB WEST.

By C.S.M. OSBORNE.

Soon after our arrival at Khartoum the command of the Company was taken over by Capt. G. R. Prendergast, and this officer, who has had some previous experience of Africa with the King's African Rifles, applied to take the Company on a march across the battlefield of Omdurman, and on to Sururab West, a distance of about thirty-one miles.

To reach Omdurman from the British barracks one has to cross the junction of the Blue and White Nile. This journey can only be done by means of a ferry, which runs about every half an hour and stays for ten minutes at each end.

Permission to carry out this march was given on January 20th, and the usual preparations were made. On January 31st Capt. N. A. Willis, with an advance

party of No. 11 Platoon, left barracks at 6 a.m. with all stores and the baggage train, which consisted of forty-seven camels, twelve pack mules, and forty-seven mule carts. The transportation of a column such as this, and the loading of it on to a ferry which only stayed at the landing stage for ten minutes, can better be imagined than described. However, all the loading was completed, and the unloading on the far side finished by 7 p.m. The next part of the journey, *i.e.*, from the ferry to the mounted infantry barracks at Omdurman, was completed by 9 p.m.

The remainder of the Company, with a section of Machine Gunners, left barracks on February 1st at 7 a.m., and were played to the ferry by the Drums. Here we were met by the G.O.C. Troops in the Sudan, who was interested in the march. Great difficulty was experienced at the ferry in inducing the mules to embark, and they had to be pushed as well as led before they were finally got on board. This having occupied so much of the precious ten minutes at our disposal, we barely had time to rush the Lewis gun carts on board before the ferry was away, and compelled us to leave the section of machine guns and its personnel behind, to come along with a later ferry. After unloading at the other side, the blankets, kits, etc., were sorted out into suitable camel loads by the Sudanese camel leaders, who have more experience in the loading of camels than Tommy. At last we were ready, and away we marched to the mounted infantry barracks, Omdurman, a distance of about six miles. Although this march was very short, it was also very trying, as a strong wind was blowing in our faces, bringing with it clouds of sand. All good things come to an end, and we eventually arrived at the destination of the first day's march. Here we bivouacked for the night by the river, and received our first surprise, for the cold of the night was intense and we were all glad to hear the notes of "Réveillé" at 4.30 a.m., and to be able to get up and moving, so as to restore some of the circulation to our blood.

The column moved off from the mounted infantry barracks at 7 a.m., the G.O.C. Troops in the Sudan being present to see us off, and we had now started on the real march, to which we were all looking forward with mixed feelings. This day we passed across the battlefield of Omdurman and the famous hill of Jebel Surgham and the Kerrari Ridge, where the British troops bivouacked the night prior to the Battle of Omdurman. We had many difficulties in getting the transport over the Khors, and in many cases the Lewis gun carts tipped up backwards, taking the mules up in the shafts. After marching fifteen miles we arrived at Salima Islands, tired and dusty but still cheerful. In a very short time after our arrival we were able to have some tea, the water for this being obtained from the river in tea buckets, and we then began making ourselves comfortable for the night in the shade of some trees. During the evening, after the sun had gone down, we were allowed to bathe in the river, which was very refreshing after a hot and dusty march.

On the morning of the 3rd we made an early start for our last trek of six miles, arriving at our destination in about two and a half hours. As usual, the first thing Tommy thought of was the brewing of some tea, and as a nice pile of wood was handy everything seemed as if it had been arranged for our reception, but we received a set-back in the form of an African superstition, for as soon as we started to touch the wood our interpreter told us that the wood had formerly belonged to a priest (since dead) and had been blessed by him, and that the natives of the district regarded the wood as holy and believed that if it was burnt the person who burnt the wood would meet with some disastrous fatality in consequence. In deference to this native superstition and their beliefs, we left the wood alone and had the tea later.

We had many difficulties in pitching a tent, owing to the ground being so sandy, and as soon as the pegs were driven into the ground out they came again

directly the ropes were tied on them. After much good breath had been wasted over this, we eventually got everything settled to the satisfaction of all.

On Saturday training commenced, time being devoted to section and platoon schemes. Near the end of our stay in camp we carried out a night operation, in conjunction with the mounted infantry from Omdurman, who greatly impressed us with their mobility. On our return to camp we were given a demonstration by the officer who commanded the mounted infantry. These troops, who are Sudanese, are really wonderful. At such a short notice as two hours they are able to turn out ready for a four days' trek, with no transport other than the mules which they ride.

Our return trek was uneventful, and we arrived back in Khartoum on the 15th, little the worse for wear and still cheerful. So ended our first march in the Sudan (as by this time rumour had it that this was the first march done by British troops on the east bank of the Nile since 1898).

## EMPLOYMENT INNOVATION

By MAJOR F. K. HARDY, D.S.O., ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS.

THE Army Council has given approval for the formation of a new class at the Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, in order to assist soldiers with long service (*i.e.*, soldiers with eighteen years or more service) to obtain positions of trust such as caretakers, porters, messengers, etc., for which occupations their military training renders them suitable.

Such soldiers may apply to join the Army Vocational Training Centre, Hounslow, for the last two months of their service. While there they will be employed on duties and given instruction in subjects likely to be of use to them in the employment they seek. Simultaneously, the centre's employment bureau will take up their cases and endeavour to place each man in a job suitable to his particular qualifications. The men, moreover, will be given every facility during their attachment at Hounslow to attend interviews with prospective employers, and will also be immediately available to take up positions as they occur.

In obtaining employment it should be remembered that self-help counts for a lot. The man who keeps his eyes and ears open, looks round for himself and gets his friends to help him, stands a better chance of finding congenial employment than does the man who sits down and waits for others to find it for him.

Senior ranks holding positions of responsibility will find that, at Hounslow, being released from their duties, they can devote their whole energy to solving the problem of their future.

Soldiers who are allotted vacancies are advised to bring with them plain clothes, as whilst some employers like to see applicants for employment in uniform, others prefer to see what they look like in civilian clothes.

It must be remembered that a discharge certificate of service is not available until within a few days of expiration of colour service. Before a soldier obtains this he has nothing to prove to employers what his record is. For this reason, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men are advised to bring with them any chits they may have received from officers under whom they have served, and, if they wish to take up a dual post with their wives, copies of any references the latter may possess.

## AN OFFICER'S DIARY OF THE GREAT WAR, 1914-18

1914.

REF.: BELGIUM AND N.E. FRANCE MAP.

August 4th.—At 6.30 p.m. orders were received by 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, at Bordon, to mobilize. Lieut.-Col. Warren held a conference of all officers in the Mess at 9.15 p.m., to ascertain the extent of readiness of the Battalion. Previous to this we had been proceeding on an "emergency mobilization" for two days, so that a good deal of the necessary preparations had already been completed.

August 5th.—To-day was officially known as "the first day of mobilization." I was on duty as orderly officer (for the last time) and spent the morning in getting the men's Field Service Conduct Sheets ready. In the evening we had another conference in the Mess at 9.15 p.m., and at 11.15 p.m. 450 reservists joined us from the Regimental Depot.

August 6th.—Kemp Welch came over from the Depot for lunch to-day, and 130 more reservists arrived at 5.30 p.m. Several of these men had been in the 2nd Battalion with me, and I got quite a number of them into my platoon.

August 7th.—During the morning separation allowances had to be made out for all the married men in "D" Company. After lunch the officers' kits were laid out for inspection of the Commanding Officer on the tennis courts. They were subsequently weighed to ensure that no one exceeded his 35 lb. allowance. Henrique's silk pyjamas caused much amusement and caustic comment from Col. Warren as an unnecessary luxury. Mobilization was completed to-day and reported accordingly at 5 p.m. to 3rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters. We were the first battalion in our brigade to be ready.

August 8th.—"Réveillé" at 4.45 a.m. and "D" Company marched to the rifle ranges, where the reservists all fired at 100 yards, and we subsequently breakfasted on the range. It poured all morning, but we continued firing at 300 yards (slow and rapid) until 1 p.m. Revolver practice on the miniature range during the afternoon.

August 9th.—Paraded at 9 a.m. and marched out to Oxney, where we did an attack on "C" Area. Brig.-Gen. Landon, C.B., subsequently addressed us on parade, being in command of our infantry brigade. During the afternoon I made out the roll of my platoon, which was as follows:—

## No. 14 PLATOON.

## No. 5 Section.

- 8560 Sergt. Phillips.
- L./Sergt. Tipper.
- 8272 Cpl. J. Davies.
- 10001 L./Cpl. J. Styles.
- 8545 L./Cpl. G. Anderson.
- 6373 L./Cpl. Corfe.
- 9030 Dmr. W. Bird.
- 10468 Pte. R. Collard.

## No. 6 Section.

- L./Sergt. Marsh.
- Cpl. Sutton.
- 8715 L./Cpl. H. Tee.
- 8884 L./Cpl. C. Ford.
- 8511 L./Cpl. Cross.
- 7991 L./Cpl. E. Ford.
- 8882 L./Cpl. E. Polly.
- 10361 Pte. J. Kent.

## No. 5 Section (contd.).

- 10444 Pte. H. Fleckney.
- 10438 Pte. W. Rhodes.
- 7973 Pte. E. Abley.
- 8262 Pte. C. Wodenhouse.
- 8179 Pte. W. Houghton.
- 7968 Pte. H. Harris.
- 8297 Pte. G. Rosier.
- 8348 Pte. F. Howells.
- 7629 Pte. Deeley.
- 7237 Pte. Brown.
- 5912 Pte. Norman.

## No. 6 Section (contd.).

- 10478 Pte. G. Turner.
- 10213 Pte. J. Mayers.
- 8471 Pte. A. Jeffreys.
- 8290 Pte. A. Stanley.
- 8892 Pte. A. Hall.
- 8218 Pte. A. Blackmoon.
- 10482 Pte. H. Byfield.
- 10293 Pte. L. Williams.
- 8007 Pte. Blanchard.
- 9879 Pte. Walker.
- 8590 Pte. H. Burch.

## No. 8 Section.

- Sergt. Sparkes.
- Cpl. Bourne.
- 5367 L./Cpl. Hoskins.
- 8369 L./Cpl. Floyd.
- 9928 L./Cpl. Tedder.
- L./Cpl. Bryant.
- 10165 Pte. A. Romp.
- 10233 Pte. Simmonds.
- 10252 Pte. Evans.
- 10439 Pte. F. Skinner.
- 8904 Pte. T. Mills.
- 8373 Pte. H. Lothian.
- 8370 Pte. R. Warwick.
- 8257 Pte. F. Fullick.
- 8771 Pte. H. Ryan.
- 9969 Pte. A. Downs.
- 7606 Pte. Fleming.
- 7212 Pte. Reader.
- 8341 Pte. Hanson.
- 6856 Pte. Preddy.
- 5951 L./Cpl. Silk.

August 10th.—"D" Company were on the range at 11.30 a.m. and practised control of fire, judging distance, etc., while firing was proceeding at 500 yards. During the afternoon we carried out an attack on Weavers Downs, and returned to camp at 6.30 p.m.

August 11th.—Practised control of fire up to 12 (noon), when the Battalion paraded on the barrack square to be photographed. Major-Gen. E. O. F. Hamilton, K.C.B., who was Colonel of the Regiment, subsequently addressed the Battalion. The officers were then photographed outside the Mess. In the evening the Drums played at Mess and the King's health was toasted.

The following is a complete list of the officers who proceeded to France with the Battalion:—

- Lieut.-Col. D. Warren ... ... ... ... Killed, Sept. 17th, 1914.
- Lieut.-Col. H. C. Pilleau, D.S.O. ... ... ... ... Died of wounds, Sept. 19th, 1914.
- Capt. C. E. Wilson ... ... ... ... Died of wounds, Sept. 17th, 1914.
- Bt.-Major E. B. Mathew-Lannowen ... ... ... ... Wounded, Sept. 14th, 1914.
- Capt. M. G. Heath ... ... ... ... Wounded, September 14th, 1914; killed 1915.
- Capt. A. E. McNamara ... ... ... ... Wounded, Sept. 14th, 1914.

Capt. C. F. Watson, D.S.O.	...	Wounded, 1918.
Capt. S. F. Stanley-Creek	...	Wounded, Sept. 14th; killed, Oct. 31st, 1914.
Capt. H. N. A. Hunter	...	Wounded, October 23rd, 1914.
Capt. F. C. Longbourne	...	Wounded, Oct. 11th, 1914.
Lieut. R. L. Q. Henriques	...	Killed, Sept. 14th, 1914.
Lieut. M. V. Foy	...	Killed, Oct. 13th, 1914.
Lieut. B. M. Kenny	...	Wounded, Sept. 14th, 1914.
Lieut. R. S. Pringle	...	Died of wounds, Sept. 17th, 1914.
Lieut. J. D. Boyd	...	Wounded, August 26th, 1914.
Lieut. M. W. H. Pain	...	Wounded, Sept. 14th, 1914; died, 1918.
Lieut. W. Hayes	...	Wounded, Sept. 17th, 1914.
Lieut. H. E. Iremonger	...	Wounded, Sept. 18th, 1914.
2/Lieut. E. D. Drew	...	Killed, Oct. 29th, 1914.
2/Lieut. F. M. Eastwood	...	Killed, Oct. 30th, 1914.
2/Lieut. H. B. Strong	...	Wounded, Oct. 29th, 1914.
2/Lieut. T. O. M. Buchan	...	Wounded, Sept. 26th, 1914.
2/Lieut. H. J. P. Thompson	...	Wounded, Sept. 14th, 1914; killed, 1917.
2/Lieut. C. Bushell	...	Evacuated sick, Sept. 6th, 1914.
2/Lieut. V. Cooper	...	Killed, 1918.
Lieut. and Ormr. G. H. Wallis	...	Taken prisoner, October 31st, 1914.
Capt. A. M. Rose, R.A.M.C.	...	

*August 12th.*—Packed my valise before breakfast. The Battalion paraded in two parties for the rail journey, the right half ("A" and "B" Companies) at 9 a.m., and the left half ("C" and "D" Companies) at 10.30 a.m. The greatest secrecy was maintained as to our destination, and even the engine driver did not know, when leaving Bordon, where we were due to embark. Eventually we reached Southampton at about 2 p.m., and commenced to embark on the ss. *Braemar Castle*. Curiously enough, it was in this ship that the 2nd Battalion had gone out to Gibraltar in December, 1909. After we were all on board, the 2nd Bn. Welsh Regiment also embarked on the same boat, and we were all packed like herrings in a barrel. Watson and I dined with Stenhouse at the South Western Hotel, Stenhouse being one of the embarkation staff at Southampton.

The approaches to the docks had been screened by high hoardings, so that the general public could not see what troops were being moved by rail. Eventually our ship left the wharf at 8.15 p.m. and passed down an unbuoyed channel, through a boom and minefield to the open sea. At first we were escorted by destroyers, but later on were left to ourselves.

*August 13th.*—The hardships of campaigning began at breakfast time to-day. A biscuit and two cups of tea, without milk or sugar, were all we could get, but even that was very acceptable. At about 9 a.m. we found ourselves alongside at Havre, and commenced landing at 11 a.m. "D" Company was formed up on one of the lower decks, with a company of the Welsh Regiment just above us. Whilst loading rifles preparatory to landing, one of our men let off a round, which passed up through the deck above us. Fortunately no one was hit, but Bobbie Creek, my company commander, aged perceptibly. No. 14 Platoon, which was mine, was detailed to unload horses and transport, and we were hard at it till 5.30 p.m. The slinging arrangements from the ship to the shore were very primitive at this stage of the campaign. At 5.45 p.m. we fell in and marched eight miles to camp No. 6, via Rue de Normandie. Our Drums played practically all the way, and the French crowds which lined the road and marched along with us were tremendously excited when the drummers struck up the "Marseillaise."

March discipline was difficult to maintain, with enthusiastic French men and women shaking hands all the way and shouting "Guillaume fineesh" (at the same time drawing a finger across their throat, signifying that he was as good as done for). L/Cpl. Ford, of my platoon, had a fit on the way, owing to the heat, and many of the reservists found marching with a full pack pretty trying, though no one else fell out. Our transport arrived in camp very late, as they had to go round a long way to avoid a bad hill. The first and last square meal we had to-day was breakfast at 9 p.m.

*August 14th.*—The King's speech was read out on parade at 10 a.m. The Commanding Officer also addressed the men and spoke of the probable hardships which we would have to face, and that the Battalion was expected to do so cheerfully and without grumbling. Finally, Lord Kitchener's letter was distributed to everyone. The rest of the morning was occupied in filling water bottles by platoons. Much difficulty was experienced in doing this at first, as it was found that the water carts were wholly inadequate for the purpose. The time averaged per company for this operation was one and a half hours, and, in consequence, we eventually had to scatter to surrounding farms for our water each morning before we marched off. During the afternoon Bushell, Eastwood and I went into Havre to do some shopping, and drove back in a taxi. There was a bad thunderstorm during the night, with tremendous forked lightning.

*August 15th.*—The Battalion marched off at 3 a.m. in heavy rain, but it cleared up soon after we started. The populace turned out to see us off. We had a fine view, by moonlight, from the ridge above Havre, and all the battleships in the harbour were lighted up and looked very imposing. At 5.30 a.m. we entrained at Havre Station, and finally left for an unknown destination at 9.30 a.m., in one long train for the whole battalion. We passed Rouen at 1 p.m., Amiens at 7 p.m., and Arras at 10 p.m. After Amiens the train developed a tendency to go off the rails. The men were packed in cattle trucks labelled "8 horses or 40 men," and the officers were also wedged very tightly in their carriages. At every stopping-place there were French people asking for souvenirs, and the men's badges and buttons began to disappear until this was forbidden.

REF.: N.W. EUROPE, SHEET 5.

*August 16th.*—We reached Le Nouvion at 2.30 a.m. and detrained there. After lying on the ground till 5.30 a.m. we marched seven kilometres to Leschelle, where we went into billets. Outposts were mounted in the outlying parts of the village, which latter was subdivided into four company sectors. There were seventy Germans living here, who had to report themselves to the French Gendarmerie every two hours. Our officers' mess was in an estaminet in the centre of the village. The afternoon was spent in lecturing the men on the different methods of challenging in the French and German armies as compared with our own. I had quite a decent billet here in a house belonging to Madame Le Sevre.

*August 17th.*—Last night passed quietly in our village, but another battalion were firing most of the night at nothing in particular. During the morning companies went out independently on a manoeuvre parade, and in the afternoon we reconnoitred the outpost line round the village. In the evening Major Mathew-Lannowe gave us a lecture on our probable role in the campaign.

*August 18th.*—The Battalion paraded at 8.30 a.m. and marched out for four miles to practise outposts, challenging, etc. We then did a further seven miles before returning to billets. Our interpreter ("interrupter") joined us to-day, and was a French sous-officier.

*August 19th.*—We paraded 7.45 a.m. for a brigade route march via Buironfosse and Esqueheries. On our return I found that several pigs had died in my platoon billets during the morning, and the owner seemed disinclined to remove them. The Medical Officer had to be called on, and he found, on investigation, that they were suffering from swine fever, so the platoon had to vacate their quarters and move to another house, which was much less comfortable. English papers arrived to-day for the first time since we left England. During the afternoon all officers were turned on to censoring letters. Hitherto Major Pilleau had been the sole Battalion censor, and he was, naturally, getting rapidly "snowed under." In the evening we received orders to move on the following day.

*August 20th.*—The Battalion marched off at 8 a.m. Madame Le Sevre was delighted with an English shilling which I gave her as a souvenir. We marched via Le Nouvion and Barzy to Le Sart, where we billeted. Hunter and I shared the floor for a bed.

*August 21st.*—Left Le Sart at 7.15 a.m. and marched fourteen miles through Barzy, Beaurepaire, Cartignies and Dompierre to Les Bodeles, where my platoon spent the night on outpost. All companies paid out this evening, as far as it was possible to do with 30 and 20 franc notes. This operation took two hours.

*August 22nd.*—The 4th Dragoon Guards drew first blood to-day by killing one Uhlan and capturing two more. We were roused at 4.15 a.m. and ordered to move off at 5 a.m. Marched through St. Aubin and along the main road to Maubeuge. This road was all rough cobble stones and most unpleasant for marching on. The French trenches and wire in front of Maubeuge were our first glimpse of field fortifications. They looked remarkably strong and should have held up the Germans for several weeks if they had been stoutly defended. We breakfasted alongside the road at 1 p.m. and continued the march at 3.30 p.m. to Bettignies, where we heard distant artillery fire for the first time and had a halt for half an hour. At 6.45 p.m. we moved on to Croix des Rouvercy, with "D" Company as advanced guard. I was in charge of the "point" of the vanguard, and actually was the first person in the Battalion to cross into Belgium. Reached billets at 7.45 p.m. and found that there were several good barns with plenty of straw in them.

#### MONS.

*August 23rd.*—To-day was the first of a series of exciting Sundays. This day seemed inevitably connected, for some time to come, with some strenuous effort on the part of the enemy. After "Réveillé" at 3 a.m., the Battalion started entrenching on a line 300 yards to the north of the convent; we were in support to the remaining three battalions of the brigade, which were "digging-in" about 800 yards in front of us. During the afternoon we received orders to improve our trenches with overhead cover, and accordingly large doors in the village were taken off their hinges and carried out to the trenches, together with any poles and odd material which could be obtained. Throughout the afternoon a continuous artillery duel was in progress on our left front, in the vicinity of Mons, where the 2nd Division was being hotly engaged. This was the first occasion on which the Battalion had been within sight of bursting shells. Naturally everyone was very interested, and it was like standing on a hill while a demonstration was being given for our benefit. At 6 p.m. orders were received to reinforce the 2nd Infantry Brigade on the Mons front. We moved along to the left flank for about a mile, and then forward to a position about a quarter of a mile from the town of Mons. Here we lay in an open field, awaiting orders, but dusk came on and the firing gradually died down. Eventually the Battalion returned to its original position



2ND BATTALION.

[Kazandjian, Khartoum

Rag Football Match against 58th Regiment at Khartoum on Easter Monday, 1927.

Photo]

for the night. We were introduced, for the first time, to the glare of the German searchlights on this night, but I personally did not see them, my platoon being in support inside the boundary hedges of the convent, where we all slept soundly on straw until 3 a.m.

*August 24th.*—The whole battalion manned the trenches at 3 a.m., and, shortly afterwards, the 3rd Infantry Brigade started to withdraw, covered by the Battalion. This was our first experience of being under shell fire, but all the bursts were well over our heads and aimed at the batteries behind us. All three of the other battalions in the brigade were clear by 7.30 a.m. At 8.15 a.m. a small Uhlan patrol was fired on by "B" Company on the left of the Battalion line; all the patrol except one man were hit, as they had been allowed to ride to within about 400 yards of our trenches. The Medical Officer rode out to examine these scouts, and found that all three were dead. He had to finish off the horses, who had only been badly wounded. Shortly after 8.30 a.m. "D" Company, which was the last to withdraw, received the order to do so, and the whole Battalion was soon on the move without a casualty. My platoon retired through the convent grounds, and shells were bursting in the village just behind us as we left it. Cooper, who had sprained his ankle, was obliged to remain in the convent for another hour, when he got a lift with some of the nursing sisters, in a trap, just as the German infantry were approaching the village.

The retreat, which was to take us south of Paris, had begun. One day's marching was much the same as another, and there was little variation in the monotony. In our Battalion smoking was prohibited on the line of march, as also was the accepting of fruit, chocolate, drinks, etc., from civilians. Through the towns we always marched to "attention," and in the latter part of the retreat we slung rifles, by order, on alternate shoulders, and men were not allowed to carry rifles in any position. I fancy that in this respect we were unique, and it certainly contributed to good march discipline. My platoon had one or two good songsters, and we found that singing helped us along tremendously on the march. We also had several experts on the mouth-organ, who provided the accompaniment or performed solos. One got tired of the same songs over and over again. To my dying day I shall never forget the one which ran:—

" Whiter than the whitewash on the wall,  
 Whiter than the whitewash on the wall.  
 Wash me in the water that you wash your dirty daughter  
 And I shall be whiter than the whitewash on the wall."

Another favourite was entitled "You'd better pull down the blind."

We passed our old quarters at Bettignies, and halted in an orchard, where we enjoyed a large feed of fruit. At 1.30 p.m. we resumed our march and retired to Neuvesnil, where we got into billets. There were seven aeroplanes circling over us part of the time to-day on the march. During the afternoon we had passed to the western side of Maubeuge, and, as the French were supposed to be holding the defences of the town, we were able to spend the night with very few on outposts. I shared a room with Creek and Hunter. No valises were given out, so we had to do without a shave.

