



THE "COLONEL CLARKE" FIGURES.

The Picture-Board Dummies of Grenadiers of the Regiment which were in the County Hotel, Carlisle, for many years. They are now in the Regimental Museum at Guildford after repair and restoration.



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EDITORIAL

IN the Old Comrades Association News will be found an announcement of the generous gift of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Mary, to the Regiment. We are sure that all our readers will appreciate this proof of the keen interest which Her Majesty takes in the welfare of her Regiment.

Before these lines appear in print Major-General Sir Wilkinson D. Bird, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., will have completed the tenure of his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment and will have been succeeded by General Sir Ivo L. B. Vesey, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. We feel that all members of the Regiment will wish us, on their behalf, to thank General Bird for all he has done to further their interests during the time he has been Colonel. He has taken a leading part in the activities of all battalions and has done his utmost to make the Regiment a happy and contented family. We wish him happiness, peace and prosperity in his retirement. To General Vesey we offer a hearty welcome and our loyal support.

The troublous times in which we live appear to have affected many of those who have been kind enough to supply us with material for publication. For the first time since our existence began we look like being short of copy to fill our pages. We quite understand that a great number of people have been working overtime these past months, but we hope that our readers will not forget our existence and will keep us supplied with copy for publication.

The news from the 2nd Battalion published in this issue makes very interesting reading and gives an excellent picture of the conditions under which the Battalion lives and works. The Battalion has several times received the congratulations of its Brigade and Divisional Commanders on the results achieved in the operations in which it has been engaged. It will be readily understood that operations of this nature require careful preparation and faultless execution. We extend to the Battalion our best wishes for continued success.

We are once again indebted to Colonel Clarke for making it possible for us to publish in this issue coloured prints of the picture-board dummies which bear his name. These figures are historical, and it is fitting that a permanent record of their appearance should be made. They are housed in the Regimental Museum at Guildford and are well worth a visit.

We have great pleasure in welcoming a newcomer to the Regimental family in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. We publish elsewhere some account of the history of the raising and training of this unit of patriotic ladies. We feel sure that the members of the Service will do their utmost to maintain the traditions of the Regiment to which they are attached, and can confidently assure them that no effort on the part of the Regiment will be spared in helping them in their training, so that in time of need they may be available to undertake the duties which will free men for other purposes.

Our next number will be published in November this year, and news, articles, illustrations, etc., intended for publication should reach us not later than 15th October.

1st BATTALION

(McPherson Barracks, Allahabad.)

THE time since these notes were last written has been fully occupied with the various athletic activities (accounts of which appear elsewhere) and with Company and Battalion Training, all of which have to be crowded into the five months between the return of one year's hill detachments and the departure of the next year's.

Company and Battalion training was carried out at Shankargarh, some thirty miles from Allahabad, over country that was familiar to those of us who had been in Allahabad with the 2nd Battalion in 1925. Training was interesting; everyone worked hard and a high standard of efficiency was attained. A large measure of the success of both Company and Battalion camps was due to the help we received from the officers of the 3rd/11th Sikhs, who set exercises and umpired, and from the detachment of the 3rd Cavalry.

Our training in internal security duties was put to the test on 4th March, when "C" Company moved to Benares at short notice. They returned to Allahabad on 13th March.

On 5th April the Battalion paraded for Brigadier G. N. Ford, C.B.E., D.S.O., who has commanded the Brigade Area while we have been in Allahabad, to say good-bye to us. In his farewell remarks he paid tribute to the present state of the Battalion and reminded us of the high standard which we, as a Regiment, have set ourselves in the past and which is always expected of us, as much by people outside the Regiment as by ourselves.

It was with regret that we said good-bye to Major R. C. G. Foster, M.C., in January. He has retired after twenty-three years' service in the Regiment.

We have also lost six attached officers, 2/Lieuts. G. A. Coombe, J. A. Watt, T. R. Johnson, J. F. A. Mortimer, Niranjana Prasad and Virendra Singh having left to join their regiments of the Indian Army. We wish them all success.

We welcome Major H. G. M. Evans and 2/Lieuts. M. L. Mansel, N. A. H. Marsden, E. A. W. Lockyer and A. C. Lynch-Staunton from the home establishment.

We congratulate the following:—

C./Sergt. J. Berry and Sergts. A. Martin, F. Gould, F. Swain and J. Climpson on being promoted W.O.III and appointed platoon sergeant major. P.S.M. Berry is to be further congratulated on being promoted W.O.II.

For being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal: C.S.M. J. Berry, C./Sergt. E. Philpot and Sergt. C. Eastmond.

For gaining their 1st Class Certificates of Education: P.S.M. Swain; Drum-Major Wilson, Sergt. Pugsley, Cpl. Burns, L./Cpl. Clayton and Pte. Diplock.

Regimental Entertainments.

Owing to training, etc., the policy of running Battalion entertainments has not been maintained, and companies have been left to run their own shows. Occasional Battalion whist drives and tombolas have been held. These were well attended and successfully run. It is hoped to be able to run more of these shows now that the summer period is coming on.

A Hobbies Competition was run in November, and although the entries were few they were of a very high standard. The following were awarded prizes for their entries:—

Art Class.—Pte. Lambert, "H.Q." Company.

Embroidery Work.—Cpl. Bullock, "C" Company.

The Individual and Inter-Platoon Billiards and Snooker competitions have been held and the winners of these events are as under:—

Individual Billiards Championship.—L./Cpl. Hambleton, "H.Q." Company. Runner-up: Pte. Saggs, "H.Q." Company.

Individual Snooker Championship.—L./Cpl. White, "D" Company. Runner-up: L./Cpl. Major, "H.Q." Company.

Inter-Platoon Knock-out Billiards Competition.—Administrative Platoon. (Team: Sergts. Eastmond and Roadnight, L./Cpls. Hambleton and Hicks, Armourer L./Cpl. Davies and Pte. A. Taylor.) Runner-up: No. 9 Platoon, "A" Company.

The Inter-Platoon Snooker competition and the Inter-Company Billiards have not yet been completed and results will be published in the November issue of the JOURNAL.

Children's Christmas Party.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Thursday, 20th December. The tea was held in the Sergeants' Mess, and after some games Christmas gifts were given to all wives and children from a gaily decorated Christmas tree. A firework display was afterwards given. It was very thrilling and greatly appreciated by children and grown-ups alike. Many thanks are due to the officers' wives, particularly Mrs. Foster, and all who helped to make the party such a big success.

Families' Rifle Club.

This was once again run on a monthly competitive basis and was very well attended. During November the shooting was very keen, the final positions being as follows: 1, Mrs. Witts; 2, Mrs. Roadnight; 3, Mrs. Swain.

The shoot for December was divided into two classes: Class "A" for all competitors who have won a prize previously in some competition, and Class "B" for all competitors who have never won a prize. The results were as follows:—

Class "A."—1, Mrs. Swain; 2, Mrs. Spence; 3, Mrs. Turk.

Class "B."—1, Mrs. Martin; 2, Mrs. Budd; 3, Mrs. Howard.

Appropriate seasonable gifts were presented by Mrs. Metcalfe, including two turkeys.

The shoot for February and March was combined, and the competition was more keen than ever, the leadership changing after each shoot. Before the shoot on the last day of the competition seven competitors were within six points of the leadership, and as the possible was forty points for the last shoot it was possible for any of these competitors to secure first place. Two fire-offs had to take place before Mrs. Berry finally secured first place by scoring a possible, as against 19 by Mrs. Wells. The results were: 1, Mrs. Berry, 289; 2, Mrs. Wells, 289; 3, Mrs. Roadnight, 288.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Metcalfe, who presented the prizes, for her very great interest and support during these competitions, and also to those responsible for running the competitions.

Corporals' Mess.

After spending our Hill Season in a real holiday spirit we came back to Allahabad to start preparing for the Christmas festivities (and also for the training period at Shankargarh).

Christmas passed very quietly. There were no social functions held in the Mess as the members of the Corporals' Mess seem to find that there is plenty of

entertainment in this station, so we have very little chance of partaking in any Mess functions, etc.

The P.R.I. kindly supplied us with a game of Monopoly, and for quite a while everyone was in a state of considerable excitement. Buying and selling seemed to be the war cry, and we take our hats off to "Ally," who has taken the title of the "Monopoly Champ."

The Corporals held a football match against our rivals—the Sergeants—and though our opponents could only muster nine men they gave us a really hard game, ending by the Corporals winning by one goal to nothing. "Ebbie" scored our goal with a real *Daily Mirror* effort, though we all think he got a terrible fright when he saw the Sergeants' goalkeeper in a real apache jersey. We hear that the sergeant is trying to set a new colour craze.

The Sergeants invited a few members of the junior mess to a "Tin and Bottle" Tennis Tournament, and we managed to have the men's winner in L./Cpl. Pankhurst ("Pete"), a new arrival in the Mess. A very enjoyable time was had by all and we are looking forward to the next, which we hope will be very soon.

A whist drive and dance was held in the Corporals' Room in January, and proved a great success. Mrs. Budd won the ladies' first prize, and C.S.M. Wells won the gents' first prize at whist. Sergt. and Mrs. Newman and Sergt. and Mrs. Moth won prizes for "spot" dances.

We have lost a lot of our senior members, having been promoted to the Sergeants' Mess, and there are several new faces in our midst. As there are so many "arrivals and departures" we offer them all our congratulations and hope they have a happy time and heaps of success. Rumours are flying around that we are going to lose our oldest soldier, "Burra," who is going to the Home Establishment. He will be missed a great deal, but he has our blessing. The members of the Mess offer their congratulations (and sympathies) to L./Cpls. Kemp and Dade, who have answered the call of a well-known march from Lohengrin.

SPORT.

Hockey.

Apart from the platoon and company competitions there has not been very much hockey activity recently. We did not enter teams for the local league, and the only competition in Allahabad for which we entered was a knock-out tournament, which happened at a very busy time of the year. One or two of our regular side were not available and we were beaten by a good team in the first round after a very close game, which we might have won if there had been anyone in the side dangerous in the circle.

There have been matches at intervals against the Police, who always give us a very good game. As a rule we just beat them and it is good practice for our people to play on a mutty ground occasionally. The 45th Sikhs, who have recently arrived in Allahabad, will undoubtedly give us something to think about in the future. Most of their battalion have been on leave until March, but soon after they returned we played them on our grass ground. It was a good game, which we won by 5—2, but lack of practice and combination, which were apparent among the opponents, will probably be corrected in future.

For the first time we sent our team to Lucknow for the Inter-Unit Tournament, and a good team seemed likely to reach the final, or possibly win. However, things turned out badly and the South Staffords beat us by 2—1 in the replay, after drawing the first game, 2—2. The first game was very even, and though we were never in the lead our opponents were undoubtedly lucky in being awarded one of their

goals. In the second game the South Staffords scored twice fairly early in the game, and our score, in rather a poor game, came just before the final whistle.

Team.—2/Lieut. Thomson; Pte. Harding and L./Cpl. Dade; L./Cpl. Hicks, C.S.M. Berry and Pte. Kingsland; Pte. Bennett, Pte. Paice, L./Cpl. Major, Pte. Yates and Pte. D. Smith.

Inter-Platoon Competition.—This was played at the end of October and produced some hard-fought games. Draws and replays prolonged the competition, and it was fortunate that the date of company camps was put off, for otherwise the competitions would not have been finished before Christmas. There were some surprising results, and though many people expected the Signals to be in the final, No. 7 Platoon's appearance was a surprise. It was a hard-fought game, admirably umpired, and both sides looked frequently dangerous. In the second half the Signals scored a well-deserved goal, which was the only score.

Inter-Company Competition.—The Inter-Company Competition, originally advertised as a league, had to be played as a knock-out for a variety of reasons. The absence of the Battalion football team in Lucknow meant that some teams were not at full strength. The finalists were "H.Q." and "D" Companies, and the game was played at a good speed throughout. "H.Q." scored the only goal of the match, but they were not subsequently allowed to relax their efforts, for until the final whistle everyone was prepared for "D" Company to score after a sudden breakaway.

Football.

As in previous years, the Battalion entered for the Murray Cup, and this year we improved on our performance last year by beating the 2nd Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment, in the final, by two goals to nil.

The Battalion also entered the Lucknow District Football Tournament, and we once again proved too good for the 2nd Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regiment in the final, this time winning by three goals to nil.

Platoon Football.—Once again the Signals have added their name to the R. A. Jones Cup, beating No. 18 Platoon in the final by two goals to nil.

Inter-Company Football.—The South China Cup was won by "H.Q." Company, who defeated "D" Company by two goals to nil in the final, having previously beaten "C" and "A" Companies.

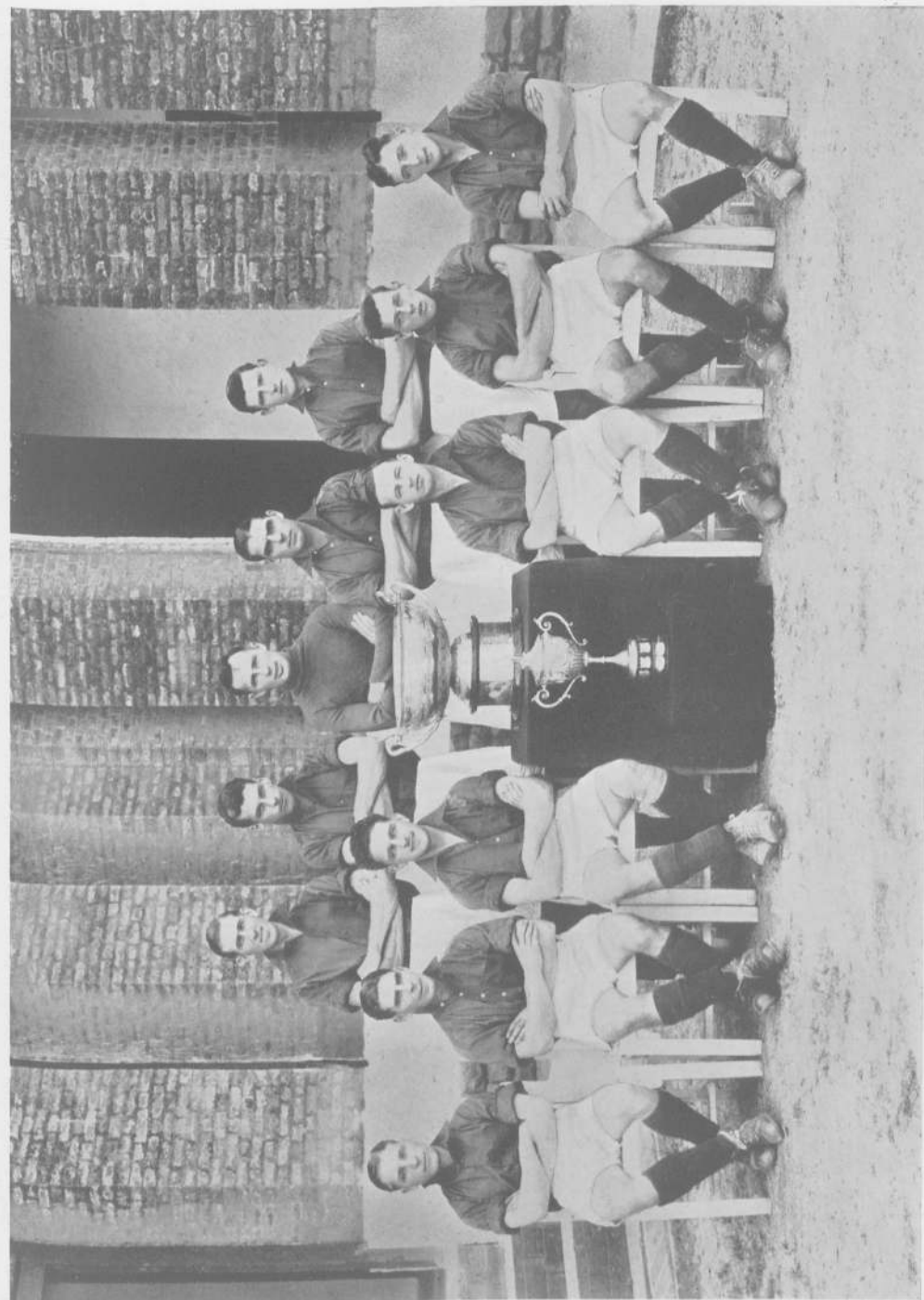
Boxing.

With a view to discovering some talent in the Battalion the Novices' Individual Competition was held in October. About fifty entries were received in the various weights, and the competition produced some good fights, particularly in the semi-finals. No outstanding talent was forthcoming, but there was plenty of hard hitting and a good spirit was shown. In November two team competitions were arranged, with nine fights: "B" Company v. 12th Field Battery, R.A., which "B" Company won on the last fight by one point, and "B" Company v. "A" Company, which "B" Company also won with one point to spare. Both these contests produced a good evening's boxing and gave men practice and experience.

Inter-Company Boxing.

This took place on 30th and 31st January and 2nd February, 1939. The competitions for the Inter-Company Boxing Cup and the Battalion Individual Championships were run concurrently. One of the best fights was that between 2/Lieut. Hartland-Mahon and Pte. Stubberfield ("H.Q." Company) in the final of the Welter-weights.

1st BATTALION



BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM, 1938-39, WINNERS OF THE MURRAY CUP AND LUCKNOW DISTRICT INTER-UNIT CUP.

Back Row—Ptes. Pound, Bolton, Massev, S. Harding and Yates.
Front Row—Ptes. Rogers, A. Harding and Danby (captain); L./Cpl. Freeman; Ptes. Bennett and Pawson.

The results were:—

Bantam-weight.—Winner: Pte. Lennox, "B" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Kent, "H.Q." Company.

Feather-weight.—Winner: L./Cpl. Sawyers, "B" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Mathews, "D" Company.

Light-weight.—Winner: Pte. Wood, "B" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Ferminger, "A" Company.

Welter-weight.—Winner: 2/Lieut. Hartland-Mahon, "H.Q." Company. Runner-up: Pte. Stubberfield, "H.Q." Company.

Middle-weight.—Winner: L./Cpl. Cooper, "B" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Bolton, "H.Q." Company.

Light Heavy-weight.—Winner: Pte. Briggs, "D" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Massey, "C" Company.

Heavy-weight.—Winner: Pte. Clay, "C" Company. Runner-up: Pte. Holmwood, "D" Company.

Boys' Fly-weight.—Winner: Boy White.

Boys' Feather-weight.—Winner: Boy Trimmer.

Boys' Welter-weight.—Winner: Boy Lynn.

Points for the Inter-Company Boxing Cup.—1, "B" Company, 29 points; 2, "H.Q." Company, 28 points; 3, "D" Company, 19 points; 4, "A" Company, 16 points; 5, "C" Company, 9 points.

The following team was selected to represent the Battalion in the Inter-Unit Competition, the first round being held at Lucknow on 5th February. The Battalion was drawn to fight The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the holders of the Lucknow District Championship.

Bantam-weight.—Pte. Kent.

Feather-weight.—L./Cpl. Sawyers.

Light-weight.—L./Cpl. Greenlaugh, Pte. Ferminger and Pte. Wood.

Welter-weight.—Pte. Stubberfield, Pte. O'Sullivan and Pte. Myall.

Middle-weight.—L./Cpl. Simmons and L./Cpl. Cooper.

Heavy-weight.—Pte. Bolton.

Reserves.—Pte. Wade, L./Cpl. Wilson and Pte. Lennox.

The Royal Warwickshire team were very experienced and good all round. The result was a decisive win for them by 22 points to 11 points. However, although the Battalion team did not win a single fight, the form shown against much stronger and more experienced opponents was very encouraging. With more training and the chance of obtaining talent from home, there is every possibility of producing a much better team next year. One of the best fights in this contest was between Pte. Wood (The Queen's Royal Regiment) and Pte. Harris. It was full of action and clean, hard hitting. Pte. Wood was commended by the referee for a very plucky display, as also were L./Cpl. Cooper and Pte. Bolton. The Royal Warwickshire team defeated the Royal Berkshire and the South Staffordshire regiments subsequently in the next two rounds of the competition, and were beaten by the Cameronians (last year's runners-up) in the semi-final by one point only.

Boxing training takes place twice a week in the gymnasium, and before the end of the season team competitions are being arranged against the A.F. (I.) and the 25th Field Battery, R.A., who have just arrived.

Weapon Training.

No sooner are we satisfied that we have mastered the intricacies of the new range courses than we find ourselves faced with entirely new conditions for 1939! However, our results last year were so satisfactory that we can face the future with confidence.

Small Arms Club.

The last two months have been busy ones and shooting has been very much to the fore.

We have fired all our A.R.A. matches, but with the exception of "B" and "C" Companies, in the Company Shield, the scores were disappointing.

In February we sent a team to the Meerut Rifle Meeting, and considering that this was only our second appearance there we have every reason to be pleased with the results.

C.S.M. Wells was 33rd and L./Sergt. Kettle 53rd in the Army Hundred, whilst the team were second in the Southern Command Cup, eighth in the Eastern Command Cup, and fourteenth in the Birdwood Vase and Chetwode Cup. Finally, in the more light-hearted events of the last day, we won the "Single Snap" and were runners-up in the Falling Plates Competitions.

In addition to congratulating the team on their good shooting we must thank Capt. L. S. Sheldon and P.S.M. Martin for the time and trouble expended in coaching the team beforehand.

Battalion Rifle Meeting.

The Battalion Rifle Meeting was held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd March, and there was a very good attendance throughout. Match results are given below:—

Battalion Individual Rifle Championship (H.P.S. 80).—1, L./Sergt. Bradfield, "A" Company, 61; 2, P.S.M. Martin, "H.Q." Company, 59; 3, R.Q.M.S. Jackson, "H.Q." Company, 57.

Gattie Inter-Platoon Rifle Shield.—1, No. 9 Platoon, "A" Company, average 29.05; 2, No. 14 Platoon, "C" Company, average 28.34.

Inter-Platoon L.M.G. Pairs.—1, No. 8 Platoon, "A" Company; 2, No. 13 Platoon, "C" Company.

Inter-Platoon Falling Plates.—1, No. 15 Platoon, "C" Company; 2, No. 13 Platoon, "C" Company.

Inter-Company Young Soldiers' Rifle Cup (H.P.S. 80).—1, Pte. Jeffery, "C" Company, 51; 2, Pte. Reid, "B" Company, 51; 3, Pte. Inwards, "H.Q." Company, 42.

Warren Inter-Company Rifle Cup.—1, "D" Company; 2, "C" Company.

Officers v. Sergeants.—1, Sergeants.

Sergeants v. Corporals.—1, Sergeants.

Officers' Rifle Cup (H.P.S. 80).—1, Lieut. W. Watford, 50; 2, Lieut. Marsden, 42.

Boys' Rifle Cup (H.P.S. 40).—1, Boy Trimmer, 33; 2, Boy Lynn, 28; 3, Boy Stainton, 28.

Miscellaneous Falling Plates.—1, Warrant Officers; 2, Sergeants.

Battalion Individual Pistol Championship (H.P.S. 108).—1, Lieut. W. Watford, 75; 2, L./Sergt. Kettle, 73; 3, P.S.M. Martin, 63.

ATHLETICS.

Cross-Country Run.

This season the cross-country run was held in the period just before Company Camps. The course was a very easy one of rather under three miles, necessitated by the fact that hardly anyone had taken the trouble to train seriously. "A" Company had done a little training and this, combined with the fact that there are many of our good long-distance runners in the Company, gave them an extremely easy victory, their total being about half as large as the next company's. Pte. Hall, of "A" Company, led throughout the race, which was won in a short time by him from Pte. Gardner, of "H.Q." Company, with Cpl. Waite, of "A" Company, third.

In an attempt to give the Battalion team a month to train for District Sports, the sports meetings were held in the first half of February. Unfortunately, when the programme of district sporting events was published we discovered that the Inter-Unit Event was on 20th and 21st February, so that there was little time to train after all.

Inter-Platoon Standards.

The Inter-Platoon Standards Competition was held at the end of January and resulted in a tie for three platoons: the Carrier Platoon, No. 7 Platoon and No. 17 Platoon each scoring 100 per cent. While this is undoubtedly a very creditable performance, it seems that the standards are too easy, for although the primary object is to keep every man in the Battalion up to a certain standard of athletic efficiency, the possibility is that similar results in the future will make an inter-platoon competition redundant.

Individual Athletics.

The individual athletics were run on 10th and 11th February, and, as usual, they were not very successful. There was a large number of entries, and although we were unable to finish the meeting in two days by drawing for heats at the post, there was no interest in the performances. Only a handful of spectators came to watch on the second day, and many good athletes did not go in for the competitions. While not wishing to belittle the performance of L./Cpl. Simmons, who won the cup for the best individual athlete, it is only right to point out that Pte. Massey was not running on the second day, and competition between the two would have been much closer if Massey had been there.

Inter-Company Sports.

As in all branches of sport, the vast increase of the number of men in "H.Q." Company has tapped the resources of the rifle companies considerably. There were people who hoped that "A" Company might retain the Inter-Company Shield, but "H.Q." Company drew away on the second day and won by a fairly comfortable margin. Nevertheless, there were some very good performances, and the first day's events gave everyone some excitement. The high jumping was exceptionally good. Lieut. R. A. D. Spiers and Ptes. Good and Massey are usually the first three in the High Jump, all clearing between 5 ft. 2 in. and 5 ft. 4 in. This year the first two athletes failed at 5 ft. 4 in., leaving in L./Cpl. Johnson, of "H.Q." Company, who had been chosen at the last moment, and Pte. Massey. Both these men enjoyed some very good luck, as the lath on more than one occasion shivered and stayed on the pegs. However, both cleared 5 ft. 7 in. before the end. The 4 x 880 Yards Relay was a thrilling race between "H.Q." and "A" Company, the former having a slight lead from their first two strings, and Cpl. Waite handing over a ten-yards lead to Lieut. A. R. C. Mott, "A" Company's last runner. Pte. Edge at once gave chase and took the lead, but was challenged

a furlong from home. The two runners were almost level coming into the straight, but Edge just maintained his lead and breasted the tape a bare six inches ahead of his opponent. "A" Company won the 4 x 220 Yards Relay, and "H.Q." Company the Hurdles. Pte. Gardner won the Three Miles Team Race in good style from Pte. Gaston, both of "H.Q." Company, but "A" Company's team were well balanced and the two tied for first place.

The second day's programme was less interesting. Bad baton changing probably cost "A" Company the 4 x 110 Yards Relay, "H.Q." Company winning by a small margin. Pte. Massey, of "C" Company, jumped much further than anyone else to give his company the victory in the Long Jump. Pte. Bennett won the Mile Team Race in short time and "H.Q." Company took this event and also the 4 x 440 Yards Relay. The field events were well contested, with no outstanding performances, though L./Cpl. Major kept "H.Q." Company well in the picture.

Lucknow District Athletic Meeting.

We could hardly hope to beat The Royal Berkshire Regiment in the District Athletics, for we knew that their team was as good as it was last year. We had only had two days' training as a team, and although most of our stars of last year were with the Battalion, most of them went sick just before we were due to go to Lucknow. Pte. Hall, L./Cpl. Jacocks and Pte. Smith were all unfit, while one or two others travelled to Lucknow in doubt as to their ability to run. C.S.M. Berry finished a series of anti-rabic injections on 20th February, and we were glad to see him at Lucknow for the second day of the sports.

We won the same two events as last year—the High Jump and the Hurdles—with considerable ease. Six people in the Regiment can clear 5 ft., but only three men did so in this competition, and our two strings were among them. L./Cpl. Johnson only cleared 5 ft. 1 in., but Massey defeated his rival with a jump of 5 ft. 4 in. We were the only team to finish the hurdles without knocking down more than three hurdles, but our team did very well, especially Massey, who gained ten yards on his opponent. In spite of being second in the 4 x 110 and the 4 x 220 Yards Relays, we were third at the end of the first day, as we were a bad fourth in the Three Miles, and were also fourth in the Pole Vault and Weight. The Royal Berkshires occupied the first four places in the Three Miles, which was a very fine effort, and even Hall might not have made any difference to their order of finishing.

On the second day we were second to the Berkshires in the Long Jump, Discus and Hammer before lunch, and followed this up by being second in the 4 x 880 Yards Relay. Our apparently strong quarter-milers finished third, and with the Mile Team Race to go we could only hope that the Warwicks would not win, for we should then have finished third. The Berkshires added this event to their other successes and we therefore finished second in the meeting, a long way behind the Berkshires and one point ahead of the Warwicks. It only remains to congratulate the Berkshires on producing such a well-trained all-round team—their enthusiasm is great and their victory well deserved. If we are to beat them next year, hard training and great keenness will be essential, and as our athletes are very eager to win one can only hope that we shall have our reward.

Readers who intend to be present at the O.C.A. Dinner on 10th June or Memorial Service and Reunion on 25th June, should inform the Secretary, O.C.A., without delay.



No. 9 PLATOON, "A" COMPANY, WINNERS GATTIE SHIELD, 1939.

Back Row—Ptes. G. Phillips, Creasey and Hyde; L./Cpl. Reynolds; Pte. Holloway.
 Middle Row—Ptes. McKenna, Green, Parsons, Bunting, Lunn and Hignall.
 Front Row—Pte. White; Sergt. Read; P.S.M. Climpson; Lieut. A. R. C. Mot; C.S.M. Wells; L./Sergt. Bradfield (Battalion Champion); Pte. Clarke.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1938

II.

