



# The Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment

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HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

Frontispiece

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## OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

1947 will be memorable in the history of the Regiment. Her Majesty Queen Mary has celebrated her eightieth birthday and has also completed ten years as our Colonel-in-Chief.

We all, I know, wish to congratulate Her Majesty most warmly on this anniversary and at the same time to express our pride and gratitude that she should have been our Colonel-in-Chief for so many years.

Her Majesty has always taken and continues to take the greatest interest in all that concerns her Regiment and in all that it does. One of the most important and pleasant duties of the Colonel of the Regiment is to keep Her Majesty regularly and fully informed of all Regimental news.

During the war Her Majesty showed in very practical fashion her affection for and interest in her Regiment by organizing working parties to make comforts and by herself knitting scarves which were presented to officers. There must be many an officer who today treasures one of these. Her Majesty was, too, a most generous subscriber to the Regimental War Welfare Fund as she is, too, to other Regimental funds for the welfare of officers and men.

I sent the following telegram to Her Majesty from all ranks of the Regiment on her birthday :

"HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY.

"All ranks of the Queen's Royal Regiment send with their humble duty, warmest congratulations and best wishes to their Colonel-in-Chief on her eightieth birthday.

"GENERAL SIR GEORGE GIFFARD."

To this Her Majesty was graciously pleased to reply :

"GENERAL SIR GEORGE GIFFARD.

"I thank you and all ranks of the Queen's Royal Regiment most warmly for your congratulations upon the eightieth anniversary of my birthday today.

" MARY R., *Colonel-in-Chief.*"

It is our earnest hope that Her Majesty will long continue as our Colonel-in-Chief and enjoy many anniversaries of her birthday.

G. F. GIFFARD, *General.*



[Photo: Gale & Polden Ltd.]

*Mary R.*

*Colonel in Chief*

## EDITORIAL

OUR appeal, in the last number, for accounts of important operations in which the Regiment took part, has been well responded to. We publish in this number, besides a second instalment of the history of 169th Brigade in Italy, accounts by Major T. V. Close, D.S.O., of the 2nd Battalion's part in the Chindit operations and by Capt. C. T. Reichwald, M.C., of the move of 169th Brigade from Irak to Tunisia. Both are most clear and interesting accounts and we are very grateful to the authors.

For the next number we have the final instalment of Reichwald's story and an account of the 1st Battalion's action in the Sittang bend. Both will be illustrated. A bad lack so far has been any account of the many actions in which the 131st Brigade took part and we hope someone will send some along.

The experiment has been made in this number of including two articles of army, but not exclusively of regimental interest.

"Red as a Beetroot or White as a Sheet," is by the very well-known writer Gerald Kersh and is an amusing and realistic conversation piece from his book "Bright, Clean and Slightly Oiled," which is an account of his life in the ranks of the Guards.

"The Glass House Goes," is by Sir Alexander Paterson, an old member of the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's), who was knighted in January after many years as H.M. Commissioner of Prisons. It was originally published in the *Spectator*.

We are most grateful to those two distinguished authors for permission to republish their work.

We are very glad too, to publish a first instalment of the history of the 9th (Home Counties and East Anglia) Bn. The Parachute Regiment.

This is the Battalion in which all officers and other ranks of the Queen's who are gallant enough to take up this form of training will serve and we hope the affiliation will be close and long.

Finally, we would like to appeal most urgently for all possible help in increasing our circulation. The JOURNAL is almost unique in these days in not having raised its price, but as a result there is a loss on each issue and if the present standard is to be maintained, many more subscribers are required.

## INFANTRY REORGANIZATION

IT will probably be of interest to ex-members of the Regiment to sketch the reorganization of the Infantry which has just taken place and its effect on the regiment.

The main change has been the introduction of the "Group" of about six regiments. Officers and other ranks will normally serve with their own regiment, but in case of necessity and in war time may be posted to any regiment of the group.

Our group (The Home Counties) consists of The Queen's, The Buffs, The Royal Fusiliers, The Royal West Kents, The East Surreys, and The Royal Sussex.

9th Parachute Battalion is affiliated to Home Counties and East Anglia Groups. Now stationed with M.E.L.F., unlike several regiments the Parachute Regiment will be maintained by a system of secondment and attachment from the parent groups and no officers or other ranks will serve permanently in the Parachute Regiment.

Each regiment of the group has a Primary Training Centre. Recruits (both National Service men and volunteers), spend their first six weeks in the General Service Corps and carry out primary training (normally at one of the P.T.Cs. in the group area in which they reside).

During the initial six weeks' training it is decided for which arm or branch of the service they are most suited.

A recruit who is posted to one of the Home Counties regiments, is then transferred to this regiment and carries out ten weeks' corps training with his regimental company at Home Counties I.T.C.

## 1ST BATTALION

The headquarters staff of the I.T.C. is drawn from all six regiments, but the recruit goes to the Queen's Company which is entirely staffed by The Queen's.

In our case the P.T.C. is No. 2 P.T.C. at Stoughton Barracks, and the I.T.C. at Shorncliffe.

At Stoughton there is also a small Regimental Depot which administers all unattached Queen's personnel and maintains touch with the T.A. battalions and the county.

As regards regular battalions, the future proposal is that every battalion will be liable to spend a period in "suspended animation," during which time it will exist on paper only with no officers or men on its strength.

Neither battalions of the Regiment are at present affected, the 1st Battalion being at Singapore and the 2nd Battalion in Germany.

Territorial battalions are sadly reduced. The 5th and 6th Battalions remain as infantry, but the 4th Battalion becomes the 598th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. (Queen's), and the 7th Battalion the 622nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. (Queen's).

It is hoped and intended both by the Regiment and by those Units that the regimental connection will still be maintained and their news will be warmly welcomed in the JOURNAL.

The remaining units of the Regiment are the Cadet battalions of the Queen's, of which there are five. 1st (Merstham), 2nd (Camberley), 3rd (Croydon), 4th (Coulsdon), and 5th (Guildford).

They are fully part of the Regiment and important factors in maintaining its traditions and standards.

## 1ST BATTALION

THE Battalion, under command of Major A. R. C. Mott, arrived at Singapore from Sungai Patani (N. Malaya), on 21st January, and moved into barracks at Selerang on the east coast of the island within a mile of Changi airfield on the one side, and of the notorious Changi Gaol on the other.

Both the barracks taken over by the Battalion and all other barracks and houses in the neighbourhood had been used by the Japanese as internment camps for British prisoners-of-war and civilian internees in the war.

The Battalion arrived with 31 officers and 582 other ranks. By 1st March this had increased to 39 officers and 655 other ranks. This was largely helped by a draft of approximately 130 other ranks from the 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment, which had been put into suspended animation.

Within a week of its arrival the Battalion, with great regret, had to say farewell to Lieut. and Quartermaster W. C. Willans and R.S.M. J. B. Simmons, M.C., both of whom went home on repatriation. A reference to each of these, who had done great service to the Battalion, is made herein.

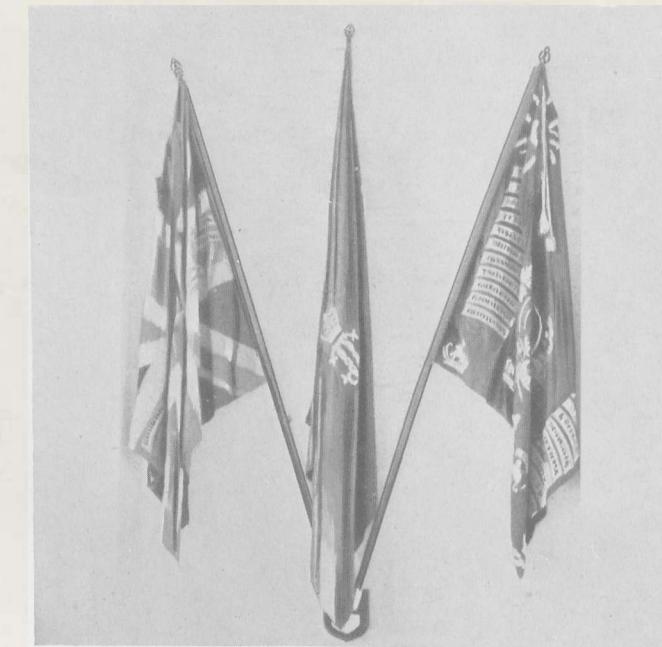
R.S.M. J. W. Kemp arrived on 1st March from the United Kingdom to take over the duties of Regimental Sergeant-Major, whilst Capt. and Quartermaster S. Sharpe is expected in April.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., arrived in Singapore from the United Kingdom on 18th January and took over command of the Battalion on its arrival at Selerang. Major A. R. C. Mott, who had commanded the Battalion since the departure of Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Terry (to the Staff College) in November, 1946, himself leaves for the United Kingdom shortly on leave. The Battalion has a great deal to thank him for during the difficult few months at a very poor station prior to its arrival in Singapore—months in which the Battalion was extremely short of personnel of all types. During this time Major Mott had no Second-in-Command, but weathered it all with characteristic calm and efficiency, to the benefit of the Battalion.

Major C. F. Cole, formerly 1st/5th and 15th Battalions Queen's, and now a Regular officer, joined the Battalion on its arrival in Singapore and took over command of H.Q. Company. He had been for some months a staff officer at G.H.Q. and his knowledge of various "contacts" has

## 1ST BATTALION



THE COLOURS OF THE 1ST BATTALION AS HUNG ON THE WALL OF THE OFFICERS' MESS, SELERANG BARRACKS, CHANGI, SINGAPORE.



1ST BATTALION, SINGAPORE. OFFICERS' MESS, MARCH, 1947.

Back row.—Capt. King, 2/Lieut. Brooks, Capt. (Rev.) Peck, 2/Lieut. Hoade, Lieut. Arnold, 2/Lieut. Miles, 2/Lieut. Cross, 2/Lieut. Ireland, 2/Lieut. Wilshire, 2/Lieut. Pickard, Lieut. Bantock, 2/Lieut. Popper, Capt. Gould, 2/Lieut. Thurlay.  
Front row.—Major Kirby, Capt. Parkes, Major Cole, Major Mott, Lieut.-Colonel Gibbs, D.S.O., Capt. and Adjt. Irving, Major Ford, Capt. Larcombe, Capt. Blake.

## 1st BATTALION



SERGEANTS' MESS, SINGAPORE, 1947.

Back row.—C.Q.M.S. Munro, Sergt. M. Smith, Sergt. Barnes, Sergt. Jones, Sergt. E. Smith, Sergt. Davis, Sergt. Lambert, Sergt. Tilbury, Sergt. Lowry, Sergt. Turpin, Sergt. Rigby.  
 Centre row.—C.Q.M.S. Cover, Sergt. Shearman, Sergt. Watts, Sergt. Buxton, Sergt. Hinton, Sergt. Page, Sergt. Leech, Sergt. Smith, Arm. Sergt. Johnson, C.Q.M.S. King.  
 Front row.—C.S.M. Puddephatt, Capt. A. R. Irving, C.S.M. Motton, Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., R.S.M. Kemp, Major A. R. C. Mott, R.Q.M.S. Wickens, C.S.M. Bolton, C.S.M. Bohm.



CORPORALS' MESS, 1st BATTALION, SINGAPORE, MARCH, 1947.

## 1ST BATTALION

been of the greatest assistance to the Battalion. At the time of writing the following are the more senior appointments in the Battalion.

Commanding Officer	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O. (Regular).
Second-in-Command	...	...	Major A. R. C. Mott (Regular).
Adjutant, H.Q.	...	...	Capt. A. R. Irving (Emergency).
O.C. H.Q. Company and P.R.I.	...	...	Major C. F. Cole (Regular).
O.C. "A" Company	...	...	Major N. I. H. Nielson (Emergency).
O.C. "B" Company	...	...	Major N. R. Ford (Emergency).
O.C. "C" Company	...	...	Major D. W. Kirby (Emergency).
O.C. "D" Company	...	...	Capt. E. A. Blake (Short Service).
O.C. Admin. Company	...	...	Captain A. J. Parkes (Regular).

### SOME STATISTICS

		Officers	Other ranks
Strength of Battalion on arrival in Singapore	...	32	645
Strength of Battalion to date	...	43	811
Number of Regulars in the Battalion	...	8	48
Number of Regulars in the Battalion at present who were with the Battalion pre-war	...	1	3

### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

#### 1ST BATTALION, OCTOBER, 1946—FEBRUARY, 1947

Our stay at Sungei Patani lasted till the beginning of January, consequently we spent our Christmas rather quietly compared with the previous year. The only notable feature of our stay was the success of our Mess football team. It played three games, one against the West Yorkshires' Sergeants' Mess, which we won 4-0, one against the 3rd/3rd Gurkha Battalion XI which we won 6-2, and one against the Battalion XI which we lost 2-1. C.S.M. Bolton deserves special mention for his brilliant performances as centre forward, scoring ten of the eleven goals in three games.