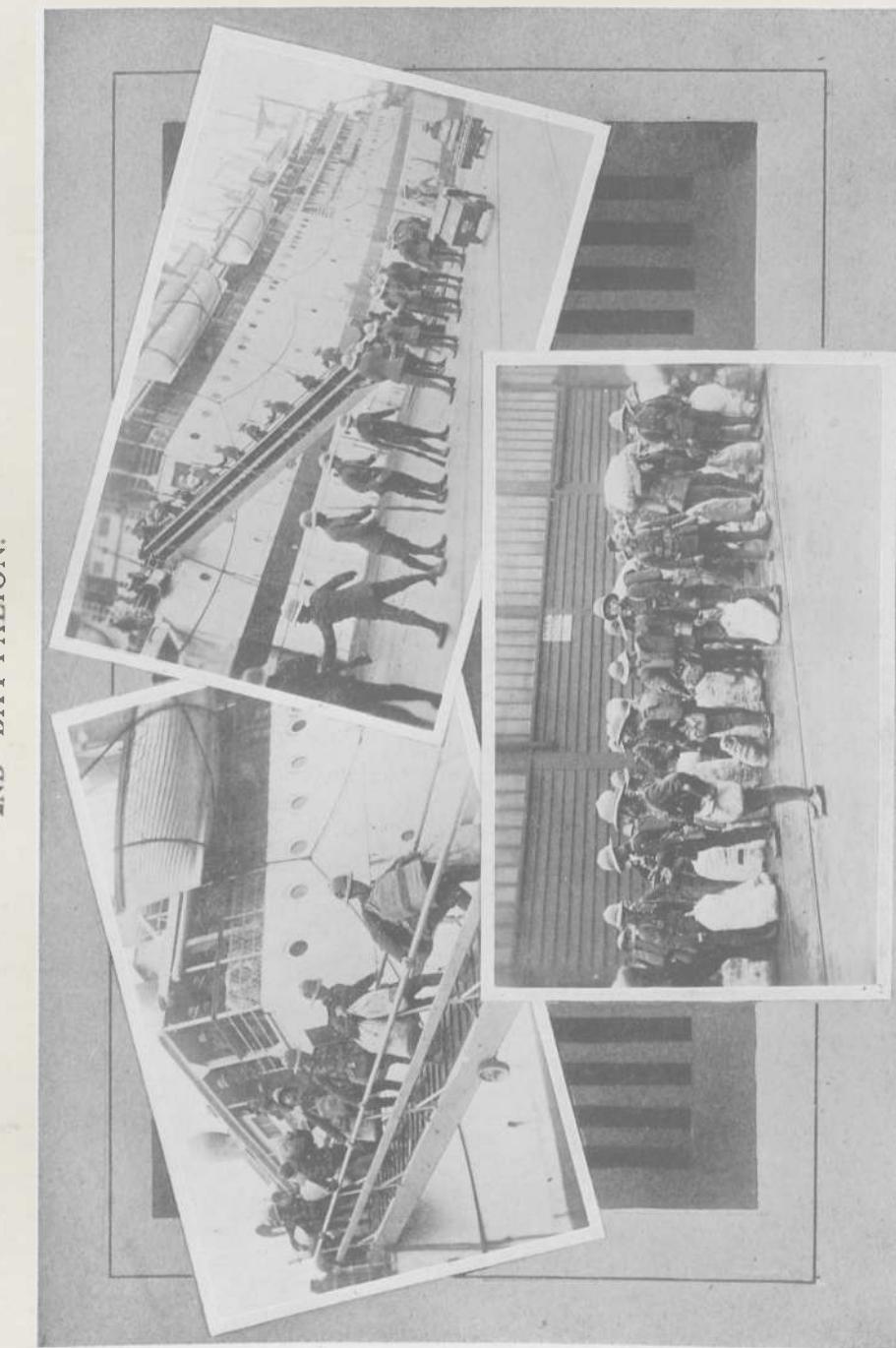
*August 25th.*—"Réveillé" at 3 a.m. We had "Gun-fire," consisting of bread, biscuits and tea, and marched off at 5 a.m. The march to-day was the worst we had had so far, and two men of my platoon fell out, but rejoined the same evening. We passed through Hautmont. After passing through Limont Fontaine, St. Remy, Dompierre and Marbaix, we halted in a field for an hour at 12.15 p.m. We then continued the march to Le Gd Fayt. I remember, on this occasion, carrying two rifles and an extra set of equipment for most of the afternoon. All platoon

commanders used to do this to help some of the reservists to keep up. It was thanks to this that we never had any stragglers. After settling into billets we were "alarmed" by sudden rifle fire at close range, and the whole brigade turned out at 6.30 p.m. in some confusion. As we subsequently found out, an artilleryman had come running into Brigade Headquarters with a story that he had seen a German cavalry patrol. Each company lined the first hedge they could find in the vicinity of billets. Unfortunately, our machine guns planted themselves at the end of "D" Company's hedge and started enfilading it. After a considerable expenditure of ammunition and no casualties, except for three stray horses which came galloping towards us and were mistaken for the German cavalry, we returned to billets at 8.30 p.m.

*August 26th.*—Called out at 1 a.m., after three hours' sleep, and packed up. All the men's packs and greatcoats were loaded on to two lorries and dispatched under the Drum-Major to St. Quentin. We marched off to Favril to help extricate the 4th Guards Brigade from Landrecies, where they had been fighting during the night. On the way to Favril we drew our rations for the day by the roadside, while on the march. Eventually we entrenched ourselves at Sambreton, to cover the retirement of the 4th Guards Brigade, which retired along the main road, through our position, during the morning. Two Guards subalterns came along two hours afterwards and explained to Charles Wilson that they had not been called by their servants in Landrecies, and had slept through the fighting. At 2 p.m. we received orders to retire, and handed over rear guard to the 5th Cavalry Brigade (Scots Greys). The latter were in action three minutes after we had taken up their position on the road, and they lost two killed. The Battalion retired in the order "B," "C," "A" and "D" Companies. Bushell's platoon did the rear guard. The retirement was continued through La Groise to Oisy, where we arrived at 7 p.m. The men bivouacked in a large barn. I, personally, had a good night's rest in a hay cart. Pain was mistaken for a German spy to-day and got shot in the arm by a Frenchman, when leading our transport. This was our first casualty among the officers. Sergt. Griffiths, the Mess Sergeant, also went sick on this date—a great blow. During most of our retirement to-day from Sambreton, the troops and transport were treble-banked on the road, *i.e.*, three columns, all moving in the same direction.

*August 27th.*—All officers' kits were packed up at 5.15 a.m. Pte. Ayres, "B" Company, shot himself dead and wounded Pte. Tolfrey by accident at 8 a.m. whilst cleaning his rifle in bivouac. L./Cpl. Wiltshire of my platoon, was evacuated in the ambulance with ague. We did a tiring march to-day, the longest so far, through La Groise, then retraced our steps again through this town to cover the retreat of the 1st Division. After a temporary halt we continued our retirement through Oisy and Montigny to Bernot, marching continuously till 11.15 p.m., with only one halt for twenty minutes. This amounted to about twenty-seven miles in all since leaving Oisy.

*August 28th.*—"Réveillé" at 2 a.m. We were still feeling pretty tired after yesterday's effort. "B" and "C" Companies turned out and entrenched a position immediately north of Bernot, facing Montigny. We all dug hard until 11 a.m., at which hour a Uhlan patrol and two guns were seen coming into action behind a wood about 4,000 yards to our front. After this we manned the trenches, but there was no further excitement. At 1 p.m. the Battalion withdrew from Bernot, and our line was occupied by the 2nd Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment (2nd Brigade). Within half an hour of our leaving the village the German artillery were shelling the trenches and village behind us. We continued the retirement through Ribemond and Sery and Brissy, where we had a welcome two and a half hours' halt. The majority of officers and men enjoyed a bathe in a



2ND BATTALION.

SCENES DURING DISEMBARKATION AT SOUTHAMPTON.

running stream—a tributary of the Oise. The bottom of the stream was mud, and there was only about 3 ft. of water, but it was a bathe. The march was resumed again at 5.30 p.m., and we did seventeen more miles to Barisis, where we arrived at 5.15 a.m. on the 29th inst. This march was the most trying of the whole retreat. Half of the Battalion had been digging from 3 a.m. to 11 a.m. that morning, and we all had had less than four hours' sleep the previous night on top of a long march on the previous day. To add to our difficulties, the greater part of the march was made with the 2nd Infantry Brigade abreast of us on the road. Our Battalion actually covered eight miles more than the rest of the brigade, which latter did not come as far as Barisis. This was accounted for by the miscarriage of a message from the 3rd Infantry Brigade countermanding the original order as to our destination. The inhabitants of the villages through which we passed to-day were particularly resentful at our continued retirement, and one could catch many remarks to the effect that we were running away and leaving them at the mercy of the Germans. The whole of the above march was carried out without leaving a single man behind. During the night I saw several weird things, owing to weariness. One thing I remember was a beautiful castle with a box hedge clipped in the shape of a turreted wall, but there was no hedge there at all when I put my hand out to touch it. We had also had to wake the men after every halt, for they just dropped on the road and were asleep at once. On more than one occasion I saw men in the ditch at the side of the road and went to rouse them, only to find that there were none there. The brigade lost a great number of men who fell into the German hands in this way.

On reaching the outskirts of Barisis we lay asleep on the road until our billets had been allotted. Very few of us could do more than hobble along into the village, after lying in the cold and getting stiff.

*August 29th.*—Our billet had a very villainous-looking owner, and the villagers told us that a cavalry subaltern had been found murdered there on the previous night. We discovered that the bars of the windows came out of their sockets, and also found traces of blood on the stone flags, so Bushell, Hunter and I decided to take turns on watch. At 5 p.m. we paraded and rejoined the brigade at Bertaucourt, where we bivouacked for the night.

*August 30th.*—“Réveillé” at 4 a.m., and we marched off at 4.30 a.m. through St. Gobain and Septvaux to Brancourt. My platoon was on rear guard duty. The inhabitants of Brancourt seemed less hospitable than usual, and grumbled a good deal at our “running away.” Curiously enough, we were told on this date that a wire had been sent to England to-day by Marshal Joffre, saying that “By the action of the British Army during the last few days, France has been saved.” We bivouacked in a field close to Brancourt for the night. I spent the night on some straw under a tree, but it was very cold.

*August 31st.*—Marched off at 5.30 a.m. through Anizy and Pinon in a thick mist. We saw refugees everywhere, sleeping out in the fields close to the road or cooking an early meal, with their household belongings piled on carts, perambulators, etc.

REF.: FRANCE MAP SHEET NO. 10.

Marched through Soissons to a field about nine kilometres south-west of this town (near Missy), where we halted at 1 p.m. and eventually stayed for the night, having done eighteen miles to-day. The Camerons marched past us this evening with one officer and six men of the German cavalry as prisoners; huge excitement on the part of our men, who had not seen the enemy so close before. We were now only fifty-four miles from Paris. The officers' valises were given out to-night, and we all got a good sleep in an open field close to the road.

(To be continued.)

## 4th BATTALION

*Headquarters:* The Barracks, Mitcham Road, Croydon.

*Honorary Colonel:*

*Commanding Officer:* Lieut.-Col. B. L. Evans, T.D.

WE find ourselves somewhat at a loss to commence our retrospect of the past training season, for while in other years there have been general strikes, railway strikes, and such delights to which our shortcomings and failures could be ascribed, this year there have been none such, and we must shoulder the bulk of the responsibility ourselves and lay the rest of the blame on the weather. We have progressed, but not to the extent we should have wished, particularly in musketry, where a few men have failed to fire their course.

Annual camp was at Dover in the last week in July and the first week in August, and while we were disappointed at not meeting the 1st Battalion, who would probably have provided us with a demonstration platoon, training cadre, etc., we were very happy to meet the Depot, who treated us with much hospitality, as they always do. The Battalion is still short of numbers, being under 300 strong, but a high percentage of men attended. With such a strength little remains for ordinary training after employed men, specialists, Band and Drums are taken away. Sanction was given to train as one company, with the result that we had a more instructive training than has been the case in the past, when at times we have had to impress upon a man that he is a platoon (except for rations), and the imagination has not been exercised to the same extent.

A demonstration platoon was found by the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, and a training cadre from the Royal Fusiliers Depot, both of which were instructive and helpful. The former were adept with the Verey light and managed to touch-off a haystack, which quickly provided a demonstration in the use of smoke. We attempted to keep the flames down, and were shortly joined by a local "bobby," who, after watching the proceedings for a long while and evidently feeling that somebody ought to do something really official, produced a notebook and took the name and address of the Commanding Officer of the 4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment and suggested that he had set it on fire. Thus is a kindly act oft required! No arrest followed.

Training ended with a Brigade ceremonial parade, when Major-Gen. A. G. Wauchope, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., Commanding the 44th (Home Counties) Division, inspected the Brigade and expressed himself as well satisfied. Altogether we had a very enjoyable camp, and the men were happy, comfortable (in spite of some external moisture) and contented.

Brigade Sports were held on July 30th, when the Battalion did very well, winning the Grand Aggregate Challenge Cup and the challenge cup for the highest aggregate in the athletic events. We again won the Tug-of-War—for the fifth successive year, and presented the challenge cup for this event as a cup for the highest aggregate in military events—and we again won the Officers' Chargers event, the Brigade Commander describing our turn-out in very eulogistic terms. We were second in the Transport turn-out. In the athletic events we did well, winning the 400 Yards Relay Sprint and also the 880 Yards Relay, while we were second in the Mile Relay and in the Mile Team Race. In Capt. H. G. M. Evans, Lieut. H. E. E. Ault, Lieut. J. H. Amos, and Pte. Montier we have four sprinters of considerable merit—the first named being the fastest. His running in the

Mile Relay was very good. The only time we have seen him move like this before has been when quitting the barracks to proceed on leave. In the Brigade Mile we should have certainly done better, as our star performer, Lieut. P. H. Clark, was in hospital at Shorncliffe with a broken collar-bone, due to a difference of opinion with one of the quiet (?) chargers served out to us. It is rumoured that after mounting it in the lines, the first place he recognized was St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, reached a few seconds later.

We again won the Brigade Football Competition, and await news of our next opponents.

A start has been made at last at cricket. Seven matches were played, of which three were won. We hope next year to make an earlier start and to be able to engender keenness for the game.

In the Divisional Cross-Country Run, held in April last, we were second, although we got the first man home in Lieut. P. H. Clark.

There are persistent rumours that our Headquarters is at last to be reconstructed internally. We hope so, as it is in a deplorable state. The only doors and windows, for instance, which will shut are those which will not open, while the whole place is damp, dismal and dirty.

Recruiting after camp was brisk, but has again fallen off. We are hoping shortly to revive the Lingfield Detachment, which has been dormant for a long while. C.S.M. J. A. Hammond has now gone into residence there.

We extend a very hearty welcome to Lieut. H. W. Bolton, D.S.O., who, after a very distinguished career, has come to us as Quartermaster from the Reserve of Officers. Official communications describe him as Lieut. (Lieut.-Colonel Reserve of Officers). We believe that in the days of the East India Company there was an officer known as Lieutenant-Captain, an officer performing captain's work on a subaltern's pay. A Lieut. (Lieut.-Colonel) presumably is a lieutenant-colonel drawing the pay of a subaltern. Judging by the few cases of a similar nature (we think, in fact, it is unique) it does not seem to be a popular rank. He looked after us very well in camp and during our week-ends on the rifle range.

The Prize Meeting was held at the Marden Park Range on August 20th-21st and 27th-28th, and was fairly well attended on the whole. What we are particularly pleased to record is that on the first day of the meeting, when the Watney Cup was competed for, and which was one of the very wettest days of this glorious year, there were only two absentees from the whole five teams, while one team had two reserves who marched with it. As this competition required a team of thirteen from each company to march (in marching order) from Croydon to Marden Park, a distance of nine miles, and it was certain that every competitor was going to get soaked to the skin, with little prospect of getting dry again for several hours afterwards, we think it says much for the keenness of the few of all ranks we do possess. While this spirit exists we do not despair of building up a good battalion. We will content ourselves with announcing the names of the winners of the individual events, as no doubt the company scribes will descant upon the victories of their companies. They are:—

Ladies' Challenge Cup, Sergt. Wilkins.

Tradesmen's Challenge Cup, 2/Lieut. A. R. Theweneti.

Tradesmen's Extras, Pte. C. A. L. Newman.

Our Prize Meeting, which has been an annual event since 1864, with the exception of the war years, is in danger for the future. Owing to the necessity for economy, the allowance of ammunition is so small for the Territorial Army that as far as we can see (if we correctly understand the new course) there will be only 300 rounds for the Commanding Officer's Pool of this Battalion, so that ammunition

for the Prize Meeting will have to be purchased or the meeting cancelled. We are hoping to be able to afford this, but are woefully poor.

Football has commenced, but we have lost both the games played. The team has not yet shaken down, and on October 1st we certainly had left our shooting boots behind, for although nine-tenths of the game was in our opponents' half and mostly round their goal (corners were being conceded by them at the rate of several a minute) we could not score!

Capt. and Brevet-Major E. P. Kingzett has gone to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers, and his company has been taken over *pro tem.* by 2/Lieut. S. C. Giggins.

Our congratulations to Sergt. A. E. Warner, Permanent Staff, on his recent marriage. On the evening of his return from his honeymoon terrible noises were heard from outside his quarters. It was reported that they proceeded from members of the Sergeants' Mess, who were serenading Sergt. Warner. They have been put back for further instruction under the Bandmaster. As this serenade was staged at the moment the Commanding Officer was leaving for a few days' visit to the country, we wonder whether it really was a serenade.

We regret to report the departure of R.Q.M.S. A. J. Dixon, one of our crack shots. Marriage has claimed another victim.

Since the above was written, Lord Ashcombe, who has been Hon. Colonel of the Battalion for the past five years, has resigned from that position, as he feels that the Battalion should have an Hon. Colonel more intimately connected with that part of the county which the Battalion covers. It is with very great regret we record this decision, as we never like parting with old friends and the position is a difficult one to fill. We owe him many thanks for the interest he has taken in the Battalion in the past, which we feel will not diminish, although he is no longer officially with us.

#### "A" COMPANY.

Annual training in camp is one of the few occasions during the year when one can get a fair idea of the all-round efficiency of a company, and so far as "A" Company is concerned it must be admitted that though they were "Good" there is much to be done before they can be regarded as "Excellent." To a great extent they were handicapped by the unfortunate illness of the Company Commander, and also by the accident which befell Mr. Clark on the second day in camp, when he and his horse came to the ground. A fractured collar-bone incapacitated him from further participating in manoeuvres at Dover. Despite these drawbacks the Company once again carried off the Camp Cup for General Efficiency: the Hooke Cup for Bayonet Training, after being in possession of "A" Company for three or four years, passed to "B" Company by a very narrow margin. It was hard to lose the cup, but a pleasure to know that it had gone to "B," for they have always put up such a splendid fight for it. In most of the other camp competitions "A" were second or third. Musketry results this year were rather poor, and the Company did not do so well as might have been expected in the annual Prize Meeting. This, however, should not be disconcerting. It is to be hoped that the Company is consolidating, with a view to a determined advance next year: it is more difficult to retain honours already won and remain at the top of the ladder, than to have several steps to ascend.

The familiar face of C.Q.M.S. G. H. Day was missed in camp after so many years, but Acting-C.Q.M.S. Hale stepped into the breach.

#### "B" COMPANY.

Since the last issue of this Journal the strength of the Company has risen by ten and the new recruits are all men of a good stamp. We are hoping that recruits will continue to join up during the winter months, and that we may have a really strong Company in camp next year.

All ranks enjoyed annual training at Dover in July, and it was generally agreed that this camp was one of the most popular since the war.

There are several inter-company competitions to be decided, but, so far, "B" Company has been successful in the following:—

Dashwood Cup for football.  
Hooke Cup for bayonet fighting.  
Torrens Cup for team shooting.  
Watney Cup for marching and shooting.

#### "C" COMPANY.

With great regret we have to record that Capt. and Brevet-Major E. P. Kingzett has left us and has gone on the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers.

Sergt. E. H. Wilson, our Permanent Staff Instructor, has also left us, on recall to the 1st Battalion for promotion to C.S.M. In his place we welcome C.S.M. J. Hammond, also of the 1st Battalion. C.S.M. Hammond at once entered into the T.A. spirit, and we are fortunate to have him with us.

We feel that we can honestly say that during the past year we have laid the foundation of a steady, all-round improvement in the Company. We are by no means satisfied, however, and we hope that during the coming year every member of the Company will do his utmost to pull his weight in the team and to make himself efficient.

Last year we won none of the Battalion trophies. This year we were fortunate to win two of the four given for work at camp—the Atkins Cup for training and manoeuvre, and the Lord Ashcombe Cup for fire orders, fire control, and judging distance. We were placed second in the Camp Cup, losing by only two points.

Every man in the Company completed his course of musketry before camp. This is the first time since the war that such a thing has been done by any company. The musketry average was good. The average attendance at camp was also excellent, only three men being unable to attend. The attendance at drill is high.

Company headquarters has been transferred to Lingfield, where recruiting has been reopened. Recruits are coming in steadily, and we have hopes that the Company strength may be increased by fifty per cent. by the end of next year.

A cricket team was run during the past season, and the interest in boxing has increased to such an extent that there are hopes of obtaining the services of a qualified instructor.

The annual Company Dinner was held at Caterham and was quite a success. Unfortunately the late Company Commander was prevented at the last moment from being present, but we were honoured to have as our guests the Brigade Commander, Col. B. C. Dent, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the Officers Commanding the Guards Depot, Caterham, and the R.A.F., Kenley, and many of our honorary members.

The Company dances continue to be a great success. The average attendance is about 200, and the dances bring us much-needed profits for the Company funds.

We cannot close this little report without a note to catch the eyes of our non-commissioned officers. The progress in training of the non-commissioned officers

is disappointing. Special efforts are being made to speed up their training during the coming year, and it is hoped that they will attend regularly and endeavour to make themselves efficient leaders and instructors.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS.

Annual training this year at Dover was thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the Mess, and, considering the apology for a summer there was generally, the weather was not too bad. The first week was rather on the moist side, the mess tent, with its concrete floor, often more resembling a swimming bath in the process of being emptied.

The outstanding events outside camp were the Military Tattoo at the Royal Marines Depot, Deal, and the Trooping of the Colour of the 1st Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. The Tattoo at Deal was a really wonderful show, and what struck us most was the superb display of drill by the King's Squad. We must also mention the hospitality and friendliness of the Royal Marines Sergeants' Mess. The Trooping of the Colour of the Lancashire Fusiliers, on Minden Day, was splendidly carried through.

The usual crop of funny incidents was forthcoming. One of the funniest in the writer's knowledge was an episode on Regimental Orders. When dismissing the parade the R.S.M. gave the warning, "Give the Battalion Orderly-Sergeant time to put his stick away." The Battalion Orderly-Sergeant took the warning literally, for on the command "Dismiss" off he doubled to put his cane in his tent! Moreover, he could not see why on earth he was peremptorily ordered back!

The "Battle of the Corks" provided endless entertainment in the Mess, and the tournament was won by Sergt. J. F. Wilkins, who is now the proud holder of the silver tankard kindly presented by the subalterns.

Two congratulations are due—the one to Orderly-room Sergeant H. Willerton on the occasion of the birth of a son, the other is to Sergt.-Instr. Warner on his marriage—and may all his troubles be small ones.

#### REGIMENTAL HISTORY.

(As viewed by recruits in 1927.)

##### *The Wreck of the Birkenhead.*

"When the ship went down the men and officers stood to attention, while efforts were being made to save the women and children. This was fine discipline, for which they received the Halo and Glory . . . ."

##### *The Glorious First of June.*

"The battle was won, but Sir John Moore was killed . . . ."

##### *The Origin of the Regiment.*

"The Regiment was formed in 1661 to garrison Tangiers. The first battle was fought on Putney Heath, and this came into possession of King Charles II . . . ."

##### *Ideas on the Origin of the Regimental Badge.*

"The Badge is the Paschal Lamb which came into the possession of Braganza. It was untrue and it came into portraits—and nobody knows how the Regiment received its name . . . ."

#### 4TH BATTALION.



Photo

Officers at Camp, 1927.

[Whorwell, Dover.]



Photo

Winning Team Officers' Chargers, Brigade Sports, 1927.

[Whorwell, Dover.]

## DIARY OF A SHOOTING TRIP IN THE SUDAN

TAKEN from a diary kept during a shooting trip in the Sudan, lasting some six weeks. The last fortnight was of the same general shooting as herein narrated.

*May 30th.*—We arrive at Mongalla, after covering some 250 miles in the first fortnight. We replenish our stores at the local trader and call on the Acting Governor to be advised as to our next move. We dine with the C.O. of the Equatorial Battalion, and finally arrange to leave in the morning for Loriga by car. There is a good chance of lion there.

*May 31st.*—We leave Mongalla at 10 a.m.; reach the vicinity of Loriga about 5 p.m. Stopping the car, we stalk some Jackson hartebeests and wound one. We follow it and try hard to bring it to book, but, night falling, we have to leave it, and make the rest house in a hurry. We get in and partake of dinner. It rains at about 10 p.m., and lions roar at intervals until 3 a.m.—somewhat disturbing.

*June 1st.* “The Glorious 1st of June.” We kill two lions, one each. At 5 a.m. a lion roars and greets the dawn. We hurry out and try to locate him. I have promised P— that the first lion will be his to fire at first. At 5.45 a.m. I, by chance, spot a pug mark and we follow the track until it joins others. The whole family is together—a large male, two females and four cubs ranging up to three-quarter grown. The tracks take us on to the main road, and we spot the whole family sunning themselves on the road. At our approach they make for the thick bush. We follow their tracks, and very soon see one forty yards ahead. We push forward. The country here has little grass, but every forty yards is to be found a thick clump of bush of some thirty yards square.

As we skirt one of these clumps the second gun bearer, who was behind, suddenly makes us understand by signs he has seen the lions close to us. P— runs back to him and I go forward where I can command any retreat. P— is met by a volley of snarls and roars. As it is the first encounter for him, I dash back and see a lion crouching at fifteen yards range, looking very spiteful, so I suggest instant killing. P— fires, and with a very pretty shot relieves the situation. The remainder then break to the right; we follow. I get a fleeting shot at a lioness, and hit her in the wrist, and, as she stops, hit her again, but too far back. She then disappears. We follow the blood spores and find her in thick bush, where we do not enter, but try to make her come out in the open. We succeed, but get no chance of a good shot. This goes on four or five times. Finally we succeed in anchoring her, and so we return to the first lion to skin it and to give time to a second beast to get stiff or to die.

On our return we are met in no uncertain manner, and we withdraw to some thirty-five yards. We then hear a lion eating. This is very curious, as P—'s lion is too badly wounded to eat, if not dead. Therefore another lion must be in there, and eating the kill that the family dragged to this bush during the night. All our efforts to make this beast break or charge are useless. We decide to return for breakfast at the rest house, and to return later. At 10 a.m. we are back. Find the tracks of a large male lion which was not there before. We enter the bush very gingerly, and find the other lion dead and partially eaten. This explains the noise of a lion eating at 8.30 a.m.; there are no other signs, kill or tracks. It is obvious that the male ate this female. Cannibalism is always rare, but in broad daylight, after feeding—well, this is exceptional.

Skin the remains and go after mine. From the way in which we are greeted, she is not very ill. We get a shot in, and she is again seen later at the other end of the patch of bush. I fire and knock her flat, then give her what I thought would be a finisher. She gets up and comes for us. P— finally, with a shoulder to heart shot, kills her. Measure the trophy. Skin, and back to the rest house to pack up and proceed to Torrit. Both lions had eaten well during the night, as investigation proved.

June 2nd.—Stop at Torrit and make plans to go to Losito and onwards to the north.

June 3rd.—Arrive at Losito and in the evening trek around. A poor place, with very little game, but we intend to give it a chance.

June 4th.—Very little doing in the morning. In the evening I spot some Jackson hartebeest, and after a short stalk got a very good male. He stood broadside, and taking the neck-shot I brought him down at once. The hartebeest will probably carry more lead than any other animal.

June 5th.—We get twenty-four porters and trek to the next camp, some eighteen miles away. Nothing much seen, but some tracks of buffalo look promising.