(Continued from page 36, Vol. VII, No. 3)

WE arrived at Bulawayo at about 8 a.m. on 14th February, after a quiet and comfortable journey. After breakfast at the railway station we left by car for the Matopo Hills to visit Rhodes's grave. They have a clever way of making the roads good for cars at comparatively small expense. The method is as follows: Two lines of good tarmac, each about two feet wide, are laid down in parallel, and wide enough apart to take the track of a car. The rest of the road is unmetalled. Therefore a car can go fast along the tarmac, and only has to pull out on to the unmetalled part of the road when meeting or passing other vehicles.

We covered the twenty-eight miles in just an hour. On arrival we left the car and walked up to a most wonderful site, from which a wide view all round is commanded. Here Cecil Rhodes and Leander Starr Jameson are buried. Their graves are a few yards apart, and are cut out of the solid rock. Both are dignified in their perfect simplicity. Rhodes himself chose the site, and nobody could imagine a finer one. Close to these two graves is the memorial to Major Wilson and his party, who were all killed during the Matabele War. The party was cut off and every man was killed after putting up a most magnificent fight. The memorial is a fine one, but, in my opinion, out of place here. It would have been quite right to have placed a memorial on the spot, but the memorial itself ought to be more in keeping with the two graves. It is too big and incongruous. This is, of course, only an individual opinion.

After leaving the graves we visited an old bushman's cave, about five miles away, where there are some wall paintings of great antiquity. On our return to Bulawayo we spent a short time at the Museum, which is very well worth a visit. I wish we could have spent more time there.

Bulawayo is a good place, well laid out, and obviously well looked after. A lot of building is going on and there is at least one really good hotel. Both my wife and I would have liked to have spent a day or two there and seen more of it. We left by the 12.40 p.m. train for Kimberley, which we reached at 5.15 p.m. after a rather dreary journey. It was cloudy and raining when we arrived and we put up at the Queen's Hotel, built before the war.

Kimberley lives on the diamond mines. When world conditions are good, and people have money to spend, the mines are flourishing. When times are bad, and no money available to buy diamonds, Kimberley has a bad time. When we were there only two of the mines were working. On the 15th February we went off after breakfast in pouring rain to visit one of the mines at work, and watched the process of dealing with the gravel and rock from start to finish. The gravel comes in steel trucks, in an endless chain, to an enormous skeleton building, where it goes through a number of washings and siftings, one after the other, until 98 per cent. of it is thrown out on to a dump. The remaining 2 per cent. is placed in locked steel containers, and goes along a rail to the "Pulsator," where again it is washed and sifted. The final process is when the residue passes over steel plates set at an angle of 45 degrees. These plates are coated with grease, and as diamonds are non-porous they adhere to the grease on the plates, and the rest of the gravel and water passes over them. You can see masses of diamonds of all shapes and sizes adhering to the plates. Some of them look like octahedrons of dull yellowish

glass, some are black, and there are all sorts of shades in between. Many of these diamonds are of commercial value in that they are used largely for drills.

In the afternoon we went to the De Beers offices, and were shown hundreds of diamonds of all shapes, colours and sizes. Before we were admitted we were inspected through a grille in the door of the diamond room. I suppose we looked fairly honest, as we had no difficulty in passing the vet! When we got in we had to remain behind a brass rail, some six feet away from the counter on which the diamonds were displayed. We saw a number of freak and coloured stones kept for showing to visitors, and we also saw a large, flawless pear-shaped stone, valued at £5,000, and a yellow stone valued at £2,000. I was allowed to handle these, but there was not a chance of trousering anything; the watch was far too careful! It rained all that night, but though it rather spoiled our visit it was badly needed, as there had been no rain at all for many weeks, and farmers were very hard hit. On 17th February we went to see a wonderful collection of photographs of natives of every tribe in South Africa, all taken by a Mr. Cronin, who has made a life study of native South African races. All the groups have separate rooms to themselves, and the collection is splendidly arranged. Mr. Cronin took us round himself, gave us tea, and sent us back in his own car to our hotel. I strongly advise anybody who has an hour or two to spare in Kimberley to see this collection, as it is unique.

We left Kimberley at 2.20 p.m. and got to Bloemfontein four hours later, where we found some shipboard friends at the Bloemfontein Hotel, and we all dined together. It rained most of that night and was quite cool.

On 1st February we had a drive round the town and environs. Bloemfontein is not an interesting place. We saw the monument to the Boer women and children who had died in the concentration camps during the Boer War. It is a fine piece of work. We also visited Naval Hall, which commands the town, and gets its name from the fact that long-range naval 4.7-in. guns were posted on it after the occupation of Bloemfontein in 1900.

On the following day we took things easy. In the morning we tried to see the Town Hall, but it was closed, being a Saturday. We also visited the Museum in order to fill in time. There was a collection of birds and beasts, mostly dusty and moth-eaten, and we were not impressed. I see in my diary that we "had a foul dinner at the railway station," and caught a train at 8.40 p.m. Our plan was to go to Ladysmith via Van Reenen's Pass, and on from there to Rosetta in Natal, where we had been asked to stay for a day or two with a Colonel and Mrs. Young. We had a peaceful night in the train, but were up early in the morning so as to see the country when the train went through the Drakensberg via Van Reenen's Pass. It was well worth seeing, and we were fortunate in having good, clear weather. Prior to leaving Bloemfontein we had called at the Travel Bureau there and had definitely ascertained that our train stopped at Rosetta, and had also arranged for breakfast at Ladysmith, as the train did not have a restaurant car attached. When we got there we found that no breakfast had been ordered and none was ready. However, the station restaurant staff got busy and we were able to bolt a sort of meal before the train left, but I had regretfully to leave behind a good-looking second helping of eggs and bacon, and a cup of tea, and my wife, being a slower eater, fared worse than I did! We again passed through the battle zone via Pieter's Station, Railway Hill and Colenso, and I was able to point out to my wife the position the 2nd Battalion had occupied during the Pieter's Hill fighting.

After passing Estcourt we got ready to leave the train at Rosetta, but to our surprise and dismay it went through without stopping. However, it pulled up at the next station, Nottingham Road, about five miles on, and we got out then. I tackled the guard, who said that he had had no instructions to stop the train, and that I ought to have asked him to do so! However, Colonel and Mrs. Young, who had come to meet us at Rosetta, and had seen the train go through, guessed what had happened, and came on in their car to Nottingham Road, and collected

us there. The Youngs have a very nice house not far from Rosetta, and that night Colonel Young and I sat up late talking South African politics; at least, he did most of the talking and gave me an insight to the political situation from the point of view of a British settler. On the next day we were taken for a drive round the district, and spent a quiet afternoon, for which we were very glad. On 22nd February we left Rosetta by train for Tweedie, to pay a second visit to Miss Morton.

We had two pleasant and peaceful days at Tweedie. I managed to get a morning's fishing in the Yarrow River, some thirty miles from Tweedie. It is an uncommonly difficult stream to fish as the banks are very much overgrown with dense vegetation, and one has to be extremely careful not to get one's cast entangled. I got three fish, averaging about half a pound, two of which I kept and put the third, a rainbow trout, rather smaller than the others, back into the water. I was rather pleased with myself, in that I managed to keep my cast intact, and did not lose a fly.

Miss Morton, our hostess, had heard from my wife that we contemplated a trip from Durban into Zululand, but were rather dreading the very dreary and hot train journey from Durban to Eshowe. At the time she made no comment, but soon afterwards came to tell my wife that she had "decided" that we were to take her car, a large 30-h.p. Ford saloon, go in it to Durban, and keep it for at least a week, during which period we could carry out our visit to Eshowe and Zululand, and that she would collect it at Durban. Her chauffeur, a Zulu who spoke a little English, would be in charge of the car. Protests at such kindness were unavailing, and on the afternoon of 24th February we left Tweedie for Durban, covering the seventy-four miles in two and a quarter hours. We put up at the Marine Hotel, where we were very comfortable, with our own private bathroom, overlooking the harbour.

On the following day we left for Eshowe at about 9 a.m., along a road which ran through a country every yard of which appeared to be under sugar cane. The road was excellent, the country uninteresting. We lunched at Stanger, and after leaving that place the country began to get more interesting. We crossed the Tugela not far from the point where it runs into the sea. Here the Tugela is some 440 yards wide, and when we crossed it by the iron bridge it was in full spate, and a very fine sight. Soon after crossing the Tugela the road begins to rise, and our final climb through a narrow, twisting, gorge was the best part of the drive. We put up at the Royal Hotel, a very comfortable place.

Eshowe lies along a ridge at a height of about 1,800 feet above sea-level. It has an almost perfect climate, warm and dry by day and cool at night. The population is essentially British, with a big proportion of Scotsmen. At one end of the town is the Fort, now used as a gaol, into which the inhabitants used to retire in the troublous times of the Zulu Wars. It has an excellent golf course, with greens and fairways as good as many first-class courses in Great Britain. It also has a very fine water supply. In fact, as a spot in which to spend a peaceful, and not too expensive an existence, Eshowe has very much to recommend it. I should say it is an absolute paradise for children. The run by car to Durban takes about three hours: the road is about 75 per cent. tarmac and is in process of being made absolutely first-class. In fact, both my wife and I fell in love with the place, and if ever we go back to South Africa we will certainly put in a longer stay there than we were able to do on this occasion.

On the morning after our arrival the proprietor of the hotel accompanied us in the car on a trip round the town and environs. We visited the waterworks, the fort and the cemetery, in which we saw the graves of officers and men who had died whilst on service in the Zulu War. The graves of four midshipmen of H.M.S. *Active*, who all died in Eshowe during the Zulu War in 1879, made a pathetic group. I expect that they had all developed coastal malaria and were sent up to Eshowe too late. There were also graves of officers and men of the Royal Scots,

Leicestershire Regiment and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. These cemeteries have been well looked after, but shortly before our arrival at Eshowe there had been a tornado of wind, which had swept along a narrow front, doing an enormous amount of damage. Unfortunately the cemetery was in its line and had suffered severely, a number of trees having been uprooted.

In the afternoon we went out for about fifteen miles in the car, accompanied by a youngster of about eighteen, who was of pure British stock, but who had been born and brought up in Eshowe. He spoke Zulu perfectly, and could do all the "clicks" which form part of the Zulu language, and are found so difficult for Europeans to reproduce. We went to a kraal, a little distance off the road, and interviewed the "Induna," or head man. He was a fine old boy, of pure Zulu stock and, like all such, he had very good manners, and also a sense of humour. All the ladies of the kraal were at work in the fields, but on our representing that we wished to see him and all his family in full dress, or rather undress, he at once agreed. Whilst the ladies of the establishment were donning their ceremonial kit we all sat down under the shade of a tree and had a chat. The old boy had been a warrior. He was too young at the time of the Zulu War to take part, but he remembered it all right. My wife asked the interpreter to ask him how many wives he had, and he said he had four. The interpreter then said that I had only one wife, to which the old boy replied that he knew Englishmen only had one wife, but that one wife was no use at all to the likes of him. On this being translated to us I told the interpreter to tell him that a good many Englishmen were also of his opinion. On this being translated the old boy turned round and said something to the men of the kraal, who were behind him, which produced a roar of laughter. Being unwilling to be left out of the joke I asked the interpreter what he had said and the reply was that the old boy had said to his men that he had always felt that the Zulus had the right idea!

That evening there was a cinema show in the Town Hall, which was well attended. It was a good film but I had seen it in England some three years before.

On the following day we motored back to Durban, taking just three hours to do the trip. At Stanger we stopped and visited Chaka's grave, which is just beside the main road. For those who may not know who Chaka was I recommend a study of Rider Haggard's book, "Nada the Lily." On the afternoon of 28th February we went in the car to visit a seaside place some fifteen miles south of Durban, called Amanzimtoti, which, in Zulu, means "Sweet Water." I first knew it in 1901 as a very pleasant spot in which to spend a week's leave. In those days there was just a railway halt and a wooden hotel. You bathed from the hotel in a lagoon, which lay just inside a sand bar between it and the sea, and was consequently free from sharks; it was an altogether delightful spot. Now it is a seaside resort, with hundreds of bungalows, several hotels, and a railway station. When I first knew it there was no road to it, only a railway. Now there is a first-class motor road and the place is, to my mind, completely spoiled. Even the lagoon was muddy. All the coast south of Durban is being spoiled with "bungaloid growth."

On the following day Miss Morton came and collected her car. Owing to her kindness my wife and I had been able to accomplish our trip to Eshowe in the greatest comfort, and we both were, and still are, most grateful to her.

That afternoon we were taken by friends to a beauty spot north of Durban called Umhlanga—pronounced Umlanga. This is well worth seeing as there are fine rocks and the surrounding country is rather beautiful when you get away from the sugar canes and down to sea-level. We had tea at an hotel just above the sea, a very pleasant spot.

On 3rd March we embarked in the *Edinburgh Castle* for Capetown, where we meant to spend a few days before going home. When I got down to our cabin I found a smiling steward awaiting me. His face was familiar, and I found

he was an old Queen's man. The result was that I don't think I have ever been so well looked after in my life. My wife used to complain that she could never get on with her toilette because he and I used to occupy the cabin and talk regimental shop when she wanted to change!

The journey to Capetown was uneventful and we arrived there early on the morning of 7th March. We disembarked soon after 8 a.m. and as we were walking through the docks on the way to our hotel we saw the guard of honour drawn up to receive Admiral G. D'O. Lyon, who had just arrived by mailboat from England to take over the command at Simonstown. I used to know him in the days before the war, when he played full back at Rugby for the Navy and England—and a very fine full back he was.

We put up at the Mount Nelson Hotel, which is very comfortable, and is situated above the town and with splendid views of Table Mountain. As the weather was fine and clear we went up to the top of Table Mountain that afternoon by aerial cable. You have to choose your weather for this trip. If the "table cloth" is covering the top of the mountain there is no view. If there is much wind the aerial car cannot run on account of the tremendous amount of swing which a side wind imparts to it. The day was perfect, a clear atmosphere, and no wind. You go by motor-car, or on foot, up the lower slopes of the mountain, and embark in an aerial car which hangs from a cable. It is a most fearsome journey for those who don't like looking down from a height. You rise from 1,100 feet to 3,500 feet in a distance of 1,300-odd yards, and for the last part of the journey you are going up almost perpendicularly. The cable seems such a frail support for the car, and one wonders what it must be like with a good broadside breeze blowing. A sailor I know confessed to me that when he went up and down he sat on the bottom of the car and shut his eyes all the way!

You get the most wonderful view of Table Bay and Capetown from it, and from the top of Table Mountain the views in every direction are magnificent. No one who visits Capetown should fail to take this trip. The young and energetic can save their fares and go by one of the several routes up the mountain, but should take a guide. The top of the mountain is flat, but covered with stones, and ladies going up should wear strong shoes, as an ordinary pair will suffer severely if any walking is done on the top. When you reach the top by car you are warned that if you hear a hooter you must hurry back to the car as either wind or fog is impending.

On the following day we went by car to Constantia and visited what was the house of Jan Van Riebeck, a Dutch Governor. This is now a Government vineyard, and the house is kept in its original state. It was vintage time and the grapes were being picked. All round that part there are many vineyards.

On 9th March we took a car for the day and drove out to Elgin to visit a fruit farm owned by a connection of the family. We left after breakfast, and after many miles along the flat we mounted by Sir Lowry's Pass, from the top of which we had a fine view back towards Table Bay. We arrived at the farm at about noon, and after lunch we went over it and watched the selecting and packing of the fruit. We left at 3 p.m. and returned by a different route via Viljoen's Pass and Fyranz Hoek, a fine road about five years old and very largely built along the rock face. It wound up and down, with hairpin corners, and amid fine scenery, till we made the steep descent into Fyranz village, and home via Stellenbosch. We brought back with us a box of specially selected apples from the farm, presented to us by our host. They were placed in cold storage during the voyage home, and arrived in perfect condition.

We were due to leave in the *Llandoverly Castle* on the 10th, but heard that the ship could not sail till the morning of the 11th. We shifted our kit on board during the morning, and in the afternoon went by car to visit Groote Schuur, which was Cecil Rhodes's home, and is now used as the official residence of the Prime Minister.

Unfortunately there was a garden party on there, and we could not get in. However, we visited Rhodes Memorial, which is magnificently situated on high ground, looking over Capetown and Table Bay. We dined on board, and I was awakened at 6 a.m. on 11th March by the ship leaving harbour *en route* for England.

The voyage home was uneventful, the only excitement being at St. Helena, where we landed the new Governor, who had embarked at Capetown. He was greeted on board by the members of his Council, all in top hats and morning coats. It was a very hot day, and they fairly dripped! We paid a second visit ashore in the hope of finding my great-grandfather's grave, but without success.

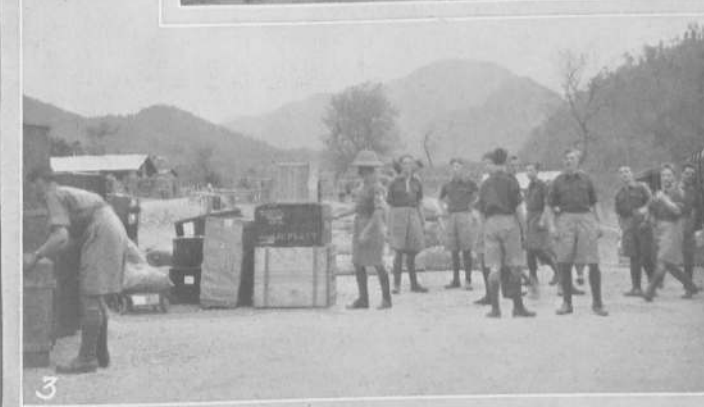
The remainder of the voyage was uneventful and we arrived at Southampton early on Friday, 1st April, a perfect day, fine and warm, and a very pleasant termination to a most interesting trip.

PICTURE-BOARD DUMMIES OF GRENADIERS OF THE QUEEN'S

IT was about sixty years ago when The Queen's first heard with surprise and delight that there were, at the County Hotel, Carlisle, two very well-carved and painted picture-board dummies, life-size, of grenadiers of the Regiment. These dummies were dressed in the uniform worn in the early part of the eighteenth century—a red frock-coat with breastplate and cuffs of peacock blue piped with white, knee breeches, white stockings and mitre-shaped hat. They were armed with musket, bayonet, and sword, and they carried one large pouch for grenades and another, smaller, pouch for bullets and powder. The connection of the dummies with the Regiment was assured by the fact that, on the caps of both men the regimental badge, the Lamb, could be seen in a bright green field, and round the Lamb the first regimental motto: "*Pristinæ virtutis memor.*" In addition, as King George I was a widower, the Regiment had, in 1714, become for the moment The Princess of Wales's Own, and the three feathers were therefore worn on the caps above the Lamb.

Nothing authentic is known of the history of these almost unique trophies, but it seems probable that they were painted and made about 1715, when two companies of the Regiment were quartered in Carlisle, and that they were then used by some ex-soldier of the Regiment as signs outside an inn that he was keeping. At any rate in 1853 they were at the Bush Hotel in Carlisle, and were then moved to the County Hotel.

It goes without saying that the Regiment made many attempts to buy these figures, but it was not until August, 1938, that Colonel R. G. Clarke, who not very long ago commanded one of the battalions of The Queen's, was able to persuade the Directors of the County Hotel that the proper home for the figures was with the Regiment. Colonel Clarke, who then bought the figures, has most generously presented them to the Regiment. They have been cleaned and restored under the care of the Antique Art Galleries of Grafton Street, and they are now in the Regimental Museum of The Queen's at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford.



1. THE BATTALION MARCHING OUT TO TRAINING CAMP.
2. THE MOVE TO THE HILLS: Families breakfasting at Lucknow.
3. THE MOVE TO THE HILLS: Unloading Baggage at Kathgodam.

2nd BATTALION

(Tulkarm, Palestine)

A VERY great change has come to the mode of life of most of the members of this Battalion during the past six months. We have been dug up from the "peaceful" (shades of the September crisis and A.R.P.!) soil of the Isle of Wight and transferred to the rocky hills of Samaria.

On 1st December, Major B. C. Haggard, Major J. F. K. Ponsford, Capt. A. U. H. Hackett Pain, Lieut. D. de S. Barrow and Lieut. R. P. Mangles joined the Battalion from the 1st Battalion. Before leaving England we said *au revoir* to Capt. D. L. A. Gibbs, H. Wood, T. H. Dyke and J. Sykes-Wright, and 2/Lieut. A. E. W. Lockyer, the first three having gone to Camberley, Capt. Sykes-Wright to the R.M.C. as a Company Officer and lecturer on current affairs, and 2/Lieut. Lockyer to the 1st Battalion. We were most sorry to lose them and we cannot help being glad that it is Capt. Sykes-Wright and not ourselves who is responsible for trying to keep *au fait* with what goes on in the world at the present time!

On 19th November, Major H. P. Combe left England with a small Advance Party for Palestine, to be attached to The Royal Scots in Tulkarm as part of the 14th Infantry Brigade with Headquarters at Nablus.

On 8th December, Major-General D. K. Bernard, Commander, 3rd Division, came down to bid farewell to the Battalion. He saw us on parade and spoke to all ranks.

On 12th December, Lieut.-General Sir A. P. Wavell, G.O.C.-in-Chief, Southern Command, came down and spoke to all ranks in the gymnasium. General Wavell had only lately returned from Palestine and spoke from first-hand knowledge.

By this time the Battalion was plunged in all the chaos of upheaval attendant on the departure of a home-service Battalion for abroad. The Quartermaster, in particular, must have been overjoyed at the endless stream of new equipment which was issued to him almost up to the day of departure.

We were very sad at having to say farewell to Capt. Gibbs at the end of his tenure of the Adjutancy, and we all wish him and the other officers left behind the very best of luck in their new spheres.

Christmas leave, with its cold spell and consequent dislocation of traffic, only just allowed time for us to get back before the date of departure, but on 31st December, at a very early hour, we were all astir and marched out in the dark to cross to Southampton by the Ryde Ferry, leaving behind many well-known faces among the "Details." Good luck to them wherever they may go in the future. With them we left Major Ponsford, in command, and 2/Lieut. E. A. W. Lockyer, to wait for his boat to India, *en route* for the 1st Battalion.

His Worship the Mayor of Newport, with his wife and the Corporation, were kind enough to rise in the very small hours to come and see us off. We were very grateful to them, not only for this act of courtesy, but for all the kindness they had shown us during our stay on the Island.

We were given a wonderful send-off from Southampton by numbers of past and present members of the Regiment, in addition to families and friends who had managed to come down to say *au revoir*. We also received a telegram from Her Majesty Queen Mary, wishing good luck to the 2nd Battalion of Her Regiment, and from a great number of other well-wishers. It was impossible, at the time, to thank all the senders, but we assure them that we greatly appreciated their kind thoughts.

The voyage was rather rough, but otherwise uneventful, except for having to put in at Gibraltar to disembark Cpl. Travers for an operation for appendicitis. We are glad to say he has since rejoined us out here, looking none the worse.

Several of us have had previous voyages on the *Nevasa*, and although she is old in the trooping service she has her good points. The Captain and the Troop Officer might both well be included among these, and we are very grateful to them for their kindness and help throughout the voyage.

"C" Company carried off the Tug-of-war in great style, and "A" Company the C.O.'s prize for the best Mess table. The Battalion also showed up well in the individual boxing competitions. The weather and the short duration of the voyage, however, both militated against getting very much done while we were aboard.

The state of the Battalion marching out from Parkhurst was 23 officers, 12 warrant officers and 559 other ranks.

We arrived at Haifa on 10th January and had a very pretty view of Mount Hermon with its snow cap all pink in the morning sun. We did not disembark that day except for "B" Company, under Major Veasey, who went ahead to take over duties from The Royal Scots, who were to embark the following morning.

On board we had already made the acquaintance of our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. R. Godwin-Austin, O.B.E., M.C., and we were now greeted by our Divisional Commander, an old friend in the person of Major-General B. L. Montgomery, D.S.O., who came down and saw the troops on the quay, picking out many familiar faces and recalling incidents from the time when he commanded our Brigade before being promoted to command the 8th Division in Palestine.

On the morning of 11th January we disembarked and were taken over the forty-odd miles to Tulkarm, our new "house," in Jewish motor-buses escorted by armoured cars of the 11th Hussars. We reached our destination in the afternoon, and in heavy rain which did not make it look its best.

Brigadier Harrison, the departing Brigade Commander, came to see us as soon as we arrived, and gave us a most interesting talk and description of the conditions and type of work which we might expect. We then settled down to find our feet.

"A" Company took over the posts at Baqa al Gharbiya and Deir al Ghusun. "D" Company went to Qalqilya and the remainder were accommodated in Tulkarm, with "B" Company in the girls' school about 400 yards away. It says much for the state of the country that it was necessary to have an armed escort to go and visit "B" Company, even in daylight.

Tulkarm is situated on the road from Nablus to the coast and is on the edge of the plain of Sharon with the hills on one side and the low-lying fertile plain on the other. It is also on the dividing line between the Jewish and Arab spheres of influence. Baqa is about twelve kilos further north, and Qalqilya about fourteen kilos to the south.

The surroundings are full of the most interesting views and reminders of the past history of this most interesting country, but it is very difficult to get about and visit any of them as an escort is always necessary and operations do not leave much spare time.

Since we have been here the rebellion has died down considerably in these parts. The absence of many leaders in Syria, and the expectation of favourable results from the London Conference have both contributed to this, but there are now signs of recrudescence of active revolt. There is no doubt that the ordinary villager is heartily tired of the present conditions and only wants to be left to get on with his work, but they are completely terrorized and the nature of the country makes it impossible to guarantee them protection.

Most of our work consists of surrounding villages at night and searching them for men and arms after daylight. We have had hardly any brushes with the



THE BATTALION MARCHING ON TO THE PIER AT COWES ON THE WAY TO EMBARK FOR PALESTINE.



HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MAYORESS, taking the Salute from the 2nd Battalion when leaving Albany Barracks, Parkhurst, to embark for Palestine.

enemy in the open, and his present tactics are confined to squeezing money from the villages and sniping posts, Jewish colonies, police stations and convoys.

We have been lucky in one or two of our ventures and have received some very kind remarks from our higher commanders. We pride ourselves on holding the Brigade record for the greatest number of rifles captured in one day—twelve.

It must, in fairness, be admitted that after making allowances for growing experience and the knowledge of "where to look," coupled with some hard work and perseverance, the only other contributing factor is "luck."

On 28th January, Pte. D. W. Elsey was seriously injured in a motor accident and subsequently succumbed to his injuries. All ranks extend their deep sympathy to his family. He is buried in the R.A.F. Cemetery, Ramle.

Major F. E. B. Girling, M.C., and Capt. C. D. H. Parsons have recently joined from England. The latter is at present acting as Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters. Lieut. D. de S. Barrow is doing Staff Captain, 16th Infantry Brigade, Lieut. R. P. Mangles is in charge of a Jewish platoon used for patrolling the electric pylons and the railway, and 2/Lieut. J. D. Sparkes is also on a staff job in Haifa.

The photographs in this JOURNAL will cause some surprise at the various forms of dress on operations, but it must be understood that most of the work consists of crawling about the hills in the dark and searching filthy Arab houses and villages, so that looks give way to serviceability where our clothes are concerned.

The truth of many sayings in Holy Writ is being more and more forcibly brought home to us from day to day (or should we say "from night to night"?) for "Some fell upon stony ground," but on the other hand if we lift up our eyes unto the hills it is not because "thence cometh our help."

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a photograph of the only members of the Battalion who were with it when it was last on service, on the North-West Frontier in 1921.

We hope that they are an inspiration to the remainder!

Sergeants' Mess.

Prior to leaving Parkhurst for Palestine we held a farewell dinner and dance to which were invited the wives and friends of members. This function also served as a farewell to those who were leaving the Service. After the dinner the Mess was used for dancing, and in the words of certain prophets, "a good time was had by all." All the departing members and a number of other people made speeches which were borne bravely.

Before we proceed further we wish farewell and the best of luck to R.Q.M.S. Collins, C.S.M. Chapman, C./Sergt. Hooper and Sergt. Holdaway, who have left the Regiment, all of whom, and the R.Q.M.S. in particular, always had the interest of the Mess at heart.

We have left with the Details at Hounslow a couple of stalwarts, one mentally and the other figuratively so. In addition, Sergts. Nye and Houchin have gone to the Depot. For them it can hold no terrors since they already bear the burden. At this point we thank the members of the Depot Mess who came to see us off. They all seemed very pleased with life, or perhaps that is merely the biased observation of one who was expecting to become very seasick.

Before leaving England a number of people were married. We would not have known about this except for Part II Orders. It seems quite fashionable to keep the business very secret. Further comment here would be superfluous. Anyway, we duly congratulate P.S.M. Wyles and Sergts. Collins and Southon. If any have been missed it is because even Part II Orders shed no light upon what is presumably a very serious step in this life.