During our stay at Sungei Patani we lost several members, including C.S.M. Sharp and C./Sergt. Collins; and during the six weeks we have been at Singapore we have lost R.S.M. Simmons, M.C., and C./Sergt. Jarvis amongst others.

Now we are stationed in barracks a few miles outside Singapore and are picking up the threads of peace-time soldiering. Our new Regimental Sergeant-Major, R.S.M. Kemp, has just arrived and we all heartily welcome him and wish him all the best in his future stay with us.

### LIEUTENANT (Q.M.) W. C. WILLANS

Bill Willans, our Quartermaster, left the Battalion on repatriation in February. A Guildford man who served in the 5th Battalion nearly twenty years ago and rejoined before the outbreak of war, he joined the 1st Battalion as a sergeant at Peshawar in April, 1942. He quickly showed that he was well in the running for promotion, and after short periods as Colour Sergeant and Company Sergeant-Major, was promoted Regimental Sergeant-Major in February, 1944. He never missed a day of the Battalion's fighting in Burma, and two mentions in despatches bear testimony to his energy, example and cheerfulness in the field.

He was commissioned as Quartermaster in June, 1945, and quickly made his mark in his new rank. To him fell the task of reorganizing the "Q" branch of the Battalion on a proper peace-time footing. In Bangkok he was at various times messing officer, pioneer officer, and O.C. a Japanese labour platoon, besides normally being surrounded by a poultry farm of ration geese, ducks, Manila ducks and chickens. At the end of his full day's work he was always ready to umpire a hockey game, a task where his impartiality and knowledge of the game greatly helped towards the enjoyment of hockey matches.

Bill's staff were always happy under him and he had the gift of getting the best out of them. During moves and rush jobs he was always on the spot organizing and encouraging. In the Mess he got on well with everyone and was an excellent companion. His many friends in the Battalion look forward to meeting him again.

## R.S.M. J. SIMMONS, M.C.

R.S.M. Simmons, who had served before and during the war with the Royal Sussex Regiment, joined the Battalion during the battle of Jail Hill on 9th May, 1944, and took part in the final few days' fighting. Three months later he was promoted Company Sergeant-Major of "B" Company. In this capacity he remained a tower of strength until 8th June, 1945, when he was promoted Regimental Sergeant-Major. During the advance through Burma he set a magnificent example. His bravery and knowledge of fighting gained him the confidence of everyone round him, particularly at times when officers and N.C.O.s. in the Company were inexperienced and needed guiding. He was awarded the M.C. for the part he played as Company Sergeant-Major during an attack on a Japanese position at Yenanyaung and was also mentioned in despatches for his good work during the campaign.

He came to Bangkok as Regimental Sergeant-Major and the speed at which the Battalion returned to peace-time standards of drill and turnout reflects great credit on his untiring efforts. The praise given to our guards of honour and conduct in Bangkok have already been recorded in these pages.

R.S.M. Simmons was also largely instrumental in maintaining a high standard of discipline in the Battalion. In the immediate post-war period there were men who had done their fighting and were keen to go out, and men who could not realize the necessity for them to be in the Army. The Regimental Sergeant-Major's firm, but tactful dealing with all his subordinates was just what was required. He produced an excellent spirit in the Sergeants' Mess, whose entertainments were known to many people in Bangkok besides members of the Battalion. All the officers respected him and gladly took his advice about their difficulties.

In conclusion, there are many officers of other units in Singapore who knew the Battalion in Siam. Talking to them of Bangkok days one is frequently asked "What has happened to that excellent Regimental Sergeant-Major you had?"—a fine compliment to a man whose personality and efficiency have impressed people outside the Battalion as well as all ranks serving in it.

## SPORTS NOTES

FOOTBALL.—Owing to heavy guard commitments at our previous station (Sungei Patani), sport in general was inevitably reduced to the absolute minimum.

The few games of football played were, without exception, friendly matches against teams within the Brigade. Two of the games were against the Royal Devon Yeomanry, deservedly nicknamed the "Champs of Malaya." They maintained their reputation by completely trouncing the Battalion on both occasions, despite the fact we fielded strong and clever XIs.

A synopsis of the results out of a total of twelve games played shows the Battalion with five victories, three reverses and four draws to their credit. Quite favourable, considering the disadvantages mentioned in the introductory paragraph.

Since arriving at the new station at Changi on January 22nd, the Battalion have had two fixtures with the 1st Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders. The first gave us a well-earned 2-1 win, the other a defeat by one goal to nil. The latter was a keenly contested game, spoiled somewhat by none too favourable weather conditions.

Arrangements have now been completed for the preliminary matches to be played in the Parker Cup. Unfortunately, however, only one team representing the Infantry can be entered. It naturally followed then that the selection of players had to be shared between the Queen's and Seaforths. Five of our members have been chosen—all of them defenders. Judging from the teams fielded by the two battalions on their previous meetings, the combined Infantry XI should do well in the forthcoming cup fixtures.

It is well to mention here that among our five players selected, is Cpl. Howe, a brilliant half-back, who has played in a representative Army XI against a Malayan XI. There was no doubt in his star performance on this occasion.

It is much regretted the Battalion team has been considerably weakened recently by the departure for the United Kingdom of L./Cpl. Andrews and Ptes. Mansfield, Leese, Monger and Cpl. Green, all regular players. However, the promise of new talent among recent arrivals to the Battalion ranks high.

HOCKEY.—The Battalion's keenness on hockey, though still abundant, has been recently slightly checked by arriving in Singapore to find no hockey ground in the barrack area. The neighbouring Mahratta Battalion lend us their ground occasionally and we hope to be able to convert a rugger ground that is not in use at present. Sungei Patani's gravel grounds took a heavy toll of sticks and balls, but we have been able to buy some good, but expensive Spalding sticks in Singapore. So we look forward to starting inter-company and later inter-platoon competitions, besides Battalion matches. The Singapore hockey season has come to an end, but that should not prevent us building up a good team for next season's competitions.

At Sungei Patani we had some very good friendly games, mainly against 24th Field Ambulance, whose team were mostly Lushais from Burma, very fast and excellent sportsmen. A visit from the West Yorkshires produced a good game spoiled by a second-half deluge, during which we contrived to turn a 0-1 deficit into a 2-1 victory. Before leaving Sungei Patani they asked us to Penang where we had our best game for a long time, both sides showing much skill on a good grass ground. This exciting game ended in a draw at three all, the West Yorkshires equalizing in the last few minutes and coming very near to scoring a winning goal.

Our hockey team has developed from ignorant enthusiasts a year ago into a steady and skilful combination. Whereas in Bangkok at times we could hardly collect eleven players if one or two of the team were not available there have recently been some good company games. H.Q. and Administration Companies, with most of the Battalion players, never managed to beat the rest in Sungei Patani, so that the places of our stalwarts who have left should be keenly contested for by new blood. These stalwarts included R.S.M. Simmons, M.C., a sound and hard-hitting back, and Sergt. Stone at times a brilliant goalkeeper who once even saved a certain goal by heading the ball over the crossbar, and suffering no apparent effects.

Of those left C.S.M. Bolton, an old hand who plays equally well at centre half and inside forward, and Pte. Waterman, a young centre forward who can run through most defences and send in a hard first-time shot, perhaps deserve special mention. Capt. Gould and Pte. Sharland, the latter a comparative newcomer to the team, have given some excellent displays in the forward line. Capt. Larcombe, who returned from L.I.A.P. early in March, will again add strength to the side in defence, and Lieut.-Colonel Gibbs and R.S.M. Kemp, who have recently arrived, still play hockey when they can. So we hope shortly to embark on a full hockey programme, and our intention is to make the Queen's as well known a hockey side here as it has always been wherever a Battalion of the Regiment has been stationed.

## SINGAPORE ISLAND

GENERAL.—The island is, as the crow flies, only some twenty miles by twelve miles. Its road communications are very good and the road surfaces are in a remarkably good state of preservation considering the ceaseless stream of traffic that uses the roads.

The scenery is very pleasing, particularly along the coastal strips where good views are had of the many islands of varying sizes which rise up over the water as far as the eye can see.

The climate is sticky, but shade temperatures do not often rise to any great height. They remain fairly constant, with a mean annual temperature of about 90 degrees. Humidity, on the other hand, is very high, often 100 per cent. Rain falls fairly frequently, in short and sharp storms which cool things down pleasantly for the time being. It is a good climate for all except, say, children over seven years of age.

Because of the regular rainfall, the whole island is luxuriant in growth of trees, flowering shrubs, fruit and many types of flowers, and of grass, which grows all too quickly, for a tidy mind, in barracks, but is delightfully green.

POPULATION.—The population of the island is vast for its size. That of Singapore city alone is about three-quarters of a million. Chinese predominate in the city, with Indians a good second. There is a fair number of Malaysians proper in the outlying villages. Added to which there is the usual fair proportion of Eurasians, and a large number of Europeans—very large if all the British troops are taken into consideration.

SINGAPORE CITY.—The city is a strange mixture of modern development and eastern sordidness. It literally seethes with people—of all the races described. There are fine and modern cinemas, restaurants and so forth. There are some good modern buildings, and in the residential districts, large areas of decorative and well-built bungalows and houses. In contrast to this there are many areas of densely populated and sordid-looking streets, where Chinese and Indians mingle in their work, their play and their habitations and where, at night, the rats take possession.

Traffic is probably a greater source of danger in Singapore than in any other city in the world. It is very little controlled. Both the Chinaman and the Indian appear to be astonishingly bad drivers, and the morning and evening "rush hours" have to be seen to be believed, with everyone in a kind of mad race to get there first. There are large numbers of new English and American cars, with the English *at present* vastly in the majority. It is somewhat galling to see most of these in possession of Chinese.

When not on strike, and it usually is, the Singapore Transport Company produces an astonishing collection of trams and buses. From a traffic point of view it really is much better when they are on strike. There are also a few private bus companies which *do* run during the S.T.C. strikes, but only provided they pay over a portion of their daily takings to those on strike. It is a curious business. There is a large number of taxis, for the most part Austins and Hillmans, which are driven at varying degrees of efficiency, but usually very fast. The many hundreds of "trishas," or bicycle rickshaws, ply their happy-go-lucky way through the dense streets, their owners, with a smile on their faces, and a cigarette between their teeth, apparently blissfully unaware that any other traffic exists.

In diminishing numbers may be seen also the rickshaw proper, the owner grim in the knowledge that his is an obsolescent form of hired transport.

With the military transport superimposed upon all the other categories, the whole put together creates bedlam in the city.

On either side of all streets are big "monsoon" drains. It rains most days in Singapore—short, but very heavy downfalls. Most of the refuse of the street dwellings goes into these drains. When it rains, *and* when the town cleansing workers are on strike, which they often are, all the refuse swirls about the streets in several inches of water.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECT.—In spite of its many strikes, which seem to be a permanent feature of its social life, the city has an air of prosperity, and its people seem very industrious. Its fine harbour is always bursting with shipping of all kinds. The whole town, despite high prices, and docks, notwithstanding frequent strikes, have an appearance of much business and trade.

Yet, beneath it all, there must be much poverty and distress as in most parts of the world. There is certainly much sickness, with a high rate of T.B.

Rice is, of course, the staple diet, and rice is very hard to come by, except in the black market, at a price, and in the black market it will remain until supplies increase considerably. It is said that the supply, and in consequence the price, of rice rules the prices of all other articles, and there is probably much truth in that.

The black market flourishes: prices are extremely high. Entertainment is expensive. A cinema ticket costs 3 dollars (7s.) for an officer, and 2 dollars (4s. 8d.) for an other rank. A bottle of beer, outside a club or canteen, may well cost a dollar (2s. 4d.). Other forms of entertainment are equally high. But cigarettes are cheap—a tin of fifty Virginian for the equivalent of half a crown for example! And a good dinner, though expensive, say 7s., gives much more value for money with its five courses—butter and toast added!

The social "revolution" through which the western world is passing has its effects, of course, out here. The uneducated masses of working classes want too, their trade unions, their higher wages, their shorter hours and so forth. No doubt there is much to be said for many of their demands. But much profit is made by unscrupulous people who set themselves up as their champions, with resulting strikes which drag on interminably and with always possible danger of unrest and disturbances.

Yet, in spite of it all, the working masses go about their several tasks, whether they be shipbuilders, shopkeepers, lorry drivers, dock hands, coolies or grass cutters, and *appear* happy

and contented enough. The Chinese, particularly, seem to pass the daily round with calmness and with a smile. Their family life, particularly, would appear to be a happy one. Their children are well cared for and it is most rare to see a Chinese child crying anywhere in Singapore. Probably whatever the present difficulties, the present days are halcyon compared to those of the Japanese occupation.

THE BRITISH GARRISON.—As far as the *British* Army is concerned there are two British battalions in Singapore Island at the present time, ourselves and the Seaforths. There is a vast number of other troops due to the large headquarters, base installations and so forth that exist in Singapore, and of course, a large number of R.A.F. and Naval elements.