June 6th.—We start at 5.15 a.m. to get to buffalo country, but have no luck. We then separate, and I am lucky in spotting an excellent hartebeest at 150 yards. Unsuspecting, I get a shot, which hit the base of the skull. Killed it instantaneously. I find within a few yards the horn of a dead young rhino. Supposed to be lucky? On my way back I find a warthog, which I hit hard. We have to track him for nearly a mile before a second shot apparently kills him. I walk up and kick the carcase to ensure if dead, and the corpse revives sufficiently to chase me up an ant-hill. This time I take no chances. Back to camp at twelve noon. At 3.45 I leave to try for a kob. I finally see one, a very good head, and stalk same, shooting it in rather tall grass, which made aiming rather difficult. We cut as much as we want of the meat, take the head and skin, and make for camp. It is now dusk, and we ford the river to save time. We then get hopelessly lost and stagger about the bush until 8 p.m., when we hear a lion to our right. Speed increases to about four miles per hour, then we hear him behind us. We drop most of the fresh meat to satisfy him, as it looks as if he was following the fresh meat. At 8.30 we hear him again closer, and I fire signal shots (with two objects: (1) to get P— to fire back to get my direction, and (2) to scare Felis Leo away). Back to camp at 10.45 p.m. Dead beat. I have a good deal to say to the local guide before I fall to sleep. P— has some hot tea and whisky ready for me. Heavenly.

June 7th.—A Europe morning. Very beneficial. In the evening wander round camp and got a shot at an aoul, after a short stalk. The beast saw me, but was so interested that he forgot to run away, so he died. A very good head.

June 8th.—We spend most of the day together looking for buffalo, but get no luck.

June 9th.—We move back to the original camp. I find two rhino. These are protected in this district. I get to within a few yards, and study them. The wind suddenly shifting makes me vacate my position rather in a hurry. They never suspected my presence.

June 10th.—We get a new lot of porters, and decide to march to Loringo. On the way we may find buffalo. P— does not want a lion. Start at 5 a.m. At 7.20 a.m. we hear a calf "moo," and we approach gingerly. We spot two small mobs of about ten heads. We stalk these, and when we get to eighty

yards one of the mob spots us and comes forward to enquire, stops, and again moves forward with more determination. Then again stops. We decide to shoot. P— is to take the left beast of a group of three, and I the centre one. Owing to a bush hiding one which P— cannot see, we fire at the same one, killing it. Suddenly the mob of ten becomes a herd of 400; from the shade of every bush, every patch of long grass, a buffalo gets up. For a second they are undecided, and suddenly come straight at us. Our protection is an ant-heap as high as a card table. I decide we must not fire, as they appear to be going to sweep right over us, and we will have to shoot a lane at the last moment. For some reason they swerve thirty paces from us, and, with the noise comparable to a hurricane, plunge into the distance. We go and look at our prize. Not too bad. Cut the head off, some hide and meat, and proceed. P— then sees a hartebeest and kills it very neatly. Later an oribi with a very good head stops close to the party, and I take the opportunity to appropriate the trophy. Within sight of camp P— gets a good shot at a bushbuck, somewhat luckily. That evening I stop in the rest house to pack the trophies, and P— goes to get a hartebeest—the ones he has so far are not too good. He is very successful—a first-class head.

Early to bed. To-morrow is our last day in this locality. P— has to go back to Khartoum by the next steamer.

June 11th.—Up at 5 a.m. We find a blue duiker. P— blows its head off and loses the trophy. Very hard lines. We then find tracks of buffalo, and follow through ticklish country for two hours. The grass is very tall, and we cannot see more than ten yards. Finally I climb a stump four feet high, and spot them forty yards away. After a parley with P—, I shoot and kill. A very fine brute.

June 12th.—The buffalo stampede pass some thirty yards away. P— cannot see more than bobbing horns to shoot at. We let them go. Back to camp. Car to Mongalla—arrive 12th.

June 13th.—P— goes to Khartoum, and I stop on the way to try elsewhere. We have shot the following specimens during the shooting trip: Lion, buffalo, hippo., hartebeest, tiang, kob, adda, duiker, crocodile, waterbuck, bushbuck, oribi, red-pointed gazelle, topi—an excellent bag, but unfortunately all the elephant we came near were not warrantable.

## FENCING

### THE ARMY INTER-UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, 1927.

THE popularity of this competition is increasing, and the entries this year totalled twenty-one, an increase of seven over the 1926 figure.

The four teams to reach the final were the 13/18th Hussars, The Queen's Royal Regiment, the York and Lancaster Regiment, and the Durham Light Infantry. These teams met at Olympia on May 19th and 20th, the Foil combats taking place on the first day and the Epée and Sabre on the second. The conditions for the 1927 competition were slightly modified, in that teams had to consist of a minimum of six, no fencer could fight in more than two weapons, and the bayonet was omitted.

Each team had to fight the other three in a three-weapon match, but for convenience the matches in each weapon were fought successively.

The results were as follows:—

*Foil*.—The Regimental Team (Major Dyer, Sergt. McNeff and Cpl. Rowley) beat 13/18th Hussars 6—3, the York and Lancaster Regiment 8—1, and the Durham Light Infantry 7—2.

*Epée*.—The Regimental Team (Lieut. East, Sergt. McNeff, and Dmr. Thwaites) beat 13/18th Hussars and Durham Light Infantry 5—4, and lost to York and Lancaster Regiment by the same margin.

*Sabre*.—The Regimental Team (Major Dyer, Lieut. East, and Cpl. Ridge) beat York and Lancaster Regiment and Durham Light Infantry 6—3, and lost to 13/18th Hussars by the same margin.

The Regiment thus won all three matches, beating 13/18th Hussars and York and Lancaster Regiment by two weapons to one, and the Durham Light Infantry by three weapons to nil, the final order being:—

- 1st, The Queen's Royal Regiment, 3 wins.
- 2nd, 13/18th Hussars, 1 win (37 bouts lost).
- 3rd, York and Lancaster Regiment, 1 win (46 bouts lost).
- 4th, Durham Light Infantry (50 bouts lost).

It will be remembered that the departure of the 1st Battalion to China took away most of the original team, and the winning of the competition reflects the very greatest credit on those members of the team who were called on to take part at comparatively short notice. The team was very ably coached by Q.M.S.I. Wyatt and C.S.M.I. Skipper, of the Army Physical Training Staff, and the thanks of the Regiment are due to them, as the winning of the competition was largely due to their help and training.

## 5th BATTALION

*Headquarters*: The Drill Hall, Guildford.

*Honorary Colonel*: Col. W. J. Perkins, C.M.G., T.D.

*Commanding Officer*: Lieut.-Col. H. H. M. Harris, T.D.

CAMP this year was held at Dover, the actual site being at Swingate, on the cliffs, behind the Castle. The attendance of men was satisfactory, though a large number were prevented from coming owing to the lateness of the hay harvest and other causes. Those who came all enjoyed themselves heartily, and it is a pity it is not more generally realized how great the benefits are, both mental and physical, which the men derive from what is virtually a holiday by the sea at the expense of the Government.

On our arrival at Dover Station we were met by Bdmstr. Buckle and his band of boys, who had been sent by the Officer Commanding the Depot to march us through Dover on our way to the camp. And very good they were, too.

Only one scaled the cliffs with us, and he is reported to have been the first patron of the Sergeants' Mess.

For the first four days in camp training was carried out on novel lines. The officers went through a course of lectures, given by the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, and two of the Company Commanders, and did a few small tactical exercises, whilst the remainder of the Battalion were taken by the Adjutant in drill, march discipline, section formations, etc.

The experiment worked well, and the subsequent training undoubtedly benefited considerably from it.

We were, fortunately, next to our 4th Battalion, and a constant interchange of visits took place between the various messes, with generally one or two visitors from the Depot to hold the balance.

One of the outstanding, and comparatively clearly remembered, features of the camp was the sergeants' social. It was well attended by members from the other battalions in camp, the Depot, and old friends of the Regiment in Dover. The whole evening went with a joyous swing, and the end came much too soon.

At cricket the Officers were again beaten by the Rest of the Battalion. The Rest batted first and made 105 runs, but this did not appear enough when the Colonel and the Doctor went in first for the Officers. They made 49 before the former got out (he had to go out to dinner, and the others had to have a chance). However, the others were all out for less than 100. Some blamed the sun, others an aeroplane, and others still the local Territorials, who were firing big guns near by at uncertain intervals.

In the Brigade Sports we did well in the military events: we won the Machine Gun Competition, and the Transport Section were again first with their limber and harness, and second in the Officers' Charger event. This result was only obtained by great keenness and real hard work, and all ranks of the Section deserved the most hearty congratulations.

We were again second to our 4th Battalion in the Inter-Battalion Football and Tug-of-War. Their team in the latter event grows larger and larger each year.

In the shoot for the Brigade Commander's Cup, which we have held for a long time, we were second. Next year we are going to have it back.

On Saturday morning we had a Brigade Commander's parade, and were also inspected by the Divisional Commander. We flattered ourselves that both, who were doing their first annual training with the Territorial Army in their appointments, were surprised at the high standard of efficiency displayed.

Col. Perkins again very kindly came to visit us, and acted as judge in an inter-company competition for night marching on various compass points. The result was extremely close, "C" Company just winning from "B." The accuracy and high standard of march discipline by night in these two companies was exceptionally good. The only conversation overheard in another company was one sergeant saying to another, "You look after the company and I'll look after the officer and his compass."

Next year we are expecting to return to camp at Arundel, which is a very favourite spot of ours, from July 29th to August 12th. We hope to have more men under canvas, and also that any member, past or present, of the Regiment, who happens to be in the vicinity will visit us. We want to see them, and can promise them a very hearty welcome.

## SERGEANTS' MESS.

During the year, owing to the scattered nature of our Battalion, the sergeants very seldom meet in large numbers. The deficiency is, however, made up for when we do get together for our annual training, and Dover was no exception.

On most evenings some of us were to be found with our Depot pals at the Grand Shaft, and many were the good times we had together. A great feature of our camp was our annual sergeants' concert, which was held on the first Tuesday in camp. The programme, which was arranged by Sergts. W. Tubbs and R. E. T. Russell, was greatly enjoyed by all.

Bank Holiday was a day never to be forgotten, for we were the victims of a proper deluge which lasted far into the evening, but with the help of the Sergeant-Drummer, one tenor drum, one flute and the piano, we did not care if it snowed.

Two of our Permanent Staff, Sergt.-Major Day and Sergt. Dale, have passed into civilian life during the year, and the very least we can do is to wish them long life and the best of luck.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming to our Mess this year Sergt. Lawrence, Permanent Staff Instructor at Farncombe, and Sergt. Cooper, Permanent Staff Instructor at Farnham, both of whom are well known in the Regiment. Sergt. Lawrence was presented with his "Rooty" medal at camp, as was also our old friend, Sergt. Hopkins, Permanent Staff Instructor at Reigate. This also was a wet day.

#### SHOOTING.

The Battalion was more successful at the Surrey Rifle Association Meeting this year, the prize money won being £24 5s., three cups and a Gillette razor, instead of £9 5s. as last year.

In the individual competitions Lieut. C. Burton-Brown was second in the Surrey Championship; in the Surrey Brewers he was first, R.Q.M.S. Blake ninth, and C.S.M. Smith tenth. In the Kingston Cup R.Q.M.S. Blake was sixth, Sergt. Lawrence seventh and Pte. Wickens eighth. Pte. Hazell won the Recruits' Competition.

In team events "C" Company put up an excellent score and won the Allen Cup, "D" Company winning the Watney Cup for the best Territorial company.

At the Territorial Army Rifle Association Meeting the Battalion Rifle Club entered nine members.

Lieut. C. Burton-Brown and Sergt. Keen, "D" Company, obtained places in the first fifty Territorials, and thus shot for the King's Medal. C.Q.M.S. Cox had shot well, but unfortunately chose the wrong target in the Rapid Practice, and lost 2s. 6d. as well as his score.

Lieut. C. Burton-Brown was a member of the Territorial Army Eight in the United Services Match.

#### "A" COMPANY.

The Section Cup has been won this year by Cpl. Hills, Ptes. Ellis, Mills, Brookes, Fuller, and Jeffery. The Test Competition was won by Cpl. Fuller.

In shooting, ten matches were fired against the Dorking Rifle Club; we lost the first, in which, incidentally, our opponents used peep sights and slings, and we won the return, when both sides used open sights.

The Company was third in the Major Talbot Smith Cup, fired for at Merstham.

The Company has now a good Badminton team, and would like to arrange matches with other companies in the Battalion. Reigate Detachment played Dorking Detachment, Reigate winning 21 games to 11.

The Company also has a useful jazz band.

#### "C" COMPANY.

Since the last issue of this Journal the Company has increased its strength materially. There are still many recruits wanted, but it is hoped to obtain these before next camp.

Last year's training was based on a system of getting the elementary training sound before proceeding to the more advanced work. Nearly every Sunday during the spring and summer, 1927, was occupied with either tactical exercises, route marches, range, etc. At these there was always a good attendance, though more from the point of view of a good day in the country than from a desire to gain experience in the sublime act of playing at soldiers.

At Whitsuntide a camp was held at the Depot, Stoughton. This comprised Saturday night, all Sunday and half of Monday. This was a great success, despite a well-led and determined attempt to ditch H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on Whitmore Common, which was only partially successful.

The Company strength for the first week at the Dover camp was very low, but improved during the second period. The Company was fortunate in finding a barrack square near the camp, with "vacant possession."

At the end of a few days the Company Commander was able, by using a little poetical license, to tell his men that the only difference between them and the Regular Army was that the Territorials were a shade better, but only a shade. This, though, was subsequently denied by superior authorities.

Below will be found a description of an inspection carried out by Major-Gen. Sir H. T. Brooking, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., who commanded the division in which the 5th The Queen's served in Mesopotamia during the war, 1914-1918. This article has been written by a senior non-commissioned officer who was on the parade, and can thus be trusted to give an accurate account of this event.

#### LUCK OF THE 5TH THE QUEEN'S.

##### MAJOR-GEN. SIR H. T. BROOKING INSPECTS "C" COMPANY.

For the second time in a little over twelve months fortune has favoured "C" Company of the 5th The Queen's, in bringing them into close contact with distinguished people. Last year about this time the Colours were presented by Her Majesty Queen Mary, and on Sunday, May 1st, the Company started off on a route march which was destined to develop into a very important event ere it ended.

After marching to Chilworth, and partaking of an excellent lunch at the Percy Arms, the Company moved off again, and, entering the grounds of Major Wigan's residence at Farthings, Longdown Road, Guildford, paraded on the lawn. After a very short wait, no less a person than Major-Gen. Sir H. T. Brooking, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., approached the Company and inspected the men.

As the General moved slowly along the ranks, one could not help but feel that there was, after all, some privilege in being a Territorial. Every non-commissioned officer and man wearing ribbons for war service was questioned as to where he had served, and at the conclusion of the inspection the Company listened to a short but interesting address by the General.

In his speech he urged all ranks, by their example, to induce others to join the Territorial Army, and at all times to maintain the glorious tradition of The Queen's Royal Regiment. As one who had in Mesopotamia commanded a Territorial Division, he had a very high opinion of what they could do when actually put to the test. He stated, almost in the nature of a challenge, that any man transferred from either of the Regular Battalions to the 5th Battalion during the war could not feel in any way relegated to a lower standard, but would rather

regard it in the light of an honour. He then charged the present Company to maintain that standard, not only while serving, but in after life.

Finally, this fatherly and friendly General congratulated all ranks on their turn-out and marching, not forgetting to praise the Drums. A very proud and self-satisfied Company finally marched homewards, and on the way the General took the salute with a smile which no member of "C" Company will ever forget.

During the Surrey County Rifle Meeting, held at Bisley on June 19th, 1927, "C" Company were successful in winning the following events:—

Allen Cup (1st).

Recruits' Competition, 1st (Pte. Hazell).

Lewis Gun, 4th.

In the Battalion Inter-Company Miniature Shoot, which was run on the league system, "C" Company tied with "D" and were awarded bronze medals.

#### "D" COMPANY.

The Company has been concentrating recently on rifle shooting. On September 10th and 11th, at Camberley, we succeeded in putting up the best score in the Battalion in the following competitions:—

High Sheriff's Challenge Shield.

Hartman Shield.

Lewis Gun Competition.

Inter-Company Brigade Competition.

The Company Rifle Meeting was held at Westcott on October 2nd. Although weather conditions were unfavourable some very good scores were made. The principal successes were:—

Company Challenge Cup, Sergt. Keen.

Lewis Gun Cup, Cpl. Wigman.

Recruits' Challenge Cup, Pte. Tarrant.

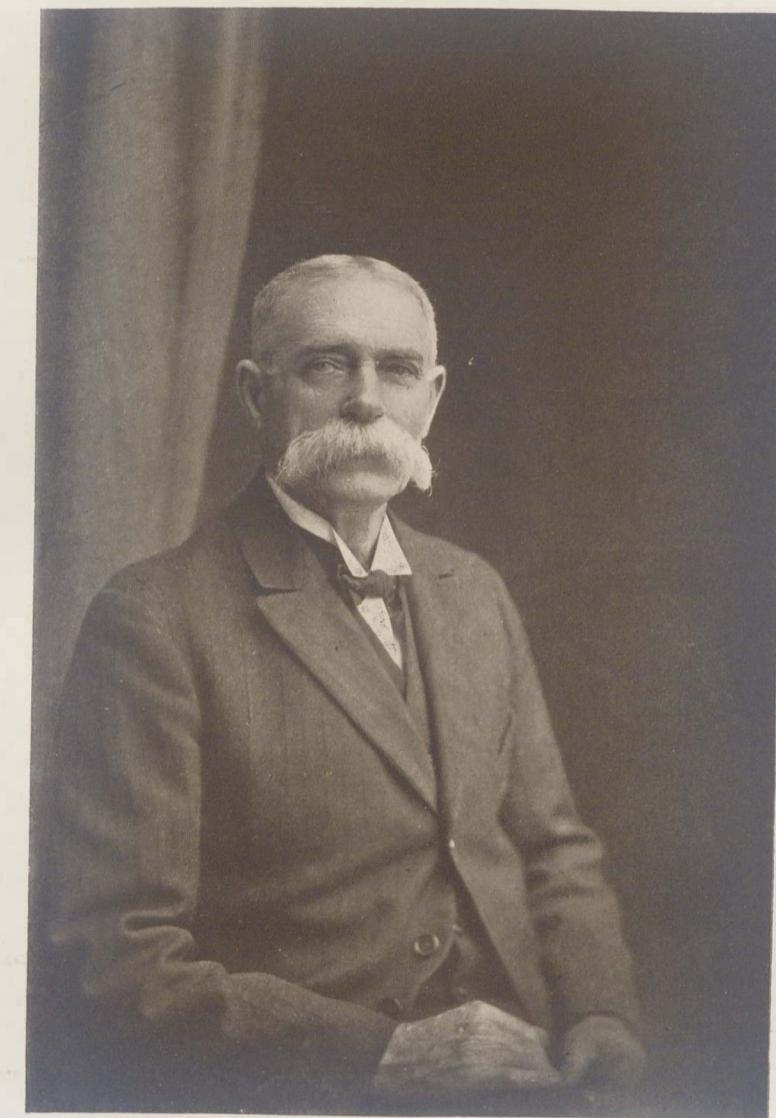
#### 1/5TH THE QUEEN'S REUNION DINNER.

The Reunion Dinner for all ranks who served with the Battalion in the war, foreshadowed in the last issue of the Journal, was held at the Drill Hall, Guildford, on Saturday, April 30th. There were 27 officers and 247 other ranks present. Col. Brodrick was in the chair, and Gen. Brooking was the principal guest. The other officers at the head table were Cols. Perkins, Harris, Few, Bailey, Bray, and Hodges; Majors W. R. Harris, Potter, Smallpeice, L. Whittington, P. R. Whittington, and Wigan; and Capts. Atkinson, Master, Mountford, Mercer, O. S. Cleverly, G. C. Cleverly, Evertts, Spens, Reader, Nevins, Campion, Stoop, and the Rev. H. G. Wright (former Army Chaplain).

At the end of an excellent dinner Lieut.-Col. F. E. Bray, M.C., proposed the toast of "The Guests." He said that they were extremely pleased to have with them Gen. Brooking. He believed that Gen. Brooking was nearly as fond of them as they were of him. They were also very glad to see Capt. Nevins, because the work he did for the Regimental Association was something they all appreciated.

The name of Gen. Brooking was coupled with the toast, which was accorded musical honours.

#### 4TH BATTALION.



Photo

[Bates & Son, Penge.]

#### MR. F. G. PLEDGE

who joined 4th Bn. in 1875 and served continuously for 35 years and 4 months until reaching the age limit. Mr. Pledge still maintains his connection with the Battalion.

Gen. Brooking, mounting on a chair amid loud and prolonged cheering, said he was rather overwhelmed by the greeting he had received. He recalled that they had some trying times in Mesopotamia. The most trying was when they were in a back-water wondering whether they would ever get a chance. The chance did come, and they could congratulate themselves that it was a great success. Those days were successful simply because of the whole-hearted and continuous way in which all ranks under him worked to bring about success. The 5th Battalion belonged to a very distinguished regiment, and they could pride themselves that they had added fame to its name. From the bottom of his heart he thanked them for all they had done for him. It had to be realized that what distinction came to the General in command could only come by the whole-hearted and encouraging support in times of stress received from the ranks under him. He knew he could trust them in whatever difficult position he might be called upon to put them.

A little time ago he had a letter from the Royal Air Force asking him what he proposed should be done for the upkeep of that little memorial which they had put up themselves on Ramadie Ridge. If they could raise about £30 that would be enough to keep the memorial in good order. He had tried to get the War Graves Commission to take it on, but without success. Before he left Baghdad he arranged that a fence should be put round the memorial. He got four guns and some chain; but in transit to the memorial they were sunk in fifty feet of water, and he could not get any more guns. Fortunately one of the old Queen's, Oscar Cleverly, was at the War Office, and he had provided for a letter to be sent to all the battalions still in existence who fought with The Queen's in Mesopotamia, asking if they would each contribute. Every one had agreed to do so. Since then, however, he had learnt that a railing should be put up round the memorial, so they had to raise a total of about £70 to pay for that and the upkeep. The memorial was standing, but it was only made of soft stone quarried practically on the battle position of Ramadie. The officers were raising some of the money, and he thought some of the men would like to help. He was sure that if ever the time came when they had to serve with him again they would do so as loyally, encouragingly and whole-heartedly as they did before.

Major R. W. Potter proposed "The 1/5th Battalion The Queen's." The Queen's, he said, was the finest regiment in the world.

The Chairman then responded in suitable terms, and Lieut.-Col. H. H. M. Harris, T.D., said a few words on the present state of the Battalion. This concluded the formal speeches, but the evening was not allowed to close without getting Col. Bailey on his feet. His speech was no doubt excellent, but little could be heard above the cheering which always greets the appearance of the Battalion's ever popular ex-M.O.

A most successful collection for the Ramadie memorial was made in the room.

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KING EDWARD VII CONVALESCENT HOME FOR OFFICERS,  
OSBORNE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

All Officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force received. All forms of Electricity; Massage, Ultra-Violet Rays, and Special Dieting. There is a Golf Course in the Grounds, a Hard Tennis Court, Bowls, Badminton, etc, etc. There is also a Hostel for Officers' Wives in the Grounds.

For admission, apply to The House Governor.

## KANDAHAR, 1880

By MAJOR-GEN. SIR E. O. F. HAMILTON, K.C.B.

**I**N the last issue of the Journal I gave an account of my first visit to Kandahar, during the winter of 1878-79, as A.D.C. to Major-General Primrose, who had been appointed to command the Reserve Division at Sukkur, on the Indus, but later was ordered from there to Kandahar to take command of a division. However, very shortly after our arrival in Kandahar, as active operations had ceased, General Primrose was ordered to resume his command of the Poona District and we returned to India.

The Bengal troops under Sir Donald Stewart remained in occupation of Kandahar, but Kabul was evacuated and Sir Louis Cavagnari was sent there as our Envoy. His murder in the autumn of 1879 necessitated a resumption of hostilities and the reoccupation of Kabul by Sir Frederick Roberts.

In February, 1880, Sir Donald Stewart, with the Bengal troops, was ordered to march to Kabul on relief by troops from the Bombay Presidency, and General Primrose was directed to proceed to Kandahar and take up command there.

On March 11th, 1880, we left Poona on our second journey to Kandahar; we spent a few days in Bombay and left for Karachi by mail steamer on March 16th, arriving there on the 19th. We left the same evening and reached Jacobabad at 5.30 p.m. next day. Since our first march to Kandahar the railway from Sukkur to Sibi via Jacobabad, a distance of about 150 miles, had been completed. We spent one night in Jacobabad, where we were most hospitably entertained by Colonel Nuttall, then in command of the Scinde Frontier Force. We remained in Jacobabad the next day and left in the evening by rail for Sibi. We crossed, in one night, the desert that had taken us nine days to traverse on our previous journey. We reached the terminus at Sibi on the morning of March 22nd. Brig.-General Burrows, who later on commanded the Brigade at Maiwand, met us at the station and took General Primrose to the only house in the place, belonging to Major Hogg, of the 2nd Belooch Regiment. I found several officers at Sibi whom I knew, mostly of the Poona Horse. They were all longing to get out of the place, and I was not surprised, for I had never set eyes on a more uninviting spot. It was recognized as the hottest place in Scinde, and that is saying a good deal. I have only a hazy recollection of what Sibi was like, but I can remember there were no trees and no shade, and even in the month of March the sun was terribly hot. I was busy all day arranging for our transport and rations. On this occasion our kit was carried in carts, as it was thought they would be less trouble than camels, which have to be unladen at the end of each march. I met Lieut. Alban, who joined The Queen's a year or so after me and had recently been transferred to the Bombay Staff Corps. He was on transport duty at Sibi, and from all accounts doing good work. I dined with him that night.

We left Sibi early on March 23rd for Mushkaf, fourteen miles off. The road was very sandy and unsuited for wheeled transport, consequently our carts did not turn up until 3 a.m. next morning. At Mushkaf we came on the camp of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, also bound for Kandahar. We were glad to take refuge from the sun in their mess tent, although the temperature there was 110 degrees. As the Fusiliers had come from Poona I met several friends. From Mushkaf we marched twelve miles to Kohandilani, and there found ourselves once more on the road by which we had travelled before, as shown on the map at page 50 in the last

number of the Journal. Nothing worth recording occurred on our journey up the Bolan Pass. We made the same marches as on our previous journey, and arrived at Quetta on March 30th. We found the place greatly altered and improved since we last saw it. A club had been started, to which everyone belonged and where people collected in the evening. The 4th Bombay Native Infantry was in Quetta, and I came across several friends. While there the news was recorded of the murder of Capt. Showers, Political Officer. He was killed by a party of Karker Pathans about thirty miles from Quetta. He had been previously warned of the danger he incurred in travelling about without sufficient escort, but he did not consider a larger escort necessary.