At this stage we sailed for this land of wailing walls, wailing women and general hopelessness. The voyage was uneventful. The usual people were sick in the

usual places, and others were offensively hearty. There were other things, of course. Darts matches and the sharp end pretty well covers the voyage. It seems that darts are omniscient, and if ability proves misspent youth then a number of pasts will not bear investigation. Darts is now almost the sole indoor recreation of a lot of people. In some cases one hesitates at the word indoor. Euchre has taken a very definite back seat—another sign of the times we suppose. This will doubtless shock a moustache or two, and some Regimental celebrities will shake a wise old head and murmur in their sleep about what things are coming to.

We acquired a Mess Room towards the end of February which has been quite comfortably furnished. Of course the only people who benefit permanently are those of H.Q. The remainder of us spend our time between a number of most peculiar places. Let it be whispered that at one billet there was, and is, no refreshment for odd droppers-in. This sad deficiency shook one or two people to the foundations. We will not dwell unnecessarily on the meaning of the word refreshment.

We are split up into five separate camps and so of normal mess life there is very little. People are even too busy to play darts, which is a shocking commentary on the times and places in which we find ourselves.

We occasionally bump into odd people on what we are pleased to call operations. These reunions are extremely touching. Everybody tells everybody else what a thoroughly miserable time is being had by their respective selves. They then discuss "oozling" experiences over what tea there is to be had and wish heartily for something stronger. It will be seen by now that life is just one round of gaiety. Mark you, there are members whom we never see on these festive occasions. Rumour has it that one such occasionally suns himself outside his perimeter with a haversack ration. There are others known as "essentials," a beautiful word, who never use a mess tin nor chew a biscuit anywhere near wire.

A couple of members have, as a result of their activities, acquired nicknames. One has been christened Nell Gwynne. Everybody presumably knows who, and why. Air co-operation has caused another to be likened unto Anna Neagle in the twilight of her most famous rôle.

At this stage we will congratulate all those myriads of people on their temporary promotions, and Sergt. Hacker on becoming substantive (we nearly misspelled the last three letters in a fit of idle dreaming).

We also congratulate C./Sergt. Fower and Sergt. Harcup on their completing the First Class Certificate of Education.

We take this opportunity of wishing *bon voyage* to Sergts. Wilshaw, Large, Clark and Vidler on their departure to join the 1st Battalion in India.

Corporals' Mess.

By the time of going to press it will be approximately three months since our arrival in the "Land of Milk and Honey." It was with regret that we had to leave the dear old Island after a very enjoyable stay, during which period we made so many friends. As a fitting climax to our stay a Farewell Ball was held during November, and it was such a success that it was suggested that this should have only been a preliminary rehearsal, and that another one should be held later!

Our departure from the Island will no doubt be described in greater detail elsewhere in the JOURNAL, so we will not dwell on it.

On the boat, the "House" was aptly run by members of the Corporals' Mess. Also the "Outboard 'Mal-de-mer' Challenge Cup" was easily won by L./Cpl. Sumner. We hope he will repeat his performance on the return journey!

Until recently, the Corporals' Mess was a room in the Kadoorie School. This room was very small and there was hardly room to swing the proverbial cat! However, we now have a hut right on the perimeter of the billet, which is very comfortable and more homely. The only disadvantage at the moment is the lack

2nd BATTALION



OFFICERS, N.C.O.s. AND MEN STILL SERVING IN THE BATTALION WHO SAW SERVICE WITH IT IN WAZIRISTAN IN 1921.

Back Row—L./Cpl. Dudley; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter; Cpl. Poulter.
Middle Row—R.Q.M.S. Buckenham, M.M.; P.S.M. Smith; Sergt. Wells, D.C.M., M.M.; Pte. Peters.
Front Row—Major Combe; Lieut.-Colonel Ross, D.S.O., M.C.; Major Haggard; Capt. and Qmr. Waspe.

of a decent wireless set—our super sleuth informs us that there is a grave danger of getting a new one some time!

There is absolutely no possibility of entertaining, as our nearest neighbours are about ten miles away (this does not, of course, include Arabs).

A certain ginger-haired corporal has received so many rewards for finding rifles, etc., that he now walks round the billet with his nose to the ground, sniffing very hard. The uninitiated may like to know that the name of this sniff is the "oozling sniff."

We have heard from many various sources that the corporals at Hounslow are keeping up the good work and have everything well organized for our return—good show, "Chalky"!

Promotions, both temporary and otherwise, are far too many to enumerate but we would like to extend our hearty congratulations to all those who have passed into the Sergeants' Mess and also to all new members of the Corporals' Mess.

M.T. Notes.

In this country there is a rule that one drives on the right of the road. One day I was sitting next to the driver of the leading vehicle of a convoy. Every time we met an oncoming Arab lorry we rushed at it, and only escaped death by a frightful last-second swerve by our driver. After four or five escapes I suggested that we might swerve a little earlier, and less suddenly. The reply was: "It's these ——— Wogs. They all drive on the right of the road." We had only been in the country about three weeks.

The Quartermaster goes frequently, very frequently, to Haifa, Sarafand and other places, with convoys of stores, etc. Somehow he nearly always forgets to bring something back with him. We then have to dispatch an escort to retrieve it. We think there is something organized in this forgetfulness, because the Quartermaster always volunteers to go with the retrieving escort. They say Tel Aviv is a very jolly place.

One of our columns, Haycol, is rather unlucky with its M.T. Whenever one meets the column on the road, several of its vehicles are on tow. It rather reminds one of the circus parade one used to see with the elephants in procession, holding each other's tails with their trunks. Our M.T. Sergeant is rather rude. The other day he said to the N.C.O. in charge of Haycol's M.T.: "Your column ought to change its name; you ought to be Towcol, not Haycol."

Not long ago the Assistant-Superintendent of Police came and complained that the wall round the police billet had been knocked down by one of our vehicles. He was quite jolly about it and said that it could be repaired on the "old boy" system. The next day I noticed that it was nicely repaired. The following day an officer requested a truck to take him to the police billet. He said that he would drive himself. I passed the police billet that afternoon—the wall was down again.

"Smudger" is disconsolate to-day. "Smudger" drives the M.T.O.'s P.U. He drives it very well. He also takes great pride in the turn-out and maintenance of the P.U. Yesterday someone else drove "Smudger's" P.U. and put the blunt end of a camel through the windscreen. "Smudger" is disconsolate to-day.

M.T. is irresistible bait, especially when it is to be parked, or manoeuvred in any way. There is a greedy rush to the scene. An army of people appear from nowhere: the scene is a forest of waving arms, all beckoning in different directions. The result is indescribable chaos. Vehicles are abandoned nose to nose, sideways on, just where they happen to get wedged. When complete deadlock is reached the army of controllers depart. The cry goes up, "Where are the M.T. Personnel?" But there is no reply. They have been swept aside and trampled underfoot in the first rush.

At night the scene would be an education to the wallah who runs the torchlight evolutions at the Aldershot Tattoo. Each hand in the forest clutches a torch. Some go this way, some go that. Some describe right-hand circles, others describe left-hand circles. All combine in a delightful and colourful display. The grand finale is beautifully staged when the M.T. Sergeant is trapped between a truck and a donkey-lorry, and a water-cart runs over his toe.

There are only two people who can control M.T. traffic: the M.T.O. and the M.T. Sergeant. I am the M.T.O. I have just been knocked down by an armoured leader.

[From the above it would appear that the M.T. was a somewhat inefficient department. Let us hasten to say that without them we could do nothing, and that we owe them a very deep debt of gratitude.—EDITOR.]

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS AND CAPTURES OF MATERIAL FROM 12TH JANUARY, 1939, TO 3RD APRIL, 1939, INCLUSIVE.

I. CORDON CHECK AND SEARCH.

- 13/1/39. Two platoons Roycol and two platoons Qaldet cordoned Kh. Beit Amin, where Aref Abdul Razzek was reported to be having a feast. Result: A horse belonging to the rebels was taken. A rebel court was sitting, but managed to escape.
- 16/1/39. Bugdet reinforced by one platoon Fancol. Surrounded and searched a house in Baqa Al Gharbiya, where a rebel court was supposed to be assembling. There was no result.
Roycol and one platoon Qaldet carried out a check and search of Habla village. One man was arrested. 121 rounds S.A.A., a recapping machine, a rifle bolt and a quantity of contraband tobacco were found.
- 18/1/39. Roycol, Fancol, plus the Ration Platoon, and one platoon Qaldet carried out a check and search of At-Tira. 26 prisoners were brought back; some of these were members of El Haq's gang.
- 21/1/39. Qaldet and one platoon Fancol checked and searched Miska and Jaljulya orange groves. Nil result.
- 23/1/39. Roycol checked and searched Anabta and Kafr Lebad. Fancol checked and searched Beit Lid and Saffarin. Nil result.
- 27/1/39. Roycol, Fancol, Mechanized Squadron Royals and two platoons R.W.K. Regiment, checked and searched At-Tira. 12 arrests were made.
- 30/1/39. Roycol, Fancol, Ration Platoon with Airpin assisted in check and search of Azzun. Faris Azzuni's house was demolished. Result: 6 arrests, 1 revolver, and a quantity of ammunition were found.
- 2/2/39. Roycol, Fancol searched and checked Kafr Lebad. Result: Two men were found hiding in a pile of tibben. They had rifles near them—arrested.
One mauser rifle, 1 S.M.L.E. rifle, 5 cartridge belts, 1 landmine outfit, 156 rounds S.A.A.
A satchel containing rebel documents. (These subsequently proved of great importance.)
- 7/2/39. Roycol assisted 1st Border Regt. in check and search of Qabatiya and found 1 landmine.
- 10/2/39. Roycol, Fancol, Bugdet, Ration Platoon and one platoon Qaldet checked and searched Kaffin and Attil, Fancol checked Zeita. Result: 15 arrests, 1 suit of "oozle" uniform.



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AT TULKARM.



MAJOR VEASEY, LT.-COL. ROSS AND MAJOR HAGGARD LUNCHING WITH THE MUKHTAR IN THE SCHOOL AT AZZUN.

- 12/2/39. Roycol, Fancol, Ration Platoon checked and searched Azzun. Qaldet searched Isla, and Howcol searched Kafr Thulth. Result: 22 arrests, 7 fused shells, 1 suit of "oozle" uniform, 100 rounds S.A.A., 14 shotgun cartridges, and several other items.
- 15/2/39. Roycol, Bugdet checked and searched Bata'a. Nil result.
- 18/2/39. Roycol, Fancol checked and searched Qalansuwa. Result: 20 arrests, 1 round S.A.A. and some contraband tobacco.
- 20/2/39. Roycol, Fancol, Ration Platoon, one platoon Bugdet, one platoon Ghudet, one platoon Qaldet, with Howcol and Mancol checked and searched Azzun, Jayous Kafr Thulth. Result: 11 arrests.
- 22/2/39. Fancol, Bugdet and Ration Platoon checked and searched Kaffin in co-operation with the Royals. Result: 3 arrests and a large quantity of tobacco found.
- 28/2/39. Fancol, Roycol, Qaldet, Bugdet, Ghudet in co-operation with the Royals checked and searched Shuweika. Result: 28 arrests, 234 rounds S.A.A., 11 rounds pistol, 1 rifle, 2 revolvers and several other items.
- 2/3/39. Roycol, Fancol, Bugdet, Qaldet, Ghudet checked and searched Anabta and Kafr Rumman. Result: 9 arrests, 4 rounds S.A.A., 1 "oozle" suit and a bayonet were found.
- 4/3/39. One platoon Roycol and one platoon Qaldet, assisted by Fancol, checked and searched Kafr Rumman. Result: 10 arrests, 5 rifles, 796 rounds S.A.A. and 2 pairs of binoculars were found.
- 7/3/39. Roycol, Fancol, Bugdet, Ghudet, Qaldet checked and searched At-Taiyiba and Fardistiya. Result: 500 rounds S.A.A., 3 rifles, 2 revolvers, 8 grenades, 1 mortar bomb, 1 landmine, 30 yards telephone cable, 10 red Very lights.
- 11/3/39. Roycol, Fancol and Bugdet cordoned, checked and searched Dannaba. Abdul Rahim Ali, secretary to the late Abdul Rahim, was arrested. Other result: 15 suspects detained.
- 26/3/39. Two sections Qaldet in co-operation with Mancol checked and searched Kafr Zebad and Kafr Jammal. Result: 25 detained and 2 wounded by the air.
- 29/3/39. Fancol, Roycol. 2 sections Qaldet and Bn. Headquarters checked and searched Bala. Results: 1 man detained, 1 cordon breaker shot dead and 2 wounded. One suit of "oozle" uniform was found.
- 31/3/39. Ghudet searched and checked Kh. Yamma. Result: 2 men detained.
- 1/4/39. Fancol, Roycol checked and searched At-Taiyiba. Result: 9 men detained and 4 hostages.

Note.—The operations at Bala in connection with Abdul Rahim's arsenal and store have not been included in the above. They led to important finds in material and documents.

2. SNAP RAIDS.

- 26/1/39. Qaldet raided a house in Qalqilia. Nil result.
- 11/2/39. Bugdet raided 4 houses in Baqa al Gharbiya and Baqa Ash-Sharkiya. Result: 4 arrests.
- 18/2/39. Qaldet raided 2 houses in Qalqilia. Result: Several empty gunpowder flasks and 1 half full were found, also some empty shotgun cartridges. Two men were arrested.
- 25/2/39. Bugdet raided An Nazla al Gusta. Result: 4 men arrested and a quantity of gunpowder found.

- 6/3/39. Bugdet raided a house in Baqa al Gharbiya and arrested a youth said to be Abdullah Assad's messenger.
- 14/3/39. Qaldet searched house and surroundings to the west of Kefar Melal. Result: Nil.
- 17/3/39. Qaldet snap raid on a house in Kafr Saba. Result: 1 man was wounded whilst trying to bolt, but no arms were found.
- 19/3/39. Two sections H.Q. and Police made a snap raid on a house in Faroun in an endeavour to capture a well-known gang leader, but he was not "At Home."
- 22/3/39. Ghudet raided a house in D.A.G. Nil result.
- 30/3/39. Ghudet searched a house near Zeita. Nil result.
- 31/3/39. Qaldet searched some houses in Qalqilia and detained 3 suspects.
- 5/3/39. Roycol, Fancol raided house in Attil in search of Abdulla Assad. Nil result.

3. PATROLS.

- 20/1/39. A patrol from Qaldet shot a curfew breaker in Qalqilia.
- 1/2/39. A Police patrol riding near Shuweika discovered a man asleep under a wall. A search of the surroundings produced a Mauser automatic.
- 1/2/39. The road patrol found the body of a gangster in the road. Later they were sniped from Windy Corner.
- 6/3/39. A road patrol from Spida travelling on the Tulkarm—Nathanya road were heavily sniped. One platoon Qaldet went out to assist. Enemy casualties unknown.
- 4/3/39. One platoon Qaldet patrolled to Jaljulya. Nil result.
- 9/3/39. Qaldet patrol on Miska track. Nil result.
- 15/3/39. Ghudet patrolled to D.A.G. as a result of shooting. Nil result.
- 18/3/39. Qaldet took over the railway patrol from Kilo 75 to 88.
- 23/3/39. Patrol was fired on at 700—800 yards' range from west of point 16702071.
- 29/3/39. Bugdet patrolled to Jatt and Nazla Isa.
- 1/4/39. Bugdet patrol to Zeita.

4. SEARCHES OF AREAS.

- 4/3/39. Acting on information that Abdul Rahim had buried all his arms and ammunition in and around a house near Bala, one platoon Roycol proceeded to the house, and as a result of very successful finds stayed the night. The following day Fancol, Qaldet and the remainder of Roycol joined in the search. An extensive search of the area resulted in some very good finds.

5. POINTS OF INTEREST.

- 28/3/39. The Commander-in-Chief of the Rebel forces in Palestine was killed by The Border Regt. Also another very well-known gang leader, Sulciman Abu Khleifi.

Total checks and searches, 24.

Total snap raids, 11.

Searches of Areas, 1.

Patrols, 11.

Note.—There was also a road patrol every night on the Nablus road until the middle of March, when it was taken over by the 11th Hussars.

TOTAL FINDS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO DATE.

Rifles, 32.	Complete landmines, 1.
Revolvers, 4.	Dynamite, 249 sticks.
Shotguns, 3.	Detonators, 232.
Rifle ammunition, 5,047 rounds (approx.).	Gunpowder, 19 lb.
Revolver ammunition, 112 rounds.	Hand grenades, 10.
Shotgun cartridges, 78.	Shells and bombs (live), 20.
Uniform, equipment, landmine material, gelignite caps, recapping machines, etc., and a number of important rebel documents.	

BAQA AL GHARBIYA POST.

"A" Company took over the post at Baqa al Gharbiya on arrival, on 12th January, 1939.

The post stands on a hill overlooking the village and the mountains to the east. To the west are fertile plains, and a glimpse of the sea can be seen.

Huts have been built and it includes a N.A.A.F.I. and cage for Arab prisoners. The perimeter has Bren, mortar and rifle posts, and thick barbed wire. The post is self-contained in every way and has its own wireless and transport, and is able to move at a moment's notice, in any direction.

Our first excitement came very soon after our arrival in the form of a good sniping by the bandits from long range. Posts were manned and Bren guns opened fire in the direction of the flashes of the rifles. The bandits did not stay long, and within fifteen minutes peace reigned again in the camp. At first work was hard for the troops: by day defences had to be strengthened and at night there were patrols to the villages to arrest wanted people. Besides this, the Company frequently co-operated with the Battalion in its operations from Tulkarm.

Other operations consisted of curfew patrols and visits to the various villages in the vicinity of the post. One day a patrol was taken out to the mountains to verify a report that bandits moved about in the late afternoons. As the patrol moved across the foothills it was fired on by a few bandits at a long range. Bren guns were brought into action and two sections moved out to the flanks to try and cut off the enemy. It soon appeared that this was the advance guard of a bandit gang on the move, and the sections soon came under fire from all directions. About ten bandits were located on the left flank, some of them mounted. They were driven off and the action lasted for over an hour. This was the first time the Company had come under really effective fire, and I must say it was enjoyed by the troops who, needless to say, wanted more.

It is not known if any of the bandits were hit, but it was reported in the village that two soldiers had been wounded.

The band was about thirty strong and led by our local bandit leader, Abdulla Assad, valued at £200, plus his arms.

The Company left Baqa al Gharbiya for Tulkarm on 25th March, being relieved by "C" Company.

CORDON, CHECK AND SEARCH.

" 'Tuqu' cordoned, checked and searched Kafr Baddun, two rifles, 138 rounds S.A.A., 3 sticks gelignite and a box of caps were found. Two known gangsters were arrested and fifteen men were detained for examination." (Extract from an Intelligence Summary.)

Slowly the M.T. bumps to a halt on the rough hill track. The vehicles have been travelling without lights and the drivers have had a trying time on the last part of the way, which has been along nothing more than a camel track winding up into the hills.

Fancol and Roycol are out together, and they can now be seen, dark silhouettes against the sky, as they climb stiffly out of the trucks. It is 3.30 a.m.

After an hour's marching they reach the outskirts of the olive groves surrounding Kafr Baddun. Here the two companies branch off, one in each direction, to encircle the east, south and west of the village.

In the meanwhile another column of one platoon has come down from the posts at Baqa, to the north, and, working independently, has formed up in such a position that it can block the northern exits from the village. Fancol and Roycol will establish touch with the flanks of this platoon and complete the circle so that nobody can leave the village without running into the waiting troops.

Everyone now settles down to wait for the dawn—often a bitterly cold period this. A Bren gun with two men is then posted on the roof of each prominent house, looking outwards and with orders to stop any man from leaving the village, by fire if necessary.

While this is going on the C.O. and his party have moved to the outskirts of the village and have seized the first man they can find. He is told, through the interpreter, to get the Mukhtar (a Government official who acts as head man of each village).

On the arrival of the Mukhtar orders are given for all the men to assemble in a suitable open space, probably in the neighbourhood of the school, and for all the women and children to go to the mosque.

The Column Commanders then report to the C.O. with all available men, excepting the Bren gunners. Equipment is taken off and placed under sentries, and the troops are ready to go out as searchers, armed only with a rifle and a bandolier of ammunition.

The check of the men of the village commences as soon as they are all assembled. Two tables are placed about thirty or forty yards apart. At the first of these a policeman of the Palestine Police (or an Interpreter) takes his seat in company with one or two elders of the village. The remainder of the men approach one at a time, are searched, and then gives his name to the policeman, who writes it on a slip of paper which he hands back to the man. The man then passes to the second table. Here sit a police sergeant with a list of all "wanted" men of that village, the Intelligence Officer with his list, and another pair of elders. These lists are compiled from all manner of sources: informers, captured documents, escaped prisoners, etc. As the man approaches the second table he hands his slip to the sergeant but says nothing. The elders then say what his name is and this is checked with that which he has given to the first table. If the two names agree, and he is not on either of the "wanted" lists, he goes away and sits down under a guard. If the names are different it means that he is either a stranger in the village or is trying to give a false name, and he is taken for further investigation in the Examination Centre at Tulkarm.

"Wanted" men are also taken to this Centre to await sentence.

As soon as the elders of the village have been checked the search parties are told off, about three to a platoon, each under an officer or effective N.C.O. Each takes an elder to watch the interests of the villagers, and they are then marched off to the area of the village which has been allotted to them by the C.O.

A house-to-house search now commences, every cupboard and drawer has to be opened, and floors and walls searched for hidden entrances to caves and secret rooms, tibben (fodder) bins turned out and searched and rooms inspected. Rifles and ammunition are hidden in the most impossible places, and the search must cover every possibility.



[Photo by S. Maso Nathanya.]
SERGT. KING, PALESTINE POLICE, MAJOR COMBE,
MAJOR VEASEY AND MAJOR HAGGARD.



A REGIMENTAL GRAVE IN THE WAR CEMETERY AT JERUSALEM.
Inscription reads: "A soldier of the Great War, 24th Bn. London Regiment, 27th December, 1917. Known unto God."

When the houses are finished, each is marked, in chalk, on the door, and when the whole village is finished the searchers move to the surrounding country where walls, wells, caves and cactus hedges must be minutely examined. Walls have to be pulled down stone by stone as the rifles are often built into the stonework near the base.

Wells form excellent hiding places and must be carefully examined. Sometimes a man is lowered down to examine niches or caves in the side of these wells.

After the completion of the check of the males it is the turn of the women in the mosque. This is a difficult matter as one may not unveil or search a woman.

The method adopted is to make them file past and to examine their hands and feet and, if veiled, make them say their name. By these means it can usually be told if a man is disguised in woman's dress, a very common ruse among the gang leaders.

When the C.O. decides that it is time to leave he fires a white and green Very light, which is the signal for all to close. The party then return to the M.T. and so back to billets.

During the check and search cups of coffee are brought for the officers and the whole proceeding is carried out on the most friendly terms. How deep this friendliness goes varies considerably in different villages, but in many cases the villagers are not hostile although they loathe the searches by the military.

Before leaving, the troops are searched in front of the villagers to ensure that there has been no looting, and a certificate is signed by the Mukhtar to the effect that no unnecessary damage has been done and that the mosque has not been defiled.

BALA.

First Phase. 4th March, 1939.

One little thing leads to another, and so, acting on information received, Roycol, consisting of H.Q. and two platoons, proceeded at half an hour's notice to Bala. Bala is situated on the northern side of the Tulkarm—Nablus Road, perched high on a ridge of some 1,500 feet. From here a most magnificent view of the surrounding country can be obtained—that is to say, if one is not enshrouded in mist. To the west the blue Mediterranean adds to the panoramic effect.

Actually, our destination was about two miles east of the village of Bala, to a house belonging to one by the name of Mahsud.

Bala itself had been a favourite resort of the notorious Abdul Rahim (recently deceased). The house of Mahsud and the area round it had unquestionably been one of Abdul's dumps, in fact his O.M. Stores. Perhaps a few words on the house and area round it might prove of interest. The house itself was the usual Arab edifice with a small tower which dominated the surrounding country. The house was situated on the southern slope, surrounded by an attractive orchard, which in turn gave way to a series of terraces, banked by stone walls, intermingled with olive trees. These terraces went down many hundreds of feet to the valley below. The entrance from the west was through an extensive olive grove, while the ground to north and east was more open.

About 2.15 p.m. Roycol arrived on the site. By 3 p.m. the results of our efforts began to show clearly that we were on a very good thing, so the O.C. Roycol got permission to stay the night so that the search could be prolonged on the following day. The weather up to 5.15 p.m. had been fairly reasonable, but as night drew on it started to rain. "Rain" hardly describes it, as it was tropical rain which some of us knew so well, and with it came a raging gale. Roycol, by the morning,

were literally drenched to the skin. However, our discomforts were to some degree relieved by the gallant ration platoon who found us about midnight. Rations and rum soon revived our drooping spirits.

The following day the remainder of the Battalion came to our assistance, and the finds were increased. Our initial exploit at Bala brought the following into the bag: 7 rifles, 2 empty rifle chests, 2,144 rounds of rifle S.A.A., 69 pistol ammunition, 209 detonators, 1 landmine, 39 6-bore cartridges, 8 tins of gunpowder, 2 coils of fuse wire, 9,000 grammes of dynamite, 59 waterbottles, 2 pairs of binoculars, 1 telescope, some uniform, 1 H.T. and L.T. battery set, 1 6-volt car battery and 1 shot-gun.

In addition to the seven rifles, No. 11 Platoon found a further five in a separate operation at Kafr Rumman the same day. The total number of rifles thus found constituted a Brigade record. Messages of appreciation were received from Brigade, Division and Force Headquarters.

And so ended the first phase at Bala. We came away, however, with an uneasy feeling that there was still a lot to be had, and that the ground had yet to be more thoroughly combed. Most of the rifles were hidden in the stone walls; in fact, the majority of finds were in the walls, but in some cases ammunition was either buried in sacks in the ground, or hidden down empty wells.

Second Phase. 18th March to 30th March.

In view of the initial success at Bala the Commanding Officer decided that Roycol should proceed to the site where a camp should be erected. The period was to be spent in digging and generally oozling the grounds and near vicinity for arms and ammunition. By nightfall on the 18th the camp had been pitched and the wire perimeter had been erected. The following day we were hard at it, and our finds by the end of the day were quite appreciable. Daily two parties were detailed:—

- (1) Digging Party. This party's job was to dig a series of trenches at 8-foot intervals, criss-crossing the whole time. This was done over a considerable area, the trenches being 3 feet deep, hard earth being blown by a most efficient sapper. From the air the result must have resembled a child's arithmetic book.
- (2) Oozling Party. Their duty was to tear down the walls, go down the wells, and search everywhere. A common sight to be seen were Roycol subalterns stripped to the waist being lowered into some stagnant well, with or without water, it mattered not.

"Dig, dig, dig," the song from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," was indeed appropriate to the column. Battalion Headquarters, always helpful, decided to help us with the use of a "compressor," a contraption on iron wheels weighing over a ton, with certainly no cross-country performance. The Arab prisoners, whatever else they may forget, will remember that day. Time and space prevent the telling of this herculean feat. Let it be said, however, that Roberts's march to Kabul pales in significance alongside the efforts of the Ration Platoon, ably assisted by eighty prisoners. Alas, the journey had proved too much for the machine—its back was broken, and so, till the end of our stay, nicely propped up near the wire, this infernalness represented a monument of effort. The compressor was followed by a detector. These are quite the fashion in Palestine now, used chiefly by police for checking purposes, detecting the presence of metal in sacks, etc. Its penetration powers, however, are very limited—only six inches. It is not powerful enough to locate hidden rifles possibly three feet down, but in fairness to this little machine, let it be said that on its own it detected 146 rounds under a pile of stones and, incidentally, put us on to a very profitable wall.



VIEW OF TULKARM FROM ORDERLY ROOM ROOF.



VIEW OF TULKARM LOOKING NORTH-EAST FROM OFFICERS' MESS.

The next arrival at Bala was something quite new and very very hush-hush—a detector with far greater power. This arrived with its civilian keeper. Our hopes were raised considerably, but soon they were to be frustrated. This Ju Ju machine, or Giant Panda, or whatever one might light to term it, behaved in a monstrous way.

When the machine was reputed to come into contact with any metal, a bell rang. An alarm clock was not in it! The ringing was incessant, and really one was beginning to wonder whether Mahsud's house was situated over some seam of priceless metal. No! the machine was too sensitive, and behaved like a shy debutante, and so its crestfallen keeper took Miss Ju Ju away—but we appreciated this new innovation. We had tried everything, and now it was only the question of the pick and the shovel. The weather had turned very hot, and digging day after day without any result can be monotonous. Poor Abdul Rahim! Fate prevented him from ever seeing his store again. Just as well, possibly. O.C. Roycol nightly expected a visit, but peace reigned and no untoward acts transpired. As to Mahsud's house, even an Arab house-agent would experience the greatest difficulty in letting the premises now, the precincts resembling the Somme battlefield.

On 30th March, Roycol returned, very brown and fit after their digging. We were naturally disappointed at not finding any more rifles, but our spoils included the following: 1,183 S.A.A. rifle, 17 pistol ammunition, 58 sticks of dynamite, 28 bandoliers, 1 duplicator, 1 recapping machine, quantity of shot and percussion caps and 1 broken shot gun.