In view of outside high prices of food, entertainment and so forth, everything possible is done to provide amenities at cheaper rates, and service camps have their cinemas, theatres and so on, whilst N.A.A.F.I., W.V.S. and other welfare bodies exist on a fairly liberal scale considering the large numbers that have to be catered for.

Bathing is a fine attraction, both in the sea and in swimming clubs. There are too few sports grounds for the number that want to use them, but on the whole we do not do too badly, and hockey, soccer and cricket are all played.

Due to the large number of troops and the resulting new building programme (the pre-war garrison was a comparatively small one) it will be some time before existing barracks, such as ours, are properly re-habilitated and we consequently lack a great many things in our own barracks.

Thus we have to try to improvise, and are now in process of constructing our own barrack boxes, bedside cupboards and so forth. We are also pretty cramped in barracks at the present time. We have had a number of large drafts since arriving in Singapore and we still have to share the barracks with part of the G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. Before long, however, the barracks should be all our own.

When we have got the things we want in the manner of improved accommodation, and better scope for sport and training—all of which we *shall* get in time—then, taking all in all, now that we are a good strong Battalion in numbers, it should form a pleasant enough station, and one in which the Battalion will, without any doubt at all, live up to its high reputation wherever it has been in all respects.

D. L. A. G.

#### NOTES ON MARRIED FAMILIES AND QUARTERS

At the present time the supply of quarters for officers' families is far less than the demand for them, and an officer, after arrival here, has to expect to await several months before his family can come out to allotted quarters unless, for some compassionate reason, he can get high priority.

If an officer wishes to risk it and try and get private accommodation, he can get his family out quite quickly. It might well be that it could accompany him. But private accommodation is very difficult to get, it is not always suitable and rents are excessively high.

The quarters situation will improve in a few months, after further building and alteration to existing quarters.

With regard to other ranks the delay of a quarters allotment will be much less and it should be possible for an other rank to get his family out to join him quite quickly, or even for it to travel with him.

Any other rank, or indeed officer for that matter, will need to go very carefully into his budget to see if he can afford to live out here with his family. Prices are extremely high.

After careful enquiries it has been found that a private soldier with his family can *just* manage provided he is extremely careful and lives quietly. The wife needs to be a very good housekeeper so that she is not "done down" in the market!

## NEWS IN BRIEF

With reference to the 1st Battalion the following letter from Major R. J. K. Mott (late The Queen's Royal Regiment) to the Colonel of the Regiment is of interest.

The Bell House,  
Trull,  
Taunton.

9th January, 1947.

DEAR GENERAL,

I think the following extract from a letter I have received from my son-in-law (Colonel R. H. M. Hill, R.A.) will be of interest to you. Here it is :—

"I've just been having a glass of port with General Evans, lately commanding 7th Indian Division. . . . He was telling me of his experiences in Siam. He said : 'and I only had one British battalion—The Queen's—they were the top.' Those were his exact words, before I had disclosed my own close interest in the Queen's, so you can imagine my pleasure, and I can imagine yours. When I told him that it was my regiment-in-law, he went further and described their great gallantry in action in the closing phases of the campaign in Burma, and their superb discipline, turn-out and morale ; then later—'Better than any Guards battalion' were his words. . . . Knowing General Evans as I do, I can assure you that he is not easily pleased, and never wastes his words of praise."

Yours sincerely,  
R. J. K. MOTT.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

By command of Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, the names and addresses of fifty widows and aged persons have been recommended to receive gifts of food parcels from Lady Anderson, British Children's Comforts Fund, Sydney, Australia.

Major-General I. T. P. Hughes has been elected Chairman of the Surrey Territorial Army and Air Force Association.

Major-General R. K. Ross has retired from the Army and has been appointed Director of the British Road Federation, a post which entails the combining and co-ordinating of all the road-using organizations in the country.

Major-General J. Y. Whitfield is commander 50th (Northumbrian) Division, T.A., and Northumbrian District.

Capt. Alexander Paterson, M.C., received a Knighthood in the New Year's Honours for his invaluable work in his capacity as H.M. Commissioner for Prisons. He is President of the Oxford and Bermondsey Club and an old member of the 22nd London Regiment.

Major-General G. A. Pilleau has returned from the Far East and is staying at The Grange, Silchester, near Reading.

Brigadier R. E. Pickering has retired and is fruit growing at Elmsleigh Farm, Send. When commanding Algiers District he had the distinction (believed unique for a Queen's officer) of being made a member of the French Foreign Legion.

Brigadier-General W. D. Wright has been appointed Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Surrey.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

The company of General Hughes, Lieut.-Colonel Veasey and Major Waspe was very welcome at the Reunion Dinner of 24th London Regiment (7th Queen's) Old Comrades Association, on 8th February, 1947.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The 6th Battalion Old Comrades Association Branch is open each Saturday evening at the Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, London, S.E.16.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The 24th London Regiment (7th Queen's) Old Comrades Association. Branch open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Braganza Club, Braganza Street, Kennington, London, S.E.11.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The 2nd/4th Bn. The Queen's Old Comrades Association is still operating a volunteer B.R.C. Ambulance. The personnel is composed of old comrades of the 2nd/4th Battalion and has rendered much excellent service during the war. The ambulance specializes in cases out of district which original B.R.C. and St. John Ambulances cannot cater for. The Ambulance Officer is Lionel Green, former Signals Officer, 2nd/4th Battalion.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Reg. Russell, Old Comrades Association Local Representative, Guildford Borough, is busy every evening attending meetings of every local organization in Guildford. He is also Quarter-master, 5th Cadet Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Surrey Cadets are to be congratulated on winning the County Championship Shoot for the *News of the World* Trophy for the third successive year.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Colonel F. E. B. Girling is now at the War Office.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The following are now or have recently been at the Staff College : Majors D. Lloyd-Owen, J. R. Terry, and L. B. Gray.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Lieut.-Colonels N. A. Willis, D. E. Bathgate, J. B. P. Phillips, F. J. K. Ponsford and A. C. W. Upton were all last heard of commanding Prisoner-of-War camps. The former received the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. M. Evans has retired and is working with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association in London.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Lieut. (Q.M.) Fagg achieved a B.E.M. and a wife on the same day.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The unexploded bomb which fell between the Drill Hall and the Lecture Rooms at Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, was removed from Mr. Gilbert's boiler room last month. Gilbert has, however, never failed to keep his boiler going.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Major E. C. Sheppard, O.B.E., T.D., one time Quartermaster of the 1st/6th Battalion and Watford and Pte. Sheffield attended the funeral as representatives of the Depot and Regimental Old Comrades Association.

\* \* \* \* \*  
During 1945, 591 men of the Regiment received assistance from the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society. This Society works in close collaboration with our own Old Comrades Association.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Lieut.-Colonel F. J. C. Piggott and Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Metcalfe are at the Joint Services College, Latimer, Bucks.

Recruiting for the Territorial Army has now commenced. Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Merriman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., is Commanding Officer of 5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, with Headquarters at Guildford. Capt. W. P. O'C. Wylde is Adjutant and Capt. W. K. Roadknight is Quartermaster.

\* \* \* \* \*

Headquarters of 6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment is the Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16, and Headquarters of 7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment is the Drill Hall, Braganza Street, Kennington, S.E.11.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Old Comrades Association receives many letters of inquiry from ex-service men of the Regiment about the location of their service chums. It would be of great help if all interested would notify changes of address as they occur.

\* \* \* \* \*

Colonel R. C. Halse, is employed with the J.A.G.'s. department and has lately been prosecutor in several of the most important Courts Martial.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since the adoption of the Annual Report of the Old Comrades Association, news has been received that the National Association for the employment of ex-regular soldiers has placed 215 ex-soldiers of the Regiment in employment during 1946.

\* \* \* \* \*

We welcome the following officers to the Regiment from the Indian Army. In most cases they are Queen's officers who have been seconded or attached to the Indian Army.

Lieut. W. B. Bennett, Royal Garhwal Rifles	...	...	25th February.
Lieut. J. B. Damer, F.F. Rifles	...	...	25th February.
2nd/Lieut. E. M. Dickinson, 1st Gurkha Rifles	...	...	8th March.
Capt. H. S. A. Wallis, 10th/15th Punjabis	...	...	29th March.
Lieut. S. J. Taylor, Kumaon Regiment	...	...	29th March.
2nd/Lieut. J. R. Nowers, 5th Gurkha Rifles	...	...	29th March.
Lieut. D. C. Lewis, 14th Punjabis	...	...	16th March.
Lieut. J. D. Palmer, 2nd/5th Mahratta L.I.	...	...	16th March.
Lieut. C. R. Treadaway, 35th Company, R.I.A.S.C.	...	...	16th March.
Lieut. F. W. Dorward, Sikh L.I.	...	...	10th April.
Lieut. R. G. Boland, 6th Gurkha Rifles	...	...	10th April.
Lieut. J. W. Webb, Mahar Regiment	...	...	14th April.
2nd/Lieut. D. Markes, Frontier Force Regiment	...	...	14th April.
Lieut. H. C. F. Meyer, 1st/4th Gurkhas	...	...	14th April.
Lieut. A. M. Nolan, 4th R.I.A.S.C. T.C. (M.T.)	...	...	14th April.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is proposed in future to keep Address Books at the Officers' Mess, Stoughton Barracks, and at the Old Comrades Association office, in which it is requested that visiting officers and other ranks should enter any personal news which will be of interest in this column and may help their friends to keep touch.

\* \* \* \* \*

The undermentioned officers who served in 2nd/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment met for dinner in the Piccadilly Grill on 1st of February, 1947: P. C. Black, K. A. Randall, I. J. Boyes, A. H. Sunner, J. W. Common, S. E. West, D. R. Edwards, R. H. White, J. H. Green, W. A. Williams, L. W. Harding, A. Buck, R. P. Mangles, C. R. Elverson, A. S. Playfoot, J. Hogan, T. P. O'Connell.

It is hoped to hold another dinner at the Piccadilly Grill on Saturday, 4th October, 1947. Any officer who served in the Battalion, and who wishes to attend, should communicate with T. P. O'Connell, Esq., Castleiney, Westbourne Crescent, Southampton.

## 2ND BATTALION

Commanding Officer	...	...	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E.
Second-in-Command	...	...	...	...	Major L. S. Sheldon.
Adjutant	...	...	...	...	Capt. J. W. Sewell.
Quartermaster	...	...	...	...	Capt. R. W. Jackson.
O.C. "A" Company	...	...	...	...	Major G. W. H. Goode, M.B.E.
O.C. "B" Company	...	...	...	...	Major C. F. Ottaway.
O.C. "C" Company	...	...	...	...	Major A. J. A. Watson.
O.C. "D" Company	...	...	...	...	Major P. C. Oakleigh-Walker.
O.C. H.Q. Company	...	...	...	...	Capt. R. D. T. Fletcher.
O.C. Support Company	...	...	...	...	Capt. K. P. Thompson.

**A**T the time of writing the Battalion is stationed at West Camp, Crowborough, in Sussex, engaged in reorganizing and undergoing training for its future role in the B.A.O.R., which we will be joining during May.

On the 13th July, 1946, we evacuated Pashan Camp, near Poona, to accommodate the 4th Indian Division, and moved to Kharakvasla South Camp which is situated some twelve miles from Poona. Although conditions were far from ideal during the monsoon season, we were amply repaid later in the year by virtue of the fact that the camp bordered on the shores of Lake Fife, thus providing excellent facilities for swimming and sailing, of which we readily availed ourselves.

Training went on apace and for the most part centred on internal defence duties. A Battalion Rifle Shoot was held, causing much interest and keen competition on the part of all members of the Battalion. The best average was made by "A" Company.

In November, 1946, the Battalion "Stood to" when communal rioting broke out in the Mahad area, some hundred miles from Poona. Eventually it was found necessary for one company only to proceed to Mahad, where they remained for approximately a month. No serious incidents were encountered during their stay and they were mainly employed on policing duties.

The present year dawned with the information that we were to move to the United Kingdom, and from there to the B.A.O.R. The Battalion sailed from Bombay on 17th January in H.T. *Highland Princess*.

Lieut.-General Sir Rob Lockhart, K.C.B., C.I.E., M.C., G.O.C. Southern Command, India, paid us a visit prior to our departure and inspected the Battalion on parade. G.O.C. Bombay Area, Major-General E. N. Goddard, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C., came aboard the troopship and spoke to the Battalion, mentioning his own personal association with the Battalion some short time ago.

The 3rd Carabiniers, Prince of Wales's Own Dragoon Guards, also returned to the United Kingdom in the *Highland Princess*. During the voyage, several inter-unit "quizzes" were held which caused much interest and entertainment. In the boxing tournament, Pte. Mays showed good form. Entertainment was provided in the ship by the Queen's concert party in conjunction with the Carabiniers' dance band.

We were met at Tilbury on 4th February by General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and other officers, past and present, of the Regiment, as well as Lieut.-Colonel East, D.S.O., O.B.E., who assumed command of the Battalion from Lieut.-Colonel A. J. A. Watson.

Thus ended a nine years' tour of overseas duty for the 2nd Battalion, during which time they have upheld the traditions with distinction, serving on many and varied fronts.