We left Quetta on April 1st. At Segi we met Col. Hitchens, Capt. Beaver, R.A., and Dr. McCarthy returning from Kandahar to India. The doctor had recently been wounded by a Ghazi, who fired at him when he was riding about three miles from Kandahar. Though hit in the shoulder he was luckily able to keep his seat until he reached camp. On April 5th we reached Chaman, after negotiating the Khojak Pass without any trouble. We found the fort at Chaman much strengthened since our former visit. The fort was garrisoned by the 28th Bombay Infantry (Pioneers), under command of General Nimmo. At Mel Karez we met Major Waudby, of the 19th Bombay Infantry, the Road Commandant who later on lost his life under somewhat tragic circumstances. He was at this time visiting the different posts between Kandahar and Chaman, which was in his charge. We travelled from Mel Karez to Abdool Rahman in a dust-storm, and several times wandered off our road, but eventually arrived all right. There was a company of Native Infantry and thirty sabres at this post. Two days later, April 11th, we reached Kandahar.

We took up our quarters in the house lately occupied by Sir Donald Stewart. It had a nice garden full of fruit trees, which promised us a good supply of peaches, apricots, plum and nectarines. A high wall surrounded the garden, and adjoining it was an enclosure in which were located a company of the 66th Regiment (now 2nd Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment), a company of the 19th Bombay Infantry, and thirty sabres of the Poona Horse, the last for escort duty. The General never went out anywhere without an escort of six sowars. Although matters seemed peaceful enough in Kandahar, it was never safe to go alone into the city, so we never went singly, and always armed.

Major C. J. Burnett, A.A.G., and Major Adam, A.Q.M.G., on General Primrose's staff, lived and messed with us. Capt. McMath and Lieut. Raynor, of the 66th Regiment, who were with the company which formed our guard, also messed with us.

General, afterwards Sir Robert, Phayre, who was in temporary command at Kandahar, left the day after our arrival and assumed command of the line of communications. At this time our garrison was by no means complete, but troops were being moved up, and I note in my diary an entry on May 5th, 1880, stating that "All General Primrose's Division has now arrived, with the exception of the 3rd Light Cavalry."

The following troops eventually formed the garrison:—

E/B R.H.A., 4 guns C/2 R.F.A., a heavy battery of four 40-pdrs. Armstrong breech-loading guns and 2 mortars (this battery was commanded by Major J. Hornsby), the Poona Horse, 3rd Bombay Cavalry and 3rd Scinde Horse, 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers, 6 companies 66th Regiment, 1st Bombay Infantry (Grenadier), 28th Bombay Infantry (Pioneers), and 30th Beloochees (Jacob's Rifles). There were also Royal Engineers, under Col. J. Hills. The Brigadiers under General Primrose were Brig.-General Brooke and Brig.-General Burrows, both of whom were taken from the Headquarter Staff of the Bombay Army.

And here a short description of Kandahar itself will not be out of place. The town is situated on an extensive plain, bounded on the north and west by picturesque mountains. The city is quadrangular and is enclosed by a wall of mud sun-burnt bricks, 30 feet high. The enceinte, a length of about 6,000 yards, is divided into curtains and semi-circular towers, and is surrounded by a ditch about 10 feet deep and 25 feet wide, partially filled with water. There are four great gates—the Idgah to the north, the Shikapore to the south, Cabul to the east and Herat to the west. The parapet is loopholed. The four principal streets, or bazaars, lead from the gates and cross in the centre of the city under a large dome about 120 feet in diameter. This locality is called the Charsoo. The population was estimated at about 50,000. In the northern portion of the city is the Citadel, which has its own defensive perimeter, and within it are several courts and apartments formerly used as a royal palace. It was in this citadel that the garrison of Kandahar was concentrated later on. I was kept fairly busy with military matters for some days after our arrival, but I was soon able to attend to other details. I set men to work enlarging the lawn tennis ground in our own garden, so as to make a full-size court, and I arranged for a band to play once a week in the garden. A cricket club had already been started, and everything was being done to make life in Kandahar as pleasant as possible.

On April 17th we received news of an attack on the Dubrai Post, and the death of Major Waudby, Road Commandant. Dubrai was the third post from Kandahar, and was garrisoned by some Pathans in the service of Shire Ali Khan, Governor of Kandahar, mentioned later on. I remember when passing through Dubrai on our journey up, the Parsee in charge of the commissariat stores told me he could not trust the Pathans and was much afraid of being murdered. The Sepoy guards had been removed from all the posts the previous year, the country round about being considered sufficiently settled to be entrusted to native levies. Major Waudby happened to be spending the night at Dubrai on his way back to Kandahar from Chaman. He received warning that the post was going to be attacked, but determined to remain there.

The following account of the attack on Dubrai is taken from the *Kandahar News* of April 24th, 1880.

"About noon on the 17th the startling news of an attack on Dubrai, and the death of a Major Sahib, was first received here. No name was given, but it is feared that it must be Major Waudby, the Road Commandant. The above intelligence was confirmed later by a telegram received from Abdul Rahman. Our readers are aware that the telegraph office at Abdul Rahman was closed for a few days for the want of signallers, and it was a matter of astonishment in the offices here to hear signals from there. The beats came very slowly, showing that an inexperienced hand was at the instrument. However, a message was made out from Lieut. Fenton, R.A., who was proceeding to India, saying that Dubrai had been attacked and everyone killed, including Major Waudby. It seems that Lieut. Fenton, on hearing the news, opened the telegraph office at Abdul Rahman, and with the help of the servant in charge connected the wire with the instrument, and with the assistance of the code book wrote out in dots and dashes the messages he wished to send, and sent them slowly but effectively."

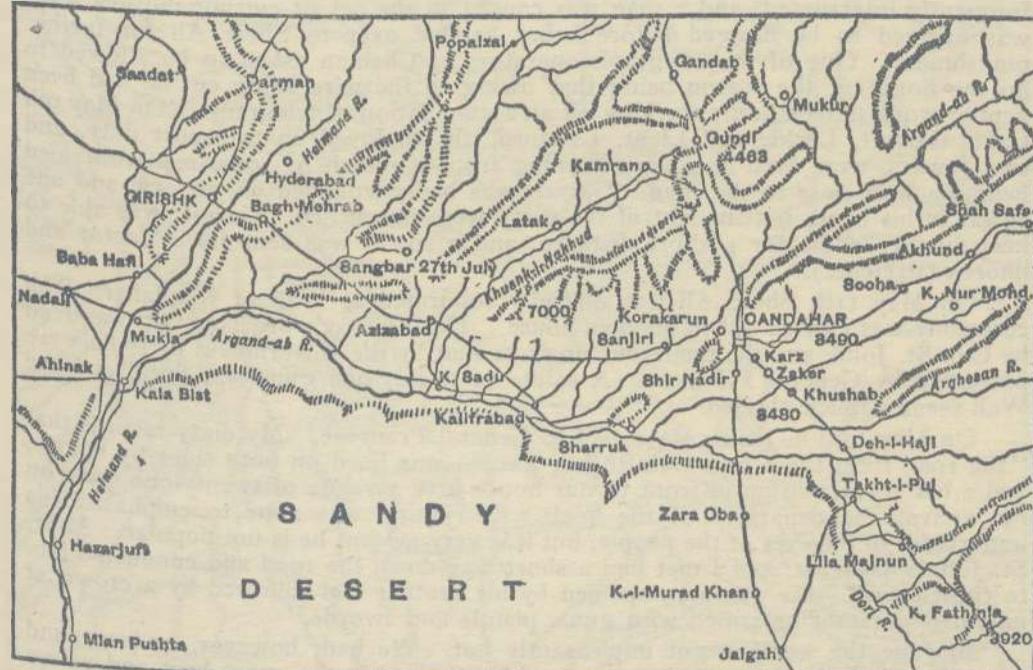
On receipt of the news in Kandahar, troops were dispatched to strengthen the various posts. Later on a sowar of the 3rd Scinde Horse, who was with Major Waudby at Dubrai, arrived in camp and gave further particulars, which I again quote from the *Kandahar News*.

"I was one of the Major's escort and had come to Dubrai from Chaman. It was reported to the Major that the post would be attacked that night by a large body of men. Two mounted men were sent out to ascertain the truth of the

report, and the Major, with others, set about strengthening the defences. The two men returned and reported that they had seen nothing. About 10 p.m. a noise was heard in the hills, and they were sent out again to reconnoitre. They shortly returned and shouted, 'Look out, the Ghazis are on you.' They then rode off to Abdul Rahman, bringing news of the attack. We defended the post as long as our ammunition lasted, and the enemy then rushed us in a body. I was near the Major Sahib, who was defending himself with his sword, and saw him cut down. Two men came at me. I shot one and managed to make my escape over

### COUNTRY BETWEEN GIRISHK AND CANDAHAR.

From "The Times," Monday, August 9th, 1880.



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the parapet and into the hills, where I hid till daybreak. Seeing the enemy had cleared off I ventured to return, and saw the dead body of the Major Sahib and other defenders of the post. I made my way to Kandahar through the hills."

The native levies who were on guard at Dubrai all fled before the attack. Major Waudby's dog was badly cut up, but alive, and was found sitting beside his master's body.

Shortly before our arrival at Kandahar, Sirdar Shere Ali Khan had been appointed Governor of Wali. On April 16th he paid an official visit to General Primrose. Col. St. John, the Political Officer, had a large tent, or shamianah, pitched in front of our house, in which the General received the Wali. I had to

meet him at our garden gate and conduct him to the General. As the Governor could only speak Persian, our conversation *en route* to the shamianah was nil, but we salaamed vigorously. There was an interpreter in the tent and Col. St. John spoke the language fluently, so everything went off correctly. I accompanied my General on the return visit next day. It was at this time we got news of General Stewart's victory at Ahmed Khel, *en route* to Kabul. As I had a brother in A/B R.H.A. I was much interested in this action, in which the R.H.A. were specially mentioned. My diary for 1880 records a good deal of lawn tennis played in our garden, also that I played in two or three cricket matches. I spent a good deal of my spare time learning the Morse alphabet, and later on Capt. Garratt, of the 66th Regiment, and myself practised telegraphy on a disused line connecting our quarters with the citadel. During May our telegraphic communication with Quetta was frequently interrupted, and a man was caught in the act of cutting the line. He was ordered to be flogged before being handed over to Shere Ali for further punishment. One of the telegraph operators at Chaman asked to be allowed to do the flogging, the reason being that owing to the wire being cut he had been kept at work sixteen hours working off an accumulation of telegrams. On May 9th Capt. Garratt, Leckie and Lieut. Lawford, all employed on transport duty, and two sowars, were fired at when returning from Kokeran by some men concealed behind a wall close to the road. Garratt was badly wounded on the arm and one sowar in his hand, but the rest of the party were untouched. Garratt was able to keep in the saddle for a short distance, and a sowar was sent for a doctor and dhorby (stretcher).

On May 11th Shere Ali was officially confirmed as Wali of Kandahar. The ceremony was carried out in his own house. The Viceroy's proclamation was read by Col. St. John, and the numerous presents sent by the Government of India were presented by General Primrose. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and the Wali seemed much pleased.

On May 13th he paid a state visit to General Primrose. My diary records that "the road from the Herat Gate to our garden was lined on both sides by troops, and a battery drawn up in front of our house fired a salute of twenty-one guns on the arrival and departure of the Wali. Everything was done to emphasize his importance in the eyes of the people, but it is very evident he is not popular. Muir, St. John's assistant, and I met him a short way down the road and conducted him to the General. He was accompanied by his brother and followed by a crowd of mounted ragamuffins armed with guns, pistols and swords."

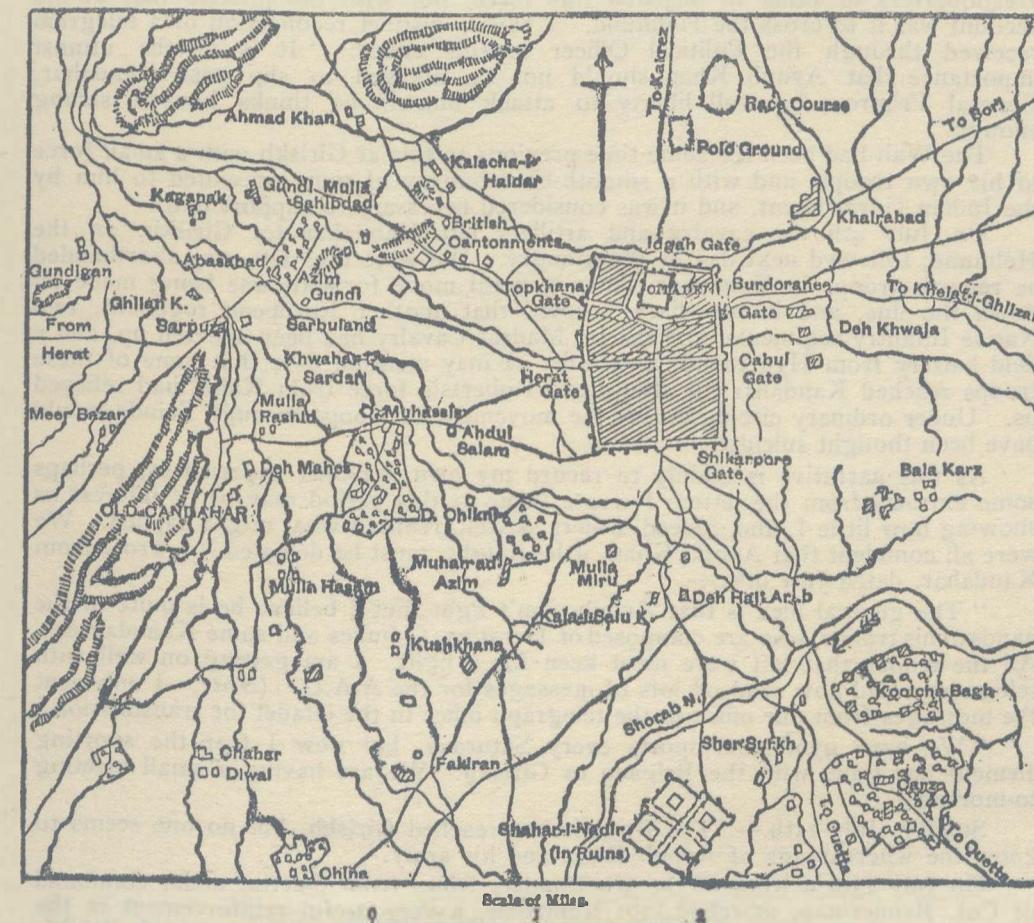
In June the weather got unpleasantly hot. We had, however, underground apartments called tykanas, where we could escape from the great heat and where the staff offices were located. On May 29th the Queen's birthday was celebrated. All the troops in garrison paraded and fired a *feu de joie*, and the artillery a Royal salute of thirty-one guns. The Wali, and Colonel St. John (the Political Officer) attended, and there was a march past at the close of the review. During June I attended a signalling class. Gymkhana sports were held during the month, and a great deal of lawn tennis was played in our garden. Cricket matches were played by the garrison, and although the weather was hot the health of the troops was good. The month passed without any special incident worth recording here. I see, however, in my diary, dated June 28th: "Report that Ayoub Khan is on his way from Herat to attack Kandahar."

The following is an extract from the *Kandahar News*, dated June 27th:—

"For several days there has been a report in the city that Ayoub Khan, who is supposed to have left Herat on June 9th, had arrived at Farah with a large force. This we treated as one of the many 'shaves' flying about the camp and city, but the report has been confirmed, and although the strength of the troops

### ENVIRONS OF CANDAHAR.

From "The Times," Saturday, August 21st, 1880.



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with Ayoub has been much exaggerated, he is supposed to have some 4,000 infantry, 900 cavalry and 30 guns. What Ayoub's intentions are remains to be seen, but the following troops are ordered to leave Kandahar at short notice in the direction of Giriskh: E/B R.H.A., 3rd Light Cavalry and 3rd Scinde Horse, under command of Brig.-General Nuttall; six companies 66th Regiment, 1st Grenadiers, Jacob's Rifles, and 40 sappers, the whole under command of General Burrows."

Before ordering this move General Primrose had received authority from Headquarters in India to dispatch this force, but with the proviso that on no account was it to cross the Helmund. I have a distinct recollection of a telegram received through the Political Officer to this effect: "It is of the utmost importance that Ayoub Khan should not be allowed to slip past Kandahar. General Primrose has full liberty to attack him if he thinks himself strong enough."

The Wali had been for some time previous to this at Giriskh with a small force of his own troops, and with a smooth-bore battery of guns presented to him by the Indian Government, and it was considered necessary to support him.

On July 4th the cavalry and artillery left Kandahar for Giriskh, on the Helmund, followed next day by the infantry. We were thus left very shorthanded as regards troops in Kandahar, but a general move forward was being made all down the line, and in my diary I noted that another European regiment, two Native Infantry regiments, and the 1st Madras Cavalry had been ordered up, and a field battery from Hyderabad, in Scinde. I may mention here that none of these troops reached Kandahar till after Lord Roberts's force from Kabul had relieved us. Under ordinary circumstances the movement of troops through Scinde would have been thought suicidal.

As this narrative is mainly to record my own personal experiences, perhaps some extracts from the letters I wrote home at this period may be of interest as showing how little I, and, indeed, others as well, realized what might happen. We were all confident that Ayoub Khan, if he fought, must be defeated. I wrote from Kandahar, dated July 9th:—

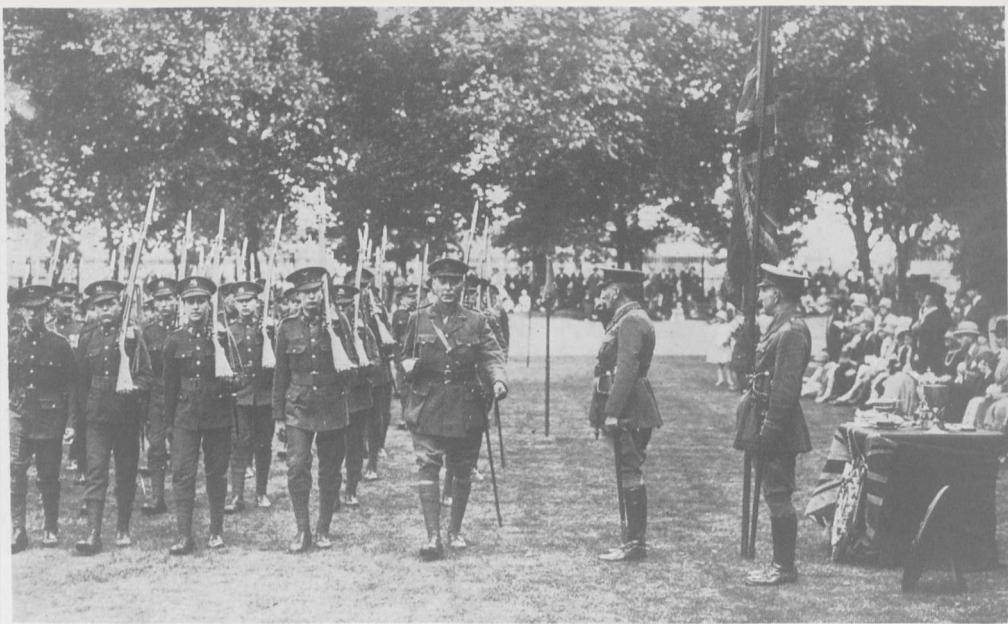
"The general idea is that Ayoub won't fight, but I believe he is quite in the hands of his troops, who are composed of Heraties, Cabulies and some Kandahrees. All the troops that left were most keen for a fight. I am getting on well with telegraphy, and now send off lots of messages for the A.A.G. (Note.—I only sent the messages from our office to the telegraph office in the citadel for transmission.)

"We have gymkhana sports every Saturday, but now I fear the sporting element has gone with the Brigade to Giriskh. We are having a small meeting to-morrow."

Sunday, July 11th.—"The Brigade has reached Giriskh, but no one seems to know the whereabouts of Ayoub Khan and his army."

On July 13th a wing of the 4th Bombay Rifles from Quetta, under command of Col. Bannerman, marched into Kandahar, a very useful reinforcement in the light of what followed. On July 15th news reached us of the mutiny of the Wali's troops. On the 14th it was discovered that the Wali's troops were in a state of mutiny, although for some time previous it was known they were disaffected. On the morning of that day a movement was observed in the Wali's camp, which was on the right bank of the Helmund, and his infantry were seen going north along the river bank. General Burrows' brigade was on the left bank, and although his orders were that he was on no account to cross the Helmund he ordered the 66th Regiment, E/B R.H.A., the cavalry and Jacob's Rifles to pursue the mutineers. The Wali's cavalry did not mutiny, but crossed to the left bank of the river.

## 1ST CADET BATTALION (LONDON REGIMENT) (THE QUEEN'S)



Reproduced by kind permission of the "Daily Sketch."

THE BATTALION MARCHING PAST AT THE ANNUAL INSPECTION, 1927.



Reproduced by kind permission of the "Daily Sketch."

H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE (PRESIDENT OF THE BATTALION) PRESENTING THE SILVER BUGLE TO SERGEANT FAVELL.

## THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

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Our cavalry, after crossing, rapidly came up with the enemy, who drew up in line about 2,000 strong, with the smooth-bore battery of six-pounders in the centre. These guns opened fire, but, as they fired round shot, caused little damage beyond knocking over a couple of horses.

Our horse battery soon put the smooth-bores out of action, and the 66th Regiment dispersed the Afghans. The cavalry then charged and recovered the smooth-bores.

The ground was, unfortunately, so traversed by nullahs that the cavalry and artillery were unable to follow up, and the numerous villages and gardens favoured the escape of the mutineers. The next day our brigade retired from Giriskh to Kushki Nakhud, forty-two miles from Kandahar, as there was nothing to be gained by remaining at Giriskh, where it was difficult to obtain supplies. There seemed to be no reliable information as to Ayoub Khan's whereabouts. On July 17th gymkhana races took place. On July 21st Generals Brooke and Adam (Q.M.G.) were fired at when returning from the Argandab Valley. One sowar was killed. Cavalry and infantry were ordered out to scour the hills, but with no result. There was much excitement in the city. From the entries in my diary from July 23rd up to the 27th inclusive, everything went on much as usual in Kandahar, and it was not without good reason that, amongst other things recorded on the 23rd, I wrote: "Our Intelligence Department is not good." On the 25th we heard that General Burrows' cavalry had been in touch with about 700 of Ayoub's cavalry, while reconnoitring. The Horse Artillery battery came into action, and the Afghans retired. On the 26th we had lawn tennis and a band in our garden, as usual, in the evening.

On July 28th the entry in my diary is as follows:—

"At 2 a.m. this morning received news of a terrible disaster to our brigade under General Burrows. Ayoub Khan, with a force of 20,000 men and 36 guns, overwhelmed our force. Men coming in all day. 66th lost 10 officers. McMath and Garratt killed. Lynch wounded. Regiment decimated. We have vacated cantonments and are now in the citadel. R.H.A. lost two guns. Telegraph all right up to 2 p.m. Sent to General Phayre for assistance." The officers mentioned were my special friends.

Particulars of the Battle of Maiwand, Siege of Kandahar, and Battle of Kandahar will appear in next issue.

## 22nd LONDON REGIMENT

*Headquarters: 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, London, S.E.16.*

*Honorary Colonel: Col. E. J. Previté, V.D.*

*Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Col. E. J. Woolley, M.C.*

THIS year we carried out our annual training at Colchester during the last week in July and the first week in August. When we first heard that we were going to Colchester everybody seemed very depressed at the thought, but in the end the general opinion was that a very excellent place had been selected, and that our fortnight had been most enjoyable as well as instructive.

Strange as it may seem, the weather was kind to us practically throughout the whole period; it only broke down on two occasions. The second occasion was a really heavy thunderstorm in the middle of the night, which was a little too heavy and a little too close to be pleasant. One of our tents was struck and the two occupants had a very narrow escape; a rifle which was leaning against the tent pole was shattered and portions of it blown through the tent.