Finally, a vote of thanks to Mahsud, whose whereabouts are unknown. Thank you, Mahsud, for meeting our indent so promptly, but we do wish you had left the key of the armoury behind.

ROAD PATROL.

In Samaria there is a hundred miles of main road. This has to be patrolled, nightly. The cavalry are very good about this, and do it every night with their armoured cars.

Sometimes we do it and then we assemble in the Tulkarm billet. Section Commanders are given their orders, and a final check-up is made. "Mortars, all right? Have Section Commanders got Very pistols? Who's got the tea?"

The patrol starts out at dusk. We have not covered more than two miles when the Bren gun truck takes on a jolting motion and finally refuses. The patrol stops. All immediately jump from the trucks and double out to take up positions on both sides of the road, facing outwards. There is a smell—a strong smell. A voice from the darkness exclaims, "Blimey! rubber, ain't it?" Rubber it is, quite definitely. Thick blue smoke hangs about the front of the truck. There is nothing else for it, the truck will have to be towed back to billets and replaced. The Patrol Commander starts to say quite a lot about M.T. in general, but actually finds that he cannot say very much, as he is rather closely connected with the M.T. Section.

The idle truck is placed on tow and departs, accompanied by the requisite escort, in the direction of Tulkarm. It will be about twenty minutes before the replacement arrives. The patrol goes into laager and waits and watches. In due course the replacement turns up, and the patrol continues on its way.

There are three spots on the route which are favourite sniping places. The first of these is the stretch of road between Tulkarm and Qalqilia; the second is

Windy Corner, on the Tulkarm—Nablus road; and the third, the Nablus—Jerusalem road between Kilo 49 and Kilo 41. The patrol travels without lights. Qalqilia is reached without incident. This is rather surprising as it is a perfect night for the "Oozlebarts."

It is warmish, with a very bright moon; visibility is good up to half a mile. We are approaching Windy Corner. What a perfect night; one can almost see the Oozlebarts lurking amongst the rocks on the hillsides. Bang! bang! "'Barts, by Jove!" Nothing further happens. It is only the Armoured Leader again. It does that often, backfiring or something.

A short halt is made in Nablus, and we stretch our legs, and smoke. Then commences the third stage of the journey; the long climb up to Kilo 41, on the Jerusalem road. Kilo 49—getting on; only another eight kilos and we turn round. Bang! bang! Confound the Armoured Leader! I was nearly asleep. Bang! Phut! Something strikes the road and whines away into the distance. This is it.

The sections take up firing positions off the road. Flashes can be seen from an olive grove, on a hill, about four hundred yards away. The Bren gun opens fire, followed a few seconds later by the rifle section.

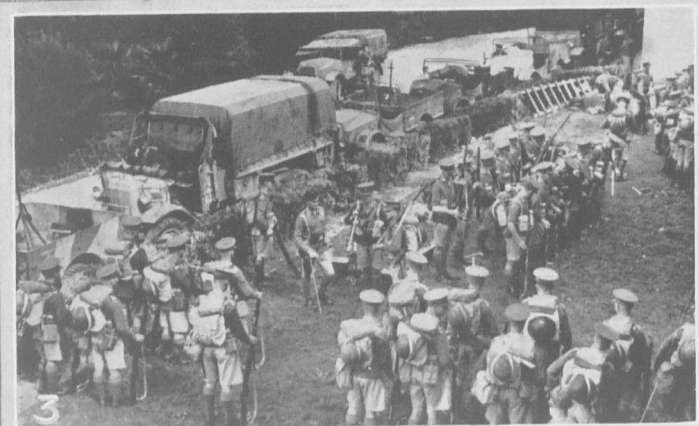
"Mortar Section Commander!" "Sir." "They are in that grove up there, see? Give them a pill." The mortar truck is manœuvring into position. The Section Commander doubles away to the truck. From the direction of the mortar truck come sounds of activity. "Where is it? Here you are. Look out—that's my — toe! No. The other end, you twerp!" Metallic clanging. Bang! The Patrol Commander keenly watches the grove. A long interval. Then, from the far dim distance, a dull thud, combined with a muffled explosion. "What range are you using, Corporal?" "Nine hundred, Sir." "Good Lord! The grove is not a yard over four hundred and fifty. Have another crack." Bang!

All eyes watch the grove. There is a flash and explosion on the far edge of the grove. The enemy fire is quite accurate. Bullets are striking the road between the vehicles, also ricocheting off the rocks just in front of our positions. A strange voice is heard muttering strange oaths. A figure is in position to the left of the rifle section. It is the aircraftman who works the Rodex; he is muttering as he thumbs home a stiff clip of cartridges into his magazine. He is enjoying himself. So are the drivers who have organized themselves into a little section of their own, on the right.

Bang! This time the mortar bomb explodes plumb in the centre of the grove. The flash momentarily lights up the trees. There are no more shots from the grove. "Cease firing." All is silence.

After about five minutes. "Close on the road. All present and correct?" The sergeant reports all present, and no casualties. We climb back into the trucks. "Start up." Anxious voice from the mortar truck: "Is the tea all right?"

The patrol continues on its way. Soon Kilo 41 is reached. We turn round here. We halt for ten minutes. The tea is issued. The Rodex gets in touch with Tulkarm and a situation report is sent off. Here, high up on the Jerusalem road, the view is glorious, the night perfect. There is absolute silence. The tea is being consumed. Two hours later we are back in Tulkarm. Rifles and guns are inspected. The drivers are putting their vehicles away. The other men are disappearing in the direction of their billets. All are tired. The drivers have been driving their heavy vehicles steadily, without lights, for seven hours. They and the others have all taken part in a very arduous night operation the previous night. As the footsteps are dying away in the Lambeth Walk, a voice is heard: "Is there any tea left?"



PALESTINE.

1. View of Anabta and the Nablus Valley from Bala.
2. "B" Company at Bala.
3. Roycol moving out to Bala.

[Photo: S. Maso Nathanya.]

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM.

It was Gilbert and Sullivan who handed down to posterity that "a policeman's life is not a happy one." This applies at times to the life of a detachment commander, as the following story will show.

Scene: The Detachment Officers' Mess. Two officers having breakfast. A knock on the door and the somewhat awkward entry of a breathless corporal announcing that his patrol had found a landmine in the middle of the road.

We view the possibilities of landmines with some apprehension. When they go up somebody or something goes up with them, and one of the grimmer exhibits handed over to us when we arrived at Tulkarm was what remained of a truck that had been blown up. There was not much of the truck to see. The remainder was scattered over the countryside at the place where the explosion occurred. Therefore any "unusual occurrence" on the surface of roads and tracks is viewed with great suspicion and apprehension.

The corporal's story was that someone had dug a small trench in the middle of the main road and had filled it in with rubble. But, just showing in the rubble was the head of a six-inch nail. The local bandit has a pleasant habit of burying a shell, or piece of iron piping filled with gelignite, in road-tracks. His simple and efficient method of detonating these is to insert a nail (usually six-inch) fitted with a detonator, so that any unsuspecting person or vehicle who treads unwarily sets it off. So it certainly sounded as if this were the real thing, and that something had to be done about it.

There was nothing for it but to set out for the scene of the outrage, and the first problem was whether to summon the sappers to remove and demolish the mine forthwith, or to go and see for oneself what was there. The Royal Engineers, true to their tradition of being "maids of all work," take on the extremely unpleasant task of dismounting these infernal machines, and, having removed them, destroy them.

On arrival at the scene, some three miles away, a large crowd was present. The mine had been skilfully laid on a bend, so that any cars approaching would see it only at the last minute. The section, on discovering the mine, had roped in the local inhabitants from the surrounding fields to remove it, but as soon as the nail head was unearthed the excavators went on strike as one man. All persuasive methods were of no avail. Having seen the nail there was to be no more excavating on their part. They were quite firm on that. In addition, the traffic on the road on each side of the disturbance had automatically halted, and the various car drivers and passengers were awaiting events, at a distance.

So there was the problem. The nail was just showing above the road surface. The onlookers were showing great interest—but keeping well away—and something had to be done about it. A bright suggestion that it should be pulled out with a piece of string seemed sound. All the spectators, including the rounded-up Arabs, were searched for a second time to see if any string was forthcoming, and eventually about ten yards of assorted twine was produced. But ten yards of string was not enough to reach any reasonable cover, and eventually a long length of camel rope was spliced to the string and preparations set in hand to remove the offending nail.

The next problem was, who was to attach the string to the nail? Realizing that to do nothing is always wrong, and that the commander on the spot had to take command, he decided that it was up to him to attach the string. With a certain amount of trepidation the nail was approached, and a skilful slip-knot inserted over the nail head, but before any order could be given to haul away, the nail came away in his hand, and ten yards of string and forty of camel rope were pulled carefully down the road with one nail (six-inch) attached. Certainly an anti-climax and a great relief to all concerned.

Once the nail was out, further excavation by hand was considered practicable by the inhabitants, and several willing workers removed the rest of the rubble, only to disclose an empty trench and no landmine laid.

It is to the credit of the adjacent Arabs that they showed no signs of hilarity at the possible "leg-pull." I think they were as relieved as we were, or feared retribution, if they laughed, from the several nervous people who had to mess about with the bogus mine.

So that was that. The ghost was laid, and there was nothing for it but to dismiss the spectators and return to an interrupted breakfast, by that time somewhat uneatable, a small consolation being that the Royal Engineers had not been summoned to remove and destroy an infernal machine that did not exist, and that the subsequent apologies and explanations would not have to be made.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND REUNION

WILL TAKE PLACE

ON SUNDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1939.

BAND AND DRUMS OF H.M.S. "EXCELLENT."

(By kind permission of Capt. A. F. E. Palliser, R.N.)

Old Comrades will parade in the Market, Woodbridge Road, Guildford, at 12 noon, where they will be joined by the Band and Drums of H.M.S. *Excellent* and serving members from the Depot, and march to Holy Trinity Church for a short Memorial Service at 12.30 p.m. Medals will be worn.

After the service, headed by the Band and Drums, serving and non-serving members will march to the Depot, where lunch will be available for ticket-holders. These luncheon tickets, which must be purchased before 12th June, may be obtained from the Secretary, price 2s. or 1s. 3d.

There will be a buffet tent, where refreshments will be available for those who do not take luncheon tickets.

Teas will be available during the afternoon at moderate prices.

The Regimental Museum will be open and opportunity afforded of inspecting Institutes, Dining Hall, etc. Those who wish may climb the stairs and obtain a wonderful view from the Keep Top (weather permitting).

Selections will be given by the Band, and beating "Retreat" by the combined Band and Drums will be carried out.

All members of the Regiment, serving and non-serving, and any connected with the Regiment, are cordially invited.

This is a Regimental Party, and admission to Barracks will be by ticket only.

Railway ticket vouchers to enable members and their families to travel at single fare for the return journey (available for day of issue only), may be had on application to the O.C.A. Secretary.

THE REGIMENTAL BADGE

MUCH doubt exists, and, unfortunately, must continue to exist, as to when and how the Regiment adopted a Lamb as its first badge.

According to the great English historian, Lord Macaulay, the Regiment, in 1685, was "designated sometimes the First Tangier Regiment, and sometimes Queen Catherine's Regiment. As they had been levied (in 1661) for the purpose of waging (at Tangier) war on an infidel nation (the Moors), they bore on their flag a Christian emblem, the Paschal Lamb. In allusion to this device, and with bitterly ironical meaning (for after the Battle of Sedgemoor the people of Somersetshire, who had rebelled against King James II, were treated by the Regiment with merciless severity), these men, the rudest and most ferocious in the English army, were called Kirke's Lambs." Macaulay's statement, which is an instance of the danger of arguing from effect to possible cause, is, however, "pure imagination," because it is certain that the Regiment did not wear a Lamb as its badge either at Tangier or at Sedgemoor. No badge is shown on either clothing or accoutrements in "a plate of the uniforms of 1685," and the Lamb is not on the Colours that were purchased for the Regiment in 1686.

A second explanation of the way in which we came by the badge, an inference made in much the same manner as Lord Macaulay's, is that, on account of the cruelty with which the rebellion in the West of England was quelled in 1685, the men of the Regiment were satirically named "The Lambs" by the people of the country; and, since Colonel Kirke and his troops were rather proud of their reputation for brutality, the Lamb was brazenly adopted as the Regimental badge in memory of these deeds. This, however, seems to be unlikely, for the country people must have possessed an unusually subtle wit to have given to cruel men the nickname of "The Lambs."

It has also been suggested that "as there is a portrait of Queen Katharine (the wife of King Charles II) with a lamb in the foreground of the picture . . . it is possible that this (in the period after 1686) may have given the idea of the adoption of the Lamb as the badge of the Regiment." We became The Queen's in June, 1684, when the Regiment was first called, in an official paper of the time of King Charles II, "our dearest consort, The Queen's Regiment," but in June, 1685, after the death of King Charles II and the accession of King James II, its name had been changed to "our dearest sister, the Queen Dowager's Regiment of foot."

Among all these possibilities what is certain is that the Lamb, plain and simple, had been taken as the Regimental badge by 1715, for it is in a bright green field on the grenadier caps of the two picture-board dummies that were recently purchased at Carlisle by Colonel Clarke and given by him to the Regiment. These dummies are dated by the fact that, in 1715, the Regiment had, for the moment, become The Princess of Wales's Own, for King George I was a widower, and that the Prince of Wales's badge, the Three Feathers, is on the caps of the dummies above the Lamb; they are also dated because, in 1715, two companies of the Regiment were quartered in Carlisle.

It seems that, in the early years of the existence of the Army, little strictness was observed as regards uniform. For instance, from 1686 to 1768 the facings of the Regiment were officially described as being green, but those of the Colonel Clarke figures are peacock blue and not green. About the middle of the 18th century a general tightening up took place, however, as regards orders of dress, and in instructions issued in 1749, it is laid down that the clothier of the Regiment is "strictly to observe the patterns now sent to him." It was also stated in these instructions that "in the three corners of the second (the regimental) colour (there is) to be the Lamb, being the ancient badge of the Regiment."

The granting of the Paschal Lamb as the badge of the Regiment, that is the Lamb with halo and flag, was only made in a warrant of 1751, which was issued when the regiments of the line were first given numbers; we became the 2nd. In this warrant there is again the statement that the Lamb is the "ancient badge" of the Regiment, but it is then declared that the Regiment is therefore authorized to wear, "in the three corners of the second colour the 'Paschal Lamb.'" In 1768 the facings of the Regiment were changed to blue, and in this warrant the Colonels of Regiments were told that all new clothing and facings must be in accordance with patterns that had been placed at the Comptroller's Office in Whitehall.

Even in 1860, in drawings showing the Colours of the Regiment, the Lamb is portrayed as carrying the flag but has no halo, and it was not until 1826 that the Paschal Lamb, with both halo and flag, was worn on the Regimental Colours.



EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH MADE AT THE 53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

I HOPE that it may help those still serving if I give a short account of my own experience and certain points to observe which may be helpful. It is, of course, impossible to make fixed plans for everyone, because both the jobs and the men to fill them vary considerably.

No one is in a better position to place ex-Service men than the Association, because those responsible for its working understand the ranks and ratings and the work which the men have been used to while serving. The Association has built up, to my mind, a very sound system, but it requires support from both the Service men and the employers if its success is to be maintained.

I was a member of the Electrical Artificer Branch of the Royal Navy. Twelve months before my retirement I read the notices and the Annual Report issued to the Service and followed the lines suggested by the Association.

Here I think that vocational and other training courses taken while serving should be mentioned. These courses can knit together, as it were, the several subjects already at the disposal of the individual, and the certificates earned through success in an examination provide some guarantee for an employer.

Within a few weeks of leaving the Service I got into touch with the London Employment Manager, as I wanted employment in the London area. From that date he was in a position to place me in suitable work. Soon that work was found for me, and I was employed under the Government as an examiner. After a few months I had to leave for family reasons. I was allowed to re-register with the Association, and in due time I was sent to the Royal Veterinary College, where an engineer was required. This post, which I still hold, I secured through the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

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

4th BATTALION (63RD SEARCHLIGHT REGIMENT)

Headquarters: The Barracks, Mitcham Road, Croydon.

Hon. Colonel: Col. J. M. Newnham, O.B.E., D.L., LL.D.

Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Col. J. H. F. Johnson.

Adjutant: Capt. H. E. Wilson.

ON 1st November the Battalion was re-equipped as an Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Battalion. It was with great regret that we left the 44th (H.C.) Division and the 131st (Surrey Infantry Brigade), but our welcome as the 63rd Searchlight Regiment in the 5th Anti-Aircraft Division and the 27th (H.C.) A.A. Brigade has been very cordial.

Battalion H.Q. and two Companies (438 and 439) are remaining in Croydon until new quarters are built nearby; the third Company (440) has taken over the Drill Hall at Caterham until new barracks are built in the Coulsdon area. This accommodation has proved adequate until the present time, and it was with pleasure that all Companies found sufficient equipment at their disposal to start training on the day after the reorganization. Companies have been greatly assisted by the appointment of three Administrative Officers, and we extend a hearty welcome to Capt. R. C. Wilson (438 Company), Capt. E. N. St. J. Dickinson (439 Company), and Lieut. C. M. Gliddon (440 Company).

General Sir Walter Kirke, Director-General, Territorial Army, presented prizes to the Battalion on Saturday, 17th December.

After the presentation, Sir Walter Kirke said in his speech that it was a great pleasure for him to give the prizes to the men who by their hard work had earned them, more particularly when it was to members of a Battalion which belonged to a Regiment commonly known as "Kirke's Lambs." The Battalion was typical of what every Territorial battalion ought to be; recruited from the pick of the local population, supported by tradition and strong county feeling, backed with enthusiasm by the civic authorities and by prominent people of all classes in the neighbourhood, and very ably commanded and officered.

This had been for the unit a very memorable year. As an infantry battalion it carried out its obligations, and no sooner was that rôle over than it took part in the embodiment of the anti-aircraft defences of Great Britain, even before it actually formed part of them. The tasks which it was called upon to perform were unexpected and unrehearsed, but, in spite of these handicaps, it had manned all its war stations in well under twenty-four hours. There might be some regret on the part of a famous battalion in changing to a new rôle, but the anti-aircraft defence of these islands was a new and inescapable commitment, and, being of a highly technical nature, made its own special appeal to the mechanically minded youth of to-day.

PRIZEGIVING PROGRAMME, 1938.

HONOURS AND AWARDS.

Member of British Empire Order.—Major H. W. Bolton, D.S.O., M.B.E.
 Efficiency Decoration.—Major J. W. Wayte, M.C., R.A.M.C. (T.A.).
 Brevet Majority.—Brevet Major A. R. C. Stiby.
 Efficiency Medal.—Sergt. J. J. Neal, and L./Cpls. E. A. Hall and P. W. Spink.
 Vickers Gun Competition (Surrey Meeting).—2, "A" (S.) Company.
 Revolver Cup (T.A. Officers), N.R.A. Meeting.—3, Lieut. G. Stokoe.
 Peek Cup (Surrey Rifle Meeting).—2, L./Cpl. Shonfeld.
 Brigade Tactical Prize (Junior Officers).—Lieut. R. S. Edridge.

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES—WEAPON TRAINING, 1938.

Battalion.—Sergt. Bailey, 108.
 Officers.—Lieut. Carswell, 103.
 Sergeants.—Sergt. Bailey, 108.
 Corporals.—*Sergt. Bicknell, 103; Cpl. Clarke, 99.
 Lance-Corporals and Privates.—Pte. Mundie, 101.
 Recruits, Privates.—Pte. Caistor, 92.
 L.M.G.—Sergt. Bailey, 40; Cpl. Fuller, 40; L./Cpls. Virgo and Waldron, 40;
 Ptes. Green, Davey, and Woodall, 40.

* Denotes was a Corporal at the time of firing his course.

LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS.

Battalion Trophies.

The Bishop Shield (Presented by W. H. Bishop, Esq. Awarded for Musketry and Drill).—Winners, "B" Company (Capt. J. C. Pearson).

The Colonel Mosse Robinson Challenge Cup (Presented by Miss Fearon. Awarded for the Highest Average Score in the Annual Musketry Course).—Winners, "B" Company (Capt. J. C. Pearson).

†*The Sir John Watney Challenge Cup* (Awarded for Marching and Shooting).

†*The Torrens Challenge Cup* (Presented by Capt. Torrens. Awarded for Inter-Company Shoot at Falling Plates).

The Colonel Freeland Challenge Cup (Presented by Miss Freeland. Awarded for the Highest Average Score in the Annual Musketry Course and the Highest Average Attendance at Annual Training).—Winners, "D" Company (Major A. R. C. Stiby).

The Camp Cup (Presented by Capt. L. Bates, T.D., and Lieut. A. C. Brandt. Awarded for Proficiency in Camp).—Winners, "A" (S.) Company (Capt. L. A. Ault).

†*The Hooke Challenge Cup* (Presented in Memory of the late Lieut.-Col. U. L. Hooke. Awarded for Bayonet Training).

†*The Whinney Cup* (Presented by Major Frank Whinney. Awarded for Miniature Range Competition).

† No Competition owing to the Emergency and Reorganization.

The Lord Ashcombe Cup (Presented by Col. The Lord Ashcombe, C.B., T.D. Awarded for Proficiency in Distance Judging, Fire Control, and Fire Discipline).—Winners, "C" Company (Capt. R. T. Walters).

**The Hussey Cup* (Presented by the late Charles Hussey, Esq., J.P. Awarded for Proficiency in Lewis-gun Training).

The Colonel Atkins Training Cup (Presented by the late Bt. Col. H. R. Atkins, T.D. Awarded for Proficiency in Training and Manœuvre).—Winners, "D" Company (Major A. R. C. Stiby).

The Lady Edridge Cup (Presented by the late Lady Edridge. Awarded for the Highest Aggregate in the Competitions mentioned above).—Winners, "D" Company (Major A. R. C. Stiby).

The Rotary Club Cup (Awarded to the Most Efficient Section Leader).—Winner, Cpl. L. A. Fuller, "D" Company, Cup and 7s. 6d.

The Signalling Cup (Awarded to the most Proficient Signaller below the rank of Corporal).—Winner, Boy D. C. Cook, Cup and 7s. 6d.

The Lethbridge-Abell Cup (For Gas Training).—Winners, "D" Company (Major A. R. C. Stiby).

The Drill Cup.—Winners, "B" Company (Capt. J. C. Pearson), Cup and £2.

The Quartermaster's Cup (Awarded for Interior Economy).—Winners, "D" Company (Major A. R. C. Stiby), Cup and £2.

The Machine-gun Shield (Awarded to the most Efficient Platoon).—Winners, No. 2 Platoon (Lieut. G. Stokoe).

* No Competition owing to the Emergency and Reorganization.

It is with great regret that we have to report that Lieut.-Col. I. T. P. Hughes, M.C., has had to relinquish his command. Owing to his many duties at the House of Commons it is no longer possible for him to continue the sterling work which he has done for the Battalion during the tenure of his command, both as infantry and during the difficult period of reorganization. He will be greatly missed; complete efficiency and powers of organization, combined with the gift of tactfully enthusing the whole of the Battalion with a keenness nearly equalling his own, are qualities which will be very hard to replace.

Officers of the Battalion bade farewell to Col. Hughes at a dinner held at the Barracks on the first Saturday in April. It was regretted that Major J. H. F. Johnson, who succeeds to the command, was unavoidably absent owing to illness. In his absence Col. J. M. Newnham, the Honorary Colonel, proposed the health of Col. Hughes. He dealt with the eventful year through which the Battalion had passed, referring to the Presentation of New Colours by Her Majesty Queen Mary, in May, the Laying up of the Old Colours, and, finally, the reorganization as a Searchlight Battalion. He voiced the regret of all present that Col. Hughes was leaving. After dinner the film taken at the Presentation of the New Colours was shown.

Lieut.-Col. H. W. Bolton, D.S.O., M.B.E., has had to leave us, and his photograph, together with an appreciation of his most valued service to the Regiment and the Battalion, will be found elsewhere.

The new Quartermaster is Lieut. S. E. Beecham, our late R.S.M., and he has proved a worthy successor to Col. Bolton in the way he has handled the "Q" side of the re-equipment. His place as R.S.M. is taken by C.S.M. Picton, to whom we wish every success.

The following officers have now left us: Capt. L. J. D. Phillimore (who did so much to make camp life comfortable as Staff Captain to the 131st Brigade), and Lieuts. J. W. Cumming, E. J. R. Meredith and B. A. Shattock, all of whom found that the amount of time to be given for Searchlight Training was impossible

for them owing to the fact that their occupations and domiciles were far away from headquarters.

After thirty years with the Battalion, L./Cpl. Bone has finished his service with us. Cpl. Bone will be remembered by all those officers who have served in this period as one of the most regular in attendance, and as one whose service to the Mess was, at all times, most efficient and courteous.

C.S.M. W. Friend has reluctantly had to leave after many years' service with the Battalion owing to an accident, but we hope to see him on many future occasions at Headquarters.

Drum-Major Hall, owing to the passing of our very excellent Corps of Drums, which acquisition is not part of Searchlight Establishment, has transferred to the 7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, and we wish him every success.

Finally, the arrangements for camp are, perhaps, more nebulous this year, for the area only is known, but the sites are not yet fixed. We are sure, however, of an interesting period of training from 20th August to 3rd September, and the efficiency of Detachment Commanders will be tested to the fullest extent.

Since the last JOURNAL was published the following officers have been granted commissions with the Battalion: Capt. J. W. G. Taylor, and 2/Lieuts. F. H. Kendall, T. F. Poole, D. M. Wright, D. C. Meller, R. H. Pegler, P. Bellamy, G. S. Pickard, N. E. Carter, P. D. Connery, and D. F. L. Evans.

No. 438 Company.

So numerous are the events that have taken place since the last issue of the JOURNAL that they could easily fill a book. The Presentation of New Colours to the Battalion, the September Crisis, and the conversion of the Battalion into a Searchlight Regiment, have kept everyone concerned fully occupied.

No. 438 Company is composed of "B" Company of the Infantry Battalion, together with a number from "H.Q." Wing, including the Band. The strength of the Company is rapidly increasing, and is now over 300.

We extend a hearty welcome to the following officers who have recently joined us: Capt. R. Wilson (our Administrative Officer), and Messrs. Winter, Poole, Bellamy, and Connery.

Training is going on very satisfactorily, and up to now has been confined to Group Training, but it is intended to commence Detachment Training in May.

Many officers, N.C.Os. and men have already attended courses in their new work, and congratulations are extended to Sergt. Oakley, who equalled first place in the T.A. Unit Commanders' Course, and to L./Cpl. Higgins who did very well on the Engine Hands Course.

At the present rate of recruiting it should not be long before we are up to strength.

No. 439 Company.

It seems strange to be contributing these notes under the new title of the Company, though we are now becoming accustomed to the change.

No. 439 Company was formed on the conversion of the Battalion to the searchlight rôle from the old "A" (S.) Company and certain members of Headquarter Wing. Major S. C. Guilan was appointed to command, with the following officers: Capts. L. A. Ault and P. E. Newnham, Lieut. R. S. Edridge, and 2/Lieuts. E. V. Hayler, S. Bowes, R. H. Pegler, D. C. Meller, and G. S. Pickard. Since the Company's formation there has also joined us 2/Lieut. N. E. Carter. C.S.M. Townsend was appointed Company Sergeant-Major, and Clr./Sergt. Forrester as C.Q.M.S. On the Company Headquarter Staff we were fortunate in having C.S.M. Mallion, and there was subsequently appointed, in addition, C.S.M. Burgess, of the Royal Engineers.

The Company was allotted temporary accommodation consisting of Company Commander's and general Company Offices and Mobilization Store, in addition to which we have several small stores in different parts of the barracks. We share with No. 438 Company numerous newly erected lecture rooms, and have lately had new temporary buildings erected for our searchlight plant. Under the new organization Capt. Ault was appointed Training Officer, and Capt. Newnham Quartermaster.

Prior to conversion, all officers and N.C.Os. had greatly benefited by a course of lectures, with demonstrations of equipment, delivered by the Training Officer of No. 315 Company, R.E. (T.A.), who have quarters in the same barracks, and everyone who attended this course of lectures will agree that we are greatly indebted to No. 315 Company for giving us such an excellent picture of our future duties. Training subsequently, until the end of 1938, consisted of lectures to officers and N.C.Os., under Company arrangements, and mutual instruction, during which period all other ranks were called up in small batches for classification for their future rôle in the Company. Training of the whole Company started in earnest in January. Capt. Ault had drawn up an excellent programme for specialist training by groups, which everyone enthusiastically followed, with the result that, in a comparatively short time, most members of the Company attained a very good knowledge of the work in which they were to be engaged. In the early days we shared equipment with No. 438 Company, but we have since received our own.

Only lately have we learned, to our great regret, that Col. Hughes has found it necessary, because of his work at the House of Commons, to relinquish command. This loss is no doubt referred to adequately elsewhere in these pages. The result has been that Major Johnson assumed command of the Battalion, and that Capt. Ault took over command of No. 438 Company. We were very sorry indeed to lose him, and we wish him success in his new command. We are very glad to have had the opportunity to work with him, particularly as we shall be such near neighbours in the barracks, and we feel that Nos. 438 and 439 Companies will co-operate very successfully in the future as a result of the close contacts made during the past few months. In the place of Capt. Ault, Capt. J. W. Taylor, from The King's Liverpool Regiment, has been appointed Training Officer, and we welcome him to the Battalion. He has arrived at a time when the nature of the training must change from that of specialist groups to detachments, and he has interesting plans for the future.

