



The Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment

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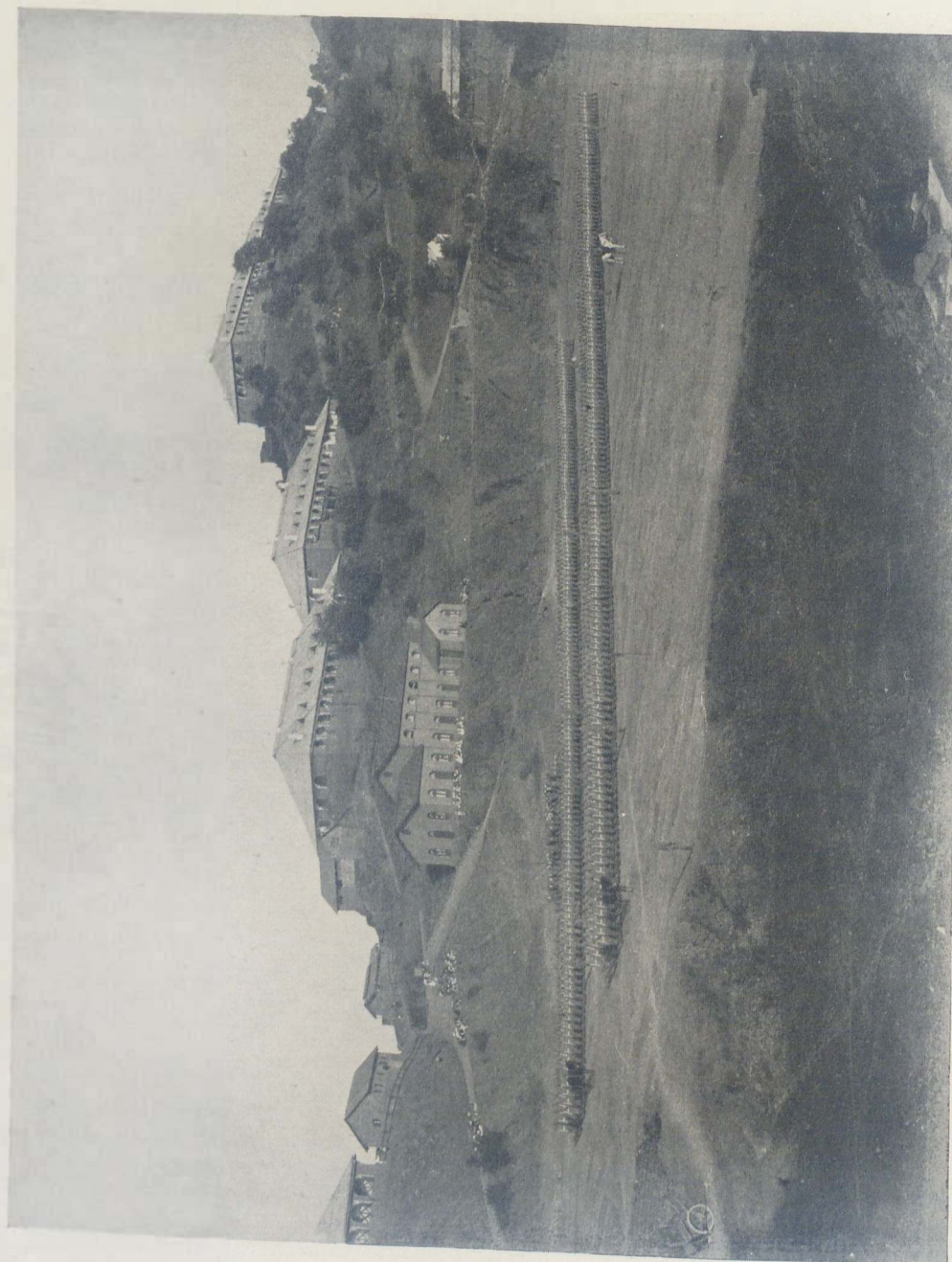
No. 2

CONTENTS

| | PAGE | | PAGE |
|--|------|--|------|
| EDITORIAL | 1 | SALERNO | 20 |
| THE FRONTISPIECE | 1 | OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES | 23 |
| 1ST BATTALION | 2 | RECOLLECTIONS OF 2ND BATTALION IN 1915-1916 | 25 |
| GENERAL GIFFARD | 7 | OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION | 28 |
| 2ND BATTALION | 9 | WAR MEMORIAL FUND | 29 |
| 1ST/6TH BATTALION | 11 | HOME GUARD BATTALIONS | 30 |
| 2ND/5TH BATTALION | 12 | GRANT FROM LORD LIEUTENANT'S FUND | 32 |
| 13 I.T.C. | 14 | NOTICE | 34 |
| NEWS IN BRIEF | 14 | OFFICERS' PENSION SOCIETY | 34 |
| HISTORY OF THE REGIMENTAL FLAG | 15 | OBITUARY | 35 |
| 1ST/7TH BATTALION | 16 | CORRESPONDENCE | 36 |
| 1ST BATTALION ACTIONS AT KOHIMA | 17 | EDITORIAL NOTES | 37 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | Frontispiece facing page | | PAGE facing page |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| THE FIRST BATTALION, DAGSHAI | 4 | 13 I.T.C. | 15 |
| 1ST BATTALION, BANGKOK | 10 | 2ND/6TH BATTALION | 21 |
| 2ND BATTALION | 11 | O.C.A. DINNER | 28 |
| 1ST/6TH BATTALION | | | |



THE 1st BATTALION DRAWN UP IN TWO LINES TO RECEIVE GENERAL SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, DAGSHAL, 1897.

Frontispiece

EDITORIAL

THIS is the first number of the JOURNAL since it started that has not been edited by Colonel Dyer and it is only by looking through the seven bound volumes that he has produced that one can appreciate fully the work he has put in and the standard he has maintained. These volumes are of much more than temporary interest, they form a permanent record of the life of the Regiment and the dignity and standard of production are worthy of it.

Colonel Dyer has promised that his advice and help will still be available when needed and he can be assured that his offer will be gratefully accepted.

As stated in the last Editorial, the form of the JOURNAL has been under review by the Officers' Club Committee and copies of many other journals have been inspected and costs compared. The committee finally unanimously decided that the form of the JOURNAL should (as far as austerity conditions permit) remain unaltered and that the issue should continue half-yearly, as near as possible to 1st June and 1st December.

This decision will be reviewed at the end of 1947 when the permanent organization of the Regiment should be known. This was in accordance with the majority of letters received on the subject.

It is feared that the present issue does not reach the standard hoped for in the future, but for Journals, as for the whole Army, the time of transition from war to peace is difficult and unsatisfactory. Battalions are mostly in cold storage, and the activities of those still in being, limited. The amount of copy received has therefore been less than usual.

Criticisms have been received of the brevity of the accounts in the last number of the records of the various battalions in the war. This was, of course, recognized and unavoidable as the accounts were confined to what the battalions could send in and what there was room for. It is hoped now to amplify these accounts and it is considered that the best way to do so will be to publish graphic eye-witness accounts of the chief engagements in which the Regiment were concerned.

Diaries (unit or personal) are not usually good or easy reading and newspaper accounts are sketchy, often sentimental, so personal consecutive accounts are preferred. Such actions as Kohima, the Chindit campaign, El Alamein, the 3,500 mile advance to battle of 169th Brigade, Salerno, the D Day landings and many others cry out for description and the Editor would be very grateful if anyone with a first-hand experience and a fluent pen will send an account in.

Finally, suggestions for new features and all items of Regimental interest will be most welcome, the more complete the record the better.

THE FRONTISPIECE

THE 1st Battalion in its tour in India from 1895 to 1905 established a reputation which is still remembered throughout the Indian Army and the tribesmen of the North-West Frontier. Shortly after this photograph was taken the Battalion took part in the Tirah expedition of 1897-98 and was described by the Commander, General Sir Bindon Blood, as "in all respects an example of what an infantry battalion should be."

On return to India the Battalion maintained its reputation in all respects, including sport, winning among many other trophies the Infantry Polo Cup and the Punjab Cricket Cup (three times).

In 1905 the Battalion crowned its achievements by winning Kitchener's Cup as the best war trained battalion in India. This was a most gruelling test, so much so that it was only once competed for.

The 2nd Battalion, on its arrival in India nearly twenty years afterwards found the legend of the 1st Battalion still alive both on the frontier and throughout the Indian Army.

This photograph (and that of the Pioneers facing page 29) are from a set of photographs belonging to General Sir Charles Monro, Bt., Commander-in-Chief, India, and Colonel of the Regiment.

They have been presented to the Regiment by his nephew, Lieut.-Colonel Monro of the Cameron Highlanders, who has expressed the wish that they should be bound at his expense and presented to the Depot Mess.

1ST BATTALION

SIAM: OCTOBER 1945—SEPTEMBER, 1946

At the time of writing the Battalion is stationed in Sungei Patani not far from the island of Penang. Our war-time association with the 7th Indian Division is drawing to a close as brigades and battalions embark for India where they will be either disbanded or regrouped. Our recent move to Mayala also closes a chapter called Twelve Months in Bangkok.

It was a most interesting period. The original fly-in from Burma landed the Battalion straight from the jungle into a country that knew no war-time restrictions. Nothing could have been a greater reward for the troops than to find their war was very definitely over and their new surroundings abounded with attractions to which most of them are accustomed in their town lives. Cinemas, restaurants, cabarets, shops with a wide variety of bargains, friendly and hospitable inhabitants, barracks only a mile from the centre of the town and the whole supported by a very favourable rate of exchange. But before full advantage could be taken of these amenities, the Battalion set about scraping off some Burma mud. It was surprising how dull the eye had become, but everyone was keen, and with daily improvements, all were soon suitably attired to take their chance in city life again. Guard duties, although heavy, came easily after the past eight months and the Battalion settled down to their new routine. With the rest of S.E.A.C. living on the edge of a volcano, we were lucky to be in Siam. No one knew how long we were to remain but it was hoped that we could stay for a real peace-time Christmas. And we did. It was celebrated in traditional style, leaving us in early January prepared for any eventuality. Rumour had it that we might move to Java, so on this the training plan was based. But training was far from continuous owing to a spate of ceremonial parades and guards of honour in which we always featured. There is no doubt that the Battalion's turn-out and drill impressed on all occasions. And gladly enough, in social circles the men were equally popular. Our peace-time band and drums would have completed a very favourable setting. As the year grew older, repatriation and demobilization accounted for increasing numbers of our old hands—the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Regimental Sergeant-Major, Quartermaster and one Company Commander together with forty-five other ranks are the only ones who now remain from Burma days. The character of a Battalion can well change during such a period, but happily enough our drafts were always good and the general standard was not affected.

February-March saw the gradual thinning out of 7th Division with the Battalion changing from one brigade to another, until we finally remained with the Divisional M.G. Battalion only, under command of a Headquarters known as B.T. Siam. Having handled the evacuation of all I.N.A. personnel and concluded the ceremonial period, we now turned our attention to the one hundred and forty thousand Japanese S.P. who had to be screened and loaded on to ships for Japan. It all went very smoothly, the rifle companies working at top pressure under a highly efficient system of their own device. Nakon Nayok was a normal concentration area whilst Nakom Pathom and Banpong marked the beginning of the Moulmein railway. Running concurrently with the evacuation of the J.S.P. was an effort to export rice. In spite of the British Government's generous proposal to pay for it, the Siamese Government could not keep up to schedule. The reason was that Chinese traders owned a substantial proportion of the rice-growing country and big mills, so that there was an international problem to be solved before the flow started. Moreover, unofficial strikes were not unheard of in Klongtoi Docks. Beyond the reach of military influences, we often felt a little pressure would help.

By the end of June, I.N.A., J.S.P., Dutch and Coolies were out and there remained little for the Battalion to do other than take on extra guards to stop the gaps made by troop withdrawals. Black and grey Japanese still remained in Bangkwang Gaol and this became an additional commitment. The Company Commander, O.C. Gaol, who in civilian life is an artist, made some very good sketches of the more important gentlemen such as General Adachi. This mild little man with a placid and contented expression was renowned as the soldier who said he'd build the Burma-Siam railway if it cost an Allied body to every sleeper. He finished the railway and the price didn't fall short of his estimation. Malayan rubber planters, most of whom worked on this track, record their arrivals and opening address; they were all promised that they would

build the railway and not return alive. However, there are quite a number planting rubber again. As July ran into August, we all felt we had been in Siam long enough. Not many had really seen the country properly and opinions were based on superficial views. A trip to Chiangmai up on the northern border showed Siam in a different light. Bangkok undoubtedly gave false impressions—the country certainly hadn't won the peace. It appeared to exist in a chaotic state of unrestricted feudalism. Three main line railways but no bridges, very few archaic engines and hardly any rolling stock. No roads as an alternative. No telephone communications beyond settlements. No officials of Government departments who had the slightest intention of doing any work; and an overall bribe-squeeze network which held a stranglehold on the whole community. One could not understand why no one ever complained to Bangkok itself, probably because there was no one to complain to. The hub of the political hotch-potch appeared to sever all connections with its responsibilities and settle down to an unprecedented good-time Charlie existence.

By early September we had news of our departure in conjunction with the final closing of B.T. Siam. We also heard of substantial additions to our Burma awards. The past twelve months had been a good break and as the only British Infantry Battalion to have served in Siam, it was certainly novel. The troops had fulfilled their role in good style—they left with a record of smartness, good manners and hard work and they left a people who genuinely appreciated having them there.

The s.s. *Corfu* took us round to Penang. We disembarked and went up to Sungei Patani where reorganization, equipping and training will go on apace until we embark for Gibraltar.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

On arrival at Bangkok, Siam, in October, 1945, the Mess was situated in Chulalongkorn University. By Christmas, the Mess was well established and the usual festivities were held and enjoyed by everyone, including members of the Officers' Mess. Boxing Day saw the football match played between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The final score was 1-1.

Members were leaving us steadily due to demobilization and repatriation. Just after Christmas we lost, with group 26, C.S.M. Walton and C.S.M. Hatton. Soon after their departure some members arrived from the U.K., having been on leave. Included were R.Q.M.S. Wickens, Sergt. Sharp and Sergt. Sampson.

The Mess moved, for the only time during the tour in Bangkok, to Choburi for a few weeks. During the stay here, the Mess Football Team was formed under the guidance of C./Sergt. Bolton. Since that time the team has grown strong and a good record is now held. On the return to Bangkok, to the same building, it was decided to hold a social evening every fortnight. These evenings were a great success and continued throughout the stay in Bangkok.

By June the Mess had lost many more members. Included were C.S.M. Dempsey, C.S.M. Chapman and C./Sergt. Gillam.

The Mess Cricket Team was formed in June. Several games have been played against Officers, who have not succeeded in winning one game.

Just before the departure from Bangkok a grand social evening, voted the best ever, was held for the last time.

In August, awards for gallantry in Burma were announced for the following members: R.S.M. Simmonds, M.C., Sergt. Walker, M.M., Sergt. Everatt, M.M., and Sergt. Robinson, M.M.

The Mess is now situated amongst the trees of a rubber plantation in Sungei Patani, Malaya. To conclude, members of the Mess send best wishes to members of all Messes of the Regiment.

CRICKET

By the end of last June, the great majority of the Battalion had returned from their out-station commitments to Chulalongkorn University, and it was decided that cricket could be satisfactorily organized on a Battalion basis once again. Up to this time soccer had taken priority over all other games, in fact cricket was almost non-existent and very undeservedly so, judging by the popularity it obtained during the months that followed. In a very short time inter-platoon and inter-company matches were regularly taking place on the Chulalongkorn University grounds. From the results of these games it was quite obvious that there was sufficient talent available

to form a Battalion XI. So on the 14th July, the first game took place against 23 British Infantry Brigade Workshops, from which the Battalion emerged victorious by 32 runs. This served to inspire us to further efforts and other games followed against such teams as the representative R.A.F. and War Crimes XIs. On leaving Siam, the Battalion XI had achieved a very fine record—played 12, won 10, lost 1, drawn 1.

The Battalion then moved to rejoin 114th Brigade in Malaya, and since being stationed in Sungei Patani, the cricket XI has played a number of matches, including fixtures against 114th Brigade, an R.A.F. XI, and against the 2nd Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment, who are stationed on Penang. 114th Brigade were victorious by a fairly narrow margin after an eventful game but fully deserved their win. The Battalion XI was successful against both the R.A.F. and the 2nd Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment, winning the latter game by the substantial margin of five wickets.

Amongst notable performances that have been achieved during the course of these matches, particular mention must be made of Pte. E. Harris, who so very successfully captained the team, and of Cpl. N. Rigby. Both have done consistently well throughout.

Those who have played for the Battalion: Major N. R. Ford; Lieut. P. C. Arnold; C.S.M. Bolton; Sergts. Kingston, Critoph, Puddephat, Smith (62) and Watt; Cpls. Turner, Rigby Morgan and Fairey; L./Cpl. Rhodes; Ptes. Lcese, Harris, Brooks and Latham.

RUGGER

Although rugger is not an inevitable game in the Battalion, some of us couldn't overlook the fact that Bangkok presented golden opportunities for enthusiasts. The season 1945 saw members of the Battalion playing for 7th Division against the Royal Navy, R.A.F. and a variety of Siamese sides. The Division won most of its games but some of the best matches took place against a team called the Ta Pra Chan. This excellent side was coached by one Chaloke, who coxed the Oxford boat in 1933 and knew equally as much about rugger. He trained his team on the strictest English lines and with four Varsity men as the backbone, he indeed produced good results.

The matches against the Ta Pra Chan typified the best British v. Siamese games throughout. We soon found that these people had very good hands, could run straight and swerve, and took tackling like sorbo toys. In addition their forwards knew the meaning of the words "back up," and many were the times our outsides would complain of two or three opponents "left over." They had one or two really fast players, but on the whole their individual speed was nothing remarkable. It took two or three games to make our players realize that they would have to pull out their best to avoid cricket scores, but once they got the measure of these well-balanced sides they soon turned the tables. Our weight in the forwards and the exceptionally good play of our stand-off and centres usually knocked the scores up in our favour.