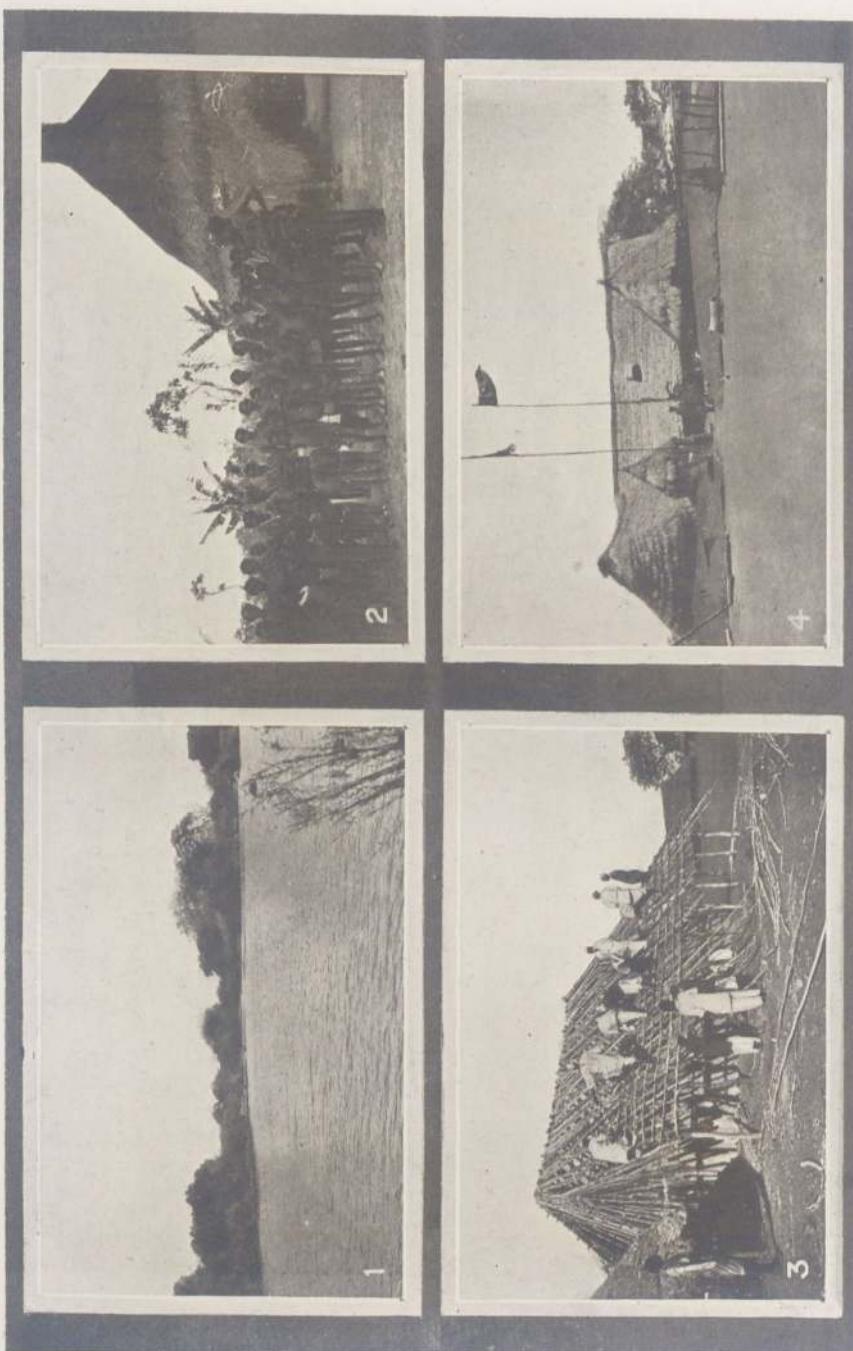
Our training in the first week was rather handicapped on account of the training areas having to be restricted whilst the regular garrison were using the rifle ranges; but in the second week we had no difficulties in this respect. On the night of August 3rd and during the early hours of the following morning we carried out a most interesting operation in the shape of bridging and crossing the Roman river and assaulting the high ground to the north. For the purpose of crossing the river we utilized Kapok bridges, and as this was the first time that any of us had used this form of bridging material it added considerably to the interest taken in the scheme. The whole business of building the bridges, taking them down to the river and carrying out the crossing was very well done, and the only disappointment was that nobody fell into the water. During the night we bivouacked, and whilst we were waiting for "Lights Out" we indulged in community singing around a most excellent bonfire. Talent which previously had not shown itself came to the fore on this occasion, and has been earmarked for future eventualities.

As to the lighter side of camp life, this year was more than usually successful, as all the units of the Brigade were located in one big camp, which made visiting and entertaining an easy matter. As for music of all sorts, we were practically never without it, with at times bands to the north of you and drums to the south of you, the effect being somewhat overpowering. Whilst on the subject of music we must mention the "Lucarno" dance band. This excellent band is in the habit of providing music at our sergeants' dances in the Drill Hall; this year they took their holidays during the period when we were in camp and came to Colchester. Therefore nightly there were jazz strains emanating from our Sergeants' Mess, and almost nightly there was either a dance or a concert which were very much appreciated by everybody. We believe that it is a fact that our friends of the "Lucarno" band provided this most welcome entertainment for friendship sake only. In this case we all owe them a great debt of gratitude.

In competitions which took place during camp we were not particularly lucky. Both in the Brigade Signalling Competition and in the Machine Gun Competition we were placed second, and in the Divisional Transport Competition we were eighth. The competition for the *Previté* Cup was won by a "D" Company platoon commanded by Lieut. R. G. Long.

One event of importance has occurred since we returned from camp. On Sunday, October 9th, our sergeants fired their annual match with the members of "M" Division of the Metropolitan Police down at the Purfleet Ranges. Considerable anxiety was felt about the result of this match beforehand, as for the past two years the police have been the winners and another win this year would have given them the "cup" for good. Fortunately, however, the sergeants pulled out their best form at the right moment and won the match, which consisted of three practices, fairly easily.

The competition for the Lady Muriel Cup took place at Purfleet on Sunday, September 25th. All members of the team of twenty deserve great credit for their turn-out and for the way in which they marched from Rainham to Purfleet. For turn-out and march discipline we did well, and it is unfortunate that our shooting was not up to this standard, and as a result we eventually only obtained third place.



RECOLLECTIONS OF A LONELY YEAR.

1. One of the many Streams.
2. Some of the Wives of a Chief.
3. Roofing a House.
4. The Fort.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF A LONELY YEAR

FIRST let me say that I left the 1st Battalion at Warley, in 1910, for service with the Egyptian Army, and after a year with an Egyptian battalion in the Eastern Sudan and on return from leave, I was sent for duty into the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, in the extreme south of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. After a short period I was lent to the Sudan Government and became the first duly-appointed Inspector of a district called Tembura, which was bordered on the south by the Belgian and French Congos. It was not big as districts go out there, being only about 10,000 square miles of forest and bush country, very well watered, and supporting a large population of Pagans, composed of many different tribes, all speaking dialects of their own.

When I had said good-bye to the fellow I had just relieved I felt rather depressed, as I realized that unless something untoward happened I would not see a white man until my own relief came in about a year's time, and that if I did get ill I should be dead and buried, or else fit again, before anyone could come to help. There was another solitary being at about 110 miles off, but Headquarters, where there were several white men, including a doctor (when he was not on tour), and shops, a telegraph and post office, was about double that distance. The mail arrived on a native's head once a month, and brought news that had been fresh in England some six weeks before. As, however, I had brought it with me, there was nothing to look forward to in that line for a bit.

On several occasions the wretched post carriers were treed by lions, and one never knew to a day or two when to expect them. If they were long overdue, search parties were sent to look for them.

I was also O.C. Tembura District, and had about fifty Sudanese soldiers to garrison the station, and there were also about a dozen armed police. The staff consisted of an old black captain and his equally black subaltern, both from the ranks, a Syrian medico, and a couple of native clerks. None of these could speak or write any English at all, nor could any of the non-commissioned officers or men. But the Syrian knew French fairly well and had a number of books in that language, few of which would have passed the censor.

I had been studying Arabic pretty hard for the previous year, and had no great difficulty in conversation with my servants and the people in the station, but Arabic was as foreign to the tribesmen living round as German would be to a Welshman. The non-commissioned officers and men were nearly all bi-lingual or tri-lingual, and most of the chiefs had hangers-on who knew a bit of Arabic, and so one could generally make oneself understood after a fashion. My station was right in the middle of the Tsetse fly country, and no horses, mules, donkeys, cattle or sheep could live there, so all one's locomotion was performed on one's feet. Loathsome chickens were obtainable in exchange for salt, but one depended on rifle and gun for meat, until such time as the rains came and the grass grew too high for shooting to be possible. This enforced close season lasted from about the middle of May to late November, although the country was not really clear until about February. As Commandant I was allowed to issue a very limited number of rounds to shoot meat, and when the kill was brought in it was duly weighed out as rations, so it happened that if a big beast like a buffalo was shot, about a month would elapse before the men were entitled to meat again.

In my monthly mail bag was also included four tins of preserved meat—and the merchant in Khartoum who despatched it used to send a fine variety. Canned

tripe was horrible, but I rather fancied a large tin of brawn which I one day handed over to my cook to open. It was, however, a failure, as all the jelly had melted, and it met an inglorious end served up as a kind of soup.

The supply of meat in the rains was really a very serious question; so out of my monthly supply I used to lay by some tins as a reserve. On examination, I found several had "blown"—had been punctured and resoldered by the rascal in Khartoum. These I ate only when the Syrian medico was in the station, and always thanked God when I found myself alive and well next day.

My house was a very primitive affair—walls made of mud lumped together, mud floors, and thatch put on to a frame of young trees from the surrounding forest, tied to each other by the fibres of a creeper. There was not a nail in the whole building, except in the door. There were two living-rooms, a bath-room and a store-room. A verandah ran right round the house, which made the interior very dark. Gaps in the walls served as windows, and glass there was none. A sheet of calico stretched across the middle of each room served as a ceiling, and acted as a catcher for snakes, lizards, bats, etc., and the dust that the white ants and boring beetles were continually manufacturing. There was also a fireplace, which was in daily use in the rains.

For servants I had two black boys, who were excellent on trek or when a lot of work had to be done, but women and wine got hold of them rather badly—when they hadn't enough to do. The second boy, named Hassan, acted as khitmatgar and housemaid, and was decorated with the old silver lamb that our mess servants used to wear in their puggarees in India. One evening, supper being overdue, I shouted out for Hassan and got the reply that he was not. So I said that he had got to be, and had better be found, and went on reading my book. After a long interval a voice from the kitchen announced that the supper was ready, so I went and sat down and presently Master Hassan appeared bearing in the soup, absolutely naked (but quite composed) except for the above-mentioned badges stuck in his woolly head. I cuffed him somewhat vigorously and asked him what he meant by it, and it transpired that he had been gambling with the corporal of the police and had lost. After supper we went down to the corporal's hut and retrieved his clothing, which, by the way, belonged to me.

Money had not then come into use, and carriers and other persons requiring payment were given "trade goods" instead of cash. Strips of cloth were in great demand, and if the recipient happened to get the piece with the trade mark or maker's name on it he considered himself most fortunate, and often took the name of the animal or thing depicted. Blue beads, salt and sugar were also very popular. No intoxicants, weapons or gunpowder were sold, and the whole store was run by a government officer, who had a grand chance of enriching himself at the expense of the native. When coinage was introduced a Greek merchant was allowed to establish a shop, taking over the balance of the trade goods, and adding an approved selection of his own. It was some time, however, before the natives could understand the advantage of money, because whereas in the old days he received his payment in kind direct, he now got a variety of coins, whose value he did not understand, and exchanged them with the Greek for practically the same things that he used to get with less trouble. When he did get wise, I fancy the soldiers and the Greek found themselves a good bit the poorer.

Work is the best cure for loneliness, and there was always more to do in the day than there was time for. One began soon after six, either on parade or else watching fatigue parties and civil prisoners cleaning the ground, building or rebuilding their several quarters, or cultivating. Then, after breakfast, orderly room, which was quickly disposed of, and the hearing of criminal and civil cases, which were very lengthy jobs. They were nearly all connected with the stealing or absconding of women, and it was no rare thing for a chief to come in and

complain that twenty or thirty of his wives had bolted or been stolen, and he wanted them back and the guilty parties punished. He rarely knew the names of more than two or three of his women, but his entourage generally managed to fit names to most of them. Having got a little data to go upon, the case would proceed, each witness being duly sworn, not on the Bible or Koran as one might expect, but on the leg of the chief, the witness slapping his own leg while he pronounced the name of his chief. The hearing of these cases required a lot of patience from all concerned, owing to my not being able to understand the language the people spoke. Their language was interpreted by a soldier or a policeman, who passed it on, probably with additions or contractions of his own, to me in Arabic. This I translated to myself in English, and of course the process was reversed when I wished to address the speaker. When I was not satisfied with the fairness of the interpreter I used to turn him out of the office and send for a new one from barracks and rehear the case, and it was amusing to watch the change of countenance of such as knew Arabic, when a totally different version of the case was now presented. I have no doubt that I did some hideous injustices, but I do not believe that the sufferers bore one any grudge, so long as they saw that one was doing one's best. Still, it was a marvel to me that no one ever shoved a smouldering brand into the thatch of my house, which was hidden from the rest of the camp, and so somewhat isolated.

Women had always been the currency of the country until we put a stop to it, and a great many of these "runaway" cases were simply caused by the natural desire of these poor females to return to their homes or original husbands, from whom they had been commandeered by their chief in payment of some debt to another chief, or in exchange for some girl of greater attractions.

After great difficulty, hoes, spears, ivory and money were made to take the place of the "woman" exchange, although no doubt the old game still went on in the outlying parts of the district. Having neither flocks, herds nor markets, a man was rich or poor according to the number of women he owned.

The advent of the Greek and his shop was a great help to us reformers, because the chiefs began to desire the articles and commodities displayed, and, as the Greek could not take unlimited women in payment, money had to be earned and trade began. Ivory, skins and beeswax were the most important items, ivory easily first. Murders, maimings, poisonings, stabbings, and setting fire to houses were all pretty common crimes. Very few of the killings were done in the heat of the moment, but were mostly the result of "consulting the oracle. A man's wife or son would die, and as these natives think that no death is natural, except a man fall in battle, or gradually peters out from sheer old age, he sets about to find out who caused the death in question.

Fastening his suspicions on someone, he starts drawing conclusions from things he observes in nature, or else he cuts a cock's throat, or poisons it and watches carefully its dying antics. If these trials are inconclusive he operates on another fowl, and eventually the culprit is "discovered" and the seeker after truth feels himself under a moral obligation to avenge the death at the first favourable opportunity.

It was found that the best way to deal with these murderers was to send them to Headquarters for a term of imprisonment, where they would mix with totally different tribesmen from other parts of the province, and eventually return greatly enlightened.

In the dry season I spent all the time I could travelling about, visiting the various chiefs and getting excellent big-game shooting as well. In one outlying part of the district I came across a case which illustrates what I have written above.

Two old men, having lost their women, decided to live together and do a bit of cultivating. One day one of them saw an elephant damaging the crops, and bravely, but not wisely, went with a bow and arrow to turn it off, with the result that he was torn from limb to limb. His son heard of his death, and immediately took steps to find out who was guilty. He tied the other old man to a log and gave him just enough food to keep him alive. In this state we found him, and the son was arrested. His defence was that someone must have influenced the elephant to kill his father, and that "someone" was probably the old man he lived with. He had gone to the expense of several chickens, and their dying struggles had very nearly indicated that such was the case, when I came along and spoilt it all. He was really very hurt with me.

In the rains one could not get about at all, and for exercise I used to walk for two hours a day up and down a path, at the end of which was the grave of a former garrison commander. I used also to do frantic *pas seuls* to the strains of a gramophone in the seclusion of my verandah. This kept me very fit until flour gave out and I had to rely on native meal. This was made from a kind of dwarf millet like a rush, and was very oily and full of grit from the stones it was ground with. My interior had a terrible time for about a fortnight before it won, but it left me as thin as a lath. Soon after this my relief arrived quite unexpectedly, with a note from the Governor telling me that, owing to the exceptionally heavy rains, the last steamer for Khartoum was leaving later than usual, and that he would keep it until a certain date on my chance of catching it. This allowed me just seven days to do about 220 miles through uncleared paths, so I handed over in a great hurry and just did it, but it was an effort, especially as we had to fell a tree in order to get over a flooded stream, and I had also taken the skin off the top of one toe the first night out.

I covered the last sixty miles in twenty-four hours, and found the steamer just about to cast off. I rushed off to the Governor to report my arrival and get my leave papers. Six hours afterwards the carrier arrived with the baggage, and we steamed off, and that was the end of my first year alone.

OLD MAUDE.

## EMPIRE SETTLEMENT

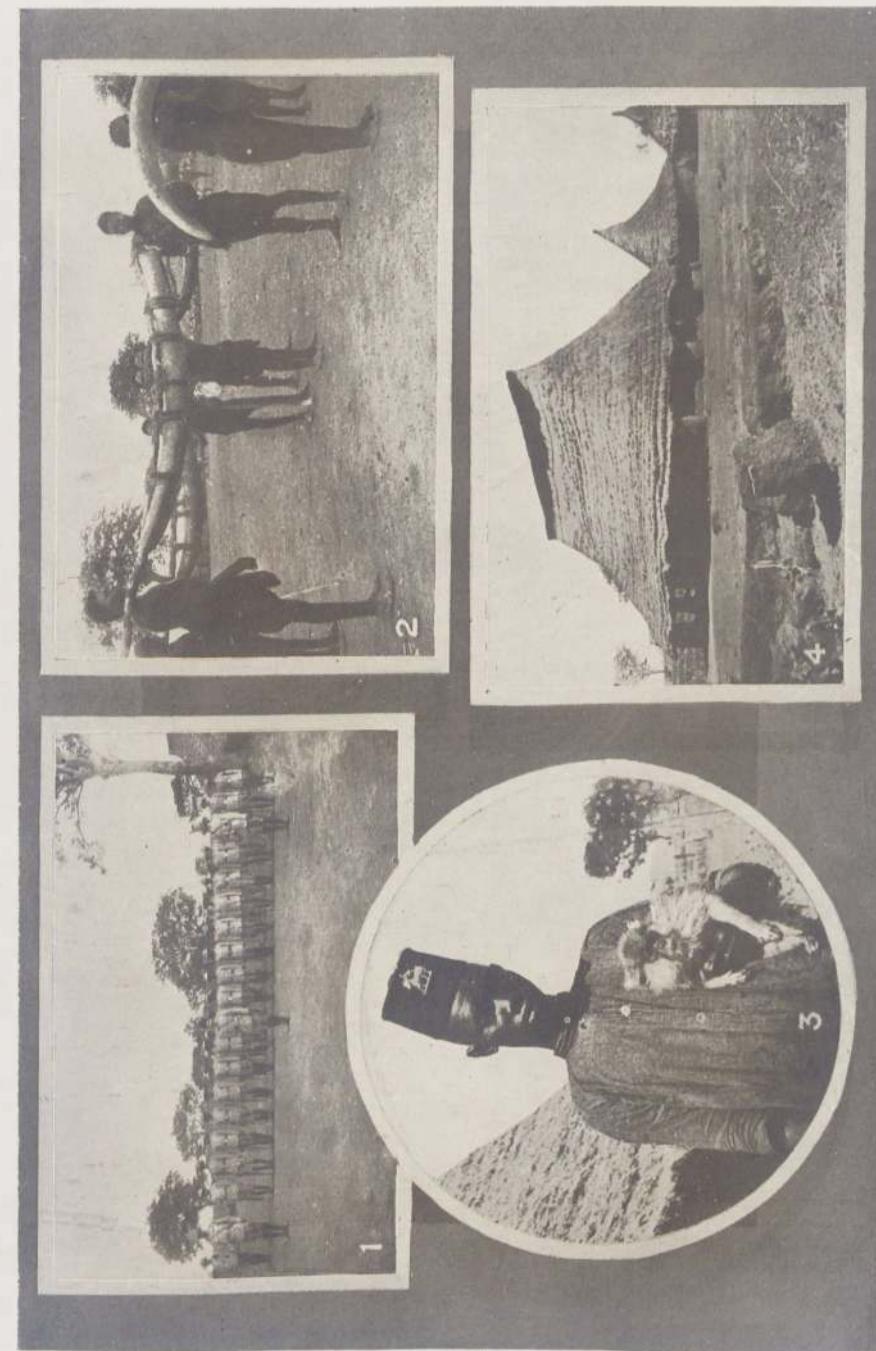
By COL. H. G. REID, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.

THE problem of the better distribution of the white population within the Empire is now better understood, and in consequence is receiving in this country the attention which the importance of the subject deserves.

The numbers migrating, however, are still comparatively few, but with increasing prosperity an increasing flow of settlers to the Dominions may be expected.

In the meantime it is very necessary that a systematic sustained effort to bring home to all classes in all parts of the country the importance of the problem should be maintained.

A general lack of a spirit of adventure amongst all classes, coupled with incomplete and unsatisfactory Government schemes, account for much of the falling off in migration.



RECOLLECTIONS OF A LONELY YEAR.

1. The Garrison.
2. Ivory at the Greek's Shop.
3. My Servant "Hassan."
4. My House.

The thing is to find the right stimulus to bring out the desire to migrate, and to get all the Dominions to see that it is in their best interests not only to give a decided preference in their scheme to the Anglo-Saxon, but to extend a welcome to *all* classes of the community.

Those who know the Dominions as well as other parts of the civilized world are only too conscious of the lack of culture to be met with in the Dominions. This lack of culture is not surprising when it is considered that the Dominions were, and are still being largely populated by people who emigrate to improve their position and standard of living. They succeed in doing this, and live for business, commercial, and financial success.

Canada especially needs a better class of settler, lying as she does in close proximity to a foreign country, and receiving as she does large numbers of immigrants from Central Europe.

*Ex-Regular Officers.*

Amongst the better educated people of this country, there is no class which should prove to be a greater asset to the Dominions than the ex-regular officer of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and no class which can be obtained in larger numbers.

The regular officer retires at a comparatively early age, and when he is more or less in the prime of life. He is mentally, morally and physically fit. He is in possession of a little capital and a small, but certain, pension for life. He is, moreover, a gentleman and a good sportsman. He is, as a rule, married and has a small family.

To him the Dominions have much to offer. Better value for his money, a life of pleasure and freedom, which cannot be found amongst the conventions at home.

The Dominions cover so wide a range of conditions and climate, and their natural resources are so vast, that there is scope for almost unlimited development.

Their products, industries, and manufactures are also so numerous and varied, that a large choice of occupation and employment is open to him and his children.

*Overseas League.*

A few months ago it was suggested to the General Council of the Overseas League, that the League was in a very strong position with its 30,000 members scattered throughout the Empire, and with its sound organization to render voluntary assistance to the better educated classes, who are desirous of settling in the dominions.

Although the League had previously taken no active part in overseas settlement work, the General Council appreciated the necessity of some such assistance being granted, and whole-heartedly agreed to undertake the work.

The General Council immediately appointed a Migration Sub-Committee composed of:—

*Chairman:* Evelyn Wrench, Esq., Founder and Organizer of the League.

*Members:* Sir Henry Cowan, M.P.; F. Pauline, Esq., Agent-General for British Columbia; C. Bavin, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

*Co-opted Members:* Officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

This Sub-Committee met and decided:—

(a) As its first objective, to assist ex-regular officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force, who are desirous of settling in British Columbia.

(b) To set up an information bureau at headquarters of the League in London; to collect and collate reliable information about British Columbia in the first instance, and later, about other parts of the Empire.

(c) To set up small committees composed of members of the League in British Columbia, and later, in other parts of the Empire, with the following objects:—

- (i.) To collect information required by prospective settlers, and to forward it to the headquarters of the League in London.
- (ii.) To extend a welcome and hospitality to settlers on arrival in their district, and to render such further assistance as may be possible to enable them to settle down to happy and contented lives.

The Sub-Committee has strictly laid down that no one is eligible to serve on a committee who has any commercial interest in the business of immigration, or interest in the sale of land.

The whole scheme is being carried out on a voluntary basis; no subscriptions, fees or charges are made; such expenses as may be incurred by the Sub-Committee will be paid out of the funds of the League.

Committees are in the process of formation in each of the following districts in British Columbia: Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley, Okanagan Valley, Kootenay Valley, and Salmon Arm.

Though the Sub-Committee has only recently been formed, it will, nevertheless, welcome enquiries from officers who are contemplating settling in British Columbia, or other parts of the Empire.

Officers desirous of availing themselves of the services placed at their disposal, are invited to communicate in writing to: The Hon. Secretary, Migration Sub-Committee, Overseas League, Park Place, St. James's Street, S.W.1.

## 24th LONDON REGIMENT (THE QUEEN'S)

*Headquarters: 71 New Street, Kennington Park Road, S.E.11.*

*Honorary Colonel: Col. W. A. Simpson, C.M.G., D.S.O.*

*Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Col. C. E. Thompson, D.S.O., M.C.*

CAMP this year was held at Middlewick, Colchester, from July 24th to August 7th. Following last year's successful camp in the Sussex Downs, near Brighton, it might seem that Colchester would, in comparison, be a poor sort of place in which to spend a fortnight which, for most, is not only annual training but the annual holiday. Yet this year's camp was voted a great success, in the opinion of many excelling that of 1926.

The camp itself was a little cramped and its situation, near the rifle ranges, not very attractive. The town of Colchester itself has little to offer in the way of diversions. The surrounding country, however, is extremely pleasant, well wooded and undulating, but with no large features. In fact, it was a complete change from anything we have visited of recent years. The training areas, too, were close at hand, and long marches consequently were unnecessary.

It may seem strange, after all that has been written and said of the past summer, that we should be compelled to pay a tribute to the weather. Neither a heavy downpour on Bank Holiday afternoon (too late to interfere with our day's training) nor a thunderstorm one night, which excited some attention from the Press, succeeded in washing us out, and, apart from these episodes, we had practically no rain.



Photo

Lt.-Gen. Lawford inspecting Guard of Honour provided by the Battalion at the unveiling of the 11th (Service) Battalion War Memorial at Brixton on September 18th, 1927.

[Daily Mirror.]



The Band at Camp, 1927.

The country on which we were working proved useful for training purposes. With small numbers and a larger proportion than usual of first-year men, the training areas were very good for exercising platoons and companies in minor tactical schemes.

Apart from the other units of the 142nd Brigade, we had in camp with us the 47th Divisional Royal Engineers, and were able to derive much benefit from their presence. It is true that they seemed to spend a great deal of energy in producing inmost alarming explosions, but they readily agreed to forego this form of amusement for a time in order to co-operate with us in a scheme which involved crossing the Roman river at dawn with the aid of Kapok bridges. We set out at dead of night, accompanied by a detachment of Sappers and the necessary gear, a skeleton enemy having preceded us to oppose the crossing. It may be that the latter overslept, but by daybreak the astonished troops found themselves over the river and busily engaged in pushing the "skeleton" enemy up the slopes beyond it.

After this, it became quite the vogue to force a crossing of the Roman river. Everybody did it. Night after night some unit would throw bridges across that unoffending stream. In fact, two units narrowly escaped carrying out the exercise at the same time and place, but from opposite directions.

Disaster was barely averted on the day when a very senior officer had arranged to inspect us at training. The mounted officers had preceded the battalions in order to reconnoitre, and the subaltern left in command did not quite succeed in reading the map—the explanation appearing to be that he was holding it upside down and very naturally confused east with west. The result was that shortly before the inspecting officer was due an alarmist rumour reached the little band of mounted officers that the Battalion was miles away heading in the wrong direction. Their feelings can be better imagined than described, but they stood their ground, prepared to bear the full brunt of the inspection themselves, and in the nick of time the Battalion turned up.

Training at camp concluded with a Brigade Day in which the 24th London played rather an uninteresting part, as we furnished a skeleton enemy, scattered in small posts over the countryside. The mounted officers detailed for umpiring had, however, plenty to do.

As always, we found the regular units stationed near us hospitable and helpful. Our sergeants established very friendly relations with the sergeants' mess of the Leicestershire Regiment, but unfortunately a cricket match arranged with the Leicesters had to be cancelled, as the fixture clashed with a rifle meeting.

Our officers were made honorary members of the Garrison Club, where there are a number of excellent tennis courts. This facility was very much appreciated.