In December, 1946, Major N. T. Bailey was posted to Singapore, and Major B. K. Favelle became Second-in-Command. He too, left us in March of this year to take up a staff appointment in B.A.O.R.

During April we were pleased to receive a visit from the following officers, all of whom have served in the Battalion : Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Brigadier R. E. Pickering, Colonel F. E. B. Girling, O.B.E., M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. W. Upton, Major R. C. G. Foster, M.C., Major F. Waspe and Major J. W. M. Denton.

We are looking forward in the very near future to a visit by the Colonel of the Regiment.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas was celebrated in Poona in the usual accepted style and spirit. The Battalion Headquarter Christmas Party in the gaily decorated schoolroom was voted an unprecedented success.

During November, an Officers' Dance was held at the Officers' Hostel, Poona. Among the guests was Major-General T. W. Rees, D.S.O., M.C.

The Battalion Concert Party, organized by Lieut. F. R. Dring, did yeoman service in providing several first-rate shows during our stay at Kharakvasla.

As a footnote, it must not be forgotten to mention the pleasure derived from the Sunday morning activities on the lake, and we shall long retain pleasant memories of the rowing boat and dinghy race meetings.

#### SPORT

**FOOTBALL.**—The Battalion soccer team continued to maintain its form during our stay in Poona, but towards the close of the year, there being only two other British units in the district, suffered owing to the lack of serious opposition. We did, however, manage to average a weekly game with the 146th R.A.C. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the Royal Air Force and one or two leading Indian district teams. Owing to the repatriation situation, the team suffered many changes, but it has now settled down to a steady combination. We were very sorry to lose Pte. Swallow on "Python," who, for over two years had played magnificently for the Battalion. The team was specially well served by Taylor in goal, Pye (captain and centre half), Peacock, who in his day was a terrific goal scorer, and Cpl. Herbert, whose constructive play did much towards the success of the side. Christmas, 1946, Pye, Taylor, Bolding, Roff, Clark, Cpl. Gibbs and Cpl. Herbert played for a combined Poona XI against Southern Command H.Q., the result being a victory for the Poona XI by four goals to three. Three of the four goals scored were by Roff.

**CRICKET.**—The Battalion continued playing cricket up to the time of departure from India. A fair number of the matches were played in November and December, with varying results, but the final record showed more wins than losses. On paper, the side should have been able to beat anyone they came up against, but the batting sometimes lacked backbone and promise of victory faded. The most consistent performers were Pte. Taylor, the wicket-keeper, who was beginning to make runs steadily, and Pte. Close, H.Q. Company, who did well with leg-break bowling. Others who played regularly were Lieut. Clark ; Pte. McCormack, "A" Company ; Sergt. Allen, H.Q. Company ; Pte. Dilks, Administration Company ; and Capt. Sewell who remained as captain of the side.

**HOCKEY.**—Before the Battalion left Poona, the hockey team was weakened by the release of L./Cpl. Binns and Pte. Klein. However, several new players have been found, who, although lacking in experience, have by their enthusiasm, won their place in the team. In our last two matches we managed to beat the 146th R.A.C. 3—1, and St. Mary's Club, Poona, 5—4, a strong local side, after a very strenuous and enjoyable game.

At present, the Battalion seem to have amongst them a wealth of hockey talent and it will be a question of testing it in trial games. We have recently played one game against 164th O.C.T.U. Artists Rifles, but owing to the lack of team combination, we were defeated 2—0 after a most enjoyable game. We look to the future for better results.



LAKE FIFE, KHARAKVASLA CAMP, POONA, DECEMBER, 1946.



WEST CAMP, CROWBOROUGH, SUSSEX, FEBRUARY, 1947.

**CROSS-COUNTRY.**—The Battalion ran in the Poona Sub-Area Cross-Country Championship race. Although the team displayed great keenness, and worked very hard in training, they unfortunately proved to be no match for the colossally fit and experienced Indian teams. However, they gave a magnificent display of team running, and undoubtedly were the better of the British teams who competed. Capt. Coom was the first of the team to finish and Pte. White, who was second of the team home, ran exceedingly well after having collapsed half way round the course.

**ATHLETICS.**—From November onwards, the Battalion athletics team commenced serious training in preparation for the Poona Sub-Area Inter-Unit Championship, which event, after having twice been postponed, was eventually held on 27th and 28th December. Although training was seriously interrupted by internal defence duties, the side proved to be a strong one, based on the team which met the 146th R.A.C. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and the Royal Air Force in a triangular match at the beginning of December. In this event we were very successful, due to the marked superiority of our field events, middle and long distance runners. In the Poona Sub-Area Inter-Unit Championship match, although facing strong opposition, the Battalion put up a fine performance. The Indian teams were very strong on the track, but we excelled in the field events. Lieut.-Colonel A. J. A. Watson established two new district records in Discus Throwing and Putting the Shot. Pte. Pakes and Cpl. Brown finished second and third respectively in the Javelin Throwing, whilst Pte. Franklyn and Sergt. Bryant did very well in the High Jump, finishing 2nd and 4th. Finally, after two days of excellent athletics, we managed to win the British Services Championship and finish third of the twenty-nine teams competing for the Poona Sub-Area Inter-Unit Championship.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

At the time of going to print, we are getting ready for Germany. This, combined with the Battalion recently coming home from India, has given us little time for sport or Mess functions. We hope to get going as soon as we arrive in Germany.

Prior to our departure from India the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners made a presentation to us of a silver salver. We send best wishes to them for the future and will long cherish the memories of our close relations with them during our stay in Poona.

A pleasant evening was spent at the A.F.I., Poona, on 5th November, it being the occasion of the Mess Fancy Dress Ball. Much of its success was due to the untiring efforts of C.S.M. Waite and Sergts. Bacon, Bennett, Nealey and O'Sullivan.

There have been a number of changes since the Battalion arrived home. R.S.M. Noke has taken over the reins, R.Q.M.S. (Hatter) Spence and C.S.M. Herbert have rejoined us, the former holding the Mess by the Pails I.G. C.S.M. Waite has left us to take up duties with a Territorial battalion. By the time we depart for Germany, a number of the older members of the Mess will have gone to civilian life. To those who have joined us, we hope it will not be long before they settle down. To those who have gone to "where they must work" we wish them the best of luck—and plenty of 44-hour weeks.

## 2ND BATTALION WITH THE CHINDIT FORCE

BY MAJOR T. V. CLOSE, D.S.O.

IT was strongly rumoured some time in September, 1943, that 70th Division was to become long range Penetration (L.R.P.) Troops, under General Orde Wingate. We had all heard and read lurid stories of Wingate's last expedition behind the Jap lines in Burma and of the extremely sticky time they had had. Our fears were very quickly confirmed and in no time preparations were under way. Pep-talks by officers recently returned from Burma with Wingate, followed by a first-class L.R.P. Course run by Bernard Fergusson, later to become our Brigade Commander, took place in or near Bangalore.

Within a month, 16th Brigade were encamped in the depths of the jungle in the Central Provinces. Gunners and Recce had become infantry in all but name, mules had replaced vehicles, and M.T. drivers, somewhat to their disgust, had become mule-leaders. The Battalion was split into two columns, the organization completely changed, and chaos temporarily reigned.

However, we soon sorted ourselves out, and hard work for everyone and a complete change of outlook had a most healthy effect on morale. We had too long been training for no one knew what, and a definite aim did us all good.

Each column consisted of Column H.Q., one rifle company of four platoons of four sections, a support platoon with Vickers machine guns and 3-inch mortars, a Commando platoon (all R.E.) and a Recce platoon, which had one section of Burma Rifles: in all about 400 men, with 75 mules and 12 ponies.

We trained really hard for three months, concentrating on long marches carrying heavy weights, and river-crossing without outside aids.

In late December we did our final Brigade exercise, watched by General Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief. And after a final check-up on equipment, and an excellent talk by the Supreme Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten, we entrained for an unknown destination.

After about a week in the train, we arrived at Ledo, Assam, in the extreme north-east tip of India. Ledo was the base for General Stilwell's operations with his American trained and equipped Chinese. Our projected operation was most secret; this entailed detraining in the middle of the night and hiding ourselves in the thickest, wettest and most leech-ridden jungle imaginable. Here we sat doing nothing in the rain for several days while the Brigade concentrated. The mules with their leaders were meanwhile dispatched down the famous Ledo Road, under construction by American engineers. They had a miserable walk for some seventy miles, in ten to twenty inches of mud. The remainder of us were lucky to do the journey in an American convoy of huge lorries driven by Chinese. Driving the Ledo Road would be alarming with the best drivers in the world. With those Chinese it was an experience few will forget. The road was a jagged scar torn through dense jungle; hair-pin bends over mountain ranges up to 5,000 feet, descents to semi-constructed bridges over roaring torrents, and bulldozers and American negroes working everywhere, were an unforgettable sight.

Arrived at the spot where we were to leave the road and start our 350-mile march to Indaw, we again sat in the rain for some days while final concentration took place.

A last talk by Wingate, and we set off on our march. Little was known of the track we were to follow, although one American was supposed to have passed that way a year before, and reported on it as impassable for a brigade. It certainly looked it from the map.

Brigade Advance Party was on ahead doing what work it could to improve the track, and the Queen's behind them led the Brigade.

Probably no brigade had ever marched some 350 miles in single file, and I hope none will ever have to do so again. This, however, was forced on us by the nature of the country.

Our first obstacle, encountered the day we left, was a hill two thousand feet high, with an average grade of one in two, and frequent relapses to one in one. A formidable barrier, it took us two days of sweat and toil in pouring rain to get the mules across—we hoped we shouldn't meet

## 2nd BATTALION WITH THE CHINDIT FORCE



THE OFFICERS OF 22nd COLUMN.



PREPARING TO FLY OUT WOUNDED BY THE AMERICAN LIGHT PLANE FORCE.

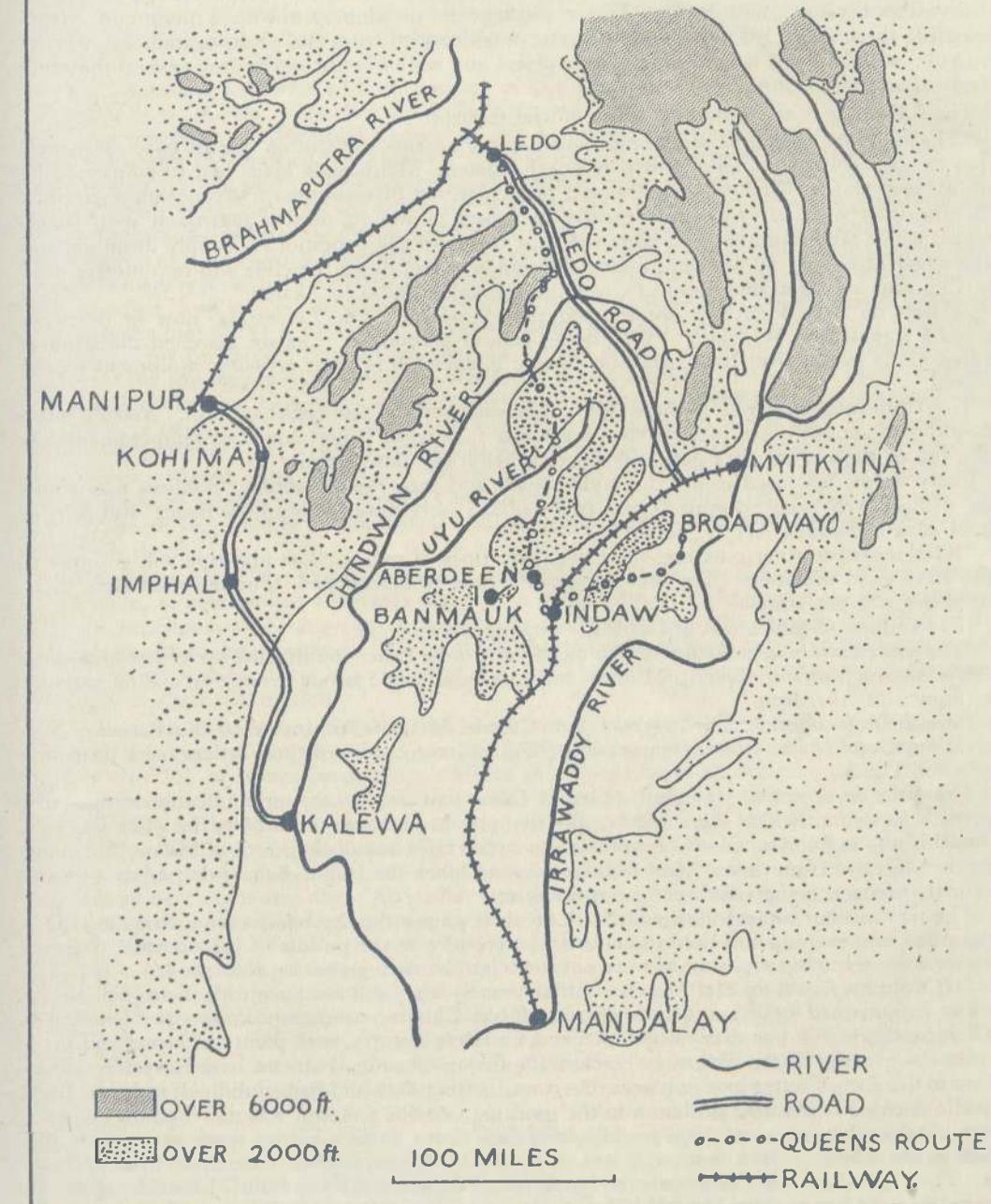


CROSSING A RIVER ON THE MARCH TO BROADWAY.