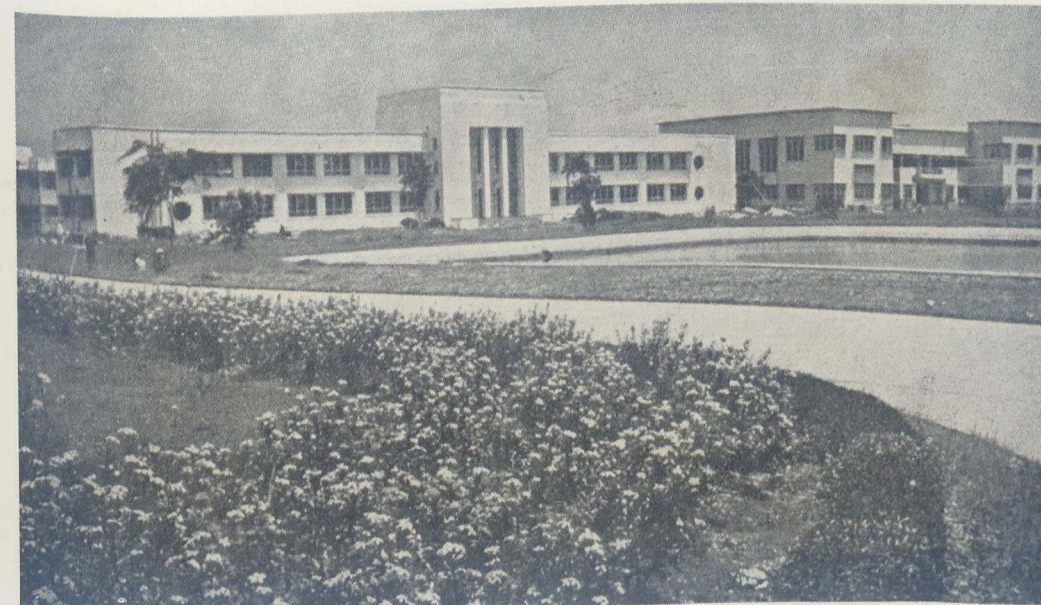
Of the numerous Siamese sides we played not one ever produced anything but the cleanest and the best type of rugger. Some pleasant evenings could be spent down at the very modern Italian-designed stadium watching inter-university and Service matches. Here could be seen the mixture of British and American influence, students packing the stands in their separate halves, supporting their teams in true Harvard style, whilst the game they watched with such obvious delight was essentially British. Their best side in 1946 was the Umps or University of Moral and Political Science. It romped away with the pre-war British Legation Cup for Bangkok teams, beating Chulalongkorn University, the Army Cadets, the Navy Cadets, the Medical University and the Agricultural University in a series of unimpeachable displays. The friendly enthusiasm for rugger was most stimulating and probably presented the best aspects of the "Land of Smiles."

SOCCER

Immediately upon the arrival of the Battalion in Bangkok football came into its own once more. From the end of the war until the fly-in we had played one or two games and the results showed only too plainly that the Battalion XI was not what it used to be. We settled down therefore, to producing a good team, which in actual fact lost only on a few occasions.

Without doubt, the leading team in Bangkok was the Dutch "A" XI, mainly due to their having approximately three thousand ex-prisoners of war to select from. Of the Siamese teams—Thai Niyom and Samaggi were the leading lights. A few words here on Siamese soccer. Though

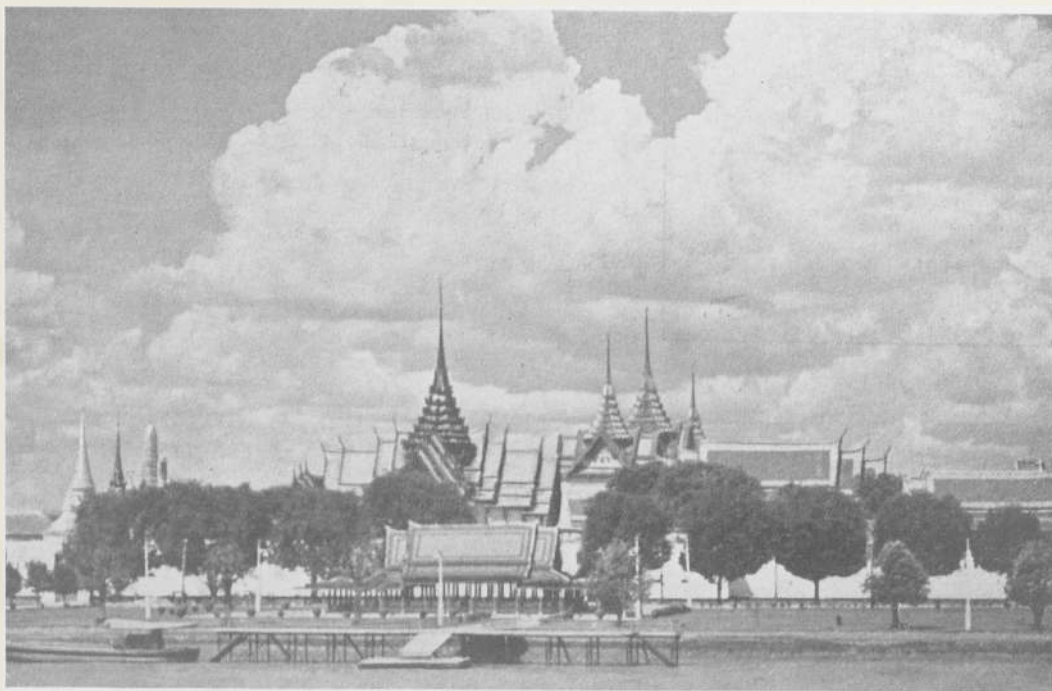
1st BATTALION, BANGKOK



CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY—OUR BARRACKS



DEMOCRACY in the Centre of RAJADAMNERN AVENUE



THE ROYAL PALACE



FOOTBALL TEAM
1st BATTALION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

usually much smaller and frailer than the average Englishman, these Siamese made up in speed what they lost in weight. At the start of the season there was no doubt that but for the superior soccer ability of the troops, we would have lost more matches.

The Battalion XI still had a few members who had played for and won the Don Bosco Cup at Shillong, where they could claim they were an unbeaten side, and fortunately, there were some really first-class players amongst the new drafts—the most outstanding of these being Cpl. Rigby, an ex-professional, who captained the team from the time he joined until the present.

Soccer in Bangkok was organized into two leagues known as No. 1 and No. 2. And due to the low strength of the Battalion, and therefore a shortage of men to select from, we were placed in No. 2 League. However, a couple of games proved that the right place was in No. 1 League, and at the end of the season the Dutch "A" XI were top with 1st Queen's second.

On the conclusion of the league, a Bangkok knock-out cup was started. This was won by the Battalion XI, the final being against the R.A.F. whom we beat 3-2.

The following were in the Battalion XI during this period: Major Grainger, M.C.; C.S.M. Bolton; Sergts. Skinner and Walker, M.M.; Cpls. Rigby and Turner; L./Cpl. Gale; Ptes. Leese, Taylor, Jones (82), Smith (31), Monger, Mansfield, Hellard, Chandler, Latham and McIver.

The Battalion XI played 21 games, won 18, lost 2 and drew 1. Goals for 96 and goals against 29. Since coming to Malaya, there have been quite a few matches, the most important being against our neighbouring Battalion, the 2nd Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment. The match was drawn 2-2 and when we play again we hope to improve on this result.

HOCKEY

Since its early days in India, the Battalion has always had a good hockey side, but during the war years we had little opportunity to play. However, the Battalion had a rest period at Shillong in the later months of 1944, and there a very strong team was raised under the leadership of Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston, an Army player. This team gained further distinction for the Regiment by winning the Shillong Hockey Tournament before the Battalion returned to operational duty at the beginning of 1945.

It was not until the war was over, and we moved into the University buildings at Bangkok, that we were able to resume our hockey. There, the enthusiasts were delighted to find a grass pitch only a few yards from Battalion Headquarters. Much hard work was necessitated before we could play on this pitch, for it had lain neglected by the Siamese for many months.

January, 1946, passed quickly, many inter-Company matches being played, but still no representative Battalion side had been fielded. Major Mott, our Second-in-Command and an old member of the Battalion team in India set about raising a team, and after several trials we played our first peace-time fixture against the Royal Jat Regiment. Our new team played a good game and the win 2-1 in our favour gave us the confidence we needed.

Only one more game was played in this phase, against the team of 114th Indian Infantry Brigade Headquarters, a much stronger side than the Jats. Once again the Battalion played a fine game and the score was 1-1. Shortly after this game, the "move-out" of 7th Indian Division began, and because of our many out-station commitments, Battalion games were impossible until July, 1946.

In July our first phase of "real" hockey began, when the Bangkok League Competition was inaugurated. Our first League fixture was against the Port Construction Company, a draw, and the second against the R.I.A.S.C. team, which we won 1-0. Of the many teams we played later, the F.F.R. M.G. Battalion side gave us the most exciting matches, and the "high-spot" of the League (from our point of view), was when we defeated this team 2-1 at a time when they were top of the League, and we were fourth. Unfortunately, the Competition had not been fully played when we moved from Siam in September, 1946, but we had acquitted ourselves well.

Now that we have arrived in Malaya, and have set up abode at Sungei Patani, there are few outside attractions and the Battalion is getting every chance to really concentrate on games of all forms. We are particularly lucky in the sphere of hockey, for it is (with the exception of football) the most popular local game. Several of our Bangkok players have left us already, but new talent is showing itself already. The Battalion team, still a little "new," has done well to date. We have won matches against 114th Indian Infantry Brigade (an old opponent), and against 54th Field

Ambulance. Our other matches have been against the 2nd Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment, and a local team, the Ibrahim School. Although the last mentioned matches were not victories, they were far from being overwhelming defeats, and there can be little doubt the next résumé on hockey will carry the news of numerous wins during our stay in Malaya.

Due to repatriation and demobilization, the structure of the team has changed so often that only the more consistent members are enumerated below.

Siam and Malaya

| | |
|---|--|
| Major Mott, team captain in Bangkok, inside-left. | R.S.M. Simmons, M.C., right-half. |
| Major Biven, outside-left. | C.S.M. Bolton, inside-right and centre-half. |
| Capt. T. Raven, centre-half. | Sergt. Bass, left-half. |
| Capt. K. Larcombe, team captain in Malaya, centre-half. | Cpl. Lucas, outside-left. |
| Capt. A. Irving, goal and left-back. | Pte. Morris, left-half and right-back. |
| Lieut. D. Small, right-back. | Pte. Holley, right-half. |
| Lieut. F. Eagles, outside-right. | Sergt. Stone, goal. |
| Lieut. P. Gould, inside-left. | Pte. Short, left-half and outside-left. |
| | Lieut. (Q.M.) Willans, umpire and coach. |

THE ROYAL TURF CLUB OF SIAM

Featuring as it did the premier attractions of the country, The Royal Turf Club welcomed Allied officers and men free of charge on all race days. The troops could enjoy a varied and entertaining programme from comfortable stands in company with a large cosmopolitan crowd which always attended. Here the Queen's left their mark on the occasion of two amateur races, the first to be run after the cessation of hostilities. The Battalion Polo Club had snapped up six bargains from amongst the numerous Japanese horses up for sale in January, 1946. Of these "our" Loppy distinguished himself by taking the two handsome cups presented by the Old English Students Association for the winners of these two races. He surprised the Siamese racing fraternity considerably on both occasions, the first by looking as if he could not win a race of any sort and the second by shouldering a two-stone penalty in effortless style. Critics considered the extra weight would be too much, but carrying twelve stone and giving two and a half to his nearest rival, he again put paid to the best that the Thai Cavalry Club could produce. Most of the Japanese horses were bred in Nippon and some had walked the whole way from North China, but Loppy was an obvious waler and must have changed hands in Singapore. We were sorry to part with our stable, especially the "winner" but we found good homes for all.

A normal Saturday afternoon's programme was composed of two Australian bred races, three Siamese Country-breds and the remaining four or five for Midgets. A Midget is a true Siamese pony, not much more than twelve and a half to thirteen hands high. But he represents on a diminutive scale the finer points of a strong British thoroughbred. Without any doubt they are a fine sturdy breed with stamina and speed, bearing no resemblance to their ugly little friends in China. They were always ridden by jockeys of appropriate midget proportions, some of them only ten or twelve years old. But it soon became obvious that they produced the most unprofitable results for punters and before long we decided to watch the fun and leave the Tote to other mugs to fill. A start sometimes took up to ten minutes, by which time these well nourished "tackers" were in a frenzied fury. The Starter, far from being perturbed by the turmoil of teeth and heels below him, appeared to enjoy his part immensely, turning them back again and again until the swirling muddle represented a well-jammed rugger scrum. At the closing moments of this inevitable entertainment, bits and pieces of Thai pony would tear themselves away from the tussle and start scorching round the track in a fruitless effort to catch the knowing one or two who had seen the flag go down. As might be expected, these races very seldom got out of single file but an arrow-head sometimes formed near the winning post.

The best races, and well worth going to see, were the top class Australian or Country Bred events. Experienced jockeys and well handicapped fields provided some excellent finishes. Few would stay through the ten or eleven races which started at 1330 hours and finished as dusk settled on the picturesque surroundings. Siamese hospitality was always at its best after the races, where a well-appointed Club House with famous English racehorses adorning the walls provided a pleasant evening for those who enjoyed a chat about "quads."

GENERAL GIFFARD

By SIR JAMES GRIGG, Secretary of State for War, 1942-45.

(This appreciation of General Giffard, published immediately after his retirement, is reproduced by kind permission of the *Sunday Times*)

GENERAL SIR GEORGE GIFFARD left the Army yesterday on retired pay. Contemporary reputations and judgments are chancy things, in no sphere more so than the military. The names of some generals very quickly become household words while others, who may have done as much or more than the popular heroes, are never heard of. General Sir George Giffard made a great contribution to our victory, particularly in the Far East, yet he is perhaps the least known of all the British generals who held high command in the Second World War. I shall try to make clear what this contribution was, but I am afraid that for full justice Giffard will have to wait till the Official History appears, and by that time he will be beyond the reach of earthly praise.

Giffard was commissioned in 1906. He spent more than half the time between then and 1939 with native troops in Africa. At the outbreak of war he was Military Secretary in the War Office, and to my knowledge an extremely good Military Secretary. A few months later he went to Palestine as G.O.C., and then, on the collapse of France, he was moved to West Africa. He knew more about Africa than any living soldier, and West Africa had suddenly become of great moment. It was now a vital staging area for our convoys round the Cape, and it was a source of indispensable raw materials.

The French and British colonies there were so intermingled that it could easily become a plague centre for Vichy, and therefore for German, intrigues. It was an essential link in the air route to Egypt, and from it we could, if necessary, develop land routes across Africa. In it also we could raise both fighting and labour units to relieve our man-power stringency. How important this region was can be gathered from the fact that it was later judged necessary to appoint a Resident Cabinet Minister for it. Shortly after his appointment the Minister went out of his way to send to the War Office the warmest of tributes to what Giffard had done and was doing in West Africa.

JUNGLE WARFARE

The Mediterranean was reopened in the spring of 1943 and the strategic importance of Africa decreased accordingly. And so when Field-Marshal Wavell asked for Giffard's services in the Far East it was found possible to release him. His new task was to take charge of the land forces based on India for operations outside India, with first priority for the recovery of Burma.

Certain lessons had been learned from the disasters in Malaya and the retreat in Burma in 1942. It was plain that neither British nor Indian troops would cope successfully with the Japanese in the jungle until some grave initial disadvantages had been removed. The standard equipment was too heavy for use against a lightly furnished and highly mobile enemy. Then there was the jungle hoodoo, which the Japanese fostered by employing all sorts of noises and ruses to rattle the troops who disliked fighting against what seemed to be the powers of darkness. And, perhaps most important of all, our men had to rid themselves of the idea that, once the Japanese had infiltrated behind our positions, there was nothing to do but to get back helter-skelter to some position in which it was possible to form an orthodox defence system again.

To evolve a complete outfit of tropical equipment would take time. To overcome the hoodoo and to acquire a suitable jungle fighting technique meant new and concentrated training. After that it was necessary that the new equipment and the new technique should be successfully applied in battle before going all out for the reconquest of Burma and of the Malay Barrier. At the beginning of 1943 Wavell ordered certain minor-scale operations in Arakan. But they were not a success and more preparation was clearly necessary. This was the stage at which Wavell asked for Giffard.

All that summer the process of intensive training went on. Later in the year it was decided to set up a separate South-East Asia Command for all offensive operations based on India or Ceylon. It covered all three services and also the comparatively small American forces in the area whose

role was to supply China, whether by air or by a reopened Burma Road. Lord Louis Mountbatten was appointed Supreme Commander, and the British Empire ground forces in his charge were formally constituted in Army Group under Giffard. The Group was to comprise initially the 14th Army under Slim for operations overland into Burma, and later another army in addition for seaborne operations—probably against Rangoon in the first instance. S.E.A.C. Headquarters were at Kandy, the Army Group was in Delhi, while the 14th Army were near Calcutta. It was 1,500 miles from Kandy to Delhi, nearly 1,000 from Delhi to Calcutta and another 1,000 again by narrow-gauge railway or newly made mountain roads to the Assam-Burma frontier, where the troops were in contact with the Japanese.

The operations projected for the cold weather of 1943-44 consisted partly of a renewed southward thrust in Arakan, partly of a move over the mountains into and down the valley of the Chindwin, and partly of an airborne operation by Wingate's Long-Range Penetration troops behind the main Japanese positions. Complementary operations were to be undertaken under the American General Stilwell to capture Myitkina.

At Kandy, particularly from the Americans there, there was a good deal of criticism of both the limited scope and the slow progress of the land operations, and all kinds of suggestions for more spectacular action were forthcoming. Giffard had to resist these, first, because they were not administratively practicable in that country and over those distances, and secondly, because he felt that it would be wrong to plan too large until it had been demonstrated in actual battle that the 14th Army could play the Japanese at their own game and beat them. Once this had been done the troops—British, Indian and African—would have unbounded confidence in themselves and could be asked to take on almost anything.

Anyhow, Giffard's caution turned out to be wise. The Japanese were masters of infiltration, and the country was ideally suited for such tactics. In the southern part of the thousand-mile front they got behind the British positions and isolated the 7th Indian Division. This division immediately organized itself for all-round defence and stood to its ground. When it was possible the troops were victualled from the air, and when it was not they went on short rations. In the end it was the enemy who caved in, and they had to retreat, leaving the bulk of the original penetrating force dead either in battle or of starvation.

THE KOHIMA BATTLE

So far so good, but an even greater task was at hand. The Japanese determined to strike in considerable strength through the mountains at Kohima and Imphal on the Assam borders. They got through far enough to invest both places. Both had to be supplied by air. Kohima was the key to Imphal, and if Imphal fell our communications with the whole of the long Burma front would be cut, while the Japanese would be free to make forays into Bengal. And invaluable as was air transport for rationing or moving troops in an emergency, it was out of the question to make it the regular and normal means of supply.