Apart from our doings at camp, there is little to relate. In the Divisional Transport Competition we were bracketed third with the 17th London, and in the Brigade competition for the Lady Muriel Cup, which took place at Purfleet Ranges on September 25th, we took second place.

Recently we have lost Capt. C. F. King, D.S.O., M.C., who has been compelled to retire owing to pressure of business affairs. Two new subalterns have been gazetted, 2/Lieuts. J. H. Senior and H. N. P. Woolmer, both being brothers of officers already serving in the Battalion.

Back at Kennington, our Shooting Club (miniature ranges) is doing useful work under the presidency of C.S.M. Copps, M.M. Spoon shoots are frequently arranged, the prizes awarded being spoons engraved with the regimental crest. We have just started a free library for the non-commissioned officers and men, and a fair number of suitable books have already been presented.

On September 18th, when Lieut.-Gen. Sir Sydney Lawford, K.C.B., unveiled the Memorial to the 11th (Service) Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment at Brixton, the 24th London Regiment furnished a Guard of Honour, fifty-three

strong, under Capt. Spence-Duncan. Our Band also attended and took part in the ceremony. We were very glad to have the opportunity of being represented at this ceremony, and are deeply gratified by the kind letters of thanks which were received from Lieut.-Gen. Sir Sydney Lawford, K.C.B., and Lieut.-Col. H. Wardell, D.S.O., who commanded the 11th (Service) Battalion of The Queen's.

The following are extracts from their letters:—

*From Lieut.-Gen. Sir Sydney Lawford:*

"I wish to congratulate the Guard for their smart and soldierly appearance, and the Band for the excellent way that they played the music during the service, which was very much appreciated by all present."

*From Lieut.-Col. Henry Wardell:*

"On behalf of the Old Comrades of the 11th Battalion The Queen's, I beg to tender our sincere thanks to your Battalion for the success of our ceremony at Brixton Church on Sunday last, to which your Band and Guard of Honour so largely contributed.

"The Guard was worthy of the best traditions of The Queen's—can I say more?—and the Band was magnificent."

#### THE SERGEANTS' MESS.

Once again the Mess were enabled, by the splendid subscriptions from interested members and friends, to arrange and give their annual Empire Day Children's Tea Party. As in previous years, the affair was a huge success, and our thanks are especially due to C.S.M. A. Bousher, M.M., who so ably organized, assisted by many willing helpers, amongst whom we are honoured to include our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Col. C. E. Thompson, D.S.O., M.C.

Annual camp was the big event, but in breaking new ground at Colchester many of us wondered just what sort of camp it would be. Fortunately it was better than anticipated, although the camp outlook was not good, but the training areas were excellent, a very important factor to many of us. The arrangements for the comfort and messing of members were again excellent, and our thanks are due to the messing committee, so ably presided over by R.Q.M.S. C. Collins, M.M.

On Sunday, July 30th, a record number of relatives and friends of members paid us a visit, and were delighted with the reception and arrangements made for them.

Only one social evening was arranged during camp, but it was an outstanding success. We were honoured with the company of the Brigade Commander, who expressed his appreciation; also our Commanding Officer and the officers of the Battalion. An especial pleasure was the presence of many members and ladies from the sergeants' mess, 2nd Bn. Leicestershire Regiment, with whom we had established a close liaison.

A billiards and snooker match was arranged with the sergeants' mess of the regular units of the R.A.S.C. and the R.E., and, although we lost, a very pleasant evening was spent by all present.

Cricket matches were numerous, but the game which afforded us considerable satisfaction was the Officers *v.* Sergeants match. The first game was a tie, but in the second we won. Excitement at various stages was considerable, and many wagers were offered but not taken. A special game had been arranged for the Bank Holiday, between the Holborn Schools, but unfortunately rain completely spoiled it. Two other matches, against Elmstead C.C. and Wivenhoe C.C., were thoroughly enjoyed, although in both cases we lost.

Shortly after our return to Headquarters, the Mess was entirely renovated, and at long last it has lost that mission hall look, so often spoken of but never felt.

On Sunday, October 2nd, members journeyed to Purfleet to compete for the Savigear Cup. "B" Company were the winners, and are to be congratulated on a fine performance, despite a dull and very windy day.

With the coming of the winter season the Mess is waking up, and already one very successful social has been held; the first dance also has taken place, at which the Commanding Officer and other officers and ladies honoured us with their company.

A billiards handicap is in progress, a whist drive is proposed, and further dances, so that given the support of all our members another very successful social season can be anticipated.

The miniature range Shooting Club is going strong, and already six spoons have been awarded. May it continue to thrive.

#### WITH THE 2nd BATTALION, 1877-1890 (continued)

OUR first business after arrival at Bareilly was to prepare for the hot weather, which in the United Provinces, then known as the N.W. Provinces and Oudh, sets in about the beginning of April. Two pagris per man were issued on payment of four annas each; in Malta the white cork helmet had been worn without a pagri. Then four suits of white clothing per man had to be fitted and paid for at Rs3.8 anns. per suit.

There were no free issues of white clothing, and khaki for British troops was unknown. During the hot weather white clothing was worn exclusively. Its maintenance was a severe drain upon the limited finances of the soldier. A clean suit would rarely serve for more than two parades. Four suits proved none too many, and most men provided two extra suits by purchase in the bazaar as soon as they could afford them. Even then it was necessary to resort to the institution known as the "Flying Dhobi." This was a native washerman who came round the rooms every morning collecting soiled clothing, which he returned the same evening, or next morning, laundered and ready for use at a cost of one anna a suit.

Various Indian regulations appeared strange. The weekly holiday, on Thursday, was much appreciated, but when it was rumoured that rifles, side-arms and twenty rounds of ball ammunition were to be carried on church parade we thought our legs were being pulled, until Regimental Orders on the first Saturday announced it as a fact.

Certain regimental appointments peculiar to India were made during the first week. Capt. Webster was appointed Interpreter, Lieut. H. W. Dent became Assistant-Instructor in Musketry, Sergt.-Master Cook "Jock" Laird found himself Hospital Sergeant, Sergt. Nimrod Johnston Drill Sergeant, and L./Cpl. Cowan Drill Corporal.

Promotion in the Bengal Staff Corps was a time promotion, and officers of the British service whose length of service exceeded the periods laid down for promotion in the Staff Corps were granted local rank for garrison duty. Under this rule Lieut. Mott became local Captain. Other instances of local rank occurred later, viz., Capts. (local Majors) H. Flood and R. H. Ross.

Shooting clubs and cricket clubs were inaugurated, and a sergeants' shooting club in connection with the Sergeants' Mess.

The subscriptions were four annas per man, monthly, to each of the company clubs, and a donation of Rs50 per company from the canteen fund to each cricket club gave them a satisfactory start. The use of the rifle range was allotted two days a month to each company, and on Thursdays to the sergeants for practice and matches. Inter-company shooting matches were frequently arranged, the usual conditions being cost of ammunition and markers, and "pot and pint"; teams, generally twelve-a-side—the "pot and pint" meaning that the losing team paid for a quart of beer per man and the winners for a pint. Similarly inter-company cricket matches were played, generally on Thursdays and Saturdays. Conditions, a new ball, Rs2 for umpires, and "pot and pint." Excellent company elevens were soon in being, affording a wide scope for selection when a team to represent the Battalion was required. Probably some of my readers may remember the regimental umpire, Charlie Blunden, the pioneer of "F" Company.

A regimental dramatic club was started by Capt. Mott and Lieut. King-Harman. Considerable histrionic talent was brought to the fore in the persons of Sergt.-Inst. Inglis, Ptes. McDonald and Horwood of "A" Company, Cpl. Wright of "G" Company, "Sal" Greet of "E" Company, and many others. Horwood had been a scene shifter at Drury Lane before enlisting, and took upon himself the office of scene painter and property man. Performances were held in the station theatre, and usually consisted of a thrilling melodrama, a musical interlude and a farce, generally running for three nights, the last of which would be designated "Staff Night," when the General and Staff, local civilians and the officers of the garrison, with their wives, would attend.

An unfortunate mishap occurred at one of the performances. "Robert Macaire," was the play being presented, and McDonald, who took the leading character, was supposed, in the last scene, to be escaping from the custody of the *gens d'armes*, to be shot down by the sergeant. Col.-Sergt. Allen, taking the part of the sergeant, was provided with a revolver, and cartridges from which the bullets were extracted. On the last night of the performance the bullet was not extracted—only the protruding portion was cut off from the cartridge case. Result, McDonald was hit in the head by the base of the bullet. Fortunately, the wound, which bled profusely, was slight, and after medical attention and copious drafts of rum he was able to finish the performance: much more realistically than on the preceding nights. The principal trouble was to find suitable individuals to take the female characters; our "actresses" were not "Ellen Terrys" or "Phyllis Dares", by any means, but we managed to get recreation and to afford amusement.

At the beginning of the hot season, "D" Company, under Capt. Ilderton, with Lieuts. Nourse and Rusbridger, together with a number of selected weakly men, was dispatched to Ranikhet, where it remained until the following October.

2/Lieuts. Pink and Bunbury joined from home early in the year; later Sub-Lieut. Robson, followed by 2/Lieuts. Pickard-Cambridge and Crawley. Lieut. G. W. C. Bruce left to join the Punjab Frontier Force. Lieut.-Col. Thompson retired, and Lieut.-Col. H. P. Phillips took over permanent command.

At 5.30 a.m. one Thursday morning "E" Company was preparing to start a cricket match with "G" Company, when Capt. Mott, who was playing for "E" Company, called the writer and told him to go to his (Capt. Mott's) bungalow and tell a young officer who had joined late on the previous night that he was to turn out at once and play cricket for his company. I returned with a slight, fair-haired young man, who soon made himself conspicuous by his activity and agility in the field, and who very materially contributed to our overwhelming victory over "G" Company that morning. The young officer was Sub-Lieut. Robson, and this was my first introduction to one whom I am proud to number among my oldest and best-remembered regimental friends.

To provide further amusement two billiard tables were purchased from the 15th Hussars, which regiment was leaving Meerut for home, one for the Sergeants' Mess and one for the Recreation Room.

At the same time the Battalion bought a printing press from the same source, and soon, under Sergt. "Sweater" Sullivan, so called to distinguish him from another Sergt. Sullivan known as "Towser," all forms, bills, etc., were printed regimentally, though the printing of regimental orders was not started until ten years later.

A regimental paper, under the title of *The Bareilly Telegraph*, was started by Capt. Mott. It died an early death, only three numbers being published. One morning the post corporal had to make two journeys to the post office, each time returning with a sack of papers addressed to the Editor, *The Bareilly Telegraph*. An explanatory letter stated that *The Bareilly Telegraph* was not registered as a newspaper, and that consequently all copies sent home by the men were insufficiently stamped and were returned. Letter postage to England was then six annas for half an ounce. This occurrence hastened the demise of the infant publication. Once again, in 1883, the publication of a regimental paper was suggested and details discussed, but the proposal fell through.

Early in the summer of 1878 enteric fever started in the Battalion and numerous fatal cases occurred with startling rapidity. The Battalion was young, messing arrangements were non-existent, and cooking was entirely in the hands of natives without adequate supervision. McNamara filters were rarely cleaned or examined, drinking water was stored in open surahis or goglets, of which each man had one under his cot, and the hygienic precautions now common throughout India were unknown. Looking back with the experience of after years, the wonder is that the death rate was not very much higher. One of the first to succumb was Drum-Major Askew, the oldest soldier in the Battalion, an ex-Guardsman, who had been Drum-Major since its formation in 1857. Capt. Webster, of "G" Company, known to the men as "Daddy" Webster, was also one of the victims. A large monument in Bareilly Cemetery, erected by regimental subscription, testifies to the losses the Battalion sustained, mainly from enteric fever, during its stay at that station.

During the hot weather all ranks were confined to the bungalows from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. bungalows were vacated by all except orderly-men. Constant roll-calls and inspections were carried out to see that these orders were obeyed. The days were long and tedious and men became bored and depressed. "Reveillé" 5 a.m., parade 6 to 7 a.m. Breakfast 8 a.m. Nothing to do from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parade 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for marked men and defaulters only. A heavy meal at 1 p.m., with beer at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., a basin of tea at 5 p.m. Canteen 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. "Last Post" 9.30 p.m. "Lights Out" 9.45. No standing passes. No temperance room open till 11 a.m. The long, long Indian day succeeded by the long, long Indian night. Is it to be wondered that stupid, silly, so-called crimes, committed without rhyme or reason, were prevalent? "Breaking out of barracks after 'Tattoo'" was a common offence. The monotony was demoralizing. The man who read during the day and joined in games or took exercise during the evening, eschewing the nightly canteen session, came off best. These conditions were not peculiar to our battalion—they were universal throughout the country.

Look through the Indian General Orders of years ago, and the number of General Courts-Martial awarding sentences of penal servitude from five to twenty years is appalling.

We had our first experience early in the year. One Pascoe, of "F" Company, was awarded 168 hours I.H.L. one morning, and, in accordance with custom, had to be seen by the medical officer before admission to cells at 2 p.m.

He was being marched to the medical officer's bungalow, when he sat down by the roadside and declined to move. Expostulation was in vain, and when the escort started to use force he broke away and struck the corporal—General Court-Martial, five years' penal servitude.

The proceedings of a General Court-Martial were promulgated at a parade of all British troops in the garrison, and when penal servitude was awarded leg irons were put on by the Provost-Sergeant on the parade, the prisoner remaining so fettered until after his removal to the Military Prison at Calcutta, then the destination of all soldiers sentenced to penal servitude.

The particular case noted above led to the first case of desertion while in India. Sergt. "Bill" Johnstone was detailed to take Pascoe to Calcutta with an escort of two men, one of whom, named Smith, had been a seaman before joining the Army. The night before the escort had to return Smith disappeared, and was not seen again until he gave himself up to the 1st Battalion in England some years after. On another occasion Pte. Oswin, of "C" Company, committed a succession of stupid crimes, destroying his equipment, etc., finishing up by kicking the Provost-Sergeant. Tried by a General Court-Martial, the writer was sergeant-in-charge of the quarter guard the day the proceedings were promulgated. Oswin had played the fool on so many occasions that the Sergeant-Major cautioned me to watch him very carefully. The Battalion and "K" 5 Battery, R.F.A., were on parade when I marched up the prisoner, handcuffed, with an escort of four men. The reading of the proceedings started, and as the prisoner took a pace to his front I removed his helmet. To my dismay there fell therefrom half a loaf of bread and a dirty sock. The Sergeant-Major gave me a look that spoke volumes, and Oswin stood grinning while his sentence of five years' penal servitude was notified. I marched the prisoner back to the guard-room, expecting shortly to be relieved and placed in arrest. However, I heard nothing that day, and the following morning the Adjutant, Lieut. Collis, gave me a quiet wigging—I think more because he considered his position required it than that I deserved it.

Much to our relief, the cold weather of 1878 set in early. In consequence, parades were more frequent. A much higher standard of knowledge of drill was required from non-commissioned officers before promotion. Special classes of instruction were held by the Sergeant-Major twice a week, and though many of the senior corporals resented this innovation and failed to present themselves for examination, several of the younger and junior men took to it kindly and reaped their reward in receiving promotion over the heads of many of their seniors.

I was rather interested in battalion drill as laid down in the "Infantry Field Exercise" of those days, with its intricate movements calling for concentrated attention on the part of guides and markers. One morning, as I was proceeding to my duty at the school, the Battalion was being exercised in battalion drill by the Sergeant-Major. I was slowly going down the road and watching the Battalion intently, when I suddenly bumped into someone on the road and trod heavily on his foot. Looking up and attempting to apologize, I found I had banged into the Commanding Officer, who, with the Adjutant, was watching the parade. Annihilation would have been welcome. I heard the words, "Employed in the school, is he?—well, the sooner he returns to duty and learns to keep his eyes open, the better." Once again the Adjutant proved a help in time of trouble. After orderly-room hour he came into the school and spoke so kindly that I thanked him with tears in my eyes—I was only a boy of nineteen. Major-Gen. H. P. Phillips may not remember the occurrence, but it is one I shall never forget.\*

\* When this was written I was not aware that General Phillips had answered the last roll call on the 25th July last in his ninety-first year.—Q.B.

While on the subject of parades I should like to recount the lengthy procedure that took place when the Battalion formed up on Commanding Officer's parade before any drill or instruction began. Much of the proceedings was peculiar to the 2nd Battalion.

As a rule, guard mounting took place fifteen minutes before the hour fixed for the parade. As the guards marched off, the bugler sounded "N.C.Os.' Call." Band and Drums and all non-commissioned officers fell in by companies on orderly-sergeants. Rolls were called and inspections made by the senior non-commissioned officer of each company. "Orderly-Sergeants' Call" was sounded, and reports rendered to the Sergeant-Major, who afterwards gave the command, "Form Line." The whole formed line, Band and Drums on the right, sergeants and colour-sergeants in the front rank, corporals and lance-corporals in the rear rank. An inspection by the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major followed. Non-commissioned officers' parade completed, the dismissal was the signal for the bugler to sound "Left-markers." These were paraded by the Sergeant-Major, recovered arms, and were opened out to "Column on the leading Company." The Sergeant-Major's command, "Steady," was followed by the bugle call, "Fall in." Companies fell in, standing at ease a pace and a half in rear of the left markers. The Sergeant-Major gave a signal to the drummer, who beat a smart tap on his drum, followed by a roll. On the first sound of the drum, companies sprang to attention, took a pace to the front and shuffled up into alignment man by man, from the left, being dressed by the left guide, who, when the alignment was completed, gave the command, "Eyes front." Then the bugler sounded "Officers' Call," and officers joined their respective companies. Roll call by orderly-sergeants followed, companies formed open order, and inspection by company officers proceeded. In the meantime the Sergeant-Major had assembled the orderly-sergeants, and having ascertained the number of files in each company on parade, proceeded, after careful calculation, to give instructions for the transfer of files from one company to another, so that companies should stand on parade at equal strength. Inspections completed and companies equalized, the next performance was to size and prove companies. A company officer or the senior sergeant would give the command, "Size in single rank, tallest on the right, shortest on the left," and each company would string itself out in single rank accordingly. On the command, "Form Company," the second tallest man would place himself on the left of the new front rank and the next on the right of the rear rank, and so on until the company was regularly sized in two ranks, when the right half would be closed in to the left half. "Number": "Fours right": "Fours left": "Fours deep": "Fours about": "Right files, stand-at-ease": "Left files, stand-at-ease" would complete the performance. Guides, markers and spare non-commissioned officers would take their places in the supernumerary rank, and the Company Commander in rear of the centre of his company. Now the Commanding Officer would take command—"Attention": "Quarter-column on the leading company." Left markers doubled out, and, covered by the Adjutant, took up position six paces in rear of each other, to mark the resting place of the left flank of their respective companies. The Adjutant's "Steady" was the signal for the bugler to sound the "Advance," when each company in succession, under the order of its commander, moved to its position in quarter-column. After being dressed by the left guide and receiving the order "Eyes front," each company "stood at ease" independently.

The Commanding Officer then called the parade to attention and instructed the Adjutant to collect the reports. To the strains of "Bonnie Dundee" the Adjutant cantered down the left flank of the column, receiving the obvious information that each company was present. Wheeling his horse round from the rear of the column, the Adjutant would canter to a short distance from the Commanding

Officer, pull up sharp, and, saluting with drawn sword, report the Battalion, "Present, sir."

The whole procedure lasted from twenty minutes to half an hour, and was carried out religiously on all Commanding Officer's and church parades.

At the risk of being tedious I must refer to one other parade, known as "Tattoo" parade. All non-commissioned officers were expected to be in their barrack rooms at "First Post." The Orderly-Sergeant, accompanied by the Orderly-Corporal, called the roll and promulgated the detail of duties for next day. The Orderly-Corporal read the regimental orders in each room. Five minutes before "Last Post" all non-commissioned officers except colour-sergeants proceeded to the parade ground. "Last Post" was followed by "N.C.Os.' Call," when all fell in by companies under the Sergeant-Major, afterwards forming line—sergeants and non-commissioned officers who had been on duty in the front rank, and corporals and lance-corporals in the rear rank. The parade was then inspected by the Captain or Subaltern of the Day, and, after inspection, dismissed by the Sergeant-Major. Non-commissioned officers below the rank of lance-sergeant returned to their rooms, and the sergeants were at liberty to go to the Sergeants' Mess, which was open until 11 p.m. Colour-sergeants remained with their companies until the corporals returned from "Tattoo" parade. Staff-sergeants did not attend the parade. Query: Do all ranks, from the Commanding Officer down, sigh for the *good old times*?

Major W. J. Holt joined from the 1st Battalion, on promotion, and Major M. C. Morris from the 36th Foot in exchange with Major H. St. J. Willans. The former brought with him the nickname "Bully"—why so named I cannot say. It may be as well to note that nicknames in the service are not as a rule signs of derision or disrespect; indeed, rather the reverse, as witness the late Lord Roberts, familiarly known as "Bobs" to all and every; "K.K." was the soubriquet of Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny as long as I can remember.

A distinguished General Officer, still on the cadre of the Regiment, had a remarkable aptitude for conferring nicknames. These, overheard by mess waiters and others, soon filtered through to the ranks, and such designations as "Demosthenes," "Alice," "Crabs," "Coffee," "Pelican," "Bog-Rat," "Inkpot," "Calves," "Romeo," etc., are familiar to many of the present generation.

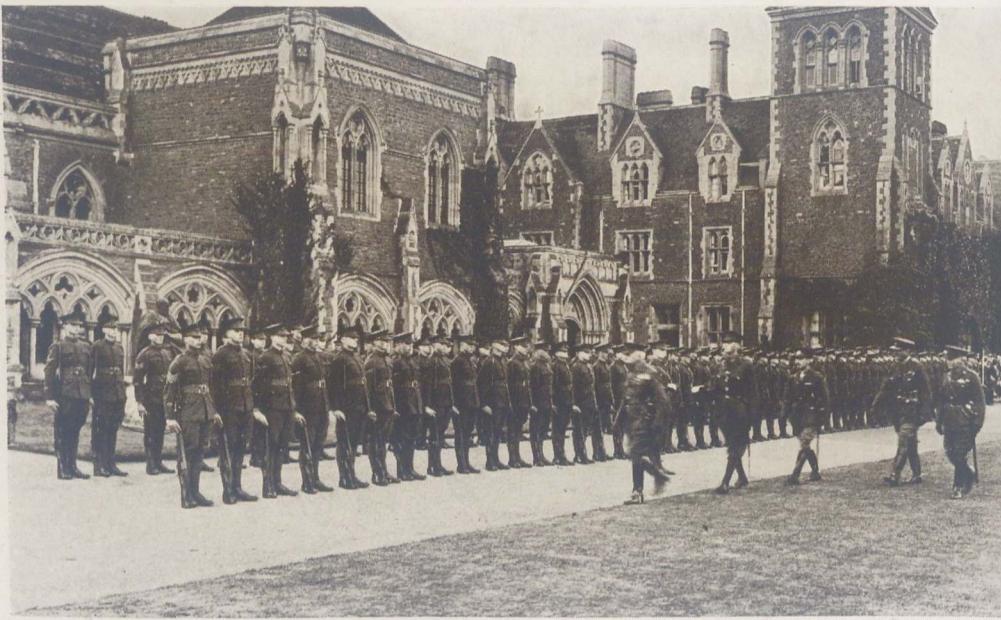
Musketry, which in India was dormant during the hot weather, started in October. Companies in turn were relieved from regimental duty and carried out the annual course of musketry under company officers, assisted by the officer, assistant officer, and sergeant instructors. These specialists were responsible that the musketry regulations were observed, also for the training of recruits.

The officer instructor, Lieut. King-Harman, favoured the back position in those individual practices where "lying down" was prescribed, and gradually many non-commissioned officers and men adopted the supine in preference to the prone position.

In November, 1878, a draft of about sixty men, under command of Lieut. J. S. Collins, Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, arrived from Poona. This draft consisted mainly of old soldiers who preferred to remain in India. Under Indian regulations, when a regiment was placed under orders for home, a limited number of men were permitted to volunteer for other regiments, or for the linked battalion, so as to remain in the country. These volunteers received a bounty of Rs50. The Battalion received many such volunteers during the time this arrangement was in force.

Paymaster-Sergt. Brunswick gave up his appointment, and was succeeded by Sergt. Dyke. Col.-Sergt. "Teddy" Freeman reverted from colour-sergeant,

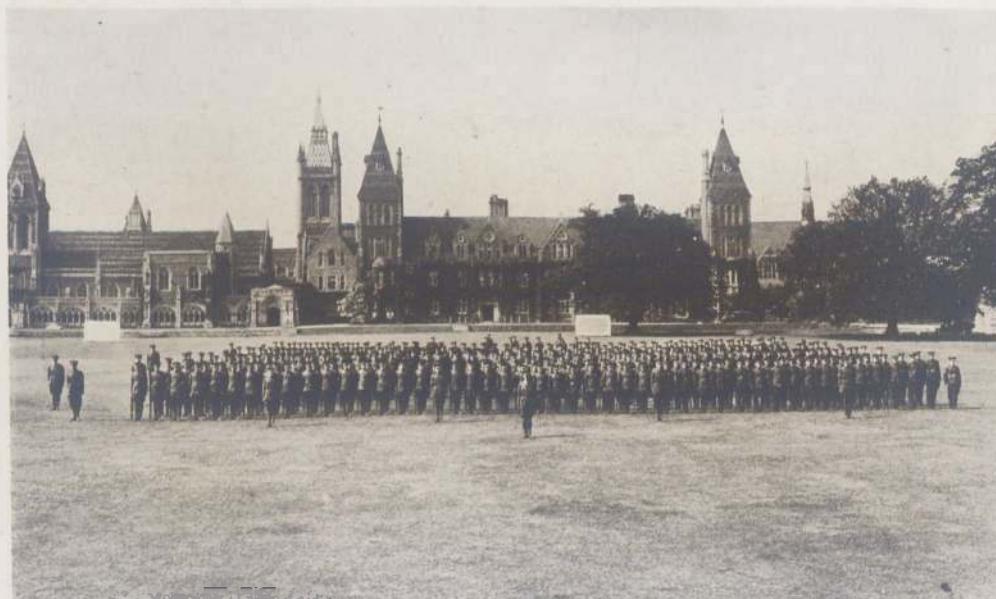
## CHARTERHOUSE CONTINGENT, O.T.C.



*Photo*

GEN. PLUMER INSPECTING GUARD OF HONOUR.

[*Gale & Polden, Ltd.*]



*Photo*

THE BATTALION.