One of the latest appointments to the Company has been that of Capt. E. N. St. J. Dickinson, who has come to us on the Permanent Staff as Administrative Officer. The work of Company Headquarters must grow in volume, and so we are to have a permanent Company clerk. We have also made appointments to the Company Permanent Staff of L./Cpl. Penney, as Company Storeman, and L./Cpl. Barnes as Plant Attendant.

As we write these notes we are planning a Company recruiting drive to take place, by kind permission of the Mayor, in the Town Hall, Croydon, on 22nd and 23rd April. We are going to show two sets of our equipment, and we hope that the result of this recruiting effort will be that we shall rapidly get up to full strength.

It is too early yet to judge properly how soon we shall be able to operate our equipment sufficiently well for us to take our places in the searchlight defences, but at the time we write our notes for the next issue of the JOURNAL we should be in a better position to estimate the value of the progress made. In the meantime we have been given very interesting and responsible duties in case of national emergency, and have undertaken practice anti-aircraft firing at aircraft on the ranges at Lydd.

No. 440 Company.

The Territorial Army is a vastly different affair in these days of ever-recurring crises and national preparedness, and, for a "converted" unit, the going is pretty hectic. Our chief trouble, if we can whisper it, is dealing with the "Searchlight" mentality and fitting in our own ideas, traditionally regimental, with the rather mechanical details of mere searchlights. But while we are busily learning the rudiments of Searchlight Training—and we are learning them very fast—we are not forgetting that, for the present, at any rate, our primary rôle is that of L.A. A.A. defence of vulnerable points.

No. 440 Company started its career in November, centred on the old Caterham Drill Hall, which was speedily transformed with temporary store huts, lecture rooms and garages at the rear. (One week after the miniature range was given over to a "technical store" and steel shelving had been installed, orders were received that the Empire Test was still to be fired.) We started with personnel from the old "C" and "D" Rifle Companies, and our strength at the time of writing is 230 other ranks.

All ranks set about the new work with a commendable zeal, and there has been a steady flow of officers and N.C.Os. proceeding on courses. Realizing that the latest returned is always right, we have had some pretty arguments, which are not usually settled until our next "course" returns.

To deal with the mass of office work (a Searchlight Company is administratively self-contained) we have an imposing permanent staff, headed by an Administrative Officer, who combines the duties of Adjutant and Quartermaster (though how he does it is one of the mysteries of the 1939 Territorial Army). We are lucky to have Lieut. C. M. Gliddon, one of our own officers, in this position, and he is ably supported by C.S.M. Scott and T./Sergt. Griffiths, R.A., Sergt. Ogden, and the plant attendant.

Clr./Sergt. Kitt is invaluable as C.Q.M.S., and recruits are making astonishing strides under the patient command of C.S.M. White. Our other officers are Major Stiby (Commanding), Capts. Pearson and Wightman, and 2/Lieuts. Farmer, Stedman, Strange, Kendall, King, Wright and Evans, the last named being a son of Col. B. L. Evans, a late Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion.

As for training—well, we have illuminated a real aeroplane, which was not difficult because the thing had all its lights on. We exercised officers and N.C.Os. during a week-end camp at Lingfield, which afforded valuable experience. One hundred and twenty men of the Company went to Lydd to practise L.A. A.A. firing, but a gale drove the Channel shipping into the "stop-butt," and we returned without firing a shot.

For the future: We are to cope with a Company camp at the end of August, not without a sigh for past Brigade camps in company with other Territorial Battalions of the Regiment.

To close on the dominant note of our existence. We are sternly resisting the playful tendency of the Paymaster and the Records Office to refer to us as gunners and bombardiers. Even though our full title is the 63rd Searchlight Regiment, we still intend to remain Queen's.

LIEUT.-COL. H. W. BOLTON, D.S.O.

Major H. W. Bolton, D.S.O., M.B.E., has retired to civilian life after thirty-three serving years in the Army.

Major Bolton was recently the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Officers of the 4th Battalion at Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon, and was presented with an inscribed clock by Col. B. L. Evans as the gift of the three Commanding Officers under whom he had served as Quartermaster.



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SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES INSPECTING GUARD OF HONOUR OF BATTALION WHEN ARRIVING AT DAVIS THEATRE TO MAKE NATIONAL SERVICE APPEAL.



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SOME OF THE GUESTS AT THE CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY GIVEN BY THE BATTALION, JANUARY, 1939.

4th BATTALION



MAJOR H. W. BOLTON, D.S.O., M.B.E.

A GERMAN TRIBUTE TO THE BRITISH ARMY

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The toast of "Lieutenant-Colonel Bolton" was proposed by Lieut.-Col. I. T. P. Hughes, the present Commanding Officer of the Battalion, who referred to the excellent work which he had done for the Regiment and the Battalion, and his unique record.

Lieut.-Col. Bolton thanked Lieut.-Col. Hughes and the Officers for entertaining him, and said the past twelve years had been the happiest of his soldiering. He had seen the 4th Queen's rise from a third-rate battalion to one of the finest Territorial Army battalions, and he had been very proud to serve with it.

MEMORABLE CAREER.

Lieut.-Col. Bolton enlisted in The Queen's in 1900, and, after serving in the South African War, saw service in India and Aden until 1910. At the outbreak of the Great War he was Weapon Training Sergeant at The Queen's Depot. He was given a commission, and in 1915 was seconded to the Machine-Gun Corps, with which he served until his retirement from the Regular Army in 1922. He was promoted Captain in 1915, Major in 1916, and from December, 1917, until June, 1919, commanded No. 55 Battalion of the Machine-Gun Corps with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was awarded the D.S.O., and was three times mentioned in despatches.

After the war he commanded a company of the 1st Bn. The Machine-Gun Corps in Ireland, with the rank of Major, and retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1922.

In 1927 Lieut.-Col. Bolton came to the 4th Queen's as Lieutenant and Quartermaster, and attained his majority for the third time in his career in 1934. This record is probably unique in the British Army. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the last Birthday Honours List.

A GERMAN TRIBUTE TO THE BRITISH ARMY

At a time when the German Press, acting (one presumes) on instructions, is indulging in an orgy of hostile criticism of the British Army, readers may find it of interest to read the following translation of an article which appeared in a German paper, in the days when the German Press was still permitted to voice different shades of opinion. The article appeared in the *National Zeitung* on 16th January, 1902, and was apparently written in reply to attacks on the British Army which had appeared in other German newspapers. It will be remembered that at that time we were at war with the Boers, and that continental nations were largely pro-Boer and anti-British in their sympathies.

"AUDIATUR ALTERA PARS."

"People in Germany abuse the English troops, stigmatizing them as an army of mercenaries. A mercenary is a soldier by calling, who, regardless of duty and right, merely for filthy lucre, brings his head into the market at home or elsewhere. We shall see how far the employment of such abusive language is justifiable regarding the English troops."

"To be brief, it may be taken that the English Army is composed of three chief constituent parts. In the first rank stands the Regular Army, the greater part recruited from a low (*but not the lowest*) social grade or stratum. It is such men who wrung from the enemy victories in India under Clive, Wellington, Havelock, and Napier; who, in Torres Vedras, at Vittoria, and in the Pyrenees, gained hard-fought battles over Napoleon's hosts; and at Waterloo, against superior forces led by the warrior Napoleon in person, they offered such a tough and long resistance, that the Prussians gained time, being anxiously awaited for, to change (transform) an undecided battle into a glorious triumph and an exterminating victory. In the battles of Inkerman and Balaclava, these men proved themselves to be matchless and unsurpassable. As concerns the pluck and courage of these heroes I will cite an instance.

"Have the people of Germany quite forgotten the sad and dreadful shipwreck of the English troopship *Birkenhead*? There were on board six hundred and thirty-eight souls, that is to say, four hundred and sixty-four soldiers, and one hundred and seventy-four sailors, women and children. In the awful excitement following the two shocks as the ship ran upon the water-hidden rocks, the doleful wailings of the women were all in keeping (? contrast) with the behaviour of the men. The latter quietly and resolutely discharged the duties assigned to them at the pumps and lifeboats, and so loyally did they work that every woman and child was saved, but of the men very few only reached the near shore. The maintenance of order was rendered more difficult as the inestimable and worthy feelings of good fellowship forsook the soldiers, as they were only drafts, a motley crowd of men thrown together out of ten different regiments, and not commanded by their own officers. Fancy again that, the water here tangled with wreck and sea-weed, was swarming with sharks, and death in its grimmest form stared the men in the face. So heartrending was the occurrence that the King of Prussia issued orders that the official account should be read out to each of his regiments, as an example of true Teutonic military discipline and virtue. But now the question comes—whether it befits folks of the same Teutonic stock to slander and brand-mark men of such stamp?"

The taunt that the British soldier—especially the professional Regular soldier—is a "mercenary" because he receives a far higher rate of pay than the continental conscript is a very old one. There is a story told of a pompous and ill-mannered officer of a certain European Army who was expounding on this theme at a dinner party where a British officer was present. "We fight for honour and glory—the British Army fights for money!" said the foreigner, with an air of conscious superiority. "Quite right, old boy!" replied the British officer, with that smile of amused tolerance which so often puzzles other nations, "Each of us fights for what we haven't got!"

R. MAURICE HILL.

CHELTENHAM COLLEGE

NOMINATIONS FOR SONS OF OFFICERS.

The Council holds a number of Nominations tenable by entries from January, 1939, for sons of officers (Regular officers on the active list or retired pay) of the Army, Navy and Air Force, which entitle the holder to reduced fees of £141 per annum in the case of Boarders, and £51 per annum in the case of Day Boys. Application for these Nominations, stating year and term of entry, should be made to the Headmaster.

5th BATTALION

Headquarters: The Drill Hall, Guildford.

Honorary Colonel: Colonel Sir R. H. Dorman-Smith, Kt., M.P.

Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Colonel G. V. Palmer.

Adjutant: Major L. C. East.

SINCE September the following have been commissioned to the Battalion as Second-Lieutenants: J. P. P. Turner, P. E. Nesbitt, R. C. Hodgins, D. U. Clark, K. C. Briscoe and M. J. Marson.

Lieut. P. H. Jobson, M.B., having completed his medical studies, has been transferred to the R.A.M.C. (T.A.), and is now appointed Medical Officer to the Battalion.

Reorganization as an Infantry Battalion has necessitated considerable alterations, and the present arrangement of the Battalion is as follows:—

"H.Q." Company, Guildford and Woking (Major A. J. E. Pakenham); "A" Company, Dorking and Reigate (Capt. H. B. Watson); "B" Company, Camberley (Lieut. J. W. M. Mansel); "C" Company, Farnham (Capt. N. B. Riches); "D" Company, Haslemere, Farncombe and Cranleigh (Capt. T. Fetherstonhaugh).

On 6th April orders were received from the War Office for the raising of the Battalion to War Establishment. That this was accomplished satisfactorily is demonstrated by the following telegrams dated 14th April from the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir W. D. Bird, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., addressed to the Commanding Officer:—

"May I congratulate you on the fact that your Battalion has reached its War Establishment. You have set a fine example to our other Battalions"; and 18th April, from the Secretary of State for War:—

"I hear your Unit has reached its War Establishment. I send my heartiest congratulations.—Leslie Hore-Belisha."

The strength of the Battalion on 6th April was 31 officers and 629 men. War Establishment permits of 31 officers and 630 men. At the time of going to press the Battalion strength stands at 31 officers and 760 men.

Meantime we are busily engaged on further recruiting for the Second Line Battalion, and we look forward to the successful raising of the 2nd/5th Battalion.

Outstanding this winter has been the comprehensive series of lectures given to all subaltern officers of the Battalion. Held weekly on drill nights at each Drill Hall in turn, they have been attended in force, and have given excellent opportunities for junior officers to study conditions at other companies' drill halls. It is felt that not only have the Officers themselves benefited considerably, but that the result will be a greater appreciation in the Battalion of the tasks and difficulties of "Supporting Arms."

A Battalion Exercise was held on 19th March, at Pirbright, in co-operation with the 23rd Armoured Regiment (The Sharpshooters), R.T.C. Great keenness was displayed despite the cold, and important lessons were learnt in the formation and use of road blocks.

The result of the 44th Division Rifle Competition, held in September, 1938, was as follows:—

131st Infantry Brigade Group.—Winners, 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, 889 points.

132nd Infantry Brigade Group.—Winners, 7th Bn. The East Surrey Regiment, 841 points.

133rd Infantry Brigade Group.—Winners, 5th Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment, 829 points.

Boxing.

The Battalion Boxing Championships were held at Guildford on 14th January. The Officers' result was:—

Welter-weight.—Winner, Lieut. Chaldecott, "D" Company.

The Other Ranks' results were:—

Heavy-weight.—Winner, Sergt. Sears, "A" Company.

Light Heavy-weight.—Winner, Pte. Humphries, "D" Company.

Welter-weight.—Winner, L./Cpl. Bundell, "A" Company.

Middle-weight.—Winner, Pte. Henty, "A" Company.

Light-weight.—Winner, Pte. White, "H.Q." Company.

Bantam-weight.—Winner, Pte. Lucas, "H.Q." Company.

Feather-weight.—Winner, Pte. Newman, "H.Q." Company.

Fly-weight.—Pte. Bicknell, "D" Company.

Special Bantam-weight Contest.—Winner, Pte. Bailey, "H.Q." Company.

Special Welter-weight Contest.—Winner, L./Cpl. Chick, 1st Bn. Welsh Guards.

At the 131st Infantry Brigade Boxing Championships, held at the Headquarters of the 7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment on 26th January, the Battalion were successful in winning with 11 points, the 7th Battalion being second with 10 points, and the 6th Battalion third with 8 points.

The Officers' individual results were as follows:—

Heavy-weight.—2/Lieut. F. J. Street, "B" Company, walk-over.

Welter-weight.—Winner, Lieut. J. S. Chaldecott, "D" Company.

Light-weight.—2/Lieut. N. A. Oswald, "C" Company, walk-over.

The Other Ranks' individual results were as follows:—

Heavy-weight.—Sergt. Sears, "A" Company, walk-over.

Light Heavy-weight.—Runner-up, Pte. Humphries, "D" Company.

Middle-weight.—Runner-up, Pte. Henty, "A" Company.

Bantam-weight.—Winner, Pte. Bailey, "H.Q." Company.

Fly-weight.—Runner-up, Pte. Bicknell, "D" Company.

At the 44th Division Territorial Army Boxing Championships, held at the Headquarters of the 5th Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, Bromley, on 18th February, the Battalion were again successful in winning with 8 points. The 6th and 57th A.T. Regiments, R.A., tied for second place with 4 points each.

The Officers' individual results were as follows:—

Heavy-weight.—Runner-up, 2/Lieut. F. J. Street, "B" Company.

Welter-weight.—Lieut. J. S. Chaldecott, "D" Company, walk-over.

Light-weight.—Winner, 2/Lieut. N. A. Oswald, "C" Company.

The Other Ranks' individual results were as follows:—

Middle-weight.—Runner-up, Pte. Henty, "A" Company.

Welter-weight.—Runner-up, Pte. Foot, "A" Company.

Bantam-weight.—Winner, Pte. Bailey, "H.Q." Company.

We congratulate Lieut. Chaldecott, "D" Company, on being runner-up in the final of the Territorial Army Officers' Welter-weight Championship at the Albert Hall, on 3rd March; Pte. Bailey, "H.Q." Company, who was beaten in the semi-final of the Territorial Army Bantam-weight Championship at Chelsea Barracks, on 1st March; and L./Cpl. Shackleton, "H.Q." Company, on reaching the final of the British Amateur Welter-weight Championship at the Albert Hall, on 16th March, where, unfortunately, he was beaten on points. He was unable to compete in the Territorial Army Championships owing to injuries, and was most unlucky in not being able to defend his I.S.B.A. title this year owing to the bad cut he sustained over his eye in the Amateur Championships.

"H.Q." Company (Guildford and Woking).

Since the last JOURNAL was issued we have had several changes in our organization. First and foremost, after a long period as a Machine-gun Company, we find ourselves Headquarter Company of the Battalion, which, needless to say, has made a vast difference to our training. Our old friends, Haslemere Detachment, are now part of "D" Company, and Woking Detachment join us to form "H.Q." Company. We hope to be able to form as good a friendship with Woking as we enjoyed with Haslemere.

The Battalion Boxing Championships proved a little disastrous for us this year, although our lads put up a fine show. "D" Company managed to take the Boxing Shield from us, and to them we offer our congratulations. L./Cpl. Shackleton was unable to enter the Brigade, Divisional, Territorial Army and I.S.B.A. Section of the Welter-weight Championships this year owing to injury, but was able to reach the final of the A.B.A. Championships, which he lost on points. We wish him every success in next season's tournaments. Pte. Bailey repeated his previous successes by becoming Brigade Bantam-weight Champion for the third year in succession, and lost on points in the semi-final of the T.A. Championships, his opponent going on to win the final.

Recruiting has been going on at a fast rate lately, the type being of a very high standard, which makes us wonder why they have hung back so long before enlisting. Now we have got them, and with more to come, we shall soon be able to form our new battalion under the new T.A. Expansion Scheme.

We have to welcome to the Company new officers in 2/Lieuts. J. P. P. Turner and K. C. Briscoe, and wish them every success with us. Our congratulations to Sergt. (O.R.S.) R. V. Cook, Sergt. H. J. Marlow and L./Sergt. C. L. Brightwell on being awarded T.A. Efficiency Medals, also to Cpl. W. G. Taylor on appointment to Lance-Sergeant. L./Cpls. C. J. Perryman, S. G. Martin, H. G. D. Beadle, H. F. Newman and T. V. Pullan are promoted to Corporal.

"A" Company (Dorking and Reigate).

Boxing.—The Company failed to win the Battalion Boxing Championship by two points. Sergt. Sears won the Heavy-weight with Pte. O'Neill runner-up.

L./Cpl. Bundell, winner of the Welter-weight, fought on no less than four occasions during the evening, scoring his third knock-out in the final bout. We had hoped he would win the Divisional Welter-weight Championship. Unfortunately he hit his opponent rather too hard while training, and broke his hand.

Pte. Henty collected two more points by winning the Middle-weight.

Sergt. Sears and Ptes. Henty and Foot, who turned out at a moment's notice, all did well in Brigade and Divisional Championships.

Company Prize-Giving.—Many of our guests, including Sir Malcolm Campbell, who had promised to present the prizes, were suffering from influenza on the night of the Company Prize-Giving.

The men attended in large numbers to hear Capt. Watson review the efforts of the Company during the previous year. Perhaps the most satisfactory point in his speech, both to him and to all members of the Company, was the almost formidable increase in strength over the past twelve months.

L./Cpl. Bundell won our Jubilee Shooting Cup. Sergt. Chapman returned home with the Lambert Cup. This cup has only left his mantelpiece on the night of the prize-giving for many years now. The Searle Cup for general all-round efficiency was won by Pte. Field.

"A" Company Officers' Dance.—On 10th March the Officers of the Company gave a dance at the Burford Bridge Hotel, Dorking. This was a great success. More than 130 people were present, and all complained bitterly that the evening had finished too soon. When a dance is enjoyed by everyone, and at the same time makes a profit, albeit small, no one can have grounds for complaint.

For the past six months the Company has grown considerably in numbers. The increased amount of work has been borne cheerfully by all, and especially by Sergt. Hubbard, our indefatigable P.S.I. Each week we find we are asked to take more work on our shoulders; let's hope we have not reached the final straw that breaks the camel's back.

"B" Company (Camberley).

General.—Since the last issue of the JOURNAL a great deal has happened at Camberley, so that it will only be possible to report matters in brief.

First and foremost, due to the reorganization of the Battalion, we have lost the Farnham Detachment, which has now been promoted to the status of a full Company. It was with real regret that we said good-bye to them, and we wish Capt. N. B. Riches, our former Company Commander, and the new "C" Company all the best of luck in the future. The long association of Camberley and Farnham was the making of great friendships, collectively and individually, which the separation will not affect.

Lieut. J. W. M. Mansel succeeds Capt. N. B. Riches as Commander of "B" Company.

We extend a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut. Street who comes to us from "D" Company, and also 2/Lieut. M. Marson who joins us on his first appointment.

We congratulate R.Q.M.S. Hogsflesh on his promotion. As C.S.M., and before, he did great service to this Company with which he has been associated for a very long time, and his promotion means a great loss to us.

Death.—It is with regret we have to announce the death of Pte. A. A. Hawkins, who was found drowned under tragic circumstances in the Basingstoke Canal. A bearer party was provided by the Company at his funeral, under the command of 2/Lieut. C. W. L. Micklewright.

Shooting.—The Annual Company Prize Shoot was held at the R.M.C. Ranges on Sunday, 19th September, and the result was as follows:—

Young Soldiers' Championship.—Pte. Carnell (52 out of 60).

Officers', N.C.Os'. and Trained Men's Championship.—L./Cpl. Willans (50).

500 Yards.—L./Sergt. Goodchild (19 out of 20).

Falling Plates.—L./Cpls. Willans and Ellis and Ptes. Stares, Tate, Morgan and V. Moth. Time, 42 sec.

Annual Prize Distribution and Concert.—This was held on 17th December, and was made the occasion for expressions of mutual regret that the impending reorganization saw the end of the close association which had existed between

Farnham and ourselves for so long. Speeches to this effect were made by Capt. Riches and Lieut. Mansel, and among the very welcome guests who attended were our old Company Commander, Major J. H. Richie Dickson, and C.S.M. and Mrs. Reeves. After the prize-giving we held the usual very cheery sing-song concert.

Training.—Parade attendance on the whole has been most satisfactory. Most of our time has been taken up mastering the intricacies of the Bren gun and anti-tank rifle, and we have had several rehearsals of our P.A.D. Scheme. We are indebted to Capt. Cox, of the Camberley Fire Brigade, for his advice and assistance in training the Fire Fighting Squad. The Company was well represented at the Battalion Concentration, held at Pirbright on Sunday, 19th March, but what might have been a most interesting day was completely marred by a bitterly cold wind.

2/Lieut. Micklewright arranged a Recruiting Demonstration of modern weapons at Bagshot last September, which attracted a large crowd and achieved several local recruits. Brigadier-General F. C. Rome kindly came along and addressed a few well-chosen words to the crowd before the proceedings commenced.

Armistice Day.—Camberley's Annual Armistice Sunday was held on 6th November, and was, as usual, attended by a strong detachment from the Company.

Boxing.—The Company was well represented at the Battalion Boxing Championships held at Guildford on Saturday, 14th January. Pte. E. Ward reached the finals of the Welter-weight, and Pte. Cooper the finals of the Middle-weight, whilst 2/Lieut. Street obtained a walk-over in the Light Heavy-weight. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating 2/Lieut. Street on his excellent show in the Divisional Finals, where, although out-pointed by a more experienced opponent he earned the congratulations of the Brigadier for his plucky display. Our appreciation is also due to Cpl. Rush for the time and trouble he took in training the various contestants.

Children's Christmas Tree.—Over fifty children of members, accompanied by their parents, attended our usual party, which was held this year on the afternoon of 17th December. It was an even greater success than usual, as a particularly entertaining programme was provided, including the services of a professional conjuror. Lieut. Mansel deputized for Father Christmas as usual, and presented toys, sweets, etc., to every child.

Entertainments.—An innovation this year has been the formation of an Entertainment Committee, presided over by Lieut. Mansel, and consisting of 2/Lieut. Micklewright, R.Q.M.S. Hogsflesh, and Sergts. Delaney, Bannister and Standley. Two very successful dances were held on 16th September and 16th December, culminating in our annual St. Patrick's Ball on 17th March. This proved to be even more popular than usual, and a record attendance of nearly 300 danced, old and new style, under the direction of our M.C., Sergt. Standley, well into the small hours. Among the guests were Major A. J. Pakenham, Major Richie Dickson, Major Burton, Capt. A. J. A. Watson, and 2/Lieut. Clarke. The Company Officers who attended were Lieut. Mansel, and 2/Lieuts. Street, Micklewright and Marson. Before concluding, we must record our appreciation to Mrs. E. V. Lomas-Smith, who transformed the hall by a most attractive and original scheme of decoration. For these entertainments the Company is greatly indebted to the keenness and tireless energy of Sergt. and Mrs. Delaney. The amount of work entailed by these shows, which falls on the shoulders of these two, is not always fully realized. The job of a P.T.I. in Camberley is now more than a full-time one since, apart from normal routine, and lately the increase in work in the Company Office, his services are required for training the A.T.S. twice a week, the preparing and cleaning of the hall for the Badminton Club, school children, operatic shows, etc. Sergt. and Mrs. Delaney do their utmost, and with great success, for all those who use the Drill Hall, and we also thank those who give them their voluntary help.

"C" Company (Farnham).

Under the new organization we became "C" Company on 1st January. Our present strength is 4 officers and 74 other ranks, which is lower than it was six months ago when we were a Detachment. This has been caused by so many discharges for different reasons during this period, and the failure of others coming along to take their places.

Recruiting.—Recruiting has been slow in the district for some time, but has improved considerably during the past few weeks. We hope to reach the 100 mark very soon.

Armistice Parade.—The Detachment, as we were then, attended Church Parade in Farnham in the morning, and at Tilford in the afternoon on Sunday, 6th November. There were two officers and forty-four other ranks on parade. The turn-out and general smartness were commented on by one and all. A guard of honour was provided at Farnham and Tilford on 11th November, where wreaths were laid on the Memorial at both places.

Christmas Shoot.—The Prize Distribution took place at the Drill Hall on 18th January, the results being as follows:—

N.C.Os. and Trained Men.—1, Pte. Byfield; 2, Pte. Constantine; 3, Pte. Renton.

Recruits.—1, Pte. Pound; 2, Pte. Lee; 3, Pte. Godman.

Best All-Round Man and Regular Attendant.—Pte. Sims.

The prizes were presented by the Company Commander, Capt. N. B. Riches. The Prize-giving was followed by a very enjoyable evening. Refreshments were provided, and the following voluntary artists contributed to the evening's entertainment: Messrs. Griffiths and Lathy, the Farnham Institute Concert Party (under Mr. Hester) and several others.

Sport.—We have been running a football team throughout the present season, playing in the Farnham League, Div. I. The team was very young and inexperienced at the beginning of the season and were up against a good many old-timers, but have improved immensely during the latter part of the season. We have been congratulated at the end of every match on our well-known Regimental sportsmanship, and on the fact that every member of the team was a Territorial. We have the consolation of knowing that we did not have double figures scored against us, and that we did not finish at the bottom of the League table.

Boxing.—Considering the material available at the time we did not do so badly at the Battalion Boxing Championships. Congratulations to 2/Lieut. Oswald on winning his weight at the Divisional Championships. Owing to injuries he was unable to take part in the Territorial Army Championships at the Albert Hall. Better luck next time.

Shooting.—In addition to some of our old stagers we have a lot of promising shots coming along amongst the recruits. This is the result of coaching on the miniature range. We cannot keep it dark too long, but from information received one will find quite a number of "C" Company recruits on odd Saturday and Sunday afternoons strolling along the pastures of Bisley with an S.M.L.E. over their shoulders. I wonder why? But look out for "C" Company!

Dance.—Our first dance as "C" Company was held at the Memorial Hall, Farnham, on St. Patrick's night, 17th March. It was a great success. All one can hear now is, "When is the next one going to be?" If our hopes of a new Drill Hall materialize, we hope to hold them in future on our own "mud heap."

A.T.S.—Our new friends, the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, now occupy the Drill Hall on Wednesday evenings. After a half-hour's drill under

the P.S.I., the general remarks as they leave the Drill Hall are, "Isn't the P.S.I. a nice chap!" etc. As you know, Sergeants do not swear now.

We shall have to have a larger Drill Hall to put all the trophies in that "C" Company are going to collect this year. So watch out for "C" Company.

"D" Company (Farncombe, Haslemere and Cranleigh).

Owing to the reorganization of the Battalion on the new basis we have had to say farewell to the Woking detachment, who have become part of the H.Q. Company, and we welcome the Haslemere and Cranleigh detachments.

We extend a hearty welcome to 2/Lieut. P. E. Nesbitt and 2/Lieut. R. C. Hodgins, who have joined us at Farncombe. It is very unfortunate that Haslemere cannot produce an officer in their area.

The Company Concert and Prizegiving was held at Farncombe, and the prizes were presented by Major P. C. Fletcher. The entertainment was provided by the Godalming Borough Band. The prize-winners were:—

Company Champion Shot.—C.S.M. Keen.

Munro Cup, Class "B."—Pte. Wyatt.

Rapid Fire Cup.—Clr./Sergt. Munday.

L.M.G. Cup.—C.S.M. Keen.

Recruits' Cup.—Pte. Mumford.

The new Company started life by winning the Battalion Boxing Championship, an exceedingly good performance for those taking part.

Other Ranks.—Light Heavy-weight: Winner, Pte. Humphreys. Welter-weight: Runner-up, Pte. Davies. Fly-weight: Winner, Pte. Bicknell.