However, both places held, and what had happened with the 7th Division at the Ngakedauk Pass happened here on a much larger scale. Thousands of Japanese were killed in battle, thousands more of them died of starvation on their retreat, and it was now the Japanese in Burma whose morale was broken, while it was the British Empire forces who had acquired an unbeatable spirit.

Giffard had vindicated himself, and the way was now clear to speed up the operations in the secure knowledge that the troops would answer any call made upon them. The campaign was continued throughout the monsoon, and it ended only with the capture of Mandalay and Rangoon. But Giffard was not there to see the crown of his work. At the crisis, when Kohima and Imphal were in hazard, Mountbatten told him that he no longer had confidence in him. Giffard accepted the judgment without complaint or comment, and left as soon as his replacement arrived several months later. But he did not leave until it was established beyond doubt that he and his work had been triumphantly vindicated. The work was, until after he left, unspectacular.

Giffard was, and is, an unspectacular man, but he and Slim did for our armies in the Far East what Alexander and Montgomery had done in the Desert. The dog had a tin can tied on to its tail. He looked as unlike a mastiff as it is possible to imagine. The tin can was removed and the mastiff stood forth in his full and unbeatable magnitude.

2ND BATTALION

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| Commanding Officer | ... | ... | ... | Lieut.-Colonel A. J. A. Watson. |
| Second-in-Command | ... | ... | ... | Major N. T. Bailey. |
| O.C. "A" Company | ... | ... | ... | Major J. W. Sewell. |
| O.C. "C" Company | ... | ... | ... | Capt. P. Sweet. |
| O.C. "H.Q." Company | ... | ... | ... | Capt. W. Coom. |
| O.C. Administration Company | ... | ... | ... | Capt. D. Cowling. |
| Adjutant | ... | ... | ... | Capt. D. D. Champion-Jones. |
| Captain (Quartermaster) | ... | ... | ... | Capt. R. W. Jackson. |
| Padre | ... | ... | ... | Capt. I. G. Davies. |
| Education Officer | ... | ... | ... | Capt. J. E. Ramsden. |
| Sports Officer | ... | ... | ... | Lieut. J. A. Clarke. |

THE Battalion moved to Pashan Camp, near Poona, from Uruli on 19th September, 1945. Soon after the move a large draft was sent to reinforce 'The Buffs' and, with the embarkation of October "Python" (which included most of the Chindits), the Battalion was down to a strength of about 350.

In October the Battalion was moved into Bombay to quell the communal riots, but was employed only in guarding certain vital points and was not called into action. Two drafts from England joined in November and December, and our strength was thereby much improved. Christmas was celebrated in the usual festive spirit, and Lieut.-Colonel Du Vallon led an exhibition of tent-pegging and a display of superb horsemanship.

In February, 1946, the Battalion was again called to Bombay, together with the rest of 72nd Brigade—2nd Leicesters, 1st Essex—and 2nd Borders, 2nd Manchesters, 146th R.A.C. (Duke of Wellington's) and the Mahratta Light Infantry. This time it was to quell the R.I.N. mutiny and the subsequent civil rioting. The Battalion was heavily engaged in the Worli, Mahim, Dadar and Jacob's Circle areas, and there was much firing. We returned to Poona via Kalyan on 12th March.

The 72nd Brigade then broke up and we said farewell to the 2nd Leicesters, our companions throughout the war. From now on the Battalion lost heavily in officer strength. Major Comrie and Capt. Stewart left, and then the Australian officers, Majors Thorburn and Sceats. Capt. Allison, Willis and McGill, and Lieut. Johnstone all left in June to be released in their own land. Major Watson rejoined the Battalion the same month and became Second-in-Command.

Lieut.-General R. Lockhart, C.B., C.I.E., M.C., G.O.C. Southern Command, paid us a visit at Pashan on 10th June, and inspected the Battalion on parade.

On 13th July we evacuated Pashan Camp to accommodate the 4th Indian Division and moved to Kharakvasla South Camp, situated on the shores of Lake Fife. But even with the lake on our doorstep we were in no danger of being short of water, for the monsoon broke as soon as we arrived. As a summer camp, Kharakvasla is doubtless admirable, but we are in no position to appreciate it. The other disadvantage is that we are twelve miles from Poona along a bad road, so we have no entertainment other than that which we provide ourselves, as the petrol ration does not allow frequent visits to Poona. To make up for this loss each company, except for Administration, spent one week in the Poona Holiday Home. We have been recently visited by the G.O.C. Bombay Area, Major-General E. N. Goddard, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C.

Still more officers left in July and in August we suffered a grievous loss when Lieut.-Colonel H. G. de J. Du Vallon embarked with the September "Python." The present strength of the Battalion is just over the 700 mark, but by the end of the year we look like being seriously depleted, especially in officers and N.C.Os.

In conclusion, we should like to mention our deep regret at having lost Lieut.-Colonel H. G. de J. Du Vallon, D.S.O., M.C., our Commanding Officer until his departure with the September "Python." He was deeply respected by all ranks in the Battalion, for he always showed a keen interest in the welfare of the Battalion, endeavouring always to cultivate a spirit of pride in our activities as a Battalion and to permeate us with the community feeling. He would never ask any man to do anything he could not do himself, and he exacted a high standard of duty from all who served under him. In all realms of Battalion sport he was conspicuous in his play. His broad

outlook, his sense of humour, his frankness of speech, his superb qualities of leadership made his loss appreciated by all.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Two Battalion Dances have been held in Poona, but in camp we have to rely mainly on our own efforts. The Education Section and the individuals themselves in companies hold a comprehensive system of evening activities—Brains Trusts, Tombola, Whist, Gramophone Recitals, etc. The Governor of Bombay, Sir John Colville, on two occasions invited parties from the Battalion to Government House, and the swimming pool has also been available in the past. Now we are swimming in Lake Fife.

EDUCATION.

The education scheme has been through several stages. Although at the moment we are concentrating on Basic Education and Citizenship, we have in the past catered for various tastes in Music, Art, Film Study, Languages and Science.

Instructors have been trained at Deccan College, Poona, the Southern Command Education Centre. Vocational training courses are now available on a wide scale. Educational tours have been conducted to places of interest in the Poona area. The Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners and Kirkee Arsenal have been recently visited.

All personnel, other than the essentially employed, now receive nine hours' educational training per week.

The special pride of the Education Section is the wall newspaper—a rather elaborate weekly production. This has been running now for twenty issues, and has developed from a haphazard arrangement to a work of art.

TRAINING.

Training has been restricted recently on account of the heavy monsoons. Such schemes as have been held were internal defence schemes. Our I.D. tasks have been changed several times, and this necessitates variations in training. A Battalion rifle shoot is being held at the end of the month. The climb to Singarh, an ancient and historical fort, is the object of a march each month by all companies.

SPORT.

RUGBY.—The Rugger season opened in early July, and is now nearing its close. We started with several experienced players and fielded a strong side, but half-way through the season we were forced, through injuries and losses, to include several players who were entirely new to the game. Our first real test against a strong side, the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, resulted in a narrow defeat by 9 points to 6, but our performance promised well. The next four games against the Army Signals School, the R.A.O.C., the Royal Artillery and the R.I.E. had unfortunately to be cancelled owing to the rock-like state of the ground. Since then we have had seven more fixtures and have lost only one—again with the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners. We have won once (8—5) and drawn twice (8—8 and 6—6) with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (146th R.A.C.), and our other victories were gained in the Sub-Area League (where we now stand second) against the Sub-Area Headquarters (16—11) and the R.A.F. (9—0).

The team was captained at first by Major Watson, but when he was injured, early in the season, Capt. Sweet took over. Throughout the season the forwards have been the weakest part of the team, and through their inexperience the backs have been deprived of many scoring chances. Lieut. Clarke and the Padre have both worked very well in the forwards, and Major Sewell and Pte. Bushell have been the pick of the backs. Although, on the whole, the standard of play has not been high, we have had some enjoyable matches and made some useful converts to the game.

HOCKEY.—Hockey has played a big part in the Battalion sporting activities over the last months, although recently, owing to the wet weather period and the move to a new camp where the ground facilities are poor, it has had to be somewhat curtailed. There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst all ranks which has been fostered by inter-platoon and inter-company games, and some good talent has been developed amongst many who started off as complete beginners.

The Battalion side has been playing on an average two games a week and has a fairly successful record, having been victorious over the majority of the Service sides in the Poona area.

2nd BATTALION, BANGKOK



2nd BATTALION ATHLETICS

Back Row.—Capt. Allison, Lt. Wilkinson, Capt. Magill, Lt.-Col. Du Vallon, Cpl. Bryant, Pte. Franklin, Cpl. Brown.
Centre Row.—Pte. Tite, Pte. Clarke, Lt. Kennard, L./Cpl. Hicks, Major Rooke, Pte. Tilley, Pte. White, Pte. Richardson, Pte. Peacock.
Front Row.—Cpl. Trickett, Pte. Boswell, L./Cpl. Binns, L./Sgt. Garrett.



2nd BATTALION RUGBY TEAM



FAREWELL TO THE LEBANON.

On 22nd June, 1946, the last of the British troops departed from the Lebanon. The last unit to leave was 1st/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment. This photograph was taken at the Lebanon-Palestine frontier, and shows Major-General G. A. Pilleau, C.B.E., M.C. (late The Queen's Royal Regt.), G.O.C. British Troops Northern Levant, and Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Duncombe, D.S.O., commanding 1st/6th Queen's, saying goodbye to members of the Liquidation Staff.

To face page 11

We have had many good games against Indian club sides, but against these the speed and cleverness of our opponents' stick-work is usually too much for us.

The side has been captained during the past six months by Major T. W. Sewell, and the main stalwarts have been our late Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Du Vallon, at centre-half—his departure is a great loss—L./Cpl. Binns, now released, at inside left; Pte. E. Klein, also inside left; Cpl. T. Brown, at centre-half, and Sergt. Philpot at right back. The hockey team in particular, and the Battalion in general, owe much to Lieut. (Q.M.) E. P. Langram, whose services as player, umpire and mentor were available.

ATHLETICS.—In the Inter-Company Athletics, held in March, "C" Company carried off the championship after a keen struggle. The Battalion team went into hard training for the Sub-Area Athletic Championship. The Essex Regiment took first place and we took the second; ten British units in all competed. Capt. McGill carried away the Putting-the-Shot and the 100 Yards. The Commanding Officer took second place in the Shot. Sergt. Bryant and Sergt. Franklin were first and second in the High Jump. An Inter-Company Cross Country run over a four-mile course is now in progress.

FOOTBALL.—The Battalion has been reasonably successful in the Football League and reached the semi-final in the Mohan Lal Cup. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (146th R.A.C.) team carried this off. We have suffered heavy losses through repatriation, release and the lack of facilities for playing, with no decent pitch available on our present station, have contributed to our difficulties.

CRICKET.—Fixtures have been rather haphazard, and again in our present station we suffer owing to the lack of a suitable ground. Most of our games have been against the R.A.F. Station, Poona. In some games the wicket has been disastrous for our men, but we have held our own.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Mess has been not a little transformed by personnel going on release and repatriation, and by new arrivals and promotions. We regret the departure of R.S.M. Gugerly, R.Q.M.S. Cuthbert and C.S.M. Smith. The Mess, in conjunction with the officers, have held two successful dances and friendly contact has been maintained with the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners. We are anxious, however, to get to a permanent station where we can set up a Mess which will be in the best traditions of the Regiment and of the Battalion.

1ST/6TH BATTALION

IN December, 1945, the 1st/6th Battalion left England for a further tour of service overseas. After the return from Europe the Battalion was reconstituted, and sailed for the Middle East as a completely new and untried unit.

On arrival in Egypt we spent a short time in the transit camp at Qassassin. The name will invoke many thoughts in the minds of those members of the Regiment who served in the campaign in North Africa. No; the place has not changed. Old members will be interested to hear that eggs-and-bread are still obtainable on the railway journey.

From Egypt we moved up to the Lebanon and were stationed in the mountains behind Tripoli. After a few months we moved down to Sidon, on the coast, below Beirut. We were happy to find that our G.O.C. in the Lebanon was a member of the Regiment, Major-General G. A. Pilleau, C.B.E., M.C.

The "Glorious First of June" was celebrated in fitting style. Major-General Pilleau spent the day with the Battalion. A Swimming Gala and an Athletics Meeting were held.

On 6th June Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Duncombe, D.S.O., assumed command of the Battalion vice Lieut.-Colonel T. V. Close, D.S.O.

During the month of June all British troops left the Lebanon. The last unit to leave was 1st/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, and we left for Palestine on 22nd June. Major-General Pilleau left on the same day.

We were sorry to say "Goodbye" to the Lebanon. During our stay there we had been able to put in some valuable training, and greatly appreciated the relaxation and amenities provided in Beirut. The duck-shooting, too, was excellent.

In Palestine we are attached, as an Independent Battalion, to 6th Airborne Division. It is interesting to note that we are stationed at Gederah, in the camp from which the 2nd Battalion moved up to the Western Desert in September, 1940. Like Qassassin it has not changed.

The present troubled state of the countryside calls for the highest degree of alertness, and duties have been rather heavy and exacting.

However, it is not all work and no play. The Battalion Photographic Club is very popular and is running very successfully. Gramophone recitals are held regularly and are well attended. The Battalion Concert Party has given us several good entertainments.

Sports activities have been very considerable. The Battalion team won the Invitation Mile Medley Relay race at 9th Parachute Battalion Athletic Meeting in competition with battalion teams from 6th Airborne Division. The tug-of-war team won the South Palestine District Championship.

Our swimmers distinguished themselves in the South Palestine District Team Championships, winning two first and three second places. They have qualified for the finals of the Army Team Championship, Palestine, for which meeting they are now in training.

The Battalion came to the Middle East nine months ago as a very newly-formed unit. It was composed of very young soldiers from almost every infantry regiment in the British Army. These months of hard training, exacting operational duties and keen sporting activities, have welded us together and produced a Battalion which receives praiseworthy comment from commanders for the performance of its duties, its turn-out and sporting achievements.

We feel that we are now, in every sense, a Battalion of "The Queen's."

2ND/5TH BATTALION

DECEMBER, 1945—JUNE, 1946

OUR last contribution to the Regimental JOURNAL was sent from Trieste. This is being written at Bari just before the Battalion disbands.

It was intended that our stay in Trieste, which began on 4th December, should be for two months, but early in January notice of the disbandment of the three Queen's battalions in 169th Brigade was received and since this was to take place in the order 2nd/7th, 2nd/6th, 2nd/5th we had to move back to the Morgan Line to take over the Sesana sector from 2nd/7th Queen's. The move took place on 11th January and we very quickly settled in, Battalion Headquarters, Headquarters and "B" Company at Sesana and "A," "C" and "D" Companies in the outlying villages of Poverio, Storie and Tomadio respectively. Shortly after the move, the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Sheldon, contracted jaundice and had to go to hospital, he was quickly followed by three other officers. No explanation of this sudden epidemic was ever discovered in spite of much poking and prying by members of the medical services. Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., who had joined as Second-in-Command a few weeks earlier, assumed command and remained with us until the return of the Commanding Officer in February, when he moved to Brigade Headquarters as Brigade Major.

The stay at Sesana is memorable chiefly for the severity of the weather. The Bora, a famous local Nor' East wind, blew persistently and kept the temperature well below freezing point. Occasional falls of snow and rain followed by hard frosts made the roads extremely dangerous and vehicle movement was kept to a minimum. Trucks sent out on essential journeys were equipped with skid chains but even so they would sometimes slip helplessly into the ditch; fortunately, we had no casualties. Sports fixtures were arranged with unfailing regularity but optimism was seldom justified and cancellations were frequent. Our sentries on the Morgan Line were grateful for the woollen comforts sent out by the O.C.A.

At the end of January we were warned that 169th Brigade would move to Pola to take over

from 167th Brigade, which would return to Trieste. We had all heard much of Pola, the small town a hundred miles south of Trieste, near the southern extremity of the Istrian Peninsula, and our reconnaissance of the new area was carried out with considerable interest. We were to take over from the 1st Bn. The London Scottish at Punta Monumenta, a sometime Italian submarine base, about a mile out of town. Our billets were almost surrounded by water which gave promise of good bathing later. Unfortunately, about a fortnight before we moved, a large quantity of ammunition, in an old enemy arsenal near Punta Monumenta, exploded, shattering doors, windows and roofs and completely wrecking some buildings. This created an accommodation problem but the sappers and pioneers set to and the damage was soon repaired.

The move took place on 11th February. We drove through Trieste, which most of us left behind with regret, at nine o'clock and passed over the Morgan Line into Zone "B," the Yugoslav occupied area of Venezia Giulia. The Allied Boundary Commission was expected to arrive at Trieste shortly and everywhere the Yugoslavs were making preparations to impress the commission with the justness of their claim to Trieste and area. Slogans were painted lavishly on houses, walls and on the road itself—"Zivel Tito," "Hocemo Tito," "Tito, Tito, Tito..." Evergreen arches were being erected at crossroads and festoons hung from tree to tree. It was impressive at first but soon palled and one began to suspect that a carefully organized propaganda drive, rather than a spontaneous outburst of local enthusiasm, was responsible.

We soon felt at home in Pola, and quickly made friends with the civilian population—an indication, perhaps, of the esteem which they have for the Allied forces. Our billets were good although rather bare; welfare amenities were good too, the Battalion having its own canteen and dance hall. Dances were held weekly and were very popular. Sport came into its own again and rugby, soccer and hockey matches were played off on excellent pitches on the Pola airfield. A Brigade Group Soccer Knock-out Competition on a company level was arranged and was called "The McLean Cup Competition" as it was originally suggested and the cup was given by a professional referee, Pte. McLean, of 167th Field Ambulance. Our companies won most of their games in this competition and Headquarter Company and "B" Company reached the final, captained by C.S.M. V. Mays and Sergt. P. Arnold respectively. It was a good match and after a hard struggle Headquarter Company won by one goal to nil. In the absence of Pte. McLean, the cup was presented by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. H. Richardson, D.S.O., O.B.E.

During this time the Battalion was responsible for manning posts along half of the enclave boundary. Altogether, we were providing pickets at check posts on five roads and the one railway which runs into Pola. A careful check of all persons entering and leaving the area was made and a record maintained. As usual, a wealth of instructions were issued governing who and what might or might not pass, but although these were somewhat confusing in their multiplicity, all duties were carried out without misadventure.