21st COLUMN ON THE MARCH.

## SKETCH MAP OF UPPER BURMA



many like it; two days to do as many miles seemed a poor rate of progress for a battalion whose object was to travel 350 miles in six weeks.

Impossible to describe the march in any detail: days of sheer heartbreaking slog. Off-loading mules and man-handling 80 lb. loads up slippery tracks too steep almost to walk up oneself without using one's hands. Water shortage in pouring rain with a mountain stream inaccessible three thousand feet below, so water was dropped from the air in containers; worries over food; supply drops taken in impossible places and watching the overs drop several thousand feet into the jungle below.

The following is an extract from the official report:—

"The rain was torrential and continuous; the gradients were often one in two. No single stretch of level going a hundred yards in length existed. Many mule loads had to be carried by hand up steep slopes. The cold was intense, particularly at bivouac over five thousand feet. The 70 lb. the men were carrying were greatly increased in weight due to saturation with water. Leeches, which were innumerable, were the least trying of the conditions: supply dropping was on the whole atrocious, 50 per cent. falling thousands of feet down the cliffs and becoming a dead loss. Columns averaged nine days to cover the thirty-five miles to Akalak."

At last, on 29th February, we reached the Chindwin. The Leicesters, now in the lead, received a signal from Wingate: "Well done, Hannibal eclipsed." As we marched the last few hundred yards to the river bank, Dakotas towing gliders full of river crossing equipment roared overhead.

The Chindwin here was perhaps 300 yards wide with a very swift current. Assault boats with outboard motors were of enormous assistance: though, being almost as temperamental as mules, ten of the twelve were generally floating helplessly downstream.

Every device was used to get the mules, loads and men rapidly across. Soldiers who could swim, swam; well-behaved mules swam free; others were towed behind the boats. Bill Smyly, later of 22nd Column's A.T.O., wrote:—

"With regard to river-crossing, there are three types of mules. The first type will go quietly, if they have good mullatiers. The second type will have to be ceduced. For the third type, there is nothing for it but wrape."

His handling of mules was brilliant, his spelling not so good.

After some three weeks further marching, now through easier country, we arrived at Manhton, two days' march from our objective, Indaw, and soon established as our stronghold and operational base, known as Aberdeen.

Here the two column commanders, Lieut.-Colonel Metcalfe, commanding the Battalion and 21st Column, and Major Close, commanding 22nd Column, received their orders from Brigadier Fergusson, D.S.O.

The Brigade objective was the capture of Indaw, an important communication centre and base, with its two airfields. Here another division (we hoped) was to be flown in. The Queen's part in this was as follows. 21st Column were to sweep right round the south of Indaw, and come in on the objective from there. 22nd Column were to block the Indaw-Banmauk road, to prevent the Indaw garrison being reinforced from the west.

The two column commanders rode back on their ponies the three miles from Brigade H.Q.; it was a peaceful evening and hard to believe we were now in the middle of Jap-occupied Burma. We were sorry that the two columns were not to go into battle together as a battalion.

21st Column set off on 21st March. Unfortunately, they did not have with them their Recce Platoon, commanded by a grand little Karen officer, Chitkin, commonly known as "Chicken." Their approach march was over rather open and waterless country, with plenty of Japs about.

On the evening of the 25th they reached the Sedan Chaung, a stream with forty-foot banks and up to five feet of water in it in places. As it was getting dark and looked difficult to cross, John Metcalfe decided to bivouac and cross in the morning. As the Column was moving into bivouac, always a vulnerable moment, three truckloads of Japs drove down a hidden track, almost into the middle of the Column. The first truck was stopped with Brens, and the second ran into the back of it. The Japs dispersed and a confused battle lasted for about half an hour. John Metcalfe was shot in the right hand whilst himself killing a Jap with his revolver, and Edward Clows took over

command. He decided, in view of the confused conditions, to concentrate the column on the further bank. This was accomplished with the loss of two men drowned. A check was held and 2 officers, 70 men and many mules were found to be missing. The next day both officers and sixty men turned up at the R.V. (We always had an R.V. forward along our route in case of an event of this sort.) John Metcalfe, recovering from the shock of a badly hit hand and two smashed fingers re-assumed command, but a few days later was ordered by the Brigadier to fly to hospital in India.

He decided, as he could hear nothing of the Leicesters' attack from the north, to contact Brigade H.Q. Great difficulties in communication were experienced, and petrol for charging engines was short and eventually ran out. But a message was received from Brigade H.Q., "Go to roads south of Indaw and be bloody." This order was countermanded next day and the column ordered to proceed north. This was done, the railway being crossed on the way. The column was considerably weakened after the encounter with the Japs, having lost a certain amount of weapons and ammunition carried by mules. On 29th March a supply drop was taken, only one plane turning up as it was such a miserable night. However, the column got the petrol to charge up their batteries and restore communications, though they were short of rations. On 2nd April the column had another drop which was very successful. By now everyone was expert in quick brew-ups and making the best of the K rations on which we lived. Biscuit "bergos," coffee, and a tin of egg and pork loaf for breakfast; biscuits, cheese and tea for lunch; soup (not very popular), meat and biscuits for supper, or more often the whole lot mixed together in a sort of stew. Considerable bargaining went on, bars of chocolate (the ration contained one per day) for cigarettes, of which there were twelve, etc. The column had a pretty hard and long march back to Aberdeen. They had to skirt White City, where fierce battles were in progress day and night, and they were ordered not to get involved. And they had, of course, to recross the railway valley, always a tricky business, with the wide stretch of open country in which a Chindit column felt very naked and exposed. This was all successfully accomplished and the column arrived back at Aberdeen in good spirits on 10th April.

One platoon of 21st Column, commanded by John Finlay, was detached early on after leaving Aberdeen, to reconnoitre a suitable place for a supply drop. Failing to rejoin the column at the R.V. (there has since been great argument as to who was in the right place!), John Finlay decided to go straight to the objective. This he did, and discovered *en route* large Jap ammunition dumps. The column R.A.F. officer was with him, and he subsequently led a most successful bomber raid leading to their destruction.

Meanwhile the 22nd Column had made their way to the Indaw-Banmauk road. As the column was getting into an ambush position and just as it was getting dark, a convoy of seventeen Jap lorries full of troops came along. Mules and troops were all over the road, but they somehow pushed into the jungle at the sides and avoided being seen. Luckily, no one was tempted to loose off, as the column was in no position to fight, and would have killed more of each other than Japs. The convoy passed and the column got into position along the edge of the road. No more trucks passed that night, and only an odd vehicle or two the next day. The same thing happened next night and day. An order was received to break off and move elsewhere, but the column commander asked permission to wait one more night. At midnight a convoy of seven lorries came along. The first six were destroyed, including most of the occupants. The seventh managed to turn and get away. The battle went on intermittently till dawn. As the column was preparing to move next morning, well pleased with their night's work, the Japs counter-attacked. Another battle ensued, which lasted till mid-day. A good many more Japs were killed. The total column casualties were Lieut. Sparrow and five other ranks killed, and a few wounded. Orders were then received to march to a village just outside Indaw, which the Recce Columns were supposed to have captured. Odd parties of Recce were met on the way. They had had a sticky time and had failed to get the village, so 22nd Column asked for further orders. The next fortnight was spent by the column on various jobs. They were also attacked once in bivouac, and after a short battle, during which Lieut. Fox and two other ranks were missing, the Japs were driven off. Orders were eventually received to return to Aberdeen.

Here the two columns were reunited and very pleased we were to see each other again.

During our absence Wingate had been killed, his aircraft crashing into the side of a mountain. We had a good rest, with plenty of rations, including luxuries like bread and eggs, and were able to wash ourselves in the stream. By now we had all grown very creditable beards : they provided a great source of argument and leg-pulling.

Meanwhile, a second attack on Indaw was planned, to take place in conjunction with another brigade. This turned out to be an anti-climax, as no troops were available to be flown in, if it was successful.

However, once again we headed for Indaw, this time as a complete battalion, now commanded by Terence Close. Our battalion objective was Indaw west airfield. A firm base was established in a village on the Meza river some three miles from the airfield, and Tony Blackman took out a strong fighting patrol. The airfield was found to be unoccupied ! We stayed some days in our village, where we were strongly dug in, and were hoping very much that the Japs would attack us. Unfortunately, they failed to do so, and we were ordered to withdraw to a brigade concentration point.

Here orders were given by the Brigadier for the evacuation of the Brigade by air to India. We were by this time indeed tired, and were having rather a lot of sickness.

The Queen's were to be flown out from Broadway, a strip some hundred miles away, the far side of a high range of mountains.

We met no Japs on the way there, however, and arrived some time in early May.

From there, over a period of some days, we were flown back into India.

Keen as we were to get out, especially with the rains coming on, some ill-feeling was felt when the Movement Control Officer gave out the priority for emplaning—First, wounded, second mules, third Queen's !

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## BOOK REVIEW

THE WILD GREEN EARTH. By BERNARD FERGUSON. (Wm. Collins & Son Ltd. 10/6 net.)

This book, one of the best that has come out during the war, is of especial interest to members of the Regiment.

It and the article by Major Close (whose name is frequently mentioned), printed above, are admirably complementary to one another.

Ferguson was Brigadier of the 16th Infantry Brigade in which the 2nd Battalion (surprisingly miscalled the 1st Battalion in the Index), was one of the two battalions.

He is a gallant and thoughtful soldier and a most vivid writer and his account of the action of the Chindit columns is not likely to be bettered.

It is divided into two parts, the first being a description of the march in from Ledo, the actions round the "stronghold" of Aberdeen and the evacuation, and the remaining eight being detailed and interesting descriptions of the many sidelines of the enterprise.

The first half is of greatest regimental interest as the Battalion and individuals are constantly mentioned and it gives a graphic description of the hardships and strain endured.

It opens one's eyes to read on page 176 that "as far as this author knows no Chindits had ever gone into battle except absolutely and thoroughly exhausted before they even began" and even Wingate estimated that no Chindit could last more than three months.

The second half is also deeply interesting, especially to the soldier. The accounts of the routine of marching and bivouacking, of jungle tactics and ambushes, and of administration and supply are most clear and intelligent.

The final impression the book gives is well summed up in the quotation from which the title is taken :

Still through chaos  
Works on the ancient plan,  
And two things have altered not  
Since first the world began,  
The beauty of the wild green earth,  
And the bravery of man.

A book that should be in every Queen's battalion's library.

R. C. G. F.



[Photo : W. Dennett, Guildford.]

THE C.I.G.S. INSPECTS THE GUARD WITH LIEUT.-COLONEL H. G. VEASEY, D.S.O.



[Photo : W. Dennett, Guildford.]

THE C.I.G.S. WATCHES BREN TRAINING.

## NO. 2 P.T.C. AND DEPOT

WHEN the 13th I.T.C. at Maidstone was disbanded in November, 1946, approximately 8 officers and 80 permanent staff N.C.O.s. and men proceeded to Stoughton Barracks to establish No. 2 P.T.C. alongside the Regimental Depot. All the officers and permanent staff are found by the Regiment. No. 2 P.T.C. was commanded by Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., with the following officers on the permanent staff. Major C. A. J. Norton, Major W. W. Watford (Q.M.), Capt. J. N. McArthur (Adjutant), Capt. C. R. Read, Capt. G. A. Campbell, Capt. R. G. Bateman, Lieut. H. J. T. Jewers, Lieut. R. G. Syms, Lieut. B. P. Elverson.

R.S.M. F. Harcup, C.S.M. W. Howland, C.S.M. C. Cronk, M.M., O.R.Q.M.S. H. Russell, R.Q.M.S. L. Cousins, all old members of the 2nd Battalion, fill the warrant rank appointments.

The object of the P.T.C., broadly speaking, is to receive intakes of up to 90 men every fortnight direct from civilian life and to give them the elements of training for a period of six weeks, after which they are posted to corps or regiments according to the requirements of the War Office. Every effort is made to build up the recruit physically and to acclimatize him to the conditions of the service.

We were sorry to lose Capt. J. N. McArthur, who had served at Maidstone with us for some considerable time, but were pleased to welcome Capt. F. S. Tooley, M.C., who had previously served for four years at the Depot with the 30th Queen's.

General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., has paid two visits to the Depot since we have been established, while many other serving and retired officers of the Regiment have come down for short periods.