Officers.—Welter-weight: Winner, Lieut. Chaldecott; runner-up, 2/Lieut. Nesbitt.

Many congratulations to 2/Lieut. Nesbitt on getting the Best Loser's Cup. In the Brigade Boxing Championships Pte. Bicknell was unfortunate in having to retire with a cut eye when leading on points. Pte. Humphreys was runner-up in his weight. Lieut. Chaldecott won the officers' welter-weight, and went on to the T.A. finals, and lost on points to the holder.

Recruits have been coming in at a good rate, and all three detachments are nearing the half-century. There are rumours of the composition of a second-line Battalion, and our three Platoons will have to increase their strength to that of a Company.

Our only outing this year was at the Pirbright Scheme. "D" Company, for once, was unfortunately in reserve, and found things slightly cold.

Farncombe have been running a soccer team for a few months, and although they did not meet with much success at first, they are slowly improving.

We congratulate the following on their promotion:—

Cpl. C. J. Lamdin to Sergeant; L./Cpls. V. Lamdin and Hathaway to Corporal; Ptes. Hill, Knight, Lake, Cox, and Jarvis to Lance-Corporal.

OFFICERS' REUNION.

The Officers' Reunion will be held at the Depot on Saturday, 24th June. Particulars may be obtained from P.M.C., Depot.

6th (S.) BATTALION OLD COMRADES' REUNION AND DINNER

(Reprinted from "The Surrey Advertiser," Saturday, 18th March, 1939, by kind permission of the Editor.)

EXPERIENCES, grave and gay, of the Great War, were recalled at the second reunion dinner of the Old Comrades' Association of the 6th Service Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, at the Old Bell Inn, Holborn, on Saturday.

The 6th Queen's, mainly recruited from Surrey, was one of the first units to be formed in connection with Kitchener's Army, and, as part of the 12th Division, saw service on the Western Front from the end of May, 1915, until the Armistice.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The dinner was preceded by the annual meeting of the association, Capt. A. L. Pash presiding. Mr. E. H. Willis reported that the membership of the Association was 145, which, he thought, was very satisfactory, having regard to the short time it had been in existence. Owing to generous contributions there was a credit balance last year of £10. A donation was sent to the funds of The Queen's Old Comrades Association, Guildford. Many of their less fortunate comrades of the 6th Battalion were able to enjoy the reunion last year as the result of the liberal response to an appeal for contributions towards the expenses, and it was hoped this pleasing gesture would continue. Applications for dinner tickets this year numbered about 120, an increase on last year.

Mr. Willis appealed to members to bring the Association to the notice of any old colleagues who served in the 6th Queen's.

The desirability or otherwise of holding the reunion dinner elsewhere than in London was discussed, but although most of the members lived in Surrey it was generally agreed that London was the most convenient place.

Re-elected to the committee were: Capt. Pash (chairman), Mr. E. H. Willis, 531, Old Kent Road, London, S.E.1 (hon. secretary), Messrs. E. Barnett, G. Cotterill, H. Hursey and S. Hawkins.

Members can obtain from the secretary badges of the regiment in colours superimposed on the 12th Division sign—the ace of spades.

STORIES OF THE WAR.

At the subsequent dinner, attended by a company of 120, the chair was taken by Colonel R. A. M. Basset (who was the first adjutant of the 6th Queen's), Colonel H. C. E. Hull, Majors H. C. Cannon and Powell-Jones, Captains R. D. Clarkson, Webb, E. C. Luxmoore, A. L. Pash and L. J. Kemp, Lieuts. R. E. Johnson, J. W. Northwood, H. Northover and P. C. Crowe.

In memory of fallen comrades the company stood in silence for a few moments.

The chairman submitted the toast of "The King," followed by that of "Queen Mary," Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

Major Cannon, proposing "The Old Battalion," recalled that he joined it at the beginning of September, 1914, at Purfleet, when it was being formed. At that time it was 500 or 600 strong. The men were under canvas, but it was some time before they were issued with khaki. They were served out at first with the modern short rifle, but these were soon taken away from them, and were replaced by the old long rifle and other kinds of fowling-piece (laughter), with which they had to drill for several weeks.

"Of course, we were all awfully keen in those days," said the speaker, "and our one anxiety was that the war might be over before we got out there."

He thought Colonel Basset would agree that they made very good progress during their training, and that, as a battalion, they did not make a bad show when they fired their recruits' course on the ranges at Purfleet. As the weeks passed the weather became worse, and they nearly got washed out of their tents. Then they were told they were being transferred to a beautiful hut encampment at Sandling, Kent, with all modern conveniences (laughter), but when they arrived they found the huts only half finished and situated in a sea of mud. Just before Christmas, owing to the conditions, they moved into billets in Hythe, which were far more comfortable. (Hear, hear.)

In the early spring of 1915 the battalion left Hythe for Aldershot, marching by road in stages, the journey taking a week. Arrived at Aldershot, they all gaily thought they were immediately to proceed overseas, but they found they were only at the beginning of their training.

SAILED FOR FRANCE.

After recalling that the battalion was inspected by the late King, Lord Kitchener and Sir Archibald Hunter, the then G.O.C., Aldershot, Major Cannon spoke of the rumours which became current in May, 1915, that the battalion was expected to sail any day either for France or Gallipoli. At last, on the eve of 31st May, they entrained at Aldershot for Folkestone, whence they sailed for Boulogne.

"Of the triumphs of the battalion in France," said Major Cannon, "I will not say anything, but I will say we were a very happy battalion. (Applause.) We all knew each other so well. We had seen ourselves grow from a crowd of hobbledoys to a well-trained unit." (Laughter and applause.) After three years with the battalion, he served in other units, and he very much doubted if there was any battalion which surpassed the 6th Queen's. The battalion, he added, started on active service on a day very celebrated in the history of the regiment—the glorious First of June—and he thought it would be agreed that they proved themselves in every way worthy of their splendid forebears. (Applause.)

Response was made by the Chairman, who announced the receipt of telegrams regretting inability to attend from the first Commanding Officer of the 6th Queen's, Colonel Warden, and from the last Commanding Officer, Colonel D. Mann.

Continuing, Colonel Basset said he little thought in 1914, when he was a young and nervous Adjutant of the 6th Queen's, that he would become Chairman of the Old Comrades Association of the battalion. On behalf of the Association, he paid warm tribute to Capt. Pash, Mr. Willis and the committee for their services, especially for the excellent arrangements for the reunion dinner, and expressed pleasure at the attendance being larger than last year.

Entertainment was provided by Messrs. Syd Murray, Will Thorne, Dai Jenkins, Sam Mann and several members of the Association.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILKINSON DENT BIRD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

COLONEL OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT, 1929—1939.

AS noted in our Editorial column, Major-General Sir W. D. Bird has just completed his tenure of the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment. We feel sure that all members of the Regiment will be interested to have the particulars of General Bird's long and distinguished service, which follow.

He was gazetted to the Regiment as a Second-Lieutenant, from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on 22nd August, 1888, and was posted to the 1st Battalion. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 1st December, 1890. In 1896 he was seconded for special service with the Royal Niger Company, and served in Nigeria until 1897, taking part in the expeditions to Egbom, Bida, and Ilorin, and being mentioned in despatches and promoted Brevet-Major. He was also awarded the West African General Service Medal and Clasp. He had been promoted Captain in the Regiment in April, 1897. He served with the 1st Battalion in the Malakand Field Force, and Tirah Field Force, 1897-98, and received the Indian General Service Medal with two clasps. He was on special service in the South African War, when he served with the Rhodesian Regiment, a mounted unit, until he was severely wounded in 1900 at the Relief of Mafeking. For his services he received the D.S.O., as well as the Queen's Medal, with three clasps.

While still partially crippled, General Bird went to the Staff College, Camberley, in 1901; he was employed at the War Office in 1902; and was afterwards Chief Instructor and Staff Officer at the School of Musketry, Hythe, from 1903-05. In 1905 he was appointed to be an instructor at the Staff College in India, which was opened in that year, and served at Deolali and Quetta from 1905-09. After a short period of Regimental service he was appointed General Staff Officer, 2nd Grade, at the War Office, where he remained until 1913, when he was promoted Lieut.-Colonel and appointed to command the 2nd Bn. The Royal Irish Rifles (now The Royal Ulster Rifles). He went to France with this Battalion at the beginning of the Great War in 1914, and was severely wounded at the Battle of the Aisne, losing his right leg. On recovering he was appointed General Staff Officer, 1st Grade, at the War Office in 1915, and Director of Staff Duties in 1916. He held this appointment until the end of 1917, and in 1918 was appointed Lieut.-Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

For his services in the Great War, General Bird was awarded the C.B. in 1916 and the C.M.G. in 1918, as well as being created an Officer of the Legion of Honour and receiving the Croix de Guerre. On termination of his appointment in 1923, he retired and was created K.B.E. He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment in 1929 on the death of Sir Charles Monro.

General Bird has written several books, and among them are "Lectures on the Strategy of the Franco-German and Russo-Japanese Wars"; "Direction of War"; and "A Chapter of Misfortunes in Mesopotamia, 1915." He also holds the diploma of the Royal Geographical Society.



THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (RT. HON. LESLIE HORE-BELISHA, M.P.) SPEAKING AT THE BATTALION PRIZE-GIVING.

6th (BERMONDSEY) BATTALION

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

Hon. Colonel : Col. C. F. H. Greenwood, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Commanding Officer : Lieut.-Col. W. R. Darnell.

Adjutant : Capt. R. M. Burton.

THE new Territorial year was heralded by the change-over to the 1938 organization, and we are at last able to settle down comfortably in our threes after a period of uncertainty in which we frankly did not know which way to turn. The fact that we are now on the same footing as the Regular Army in organization and equipment should help to increase the already close co-operation which we have with our parent units.

We must also congratulate ourselves in this age of mechanization on being allowed to remain, whether on account of our merits or deficiencies, the same P.B.I. as before.

We have to welcome Mrs. King-Farlow, recently appointed to be Deputy Company Commander of our latest affiliated unit, the 30th County of London A.T.S. Company. We wish them every success, and hope that the amenities of our New Cross Headquarters are proving satisfactory. We understand that there is no difficulty in obtaining volunteers amongst the officers to lecture to the new Company.

Our Annual Armistice Sunday Church Parade was held on 13th November, producing the record attendance for recent years of 26 officers and 242 other ranks, in addition to over 200 Old Comrades. The usual ceremony was held at our own Regimental Memorial on Armistice Day, and a wreath was laid by Col. Woolley. A small party, with escort and Colours, also attended the service at the Royal Exchange.

The second Annual Dinner of the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) Dinner Club was held on 28th November at the Hotel Splendide, and was well attended.

The Inter-Company Boxing Competition took place on 25th November when, as last year, the keenness and number of the entries were a fitting reward to 2/Lieut. Worke and Capt. Shepperd for their energy and patience. The great interest now taken in this event is best illustrated by the results, "D" Company being the winners with 29 points, and "B" Company the runners-up with 28 points.

On 17th December the Children's Party was held, about 120 being entertained with the assistance of a number of the officers' wives and friends. We were particularly pleased to see the Mayor and Mayoress of Bermondsey on this occasion. Mrs. King-Farlow also attended with her first other rank.

Shortly before Christmas a long-awaited happy event took place, namely, the arrival of two sets of quins, five Brens and five Boys. This welcome addition to our equipment has led to a number of intensive courses for Officers and N.C.Os. who are already becoming proficient in handling the new weapons.

In January a portable gas trailer was stationed in the Drill Yard, and all members of the Battalion were tested. A P.A.D. demonstration was also given during the month, the proceedings being enlivened by a certain number of unrehearsed effects on the part of O.C. Fires.

In the Group Boxing, which took place on 26th January, the results were: 5th Queen's, 11 points; 7th Queen's, 10 points; 6th Queen's, 8 points. Two of our officers were unfortunately unable to take part owing to illness.

We congratulate 2/Lieut. Worke and Pte. H. Williams on winning their weights in the Divisional Boxing.

A practice P.A.D. Test took place in February at "Action Stations," when a satisfactory standard of efficiency was shown, especially in the M.O.'s department. The "noises off" were an undoubted success, but the conversion by the Fire Squad of two Buckets, I.G., to Buckets U, with hole, was the subject of an observation by the Quartermaster.

The Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company, who have adopted us, very kindly invited us to a sherry party at their hall on 2nd March, a number of officers and their friends being present, including the Commanding Officer and our Honorary Colonel, Col. Greenwood. The D.G.T.A. also looked in during the evening. This was the first occasion on which we have had an opportunity of meeting the members of the Company, and was much appreciated. We may look forward to an ever-increasing bond of association with them, and should like to take this opportunity of thanking Capt. Kellie, one of the leading Liverymen and an old member of the Battalion, for the hard work he has put in as Liaison Officer.

A number of officers attended the London Territorial Dinner in March under the presidency of Lord Wakefield.

On 14th March we were visited by the D.G.T.A. and the Under-Secretary of State for War, Lord Munster, who showed great interest in the training that was being carried out, and spoke to a number of the men.

A week-end T.E.W.T. in the Farningham district on the 25th-26th March will be remembered, if not by the importance of the lessons learnt, which were many, by the intensity of the cold which defied even the most drastic methods of "central heating," and was responsible for a most unmilitary diversity of dress.

The outstanding event of the year up to date is undoubtedly the Prize-Giving and Regimental Ball held on 31st March. We were most fortunate in having the Secretary of State for War to distribute the prizes, particularly so as the date followed closely on his statement in Parliament announcing the increase in strength of the Territorial Army. We were therefore privileged to listen to a stirring speech which was enthusiastically received, and should go far to assist our already improved recruiting figures. Amongst other distinguished visitors we were able to welcome the D.G.T.A., D.D.G.T.A., G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, our Divisional Commander, the Chairman of the County of London Territorial Association, and the Master of the Stationers' Company.

The fact that we were able to entertain some 250 guests speaks volumes for the activities of the Mess Committee, but we scarcely think that those members of the Association who were present still feel that our Officers' Mess accommodation is above the schedule. We were pleased to see the large numbers of serving members and their friends who turned up and helped to make the evening a rousing success, the strains of "The Lambeth Walk" continuing till the early hours.

On the following day the Annual Tea Party for the ladies of the Regiment took place, about 170 being entertained.

Easter Training this year was carried out at Shoreham, Kent, the strength in camp being eight officers and 116 other ranks, including the Drums, M.T., Signal Platoon and Senior and Junior Leaders. The first two nights were extremely cold for the men, all of whom were under canvas, but the weather improved beyond all belief, and conditions became so pleasant that all were sorry to return to Headquarters.

Some useful training was carried out, the chief feature being a strenuous dig in the solid chalk of the Kent hills, finally resulting in quite a respectable section of trench protected by a length of double apron fence.

We were fortunate in having the local football field on the camp site, the scene of a spirited, if unorthodox game, Officers and Sergeants *v.* The Rest. The officers who attended the camp will long remember the evenings spent at "The Crown," where they were billeted, which were considerably enlivened by our friend "Bill" and his banjo.



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 DEMONSTRATION OF THE 3-INCH MORTAR AT THE INAUGURATION OF A RECRUITING CAMPAIGN BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY (General Sir Walter Kirke, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.).

Congratulations to 2/Lieut. P. P. Wilson who was commissioned in October. We learn with great regret that our Padre, Prebendary E. Williams-Ashman, is leaving us. Popular with all ranks, he will be difficult to replace, and his regular appearance on training, however inaccessible the area, will be greatly missed.

Sergeants' Mess.

These days of "isms" have put everybody on their mettle, for since the camp period most members of the Mess have learnt the handling of Bren guns, anti-tank rifles, fire pumps and other subjects to fit themselves to give instruction on how civilization becomes more barbarous in war, and that action is the art of survival.

We have had little in the way of functions, but our old friends of the "Selkirk" have given us opportunities at darts and beer competitions. Our Tooting opponents still require new talent and gherkins and salted peanuts for the beer competitions.

The Sergeants at New Cross sponsored a dance for all ranks, which ran with great success fortnightly over a period of several months.

On Armistice Day, 11th November, all Bermondsey turned out to witness the parade. Afterwards many old ex-members made their way to the Sergeants' Mess, and by London's Sunday dinner hour (3 p.m.), the Mess had exhausted the supply of "browns" and "lights."

The Battalion Boxing Competition, held on 25th November, provided a most exciting evening. The members on duty assured its success by the able manner in which they carried out their tasks. Sergt. Dimsdale was one of the competitors, but lost to a younger man. The next time you want to see energy in boxing, come to 2, Jamaica Road.

The week-end courses held in December were very successful. It would appear to be the solution for all paid courses to be held at week-ends, for N.C.Os. are able to concentrate and absorb more instruction.

On 25th February the Annual Sergeants' Mess Dinner, in the form of a reunion, was held at the Drill Hall, Bermondsey, followed by a dance. We had several absentees due to influenza, which was most prevalent at the time. There was much pleasure in meeting ex-members who, unfortunately, get fewer each year. Many old officers were present. Incidentally, it was the first occasion since their "adoption" that a member of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers attended a Regimental function. They were represented by Capt. D. F. Kellie. As is usual, the dancing brightened up near the hour of going home—here the members must be reprimanded for being so backward with their dancing lessons.

The 31st March is when Bermondsey made history in 1939 by the visit of Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha. Upon this auspicious occasion he presented Staff/Sergt. W. Lee and Staff/Sergt. E. Matthews with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. C.S.M. H. Potter, C.S.M. E. McQuillin and Sergt. Rexstrew were presented with the Efficiency Medal (Territorial Army) at the same time. We congratulate them all upon receiving their medals on this eventful evening.

The Secretary of State for War later visited the Sergeants' Mess. The members present, and their wives, were presented to him by the President of the Mess. Mr. Hore-Belisha played a game of darts, 201 up, with Clr./Sergt. Bryan, who won, the loser's score being 137.

We are pleased to have L./Sergt. Halpin back in the Mess after an absence of eighteen months.

It is hoped, with the publicity the Territorial Army is now getting, that the establishment will come up to war strength very soon. An opportunity should be afforded here for promotion for promising young Sergeants.

7th (SOUTHWARK) BATTALION

Headquarters : 71, Braganza Street, Walworth, S.E.17.

Hon. Colonel : Col. W. G. Simpson, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.

Commanding Officer : Lieut.-Col. P. Adams.

Adjutant : Major D. C. G. Dickinson.

AS only a very small proportion of the readers of this JOURNAL attended the London Territorial Dinner, we may perhaps be permitted to repeat a story told by Major-General Liardet, the first Territorial (we believe) to command a Division in time of peace. It concerns a subaltern in a Territorial Army unit who went before his Commanding Officer and asked for permission to apply for a transfer to the Regular Army. On being asked his reasons for wanting to make so drastic a change, he replied, "Well, sir, I've thought it over, and I have come to the conclusion that if I join the Regular Army I shall have more time to devote to my business."

This may be a slight exaggeration, but we feel that it must be founded on fact. Just at present the Territorial Army is not far short of a whole-time job, and the authorities seem to realize how much extra work there is to do, because they have authorized a whole-time Assistant Adjutant (Capt. H. L. Adams has abandoned his civilian occupation for the time being to fill the post), and have allowed an increase from three to five in the Orderly Room staff. At the present rate of progress it will not be long before Company Commanders are allotted a whole-time clerk.

The reorganization of the Battalion on the infantry battalion basis was carried through smoothly at the New Year, but there was much sadness amongst the older members of the Support Company when they had to say good-bye to their guns. The Gunners always considered themselves the cream of the Battalion, and it is heartening to see the way the bulk of them have settled down in the Carrier and Mortar Platoons.

Capt. K. C. Hooper left "D" (S.) Company to take over the new "H.Q." Company, Capt. K. A. Clarke has been given leave to work for the T.A. Staff College Examination, and Capt. H. E. T. Ross has taken over "D" Company, which is used now as a training company for recruits.

Our parade nights used to be Monday for rifle companies and Wednesday for the specialists, but now Headquarters is a hive of activity on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (Friday being reserved for Rifle Club, Boxing, Physical Training, etc.). This activity is rather the result of greater interest on the part of the men than any startling increase in numbers. Of course, we are getting a lot of recruits, but we are still far, far short of peace establishment, so that talk of war establishments and second-line battalions is rather over our heads. We are glad to say, however, that our "branches," the National Defence Company, and our Company of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service are up to strength and flourishing. We are making a big recruiting drive during the next few weeks, and are hoping that we shall be up to establishment before we go to camp (at Falmer again this year).

In the bad old days one used to have to reckon with only one or two musketry week-ends in the summer, but now things are very different—even in the winter we are not spared. We had our usual Armistice Sunday Church Parade, and this was

soon followed by a Communication Exercise in Richmond Park. In January twenty officers and twenty-eight senior N.C.Os. slaved from 2 till 5 o'clock every Saturday and from 10 till 5 o'clock every Sunday to master the intricacies of the Bren gun and A.T. rifle, and on four Sundays in March about thirty officers and N.C.Os. attended a Field Works Course at Pirbright.

We must not abandon the subject of training without some reference to P.A.D., whose high priest is Capt. Ross. He and Capt. Adams, who obtained a "Distinguished" on the P.A.D. Course at Tregantle, are the principal exponents of this strange cult. To the uninitiated it is very awe-inspiring to find oneself in a headquarters where the electricity has been turned off at the main and where the only illumination is provided by a ghostly moon, or an occasional flash from the high priest's lamp, by the light of which one can see a corpse being hurriedly taken away (presumably for dismemberment), or a few pale, strained faces gazing up to the skies on the look-out for non-existent enemy planes which never arrive. The incense provided by the smoke-bombs is also a popular feature, except with the Officer (not P.A.D.-minded) who was trying to give a lecture by candle-light when one of those smoke-bombs somehow found its way into the room.

On the social side we have also been busy. The Territorial Army Dinner mentioned before is an annual fixture, but this year was something special, the whole party from beginning to end being "stood" by Lord Wakefield. His generosity, which provided the best that the kitchens and cellars of Grosvenor House could produce, and some excellent speeches, combined to make an evening which left nothing to be desired. A select party of officers, however, decided to see the floor-show in the restaurant, but achieved nothing more than a staggering drink bill—in fact, judging from its size, there can have been nothing else to distract them.

The Old Comrades Association Dinner was the usual success, and the same applies to the Children's Party at Christmas. The writer of these notes has never attended the latter function, but he always thinks it a proof of the powers of organization and discipline of the Territorial Army that every year two to three hundred children are entertained for several hours without any serious damage (except possibly to some young stomachs).

Then, of course, there was our Battalion Prize-Giving, where the usual distribution of honours was made. In his speech the Commanding Officer was able to give a report of work and progress which has probably never been equalled. We are hoping, however, to put him in a similar position next time. The prizes were given away by Lord Hollenden, Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, which now takes a godfatherly interest in us.

Two new social events were initiated this year, and we hope both of them will be long continued. The first was a Battalion Dinner, which took the place of various Company dinners, and proved to be a very worthwhile idea although it had only been adopted after a certain amount of hesitation. There was an attendance of about 140 which, considering the counter-attractions available on a Saturday night, and the fact that nobody knew exactly what sort of a show it was going to be, must be regarded as very encouraging. The entertainment which was provided should ensure an enormous increase next time. The high-lights were a topical song by Sergt. Seymour (our Sergeant Master-Cook) who appeared in the half-libellous, half-lifelike disguise of a certain senior officer, and a young lady who told one or two stories which her mother would probably have censored, and sang a song about the business difficulties of a pawnbroker, which would also have been considered unsuitable in a more puritanical audience.

The other new social event was a dinner given to the Officers and Sergeants of the Unit by the Fishmongers' Company. The Officers and members of the Livery have shown from the beginning that they have no intention of letting the association between us become a purely nominal one, and their practical assistance has already established a very definite bond.

Their hospitality on this occasion, however, was unexpected, and thus doubly appreciated. The writer cannot, unfortunately, do justice to the occasion because, owing to a slight flaw in organization, he was busy at the time in the French Alps picking himself out of snow-drifts, but apparently the two things which stand out most clearly were the King's Bargemaster, Mr. Phelps, wearing Doggett's Coat and Badge, and the two-pound box of chocolates which each guest was given to take home to his wife as a peace-offering. It may be libellous to suggest that the King's Bargemaster was remembered because he was at the door when the visitors arrived, and the chocolates because they were the only tangible result of the party the following morning, but the suspicion lingers.

"B" Company.

In this Battalion we do not normally indulge in decentralization of the JOURNAL contribution as far as Company notes, but since "B" Company have lately done one or two things we are rather pleased about, we are going to offer a few details of our doings. In November last we struck an original note by holding a most successful Sunday exercise in Kent, mainly to cultivate map reading and observation among N.C.Os. and senior soldiers.

This scheme was worked out in conjunction with the Transport Section, and was graced by the presence of the Brigadier. We hope to stage a slightly more ambitious T.E.W.T. in the near future.

Early in the year we won the Inter-Company Spoon Shoot on the Miniature Range, to the intense disgust of "H.Q." Company who had rather coveted this event. We have also set our feet on the road to victory in the Inter-Company Darts Competition, and, although we have not won many Sunday football matches, we have many keen players.

Just before Easter we found that owing to the activities (or otherwise) of the Sappers the Depot could not house the whole Battalion, and so "B" Company was selected to go off on detachment and fend for itself at Purfleet. This conjured up some pretty grim visions in the minds of some who know those rain-swept marshes only too well, but the weather was kind, though cold at night, and we had the best and most useful Easter Training most of us have ever had.

We had a fifty per cent. attendance, Sergt. Palmer, and two men and a truck from the Transport to help us, and we succeeded in learning a lot about the rifle and the Bren, and although half of those present were recruits, we had ninety per cent. passes on the rifle, and sixty per cent. on the Bren, including two possibles in the Bursts Practice.

Another triumph was our defeat of the 7th Middlesex Regiment at football, for the challenge came from them, with 160 men to select from, and resulted in a score of 4-1 in our favour. Our march from Fenchurch Street to Braganza Street was reminiscent of the return from the Jubilee Parade, for we just struck closing time and were several times escorted with singing and dancing.

The nicest touch came from a girl in the Borough, who shouted at a group of youths who were sneering and jeering, "Why don't you — well join up instead of laughing?"



[Photo by S. Maso Nathanya.]

THE ROAD TO DEIR-AL-GHUSUN.



[Photo by S. Maso Nathanya.]

THE POST AT BAQA.

THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

IN September, 1938, the Auxiliary Territorial Service was started. This new service is for women only and forms part of the Territorial Army, and its companies are affiliated to Territorial battalions in peace-time for purposes of training.

The companies are raised for general or local service, personnel in the former companies undertaking to serve anywhere in time of war, while those in the latter live at home and work in the Depots.

The companies are of three sorts: Motor Drivers, Clerical and General Duties. The duties of the first two are obvious, and those of the General Duties companies include cooking, orderly work, storekeeping and clerical.

There are 14 Army and 3 R.A.F. Companies in the County of Surrey, the whole forming a unit under a Senior Commandant. Of these 17 companies, 6 are connected with The Queen's Royal Regiment, the 4th and 7th Surrey Companies being affiliated to the 4th Battalion (63rd Searchlight Battalion), and the 1st, 2nd, 10th and 40th Surrey Companies being affiliated to the 5th Battalion.

The 40th Company is for Local Service, and in time of war will work at Stoughton Barracks. This Company has 40 members (55 being its full establishment) and is under the command of Miss Rachel Warren, with Miss Hardie as Company Assistant. The Company started in December and have held drills every week since then. Courses of first-aid and gas have been completed, and training of clerks, cooks and storekeepers has begun at the Depot.

The 1st Surrey Company is a General Service Company stationed at Guildford with an establishment of 55, while the 2nd Surrey Company is stationed at Farnham with an establishment of 24. Both these companies started their drills in December and have had lectures on gas, first-aid, hygiene, messing and supplies in camp, etc., while P.T. and squad drill form a part of every programme.

The 2nd Company is up to full strength and is under the command of Mrs. Cooke, with Miss Ricketts as Company Assistant. The 1st Company is under the command of Miss A. Ward, with Miss E. Ward as Company Assistant.

The 10th Company is also a General Service Company. This Company is for clerical duties and is stationed at Dorking. It is a Lower Establishment Company, its full strength being 24. Drills began in November, and lectures on gas, army organization catering, stores, etc., have been given, and volunteers are receiving training in the R.A.M.C. Record Office at Woking. This Company is under the command of Miss Calvert.

The 4th Surrey Company is a General Service Company stationed at Croydon under the command of Miss Mortimer, with Miss Middleditch as Company Assistant. This Company started in November and has had drills every week with courses of lectures on first-aid, gas, office administration, etc.

The 7th Surrey Company is also for General Service and is stationed at Croydon under the command of Mrs. Davin, with Mrs. Warren as Company Assistant. Owing to some doubt as to where this Company was to be stationed it did not start drills till January, so is behind in its training. However, lectures on first-aid, gas, office routine, catering, etc., have been held, and part of the clerical section are helping at the Mitcham Road Barracks. The Company Commander and two other ranks were detailed in April to help at the Mansion House Recruiting Bureau.