On 12th March, Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. paid us a farewell visit and addressed all ranks on parade. He recalled the many actions in which the Battalion had played important and successful roles and expressed once again his pride at having been at one time our Commanding Officer.

We moved to Bari by train on the 2nd April, leaving over four hundred men behind for posting to more permanent units of the Division and taking with us all who were due for release or "Python" in the near future. Since then we have been quietly "wasting away," batches of men having been despatched for release each week. Guard duties have been heavy, an essential insurance against the acquisitive proclivities of a certain section of the local community! The cricket season has begun and the Battalion team has played a number of matches against neighbouring units. Regular members of the team are: Major J. Fleming; Capt. K. R. Thompson; R.Q.M.S. S. Messenger; C.S.M. V. Mays; C./Sergt. H. Severn; Sergts. J. Lloyd and G. Lane; L./Sergt. F. Newton; Cpl. H. Collins; L./Cpl. J. Moffit; Pte. A. Knight.

Our strength now is seven officers and eighty other ranks; of these thirty-four will be leaving for "Python" this week and the remainder posted to other units; 2nd/5th Queen's, after seven eventful years of life, will be no more. However, there are not many who have served with the Battalion who will not remember with pleasure the happy comradeship which they found therein and it is hoped that friendships formed in war will be maintained during peace through the medium of the Regimental Old Comrades Association.

13 INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE AND NO. 63 P.T.W. MAIDSTONE

ON the 9th February, 1946, Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O. who had recently been commanding the 1st/7th Battalion, took over command of the Infantry Training Centre from Lieut.-Colonel P. M. Macklin, O.B.E., The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

This year the 1st of June was celebrated on lines approaching peace-time standards. H.M.S. *Excellent* very kindly asked us to Whale Island. A team consisting of ten officers and Sergeant Poole took the field. Unfortunately on the first day (31st May) play had to be abandoned owing to rain; however, the match was decided on the one innings, on 1st June. The scores were, H.M.S. *Excellent* 239 (for 8 declared), the Queen's Royal Regiment 143. Sergeant Poole is to be congratulated on a fine innings of 90 runs.

On the evening of 31st May, Major J. B. P. Phillips and the officers were entertained to dinner by Captain W. R. Slater, C.B., D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N., and the officers of H.M.S. *Excellent*. On the following day a party of seventy warrant officers and sergeants of the Regiment from both the Infantry Training Centre and the 13th Holding Battalion, together with a few members of the A.T.S. were entertained by the members of the Chief Petty Officers' Mess. We are indeed grateful to H.M.S. *Excellent* for their most lavish hospitality and everyone had a most enjoyable time.

For the celebration we, at Maidstone, were very pleased to welcome Lieutenant Middleton, D.S.C., R.N., Lieutenant Griffiths, R.M. and six petty officers and their wives from H.M.S. *Excellent*. An All Ranks Dance was held in the Gymnasium on 31st May while on the following day our guests were entertained by the Sergeants' Mess to a most enjoyable social evening.

On the 2nd June, representatives from the Infantry Training Centre attended the War Memorial Service at Guildford, the choir for the most part being found by our young Queen's trainees. Shortly before the 8th of June (the day of the Victory March) representatives of the Regiment assembled at the Infantry Training Centre under the command of Major J. B. P. Phillips, as many Battalions of the Regiment as possible, were represented. The colours of the 2nd Battalion were carried by Lieutenant K. M. L. Douglas and Lieutenant J. A. Oram.

On 24th July the Officers' Mess held an "At Home" on the lawns outside the Mess in Invicta Lines. Approximately three hundred guests were entertained and among others we were very pleased to see Colonel and Mrs. R. G. Clarke.

At the moment we are in the throes of reorganization. Very shortly some of us will once again return to Stoughton Barracks to form No. 2 Primary Training Centre alongside the Regimental Depot Party. Some, and this for the most part affects our young Regimental trainees, will be proceeding to the New Group Infantry Training Centre under the command of Major P. M. A. Taylor, M.C. We are very sorry to say goodbye to R.S.M. P. Tasker, M.B.E. on his appointment to the Group Infantry Training Centre, but are happy in the knowledge that his new appointment will keep him in close contact with our Regimental Company there. R.S.M. Tasker has been at this Infantry Training Centre for four and a half years and has indeed been a staunch pillar in its organization; his many friends of both Regiments wish him the best of luck.

Finally, while we in the Queen's naturally look forward to our return to our own depot it is with some feelings of regret that we sever our associations at Maidstone with the members of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. For five years we have been stationed together, combining our efforts in training and in the field of sport. We sincerely hope that in the years to come the associations and friendships which have been cemented here during the years of war will remain and flourish.

NEWS IN BRIEF

It is proposed to maintain this column chiefly to give up-to-date news of the doings and whereabouts of individual members and ex-members of the regiment. Any such news will be welcome.

* * * * *

The 2nd Primary Training Centre arrived at Stoughton Barracks in November. An A.T.S. Training Centre will probably occupy Queen's Camp.

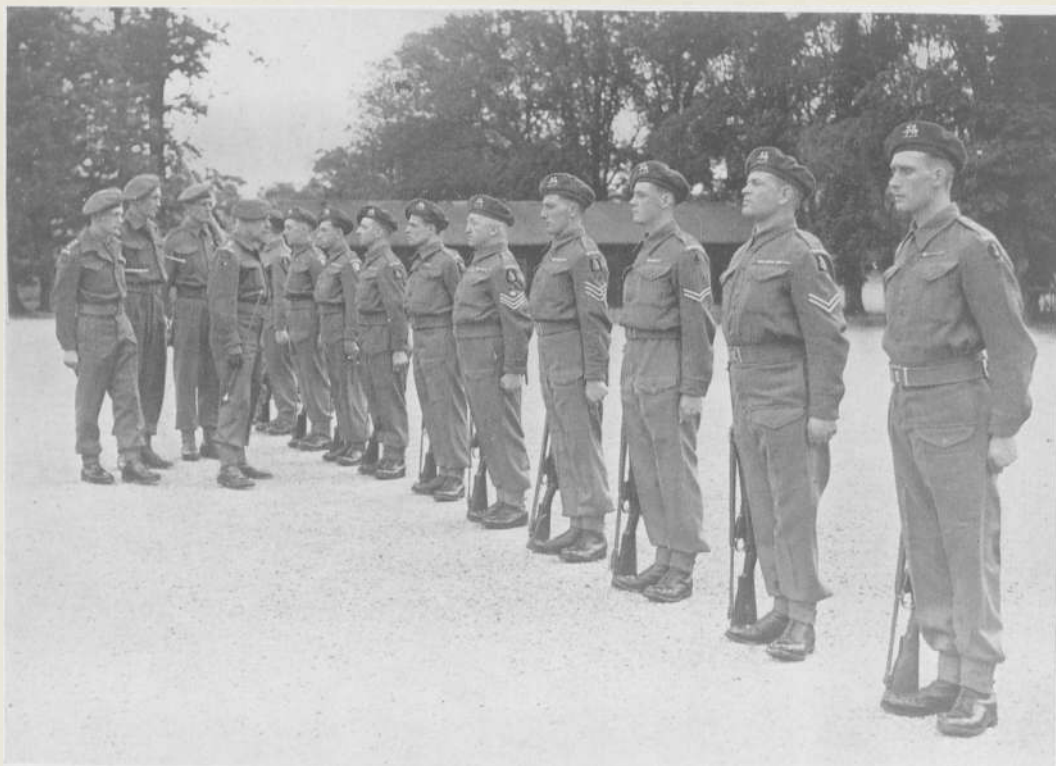
169 (QUEEN'S) BRIGADE 1st JUNE, 1945



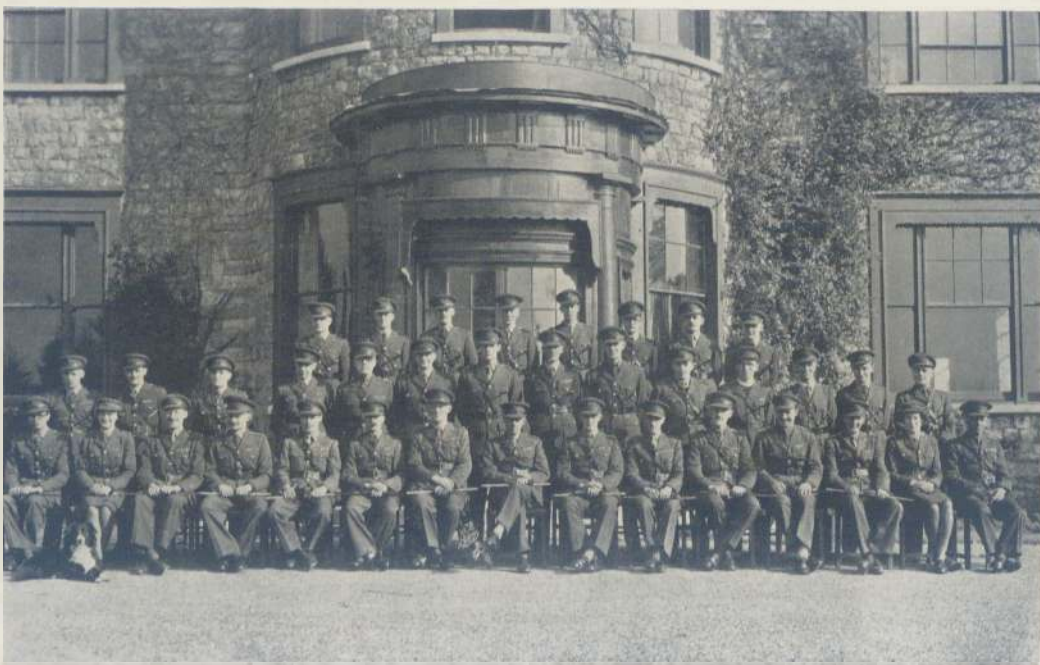
MARCHING PAST THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER, MAJOR-GENERAL J. Y. WHITFIELD, C.B., D.S.O. (late The Queen's Royal Regiment). (Crown Copyright)



FIELD-MARSHAL ALEXANDER PRESENTS PRIZES TO THE CARNIVAL WINNERS. To face page 14



LT.-COL. H.G. VEASEY, D.S.O. INSPECTING THE QUEEN'S CONTINGENT OF THE VICTORY PARADE.



OFFICERS OF THE PERMANENT STAFF, 13 I.T.C. INVICTA LINES MAIDSTONE OCTOBER, 1946.

The following reunions have recently been held : 5th Battalion, Lee Pale Lane Drill Hall, Guildford, August 10th ; 2nd/4th Queen's Old Comrades Association, Kennards' Restaurant, Croydon, 7th May ; 440th Battery, R.A. (The Queen's Royal Regiment), Purley Hall, 28th June.

Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., has published for private circulation a very interesting account of his journey through Italy and through the German and Allied lines in 1943. It is entitled "Apennines' Journey," and published by Gale & Polden Ltd.

Lieut.-Colonel S. H. Pierssene has been appointed chief organizer to the Conservative Central Office.

Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O., has presented to the Regiment a fine engraving of the British Fleet off Gibraltar, October 11th, 1782. At this time detachments of the Regiment were serving with the Fleet.

This is the latest of many generous gifts made by Colonel Clarke.

The Memorial Fund reached the total of £5,000 on December 1st.

The Band of the 2nd Battalion has just left Stoughton for a tour of duty in the Far East.

The musical director of the London Metropolitan Police Central Band is now Mr. R. Barsotti, late 2nd Battalion Bandmaster. His band is often on the B.B.C. programme.

Pte (Chuck) Sheffield is still soldiering on at the Depot.

The latest news of the former R.S.M., George Sullivan, is that he is fit and well, living at Harrow.

Mr. Richardson (former Pioneer Sergeant, 2nd Battalion) who lost his legs returning from Crete is doing well.

Major J. F. Comrie (late 2nd Battalion) writes from British Columbia that he has remained a loyal Queen's man by being married there on the Glorious 1st June.

HISTORY OF THE REGIMENTAL FLAG—NORTH AFRICA, ITALY, FRANCE AND GERMANY, 1939-1945

THE 1st/5th Battalion Regimental Flag with the following remarkable history has been handed into the custody of the Regimental Museum for the time being. Its permanent disposal will be decided when the 5th Battalion is re-formed.

The flag arrived from England in May, 1943, when the Battalion was at Homs (North Africa). Here the flag was flown for the first time over Battalion Headquarters.

In the campaign in Italy, in September, 1943, the flag was flying over Battalion Headquarters throughout the fighting in the Salerno beachhead, and subsequently in Naples.

When the Battalion landed in Normandy on D + 2, 8th June, 1944, the flag was again hoisted at Battalion Headquarters. It was flown at all places during the battles in the advance through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

At 1800 hours on 3rd May, 1945, this flag was hoisted over the main square in Hamburg. This was the first occasion on which a British flag had flown in that city since 3rd September, 1939.

The flag completed its service when, on 4th July, 1945, it was broken at the head of the flagstaff at Battalion Headquarters in the Grosse Halle Barracks, Berlin.

1ST/7TH BATTALION

THE following exchange of greetings between Major W. D. Griffiths, D.S.O., M.C. (late Commanding Officer, 1st/7th Battalion), and the Burgomaster, St. Nicholas at Wade, East Flanders, on the second anniversary of the liberation of the town, will be of interest to ex-members of the Battalion :—

From : MAJOR W. D. GRIFFITHS, D.S.O., M.C.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE ET BOURGMESTRE,
ST. NICHOLAS AT WADE,
EAST FLANDERS.

OPERATIONS BRANCH,
HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED LAND FORCES,
SOUTH-EAST ASIA.
8th September, 1946.

On behalf of all Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the 1st/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, I wish to convey to you, the Officers of your Council, members of the Resistance Movement and the citizens of your beautiful city of St. Nicholas at Wade our heartfelt and sincere greetings on the second anniversary of your liberation from the Nazi yoke by the forces of the Allies on the 8th September, 1944.

The soldiers of the Battalion have now laid down their arms and donned civilian clothes, but the spirit of comradeship binds together the veterans of many great battles. Twice weekly the soldiers meet at the "Braganza Club," which they have formed to perpetuate their friendships and discuss the great history they helped to make in the long years of battle. It is our greatest joy to reflect that, two years ago on this day, we drove the enemy from your fair city and ensured that they never returned. We vividly remember with sincere feelings the rapturous welcome you accorded us, the joy on your faces, the gratitude of your hearts, and the many friendships we made on this your Liberation Day.

I am deeply conscious of the great honour you have bestowed on me as the representative of the Battalion by making me a Freeman of your city, and hope that in the near future I will have the opportunity of renewing my friendships with you and members of your city.

In case any of your citizens may wish to contact members of the Battalion, communications should be addressed to: The Chairman, "Braganza Comrades Club," Braganza Street, Southwark, London, S.W.

With best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely,

W. D. GRIFFITHS, Major.

late Commanding Officer, 1st/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.
ST. NIKLAAS (WAAS) DEN,
9th September, 1946.

COPY]

Ref. No. 1/CA/300/RB.

To : MAJOR W. D. GRIFFITHS, D.S.O., M.C.

OPERATIONS BRANCH,
HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED LAND FORCES,
S.E.A.

On the second anniversary of our liberation, we think of you in deep gratefulness and admiration for that unforgettable 9th day of September, 1944.

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen and of the people of our town we thank you for your kind letter, and express to you and your gallant soldiers our reciprocal wishes of luck for the future.

We hope to have the opportunity of meeting you once again in the near future in order to renew the bonds of friendship which exist between you and our people.

In the meantime, we remain, dear sir,

Respectfully yours,
For the Board of Aldermen,

(Signed) H. HEYMAN, Burgomaster.
A. BRAECKMAN, Secretary.

1ST BATTALION ACTIONS AT KOHIMA

THE FIRST ATTACK ON JAIL HILL

7TH MAY, 1944.

TASK.

THE Battalion was ordered to capture and hold Pimple and Jail Hill (see sketch map). The operation was conditional on G.P.T. Ridge first being cleared by other troops on the right. If held by the enemy, this ridge would constitute a serious threat to the right flank and rear of the Battalion during the assault on Pimple and Jail Hill. It was to be cleared by 0900 hours. "H" for the Battalion attack was 1030 hours.

At 0900 hours G.P.T. Ridge had not been cleared, and "H" was therefore altered to 1130 hours while further attempts were made to clear the ridge. By 1115 hours the ridge still had not been cleared, but the Brigade Commander considered that the enemy on the ridge were fully occupied and would not, therefore, constitute a serious threat to the flank or rear of the assaulting troops. The attack was ordered to go in at 1130 hours.

PLAN.

The attack was to follow immediately after a heavy artillery concentration of H.E. and smoke on Pimple and Jail Hill. The operation was to be carried out in two phases :—

- (1) The capture of Pimple by one company.
- (2) The capture and consolidation of Jail Hill by one company assaulting, followed closely by another company for consolidation and mopping up.

The remaining company was ordered to stay in reserve with Battalion Headquarters. Battalion Headquarters was to move to Pimple after its capture and to Jail Hill on consolidation.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS.

"C" Company (Major G. W. Rothery) was given Pimple as its objective. As soon as the artillery concentration lifted the company assaulted Pimple and reached the objective without opposition.

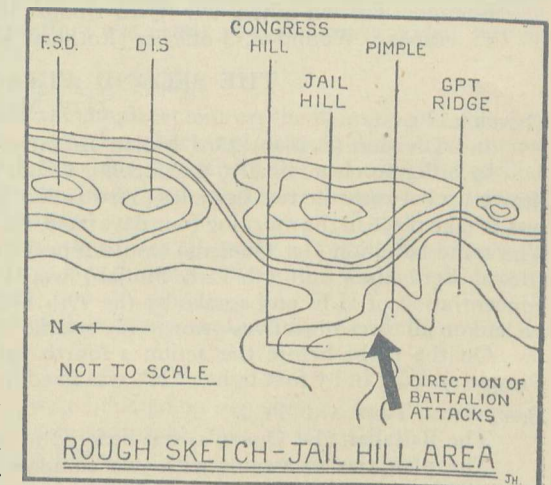
"D" Company (Major G. B. Shaw) then passed through "C" and assaulted Jail Hill. One platoon went up the right-hand spur, and two platoons up the left-hand spur. Strong opposition was encountered from Jail Hill itself, and the company soon began to suffer casualties.

At this stage Battalion Headquarters moved forward to Pimple and found the situation to be as follows :—

"C" Company had taken the objective and was attempting to consolidate the position. Heavy and accurate sniping from commanding enemy positions on G.P.T. Ridge was causing heavy casualties. The Company Commander, Major G. W. Rothery, was wounded in the head and his Second-in-Command, Capt. J. L. Smyth, was killed. Battalion Headquarters also suffered casualties.