On 17th March, the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, inspected the P.T.C. and afterwards stayed to tea at the Officers' Mess. As a preliminary to his inspection he was given a great ovation by the children of Stoughton who had turned out in force to greet him outside the main gate. The C.I.G.S. was accompanied by the G.O.C. Eastern Command, General Sir E. H. Barker, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and our District Commander, Major-General H. C. Stockwell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. In addition, all the P.T.C. commanders in the District were here to meet the C.I.G.S.

On 1st April, a party of 60 cadets with 4 officers from Whitgift Middle School spent the day with us; demonstrations and a tour round barracks, including a visit to the Officers' Mess, were arranged. Three cadets from Cranleigh will carry out a short attachment in the near future.

The recent inclement weather has seriously curtailed our sporting activities, but every effort is now being made to build up our sports teams; this at a P.T.C. presents certain difficulties owing to the fluctuating nature of its personnel. Reliance, therefore, has to be placed on the permanent staff in filling the breach.

The Regimental Depot is commanded by Major J. W. M. Denton, with Lieut. T. D. Alexander as his assistant. The establishment of the Depot has been increased in comparison with the Depot party which existed during the war years; its main functions are to hold personnel returned from abroad pending further postings or to initiate the release of time-expired soldiers. C.S.M. C. R. Huskinson joined the Depot staff in February, 1947. Private Sheffield is still with us in the thirty-ninth year of his service.

Arrangements are now being made for the entertainment of H.M.S. *Excellent*, who are paying us a visit this year on 30th and 31st May. It is hoped to return the lavish hospitality they extended to us last year.

Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., has kindly taken on all arrangements for regimental cricket fixtures. A few regimental matches are being arranged.

As soon as accommodation is available it is hoped to reopen the Regimental Museum which has been closed since the beginning of the late war. Its former site, the Depot Hospital, is not now available, but the possibility of housing the Museum in part of the Keep is being considered.

Two "At Homes" have been given in the Officers' Mess. Invitations to local retired officers and residents were extended.

## SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

This is our first effort and we therefore hope the reading, if not lengthy, will be interesting. As most readers know, the Primary Training Centre commenced as such in November, 1946, but all members for the permanent staff did not arrive until December and early January, 1947.

The Mess was invited to a New Year's Party in the A.T.S. Mess, and from all accounts everyone, despite the fact that it was the first social evening, soon overcame shyness and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our first function was held on 17th January, when not only members of the A.T.S. Training Centre which is located in Queen's camp were invited, but many ex-Mess members were invited and came along. An indoor games competition took place and the evening passed off very well.

We welcomed W.Os.II Vail and Waldron to the Mess, who joined on 20th January, also W.O.II Hardy, who joined us three days later.

Several members, which included C.S.M. Waldron, C.S.M. Borne and C./Sergt. Baker, left us for Gravesend where they awaited the arrival of the 2nd Battalion. We have since learnt that C./Sergt. Baker has pulled W.O.II and taken over C.S.M. of one of the companies—we all offer him our heartiest congratulations. January passed without any further arrivals or departures.

Early in February an invitation was received from the Sergeants' Mess of No. 31 P.T.C., Kingston, to a Sergeants' Mess Dance held on 10th February. A coach was arranged and approximately 14 members spent an enjoyable evening in the company of the East Surreys.

On 10th February we welcomed two very old Mess members back to the fold, R.S.Ms. Prizeman and Groves: the latter has since left us to take up the appointment as Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 6th (T.A.) Battalion. C.S.M. Herbet, the late Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 2nd Battalion, arrived on 12th February along with W.O.II Hurd who had been extra regimentally employed somewhere in Northern Ireland; both have since left.

A cordial invitation was received from the A.T.S. to attend a social held in their Mess. We started the evening off with the communal game of Tombola (Housey-Housey) followed by very keenly contested games of darts, table tennis and cards. The evening of 13th February passed off very well and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We are often paid a visit by ex-Sergeants' Mess members who, so they tell us, were soldiering before we were born; however, they enjoy popping in for the odd evening and keeping in touch with the old Regiment and we, too, enjoy their company.

Sport, I regret to say, is not a strong point as far as the Mess is concerned, the chief reason being that the permanent numbers are insufficient to field a team of any description. We have, however, one or two members who represent the unit both at football and hockey.

March 17th was a great day in the history of the unit as this day marked the occasion of the visit of the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of El Alamein. Several members, which included C./Sergt. Atkins and Sergts. Auckett and Collinge had the pleasure of speaking to the Field-Marshal.

An Old Comrades Association meeting was held at Stoughton Barracks on 18th March and many old acquaintances were renewed when R.S.Ms. Nokes and Tasker and C./Sergt. Miller turned up. We were also pleased to see C.S.M. Cronk back at duty after a spell of sickness at home with lumbago.

Sergt. Bradfield and C./Sergt. Sleet joined the Mess, both having been away from the Regiment for some time on extra-regimental employment.

On 25th March the Mess entertained the Corporals to an Indoor Games evening. There was keenness shown in the many indoor games played and the evening passed off very well indeed.

H. R.

## QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL TRAINING COMPANY

## HOME COUNTIES I.T.C.

THE Company, having survived the "cold spell," has settled down fairly comfortably at Shorncliffe.

There have been a number of distinguished visitors, including the C.I.G.S. and the Colonel of the Regiment.

The staff of the Company has had one or two changes: owing to the fact that Major P. M. A. Taylor, M.C., became Training Officer, the Company is now commanded by Major P. R. H. Kealy, the Company Sergeant-Major being C.S.M. Coupland, who took over from C.S.M. Noke when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion as Regimental Sergeant-Major.

In order to stimulate the training, an Inter-Unit Platoon Competition has been started within the I.T.C. In the first of these competitions, No. 4 Platoon, commanded by 2nd/Lieut. Turnock, Platoon Sergeant Cpl. Farrow, came third out of the six platoons competing. They did quite well in most of the events, especially Turn-Out, and 1,000 yards Dash, which tests their fitness, but were let down by their shooting.

There is not much time for sport, but in the Novices' Boxing Competition, having beaten the East Surreys in the first round, the Company lost to the Royal Fusiliers in the semi-finals after some spirited fights.

In the Inter-Company Football League we did not, however, do so well, but our prestige was redeemed somewhat by the fact that the Company won the Inter-Company Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition, beating the Royal Fusiliers 5-0 in the final. The only try was scored by C./Sergt. Miller after a very good run indeed.

With the worst of the winter behind us, we are looking forward to some better weather which should make our time here very much more pleasant.

## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

Membership is over 400. Members' help in increasing this will be appreciated.

Accounts.—The first year's accounts are appended.

Committee.—Changes in the Committee are: Lieut.-Colonel A. F. F. Young as representative 2nd/5th Battalion. 1st and 2nd Battalions to be represented by serving officers. Major A. J. E. Pakenham resigns on moving to Scotland. 1st/5th Battalion to be represented by serving officer. Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey (O.C. No. 2 P.T.C.) and Major J. W. M. Denton (O.C. Depot) co-opted as members.

Committee Meeting.—Was held at Stoughton on March 18th, and decided:—

1. Dinner.—To be again at Connaught Rooms on Friday, 26th September. The Connaught Rooms be asked to provide the best dinner possible and the charge to be 7s. 6d., to include normal wines at dinner, but not drinks before and after.

A larger ante-room to be provided.

Dress to be dinner jackets without decorations.

2. Reunion.—To be held at Stoughton on a Saturday with an other ranks' reunion and service on the Sunday following.

A limited number of outside guests to be asked.

There should be no bar for drinks.

Members of the Club to have free tickets, but pay cost price for private guests.

A sub-Committee to decide date and price of private guest tickets (subsequently decided as Saturday, 19th July, and 3s. 6d.).



## THE SURREY BRIGADE (T.A.)

THE new Territorial Army commenced re-forming on 1st January of this year. The Surrey Brigade, known as the 133rd Surrey Infantry Brigade (T.A.), commenced with a Brigade Headquarters at Surbiton, on 14th January, 1947, under the command of Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

As is well known, The Queen's Brigade that fought during the war was known as 131st Infantry Brigade; with the approval of the East Surrey Regiment, this has been brought to the notice of the War Office and it is hoped that in the near future the Brigade will be given this number. The Brigade consists of the 5th Queen's at Guildford, with companies at Camberley, Dorking, Farnham, Farncombe, Haslemere, Reigate and Woking; 6th Queen's, concentrated at Bermondsey; and 6th East Surreys at Surbiton, with companies at Chertsey, Hersham, Kingston and Richmond.

Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Merriman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., commands 5th Queen's and Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Mason, D.S.O., 6th Queen's.

The Brigade is at present in Cadre form, with Regular Adjutants, Q.Ms. and P.S.I.s.; recruiting opened on 1st May, 1947.

The immediate object of the T.A. is to form a trained cadre to receive the National Service men who will do their compulsory Reserve Training with the T.A. from 1950 onwards.

It is intended that the Brigade will go to camp this year so that units may shake down and have a chance to meet each other. The probable camping area will be the Isle of Wight in September.

## 5TH BATTALION

ON May 1st, 1947, the Battalion comes into being once more. The Headquarters will be at Sandfield Terrace as before the war, and we are occupying Drill Halls at Reigate ("A" Company); Camberley ("B" Company); Dorking ("C" Company); and Woking ("D" Company). The drill halls at Farncombe and Haslemere we hope to occupy later.

We are very fortunate in having so many of the officers back with us. Lieut.-Colonel Hugh Merriman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., who left the Battalion in 1941 whilst commanding H.Q. Company, returns to us as Commanding Officer. Major H. B. Watson, T.D., has accepted the appointment as Second-in-Command. Major J. W. M. Mansel, T.D., goes to Camberley, Major A. G. Neale, T.D., to Reigate, Capt. J. Street to Woking, and Capt. K. Briscoe to Guildford.

Capt. W. P. O'C. Wylde has been appointed Adjutant. Capt. (Q.M.) O. Roadnight, M.B.E., comes to the Battalion as Quartermaster. W.O.I. Spence has been posted as Regimental Sergeant-Major. Two old members, F. Pullen and R. S. Crockett return to the Battalion as Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant and Orderly Room Sergeant respectively.

The Territorial Army has been revived in a rather different form to its pre-war status. The National Service men, after they have completed their twelve months' training in the Regular Army, will complete their service with the Territorial Army. Therefore it is our immediate object to form Company Cadres ready to receive and carry on the training of these men. With this new obligation in mind the Territorial Army will be no sinecure and we look for quality rather than quantity in recruits.

## 6TH BATTALION NOTES

AT the time of writing the Battalion is in the process of re-forming as a unit of the 44th Home Counties Infantry Division (T.A.). The old headquarters at 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, has been reoccupied with a subsidiary headquarters at 411, New Cross Road.

The permanent staff are all hard at work getting the premises ready for the opening of recruiting on 1st May. There is a good deal to be done as the buildings suffered considerably during the war; our own 500 lb. "bomb" was only removed a few weeks ago!

Although 1st May is the official day for recruiting to open, we are only too anxious to answer any enquiries now from any who wishes to renew associations with the 6th and from those who desire to join for the first time. The telephone number is Bermondsey 1395.

Below is a list of the staff so far appointed.

Commanding Officer	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Mason, D.S.O.
Adjutant	...	...	Capt. R. S. N. Mans.
Quartermaster	...	...	Capt. A. C. Reynolds, M.B.E., M.M.
R.S.M.	...	...	Mr. Groves, M.M.
P.S.I.s.	...	...	C.S.M. Hurd.
Storeman	...	...	Sergt. Sharman.
Driver Mechanic	...	...	Pte. McJury.
Chief Clerk	...	...	Pte. Westbrook.
			Mr. Howell.

## SALERNO

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

(Continued from page 22, November, 1946, issue.)

The Brigade now moved slightly to the west and 2nd/5th Queen's advanced to occupy Mango without opposition. The task was now given to the Brigade to clear the Mango area and the road leading from it to the Salerno-Baronissi road, which was to be the main divisional axis of advance. This entailed a week of clearing small pockets of German resistance with one major action. The Germans were holding in some strength Mount Stella, a three-thousand-foot hill which dominated the Salerno and Mango valleys. A first attempt to take this hill by fighting patrols from 2nd/5th Queen's from the east and 2nd/7th Queen's from the west proved unsuccessful, and it was then decided to attack it with the whole of 2nd/5th Queen's with one company of 2nd/6th Queen's under command. The operation necessitated very carefully planned administration, and dumps were established at two intermediate points up the mountain side before the final assault was undertaken. Machine guns were got up to a neighbouring height from which they could support the final assault. Machine guns and mortars were also moved up so that they could be available for consolidation immediately after the capture of the objective. The Royal Navy gave valuable support to the field artillery in the preliminary bombardment. The final assault was carried out from two directions. A company of 2nd/5th Queen's going up the steep south-east face and a company of 2nd/6th Queen's working its way round the tree-covered eastern approach. The assault was made at dusk and was completely successful, though for some time the company of 2nd/5th Queen's, reduced to the strength of a dozen, had to fight hard to retain their hold on the summit. However, reinforcements arrived in the nick of time, and by the morning the whole of this dominating feature was in our hands.