A.T.S. Company Commanders wish to acknowledge with much gratitude the immense amount of help they have received from the Commanding Officers, Adjutants and Staff Sergeants, both with the training of their companies and with innumerable questions which have arisen over administration.

A.T.S. Companies are to go to camp each year, but up to the time of going to press no orders have been received for camp this year.

The companies connected with The Queen's Royal Regiment are rapidly filling, and it is anticipated that they will all be up to full strength shortly.

1st Surrey Company.

The 1st Surrey Company have had a course of lectures on gas, and have held one Gas Drill. We were able to borrow forty masks from a neighbouring A.R.P. centre. We have had a lecture from Lieut. Smith, the Quartermaster of the 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, on Army Catering.

Col. Palmer was kind enough to invite some of the 1st Surrey Company to watch manoeuvres on Sunday, 26th March. Eleven Volunteers were taken. The Quartermaster gave them a talk on the method of Army cooking, and they were able to see for themselves how this was carried out, and how the troops were given their food.

Practically all the cook's assistants have now had their preliminary training at The Barracks, Stoughton, where they have been cooking in the cookhouse with the troops, under the Sergeant Cook, who has had infinite patience with them.

Assistant Section-Leader Charlton has been trained in the Orderly Room at the Drill Hall, Sandfield Terrace, and has arranged for Mr. Cook to give one of a series of talks to the Clerical Section.

The whole Company is now having the First-Aid Course. Mrs. Pearce, who is an ex-Commandant of Red Cross, gave her first lecture on Thursday, 13th April, to be followed by three more.

The Company has started a canteen, begun by gifts given among the Volunteers. Company funds have been started, the Volunteers giving presents which are raffled during canteen time. A whist drive was given on 16th March in Guildford, and made a profit of about £4, since when it has been possible to purchase nine overalls (for the cooks attending Stoughton Barracks), as well as the bandages for the First-Aid Training, and Red Cross manuals.

On Sunday, 2nd April, Volunteer Walton organized a walk-ramble to practise map reading. This was concluded at her flat, where she gave them tea.

A point which we would rather like to emphasize is that though the 1st Surrey Company is a Guildford Company, 75 per cent. of the members come from greatly varying distances outside Guildford.

The excellent attendance of members at all forms of training is most encouraging.



1st SURREY COMPANY, AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE.



[Photo by Turner, 63, Lyndhurst Road, London, S.E.1.]

6th (SERVICE) BATTALION OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION DINNER, LONDON, 11th March, 1939.

THE QUEEN'S YORK RANGERS (1st AMERICAN REGIMENT) (M.G.)

Headquarters: Fort York Armoury, Toronto.

Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Col. R. C. Merrick, M.C., E.D.

THE annual celebration of the Battles of Brandywine and Queenston Heights took place on the week-end of 22nd-23rd October, beginning, as usual, with a dinner at the Canadian Military Institute. Holding the dinner at the Institute was a departure from the custom of previous years—at least since we entered Fort York Armoury—but, as anticipated, it worked with success. Dr. Dale, Commissioner for York County, Brig.-General D. C. Draper, W. J. Stewart, M.L.A., and Col. W. W. Soden-Irwin spoke briefly, the keynote of their remarks being the necessity of making all Canadians conscious of the needs of the Empire.

The following afternoon, Sunday, the Regiment marched from High Park to the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Field for Divine Service, conducted by the Padre. Returning after the service, we marched from the church to the foot of Parkside Drive, from whence we returned to the Armoury by street car to tea in the Mess. Lieut. W. H. Armstrong and 2/Lieut. P. J. S. Pote, with R.S.M. Jowett, C.S.M. Underwood and Sergts. Snowdon and Phipps made up the Colour Party.

Five teams took part in the special Vickers Machine Gun Competition of the Canadian Infantry Association on 15th October. We won the competition last year.

Regimental orders of 9th November contained the following welcome item: "His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve that in view of the amalgamation of The Queen's Rangers and the York Rangers, Non-Permanent Active Militia of Canada, the alliance of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) with the former and that of The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) with the latter, shall be continued to the unit formed by the amalgamation and designated The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) (M.G.), Non-Permanent Active Militia of Canada."

During autumn training the companies paraded independently every parade night except one a month. On that night, training was preceded by a battalion parade. It was found that this practice gave greater opportunity for proficiency in machine-gun training.

The Regiment furnished a guard of honour for the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario at Richmond Hill on Sunday, 13th November, for the Armistice Day Service there. Capt. J. M. Sharp, Lieut. R. A. Sharpe and 2/Lieut. P. J. S. Pote were in charge of the guard.

The Ladies' Auxiliary held a dance on the evening of 12th November in the Brigade Lecture Room and the Mess.

After a muster parade on the evening of 16th November, Col. W. W. Soden-Irwin, V.D., Commanding the 6th Infantry Brigade, inspected the Regiment. The annual administrative inspection was held on the evening of 28th November.

Many old friends of the unit attended our annual "At Home" on New Year's Day in the Mess. In the evening the annual New Year's dance took place, also in the Mess.

A provisional school of instruction for officers and N.C.Os. for eight weeks, commencing on 23rd January, was well attended by personnel of the unit. A number of N.C.Os. also attended a Royal School, beginning on 13th February.

The annual meeting of the officers took place on the evening of 11th January. An innovation was the election of Major C. B. Reeve, E.D., Reserve Regimental Depot, as President of the Mess Committee. Major Reeve's interest in the unit (he has attended camp the past two years) augurs well for our creature comforts in the future.

On 18th January a series of ten weekly lectures began for the purpose of training in tactics to be employed at camp this summer. Several of the officers wrote their lectures in the form of plays, in which the various "lessons" to be learned were stressed. The whole formed a pattern based on sand-table exercises for officers conducted during the winter by District Headquarters. On the same evenings, instruction on the range-finders was given selected junior N.C.Os. from each company. A refresher class for officers and N.C.Os. in gun drill and section drill was also held.

The members of York County Council were our guests on the evening of 24th January. Brigadier R. O. Alexander, D.S.O., the new D.O.C., M.D. No. 2, was also present, and made a speech in which he stressed the relationship of the Permanent Force to the country and its citizens, and to the N.P.A.M.

Under the direction of Lieut.-Col. John Hyde Bennett, V.D., the regimental archives have been steadily growing. Soon after entering Fort York Armoury more than four years ago, Col. Bennett, then in command, set aside a room in our quarters for this purpose, and on going to the Corps Reserve, was elected president of the Archives Committee. Recently he has completed making a catalogue of the effects of the Archives. Late acquisitions include an official history of The Queen's Royal Regiment, presented by Lieut.-Col. F. H. Dunham, M.C., V.D., who previously, among many other things given the Archives, presented the uniform he wore in the South African War, in the Royal Canadian Regiment, and a set of valuable coloured prints of the Crimean War. The Archives have also been the recipient of a map, replica of that used by Sir Arthur Currie, Commanding the Canadian Corps in France, illustrating the movements of the Corps during the last hundred days of the war. Col. Bennett, instead of putting many of the photographs presented to the museum under glass, has had them bound in books, at once preserving them and saving space. The museum also received an epaulette of an officer of The Queen's Rangers of the early Upper Canadian period.

Spring training for the companies started on the evening of 22nd April, the 1st Battalion parade being on 6th April.

The death of Major N. B. Allen, M.C., of the Corps Reserve of officers, is recorded with regret. Major Allen served in France with the 20th Battalion, C.E.F., and on coming to the Regiment acted first as second-in-command of "C" Company and then in command of "A" Company.

Lieut. B. H. Garfunkel has taken over the A.A. Platoon of Headquarters Company, and Lieut. H. P. Marshall has been transferred to "C" Company.

We regret that pressure of business has made it necessary for Major J. C. Boylen, E.D., Capt. M. L. Harris and Lieut. T. L. Young to transfer to the Corps Reserve. Capt. R. N. Jago has been retired, and Capt. the Rev. A. W. Downer has been transferred to the Reserve List, C.C.S. Lieut. J. C. Flanagan has been retired.

Capt. J. M. Sharp has been detailed to act as representative of the unit on the Fort York Armoury Canteen Committee, to replace Capt. Harris. He has been elected treasurer of the committee.

Capt. T. G. Heaton, R.C.A.M.C., is congratulated on his promotion to the rank of major.

A few of the officers only had the pleasure of meeting our new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Sir Harold C. A. Harmsworth, last autumn, when he broke his American visit by a one-day trip to Toronto. We trust, however, that he will return to visit us later this year, and be able to spend more time with us.

Congratulations are extended to Cpl. A. W. Lord, Cpl. I. G. James and L./Cpl. A. J. Walsh on qualifying for the rank of sergeant, and to Sergts. Ross and Elsbury, and L./Sergt. Aorne, on qualifying in "B" Wing at the Canadian Small Arms School.

Sergeants' Mess.

At the annual dinner, held in the Brigade Lecture Rooms, the toast list included the following: "Fallen Comrades," the Padre; "Canada with the Empire," C.S.M. Bickford and Lieut. Walter L. Rayfield, V.C.; "The Canadian Militia," C.S.M. Turner and Major Jackson; "The County of York," Sergt. Lewis and Col. Bennett; "The Regiment," S./Sergt. Whelan and Col. Merrick; "Our Guests," R.Q.M.S. Marsh and Lieut. Pope, R.C.R.

The following new officers were elected for 1939 at the annual meeting; President, C.Q.M.S. F. Lewis, M.M.; vice-president, C.S.M. P. Lovell; secretary, Sergt. Gormley; treasurer, Sergt. Medhurst; board of management, C.Q.M.S. Hopton, C.Q.M.S. Rye and Sergts. Thompson, Allison and Smith; auditors, C.S.M. James and Sergts. Phipps and Picard.

The Band.

At the annual dinner on 4th October, held at Diana Sweets, Bloor Street West, Col. Merrick, Majors Dinsmore, Spencer and Jackson, Capt. Findlay and Lieut. Marshall and their ladies were present. Speeches, other than those by members of the unit, included one by an old friend of the band, Capt. John Slatter, band-master of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

It is a pleasure to record the fact that the Band Committee was re-elected at the annual meeting of the officers in the persons of Capt. H. J. Craddock (president), Major A. F. Spencer and Lieut. H. P. Marshall.

The following executive of the Women's Auxiliary of the Band was elected at our annual meeting: Mrs. M. Moore (president), Miss Burrough (treasurer), and Mrs. E. Cox (secretary). The Band executive: Bdsn. G. Anderson, H. Moore, S. Hopson and J. Griffiths.

We gave a concert at the Ontario Hospital in February, and another at Wellington House on the last Wednesday evening in March.

Drums.

Last autumn we took second place in the Newmarket Citizens' Band Tattoo, winning a silver cup, and the first prize shield in the York County Musical Festival at Aurora. Each member received a gold medal for the latter event.

Cpl. G. J. Delvalle is congratulated on qualifying for a V/T Specialists' Certificate, Ptes. Green and Poland for V/T Class I Certificates, and Ptes. Thompson and Zaborowski for V/T Class II Certificates.

Stretcher Bearers.

Cpl. F. H. Wade has been awarded the St. John Ambulance Association silver medallion for efficiency in first-aid work.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

2nd/35th BATTALION ("The Newcastle Regiment")

Honorary Colonels: Brigadier-General H. A. Goddard, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

Major-General Iven G. Mackay, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Colonel W. D. Jeater.

Headquarters: Newcastle, N.S.W., Australia.

As usual we have had quite a varied experience of events since writing our last report of our doings in September. That eventful month passed off without anything happening of a major nature, although that did not look the case at the time. Happily the expected, for which we were more or less prepared, did not eventuate. We all fondly hope that it will not occur for a long time yet, even though the horizon is rather black at the present time.

October saw the Battalion, with the remainder of the 1st Infantry Brigade, in its annual camp at Rutherford. Two years ago the 1st Brigade initiated beach defence training, and it has since been adopted as the training theme for all units. Once again we went to Port Stephens for this class of work. However, on this occasion the whole Brigade co-operated for the exercise, in conjunction with the 1st Field Brigade, R.A.A. (M.), 1st Field Engineers, R.A.E. (M.), Divisional Signals, etc., as well as the Royal Australian Air Force. It culminated in the biggest defensive exercise yet conducted in Australia, with our poor selves as the key to the situation.

We were all quite bucked at the standard shown by all ranks, particularly the section commanders, on whom the bulk of the responsibility fell. The effort which had been put in in training of Section Commanders in fire control, fire discipline, training, etc., was well compensated for in the manner in which they carried out their duties.

As in all coastal defence schemes, units were given extremely wide fronts to defend, and the Battalion was responsible for a portion of the coast extending for some miles. Consequently, platoons and sections were widely dispersed, entailing great difficulty in maintaining control. Thanks to the marvellous work of the Intelligence and Signal Sections the whole exercise was successfully carried out. The Battalion embussed at Rutherford and was transported over fifty miles to Port Stephens, portion of the Brigade moving by this means and the remainder by both bus and rail. Reconnaissance parties moved in advance, and the Battalion was put into position just before dusk. Work immediately commenced on preparing the positions, and sub-unit commanders were able to use their imagination in preparing their own positions as required by their own particular situations.

The gunners brought their 18-pounders right forward to the beach, under extreme difficulty in the very rough country, and were right up in the Battalion areas. All preparations were complete shortly after dark, with machine guns laid on fixed lines, and everyone ready for whatever might happen.

The S.O.S. went up shortly before dawn, and the whole Brigade came to life. The effect was most realistic. Field guns, Vickers and Lewis guns, rifles, etc., all combined to make a terrific din, and the sound of the Air Force planes overhead all served to make it even more realistic.

The writer was unfortunate in being back at Battalion H.Q., some hundreds of yards in rear of the beach line, but we were able to follow the progress of the battle quite clearly from maps, by means of the reports, messages, etc., which

continually poured in. The Intelligence and Signal people certainly made a good job of it. For some hours things were this way and that. Landings were made on our front in various places, but in each case were not successful. One platoon was completely wiped out, and many others badly knocked about, but counter-attacks speedily restored the positions. The ambulance people had a busy time dealing with casualties, who were picked up labelled with every wound, etc., imaginable.

About 6.30 a.m. the "Cease Fire" was ordered, and then the Battalion was recalled to a concentration point for breakfast. Many a tale of the night's events was then for the telling.

Another job was yet to be done, and the Battalion moved north about six miles for a field-firing exercise, in conjunction with the artillery. This completed, the long journey back to camp was accomplished.

Whilst at Port Stephens, the Battalion was visited by His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Gowrie) and the Chief of the General Staff (Lieut.-General E. K. Squires), as well as many other senior officers.

At the end of last year the Federal Government decided to increase the militia forces from 35,000 to 70,000. This has since been accomplished. Our Battalion had to increase from about 300 to 600 all ranks. Although we have not yet reached our allotment we are well on the way towards it. The recruiting campaign has had remarkable results, and the types of men enlisting are the best we have ever had. The rivalry for N.C.O. rank is very keen, and many potential officers have been noted for special training. A four-day camp has been carried out over Easter, especially for the new men, and had remarkable results. In September we will undergo a 12-day camp at Rutherford, when we expect great things.

Our Militia Adjutant (Capt. F. J. D. Field, E.D.) recently completed three years in his appointment. During that time he has done sterling work, and although all his work was done in the time he could spare from his civil occupation, he carried out everything as well as any permanent officer. He has now been relieved of the appointment, and the new Adjutant is Lieut. A. L. Behets, A.I.C., from Sydney, whom we recently welcomed. Capt. Field is to continue to direct all the Battalion training.

We have lost three officers recently. Capt. C. H. G. Spencer left us to join the permanent forces. Capt. J. W. Beckett has removed to Brisbane, Queensland, and Lieut. C. B. Luck to the South Coast. These officers were each farewelled by the Battalion, and carry our best wishes for the future.

Capt. W. T. Owens has been promoted to the rank of Major. Lieuts. A. J. Woods and G. L. Penn have had their commissions confirmed. Messrs. W. Silvey and H. Rutledge have been appointed lieutenants. Congratulations are extended to each of these gentlemen.

C./Sergt. Hutchison has been awarded a bar to his Efficiency Medal. Sergt. Sommers has been awarded the Efficiency Medal.

During camp the Battalion took part in the Brigade competitions. We won the Band, Signalling and Mortar competitions. The Band also won a cup for street marching. Second placings were gained by the machine gunners and buglers. Pte. Newham, our speed merchant, again won the 100 Yards and 220 Yards events. Sergt. Carrol, who won last year, was second in the High Jump.

We have been so busy lately that little attention has been paid to social activities. The officers held their annual Regimental Dinner in March, which was attended by Brigadier-General Goddard, the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment. His Worship the Mayor of Greater Newcastle, Alderman G. Jenner, also attended. A New Year party was also held by the officers. The sergeants, of course, conducted their usual Christmas function, but also, as usual, they had little to say about it. It is said that beer was drunk at this little, select gathering.

FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS

Armistice Sunday.

THE Corps, under Capt. B. C. King, marched to the local War Memorial, and took part in the Armistice Day Service. A wreath was laid on the Memorial in honoured memory of the Old Comrades of the Corps who fell in the war, and the buglers sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille" at the end of the service, as well as on 11th November itself.

Annual Inspection.

The Annual Inspection was carried out on 14th November by Lieut.-Col. Gurdon, M.C., The Black Watch, who carried out a thorough test of the Cadets' arm drill, cane drill, P.T., gas, map reading, and knotting and lashing. He expressed himself in the highest terms on the satisfactory display, and finished up by giving a most inspiring address on patriotism, duty, and all the points that we stress in the training of Cadets. He also expressed himself in the highest terms on the performance of the Band and Drums.

Annual Prize Distribution.

The annual distribution of prizes was carried out at the Camberley Drill Hall on Wednesday, 23rd November, by Mrs. Eastwood, commencing with a march past of the whole Corps, at which Major-General C. T. Eastwood, D.S.O., M.C., took the salute. After witnessing a display by the Cadets, during which Senior Cadet Under-Officer Harman and Cadet Under-Officer Eighteen handled their squads quite admirably, General Eastwood congratulated the Cadets on their all-round smartness and efficiency, and was particularly impressed with the wonderful spirit that pervaded all ranks, and he assured all present that the Corps could always count on the R.M.C. as their firmest friends and supporters.

General Eastwood is indeed continuously giving us proof of the real interest that he and his excellent staff are constantly taking in us.

The evening concluded with a distribution, by Mrs. Eastwood, of the many prizes, including a beautiful challenge cup, presented by herself, for the best all-round Cadet of the year, the whole ceremony being carried out by her in the most gracious and charming manner. A very nice tribute was paid to C.S.M. Hoey, Irish Guards, who, to our great sorrow, is leaving the R.M.C.

Senior Cadet Under-Officer Harman asked Mrs. Eastwood to present to C.S.M. Hoey an inscribed watch as a token of the Cadets' appreciation of all that he has done for them. Each individual Cadet subscribed to the watch.

Mr. King's Film: "A Year in the Life of a Cadet."

Mr. John King, who, as well as his father and mother, has always been one of our staunchest supporters, has been good enough to devote nearly a year of his life piecing together a most excellent film demonstrating the many activities of the Corps—in the Caird Hall, in the open, at work, and, indeed, all our many activities at our annual camp in Golden Hill Fort, Isle of Wight. So good was the film that the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Hore-Belisha, came in person to see it, and personally congratulated Mr. King on the value of the film, and the excellence of his technique. The film itself has been shown locally to crowded and enthusiastic houses on several occasions.

Annual Bazaar.

Our faithful stallholders once again gave us of their very best at the Annual Bazaar held at the Caird Hall on 30th November.

The outstanding feature of the event, and which resulted in the bazaar being the greatest financial success that we have ever had, was the artistic way in which all the stalls were laid out to represent an old English village. For this devoted piece of work we have to thank Mr. and Mrs. Lomas-Smith, their son, and excellent staff, who worked at the preparations for four whole days, from daylight to dark, with the happiest and most successful results. The Corps owe them all a very deep debt of gratitude.

Old Comrades' Dinner.

The Annual Dinner was held at Caird Hall on Monday, 5th December, and was followed by a most successful social. Over 200 sat down—a record number. Our kind lady friends again undertook the whole of the waiting and washing up, and carried out their duties as cheerfully and efficiently as ever.

New Cadet Officers for the Corps.

We have been fortunate enough to secure the services of two excellent young officers as Second-Lieutenants in the Corps. Their names are: 2/Lieut. Michael Mortimer (late Corporal, Lancing College O.T.C.), and 2/Lieut. Geoffrey Saulez (late Corporal, Wellington College O.T.C.). They are both giving us invaluable help.

Party for Basque Children.

The Cadets entertained one hundred Basque refugee children at the Caird Hall on 30th December, and gave them the happiest of evenings, their little faces showing how much they were appreciating their little "glimpse of sunshine" in the cheery atmosphere of the hall.

Cross-Country Run.

On Saturday, 1st April, the Corps took part in a cross-country run for the challenge cup presented by The King's Royal Rifle Corps, to be competed for every year by Cadet Units of the Home Counties. The Corps secured third place.

Mothering Sunday.

On Sunday, 19th March, we paraded at the Caird Hall and marched to the Parish Church at Frimley for the Annual Mothering Sunday Service. The service was taken by our firm friend and supporter, the Rev. J. W. Partridge.

During the march to the church our esteemed Vice-Patron, Lieut.-General Sir H. Jeudwine, K.C.B., K.B.E., took the salute, and at the end of the service the Corps had the great privilege of marching past that distinguished officer of the Senior Service, Vice-Admiral Sir F. Tudor, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., who, with Lady Tudor, was present at the service.

REGIMENTAL DIARY

You can obtain the Regimental Diary through the O.C.A. at the following prices: Leather (refillable type), 2s. 6d. complete; cloth, 1s. 3d.; pocket wallet, 6s. complete. Refills: For leather, 1s.; for pocket wallet, 1s. 6d. per pair.

All diaries complete with Regimental Crest, pencil and Regimental ribbon marker. Order before September.

THE DEPOT

SINCE the last issue of the JOURNAL all ranks at the Depot have had a very busy time. There have seldom been less than seven squads undergoing training. Recently our height standard was increased to 5 ft. 6 in. Recruiting in the last two months has been seriously handicapped because we cannot send recruits abroad fast enough. There are about seventy men undergoing post-depot training, and we have no more room for recruits. It is hoped that passages will soon be available for them.

Since last September the amount of correspondence has more than doubled itself. We have no doubt that we can at least defeat the Totalitarian States on paper. During the year we are to train 165 reservists of the Regiment in the new infantry weapons. Each will undergo an eight-day course at the Depot. Officers on the Reserve are also being given an opportunity to be attached to a Regular unit for a fortnight's training.

Major G. A. Pilleau, M.C., and Mrs. Pilleau left us in January for Minley Manor. We are very sorry to lose them both, but as they are so close we do not feel that we are out of touch with them. We welcome Major and Mrs. R. E. Pickering, who have taken over. They have well and truly filled the gap left by their predecessors. Mrs. Pickering, after a certain amount of misgiving at first, has become very A.R.P.-minded.

We congratulate Capt. F. J. C. Piggott on his promotion, also Capt. A. J. A. Watson (attached Sudan Defence Force) on having jumped over four brother officers' heads (the writer's included, — him!). We also congratulate Capt. P. H. Richardson on his marriage, and Capt. B. E. L. Burton on the recent addition to his family.

Since the last issue the following N.C.Os. have joined the Staff, to whom we extend a hearty welcome: Serjts. Court, Jacques, Litton, Houchin and Nye, L./Sergt. Oliver, Cpls. Born, Lewis and Domoney, and L./Cpls. Scott, Sleet and Manning. We wish those who have left us good luck.

We have had a very successful football and hockey season. Results and accounts of our progress in the Army Cup will be found elsewhere.

The Col. Clarke Figures have arrived, and are on view in the Regimental Museum. The artists responsible for their renovation are to be congratulated on the way in which their work has been carried out. Visitors to the Depot should not miss the opportunity of viewing these figures, which provide such a link with the past history of the Regiment.

We have just received a new book on drill. We put this in print in case either of the Regular Battalions think that we invented it ourselves when they get future drafts from the Depot. Those who know Major R. E. Pickering will be surprised to hear that he is in agreement with it.

Sergt. Ridgway won the Area Individual Cooking Competition, and has, we hope, by now reached the Army finals.

The news letters from the 2nd Battalion are read to all ranks. We find them very interesting. Permission has been asked from the War Office to have extracts printed in the local Press.

We were very pleased to welcome the 7th (Southwark) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment here during the Easter holidays. They were very lucky in having such abnormally good weather for their visit.

We were also visited by parties of boys from Christ's Hospital and Woking School. We discovered that the appetite of the modern boy has not in any way diminished.

Before closing these notes we should like to record how sorry we are to say good-bye to the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir Wilkinson D. Bird, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who is shortly going to retire. His services to the Regiment are dealt with elsewhere.

SPORT.

This winter the Gymnasium has been used as a Games Club under the enthusiastic management of the P.T. Staff. Fencing, including foil, sabre, épée and bayonet, badminton, table-tennis and boxing can be enjoyed by those who have the leisure hours and inclination.

Fencing is still going fairly strong, but the numbers are too few, and there are no reserves when any members of the team are not able to fence. Our fixtures included matches with the following: Masks, Royal Military College, The Blades, Charterhouse School and Cranleigh School, and we managed to win four, which is quite creditable considering some of the teams we met. The following fenced for the Depot: Capt. G. S. Grimston, foil and sabre; C.S.M.I. Salsbury and Cpl. Thornton, all weapons—the latter has entered for the Eastern Command Bronze Medal Tournament this month, and we wish him the best of luck—L./Sergt. Coote, sabre and épée; L./Cpl. Hall, épée; Cpl. Hand and Pte. Jeffries, bayonet. If fencing is to continue we need more fencers from the Depot Staff.

Badminton has been well supported, and L./Sergt. Coote beat C.S.M.I. Salsbury in the final of the Depot Competition.

Table-Tennis is also popular and an excellent game, though not nearly so much exercise when there is no furniture to move in order to retrieve the ball. L./Cpl. Cole-Biroth beat Pte. Jeffries in the final of this competition.

Boxing.—This does not go with a swing, as there are no real enthusiasts to take on the teaching. The Inter-Section Competitions held at the end of each Platoon Training have produced some excellent fights, and there is undoubtedly some good material.

Football.

The Depot team has had a very good season, having won fourteen games out of eighteen. Most of the games were won by a wide margin, the Depot proving too strong for the majority of the teams played. The following N.C.Os. and men proved the backbone of the team throughout the season: Ctr./Sergt. Hill, Serjts. Litton and Karn, L./Sergt. Barrier, L./Cpls. Bowman, Cole-Biroth, Ledder, Scott and Seeley, and Ptes. Blanchard, Grierson and Rowe.

The Recruits' team has won three games out of five against other Infantry Depots. Ptes. Gallacher, Hope, Iles, Jeffries and Sidders played well, and should prove a useful addition to the team of the Company to which they are posted.

Following are the results:—

Depot.—Played 18, won 14, lost 3, drawn 1, goals for 93, goals against 36.

Recruits.—Played 5, won 3, lost 2, drawn 0, goals for 17, goals against 13.

Hockey.

The Depot have enjoyed a very successful season, and except for a wet January were able to play all their matches, which included fixtures with the following: Royal Military College Officers, Owls, Depot Royal Fusiliers, Courage & Co., Alton, Depot East Surrey Regiment, Depot Middlesex Regiment, Guildford,

Depot Hampshire Regiment, Platypods Cranleigh, Merrow, and No. 4 Company, R.M.C. Seventeen matches were played, of which 12 were won, 3 were lost, and 2 were drawn.

Our full side, ably assisted by Capt. Dyke, Kealy and Sykes-Wright, managed to get into the semi-final of the Eastern Command Cup, and if half the side had not just had influenza we might possibly have got a round further. Pte. Whittle kept goal until he went into hospital, and a very worthy successor was found in L./Cpl. Manning who kept goal remarkably well. Capt. Grimston, Capt. Richardson and Sergt. Karn played back. Sergt. Litton played consistently well at right half, and P.S.M. Lynwood centre half until he left on promotion. We had no substitute up to his standard, and he was a real loss in our cup matches. L./Sergt. Barrier moved into the centre from left half, and worked exceedingly hard. L./Cpl. Bowman came in at left half. L./Cpl. Seeley has improved as an outside right. Lieut. Loch, when here, played at inside right. Capt. Burton, in the centre, scored the vast majority of our goals, ably assisted by Capt. Kealy (inside left when he could play). Cpl. Potter was first reserve, and played in the first vacancy in the forward line. Cpl. Hand made a very useful outside left.

There seems very little time actually to teach the recruits, so hockey on the square was instituted, which is very popular. Whether the standard of play will improve remains to be seen.

Eastern Command Hockey Cup.

First Round.—v. Depot The Royal Sussex Regiment, played at Guildford on 16th November, 1938.

We were lucky to be drawn at home, and managed to win this game fairly easily by 9 goals to 2. Capt. Burton scored our first goal from a short corner within the first two minutes. This seemed to dishearten our opponents, and before they could get into their stride we had obtained a substantial lead, and at half-time we were leading by 5—1. The second half was much more evenly fought out, but our forwards were more effective in the circle, and we added another four goals to our opponents' one.