At 1400 hours O.C. "D" Company, from Jail Hill, spoke to Battalion Headquarters on the 48 set. He reported that his right platoon was held up, almost at the bottom of the hill, and had had severe casualties. He said there was no hope of advancing on that side. The other two platoons, led by the Company Commander, had reached the top, but he had only fourteen unwounded men left with him. The whole of the hill was being swept by cross-fire from enemy L.M.G. posts on D.I.S. feature and G.P.T. Ridge.

"A" Company (Major M. L. Mansel), following up, were having heavy casualties, and it was obvious that the Jail Hill position could not be held unless D.I.S. and G.P.T. Ridge were neutralized.



The Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Duncombe) decided to bring these two companies back, and gave orders accordingly. Soon after this the Brigade Commander (Brigadier Loftus-Tottenham) arrived at Battalion Headquarters and was informed by the Commanding Officer of his decision. The Brigadier concurred and ordered the Battalion to return to its original harbour area.

At 1500 hours all available artillery and 3-inch mortar smoke were put down on both flanks of Jail Hill to mask the enemy positions on D.I.S. and G.P.T. Ridge. Under this cover all the casualties were first evacuated, then "D" and "A" Companies came back through "C" Company. When these two companies and Battalion Headquarters were clear, "C" Company was also brought back under cover of smoke.

CONCLUSIONS.

The action proved conclusively that the enemy had well-concealed sniper posts on Jail Hill, G.P.T. Ridge and D.I.S.

It proved also that if Jail Hill was to be captured and held, G.P.T. Ridge must first, or simultaneously, be cleared.

It indicated that operations against the D.I.S., Jail Hill and Pimple features were interdependent and that the plan most likely to succeed was an attack launched simultaneously on each of these three positions.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION.

All companies reached their objective and remained until ordered to come off.

Valuable information regarding enemy strength and positions was obtained.

Considerable casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

CASUALTIES.

Enemy: Known killed, 27. Own troops: Killed, 1 officer (Capt. J. L. Smyth), 13 other ranks; Wounded, 3 officers (Rothery, Kirby, Annett), 15 other ranks.

THE SECOND ATTACK ON JAIL HILL.

11TH MAY, 1944.

GENERAL PLAN.

2nd Division (British) 33rd Indian Infantry Brigade attached.

In order to clear, finally, the F.S.D., D.I.S. and Jail Hill positions a co-ordinated plan was drawn up between the two brigades (33rd Indian Infantry and 4th British) concerned. The attack was to take place in the morning four days later, the enemy positions being assaulted simultaneously. The same battalion (1st Queen's) would repeat its attack on Jail Hill, while two other battalions (Royal Berkshires and 4th/15th Punjab) would attack F.S.D. and D.I.S. A heavy artillery concentration of H.E. and smoke by the 99th Field Regiment and 24th Mountain Battery would be laid on all three objectives prior to the attack.

On the night before the action a fourth battalion (1st/1st Punjab) would infiltrate on to Pimple and dig in by first light. "H" was fixed for 0440 hours.

BATTALION TASK AND PLAN.

The Battalion (1st Queen's) was ordered to capture and hold Jail Hill.

The plan was to assault with two companies, "C" (Capt. J. Scott) on the right and "B" (Major M. A. Lowry) on the left, followed immediately by "A" (Major M. C. Mansel) and "D" (Major G. B. Shaw) Companies respectively to pack the punch. Capture of the position would be followed at once by mopping up and consolidation. Battalion Headquarters (C.O., Second-in-Command, Adjutant (Capt. Kensington), O.C. "H.Q." Company (Capt. D. G. May). would be on Congress Hill.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS.

As soon as the artillery concentration lifted, "C" and "B" Companies commenced the assault. Opposition was encountered from enemy positions on the summit of Jail Hill and casualties suffered.

On reaching the top the leading companies were held up by heavy L.M.G. fire. "C" Company came under fire from emplacements on the reverse slope of the hill and on their right flank, and "B" Company from three emplacements on their left flank.

"A" and "D" Companies, closely following up, were now engaging enemy positions and mopping up posts which had been overrun by the leading companies.

The enemy posts on D.I.S. and G.P.T. features not being entirely eliminated, all four companies on Jail Hill were now subjected to very heavy L.M.G. fire from both flanks, front and rear. The entire Jail Hill feature was swept by accurate fire. As a result casualties were considerable. O.C. "C" Company (Capt. Scott) and his Second-in-Command (Capt. Ingham) were killed, and another Second-in-Command (Capt. J. Taylor) was wounded.

The situation by late afternoon was as follows: The entire north-west half of Jail Hill was in the hands of the Battalion. The troops had been organized into two sections for defence and were digging in. Casualties were mounting up steadily. The enemy were still in emplacements on the top of the hill on the reverse slope and on the left flank.

The troops were ordered to hold on at all costs to the captured ground, and two companies of 4th/1st Gurkha Rifles were sent to reinforce them. One Gurkha company commander was killed within a few minutes of his arrival and had to be replaced.

Throughout the night all the troops continued to dig themselves in.

SECOND DAY (12TH MAY, 1944).

On the following morning a troop of Grant tanks arrived and engaged the emplacements on the summit and on the west and south-west slopes of the hill. Several of the enemy were seen to be killed by the fire from the tanks, and more were shot by M.M.Gs. as they tried to get away.

When the tanks ceased firing, one company of Gurkhas attacked the emplacements. This attack was put in with great gallantry and determination. They captured two of the emplacements and surrounded a third, digging themselves in within ten yards of it.

Although enemy machine-gun and sniping fire had now diminished, casualties were still being incurred, and late in the afternoon O.C. "A" Company (Major M. L. Mansel) was mortally wounded.

At dusk the situation was that the Jail Hill position was firmly held and consolidated, but the enemy were still holding out in two emplacements.

THIRD DAY (13TH MAY, 1944).

At dawn a company of the Gurkhas attacked the emplacement on the summit and captured it without difficulty. Patrols from "B" Company found the other emplacement clear of the enemy.

Throughout the day patrols were very active against enemy snipers and accounted for several. Parties of enemy withdrawing from positions on the flanks were engaged by small-arms fire and 3-inch mortar fire, and casualties were inflicted on them.

By evening enemy opposition had ceased and there was no more sniping. Movement on Jail Hill, and to and from the Battalion position, was now unrestricted and the whole of the feature was in the Battalion's possession and consolidated.

Twenty Jap emplacements were found. All of these were occupied by the enemy when the attack commenced.

RESULTS OF THE ACTION.

Considerable casualties, impossible to assess, were inflicted on the enemy.

A fair amount of equipment and documents were captured.

The enemy resistance on Jail Hill was finally subdued.

CASUALTIES.

The Battalion suffered the following casualties:—

Killed, 2 officers (Capts. Scott and Ingham), 31 other ranks. Wounded, 3 officers, (Major Mansel, and Squires), 72 other ranks. Missing 1 other rank.

Gurkha casualties: Killed, 1 officer, 12 other ranks. Wounded, 33 other ranks.

CONCLUSIONS.

The tenacity of the Japs throughout this battle was very noticeable. In one case they continued firing from an emplacement after it had been almost completely destroyed by gun-fire, over open sights, from tanks.

The Jail Hill position was indeed a tough nut to crack.

It was cracked by the combined efforts of British and Gurkha troops detailed for the job.

The action proved conclusively the great value of the mutual friendship and spirit of liaison between the two units immediately involved, 1st Queen's and 4th/1st Gurkha Rifles.

SALERNO

THE STORY OF 169th (LONDON) INFANTRY BRIGADE.
THE "QUEEN'S BRIGADE."

AFTER their three thousand miles M.T. move from Kirkuk to Enfidaville and participation in the closing stages of the Tunisian Campaign, it was inevitably a disappointment to the Brigade to find that they were not to participate in the invasion of Sicily. There was, however, little time for disappointment because, after a brief pause for reorganization and leave, hard training occupied most days and many nights, and it soon became apparent to all ranks from the nature of that training that they were not long to be left in North Africa. There was much to be done in planning and in specialized training for combined operations. It was also obvious that we would probably be called upon to operate in hilly country, and time had to be given to training on such hills as were available with improvised mule and porter transport. The necessity for this training was proved very early by the operation against Mount Stella. Finally, physical fitness was made the keystone of all training, and probably never have a fitter body of men set out on an operation than sailed from Tripoli on the 5th September, 1943.

The voyage will probably live forever in the memories of all those who took part. The weather was unkind the first day out, and the rolling of many of the smaller ships soon proved a good test for those who believed themselves to be immune from sea-sickness. The smaller ships called at Termini in Northern Sicily where great preparations had been made by the Americans for their reception, the meal which they had provided even included tea flown from Algiers. Unfortunately advantage could not be taken of this, as it was still too rough to hazard the craft by beaching them, and the harbour was too full of American ships loading for the same operation for the British L.C.Is. to go alongside.

After the convoy left Sicily the weather improved, and on the day before the landing we sailed due north under a clear blue sky with only the sight of the other ships and our own escorting planes, and perhaps the hardness of the L.C.I's. decks, to remind us that we were not on a peace-time pleasure cruise. The H.Q. ship carried the Brigade Commander and his senior staff officers and supporting arm commanders. It also carried H. R. Knickerbocker, the famous American War Correspondent. The latter soon proved himself a grand all-rounder, and in addition to washing up plates when it was too rough for most people to stand at all, he also gave an informal talk to all ranks in an enthralling word picture of the personality of Hitler, as he had known him in Germany in the early thirties.

In late afternoon came the surprising news that the Italians had asked for, and had been granted, an armistice. Speculation was naturally rife as to the effect of this upon our operation. The Brigade Commander made it quite clear that it in no way altered our task by a special signal, pointing out that we were fighting the Germans and not the Italians, and might expect the Italian armistice to make the Germans fight all the harder. A Special Order by the Brigade Commander was read out to all ranks of the Brigade group. The last paragraph of the Order ran as follows: "It is right and proper that this Brigade, which was one of the last to leave France three years ago, should have the honour to be one of the first to return to Europe. The success of our operation depends upon the coolness and steadfast determination of every single one of us to accomplish the tasks set and to reach our objective whatever the opposition. I have every confidence that all ranks of this Brigade Group will play their part with fortitude and courage, and that complete success will crown our efforts. Good luck, and God-speed!"

The Germans soon made it clear that the Italian armistice had made no difference to them, and from dusk onwards the convoy was subject to fairly heavy air attacks.

The Brigade was one of the assaulting formations. The beaches on which they were to land were some eight miles south-east of Salerno, our sector, known as "S" Sector, being a strip of open beach four thousand yards long, flanked on either side by two small rivers, the Tusciano and the Asa. Though the beaches were fairly good all along the sector, the exits in the southern part, which was mainly reclaimed marsh, were difficult and might well be flooded, in addition to which

SALERNO LANDING



A MORTAR DETACHMENT OF 2nd/6th BATTALION PUTS A GERMAN MARK IV SPECIAL OUT OF ACTION AT SHORT RANGE.



MEN OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT ON MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN TYPICAL COUNTRY NEAR MONTE CORVINO.



FEEDING THE PIGEONS IN THE PIAZZA SAN MARCO.



ON THE GRAND CANAL.

essential bridges over the canal and dykes would probably be blown. It was therefore hoped to make a two battalion landing on "Sugar", "Green" and "Amber" beaches at the north of the sector, and for the right battalion then to work down to the southern boundary. The task of the two assaulting battalions was to secure an immediate beach-head which entailed an advance inland of some three thousand yards. The initial landing was to be at 0330 hours, and it was hoped that this beach-head would be firmly established by first light. The third battalion also landed before first light with two troops of The Greys (tanks) under its command and advanced with all possible speed to seize the vital Monte Corvino aerodrome some four miles inland, and at the same time to then continue to the final beach-head, which in the Brigade sector ran from the Battapaglia—Monte Corvino road through the dominating feature known in subsequent operations as Hill 210 up to the high ground north of the village of Fiano, some eight miles from the beach.

2nd/5th and 2nd/7th Queen's were the two battalions to carry out the initial assault. The first wave of L.C.As. went in to time supported by fire from naval guns and the impressive bombardment from the rocket ship on each battalion front. There was a considerable amount of small-arms fire coming from the shore, and the whole vast bay resembled a "Brock's Benefit." The landing was made successfully on both battalion beaches, though it was found on landing that instead of coming in as they hoped on the north of the sector, both battalions had been landed well down to the south. The drill which had been so carefully worked out and practised for crossing the beaches worked admirably, and the leading assault troops had soon cleared the beaches and mopped up in their own vicinity, with very light casualties to themselves. 2nd/5th Queen's were able to advance straight inland through the country, which consisted of high plantations of tobacco, thick fields of tomatoes, often more than head high, and, farther inland, vineyards made mopping-up slow and gave excellent cover for snipers. 2nd/5th Queen's were, however, able to reach the large agricultural college which marked the limit of their first beach-head advance soon after dawn. 2nd/7th Queen's had to move considerably to their left to get on to their correct axis and to make touch with the River Asa on their left boundary. They were much impeded by German snipers posted in the thick cultivation, but finally overcame this by lining up a company and having a drive through the whole area. They encountered considerable opposition on the line of the Asa, and hard fighting continued here all day, the Germans suffering very heavy casualties through our machine-gun and mortar fire.

2nd/6th Queen's and the Greys were landed shortly before first light and Brigade H.Q. at first light. A perfect "dryshod" landing was given by the Royal Navy, but as most of the communicating routes and tracks in the immediate hinterland had been flooded to a depth of several feet, this was about the last time anybody was dry-shod that day. The Brigade Commander ordered 2nd/6th Queen's and the two troops of Greys to push forward at their best possible speed to Monte Corvino aerodrome. This the battalion did and completely surprised the Boche. The two troops of Greys had probably as mixed a bag of victims at the end of the day as any tanks have ever secured, including German tanks, support guns, A.A. guns, half-tracked vehicles, planes trying to take off from the aerodrome, and field and other guns, while anti-tank guns also claimed their share of the spoil. By late afternoon the situation was that 2nd/6th Queen's were firmly dug in covering the main road and railway on the north-west side of the aerodrome, which they dominated by their fire and had made untenable for the Boche, knocking out the majority of German planes on the ground. The Germans, however, had appeared in strength at the north-east end of the aerodrome some thirty minutes after the arrival of 2nd/6th Queen's on the other side, and this afforded them such good shooting practice that the Germans, after they had launched several unsuccessful counter-attacks down the road, withdrew to positions from which they could cover the north-east end of the aerodrome and make it unusable by us. That this was so was proved by the arrival of a Spitfire from which, after landing, the pilot had just set off to cross the aerodrome when, to his surprise, an 88 mm. blew it to bits behind him. 2nd/5th Queen's, on the right, had been heavily counter-attacked and though retaining their bridgehead position they had suffered heavy losses, including all five company commanders. 2nd/7th Queen's, on the left, were fighting for command of the crossing over the River Asa.

201st Guards Brigade had landed during the day and had come up on the right of 2nd/5th Queen's and were ordered to advance that night to seize the main road up to and including a tobacco factory. 2nd/5th Queen's were to conform and advance, mopping up the east edge of the

aerodrome and thus join hands with 2nd/6th Queen's. The Germans had, however, by this time heavily reinforced the tobacco factory area, and it was not possible to drive them out at this stage. They also dominated the north-east corner of the aerodrome, though 2nd/5th Queen's had managed to work up within a few hundred yards of the main road. During the course of this night one P.I.A.T. of 2nd/5th Queen's knocked out a German S.P. gun and a half-tracked troop carrier with two shots.

No account of the fighting of those early days would be complete without some mention of the mosquitoes. These were no ordinary mosquitoes which we met on Salerno beaches, nor did they appear to know the rules of conduct under which mosquitoes are supposed to make their attacks on the human body. The Salerno mosquitoes, in clouds of thousands, were active not only at night, but in broad sunlight, and they bit not only the exposed portions of the body, but through every form of protective clothing that anyone could devise.

On the 11th September, 1943, the third day of the landing, 2nd/7th Queen's, on the left, were able to advance to Fiano and to occupy the high ground to the north and north-east, thus establishing themselves upon their final objective. It was also decided to push two companies of 2nd/6th Queen's on to the dominating feature of Hill 210, three thousand yards beyond their present positions. The Germans were still resisting strongly in the tobacco factory area and preparing a counter-attack on our right. They had, however, blown an important bridge in their lateral communications near Battapaglia, and their only bridge between Fiano and Monte Corvino by which they would have hoped to counter-attack 2nd/7th Queen's with armoured vehicles. This appears to have been blown in panic on the first morning when 2nd/6th Queen's reached the aerodrome. The Germans attacked Hill 210 heavily that night, but their attack was repulsed. The rest of 2nd/6th Queen's were moved up to the 210 area next day, and one company of 2nd/7th Queen's moved over to the aerodrome and then, with the Field Company, R.E., filled the long gap between 2nd/6th and 2nd/5th Queen's. There was, in fact, some three thousand yards between the main road and the 210 area in which we never had any troops. However, by actively demonstrating with tanks in this area, by covering the gap with machine guns and by a plentiful use of smoke, we appeared to deceive the Germans into believing that we were strong and not weak in this area. They never attacked here, and one of their main defensive fire tasks was behind this gap where we had no troops and where it gave one great pleasure to see the Boche wasting their artillery and mortar ammunition.

The next few days is mainly the story of holding on with determination to everything we had got against furious German counter-attacks, and at the same time doing all we could ourselves by offensive patrols to harass and mislead him as to our strength and intentions. 2nd/7th Queen's, up beyond Fiano, were particularly successful during this period in completely misleading the Boche as to our strength in this area and the possible threat of an attack from this direction to cut his communications through Monte Corvino village.

By 17th September the pendulum had swung. The German troops, exhausted and battered, started to withdraw and 2nd/5th Queen's were ordered to advance down the Monte Corvino road to keep contact with them. The Boche withdrew, covered by snipers in the olive groves, who inflicted some casualties, but many of whom were rounded up. The same day 2nd/7th Queen's had a sharp little battle at Torello beyond Fiano, and after inflicting casualties on the Boche withdrew before superior armoured forces which had had to be sent back to extricate the German infantry.

On 19th September the Brigade handed over its positions to the other "Queen's Brigade" (131st Brigade) of 7th Armoured Division. This must surely be one of the few instances in history when a Brigade composed completely of battalions from one regiment has taken over from another similarly composed.