After another brigade had cleared the road from Salerno to San Severino Rota, a distance of some eight miles, the Brigade passed through and continued to lead the Division up to the River Volturno and then on to Montenaro.

This was a most interesting period in which each battalion formed the advanced guard in turn. In the early stages, demolitions and mines proved the main stumbling block to rapid

advance and the Brigade very soon became adept at making diversions and using what were almost cart tracks to carry the whole of the transport. The country, though mostly plain, lends itself very easily to demolitions, as the plains are interspersed with sunken roads and wadis, which incidentally also form natural anti-tank obstacles.

The enthusiasm of the local inhabitants was quite overpowering and in every village hysterically cheering crowds pelted the leading troops with flowers and fruit, the latter with somewhat painful results when the fruit was an apple and the recipient riding in a jeep travelling at thirty miles an hour. Wine, chickens and eggs were also freely offered in those early days. On one occasion during the battle for Acerra the Brigade Commander was somewhat embarrassed by the presentation of two brown kids which were thrust into his jeep. He returned these to the deputation and went away to reconnoitre. When he returned he found that the deputation, now considerably swollen, had placed two black and white kids in his jeep, the assumption apparently being not that he did not like goats, but that he did not like brown goats. Fortunately at this moment German artillery opened up on targets in the neighbourhood. The deputation and the goats made a rapid getaway.

The first serious opposition encountered was in Sarno, where the Germans were holding the ground which overlooked the exit from the town to the north-west. These were, however, successfully mopped up in twenty-four hours, and the advance continued with 2nd/7th Queen's in the lead. Rapid progress was made and the column passed through Palma and contact was again made with the Germans immediately west of Nola. This place had been the scene of considerable active Italian resistance to the German regime. The day after the announcement of the armistice the Germans had broken into the Italian barracks and murdered eleven Italian officers. Resentment to this had run very high, and most of the able-bodied men of Nola had armed themselves with a firearm of some sort and, the day before our arrival, had started shooting up what German troops were left. The enthusiasm of these patriots somewhat exceeded their military skill and a considerable number succeeded in getting themselves shot. However, their enthusiasm was unbounded, and they were useful in pointing out to us houses still occupied by the Germans, though their tendency to follow in a crowd after our leading infantry made the conduct of operations somewhat difficult. Nola was cleared during the morning and contact was made for the first time with the American troops on our right.

We now bumped up against more serious German opposition on the line of the canal which runs a few miles north of the main Nola—Naples road. 2nd/7th Queen's became heavily engaged three miles to the east of Acerra, and it was apparent that to force a crossing in this area was going to be a costly business. Acerra had in the meantime been reported clear of enemy, and 2nd/5th Queen's were immediately ordered to advance and open up this road. It transpired, in fact, that Acerra was still strongly held with infantry and tanks, and a fierce engagement raged from three o'clock in the afternoon till next morning, when the Germans finally withdrew. The advance was again delayed in this area by ruthless and systematic demolitions. In addition to their military demolitions, there was much wanton and pointless damage, and the Germans had behaved here with sadistic brutality. Many instances were found of farms where the inhabitants had been shot and all their livestock slaughtered. It was here that we heard that there were British wounded prisoners in the hospital at Caserta, fifteen miles farther along the road to Capua. The Germans were reported to be out of Caserta, though our own advance was held up until a bridge could be completed. However, personnel of the Field Ambulance, with an escort, were sent on in jeeps to give immediate assistance. The next day, the bridge being completed, the advance continued with 2nd/5th Queen's leading and passing through Maddaloni, Caserta and San Maria. Capua was occupied soon after midday after a brief scrap on its outskirts.

The Brigade was relieved on 7th October, having been in action continuously since the landing on 9th September. In many cases for the first time since the landing, every man slept under a roof that night, which was the more welcome as the Italian rainy season had started in earnest. 2nd/6th Queen's were billeted in houses, 2nd/5th Queen's in an Italian barracks, and 2nd/7th Queen's enjoyed the great luxury of the wing of the Caserta Palace which Mussolini had converted in pre-war days to a training centre for his air force.

After 169th Brigade had rested and reorganized for a week in the Caserta area, their first task



QUEEN'S ENTER CAPUA.

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QUEEN'S TROOPS ADVANCING BEYOND THE RIVER VOLTRUNO.

[Crown Copyright]

was to cross the River Volturno by the American bridge three miles north-east of Capua and, with the high ground on the north of the river as a firm base, to clear the right bank of the river and the road on that side as far as its junction with Route 7 and the northern outskirts of Capua. 2nd/6th Queen's were in the van and, after some delay through demolitions, found the Germans strongly established along the line of the road running south from Bellona. On the evening of 16th October an attack was put in with one company of 2nd/6th Queen's, supported by tanks, but this did not prove strong enough to dislodge the enemy. A second attack at dawn next morning supported by heavy artillery concentrations, proved successful, and by midday the enemy were cleared from the whole area of the north bank of the river as far as the divisional boundary.

2nd/5th Queen's now passed through and, after a temporary check while a deviation was made round the broken bridge two miles north of Capua, the advance continued north along Route 7. We were now up against a rearguard of the Hermann Goering Division, and very tenaciously they fought to halt our advance, making the maximum use of both tanks and armour-piercing anti-tank guns well dug in, with machine guns protecting their flanks. On 17th October 2nd/5th Queen's were temporarily held up by well-sited German tanks and machine guns covering Route 7 for some three thousand yards south of its junction point with Route 6. Deep wadis, which provided complete natural anti-tank obstacles, made it difficult to outflank the German positions with our own tanks, and it was only when a co-ordinated battalion attack was put in that the Germans were finally dislodged. We lost several carriers and jeeps from armour-piercing shells, including the Brigade Commander's jeep, which received a direct hit in the radiator, though fortunately it was empty at the time.

On 18th October 2nd/7th Queen's took the lead along Route 6. They were supported by two squadrons of the Greys. 2nd/5th Queen's continued up Route 7 for some two miles to the River Lanzi, where they were soon involved in heavy fighting with a German force defending all possible crossings. In the meantime progress by 2nd/7th Queen's had been slowed up as the olive groves and other cover afforded ideal camouflage for anti-tank guns and tanks in hull down positions. After some fairly hard fighting the Boche were finally cleared from this area up to Calvi Vecchia.

During this period another brigade of the Division had been slowly working their way through the difficult mountain country to the east, and 2nd/6th Queen's were now ordered to attack and occupy the high ground round Point 180 overlooking Calvi Vecchia to join up with the flanking brigade. The position was assaulted under cover of heavy artillery concentrations, and though the Germans counter-attacked strongly, this area was held until 2nd/6th Queen's were relieved there some days later. A good deal of hand-to-hand fighting took place in Calvi Vecchia.

The Brigade were now ordered to find a crossing over the Lanzi stream and attack to occupy the high ground of the north-eastern slopes of the Montanaro feature overlooking Route 6. It was apparent that all possible crossing-places on Routes 6 and 7 were heavily covered by German defensive fire and reconnaissance was carried out to find a possible but less obvious crossing-place. This was achieved, and it was decided to improve what was little more than a cart track into a jeep track and to cross the assaulting troops midway between the two main roads. It was appreciated that it might be necessary to maintain this force for some days by this track. A crossing-place for tanks was found farther up the stream. The attack was made by night with 2nd/5th Queen's on the right and 2nd/7th Queen's on the left, the first bridgehead having been made by 2nd/7th Queen's and the area required to form up for the night attack being covered by patrols of the reconnaissance regiment from dusk on the night of the attack. Five cover was given in the form of a very heavy artillery barrage. The tanks went across during the night and were available to support at first light. Despite very heavy ground mist which, coupled with smoke from the barrage, reduced visibility to a few yards, the attack was entirely successful and very few casualties were incurred. A number of German prisoners were taken, and the equipment of one enemy infantry company was captured intact. The Germans counter-attacked against 2nd/7th Queen's strongly on the morning of 28th October, but all counter-attacks were repulsed. During the first forty-eight hours the Brigade area was extended to include the whole of the Montanaro feature, and patrols were sent forward to Montanaro and the River Savone. All maintenance for the Brigade during this period was done by means of the four mile long jeep-track which by careful traffic control worked admirably.

*(To be continued)*

# THE GLASS HOUSE GOES

BY SIR ALEXANDER PATERSON

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SO the Glass House at Aldershot, the bogey of all British soldiers for many generations, is to go; and there will be few who will regret the passing of what our children will regard as something quite pre-medieval. Unhappily, the human problem of the defaulter, for which the Glass House was once thought to be the great remedy, remains. There will still be men in the uniform of the fighting Services who overstay their leave, or strike a sergeant, or borrow some article of a comrade's kit. Something will have to be done to replace the military prisons and the detention barracks, if orders are still to be obeyed, with the sanction of punishment in the background if they are not obeyed. It so happens that I am doubly concerned with this problem. In the first place I was, during the late war, a member of a War Office committee appointed to visit these establishments, to report on them and make recommendations. My position on the committee was somewhat paradoxical. A glance at my colleagues during our first meeting made it abundantly clear that I was the only civilian on the committee. As we exchanged views it became equally clear that I was at the same time the only member who had ever been a soldier—i.e., marched both in and out of step, shouldered a rifle, fired shots in anger, and seen the inside of a guard-room.

In the second place it is lamentably true that anyone concerned with prison and Borstal finds his task inextricably confused with the problem of the indifferent soldier. For nearly all the entrants to these places have been in the Services, and the vast majority of them on discharge from our care, must, under the law of conscription, return to one or other of the Services. A prison or Borstal sentence thus tends to become a civil-law sandwich between two layers of Service in uniform.

After hearing the evidence advanced for the benefit of the War Office committee, and visiting a number of prisons and detention barracks, both in this country and overseas, I was left with two very definite and fixed impressions. The first was that the great bulk of so-called "Army crime" was a question of absenteeism. A man was given a week's leave, but the home fires were burning so warmly in contrast to the smoky stove in the Nissen hut, or the arms of the lady were so alluring, that the week passed by and he stayed away for a month. He was given an inch and he took an ell. My second impression was that for many years the authorities had wavered between two very different answers to the problem.

There was a very definite school, not of thought so much as of instinct, which can only be termed the "Give 'em hell" school. The establishments run on this principle sought to make the men sweat and curse every moment of the hour and day, in the hope that when they subsequently were tempted to overstay their leave they might count the cost and decide the fun was not worth the price. The other school of thought—and a good deal of thinking lay behind it—maintained that the defaulter was a man who unhappily was not interested in his duties and had therefore become a bad soldier. The purpose, therefore, of the place set up to deal with him was to re-train him, to make him interested in his profession, and to return him to his unit as a man who had improved so much in calibre and experience that he might well be considered ripe for promotion. For some years the two schools based on the "Give 'em hell" and the re-training principles ran side by side, and it was at times difficult to be sure which enjoyed the favour of the authorities. During the late war, new establishments known as "Young Soldier Training Units" were set up in some of the Commands. They were designed to train young soldiers who were showing clear signs of becoming bad soldiers and heading them off from a career that could only end in the Glass House, just as thirty years ago the Borstal system for the training of adolescent offenders had been devised to head them off from the grim portals of Dartmoor. This was a sign of the times. It seemed that the re-training idea was overtaking the simpler creed of "Give 'em hell." This tendency was clearly shown when it became necessary at the end of the war to appoint a new Inspector-General of Detention Barracks and Military Prisons. The officer chosen was Colonel W. H. Beak, who as the Commander of the Detention Barracks at Sowerby Bridge had done all

# THE LONGEST APPROACH MARCH IN HISTORY

in his power to transform his station into an educational establishment for the re-training of indifferent soldiers.

Now comes the news that the die is cast. The old style of cursing, shouting, sweating and doubling is condemned. The Glass House is to be a thing of the unregretted past. We need no longer throw our stones at it. In its place there are to be military correction establishments, whose object will be to receive indifferent soldiers, and so train and re-educate them that they will return to the Army as exceptional soldiers likely to become practised sergeants and pivotal sergeant-majors. So the battle between the two schools is over, and the thinkers have won, and the bad soldier is to have his chance. As I belong to his fraternity I rejoice.

# THE LONGEST APPROACH MARCH IN HISTORY

AN ACCOUNT OF A MOVE OF 169TH BRIGADE FROM KIRKUK TO ENFIDAVILLE, 1943.

BY CAPTAIN C. T. REICHWALD, M.C.

EVERYONE was rather restless in view of the anticipated move when I returned to the Battalion near Kirkuk from a short expedition towards the end of March, 1943. Gradually more news came through, we packed up and loaded our transport, were divided into two parties, and then waited for the day to arrive. One of the parties, including all our Battalion transport and stores, was to travel by road, while the other party, consisting of the majority of the personnel of the battalion, was to go by rail. The road party went, and our day was fixed. Three times it was postponed, and we sat all day in the otherwise deserted mess-tent playing innumerable games of liar dice and waiting for a definite order. At last lorries turned up, we were taken to the station in rain as heavy as had been that which had welcomed us, and entrained on our way to Baghdad.