The outstanding feature of the game was the excellent combination of the forwards, especially Capt. Burton (five goals) and Capt. Kealy (three goals). Lieut. Loch scored the other with a grand first-time shot waist high. L./Cpl. Bowman played well at outside left, and the half-backs all played well.

Team.—Pte. Whittle; Capt. Grimston and Capt. Richardson; Sergt. Litton, P.S.M. Lynwood and L./Sergt. Barrier; L./Cpl. Seeley, Lieut. Loch, Capt. Burton, Capt. Kealy and L./Cpl. Bowman.

Second Round.—v. Depot Battalion Royal Engineers, played at Chatham on 6th December, 1938.

This was a game in which the teams seemed very evenly matched. During the early stages the Royal Engineers looked as though they were going out for a big score, but the Depot managed to finish stronger, and eventually won by 4 goals to 3.

The Royal Engineers pressed very strongly from the start and scored the first goal. Capt. Kealy replied with a fine effort for the Depot, and for some time the play was very even, both defences appearing to be on top. The Royal Engineers then scored two goals in quick succession, and at half-time the score was: Royal Engineers, 3; Depot, 1.

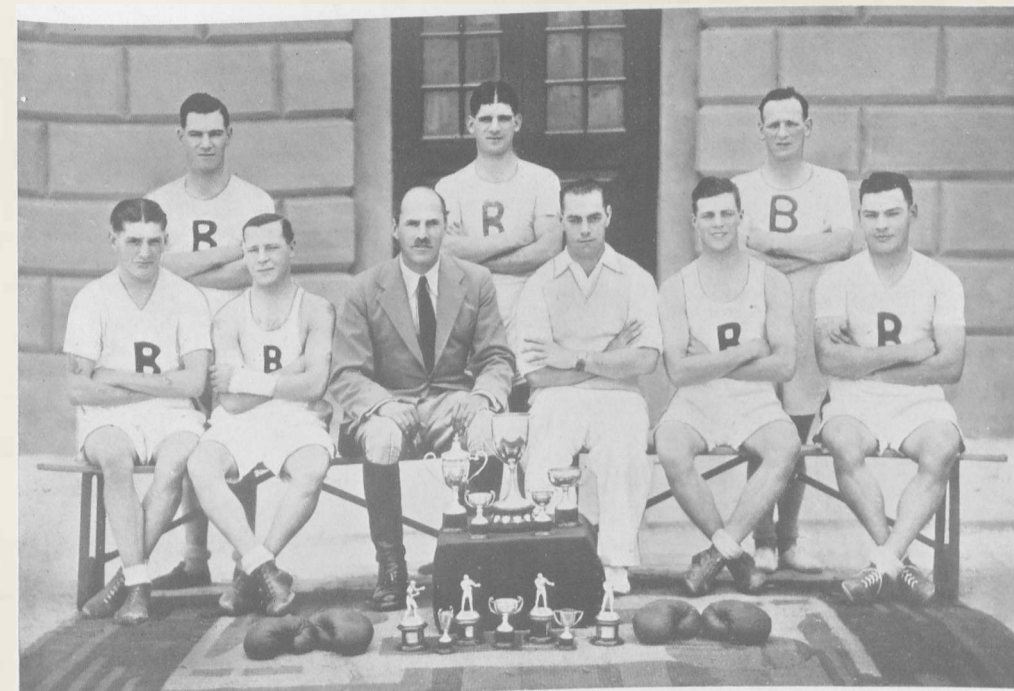
For the first twenty minutes of the second half the attack of both teams was held until Capt. Burton, refusing to be beaten, broke through the centre and scored the Depot's second goal. From now on the forwards kept up a determined attack, and Capt. Burton again got through, but was prevented from scoring owing to obstruction. For this a penalty bully was awarded, and Capt. Burton scored our

1st BATTALION



"H.Q." COMPANY, WINNERS INTER-COMPANY CRICKET, 1938-39.

Back Row—Ptes. Evans, Whitney, Johnson and A. Harding.
Front Row—Ptes. Bolton and H. Harding; R.S.M. Hartridge, M.B.E.; Lieut. R. W. M. R. Hartland-Mahon; Sergts. Roadnight, Whittle and Morgan (R.A.O.C.). (Absent, Major E. F. Bolton, Capt. M. V. Fletcher.)



"B" COMPANY, WINNERS INTER-COMPANY BOXING, FEBRUARY, 1939.

Back Row—Ptes. Gibson, Myall and Lennox.
Front Row—Ptes. Wood and Cook, Major J. B. Phillips, Sergt. Spence, L./Cpls. Sawyer and Cooper.

third goal. With the score at three goals each and about four minutes to go, Capt. Burton again got into a good scoring position in the ring, only to meet with further obstruction. From the resulting penalty bully a goal was awarded, and the game finished about one minute later.

For the Depot, P.S.M. Lynwood and Serpts. Litton and Barrier formed a very effective half-back line. Cpts. Grimston and Burton were outstanding in defence and attack respectively.

Team.—Pte. Whittle; Capt. Grimston and Capt. Richardson; Serpt. Litton, P.S.M. Lynwood and L./Serpt. Barrier; L./Cpl. Seeley, Lieut. Loch, Capt. Burton, Capt. Kealy and L./Cpl. Bowman.

In the third round we had a bye.

Semi-final.—*v.* 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (Shorncliffe), played at Guildford on 22nd February, 1939.

The game was played on a fast ground unaffected by the morning's rain, and from the start The Queen's pressed. Capt. Burton, after about five minutes' play, dribbled through, beat the goalkeeper when he came out and scored a good goal. The Queen's Own then pressed hard, but were kept out by the good defence of Capt. Grimston and Capt. Dyke, The Queen's backs, and by two good saves by L./Cpl. Manning, the goalkeeper. This was followed by a rush up the field in which L./Serpt. Barrier, Lieut. Loch and Capt. Burton worked well together, and which led to Capt. Burton scoring again to give The Queen's a lead of 2—0.

Thereafter The Queen's Own pressed more or less continually, but were kept out by good work by The Queen's defence, especially L./Cpl. Manning, and by infringements of the offside rule. Capt. Kealy broke away and took the ball into The Queen's Own half, but it soon returned, and eventually L./Cpl. Booth, The Queen's Own inside left, scored a very good goal, after L./Cpl. Manning had saved his first shot. Play remained level till half-time, despite continual pressure from The Queen's Own left wing, and the sides changed over with The Queen's leading by 2—1.

From the bully-off The Queen's Own pressed, and quickly equalized from a mêlée in front of goal. A period of scrappy play followed when the whistle blew frequently, but The Queen's Own then forced a series of corners from which L./Cpl. Manning made good saves. The standard of play then deteriorated, and Lieut. Loch and L./Serpt. Barrier, of The Queen's, were both injured, while Capt. Sykes-Wright received a nasty cut on the head. The temporary alterations necessitated by this made no material difference, but after further pressure The Queen's Own scored again to take the lead from a penalty bully. One last attack by The Queen's nearly equalized when Capt. Kealy's shot hit a goalpost, but The Queen's Own got the ball away and retained their lead to score a well-deserved win by 3 goals to 2.

Team.—L./Cpl. Manning; Capt. Dyke and Capt. Grimston; Capt. J. Sykes-Wright, L./Serpt. Barrier and Serpt. Litton; L./Cpl. Bowman, Capt. Kealy, Capt. Burton, Lieut. Loch and L./Cpl. Seeley.

Sergeants' Mess.

In common with contemporary journalists one must make the Crisis the headline, for the building of the new Mess overshadows in importance the construction of the Maginot or Siegfried Lines. Each and every day members can be seen showing each other and their friends around this monument of appreciation of the Sergeants of the Depot. Single members can be detected surreptitiously choosing rooms with a southern aspect, *i.e.*, on the opposite side of the Mess to the Depot Bugler. The local Press have it—from whence we know not—that a strong room has been constructed for the safe custody of the Mess silver, *i.e.*, one silver salt

cellar! The difficulties of furnishing a new home were never so apparent as at a recent Mess meeting, when tastes proved to vary from television-cum-wireless-cum-gramophone sets to carpets to silence the noise of a game of billiards. The chosen furnishings are in the best taste and, what is more, extremely comfortable.

An active P.M.C. and Entertainments Committee have made the fortnightly whist drives and dances a great success. L./Sergt. Oliver joined the little jazz band and swung the classics to the delight of the local jitterbugs. Misunderstanding resulted in the cancellation of the proposed spring outing to London, but members are looking forward to the annual summer outing to the seaside. The Upton Park Garage of the London Passenger Transport Board visited us twice, and enjoyed the impromptu social evenings which followed the hard-fought games of football.

To those who do not know the Legion of Frontiersmen, let us say that the Mess have found them a real and active body (Shades of Jack Stafford!). A triangular tournament on the miniature range was held with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Legion of Frontiersmen. Easy winners on the range, the Mess held their own in the indoor sports which followed. Entertaining the Crusaders, a local charity organization, provided a very pleasant evening just before Easter. The visit of the 7th Battalion during the Easter holidays, with two excellent pianists and many voices of doubtful quality, but undoubted volume, proved entertaining to those who remained behind. The early summer weather of Easter turns our thoughts to Mess tennis and cricket, one or two fixtures having been arranged.

Our personal column must record many changes. We regret the loss of P.S.M. Lynwood, Sergts. Dennis, Fower, Golding, Halliday and Jayes, L./Sergt. Lockwood, W.O. II Pinhorn, A.E.C., and Sergt. Leach, R.A.M.C., for whom we are sure the Depot was a delightful station. (What news of a Depot-trained Colour-Sergeant?) A survey of the new members reveals that they are nearly all old familiar faces, including Sergts. Court, Houchin, Jacques and Nye on posting, L./Sergts. Cockerill and Coote on promotion (congratulations herewith; mine's a . . .), Sergt./Instr. Donald, A.E.C., late (not so late) of the Regiment, and Sergt. Farely, R.A.M.C. (Hoots mon!).

Yes, they are still getting married, Q.M.S. White, R.E., and L./Sergt. Groves both having found an excellent reason for foregoing the pleasures of single bliss in the new Mess! Fortune-telling being the sole right of Old Moore's Almanack, the forecasting of further marriages must be left to Father Time, but the married men say that they recognize the signs in several cases.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward ...	44	18	4	Messrs. Gamages, Ltd. (Models) ...	1	15	6
Mrs. E. E. Warren, Subscription ...	10	0	0	Cleaning Medals and New Ribbons ...	3	3	0
Officers' Consolidated Subscriptions ...	38	0	0	Framing Colonel Woolley's Collection ...	4	4	6
				Velour for Medal Cases ...	1	14	5
				Incidentals ...	2	10	8
				Balance Credit ...	70	0	3
Total ...	£83	8	4	Total ...	£83	8	4

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held in the Officers' Mess, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 27th January, 1939. The following were present: Major-General Sir W. D. Bird, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Chairman), Col. G. N. Dyer, C.B.E., D.S.O., Major R. E. Pickering, Capt. G. S. Grimston and B. E. L. Burton, R.Q.M.S. S. Swanwick, Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) W. W. Cribbes; C.S.M. A. Warner, and Major C. J. M. Elliott, D.C.M. (Secretary).

- Minutes of Meeting held on 29th January, 1938, were confirmed.
- Accounts for 1938, duly audited, were adopted.
- It was decided to subscribe £150 to the Regular Forces Employment Association towards maintenance of the Surrey Branch and provision of Job-Finders throughout the country.
- It was decided to renew annual subscriptions for 1939 to the following organizations:—

	£	s.	d.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society ...	10	10	0
Ditto (Surrey Branch) ...	1	1	0
Royal Surrey County Hospital ...	10	10	0
Ditto (Samaritan Fund) ...	1	1	0
Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows ...	10	10	0
Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Home ...	8	8	0
Corps of Commissionaires ...	7	7	0
United Service Corps ...	5	5	0
Netley Charitable Fund ...	4	4	0
Army Gymnastic and P.T. Staff Benevolent Fund ...	2	2	0
Surrey Convalescent Home for Men ...	1	1	0
British Legion (Affiliation Fee) ...	1	1	0
Royal Victoria Patriotic School ...	2	2	0
Sir Beachcroft Towse Ex-Service Fund (for the Blind) ...	2	2	0
Total ...	67	4	0

- It was decided to hold the Annual All Ranks' Dinner on Saturday, 10th June, 1939, at the Thames House Restaurant, Millbank.

- It was decided to hold the Annual All Ranks' Reunion and Memorial Service at Guildford on Sunday, 25th June, 1939. Full particulars will be circulated to all concerned.

- Authority was given for the Finance Committee to review the balance of the Association and Charitable Funds, and invest such sum as it considers surplus to current requirements. At the same time to consider the question of investing £500 from the All Ranks' Dinner Club Account in National Savings Certificates.

- Action of the Finance Committee in "writing off" as a bad debt the sum of £121 19s. 11d. was confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.40 p.m.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

In presenting the Annual Report and Abstract of Accounts, duly audited for the year 1938, the General Committee wishes respectfully to place on record its deep sense of gratitude to Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, for the very kindly interest she has shown in our Regiment by sending a donation of £25 to the funds.

The following correspondence between the Comptroller and Treasurer to Her Majesty Queen Mary, and the Colonel of the Regiment, is published for information:

" MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, S.W.

" 8th December, 1938.

" MY DEAR GENERAL,

" I have received Queen Mary's commands to forward to you the enclosed cheque for £25, to be used for the benefit of the Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment in whatever manner you may consider most advantageous to the Battalions.

" As you know, Queen Mary takes a great interest in the Regiment, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief. Therefore Her Majesty has much pleasure in sending this donation.

" Yours sincerely,

" (Sgd.) C. N. HAMILTON.

" *Comptroller and Treasurer to H.M. Queen Mary.*"

" DEAR LORD CLAUD HAMILTON,

" Will you please convey to Her Majesty, with their humble duty, the most grateful and respectful thanks of the Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment for the very great favour and kindness that she has shown to the Regiment by sending a donation of £25 for the benefit of the Battalions.

" I think Her Majesty's purpose will best be fulfilled by paying, as I have done, the money into the Old Comrades' Association, the membership of which is open to 'all ranks,' past and present, of units bearing the title of The Queen's Royal Regiment, including all disbanded Battalions and Labour Units who wore the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment during the Great War, 1914-1918.

" Yours sincerely,

" (Sgd.) W. D. BIRD."

Membership.—Membership continues to be satisfactory.

Life Membership.—The figure now stands at 159 serving and 709 non-serving, against 175 and 688 respectively at the close of 1937.

Those who have served in any Battalion of the Regiment and have not yet joined the Association are earnestly invited to do so.

Members are requested to forward to the Secretary the names of any comrades who have served in the Regiment, and are not members, in order that particulars may be sent them.

Posters setting forth the Objects of the Association are available, and may be had on application to the Secretary.

The link connecting the individual to his old Regiment is the Old Comrades Association, therefore *keep in touch*.

Employment.—The work of the Surrey Branch of The Regular Forces' Employment Association continues to show satisfactory results.

Capt. Thomas, Secretary Job-Finder, has continued to work in close touch with our Association. £150 was voted towards the expenses of this Branch and the cost of providing Job-Finders throughout the country for the year 1938-39.



"B" COMPANY (ROYCOL) ON THEIR FIRST OPERATION AT BALA.



A CONVOY ABOUT TO LEAVE TULKARM.

The total number of applications dealt with by the Surrey Branch during 1938 were:—

	Queen's.	Other Units.
Number of men on Register, 1st January, 1938	4	108
New registrations	49	827
Placed in employment	47	590
Remaining on Register, 31st December, 1938	6	79

In addition, 159 placings of Queen's men were notified by other branches of the Regular Forces' Employment Association throughout the country.

The Committee appeal to all those interested in the Regiment for any information regarding employment. It may not have occurred to members that they can probably be of assistance in placing some of their less fortunate comrades who are workless. They should therefore send information to the Secretary should they hear of any vacancies likely to occur in any firm, business or company where good men are required.

Assistance Given.—During the year the Association dealt with the following applications:—

- (a) Cash grants, 135. Total amount distributed, £242 8s. 4d.
- (b) Loans, 34. Total amount loaned, £199.
- (c) £217 4s. was subscribed to other organizations working in the interests of our members.
- (d) Special donations of £10 each were subscribed to the Mons and the Fifth Army Memorial Funds.

Thanks to the donors of a number of consignments, the committee have been able to dispatch six useful parcels of clothing, where this was the outstanding need.

The committee appeal for cast-off clothing and boots. They may be dispatched to the Association.

It is possible that this appeal has been overlooked by a large number of members and those interested in the Regiment, in which case the committee hope that, by drawing attention to this need, a greater supply will be forthcoming during the coming year.

Any non-serving member requiring information regarding admission to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, to which the Association pay an annual subscription, is requested to write to the Secretary, O.C.A.

Accounts. Abstract of Accounts will be found on pages 78 and 79.

Appeal for Legacies.—Incalculable good can be done to the Association by benefactors remembering it in their wills. The committee think it is possible that it has never occurred to many interested in the Old Regiment that they can help the Association, and those for whom it was instituted, by means of this form of assistance, which also perpetuates the donor's association with the Regiment and his or her help to old soldiers.

Annual Dinner (All Ranks).—The 30th Annual Dinner was held at Thames House Restaurant on Saturday, 4th June, 1938. Three hundred serving and non-serving members spent a very enjoyable evening. Very few serving members were present, although, when fixing the date, it was thought that a stronger muster would be able to attend if the dinner was held during the Whitsun holiday, when it was considered a large number would be on leave in and around London.

A full report will be found in the JOURNAL published in November, 1938.

The 31st Annual Dinner will be held at Thames House Restaurant, Millbank, on Saturday, 10th June, 1939.

Will members intending to be present please inform the Secretary as early as possible?

The Annual Garden Party.—For the second year the Annual Garden Party, which was held on Sunday, 26th June, 1938, was preceded by a Memorial Service in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, through the kind co-operation of the Provost (the Very Rev. Eric Southam).

Although the number attending was an improvement on last year, it is hoped that a greater number will be present in 1939.

We are very grateful to the Provost and those who kindly arranged the service, and also to His Worship the Mayor and those members of the Corporation of Guildford who honoured us with their presence.

A full report of the service and reunion will be found in the JOURNAL for November, 1938.

Will all those intending to be present at the Annual Reunion on Sunday, 25th June, 1939, please complete and return as early as possible the "slip" attached to the Circular which will be sent to all concerned?

Conclusion.—In conclusion, the committee desire, on behalf of all ranks, past and present, to express their gratitude to those who have shown a kindly interest in the Regiment by becoming Honorary Members, thus supporting the Association by their subscriptions.

The help given by various branches of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society, the British Legion and other organizations in investigating and reporting upon cases referred to them has again proved very valuable.

The committee trust that during 1939 the solution of employment problems will show a general marked improvement, and that a further increase in membership will take place.

It is hoped that all unemployed men of the Regiment who have not yet made use of the Association will send along their names for registration. It is also requested that those who, whilst on the register, secure employment through other sources, should notify the fact to the Secretary so that he can remove them from the Register. By neglecting to do this another man is possibly prevented from getting a job.

W. D. BIRD, *Major-General,*
Chairman of the Committee.

R. E. PICKERING, *Major,*
Hon. Treasurer.

C. J. M. ELLIOTT, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL DINNER

TAKES PLACE AT THE

THAMES HOUSE RESTAURANT, MILLBANK, S.W.1, ON SATURDAY,
10TH JUNE, 1939.

7 P.M. FOR 7.30 P.M.

Will members intending to be present please inform the Secretary as early as possible, remitting subscriptions at the same time: O.C.A., 2s.; Dinner Club, 3s. (unless Life Member), when "Card to Admit" will be forwarded.

Note.—Please do not leave your subscription until the night of the dinner, as the practice of paying at the door causes confusion.

Railway ticket vouchers to enable members to travel at single fare for the return journey (available for day of issue only) may be obtained from O.C.A. Secretary.

Obituary

List of those known and reported to have died since last publication of the REGIMENTAL JOURNAL, November, 1938.

NO.	RANK AND NAME.	BATTALIONS.	SERVICE.	DATE.
	Capt. W. H. Nicholson, O.B.E.	1st & 2nd Bns.	1880-1914	—/12/38
	Major E. de Lacy Barton	3rd Bn. ...		12/1/38
48th Bde.				
344	Pte. T. A. Dawson ...	2nd Bn. ...	1875-1887	31/10/38
94	Sergt. W. Taylor ...	2nd Bn. ...	1878-1893	10/9/38
6078057	L./Cpl. E. A. Wines ...	2nd Bn. ...	1917-1936	27/1/39
3542	Pte. H. Fox ...	1st & 2nd Bns.	1891-1903	29/1/39
4310	Sergt. G. Lovegrove ...	1st Bn. ...	1893-1919	30/1/39
6087192	Pte. G. H. Elsey ...	2nd Bn. ...	1937-1939	31/1/39
	Sergt. W. Windebank ...	1st Bn. ...		
651	Pte. J. Sines ...	1st & 2nd Bns.	1883-1895	31/10/38
6086165	Pte. F. H. Warner ...	1st Bn. ...	1936-1939	17/3/39
L/8248	Pte. H. Prescott ...	2nd Bn. ...	1904-	10/4/39

"NICK"

WILLIAM HENRY NICHOLSON, who died at Salisbury in December last, was a Queen's man in every sense of the word. He was born in the Regiment on 5th November, 1863, his father being a Colour Sergeant. There is a tradition that his father was also born in the Regiment, but this cannot be verified.

Nicholson served for upwards of twenty-three years in the ranks, and was promoted to the rank of Quartermaster and Hon. Lieutenant on 10th February, 1901. He became Quartermaster at the Depot in June, 1904, and served there until August, 1914, when he was placed on retired pay on account of eye trouble. Whilst serving at the Depot he received accelerated promotion to the rank of Captain.

Shortly after his retirement he was made Secretary and Quartermaster of Queen Mary's Hospital, at Roehampton, where he remained until some years after the war, and finally gave up owing to ill-health. For his services there he was awarded the O.B.E.

In 1891, Nicholson was serving with the 1st Battalion in Malta as Orderly Room Sergeant. The then Commanding Officer recommended him for promotion to Quartermaster, but at that time he did not have a 1st Class Certificate of Education. The vacancy was kept open for some time, but he fell ill and missed the Certificate Examination. This delayed his promotion for ten years.

After a short period at the Depot as R.Q.M.S. he went to the 2nd Battalion as Orderly Room Sergeant, and out to South Africa in 1899. In 1900 he was invalided home with enteric fever, but returned to South Africa in 1901. At the conclusion of hostilities in 1902 I can remember him saying that he had accounted for every rifle and bayonet which had been brought out from England.

(Continued on page 80.)

O.C.A. ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Salaries and National Insurance ...	303 1 9	By Subscriptions and Donations ...	551 16 0
„ Printing, Stationery, Postage & Telephone ...	66 8 7	„ Life Members' Subscriptions (proportion) ...	21 0 0
„ Garden Party Account ...	12 0 9	„ Bank and Loan Interest ...	7 12 6
„ Special Donation—Mons Memorial ...	10 0 0	„ Sale of Membership Cards and Badges ...	6 16 7
„ Miscellaneous Expenses ...	20 0 3		
„ Bad Debts written off ...	121 19 4		
„ Balance being Surplus Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1938, carried to Balance Sheet ...	53 14 5		
	<u>£587 5 1</u>		<u>£587 5 1</u>

CHARITABLE FUND.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Grants in Aid ...	242 8 4	By Dividends on Investments ...	437 8 0
„ Subscriptions to Charitable Organizations, etc. ...	217 4 0	„ Donations ...	75 8 8
„ Special Donation—5th Army Memorial Fund ...	10 0 0	„ Grants Refunded ...	11 15 0
„ Cheque Book ...	1 0 0	„ Income Tax recovered ...	39 10 3
„ Surplus of Income over Expenditure, 1938 ...	97 10 11	„ Interest on Bank Deposit Account ...	4 0 7
	<u>£568 3 3</u>		<u>£568 3 3</u>

DINNER CLUB. ALL RANKS.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Cost of Dinner ...	95 17 11	By Subscriptions ...	227 12 3
„ Salaries (proportion) ...	20 0 0	„ Life Members' Subscriptions (proportion) ...	6 0 0
„ Printing, Postages, etc. ...	10 8 0	„ Interest on Bank Deposit Account ...	7 19 11
„ Balance of Income over Expenditure, 1938 ...	115 6 3		
	<u>£241 12 2</u>		<u>£241 12 2</u>

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET MADE UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Life Members, Association as per last Balance Sheet ...	205 0 0	By Lloyds Bank, Limited :—	
Add Subscriptions received during year 1939 ...	5 0 0	General Account ...	654 3 8
	<u>210 0 0</u>	Charitable Fund Accounts ...	454 18 11
Less Proportion transferred to 1938 Revenue Account ...	21 0 0	Dinner Club Account (All Ranks) ...	650 18 11
	<u>189 0 0</u>	„ Cash in hands of Secretary ...	6 12 10
„ Life Members, Dinner Club, as per last Balance Sheet ...	60 0 0		<u>1766 14 4</u>
Less Proportion transferred to 1938 Revenue Account ...	6 0 0	„ Investments at cost as at 1st January, 1938 (Market Value £12,044 13s. od., at 31st December, 1938.) ...	10821 0 3
	<u>54 0 0</u>	„ Advances :—	
„ General Income and Expenditure Account :—		Balance as at 1st January, 1938 ...	486 6 10
Balance as at 1st January, 1938 ...	797 11 7	Advances made during 1938 ...	199 0 0
Add Net Surplus of Income over Expenditure for the year 1938 ...	53 14 5		<u>685 6 10</u>
	<u>851 6 0</u>	Less Amounts repaid during 1938 ...	182 2 0
„ Charitable Fund Income and Expenditure Account :—		Less Bad Debts written off, subject to any loss on realisation ...	121 19 4
Balance as at 1st January, 1938 ...	11029 2 11		<u>381 5 6</u>
Add Net Surplus of Income over Expenditure for the year 1938 ...	97 10 11		
	<u>11126 13 10</u>		
„ Dinner Club Income and Expenditure Account :—			
Balance as at 1st January, 1938 ...	481 12 8		
Add Net Surplus of Income over Expenditure for the year 1938 ...	115 6 3		
	<u>596 18 11</u>		
Investments Reserve as at 1st January, 1938 ...	151 1 4		
	<u>£12,969 0 1</u>		<u>£12,969 0 1</u>

(Signed) G. A. PILLEAU, Major,
Hon. Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE.

The foregoing Statements of Accounts relating to the Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association have been examined by me together with the Books and Vouchers relating thereto, and I certify them to be correct.

Dated this 13th day of January, 1939.
GUILDFORD.

(Signed) W. KELLER SNOW, F.S.A.A.,
Incorporated Accountant.

(Continued from page 77.)

On the return of the 2nd Battalion to England in 1904 he went to the Depot as Quartermaster, and remained there until after the outbreak of war in 1914.

Nicholson, or "Old Nick," as he was affectionately known by all who served with him, was a man who lived for his job and for the Regiment. A hard worker himself, he got the best out of his subordinates by example, sympathy and tact. He was always ready and anxious to help anyone who asked for his assistance, and a good epitaph for him would be: "His greatest joy was to help lame dogs over stiles." Those of us who served with him when he was Orderly Room Sergeant or Quartermaster, will remember the courteous little note that sometimes came, calling attention to an overdue or incorrect return before it got into the hands of a higher, and probably unsympathetic, authority, and suggesting a call on him at his office, when all would be put right. His knowledge of Regulations was encyclopædic, and he was never at fault. On being presented with some abstruse conundrum, which had baffled lesser brains, he would consider the problem for a few minutes, and would then present the solution, something like this: "I think you will find the solution to this matter in Allowance Regulations. Paragraph 1,234 deals with it. This paragraph was amended in June, 1909, and I think there was a subsequent amendment in Army Orders of August, 1912. Wait a moment and I'll get the book, and we can look it up together." Sure enough, it was there, amendments and all.

To give a personal experience: whilst temporarily acting as Adjutant at the Depot in 1907 we had a most complicated court-martial case, involving half a dozen desertions, and subsequent fraudulent enlistments. I cannot remember the details, but there are several other factors involved which made it more than ordinarily difficult to prepare the summary of evidence and the charges. After wrestling with them for hours I went to see "Nick" in his office. In half an hour he had put the whole thing into shape, cleared it all up, and shown me exactly what to do. In doing so he never had to look anything up to see if he was right, and only did so afterwards with me, to prove his case. He himself made out the charge sheet, and the whole thing went through without a hitch.

Had he been a business man he would probably have died a millionaire. As it was his work was his hobby, and he gave his life and his brain to his Regiment and Service.

He married in 1905. His wife was always a very delicate woman, and just at the time of the outbreak of war in 1914 she died after a long illness. He was heartbroken, but he carried on, and as the result of the perfect organization he had built up, mobilization went without a hitch. But the strain, anxiety and hard work had been too much for him, and he had to stand aside for a time until he was brought back into harness again, and did fine work for Queen Mary's Hospital at Roehampton.

It would be easy to write a long panegyric on his many virtues, but how he would have hated to read it himself!

God rest his soul.