(To be continued)

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

THE Club now numbers nearly 400 and still steadily increases. The Committee consists of the following:—

General Sir George Giffard (*Chairman*).
Major-General R. K. Ross (*Deputy Chairman*).
Major R. C. G. Foster (*Hon. Secretary*).
Colonel R. F. C. Oxley-Boyle (representing 1st Battalion).
Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Bolton (2nd Battalion).
Major A. J. E. Pakenham (1st/5th Battalion).
Major W. R. Goodridge (1st/6th Battalion).
Major E. G. Sandys (1st/7th Battalion).
Lieut.-Colonel A. F. F. Young (2nd/5th Battalion).
Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Renshaw (2nd/6th Battalion).
Lieut.-Colonel D. C. Baynes (2nd/7th Battalion).
Brigadier M. Kemp-Welch and Colonel G. N. Dyer represent retired Regular officers, and Capt. D. F. Kellie retired Territorials.

The Committee met on 14th March, 3rd July and 24th September, and the chief decisions and results are as follows:—

ANNUAL DINNER.—It was decided that the Dinner should be in the autumn this year, should be at a moderate price, and should be in lounge suits or uniform. It was actually held on Friday, 27th September, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen's Street, and the following 160 members warned in:—

Colonel P. Adams, T.D.
Major N. B. Avery, M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel D. E. Bathgate
Captain D. B. Battrick
Lieut.-Colonel D. C. Baynes, D.S.O., M.C.
Major C. P. Benton, M.C.
Major J. G. Bevington
B. T. Blades, Esq.
Captain G. H. Bond
Captain T. F. Bonnett
Major H. F. Bott, M.C.
Captain P. M. Bramwell, M.C.
Major T. O. M. Buchan, M.C.
Captain F. G. Cardwell
Captain D. E. Champion Jones
Major J. F. L. Clarke
Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Major E. B. G. Clowes
J. P. H. Cole Bioroth, Esq.
Major G. J. H. D. Collins
Major G. A. Copps, M.M.
Captain G. H. Courchee
Lieut.-Colonel H. Cook, M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel J. R. G. Cowan
E. W. Dawson, Esq.
Captain C. P. Dear, M.C.
Major F. W. H. Denton
Major J. W. M. Denton
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. de J. du Vallon, D.S.O., M.C.
Major D. R. Edwards
Captain A. H. Evans
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. M. Evans
Lieut.-Colonel W. F. O. Faviell, D.S.O.
Major J. T. Foster, M.C.
P. G. Foster, Esq.
Major R. C. G. Foster, M.C.
Major P. C. Freeman, M.C.
Major A. W. Gadsdon

L. E. Geary, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O.
General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O.
Major A. C. S. Gimson, M.B.E., M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel G. H. V. Goode, M.B.E.
Major W. R. Goodridge
Captain R. W. F. Gore
Captain C. W. Graham
Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Gray, M.B.E.
Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston
Captain C. A. Haggard
Captain J. F. H. Haines
Major J. M. W. Harris
Wing-Commander, V. C. Harvey, M.C., D.C.M.
Major N. J. P. Hawkins, M.C.
Major K. G. Hibbs
Captain A. S. C. Hobrow, M.C.
Captain P. Hoggarth
Captain F. W. Holder
Major W. S. Hooker, M.B.E., T.D.
R. M. Hornby, Esq.
Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
W. P. Hughes, D'aeth, Esq.
Brigadier H. N. A. Hunter, D.S.O.
Major W. T. Irish
Colonel F. A. Jacob
Major G. N. James
Major K. A. Jessop
Captain W. E. Jones
Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy, D.S.O.
Captain D. F. Kelly
Brigadier M. Kemp-Welch, D.S.O., M.C.
General Sir Walter Kirke, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Major B. G. Lane
Captain N. S. Le Ball
A. B. Leach, Esq.
Major H. C. Leon, M.C.
Captain A. R. Lugg

L. W. Maddox, Esq.
 Brigadier-General R. H. Mangles, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Captain J. W. M. Mansel
 Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Mason, D.S.O.
 Captain E. Maynard
 Lieut.-Colonel P. W. Milligan
 Brigadier-General F. C. More Molyneux Longbourne C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Major A. G. Neale
 Major C. A. J. Norton
 G. C. Oldham, Esq.
 Captain W. J. N. Oswald
 Colonel R. F. C. Oxley Boyle, D.S.O., M.C.
 Lieut.-Colonel M. W. H. Pain
 Major A. J. E. Pakenham, T.D.
 Brigadier G. V. Palmer, C.B.E., T.D.
 Colonel R. Papworth, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.
 Colonel W. Parker, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.
 Captain C. S. Phillips
 Lieut.-Colonel J. B. P. Phillips
 Major R. H. Philpot, M.C.
 Brigadier R. E. Pickering
 Lieut.-Colonel S. H. Pierson
 Captain P. N. P. Plunkett
 Lieut.-Colonel J. Rainsford Hannay, D.S.O.
 Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Renshaw, D.S.O., M.C.
 G. D. Restall, Esq.
 Brigadier P. H. Richardson, D.S.O., O.B.E.
 Major A. N. S. Roberts, O.B.E.
 Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
 Major J. G. Rusted
 Major A. G. Sanders, D.S.O.
 Major E. G. Sandys, M.C.
 E. W. Sarginson, Esq.
 Colonel G. P. Saunders, O.B.E.
 Major O. H. Scammell, M.C.
 Brigadier R. H. Senior, D.S.O.
 Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Sheldon
 G. P. Stevens, Esq.
 Major J. E. Stevenson
 Captain C. P. Straker

THE JOURNAL.—As explained in the Editorial, it was decided to continue the JOURNAL in its present form with two issues annually until the end of 1947.

REUNION.—It was regretfully decided not to hold a Reunion this year. Future reunions will take the form either of garden parties at Stoughton or cocktail parties in London as desired by the majority of members. The possibility of informal monthly reunions in London was investigated, but no suitable place could be found.

HONORARY MEMBERS.—The Committee decided that the following officers of other regiments, who had commanded Queen's Brigades or rendered outstanding service in command of Queen's battalions, should be invited to become honorary members of the Club:—

Major-General L. O. Lyne.
 Major-General W. H. Stratton.
 Major-General L. G. Whistler.
 Colonel D. S. Gordon.
 Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Ashworth.
 Lieut.-Colonel H. G. de J. Du Vallon.
 Lieut.-Colonel I. H. Freeland.
 Lieut.-Colonel P. C. Hinde.

Invitations were accordingly sent to these officers and (after considerable delay in some cases in obtaining contact) all have accepted.

REGIMENTAL PICTURE.—It was suggested that, as a permanent record, a picture of some prominent action of the war should be commissioned by a well-known artist. Commanding

Captain G. A. Streeter, M.C.
 Captain F. P. T. Tallent
 Captain P. M. A. Taylor, M.C.
 Captain E. C. Thorneycroft
 Rev. K. H. Thorneycroft
 Colonel J. F. Turing
 General Sir Ivo Vessey, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Major R. T. Walters, T.D.
 Lieut.-Colonel H. F. Warden, D.S.O.
 Major F. Waspe
 Brigadier C. F. Watson, C.M.G., D.S.O.
 Major H. B. Watson, T.D.
 Captain T. G. Weiler
 L. P. Whatley, Esq.
 Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O.
 Lieut.-Colonel N. A. Willis, O.B.E.
 Major R. C. Wilson
 Captain W. P. O'C. Wylde
 Lieut.-Colonel A. F. F. Young, O.B.E., T.D.
 Captain C. A. Ziegler.
 Captain F. R. Collins
 Colonel G. N. Dyer, C.B.E., D.S.O.
 Major F. M. Fairtlough
 Lieut.-Colonel E. C. Feneran
 W. M. Frost, Esq.
 Major D. H. Graham, M.B.E., M.C.
 Major C. J. D. Haswell
 Major O. H. D. Herbert
 Major R. L. Hazell
 Lieut.-Colonel D. L. L. Lloyd Owen, D.S.O.
 Captain J. N. McArthur
 Lieut.-Colonel B. C. Owen
 Lieut.-Colonel F. J. K. Ponsford
 Lieut.-Colonel R. J. Pope
 Captain C. T. Reichwald, M.C.
 Captain C. B. Rodger
 A. P. W. Simon, Esq.
 Major F. J. Snowdon
 Major C. A. L. Tod
 Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O.

officers and others were approached, and the following actions were suggested: Salerno, Medenine, Monte Camino, Kohima.

After discussion it was decided that Salerno appeared best, both as being of interest to the greatest number of battalions and being a good subject for a painting. Mr. H. M. Carr, who was a war artist in Italy and is a regular exhibitor at the Academy, has been asked to undertake the picture and has discussed it with eyewitnesses.

The actual subject suggested is "The landing and action of the 169th Queen's Brigade at or soon after dawn." The picture will be kept at Stoughton, and it is hoped that replicas or prints may be available for messes and drill halls.

The sum of over £180 was subscribed by members at the dinner, and it is hoped that the balance necessary will be obtained from battalions.

THE MUSEUM.—This is at present in cold storage, but it is hoped to reopen it again as soon as Stoughton is reoccupied. Any members who have articles which would be of interest are asked to inform the Hon. Secretary.

CHRISTMAS CARD.—It had been suggested that the Club should organize the printing and sale of a Regimental card and diary, but the Committee reluctantly decided that this was beyond the powers of the present staff and that battalions must take on the arrangements.

ADDRESS LIST.—The first edition is exhausted, and it is hoped to issue a second and up-to-date edition early in the New Year.

The Committee are most anxious to obtain the views of members as to present and possible future activities, and letters either to the Secretary or to the Committee representative of members' old battalions will be welcomed.

RECOLLECTIONS OF 2ND BN. IN 1915-1916

By WING COMMANDER V. C. HARVEY, M.C., D.C.M.

COMING into a regiment is an experience we have all gone through. Coming into a regiment from another one is entirely a different affair, for old associations have to be broken and new ideas and ideals have to be adopted. After a year has passed the newcomer can consider himself a fully-fledged member of the new regiment.

On being commissioned into the Regiment in October, 1915, from the Royal Irish Regiment, my batman, an old soldier, gave me his impressions of my new regiment. They covered the ground of how the Queen's defeated the 18th for the Kitchener Cup. He considered that the cup was won and lost only on the grounds that the 18th lost too many marks owing to the low standard in the regiment for drunkenness and courts-martial (which all the old Irish regiments were noted for). Another fact produced was that the discipline in the Queen's was of quite different standard to that he had been used to. His contact with my new Regiment was with a "rear" party in changing stations at Lucknow, when a young soldier, and was put in the guard room for being drunk when the event in his own regiment would not have caused comment, because he had reached his barrack-room and was sitting on his bed. He also considered that the Queen's were far too much "spit and polish."

I joined the 2nd Battalion, who were in the trenches in front of "Harley Street," Bethune, and as the C.O. and Adjutant (Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Smith, D.S.O., and Capt. E. K. B. Furze, M.C.) were up in the front line, I wandered around headquarters and was seen, coming out of his particular private latrine, by R.S.M. Routley and was immediately brought to book for being out of bounds, being improperly dressed (without rifle and equipment) and for being a member of the Royal Irish Regiment. He demanded to know what I wanted and, when being told that I had to see the C.O., I was told to wait at a specific point and, when I had seen the C.O., to remove my unwanted presence from the area. I was also told to stand to attention when speaking to him, even though I was a C.S.M. I concluded, from the remarks he passed on my old regiment, that he considered that it consisted of a drunken, insubordinate gang of thieves and hooligans.

My interview with the Commanding Officer was an entirely different affair. I was welcomed and immediately sent on leave to "re-kit." On my return from leave the Battalion was resting at Moulon Vidame, behind Amiens, and on coming into the village the first person of note that

I saw was the R.S.M. who, on request, directed me to Battalion Headquarters. His attitude was exactly correct, and I felt that he did not recognize, in me, the C.S.M. he had ordered out of sight. This was wrong, for in 1920, when he was made Quartermaster, he reminded me of our initial meeting.

After reporting to the Adjutant, I was posted to "D" Company under the command of Capt. E. C. Thorneycroft, and was given, as batman, a man named Diamond, who was very soon promoted (?) Company Officers' Cook, and he was replaced by Tower, who was with me, except when he was away wounded, for practically all my time with the 2nd Battalion.

I soon found that there was a difference in maintaining discipline in the Queen's and I had to modify my methods, but very soon, under R.S.M. Routley and C.S.M. Sparks' tuition, I learned the new ways and found them just as effective as the old ones in obtaining the required results. After Christmas, 1915, the Battalion went into the line in front of Mametz and stayed in that area until the Somme offensive started in July, 1916. It was here that the command of the Battalion was taken over by Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Longbourne, D.S.O. After being down in strength to as low as thirty rifles per company, we gradually built up strength for "the Somme." Our reinforcements consisted chiefly of Buffs and Royal Fusiliers, mostly regulars. Ordinary trench routine has a demoralising effect on some units, but not with us. Morale was always high, discipline always good, and by the time the offensive opened everyone was keyed up and eager, even though it had meant a very great deal of hard work.

I did not go over the top on the 1st July with the Company, but on the night before, with Lieut. Pannel and a fatigue party, we cut the gaps in our wire in front of the Manchester Regiment and got back to the transport lines an hour or so before the attack opened. On the 2nd, together with others, we rejoined our companies. All company commanders had become casualties. Capt. Brocklebank, "B" Company, killed; Maddox ("A"), Philpott ("C") and Thorneycroft ("D") were wounded.

The Battalion Headquarters were then in the "Queen's" nulla with "D" Company and, I think, "C" in newly-dug trenches on the high ground overlooking Mametz Wood. I was given command of the Company with R. M. Burden and E. F. G. Haig as my officers. Sparks was C.S.M. From here we did a lot of patrolling and witnessed the first attempt to take Mametz Wood by a part of the Irish Division, the 2nd Battalion of my old regiment taking part. We were relieved on the night of the 4th and re-formed in Grant Town for the attack on the German second line on the 15th. Reinforcements were mainly 9th Lancers and men from a battalion of "Bantams." Our brigade was held in reserve in "Death Valley," which lived up to its name. We were continually under shell fire. Later on we went forward and crossed the line held by the Gordons between the two Bazentinés and lined up under cover of the high ground below the mill (which was our Battalion Headquarters) for the attack on High Wood, with "C" Company on our right. A cavalry brigade, consisting of the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 21st and 22nd Horse (Indian cavalry) formed up behind us. After we got moving the former deployed to the left and the other two to the right of the attack. Off we went in line and soon got over the skyline, to find a battery of artillery facing us with their gun muzzles showing over a hedge. We all expected them to open fire at any minute. This did not happen because a plane (we afterwards heard it was piloted by Capt. Ball, who later got the V.C.) dived repeatedly at the crews, keeping them under cover. The battery of six guns were in "D" Company's direct front and were captured without a casualty, complete with breech blocks, sights, ammunition and crews, and later on our own field artillerymen had the guns in action. Passing on towards High Wood, the line put up a hare, which went off at speed, being chivvied by quite a number of our men taking "pot shots" at it; it got away.

On arrival at the edge of the wood everyone seemed to hang fire, and only after a number of Mills bombs had been thrown into it did the line again advance. Now the fun really commenced, for there were quite a number of dugouts just inside the verge, all of which had to be cleared, and strings of prisoners started to trickle back to the Mill again. Men of "C" and "D," together with some of the South Staffords, got mixed up in the wood, and in wandering round seeing how things were progressing, I bumped into J. B. Hayes (O.C. "C" Company), J. P. Howell, "C" Company, and others beating up the wood properly. We all eventually got through to the other side, where we dug in. From here we got a good view of open country, looking right into Flers

and Le Bœff in the distance, with much movement of troops and artillery moving back, which we peppered to keep them on the move.

When things quietened down a bit I called a conference of platoon commanders, and whilst all together we were fired on by a machine gun at short range. Two of my runners were killed; C.S.M. Sparks was mortally wounded (in the head); a Sergeant hit in the stomach (he afterwards died). Lieut. Haig had the heel of his boot shot off and, in fact, after we sorted ourselves out, Tower (my batman), Lieut. Burden, Sergt. Biscoe and myself were the only ones who had not been touched. We got that machine gun later on. It was in some standing corn. Having located it we sprayed the spot with our Lewis gun and bagged the lot.

After two nights in the wood, and having been attacked more than once, we were told to evacuate, and did so without losing many men, passing through a line held by the Cameronians, south and clear of the wood. Casualties among the South Staffords and ourselves were quite heavy during these days. All had seen the cavalry in action, and it was mainly because of the attention paid to them that we were able to take the wood.

We came out of the line after this for a rest and to get ready for the next show (our reinforcements this time being men of the 2nd/6th Sussex Cyclists), which should have been an attack on Flers and Le Bœuf with tanks, which were to go into action for the first time. The situation in Delville Wood, though, had to be cleared up before the tanks could move, and our Division (the 7th) were pulled in for the job. Guillemont was still held by the Germans, which had to be taken before the major attack started, and Delville Wood and its northern approaches had to be clear before the Irish Division could attack Guinchy and Guillemont.

The South Staffords took over from another division in the wood, and whilst Capt. Stovold and I, with our runners, were having a look over before our companies came in the Germans attacked. Stovold and his party were never seen again after we parted, and in quick time the Huns were in. After a little while the South Staffords were re-formed and held the "Devil's Trench" inside the wood until they were relieved by "B" and "D" Companies. "B" now had Lieuts. Lloyd, Willis and Manson. I had Burden, Haig and another officer whose name I now forget. My C.S.M. was P. Mauditt. "B" Company were on our right, and quite a gap separated us from the company of the North Staffords on our left. We went in on the 1st September and were pummelled very severely by artillery fire, including our own 9-2s. "D" Company made an attempt to regain the lost trenches, but were driven back. "B" Company had an attempt, but failed. Later, the relics of "D" and "B," together with a platoon of the Devons, had another go and got through. Burden, Lloyd, Willis and the other officer were all casualties, and it was here that Willis lost his arm. During the four days and five nights in Delville Wood we had many casualties, including my batman, Tower—his fourth or fifth wound, if my memory is not at fault. The Company strength, after this show, was under thirty. Mauditt was buried twice; Tower and myself three times in one day from shell fire. Whilst in the wood I took on Lover as my batman after Burden was hit. Colonel Longbourne came up often to see how we were getting on, and the Divisional Commander, Major-General Watts, too, paid us a visit complete with "brass hat" before we made our final attack.