[*Gale & Polden, Ltd.*]

## THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

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"H" Company, and was succeeded by Hospital-Sergt. "Jock" Baird, Sergt. Pyne becoming hospital-sergeant.

Ball ammunition in the individual possession of the soldier was at times the cause of trouble. Pte. Horner, "F" Company, one evening took his rifle into the verandah and fired ten rounds into the blue before he was arrested. Fortunately no harm resulted. Two years I.H.L., discharge with ignominy, and pay for the expended ammunition was the penalty. It was really a case more for hospital than for prison.

Sergt. "Nimrod" Johnson one Saturday morning went to his quarters, laid on his cot, and blew his brains out. A Court of Inquest was held, and the President, an officer with Indian experience, advised that to prevent a repetition of similar occurrences it was desirable to bring in a verdict of *felo-de-se*. This was done, and the corpse was buried late on Sunday night, the sergeants attending at the cemetery voluntarily.

The Chaplain had promised to attend and read a modified service, but at the last moment sent to say he could not do so. Col.-Sergt. Waugh, by the flickering light of a native lamp, read portions of the burial service, and so we parted from our late comrade. The cause of the suicide was never clearly known. It was not until years afterwards that more stringent orders regarding the custody of ammunition were enforced.

*(To be continued.)*

## OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS, CHARTERHOUSE CONTINGENT

THE Contingent went into camp at Strensall at the end of July, and, after going prepared for the worst, were agreeably surprised by both the camp and its surroundings. It was admirably run by the various depot staffs of the Northern Command, and we ourselves were particularly lucky in our battalion staff, which was found by the Northumberland Fusiliers.

After a very showery first day the weather improved and we had practically no more rain, Bank Holiday in particular being a delightful day, in contrast to the soaker experienced by the other O.T.C. camps in the South.

A great feature of this camp was the admirable demonstrations, which included a battery in action, a troop of cavalry in the field, various drill and guard-mounting shows, and the use of the light "kapok" bridge. The lightness of the latter is ridiculed by the platoon of "A" Company which had to carry it for about a quarter of a mile and launch it on to the bathing pond!

In the March Discipline and Singing Competition, No. 1 Platoon was the best in the Battalion, and only lost in the Brigade finals owing to an unfortunate divergence of opinion as to the correct key for the opening bars of its "song."

At the opening of the War Memorial Chapel the Contingent provided a Guard of Honour for Field-Marshal Lord Plumer. Although in no sense a picked guard, many of the taller and bigger fellows being employed elsewhere, its members put up a really good show and were complimented by the Field-Marshal upon their steadiness and turn-out.

The annual inspection was carried out on the usual lines, and the report was a good one. We were glad to see Major Denton with Major-Gen. Scott, and we only hope that he was equally pleased at having to travel all the way from Dover!

The only blot on the proceedings was the absence overseas of the Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion, who were to have been present by the kind permission of Col. Clarke. It was a great disappointment to us to miss both the performance of the Band and the great compliment paid to the Contingent by Col. Clarke in having offered to send it over to play for us.

A record number of candidates have presented themselves for Certificate "A." The Depot staff returned to Stoughton just too late to conduct the examination of the 110 candidates, so they have some consolation, at any rate, for their enforced exile at Dover. But there may be even more candidates next time—one never knows!

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## ACROSS THE NUBIAN DESERT BY CAR

BY CAPT. SYMONS.

THE object of this trip was primarily to find a route across the Nubian Desert direct from Abu Assuan, keeping to the east bank of the Nile. Previously all attempts had proved abortive.

On April 11th the start was made from the Grand Hotel at Khartoum. At 4.30 a.m., the party, which consisted of Mr. Le Blanc and his wife, Capt. Lingham and myself in the 14 h.p. Renault (a six-wheeler), the mechanic, with Mahomed (the cook) in the small 9 h.p. four-seater, left for the north.

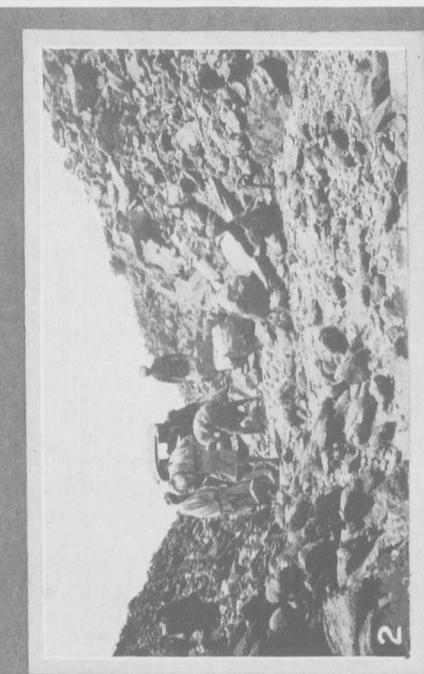
The first day was unimportant, over some rough stony desert, close to the Nile; we reached Shendi and camped in the bush.

The next day the going got so bad that we headed for the desert to find a better road, and early on the 14th we reached Atbara, where we were detained mending a broken transverse bar of the chassis.

Leaving Atbara, we found a good track and made good headway as far as the old fortified town of Berber, the fortifications, dating back to the days of the Mahdi, being still evident. We then again left the bush country of the Nile banks and headed for the desert. The going was very bad, soft sand and rocks alternating, the small car having to request help on many occasions, we pushing and shoving until at times the big car had to tow the young one on to better ground. Finally we reached Abu Ahmed, which is on the edge of the Nubian Desert proper. We here made our final plans. The first 150 miles we knew of, but, the existing maps being so inaccurate, we were then left to our own devices and our own good luck.

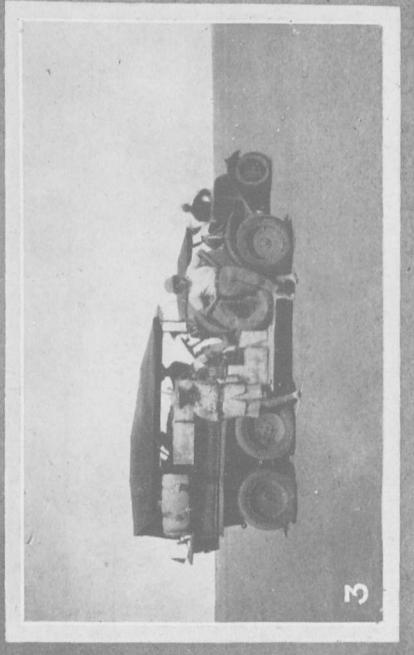
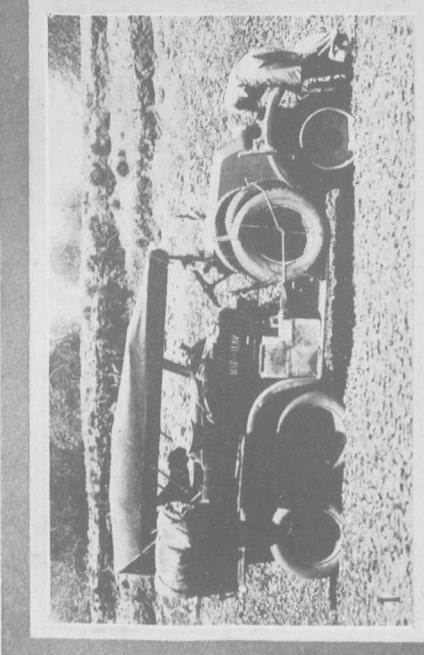
We got a guide—a very old man, who said he knew every well between the Nile and the Red Sea. This man was, incidentally, the Nubian who, by planting flags across the desert whilst under Dervish fire, showed our engineers the route for the railway which was then being laid from Wadi Halfa to the south to Abu Ahmed. Even the railway officials still admit that he really was the man who laid that part of the line.

We left Abu Ahmed very heavily loaded, the big car carrying thirty-five gallons of petrol in the tanks and eighty gallons in cases, as well as fifty gallons of water and food for the whole journey.



ACROSS THE NUBIAN DESERT BY CAR.

2 &amp; 4. Types of the Country traversed.



1 &amp; 3. The Cars.

We arrived at No. 6 Station on the 16th, paying the penalty of too heavy a load with a broken front spring. Here we got some water and we at once left.

From now on we were committed to the desert and away from all civilization. We struck north-east to a disused gold mine. The going was bad, and after passing the ruined buildings of the mine it became worse. At one time that evening we took three and a half hours to cover a quarter of a mile. Camp was made as soon as we got on to something more solid, where we had a hurried meal and slept the sleep of the just.

On the 17th we bounced merrily from rocky crag to rocky crag for some four hours. Having covered about ten miles, we found, to our joy, a road made by the Jennings Bramly expedition in 1925. The going was excellent, and we made good time to Bir Abaraga, where we found some water, good but green.

We then left the track and went due North to Angwat, situated in Egypt. No one here seems to be responsible for guarding this frontier. Here we got stuck and slept in a savage jumble of mighty rocks.

The next day did not much improve our position. On the 19th we met some Nubians, who fetched some water from a well some twelve miles distant, as we were then getting a little short.

On the 20th we got clear of those terrible hills and struck north-west over rocky ground, then wind-swept sand. We reached the Wadi Alaghi, and over good but softish going we made for the Nile to wire Khartoum we were safe. We were late on our programme, and we did not want aeroplanes to come and look for us. The wire was duly sent and we went due north.

Again we found bad rocky hills, and on the 22nd found our way back to the Wadi Alaghi. We retraced our steps eastward for forty miles, when we found a pass. To our delight the going was good, and that night we camped within thirty miles of Assuan.

The next day we reached our goal, but over impossible going.

At 9.30 a.m. we were within eight miles of Assuan, and then we had to proceed foot by foot, making a passage amongst the rocks, breaking up boulders and shifting the others. We then broke an axle in trying to surmount too high and steep an obstacle. Finally, at 5 p.m., we were within view of the town, but at the top of a long slope of sand and rubble, lying at an angle of thirty degrees. There was no help for it; we started and tobogganed down, amidst a perfect avalanche. Finally, into Assuan at 6.30 p.m., tired out, dirty, but happy. We had crossed where others had failed.

The cars were superbly driven, and the success of the trip was as much due to the skill of the drivers as to the excellence of the machines.

I may here say that beyond pumping up innumerable tyres the military portion of the party did nothing beyond being responsible for the topography, for the position and the route. Going by compass for long distances is never very accurate, and when the points of reference disappear in a mirage it is then mere guess-work. The heat at times was terrific, the thermometer, in a protected place under the hood of the big car when we were actually on the move, recorded at times 112 degrees.

The nights were decidedly cold.

The desert had many phases—wind-swept sand, straggling bush, large boulders strewn over the ground as if they had been thrown there by a giant hand. Minerals were plentiful. The old gold workings of the ancient Egyptians were still obvious. Copper outcrops, some mica, and a little tin—in fact, the desert is a rich country in most things but water, and yet we found green grass and bushes in some localities. In others nothing would grow. The savage majesty of the Black Hills to my mind was the grandest scenery I had ever seen, and yet repellent by its very beauty.

## FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS

(AFFILIATED TO THE 5TH BATTALION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT.)

*Chairman:* Brig.-General A. R. Jelf, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

*Officer Commanding:* Capt. C. C. Hoare.

*Headquarters:* Maple Leaf Hut, Crawley Hill, Camberley.

**I**N this age of publicity and wider interests, enjoyed in common by all classes of the community, the members of the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps instinctively feel that their own particular interests are not merely confined to themselves and their friends connected with the Corps, but that they appeal to, and are shared in an increasing degree by a larger portion of society than ever before, and, imbued with this confidence, all ranks of this corps have learnt the value of letting the public know what they are doing in the matter of training, and fitting themselves to be loyal citizens of the empire, why they are doing it, when and where they are doing it, and more essentially, *how* are they doing it. They are proud of themselves and especially proud of their close association with the famous "2nd, or Queen's"—the honour of being affiliated to the 5th Battalion, has, if possible, been enhanced by their being taken under the wing of the 1st Battalion and the Depot, a fact which has caused the greatest satisfaction and pride to all ranks. Through the medium of this journal, the Cadet Corps send to the 1st Battalion, now in China, their best wishes for their continued happiness and success.

Thanks to our good fortune in finding ourselves so closely allied to our distinguished county regiment, we find that our circle of friends and supporters has very considerably increased, and, in consequence, feel it our duty and pleasure to give a due measure of publicity to our doings, since the appearance of the last issue.

### ANNUAL CAMP.

For the fourth year in succession we spent a happy and instructive fortnight under canvas at Hythe. Our very best thanks are due to the Commandant, Officers and Staff of the Small Arms School whose kindness and courtesy enabled us to have such a successful and interesting time.

We arrived on Sunday morning to find that the advance guard had the camp in perfect order, and, what at the time was more important to us, a good meal ready for us. It did not take us very long to find our respective tents and settle down. The cooking all through was of a very high standard, and we were indeed lucky to have such a good hard-working lot of cooks under the direction of Sergt.-Cook Brunt.

We were delighted that the Commanding Officer, Capt. J. Lean, was able to spare the time to be with us for the whole fortnight. We feel sure that he thoroughly enjoyed himself, and we are very sorry to be losing him. Having obtained his commission in the 5th Dragoon Guards he will soon be leaving for India to join his regiment. The very best wishes of the Corps go with him, and we shall hope to see him again whenever he is on leave.

This was the worst year, as regards weather, that we have ever had, only one

day being entirely fine. In consequence there were not so many bathing parades as usual. We were very lucky, however, to possess a large hut, so that if the weather was at all rough the small boys were able to sleep in the dry although, judging from their remarks, they much preferred getting wet in their tents to remaining dry in the hut. This, of course, could not be allowed.

The chief feature of the camp was musketry, and under the able tuition of Sergts. Perry and Map some wonderful results were obtained. The Staff-Sergeants have a wonderful way with the boys, and we cannot thank them enough for all they did for us. Our average scores increase each year, which shows that everyone is interested and working hard.

Shooting for H.M. the King's Shield is the most important event. This shield is fired for by teams from the whole British Empire, and although we have never won it we are getting nearer every year. The result of this year's shoot will not be known till later on, but we are confident that we shall be higher up the list than last year.

For those whose boys are newcomers to the Corps an average day in camp may be interesting. "Réveillé" at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast of porridge and bacon, tea and bread and butter. Parade at 9 a.m. when all proceed to the ranges, the younger ones on the miniature range and the elder ones on the open range, over distances of from 25 to 300 yards. A hot dinner is ready at 12.30 p.m. followed every day by a pudding of some sort, and very little is ever wasted. If the tides are right and the sea not too rough we march to Dymchurch sands for bathing. Tea, consisting of tea, bread and butter, jam and cake is then served. At five o'clock the Cadet's camp money is paid out, after which everyone is at liberty till bedtime, which for the juniors is 9 p.m. Games of various kinds and boxing take place during the evening. Great fun was caused when "Nigler" Stanley, aged 10, challenged Sergt. Brunt to a three-round contest. It was a finely fought affair, points being fairly even in first two rounds, although Sergt. Brunt came from his corner for the third and last round showing signs of weakness. The third round went all in favour of "Nigler" who punished his man severely, and a well-directed blow laid Sergt. Brunt out for a full count.

It was with great pleasure that we heard that we had been picked as the camp to be inspected by the Director-General of the Territorial Army. He made a thorough inspection of the camp and work in all its details on Friday, August 12th, and, although the official report has not yet been issued we think that he was very pleased with his visit. More especially was he pleased with the high standard attained by the boys on the open range.

The same afternoon General Jelf paid us a visit, which, though short, was fully occupied. We were all delighted to see him, and we feel sure that his interest in us will be enhanced by his seeing us all at our various work.

It was a real pleasure to once again have, as week-end visitors, eight bandboys from the Depot of the Queen's Royal Regiment, to whom we are attached. Two of them were quite recent members of the Corps, and neither have regretted joining our regiment. Their help in the band on Sunday was very much appreciated.

Church parade was, as usual, at Hythe Church, with the exception of the Roman Catholics, who, under the charge of Cadet Spires, went to their own church. Thanks to the band, most of whom came down specially for it, the parade was a great success in every way, and we were remarkably lucky, insomuch that it actually kept fine for it, and also for the photograph of the entire camp, 112 strong, which was taken just afterwards. A few visitors came to tea in the afternoon, and we feel certain they had an enjoyable time.

The second week, which passed so rapidly despite the weather, was also occupied by many interesting features, most enjoyable of which was the visit on Tuesday, for

a few short hours, of Miss Reynolds. Judging by her evident delight in everything we feel sure her stay was a very pleasant one, and, when we think that it is to Miss Reynolds we owe the very existence of the Corps, it was really nice to think that everything was going along so smoothly.

One of the greatest attractions this year was the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, the smallest public railway in the world, the engine being only 5 feet high. Practically everybody in camp rode on it during our stay.

Wednesday, August 17th, was a real gala day, and the only fine day of the whole fortnight. As there was a very convenient train running, for the first time since we have camped here, parents and friends of the Cadets were able to see them at work and play. About thirty people availed themselves of the opportunity and arrived at Hythe at 3 o'clock, where buses met them and conveyed them straight to the camp. Tea was served to them shortly afterwards, and, after the long hot ride, was thoroughly enjoyed. After a look round the camp they strolled about the town or remained to see the Pay Parade and the return match between "Nigler" Stanley and Sergt. P. Brunt. Sergt. Brunt had been in strict training for nearly a week and was confident that the result would end in his favour. This, however, was not the case, for the rushing tactics of Brunt were evaded skilfully by "Nigler," who, with excellent footwork and well directed blows, soon had his man groggy. Brunt seemed to recover a little of his old form in the third round, but it was only a flash in the pan, and a terrible straight left from "Nigler" laid him out with such force that artificial respiration in the shape of a bucket of water was necessary to revive him. Stanley therefore retains his title as lightweight champion of the Corps. The buses came for our visitors at 7.30 p.m., and they were given a good send off. We should like to thank all of them for coming down, and say how very pleased we were to see them and hope, if the opportunity occurs again next year, many more will come and see us. We also hope they enjoyed themselves and were pleased with the way the camp was run.

#### SENIORS' SHOOTING SUCCESS.

Much to the delight of the Seniors they again beat the Staff in the shooting contest. In spite of some excellent results by the Staff they were beaten by over 30 points. The camp marksman this year was Cadet C. Vowles with a score of 92 out of a possible 105 at ranges from 100 to 300 yards. He thus wins the cup for shooting.

Friday was also an important day, being the day of our visit to Dover. We missed a lot of old friends as the Battalion is on service in China, but were made most welcome by the Depot Staff who are there now.

Two packed motor coaches moved off at one o'clock, and after a wet thundery morning it was a treat to have the sun shining. Arriving there, the annual cricket match between the Depot boys and our Seniors took place. We were, yet again, unable to get our own back, and were beaten by the narrow margin of twelve runs. Tea followed, and after a good look round the barracks the party returned to camp, tired but happy, at about 7.30 p.m. The boys who were unable to go to Dover were taken to the Small Arms School for a good hot bath.

In the fancy dress carnival held on the cricket field Sergt.-Cook Brunt delighted everyone by carrying off a prize. His costume represented a Troubadour.

All too quickly Saturday morning came, and we left Hythe, where it was still pouring, by the 12.30 p.m. train, and, without having to change at all, arrived at Blackwater at 5.30 p.m., all very sorry that camp was over for another twelve months.



FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS. CAMP, 1927.



Photo]

THE DEPOT ARRIVING AT DOVER.

[S. H. Brock, Dover.

Before closing we should like to thank the jolly fine staff who worked so hard and cheerfully to make the camp such a huge success, and more especially are we indebted to Capt. C. C. Hoare who, as usual, did most of the work and got least of the praise. We heartily congratulate him on obtaining his commission in the Corps, and hope he will be with us for many more years.

In the Lady West Memorial Shield Competition (Phase 2, Eastern Command) the Corps gained third place.

On the anniversary of the "glorious first of June" we exchanged telegrams with H.M.S. *Excellent*.

The annual inspection took place on Wednesday, July 6th, at 8 p.m. Strength on parade, 156 all ranks. Unfortunately rain marred this usually interesting ceremony, but the attendance was larger than we dared hope for.

Our chairman, Major-General C. E. Corkran, C.B., C.M.G., was, much to everyone's regret, unavoidably prevented from attending and from making his farewell speech. His generous and every-ready help and sympathy will be a real loss to us.

The Inspecting Officer, Major Wigan, expressed himself as extremely pleased with all that he saw, and noted a great improvement from the previous year.

The following members from the Corps have enlisted into the Services:—One to Royal Navy, eight to the Army (three to the Queen's Regiment), one to the Royal Air Force.

In a shooting match Cadets v. Civilian Rifle Club, R.M.C., the latter proved too strong for us and the Cadet Corps were beaten by 112 points—but all ranks hope for their revenge next year.

The Corps deeply regret the loss of Bgmr. Clarke, whose funeral took place with full military honours, the R.F.A. Bde., Deepcut, most kindly providing a gun-carriage.

*Winter Programme.*—Monday, 8 p.m., Band Practice; Tuesday, 8 p.m., Intermediate Coy. Drill; Wednesday, 8 p.m., Senior Coy. Drill; Thursday, 8 p.m., Games and Clothing Exchange; Friday, 8 p.m., Maple Leaf Dances; Saturday, 10.30 a.m., Juniors' Drill, 6 p.m., Games.

The Corps are looking forward to being among the very first to send congratulations and messages of welcome to the 2nd Bn. The Queen's on their return from foreign service.

We should, of course, like to see many more boys joining us. Drills recommence the first week in October, and any parents who are interested, and whose boys have not joined, are invited to visit us at the Maple Leaf Hut on any drill day so they can see for themselves what is going on.

Any enquiries will be answered, and full particulars given by Miss Reynolds, "Edgemoor," Frimley, or Capt. C. C. Hoare, "Braganza," The Avenue, Camberley.

## OLD MILITARY CUSTOMS

### PART I.

#### INTRODUCTION.

CERTAIN details of military procedure, formal matters connected with salutes, guards, ceremonial drill, uniform, etc., are accepted by the soldier as a matter of course. He is not filled with enthusiasm in their performance. If the origin of some of these customs and military expressions are explained, it may stimulate interest in their performance.

## SALUTES.

*A Definition.*

The salute is a symbol of submission to a superior, and readiness to carry out his orders.

There are two theories:—

*Theory 1.*

It has been the custom from the earliest times to stand uncovered in the presence of a superior. There is an interesting painting at Windsor of a ball given to Charles II at the Hague, before he sailed for England in 1660. Only three people have retained their hats—Charles, and his two brothers, James (afterwards James II) and Henry. The custom endured, for in an old print of a ball at Government House, Jamaica, in 1797, the Governor and the Admiral are shown with their hats on; the other people present are uncovered.

Also in the seventeenth century an officer took off his hat with a flourish when marching past. The custom has died out; but even to-day, in the Guards, men remove their hats instead of saluting when in fatigue dress.

*Theory 2.*

That both the salute and its return were tokens of mutual trust and respect. This is probably a truer tradition. When two knights met in armour, they both uncovered their heads or raised their visors, thus placing themselves in each other's power. But iron helmets are not easy to remove—nor were the later shakos and bearskins—so it became the custom to carry out the preliminary movement only. But the hand was not opened. The open hand, with the palm to the front, is more recent as a military salute. It is a relic of the greeting of very early times, and denotes that nothing is concealed which might be used as a missile.

There is one further point. In mediæval times, no serf was allowed to raise his eyes or look in the direction of his lord. He was expected to slink to the side and look down when the noble passed by. The soldier, or man-at-arms, was no serf, but a free man, and as such had every right to look his superior straight between the eyes. Here we have that part of the salute—the turning of the head and eyes towards the officer saluted.

To the present day the salute is a symbol of greeting, of mutual trust and confidence, initiated by the junior in rank but with no loss of dignity on either side.

Other forms of salutes remain to be considered, but in most of them there is the common origin—the feeling of trust and confidence.

*The Officers' Salute with the Sword.*

1. The first motion—the recover—is a relic of the days when the Crusader kissed the cross before engaging in combat—the cross being the hilt of the sword. The second movement—the lowering of the guard—is a symbol of trust. In the third movement there is again the symbolic kissing of the cross.

2. The officers' salute with the sword on the march is probably a relic of the seventeenth century custom—when the officer used to carry short pikes, or halberds, and the salute during a march past was marked by many a graceful flourish.

*The Present Arms with the Rifle.*

The weapon is held in such a way as to be harmless—almost a presenting of your weapon to your superior. The salute when at the slope, by touching the rifle with the disengaged hand, is the first motion of the "present."

Sentries do not present arms after retreat—it is suggested that the reason is



A SECTION OF RIFLE COMPANY.



OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND N.C.O.S., CAMP, 1927.

R.S.M. S. J. Hall. Capt. H. R. Robins, C.O. Lieut. N. Riches, Coy. Officer. R.S.M. J. Edwards, R.A.M.C.

that at one time it was too dangerous, owing to the difficulty of distinguishing between friends and foes in the dark. This convention of holding the weapon so that it cannot be used is very old and universal. The Crusader offered his sword, hilt foremost, to be touched by his sovereign before going out to the war. The Arab of the Sahara grasps his spear with the point trailing along the ground.

*Other Salutes.*

1. Tanks.—They have their guns pointing to the earth.
2. The salute by firing a number of guns.—This dates from the time when it required a considerable time to reload a gun. Charges were fired, and the ship or battery consequently left defenceless for the time.
- 3.—Dipping the Ensign.—Of the days when sails were lowered to reduce speed, and the ship thereby allowed herself to be overhauled as a token of submission.

## FARNHAM CADET CORPS

FOR camp this year the Corps went to Fort Cumberland and spent ten profitable and enjoyable days under canvas. The advanced party left Farnham on Saturday, July 30th, taking with them the tents and equipment. The main body followed early on Sunday, and camp was pitched and everyone had settled down by mid-day.

A contingent of the 1/4th Hants Cadet Battalion was also in camp. Capt. H. R. Robins was Camp Commandant, and the officers were Capt. R. Herries (Quartermaster), Capt. B. Cook, 1/4th Hants Cadet Battalion, and Lieut. N. B. Riches, while the staff consisted of Regtl. Sergt.-Major S. J. Hall, Regtl. Sergt.-Major J. Edwards, Qmr.-Sergt. E. Simpson, Sergt.-Dmr. Cole, Sergt. J. Sargent (master cook), and L./Cpl. E. V. C. Smith (orderly-room clerk).