R.S.M. Routley personally saw to it that our ammunition reserves were ample, and always led his party in as he did in High Wood. Both he and C.S.M. Mauditt received D.C.Ms. here. Haig, Manson and myself were the only officers of two companies that came out. We were all properly tired out by this time, and we got back to Mailey-Mailey, near Albert, into bivouacs, hungry and dirty, but very pleased to be alive. After coming out of the wood I picked up the Company charger on the road, mounted and headed off down the road. I soon fell asleep, and only awakened when the line orderly in the transport lines notified me I was there. He directed me where we were bivouacked, where I soon found C.Q.M.S. Cox, M.M., and Pte. Tremblet. Before the remnants of the Company arrived I had a wash and a meal and had everything ready for them—a good hot meal and tea, with a liberal dash of rum in it. Plenty of blankets were available, and soon all were asleep. Hardly a person moved until the following evening, and the day after we packed up and moved out of the Somme area.

A little after this I went on leave and, on my return, having served a year with the Battalion I could claim to be a true member of the Regiment and could consider myself one of the "old hands."

V. C. H.

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

ALL RANKS DINNER, 1946.

THE Thirty-Second Annual All Ranks Dinner took place at Kennard's Restaurant, Croydon, on Saturday, 1st June. A message of greetings was sent by Her Majesty Queen Mary. It read:—

"I send my best wishes for a pleasant evening to all members of my Regiment dining together tonight."—MARY, R.

Greetings were also received from the battalions overseas and H.M.S. *Excellent* and H.M.S. *Howe*.

The attendance was 401, and was a representative gathering of all ranks whose service covered a period from the Burma campaign of 1886 to the World War, 1939-45. Guests from H.M.S. *Excellent* and H.M.S. *Howe* attended. General Sir George Giffard presided.

The toast of "H.M. The King" was followed by that of "H.M. Queen Mary and the Royal Family." These were proposed by the Chairman, who also gave an address recounting the war record of the Regiment, 1939 to 1945, the Annual Report of the O.C.A., Regimental News and explained the scheme for Area Representatives throughout the country.

Mr. P. E. Rowley, in proposing the toast of "Absent Comrades," linked the past with the future, and all present observed one minutes' silence in memory of fallen comrades.

Mr. H. C. Sales (ex-Drum Major) was at the piano.

The Dinner for 1947 will take place on a date near the 1st June. Details will be advertised later. Will any member desirous of attending please inform the Secretary as early as possible. It is felt that there are many who do not get to know, and the widest publicity is welcomed. Please inform others.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The War Memorial Service took place in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, on Sunday, 2nd June. Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, was represented by General Sir George Giffard.

The service was conducted by the Provost (the Very Rev. R. Sinclair), and the address was given by the Rev. V. C. Castle, C.F. (formerly chaplain to the 1st/5th Battalion and 131st Brigade).

The Band, conducted by Bandmaster E. Gaines, played before the service and at the close a silence was observed and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" was sounded by buglers from No. 13 I.T.C. and No. 13 Holding Battalion.

The service was well attended, a large number of relatives of the fallen being among the congregation. A Memorial Service will be arranged for 1947. Details will be published later.

MEMBERSHIP O.C.A.

Many new members are subscribing, and Life Membership has now reached 1,500. Annual subscriptions for 1946 are not yet complete.

Employment and resettlement has presented many problems, but co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and the Regular Forces Employment Association has solved the majority. Resettlement has been settled in several cases by the advance of small business loans.

The charitable activities of the Association are increasing, 211 cases having been dealt with and 163 grants authorized since January, 1946. A further 144 cases are still under investigation.

The need for closer touch is being catered for by the Area Representative scheme, and twenty-one subscribers have volunteered for this work.

REUNION GARDEN PARTY.

It is regretted that owing to lack of accommodation, it was not possible to hold a Garden Party for 1946. It is hoped it will be possible to arrange a reunion during 1947.

GENERAL.

The necessity for all members to keep in touch cannot be emphasized too strongly. Many inquiries are received from comrades desirous of contacting their friends, and it has not always been possible to arrange the contact owing to changes of address which have not been notified.

The Committee appeals to all members to keep their subscriptions up to date and to inform the Secretary of any change of address as it occurs.



O.C.A. DINNER, GENERAL VIEW

[Photo: Croydon Times]



O.C.A. DINNER. TOP TABLE

[Photo: Croydon Times]



THE QUEEN'S TROPHY PRESENTED TO
THE COUNTY OF SURREY CADET
COMMITTEE BY THE REGIMENT IN 1944.
It is held by the winning Battalion in the
County Boxing Championship.



PIONEERS OF THE 1st BATTALION, ALDERSHOT, 1881

To face page 29

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT WAR MEMORIAL FUND

EARLY in 1946 General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel of the Regiment, appointed a committee composed of:—

Chairman : Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. ;

Members : Brigadier R. H. Senior, D.S.O. ;
Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Bolton, D.S.O. ;
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O. ;
R.S.M. P. Tasker, M.B.E. ;

Secretary : Major F. Waspe

to consider what form the Memorial to all ranks of the Regiment who fell in the war 1939-45 should take.

The Committee studied the question of all types of War Memorials and many suggestions received from all sources, and agreed that the Memorial should take a form likely to be of the greatest benefit to the maximum number of past and present members of the Regiment and/or their wives and/or their dependants, preference being given to those in need. In consequence of the Committee's report and recommendations the following appeal was published on 1st October, 1946:—

"This is an appeal to the people of West Surrey and London, and to the many others interested in the Queen's.

"In memory of all ranks of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) who lost their lives in the war 1939-1945, a memorial in the following form is proposed:—

"1. To alter the existing War Memorial in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildford, and to place therein a Book of Life to commemorate the fallen in the late war.

"2. To provide inexpensive holiday accommodation for widows and children of members of the Regiment who lost their lives in the war, and for those serving and ex-serving soldiers, with their families, who find it difficult to afford holidays.

"With this object in view, it is intended to establish, in conjunction with The East Surrey Regiment, and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, a permanent holiday centre near the sea within easy reach of a town affording recreation and amusement. Here families will be able to spend a week or two, under pleasant conditions, at small cost to themselves.

"This centre, which we hope to establish with your help, is to commemorate the sacrifice made by the officers and men of the Queen's who gave their lives in the war for our security. It will be a living reminder to those who spend their holidays there of what they owe to these officers and men, and a lasting benefit to many who, but for this would be unable to take, healthy and happy holidays.

"A Committee, in consultation with The East Surrey Regiment and the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, has carefully examined the scheme in all its aspects, and has come to the conclusion that each Regiment will have to raise a sum of not less than £12,000.

"The record of the Queen's in the war just ended is second to none. It is only possible to give the bare outline of their distinguished service. First of all, France and Belgium, with the miracle of Dunkirk. Next the Western Desert with the defence of Tobruk and the battle of Alamein, which will always be remembered as the turning point of the war.

"Then followed the victorious march across Africa where the Queen's, as part of the 'Desert Rats,' took a prominent part in the action at Medenine and the Mareth Lines, and saw the job through to Cape Bon. At the other end of the world they fought on the North-West Frontier of India, in the Burma Campaign with Wingate's Chindits, through the swamps of Arakan, the action of Jail Hill, and the campaign to capture Burma.

"From Persia the Queen's started on what was one of the longest marches into battle; they motored 3,500 miles, arriving at night, and went into battle at 9 a.m. next morning. Battalions of the Queen's were in Palestine and Syria.

"In the Battle of Italy, the Queen's battalions fought in the principle battles and actions of that campaign. Finally, the Normandy landing, the fight for Caen, on through Belgium and Germany, finishing with the triumphant Victory March through Berlin headed by the 'Desert Rats,' and at the head the Colours of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

"Please send a donation to me at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford.

"Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to 'The Queen's War Memorial Fund.'

"September, 1946.

GEORGE J. GIFFARD,
Colonel, The Queen's Royal Regiment."

Many readers of the JOURNAL who are desirous of subscribing to the War Memorial Fund may not have received the Appeal. A large sum is still required, and donations, however small, would be most gratefully accepted.

HOME GUARD BATTALIONS OF "THE QUEEN'S"

ORGANIZATION

1ST SURREY BATTALION

THE first elements of the Local Defence Volunteers were formed at Camberley and Farnham during the invasion crisis and in response to a broadcast appeal by Mr. Eden on 14th May, 1940.

Volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life besieged the police stations of the district in their eagerness to enrol.

This organization was known as the Camberley and Farnham Local Defence Volunteers and Lord Windlesham was appointed to command the Company with Brigadier-General W. H. Darell as Second-in-Command and Colonel H. Phillips as Adjutant.

In July, 1940, General Sir Ivo Vesey took over command of the Company and Headquarters were established at Camberley. At this time the Company consisted of eight platoons of a total strength of approximately one thousand two hundred all ranks distributed over the Camberley and Farnham districts. Some thirty per cent. only of the personnel were then armed with rifles, the remainder had to make do with a few shotguns.

In the autumn of 1940 the Local Defence Volunteers were reconstituted under the title of Home Guard and the Camberley and Farnham Company was reorganized.

The platoons of the Farnham district were grouped in companies to form a separate Battalion, and those in the Camberley district were combined with platoons in the Woking and Chobham areas to form another Battalion.

This Battalion was then affiliated to The Queen's Royal Regiment and wore the badge of that Regiment with the title of 1st Surrey Battalion Home Guard.

The Headquarters of the Battalion under the command of General Sir Ivo Vesey (late Queen's Royal Regiment) remained at Camberley. The Battalion then comprised five companies, totalling approximately one thousand four hundred all ranks, distributed over an area of about seventy square miles. Its chief duties consisted of guarding vulnerable points, patrolling and preparing defensive posts to meet invasion.

At this time, 1940, the Battalion was administered by Headquarters, Aldershot Command. It was subsequently transferred to the command of Headquarters, Blackdown Sub-District and was administered by the County of Surrey T.A. and A.F. Association.

In October, 1942, a further reorganization took place. The companies in the Woking and Chobham districts were reconstituted as a separate Battalion (11th Surrey Battalion) and the remainder of the 1st Battalion was organized in five companies covering the Camberley, Frimley, Sunningdale, Normandy and Worplesdon areas with a strength of approximately one thousand five hundred all ranks and an area of about fifty square miles.

On the 15th December, 1942, General Sir Ivo Vesey relinquished command and Colonel C. A. Gillet (late Royal Artillery) assumed command of the Battalion which he held until the disbandment.

The organization of the Battalion as such did not vary during this period though there were slight adjustments to company areas and certain modifications in the defensive posts consequent on the various changes in command of Blackdown Sub-District.

On 13th September, 1944, the Secretary of State for War broadcast an instruction that compulsory parades would not be held after 17th September, and orders were given that the Home Guard would "Stand Down" on 1st November, 1944.

Finally, orders were issued in December, 1945 that the Force would be disbanded on 31st December, 1945.

GENERAL.

Rifle Shooting.—The Battalion were above the average in this respect and all ranks were keen on this portion of their training.

As regards the various Home Guard Rifle Competitions the Battalion can claim the following successes.

LOCHBOISDALE TROPHY :

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| 1944 | 1st Surrey Battalion | ... | ... | Fifth. |
| 1945 | "C" Company, 1st Surrey Battalion | ... | ... | First |
| 1945 | "D" Company, 1st Surrey Battalion | ... | ... | Fourth. |

VESEY COMPETITION :

| | | | | | |
|------|----------|-------------|-----|-----|---------|
| 1942 | December | "C" Company | ... | ... | Third. |
| 1943 | April | "C" Company | ... | ... | Second. |
| 1943 | October | "C" Company | ... | ... | First. |
| 1944 | April | "C" Company | ... | ... | First. |
| 1944 | | "D" Company | ... | ... | First. |
| 1944 | October | "C" Company | ... | ... | Second. |
| | | "C" Company | ... | ... | Second. |

HOME GUARD HUNDRED :

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1944 | Nine Members. |
| 1945 | Twenty-seven Members. |

All companies of the Battalion formed Home Guard Rifle Clubs on "Stand Down" and these clubs continue to flourish.

5TH SURREY BATTALION

THE unit was formed on 19th May, 1940 and was originally called the 1st Godalming Company of the 1st Surrey Zone Local Defence Volunteers. It was commanded by Captain T. C. D. Hassall (afterwards Lieut.-Colonel), with a strength of three thousand two hundred and an area of two hundred and twenty square miles. The Headquarters was at Ashdale, Hascombe. In July, 1940 the Company was reconstituted as a Battalion, with six companies, Godalming and Haslemere being withdrawn from the area, which from that time remained unchanged and included Effingham, the Horsleys, Shere, Holmbury St. Mary, Ewhurst, Ellen's Green, Alfold, Dunsfold, Chiddingfold, Hambledon, Shalford, Bramley and Cranleigh (about one hundred and sixty square miles). At this time Captain W. J. Penny began his invaluable service with the unit. Numbers were about two thousand.

In November, 1940 the title of the Battalion became the 5th Battalion Surrey Home Guard ; the Headquarters had been for some months at High Barn, near Godalming. Cranleigh and Shere were made nodal points.

By April, 1941 a variety of weapons had reached the unit ; duties consisted chiefly in manning observation posts and inlying picquets ; exercises were frequent during the year. In December began the "Council Meetings" between the Battalion and the Civil Defence Services, which were typical of the liaison which existed in the area.

In February, 1942, Battalion Headquarters was moved to Lea Farm, near Bramley. The chief event of the year was the fortnight's training (6th to 21st June) with the Toronto Scottish, which ended with a Battalion Drumhead Service and Parade, the parade being inspected by Field-Marshal the Lord Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., who had served as a private in the unit. In July, 1942, Captain D. C. Kennard became Adjutant, and in November, Lieut.-Colonel Hassall resigned, the new Battalion Commander being Lieut.-Colonel E. R. Hopewell, M.C., T.D., (who was awarded the O.B.E. in June, 1944).

In January, 1943 Battalion Headquarters moved to Cranleigh. The year was characterized by numerous exercises, feeding, medical, communications, and civil defence, as well as tactical. A seventh company was formed. Over one hundred women Home Guard auxiliaries began their most useful work. A Battalion cadre course was held. On 5th December a visit was paid by the Commander-in-Chief Home Forces, General Sir H. F. Franklyn, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

In 1944 many exercises were held to assist in the defence of Dunsfold Aerodrome. On 30th April the Army Commander inspected the unit.

At the end of April duties were intensified and were continued till 11th September, when the Home Guard reverted to a voluntary basis. On the stand down of the Home Guard a final parade was held at Cranleigh on 3rd December, the salute being taken by the Commanding Officer.

During 1945 there were no parades, but the unit was represented by a party of seventy at the presentation of the Scroll to the Queen's Royal Regiment by the Borough of Guildford on 29th September.

The Battalion was finally disbanded on 31st December, 1945.

The main feature of the life of the Battalion have been :—an effort to maintain liaison with the other services (Regulars, Civil Defence, S.W.A.E.C.) as well as with adjacent Home Guard units; an attempt to fit all ranks for their war role by the holding of numerous schemes and cadre courses; the extensive reliance on the services of women Home Guard auxiliaries.

GRANT FROM LORD LIEUTENANT'S FUND

QUEEN MARY, Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Regiment, has graciously accepted a cheque for £1,000 from the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey's Fund on behalf of the Old Comrades Association.

Her Majesty has personally knitted 106 scarves for the Regiment and has provided over 400 comforts from the Badminton knitting party, apart from other gifts.

In a message to the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Queen Mary desires him to convey to all who have organized and supported the county fund an expression of the profound gratitude of all ranks for this gift to the Old Comrades Association, and for the spirit of true friendship shown to the Regiment throughout the years of war and beyond by the people of Surrey. In reviewing the work of the Fund generally, Her Majesty feels that its achievement is one of which the host of kind friends who laboured for it may well be proud.

Out of the balance left, upon the winding-up of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund, the following sums have also recently been distributed :—

£2,000 to the British Legion, for the provision of further Prince of Wales pensions to Surrey ex-Service men.

£1,500 to the British Legion, for additional assistance to Surrey ex-Service men, women and their dependants to supplement grants ordinarily made.

£1,000 to the British Legion, for the Duke of Connaught Memorial Fund, to assist where required Surrey ex-Service men and their children who are at school or a university. Up to £50 can be given in each case.

£500 to the British Legion Officers' Association, for the assistance of commissioned ex-officers in Surrey.

£5,000 to the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, for general work in Surrey and for supplementary grants.

£5,000 to the Incorporated Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society, for general work in Surrey and for supplementary grants.

£1,000 to the East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades Association.

£3,000 to the Surrey Convalescent Homes, to endow three beds for fifty years in each of the three Surrey convalescent homes for ex-Service men, women and their dependants.

£500 to the British Sailors' Society, for Surrey merchant seamen.

None of the money given by the Fund will be used for administrative purposes.

NOTICE

'THIRTY-THREE CLUB BUFFET' DANCE

On the 26th July, 1946, a Reunion Dinner was held for those officers of 1st Bn. 'The Queen's Royal Regiment' who were with the unit in Burma during the period November, 1943, to February, 1945. Major-General Loftus-Tottenham, D.S.O., was the guest of honour, and at the reunion it was decided to form a Dinner Club to meet annually on the 26th June. It was also decided that the Club be enlarged to include all those officers who served in 33rd Indian Infantry Brigade during that period, and that the Club should be called "The 33 Club."

It has now been decided to hold a dance at the Savoy Hotel on 10th January, 1947.

If you know of the whereabouts of any other officer of the Brigade, would you please inform him of this event. Announcements will appear in the Press in October, November and December.

Tickets will be approximately 35s. per head. All gentlemen must be accompanied by a lady, and may ask a further couple, irrespective of whether they have any connection with the Brigade or not.

No one will be admitted unless they hold a ticket, which can be obtained from :—

(1) A. S. C. Hobrow, Esq., M.C.,
c/o 68, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

(2) R. F. Kensington, Esq.,
40, Hillside Gardens, Northwood, Middlesex.

(3) G. B. Shaw, Esq.,
The White Barn, Sutton Green, nr. Guildford, Surrey.

The dance will continue from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m., and a buffet meal will be served at 11 p.m.
Dress : Dinner Jackets or Uniform.

GUILDFORD ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S FINE SHOOTING

THIS has been the most outstanding year in the long history of rifle shooting successes by the Guildford Royal Grammar School, who wear the Queen's badge. In competition with 2,332 teams from schools and youth organizations of the British Empire, the Royal Grammar School J.T.C. won for Britain the Imperial Challenge Shield in the 1945 competition. This is the fifth time that the School has proved itself the best in the Empire by winning this trophy.