Normal routine was "Réveillé" 6.15 a.m.; roll call and prayers, 7.15 a.m.; followed by a short march along the front to stimulate appetites for breakfast at 8 a.m. After breakfast, camp was cleaned up and the Corps paraded at 9.45 a.m. for parades and training, which occupied most of the morning. In the afternoon the Cadets were generally free to amuse themselves after their own fashion.

Training chiefly consisted of drill and rifle exercises, and good sound work was done. Lectures on discipline and kindred subjects were given by Capt. Robins, while R.S.M. Edwards was responsible for some very useful instruction in hygiene.

During the week there were many visitors to the camp, among whom were the Commandant of Fort Cumberland and his wife, and also Mrs. M. E. Bonner, of Malvern House, Farnham, who has always shown great interest in the Cadet movement. Mrs. Bonner motored over specially to see the camp, and made a tour of inspection with Capt. Robins. All the visitors were loud in praise of the model appearance of the camp, and showed great interest in the arrangement for the comfort and health of the Cadets. The Red Cross tent, which was very completely equipped and efficiently administered by R.S.M. Edwards, was specially admired. Fortunately the health of the camp was so good that the tent was little used.

On Thursday morning a party of fifty Cadets, under Lieut. Riches, took advantage of the permission which had been obtained by the Commandant and paid a visit to the Dockyard. They were taken all over H.M.S. *Repulse*, a sister ship to H.M.S. *Renown*.

Friday was devoted to the sports, and a long programme was got through. Lieut. Riches, R.S.M. Edwards and Q.M.S. Simpson were responsible for the organization, and the results were as follows:—

100 Yards (open).—1, Sergt. Budden, 1/4th Hants Cadets; 2, Bgtr. T. A. Dimes; 3, L./Cpl. W. King.

100 Yards (open, under 14).—1, Bgtr. E. Apperley; 2, Cadet J. Hall; 3, Cadet E. Price.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Bgtr. J. Reynolds; 2, Dmr. J. Stone; 3, L./Cpl. W. King.

Wheelbarrow Race.—1, Cadets J. Hole and P. Rampling; 2, Bgtr. Reynolds and L./Cpl. King.

220 Yards Handicap.—1, Bgtr. E. Apperley; 2, Sergt. Budden, 1/4th Hants Cadets; 3, Cadet P. Rampling.

Wrestling on Horseback.—1, S.-Sergt. A. Martin and L./Cpl. Moore; 2, Cpl. F. Chandler and Cadet J. Hall.

Three-legged Race.—1, L./Cpl. W. King and Bgtr. T. A. Dimes; 2, Dmr. F. Webb and Dmr. J. Stone.

800 Yards (open).—1, Sergt. Budden, 1/4th Hants Cadets; 2, Bgtr. T. A. Dimes; 3, Cadet P. Rampling.

Blindfold Boxing.—1, Bgtr. J. Jones; 2, Bgtr. T. A. Dimes.

The Relay Race between teams representing the Junior Staff H.Q. Band Company and the Rest proved very exciting, and was narrowly won by H.Q. Band Company.

The Jumping Race with legs tied together was won by Bgtr. J. Reynolds, with Bgtr. Apperley second. In a Rolling Race with hands above the head the places were: 1, Bgtr. J. Reynolds; 2, Cadet Porter (1/4th Hants); 3, Cpl. F. Chandler.

Staff Spot, Go-as-you-please.—1, R.S.M. J. Edwards; 2, R.S.M. J. Hall.

Mile (open).—1, Dmr. F. Webb; 2, Bgtr. T. A. Dimes; 3, Cadet P. Rampling.

Consolation Race.—1, Dmr. E. Tubb; 2, Cadet Lampert; 3, Cadet E. Ratsford, 1/4th Hants; 4, Bgtr. E. Budd; 5, Cadet L. Pharo.

Another amusing item was fishing for coins. The coins were placed in buckets of water and the competitors had to get them out with their mouths, their hands being securely fastened behind their backs.

During camp two promotions were made, Band-Sergt. Broadhurst being promoted to Staff-Sergeant in recognition of the efficient manner in which he had conducted the orderly-room at Headquarters during the past two years, while his place as Band-Sergeant was filled by the promotion of Band-Cpl. H. Foster, who has shown exceptional keenness and ability.

Just before the main body, under Capt. Robins, left camp for home, gifts were presented to the following ten Cadets, who, by popular vote, had been adjudged the most popular in camp by reason of their conduct and bearing:—

L./Cpl. E. V. G. Smith and Cadet Bloxham (who tied), Cadets Gower, (1/4th Hants), Lampert, Grey, Poulton (1/4th Hants), Chandler, Tubb, Keens, and Pankhurst.

There was a gathering numbering some 400 at Farnham Station on Sunday evening to welcome the Cadets home, and Capt. Robins remarked that the crowd seemed to get bigger each year. Large numbers watched their progress through the streets, headed by the drums, to the Drill Hall in Mead Lane, where they were dismissed. The rear party returned on Monday evening.

## THE DEPOT

WE mentioned, casually enough, in our previous notes, that the Depot was being temporarily transferred to Dover, as if such a move was perfectly normal and an every-day occurrence.

Undoubtedly we are an adaptable race, and our primary feelings that one might sooner have moved St. Paul's to Hammersmith Broadway than our Depot from Guildford, were soon smothered.

We do not intend, nor is it necessary, to expand on the advantages of Dover town, but it might be interesting to place on record something of the functions of the Depot whilst stationed there, and to qualify our previous remarks on adaptability.

We arrived at Dover on April 29th with approximately 130 recruits, none of whom were more than half trained, and the majority quite recently enlisted.

At Shaft Barracks we absorbed some sixty-odd 1st Battalion personnel, including Mr. Buckle, C.S.M. Wilson, Cpl. Iles and Settle, the Band and Drums (numbering about thirty) and those of the recently trained recruits who were unavailable for service abroad.

On paper, this may appear a sufficiently large party to ensure the cleanliness of barracks. In actual practice it most decidedly was not.

One had to remember that, of the sixty, thirty were potential musicians, and that of the remainder a large portion were being rationed by various hospitals, schools, etc., and at the same time take into consideration the maintenance party of 15 non-commissioned officers and men at Stoughton Barracks.

Short of employed men, short of instructors, and with a barracks like the Grand Shaft to keep clean!

We must thank 12th Infantry Brigade H.Q. for their leniency. All that we were required to "find" was the Shaft police post, and even this was an effort and was for a considerable time manned daily by recruits. Throughout five of the six months we were in Dover we were taxed to the maximum to find employed men. At first we assured ourselves that all would be well when the senior squad was trained, and under normal conditions this would have been about eight weeks after we arrived. This did not materialize.

We were ordered to exercise every recruit, not only in Table R, Part I and II, but Table R complete, in addition to their usual Table A. Thus every recruit did two weapon training years in six months. Lack of instructors was our chief disadvantage, and a very serious one, followed closely by lack of facilities for sports. The time came when the two senior squads had finished their weapon training, and after "markers" had been found for the second Table R party we had a few spare men. Twelve picked men from these were immediately put on a machine gun course, in which they took a live interest. This was about three weeks before we left Dover; and a few days before we left, those men warned for the November draft for the 1st Battalion, went away on their month's furlough. There were about eighty.

The Band and Drums have been the greatest asset in Shaft Barracks, and the Depot as a whole has taken a real pride in the semi-possession of a band. The keenness displayed by the boys and the enthusiasm of Mr. Buckle formed this band of semi-trained boys into a very finished article that made its weight felt in Dover, and which was capable in August and September of playing out on Ramsgate front. From the beginning the Band headed the Thursday route

marches and appeared on every C.O.'s. parade, and it was a distinct blow to us all when, two days before we left, the Band were suddenly ordered to go to China with the November draft. They have been a real asset to the Depot and a great help in every way, and we had all hoped that they might be ordered to accompany us back to Guildford. We wish them and all the others of the draft a good voyage.

We arrived back in Guildford on October 18th, a sadly depleted party, and have about sixty recruits under instruction, with a possibility of a further thirty shortly.

Inside the wall of Stoughton Barracks, with its green trees and grass, Dover fades away like a dream. We should like, before closing, to express our sorrow at an accident which marred an otherwise perfect move. This happened when the last lorry of heavy baggage was being brought from the station. A rifle chest slipped off as the lorry rounded a corner, and, in addition, Lieut. G. V. Palmer, Sergt. Scott, L./Sergt. Welch and three privates. Sergts. Scott and Welch and Pte. Mynott are in the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, and doing as well as can be expected. Sergts. Scott and Welch were rather badly hurt. They were all lucky and unlucky at the same time.

They might have been killed by a passing car. Let us hope that they will soon be back fit.

#### FAREWELL ORDER.

Major-General Sir Henry W. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., on relinquishing command of the Home Counties Area in June, published the following farewell order:—

"On completion of four years in command of the Home Counties Area and 44th (Home Counties) Division T.A., I desire to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and zealous services rendered by all ranks, both Regular and Territorial, during my period of command. The Depots have in all cases fully maintained their high standard of recruit training, and improvement in many directions has been brought about for the welfare and recreation of the men. In saying good-bye to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Area and Division, I wish them every success and happiness in the future."

Major-General Sir Henry W. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., was relieved by Major-General A. G. Wauchope, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., on June 22nd.

#### ANNUAL INSPECTION.

The Depot was inspected by Col. E. B. Hankey, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel-Commandant 12th Infantry Brigade, Dover, on June 8th, and he was good enough to send the following letter:—

"On the occasion of the annual inspection of the Depot, The Queen's Royal Regiment, the Brigade Commander wishes to put on record his high appreciation of the excellent turn-out, both on parade and in barracks. The way in which all ranks have successfully striven to overcome the difficulties and inconvenience which was bound to occur with the change of conditions between Guildford and Dover is beyond praise."

#### RIFLE MEETING.

A successful Rifle Meeting was held at Lydden Spout Range on September 12th. For this the Depot was divided into four categories:—

A. Officers and non-commissioned Officers. B. Privates with more than one year's service. C. Privates who had fired on the open range. D. Privates who had not fired on the open range.

The competitions were the same for all, and consisted of: 1. Deliberate. 2. Rapid. 3. Snapshooting. 4. Depot Championship and cup for highest aggregate.

The following is the list of the first three in each competition in each category:—

#### COMPETITION 1.—DELIBERATE.

A.—1, Lieut. Palmer; 2, Sergt. Scott; 3, L./Cpl. Salmon.  
B.—1, Pte. Worrall; 2, Pte. Sadgrove; 3, Pte. Coulter.  
C.—1, Pte. Coe; 2, Ptes. Roycroft and Floate (tied); 3, Ptes. Freeman and Brooker (tied).  
D.—Ptes. Willmott, Latimer and Barrett (tied).

#### COMPETITION 2.—RAPID.

A.—1, R.S.M. Tedder; 2, Cpl. Hudson; 3, Sergt. Reynolds.  
B.—1, Pte. Worrall; 2, Pte. Hunt; 3, Pte. Mizen.  
C.—1, Ptes. Read and Davis (tied); 3, Pte. Nightingale.  
D.—1, Ptes. J. Clark and Edmondson (tied); 2, Pte. Latimer.

#### COMPETITION 3.—SNAPSHOOTING.

A.—1, Sergt. Welch; 2, Sergt. Larcombe; 3, Cpl. Swain.  
B.—1, Pte. Coulter; 2, Ptes. Hunt and Sadgrove (tied).  
C.—1, Pte. Stannard; 2, Pte. Ball.  
D.—1, Pte. Loughran; 2, Ptes. Pennicard and Whelton (tied); 3, Ptes. Edmondson and Barrett (tied).

#### COMPETITION 4.—DEPOT CHAMPIONSHIP.

A.—1, Cpl. Hudson, 79; 2, L./Cpl. Salmon, 78; 3, Sergt. Welch, 77.  
B.—1, Pte. Worrall, 70; 2, Pte. Coulter, 61; 3, Pte. Mizen, 56.  
C.—1, Pte. Stannard, 55; 2, Pte. Brooker, 54; 3, Ptes. Read and Davis (52).  
D.—1, Pte. Edmondson, 62; 2, Pte. Barrett, 62; 3, Pte. Whelton, 57.  
Cpl. Hudson was awarded the cup for the highest average.

Competition for the boys of the 1st and 2nd Battalions left with Depot.—1st, Boy Jenner, 44; 2nd, Boy Sibthorpe, 35; 3rd, Boy J. King, 33.

#### COMPETITIONS.

There was a falling plate competition at the Rifle Meeting, teams of six being entered by officers, warrant officers and sergeants, corporals and lance-corporals, privates, and recruits. The warrant officers' and sergeants' team won easily, followed by the privates, the rest being nowhere.

#### BISLEY.

L./Cpl. Salmon went up to Bisley to try to capture the Young Soldiers Cup, and did very well. He was tenth in the Roberts Cup, twelfth in the Roupell Cup, and third in the Young Soldiers Cup, which is the two combined.

Cpls. Holman and Iles represented the Depot in the Lewis gun pairs for the Worcestershire Cup, in which they were twenty-second.

It has been a tiresome year from a weapon training point of view of the Depot, for no sooner had we finished Table A than we had to tackle Table R, I and II, and finally the whole of Table R, thus firing two weapon training years in six months. Added to which we lost the Surrey Rifle Meeting at Bisley, which is usually treated as a most enjoyable excursion.

#### EDUCATION.

Eighty-three recruits have obtained 3rd Class Certificates since April, but no opportunity for 2nd Class has occurred.

L./Cpl. Salmon sat to complete his Special Certificate, having failed in one subject only at the previous examination.

Pte. J. H. Rogers joined as a recruit from the Duke of York School and was already in possession of a Special and Certificate "A."

#### STATISTICS.

Number of men enlisted since last publication	...	...	...	75
Number of recruits posted to 1st Battalion and Details	...	...	110	
Number of N.C.Os. and men transferred to Army Reserve	...	...	3	
Number of N.C.Os. and men discharged	...	...	35	
Section "A" Army Reserve, called up 4/4/27 (no absentees, posted to 1st Battalion)	...	...	...	30

#### MOVES.

Capt. W. G. R. Beeton to 1st Battalion, 1/10/27.

Lieut. F. J. Davis, from Assistant Physical Training Superintendent, Northern Ireland District, to regimental duty, 30/6/27.

#### ATTACHMENTS.

2/Lieuts. J. T. Halsall and A. J. E. Packenham, both from the 5th Battalion, underwent short courses of instruction, and were attached to us for them at Dover.

#### SPORT.

We have been badly handicapped as regards games at Dover owing to superabundance of work, range duties, etc., and the fact that the grounds are far away. Organized games for recruits have continued as far as possible, but the successful arrangement of weekly Depot cricket matches has been impossible.

One or two games were played, however, and the ball alley provided exercise for many.

We entered for the Royal Cinque Ports United Services League and handed our fixtures over to the 2nd Battalion, after drawing one match and winning one for them.

The first match we played after our return was in the first round of the Army Cup, against the 1st Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment at Bordon, when we suffered defeat by 5 goals to nil. The conditions were unfortunate, as there had been heavy rain for the two preceding days, and there was a steady drizzle during the game. We had more of the play than the score indicates, and were unlucky not to get two

goals at least. The whole team played hard, particularly towards the end of each half. The Sussex appeared faster and better together, but by no means had a "walk over."

#### BOXING.

The customary platoon tournaments were held at the end of recruits' training. The boxing never reached a very high standard, but any amount of energy was expended. L./Cpl. Budgen is at present attending a boxing instructor's course at Shorncliffe, and it is hoped that he and Cpl. Berry will have some success in training a team for the recruits' inter-unit team boxing, which takes place at the beginning of the New Year.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS.

The news of the move to Dover can hardly be said to have elated many of our members, since it meant closing down our particularly bright and cheerful mess at Stoughton, with the attendant loss of the company of a charming circle of civilian friends.

However, on arrival at Shaft Barracks, the renewal of our friendship with such cheery souls as Mr. Buckle and Mick Slater tended to overcome our prejudice, and we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as circumstances permitted.

We have held several successful dances in the gymnasium, but miss local friends at Guildford.

During August we managed to "train" with the 4th and 5th Battalions, who were in camp at Swingate, and this was greatly appreciated by members of the Depot mess.

Ex-C.S.M. Hoare and the Camberley Cadet Corps were also in camp at Hythe, and we saw quite a lot of him.

Following a spirited argument in the Mess one evening, a sprinting match was arranged between the two "slimmest" members of the Mess, possibly better known as Jock and Training Company Sergeant-Major.

This was for a side bet of one dollar and four pints of Mackenson's P.A.I., insisted upon by the officials, who were: Starter, Mr. Buckle; referee, R.S.M. Tedder, D.C.M. It may prove a surprise to many that "Mud" won in a canter.

We are now very glad to be back in our old Mess at Stoughton, and are looking forward to the visits of our old friends.

We wish to express our sorrow at the death of the late C.S.M. ("Twinkle") Star, who died suddenly at Sittingbourne. A bearer party, consisting of C.S.M. Clenshaw, Sergts. Plaw, Scott, Welch, Hawkins and Goodman attended his funeral.

#### CORPORALS' MESS NEWS.

Our chief pleasure on going to Dover was the fact that we became the possessors of an excellent room of our own, and a billiard table.

In this respect we were much better off than at Guildford. We had our annual outing in July and went to Brighton, and it turned out to be a greater success than ever.

We were invited to the K.O.Y.L.I. sports at Guston, and there made and renewed a number of acquaintances.

Visits from past members of the Regiment included one from ex-L./Cpl. ("Ginger") Keeping, of the 1st Battalion Drums, and ex-Cpl. Hamilton.

In conjunction with the Sergeants' Mess we held a farewell dance in the gymnasium in September, which was a great success.

## OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

## THE ALL RANKS DINNER.

THE Annual Dinner, held in the Drill Hall, Guildford, on a Saturday in June, was a very enjoyable and successful function. Brig.-Gen. W. J. T. Glasgow (Chairman of the Committee) presided. Among those present were Brig.-Gens. F. J. Pink, R. Dawson, F. C. Longbourne, Col. A. E. McNamara, Lieut.-Cols. A. Elias Morgan, C. Parsons, A. M. Tringham, C. R. K. Bacon, G. N. Dyer, Majors the Viscount Hawarden, F. W. H. Denton, Capts. C. J. M. Elliott, F. D. Higham, W. H. Masterson, R. Nevins, Lieuts. J. L. S. Boyd, and L. P. Smith.

After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the Chairman said that he had received two telegrams, one from the 1st Battalion in Hong-Kong and the other from the 2nd Battalion in Khartoum. The first read: "Good appetite. Best wishes. Young Comrades." And the second: "Greetings from all ranks, 2nd Battalion."

Proceeding, Gen. Glasgow mentioned that that was the nineteenth dinner since the formation of the Association, and he thought they should feel very grateful to their old friend, Gen. Pink, who started the idea. It had been a great success, and he hoped it would always continue to do so. The great majority of those present were those who finished their time in the old Regiment, and he was sure that they all felt very proud to have belonged to it. In their own ways they had helped to keep up its traditions—and those traditions were being preserved and added to by all the battalions of the Regiment at the present time. They should remember those battalions which were called up during the war—the Service Battalions—which, although they had a very brief, yet had a very glorious existence, and fought side by side with the other battalions.

Referring to the report of the Old Comrades Association, the Chairman said that although it was very satisfactory and although the balances were good, he thought they wanted to make it a bigger thing. He wanted to commend it to those who were members, and ask them to try to get those who were not members of it to belong to it. In a regiment like theirs they should have a very big and efficient organization for helping all connected with it. He would also like to commend the Regimental Magazine and to thank the editor of it, Major Dyer.

## REGIMENTAL SUCCESSES.

Gen. Glasgow alluded to the activities of the regiment since they last met. Last year they had won the Inter-Unit Fencing Competition, and last month they won it again. (Applause.) The team had been supplied by the Depot. The 1st Battalion at Bisley won the Small Arms Cup, and had secured the Eastern Command Hockey Cup. The 2nd Battalion, in Khartoum, hoped to be home next trooping season. The 1st Battalion, when they left for Hong-Kong, had a great send-off. Many past and present officers saw them off, and H.M.S. *Excellent* sent officers and men and a band. (Applause.) They had with them that night as guests Petty-Officers Jeffrey and Brock, and he would like them to tell their comrades when they went back that that act was as much appreciated by the old members of the Regiment as by the present ones. It served to show that the bond between them was a real one. Another guest was Pte. Keage, of Chelsea. (The old Chelsea Pensioner, a conspicuous figure in his red coat, rose to his feet when his name was mentioned, and was loudly cheered.) Gen. Glasgow concluded by wishing the company good fortune.

## "ABSENT COMRADES."

The toast of "Absent Comrades" was proposed by ex-Sergt.-Major Hoare. He said he was going to ask the band to play a chorus, but they were busy at the moment. The chorus was, "Comrades, comrades, ever since we were boys," and it was one of the familiar tunes that had been sung all over the seven seas. He remembered that during the war, on the Somme, two battalions of The Queen's Regiment met after some years, and they sang that chorus together. But there were other memories of a different nature. Many of them during the war might have lost their walking-out pal.

After asking that the best wishes of all the members be conveyed to the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, Gen. Sir Charles Monro, and referring to the spirit of comradeship such a gathering as theirs expressed, the proposer of the toast mentioned the names of some of their comrades who had passed over the border: Lieut.-Col. J. S. Dyke, for some years Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion; Q.M.S. Reid, who died at the age of 93 years; R.S.M. Bobby Dorman, who proposed that toast at the first dinner; Sergt. Laurence, and L./Cpl. Lawrie Sullivan.

The toast was honoured, the company standing for a minute in silence.

Petty-Officer Brock, of H.M.S. *Excellent*, spoke of the happy relationship which existed between the Regiment and the Navy, and submitted a toast to the Regiment.

During the evening a programme of music was kindly contributed by the British Legion Military Prize Band, under Mr. P. W. Peel.

The All Ranks Dinner next year will be held at Harrod's Georgian Restaurant, Brompton Road, S.W.1, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 9th.

## Obituary

RANK AND NAME.	BATTALION.	SERVICE.	DATE OF DEATH.
Maj.-Gen. H. P. Phillips	1st and 2nd ...	1854-1882	25/7/27
Major P. C. Esdaile	...		
Major G. Gardener	... (Indian Ord. Corps)		
	late Sergt. 1st Bn. ...		
6081050 Pte. E. M. Perrett	2nd ...	1922	24/5/27
594 Pte. G. Keldon ...	6th ...	1914-1919	27/6/27
7855 Sergt. H. Shergold	2nd ...	1903-1919	12/7/27
6573 Pte. A. Bourton	1st and 2nd ...	1900-1919	8/7/27
242274 Pte. S. Bidmead	5th ...	1915-1919	30/8/27
5187 Sergt. D. Allen ...	1st (Band) ...	1896-1908	20/9/27
6082410 Pte. C. Garrad ...	1st and 2nd ...	1924-1927	27/9/27
4613 C.S.M. A. E. Starr	1st and 2nd ...	1894-1919	-/10/27
4284 Pte. G. South ...	1st ...	1893-1905	9/10/27

### THE LATE MAJOR-GENERAL H. P. PHILLIPS

The Regiment has suffered a great loss in the death of Major-General H. P. Phillips, which occurred on July 25th last in his 91st year. General Phillips was born on November 6th, 1836, and joined the Regiment as Ensign without purchase from the Royal Military Academy on May 12th, 1854. He became Lieutenant by purchase on January 15th, 1856, and served as Garrison Adjutant at King William's Town, South Africa, from September 14th, 1858, to January 3rd, 1859. He was appointed Adjutant of the 1st Battalion on January 11th, 1859, and as such served throughout the campaign of 1860 in North China, being present at the actions of Sinho, Chankiawan and Palichao, and the capture of Taku Forts (medal with two clasps for Taku Forts and Pekin). His Adjutancy terminated on November 15th, 1860, and he became Captain by purchase on the next day. He became Major by purchase on October 31st, 1871, and was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on October 1st, 1877. He was Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding 2nd Battalion from May 1st, 1878, until 1882, being promoted Brevet-Colonel on October 1st, 1881. General Phillips retired on May 6th, 1882, with the honorary rank of Major-General.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

*Editor:* Lieut.-Col. G. N. Dyer, D.S.O.

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2nd Bn.—Major A. N. S. Roberts,

O.B.E.

4th Bn.—Lieut.-Col. B. L. Evans, T.D.

5th Bn.—Major C. R. Wigan, M.C.

22nd London Regt.—Capt. T. O. M.

Buchan, M.C.

24th London Regt.—Major H. J.

Sanders, D.S.O., M.C.

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*Offices:*

Corner House, Worplesdon, Guildford.

The following are suggestions which may be of help to Battalion Assistant Editors and contributors in sending in material:—

I. Assistant Editors should frame their material on the following lines:—

- (a) A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part, *i.e.*, Battalion General News.
- (b) Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
- (c) Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important Battalion matches should be given, mentioning names of goal-scorers, good scores or good bowling performances at cricket, together with the names of teams in each match. Concerts, dances, etc., should be included under this sub-head.

(d) Sergeants' Mess News.

(e) Corporals' Mess News.

(f) Company and Platoon Games and Sports.

2. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and should, if possible, be type-written, but this is not essential.

3. Photographs should be marked on the back with the title, and, in the case of groups, names should invariably be given. In this connection, readers are invited to send all photographs likely to be of interest.

\* \* \*

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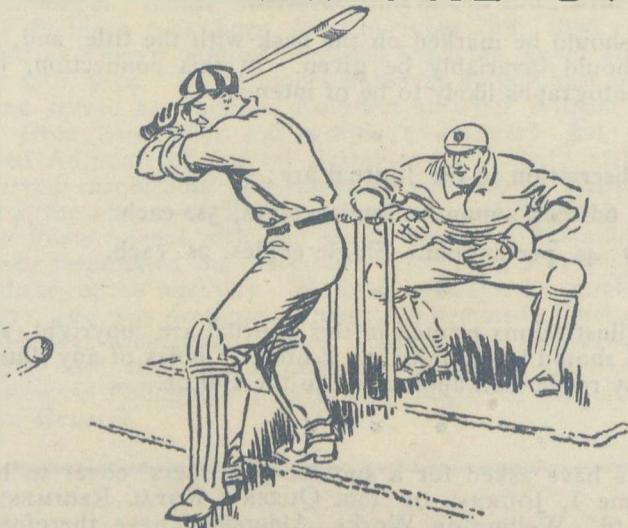
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