The total number of boys who shot was 54,145. The Royal Grammar School team comprised 177 boys, of whom 123 counted for the score, which was 93.078 per cent.

NINE SILVER KING'S MEDALS.

In addition to winning the Imperial Challenge Shield from Trinity College School, Ontario, Canada, the holders, who were runners-up, Guildford won the Lord Milner Trophy for the highest scoring unit using only Government pattern rifles with open sights. The Lord Roberts Trophy, open to boys' organizations of Great Britain in the competition, was, as previously announced, also won by the School. All nine of the silver King's Medals of Honour awarded to Great Britain went to Guildford Royal Grammar School, and one of the eight bronze medals, and, in addition, 63 boys qualified as Empire marksmen and 39 as Empire first-class shots. The instructor's silver medals attaching to the three trophies go to increase the considerable collection of Sergt.-Major Instructor A. L. Stent.

The School's second shooting success announced this week is the winning of the Caird Challenge Cup in the major section of the Junior Summer Competition of the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. Sixty-seven teams from schools and youth organizations of Great Britain shot, and Guildford narrowly beat the holders, Perth, for the trophy and took third place with their "B" team. The winning team comprised R. E. J. Lower (who scored a "possible"), E. E. Smith, H. G. Hibbert and J. L. Kearney. This is the School's fourth success in this competition.

The winning by the School of the "Surrey Advertiser" Cup, the Hawkins Cup and the "Country Life" Class "A" Cup have already been announced, and the result of the Astor Cup county shoot is being awaited.

BRILLIANT INSTRUCTOR.

Although this has been the School's best year, it has many times proved itself the finest shooting school in Britain since Sergt.-Major Instructor A. L. Stent began instruction there in 1922. Himself a former Surrey county champion and twice regimental champion shot of The Queen's Royal Regiment, S.M.I. Stent has a remarkable gift for training boys.

The School is fortunate in possessing a good range, facing directly north, and on this the marksmen are produced. S.M.I. Stent makes a point of studying each boy individually and fitting the rifle to him. "Give a boy a gun he can handle and he will learn to shoot," he says. After that the training is a matter of assiduous practice, with never a round wasted.

The credit for the success, however, is modestly passed on by the Sergeant-Major to the boys themselves. "The School tradition in shooting makes every boy do his best," he says, "and at this School shooting is a sport, not just a duty. Our boys shoot for the love of the sport, and it is one of the finest sports there is."

To this it might be appended that the fact that the boys derive so much genuine enjoyment from their hours on the range is yet another feather in the cap of S.M.I. Stent.

OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

Officers of all three Services have become gravely concerned at the steady decline in the value of their retired pay and the pensions of officers' widows. The proportion of retired pay to full pay has decreased considerably since before the last war, with the result that retired pay is now quite inadequate to enable the lower and middle grades of retired officers to maintain their officer status in retirement, as they could prior to 1914. This is all the more serious, since the nature of their profession and their ages of retirement deprive them of any civilian market value worth mentioning.

As for officers' widows, their pensions have hardly altered since the early years of the nineteenth century and are now quite ludicrously small.

Civil Servants have not suffered in this way, since their pensions are a fixed proportion of their pay and therefore automatically go up as pay is increased. As a result, the maximum pensions of the Permanent Secretaries of the Service Ministries are now about half as large again as can be obtained by any First Sea Lord, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, or Chief of the Air Staff, no matter how high his rank or how great his services to the nation. Civil Service widows are also much better provided for than those of fighting officers.

The impression has been spreading among retired officers that this very unsatisfactory state of affairs will not be remedied except by their own efforts. The undersigned are therefore sponsoring the formation of an inter-Service Officers' Pensions Society, with a view to taking appropriate action. They have previously invited opinions from officers and are convinced from the number and tone of the replies received, including many from senior officers, that there is a considerable body of support for such a Society.

The Society will not be in any sense a charity, but will be a militant organization designed to promote retired officers' and widows' interests through Parliament and public opinion and in any other suitable way. The primary necessity for the success of such an undertaking is the accumulation of adequate resources. The sponsors believe that it would be bad policy to initiate energetic action without the means of backing it up, and they consider that every effort should initially be devoted to reaching a substantial target as quickly as possible. Any donation for this purpose will be welcome.

Membership is open (subject to the approval of the Council of the Society) to retired officers of all three Services, the wives and relatives of serving or retired officers, and the widows and relatives of deceased officers; the term "all three Services" including the British element of the Indian services.

The subscription, which expires on December 31st of each year, is £1 per annum for all members except the widows of deceased officers, for whom it is 10s. Cheques should be made payable to: The Officers' Pensions Society, c/o Gale & Polden Ltd., Ideal House, Argyll Street, Oxford Circus, London, W.1.

OBITUARY

We regret to publish the deaths of the following members of the Old Comrades Association, notifications of which have been received since the last pre-war number. The list does not include war casualties, whose names will be included in a separate publication.

| Name | Service | Date of Decease |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lieut.-General Sir. E. O. F. Hamilton, K.C.B. (Colonel of Regiment, 1914 to 1920) | 1st and 2nd Bns, 1873-1920 ... | 20 Mar. 1944 |
| Major-General Sir W. D. Bird, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (Colonel of Regiment, 1929 to 1939) | 1st Bn., 1888-1939 | 6 Jan. 1943 |
| Brig.-General W. J. T. Glasgow, C.M.G. | 1st and 2nd Bns. | 9 Feb. 1944 |
| Brig.-General J. G. King-King, C.B., D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1883-1912 | 30 Sept. 1939 |
| Brig.-General R. O. H. Livesey, C.M.G., D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns. | 23 Mar. 1946 |
| Brig.-General E. B. Mathew-Lannowe, C.M.G., D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1895-1922 | 15 Jan. 1940 |
| Colonel M. C. Coles, C.M.G. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1884-1915 | 1943 |
| Colonel C. F. H. Greenwood, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D. | 22nd London, 6th Bn. | 20 Apl. 1944 |
| Colonel R. T. Lee, C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1901-1927 | 27 Oct. 1940 |
| Colonel J. D. Mackworth, C.B.E. | 1st Bn. | 5 Sept. 1939 |
| Colonel W. J. Perkins, C.M.G., T.D. | 5th Bn., 1885-1911 | 14 July 1939 |
| Colonel H. D. Robson | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1878-1906 | 1941 |
| Lieut.-Colonel L. M. Crofts, D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1889-1920 | Dec. 1942 |
| Lieut.-Colonel F. Hayley-Bell, D.S.O. | 10th Bn., 1914-1920 | 20 Apl. 1944 |
| Lieut.-Colonel H. J. C. Peirs, C.M.G., D.S.O. | 8th Bn. | 10 June 1943 |
| Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Smith, D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns. | 21 June 1944 |
| Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Tringham, D.S.O., O.B.E. | 1st, 2nd and 8th Bns. | 27 May 1945 |
| Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Whitehead | 1st Bn. 1894 | 2 Oct. 1939 |
| Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Fearon, D.S.O. | 1st and 2nd Bns. | 1946 |
| Major H. M. Cowper | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1884 | Dec. 1943 |
| Major J. J. Grubb, O.B.E. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1893 | 8 Apl. 1942 |
| Major M. Shuldarn-Leigh | 2nd Bn. | 24 Sept. 1942 |
| Major G. G. Whiffen | 2nd Bn. | 30 Jan. 1941 |
| Major L. L. Wellman, M.C. | 1st Bn. | 3 July 1944 |
| Major W. G. R. Beeton (Killed in action in Palestine) | 1st and 2nd Bns. | 23 May 1939 |
| Capt. A. E. Barnes | 2nd Bn., 1898-1922 | 15 Oct. 1940 |
| Capt. E. F. J. Monk, D.C.M. | 1st and 2nd Bns., 1894-1920 | 9 May 1939 |
| Capt. E. J. W. Reader, O.B.E. | 1st and 5th Bns. | 15 Jan. 1942 |
| Capt. L. M. Boddam-Whetham | 2nd Bn. | June 1941 |
| The Rev. H. J. Burkitt, M.A., Chaplain | | 19 June 1939 |
| Capt. A. C. Curtis | 11th Bn. | May 1944 |
| Capt. M. Strode, M.C. | 2nd Bn., 1914-1918 | 15 Jan. 1945 |

| Number | Rank | Name | Service | Dates | Date of Decease |
|---------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 6076391 | B.M. | Adams, W.A. | Bns. | | |
| 940 | Pte. | Ash, F. | 2nd | | 23 Dec. 1941 |
| 3906 | Cpl. | Bayliss, J. A. | 2nd | 1884-1903 | 13 June 1944 |
| | Sergt. | Branford, O. | | 1892-1900 | 2 May 1940 |
| 6891 | Pte. | Brown, F. | 5th | | Dec. 1944 |
| 749630 | C./Sergt. | Budd, A. F. | 1st and 2nd | 1901-1908 | 23 Mar. 1942 |
| 1942 | C./Sergt. | Chapman, W. | 1st | 1923-1941 | 26 Oct. 1942 |
| 1882 | C./Sergt. | Cook, H. | 1st | | Apr. 1945 |
| 4682 | C.S.M. | Crew, W. R. | 1st | 1887-1908 | 5 Mar. 1941 |
| 380 | C./Sergt. | Ellis, A. E. | 1st and 2nd | 1894 | 5 Sept. 1943 |
| 2445 | Pte. | Enever, A. H. | 2nd | | 12 Oct. 1939 |
| 1764 | C./Sergt. | Fletcher, A. F. | 2nd | 1873-1879 | 8 Aug. 1946 |
| 1628 | Pte. | Ford, J. | 2nd | 1886-1909 | 9 Dec. 1942 |
| 6076290 | C./Sergt. | Gannon, J. | | 1880-1887 | 14 Dec. 1939 |
| 3125 | Pte. | Grainger, A. J. | 1st | 1911-1943 | 15 Feb. 1944 |
| 6077998 | C./Sergt. | Graham, N. H. | | | 25 Feb. 1940 |
| 240002 | Pte. | Green, F. | 1st | 1900-1922 | 3 Nov. 1944 |
| 4736 | R.Q.M.S. | Griffiths, J. | 4th | 1915-1920 | 11 Apl. 1941 |
| 6077277 | C.S.M. | Handsombe, P. P. | 1st | | 1944 |
| 5 | Pte. | Hanlon, W. | 1st | 1919-1938 | Oct. 1941 |
| 3649 | Sergt. | Hall, S. J. | 2nd | 1881-1889 | 20 Jan. 1940 |
| 3092 | Sergt. | Harley, F. | 1st and 2nd | 1891-1912 | 30 Oct. 1940 |
| | | | 2nd | 1885-1900 | 15 Mar. 1942 |

| Number | Rank | Name | Service Bns. | Dates | Date of Decease |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1095 | C./Sergt. | Hoare, J. | 1st | 1884-1905 | 13 Jan. 1945 |
| 6076207 | Sergt. | Hopkins, H. | 1st | 1908-1928 | 1941 |
| 4064 | Pte. | Hooker, A. | 1st | 1892-1911 | Mar. 1946 |
| 3091 | Pte. | Howard, W. | 2nd | 1890-1902 | 9 Dec. 1942 |
| 2766 | Pte. | Howe, A. | 2nd | 1890- | 28 Jan. 1941 |
| 8020 | Pte. | Kenealy, D. | | | Jan. 1943 |
| 4960 | Sergt. | Kenyon, T. | 1st and 2nd | | 14 Mar. 1945 |
| 3582 | C./Sergt. | Light, F. | 1st | 1891-1912 | 17 Nov. 1942 |
| 4710 | C./Sergt. | Long, D. | 1st and 2nd | 1894-1919 | 11 Feb. 1945 |
| 4706 | Sergt. | Ives, J. | 1st and 2nd | 1894 | Jan. 1946 |
| 8173 | D./Major | McLaughlin, R. | 1st and 2nd | 1904-1918 | 1 Mar. 1942 |
| 3289 | L./Sergt. | McNamara, F. | 2nd | 1890-1912 | Dec. 1940 |
| 5557 | Pte. | Millichope, G. | 2nd | 1898-1910 | 10 Apl. 1943 |
| 3913 | Band/Sergt. | Mortimer, F. H. | 1st | 1881-1903 | 9 May 1940 |
| 6076147 | Pte. | Muggeridge, A. | 1st | 1900-1921 | 4 May 1945 |
| 2146 | C./Sergt. | Musto, E. A. | 1st | 1887-1908 | 6 Jan. 1941 |
| 4025 | R.S.M. | Osborne, T. A. | 1st and 2nd | | 14 May 1946 |
| 1878 | Pte. | Paulley, H. | 2nd | 1887 | 18 Apl. 1941 |
| 4227 | Sergt. | Pollock, A. V. | 1st | | 19 Aug. 1942 |
| 4078 | Bdsm. | Povey, J. | | 1892-1913 | 7 Oct. 1941 |
| 9818 | L./Cpl. | Preece, H. | 2nd | 1911-1915 | 4 Mar. 1942 |
| 1105 | Pte. | Price, A. | 2nd | 1877-1883 | 28 June 1943 |
| 6076192 | C.S.M. | Reeves, W. (D.C.M.) | 1st | 1919-1933 | 17 Jan. 1940 |
| 6203 | Sergt. | Smart, G. | 1st | 1899-1919 | 10 June 1940 |
| 3037 | Pte. | Rolph, J. | 1st | 1899-1920 | Jan. 1941 |
| 8795 | Bdsm. | Shreeves, T. | 2nd | 1905-1917 | 15 Oct. 1941 |
| 2933 | Sergt. | Smith, J. H. (D.C.M.) | 1st | 1890-1902 | 23 July 1942 |
| 6077410 | Q.M.S. (O.R.S.) | Swanson, W. | 1st | 1910-1933 | 14 Oct. 1945 |
| 5563 | Pte. | Taylor, G. | 2nd | 1898-1910 | 14 Jan. 1942 |
| 9680 | C.S.M. | Tuff, A. | | 1910-1919 | 13 May 1940 |
| 3678 | Pte. | Tugwell, W. E. | | 1891-1902 | 26 May 1941 |
| 1842 | R.S.M. | Wakeford, D. | 1st and 2nd | | 5 June 1944 |
| 8825 | Sergt. | Walker, R. (M.M.) | 2nd | 1906-1919 | 2 Nov. 1943 |
| 6022054 | Pte. | Whiston, W. | 7th | 1916-1919 | 15 July 1941 |
| 4857 | Pte. | Willoughby, M. D. | 1st | 1895-1919 | 1 Feb. 1942 |
| 76321 | C.S.M. | Wilson, E. H. | 1st | 1911-1933 | 17 Nov. 1941 |
| 2919 | R.Q.M.S. | Wright, T. | 1st and 2nd | 1890-1918 | 25 Apl. 1940 |
| 4202 | Sergt. | Wright, T. E. A. | 1st | 1892-1913 | 12 June 1941 |

CORRESPONDENCE

Invicta Lines,
Maidstone,
Kent.
29th October, 1946

To : THE EDITOR, THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL JOURNAL.

Sir,

May I trespass on your generosity by asking for a little space to pay a tribute to the officers and other ranks of the Queen's with whom I have served for the last five and a half years.

In a few more weeks this Training Centre, as it is, will have ceased to exist, and its members scattered, and, as it must be, friends parted.

During the years in which the Queen's have served in Maidstone I have acquired many friends in the Regiment and it would be impossible to mention them all individually so I will confine myself to just a few. Let me start with Commanding Officers. The Queen's provided two. The first, Colonel D. C. G. Dickinson was unhappily called from us before he finished his term of office. He was beloved by everyone and was known as "Dickie." He spared no effort to create in the Infantry Training Centre that spirit of good fellowship that is so essential when two different Regiments are serving as one.

"Dickie" is buried only a few hundred yards from my home in Maidstone Cemetery and I occasionally make a pilgrimage to his grave where I can meditate in peace and recall events in which he was the chief actor. He was a grand soldier.

The next, and present Commanding Officer whom you lent to us is Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O.

I have served for over forty-three years in the Army, and it has not been my privilege to serve with a better officer. Efficient, kind and considerate, he has the knack of making his subordinates feel at ease when dealing with him. He is well liked by all serving under him and when he leaves us he will carry with him the good wishes of all ranks of 13 Infantry Training Centre.

Nor are we likely to forget Captain J. N. McArthur, our present Adjutant, who at the moment is good-temperedly fighting a battle with nominal rolls for here, there and everywhere.

If the above are samples of Queen's officers, the Regiment is well officered and well served. To follow—you sent us R.S.M. P. Tasker, M.B.E., who has unfortunately already left us for the new Infantry Training Centre at Shorncliffe. "Percy" came to us on the 9th February, 1942, with a reputation as "ruthless." He is one of the best Sergeant-Majors I have served under. Honest and just, he has had but one interest—that was to make the Infantry Training Centre efficient. He made it so, and in so doing he has won the admiration and respect of us all. We miss him already. We wish him the best of luck in his new job.

As I said above, it is impossible to mention all those who have served at Maidstone through the worrying and strenuous years from 1941 to 1946. They were in the main all good soldiers and excellent comrades. I hope I may be forgiven if I mention two especial friends of mine. Great lads, both of them, they are ex-C.S.M. Pullinger, now in Portsmouth and C./Sergt. D'Arthenay, now in Poole. To them I send through this JOURNAL my kind remembrances and very good wishes.

Finally, we all hope that when the parting takes place the Queen's will regain their niche comfortably in Guildford and be as well served in the future as they have been in the past. To all Queen's men wherever they may be—good luck from the Queen's Own and all the other units which went to make the Infantry Training Centres going concerns.

T. P. MULLEN, Q.M.S. (O.R.S.)
27th and 50th Foot.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor and Hon. Treasurer : MAJOR R. C. G. FOSTER.

Offices : STOUGHTON BARRACKS, GUILDFORD.

The following are suggestions which may be of help to Battalion Assistant Editors and contributors in sending in material :—

1. Assistant Editors should frame their material on the following lines :—

- A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part—i.e., Battalion General News.
- Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
- Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important performances at cricket, mentioning names of goal-scorers, good scores or good bowling should be included under this sub-head.
- Sergeants' Mess News.
- Corporals' Mess News.
- Company and Platoon Games and Sports.

2. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and should, if possible, be typewritten, but this is not essential. They should be submitted not later than 15th April, 1947.

3. Photographs should be marked on the back with the title and, in the case of groups, names should be invariably given. In this connection, readers are invited to send all photographs likely to be of interest.

Subscribers are requested to notify at once any change of address. Unless this is done the safe delivery of the JOURNAL cannot be guaranteed.

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