When we arrived in Baghdad, after a two-day journey which the men travelled in trucks and the officers in the dingy and unsanitary compartments of the Iraqi State Railway, we were taken to spend the next day and night in Lancer Camp. The road party, who had been expected to arrive before us, did not turn up till the following day, having been delayed by floods astride the road. After a day's uneventful stay at Lancer Camp we loaded ourselves in the early morning into open 3-ton trucks driven by Indians, and the road part of what was to prove a 3,300 mile trip had started.

No one knew our eventual destination, and at this point we were heading for Gaza, there to train for combined operations. This we had been told by Lieut.-Colonel A. P. Block, our Commanding Officer, before we left Kirkuk. Thus the first stage of the journey took us almost due West to the Palestinian coast. We halted one night at Wadi Mohamed, another at Rutba, and a third at H2 (one of the pumping stations on the oil pipe-line from Kirkuk to Haifa), and a fourth at Tul Karm, not far from Tel-Aviv. Driving over the desert, it was not long before every one of the men in the truck were covered completely with sand; their eyebrows, hair and moustaches stood out as if they had been powdered, and we soon found that sand will penetrate anywhere, no matter how many and what variety of clothes you are wearing. Then for two days we crossed Transjordan. For two days we saw not a single permanent human habitation; a few dirty and ragged tents in which lived Arabs employed on the maintenance of the road, a few tufts of grass, and a few wandering herds of wild camels were the only signs of life we saw.

And during one day we drove solidly through a lava bed, which looked like black, undulating rock, stretching away as far as the eye could see. Being no geologist, I cannot say where this lava came from, but it seems a most peculiar place for it to be.

Transjordan is without exception the most barren country I have visited. It has only one town—its capital, Amman—and that we did not go near. The country is of so little value that even the international boundaries are marked only with old tar barrels.

Each day throughout this journey, which was to last a month, we started at first light, having already breakfasted ; then, with a ten-minute halt at every even hour, we would continue until a three-quarters of an hour halt for lunch ; then on again until we had completed our journey for that day. The distances varied, being sometimes as much as 150 miles a day, and sometimes as little as 80. Usually we would halt for the night some time between 1500 and 1800 hours, when we would wash, clean our weapons, eat, find out orders for the next day, have a drink on the days when the Mess was lucky enough to have anything to offer, and finally sleep until woken up at 0430 hours the following morning. Sometimes there were tents in these staging camps. But these grew less and less frequent, and more usually we slept in the open under our mosquito nets, or, after passing through Egypt, put up our two-man bivouacs and slept in them.

We parked our vehicles in a herring-bone formation, arranged so that, with a sharp apex, a large triangle was formed, and the whole was comparatively easy for one guard to look after. I favoured sleeping by my own platoon truck, by the simple process of putting up my camp bed alongside and draping my mosquito net over the side of the truck. Once it rained and I got wet, but it was a risk worth taking, and saved all the trouble of walking over and back to the tent area.

Once through Transjordan, we came suddenly into a green country, and before long we were dropping down into the Jordan Valley. It was strange and sweet to see again, after so long, grass waving in the breeze, the bright colours of poppies and other wild flowers, white people, and a definite air of men busying themselves with jobs instead of the lazy atmosphere of Arabs exerting themselves spasmodically on some quite unproductive task.

Then at Tul Karm we learned that there was a change in our plans. We were no longer going to Gaza, and our advance party, which had gone on ahead some days before us, was recalled and sent on down into Egypt. As it subsequently transpired that they had even erected our tents for us at Gaza, the change in the orders for the division must have been sudden. Our whole future was altered by this change of plan, as we should probably have taken part in the invasion of Sicily, and gone onwards with the Eighth Army in Italy, instead of landing at Salerno and battling our way up the west coast for six months.

However, now that we knew we were for Tunisia, the news had a sobering effect on us. We were both surprised and steadied by it. For although it had been obvious enough that we had not been sent to Iraq for the benefit of our health, it was so remote from all battle fronts that it was hard indeed to imagine the Division being involved in any fighting at short notice. Our journey through Africa and our part in the final three weeks of the campaign which saw the complete overthrow of the Afrika Korps proved most beneficial for the whole Division. It was an ideal time for units to get their baptism of fire—short, and yet sharp enough to acclimatize us and to send us into Italy with the confidence of men who have taken some part (albeit a small one) in a great victory.

Turning south at Tul Karm, we travelled through the green and fertile land of Palestine to the dry and dusty desert of Sinai. Oranges, lemons and grapefruit grew in profusion all around us, and at every halt we filled sacks, packs, dixies and any other containers with masses of fruit, which lasted us all through the African desert. Frequently we were showered with oranges by the Palestinians as our column moved along the road. By-passing the chief towns of Palestine, we nevertheless went through Beersheba, and shortly afterwards came into the most desolate piece of country we ever saw.

We were unfortunate enough to encamp for the night on the edge of the Sinai desert on that dull, gusty type of day when sand forms the major part of the food you eat and the tea you drink, gets into all the folds of your clothes and your skin, and mats your hair so that it is with the greatest difficulty that you put a comb through it. But we were through it on 3rd April, and, crossing the Suez Canal, came into the fertile Nile delta. Driving along the excellent roads, we came to Tahag, some sixty miles from Cairo, where we were to stage for six days.

Here began an intense period of work, consisting chiefly of drawing fresh kit and equipment, which included complete issuing of war scale kit to every man and the depositing of any surplus kit. The task fell on me particularly heavily, as my platoon sergeant had been sent ahead with a small "battle experience" party, and was about this time recovering from the activities of the battle of Wadi Akarit. They had been attached to the Green Howards in the famous 50th

(Northumbrian) Division. And my senior corporal was not, unfortunately, a man to whom figures, names and clerical work came easily.

But very near by was the N.A.A.F.I. Officers' Club, and it was usually possible to pay it a visit in the evening. This still remains the finest N.A.A.F.I. Club I have been to, and when we revisited it twelve months later the standard was still the same. We found baths, a good barber, excellent food, plenty of beer, and good facilities for reading, writing, lounging, and dancing in quite pleasant surroundings ; in fact, it was all that we had missed in Iraq. Far be it from me to grumble at this effort of N.A.A.F.I. which was most welcome to us at the time, but it is a notable fact that N.A.A.F.I. facilities are always best when they are least needed. Here were we within reach of Cairo, and anyway only base troops were in Egypt. The same thing happened later in Naples, Rome, Paris and Brussels, in all of which excellent N.A.A.F.I. clubs were instituted. But in all of these places there were other facilities, and the efforts of N.A.A.F.I., though they will always be utilized, were largely redundant. One realizes that in the large towns and base areas it is possible to find better buildings, more staff, and to obtain supplies more easily. But surely the object of N.A.A.F.I. should be to serve the fighting troops as well and to follow them up as closely as possible. Efforts are made in this direction by a few mobile canteens and by the weekly issues of cigarettes, sweets, soap, etc., which arrive at units with the rations ; but more could definitely be done towards putting N.A.A.F.I. on a much more mobile basis. The establishment of clubs and canteens in a divisional area usually does not materialize except by the enterprise of that particular division.

The same complaint can be levelled against E.N.S.A. A popular and by no means unwarranted cry late in 1944 was "Get the E.N.S.A. artistes out of Paris." Rarely does a large show reach forward troops. And here again a division's own enterprise means so much. Our own concert party—"The Cat's Whiskers"—run by Lieut. "Dickie" Gilbert (formerly of the 2nd/6th Battalion) provided men in 56th Division with far more and better shows than all the efforts of E.N.S.A. put together. For myself, I do not normally like variety shows, and will never attend one by E.N.S.A. even if I have the opportunity. But I have always enjoyed "The Cat's Whiskers," and have never seen them put on a bad show. One of their achievements was that of being the first concert party in the Anzio beachhead ; as soon as the majority of the Division was in the beach-head, the G.O.C. called them up and, always within gun range, they played every day.

The aim at Tahag was to give each man one whole day off on which he could go to Cairo or amuse himself in any other way he liked. This proved possible, and some even got two days. This and the drawing and checking of kit and equipment kept us very fully occupied. One item of kit which we then received was a small bivouac with two poles and a mosquito net incorporated on the scale of one to every two men. These were, I believe, a fairly new issue at the time, and subsequently proved indispensable.

On the way to Cairo one drove (or hitch-hiked) long the road running parallel with the Sweet Water Canal where we saw for the first time the huge barges, their great sails unfurled as a matter of course—for there is seldom much breeze there—which are in reality given motion only by three or four men who trudge slowly along with a great rope round their bodies attached to the barge. A horse-drawn barge on an English canal moves slowly enough, but these appear hardly to go forward at all.

The Sweet Water Canal owes its name to the aptitude of the British soldier for inventing appropriate nicknames. In the same fifty yards stretch of the canal you may see Egyptians washing clothes, bathing, drinking and urinating, while dogs, donkeys, cattle and horses perform some of the same functions.

Through the village of Tel-el-Kebir, the scene of the victory over Arabi Pasha in 1882, past the Royal Estates and Barge, and finally past the Royal Palace, one came to Cairo, which was the first really large and at all westernized city we had seen since Bombay. Again a city of contrasts, but in its modernized parts as advanced as any town in the United Kingdom, while in the Gezira Sporting Club, on an island in the Nile, it possesses a social and sporting centre of which Great Britain has no equal. And one has only to step into the Bazaar or the Citadel areas to be in a completely oriental atmosphere once more.

(To be continued)

# REGIMENTAL OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

## TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

THE Committee presents herewith the Annual Report and Abstract of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

*Membership, Association.*—Life Members: Officers 22; Other ranks 1,437; Home Guard 41. Annual Subscribers: Officers 255; Other ranks 607; Home Guard 3. Total 2,365.

*Employment and Resettlement.*—A great many problems connected with employment and resettlement have been solved, but some are still outstanding. Collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, the British Legion and the Regular Forces Employment Association has resulted in 44 placings.

Fourteen loans for resettlement and rehabilitation were made during the year and the assistance of the Guildford Rehabilitation Scheme in one case is gratefully acknowledged. Reports of good progress have been received in three cases.

*Charitable Fund.*—Calls upon the Fund have again increased. 293 applications have been received and 220 grants amounting to £961 4s. 6d. authorized. 90 cases are still being examined.

The Association is represented on the Surrey Services Welfare Conference, close liaison has been established in the County with other organizations and there are now practically no cases of overlapping.

Some changes in investments have been made owing to the redemption of certain stocks and the conversion of others. The consequent loss of income has been reduced by further investments.

Capital gain from these operations has been placed in the Investment Reserve Fund.

*All Ranks Dinner Club. Membership.*—Life Members: Officers 14; Other ranks 312. Annual Subscribers: Officers 172; Other ranks 305. Total 833.

The All Ranks Annual Dinner for 1946, the first since the end of the war, was held at Kennards' Restaurant, Croydon on Saturday, 1st June. 401 members attended and the gathering was fully representative of the Regiment's service during the past 60 years.

A telegram of good wishes from Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, was read by General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., who presided.

*Local Representative Scheme.*—Twenty-four members have very kindly volunteered to act as Local Representatives in various towns and the scheme is proving successful. An accredited representative to whom members can appeal on the spot is a great advantage towards keeping in touch.

The names and addresses of other members who are willing to undertake this important work will be welcomed by the Secretary at any time.

*War Memorial Fund.*—A War Memorial Committee under the chairmanship of Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., was formed in 1946. On 1st October, 1946, an appeal for funds was launched and £5,405 2s. 7d. had been received by 31st December, 1946. The sum of £12,000 was set as a target and every endeavour must be made to reach it. Past and present members of the Regiment have supported this appeal most generously.

Donations, however small, are still needed and should be sent to General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

*Future Activities.*—A Church Service and a Reunion Garden Party will be held on Sunday, 20th July, 1947, at Guildford. Further particulars will be published later.

The All Ranks Annual Dinner will take place at Kennards' Restaurant, Croydon, on Saturday, 14th June, 1947, at 7 p.m.

Admission will be by *ticket only*. Applications to attend should be submitted to the Secretary, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, immediately. (Application must be accompanied by Annual Subscription if not a "Life Member," All Ranks Dinner Club or a Bank Subscriber.)

*Conclusion.*—The Committee desires on behalf of all ranks, past and present, to express its gratitude to all who have shown a kindly interest in the Regiment by their generous donations and subscriptions as Honorary Members.

The help given by the S.S. & A.H.S., the S.S. & A.F.A., the British Legion, the Family Welfare Association and other Regimental Associations in investigating, reporting and collaborating in cases referred to them has again proved most valuable and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

The services of the Association are at the disposal of all serving and ex-Service members of the Regiment, wherever they may be and all are requested to "Keep in touch."

Subscriptions for 1947 should be sent to The Secretary, The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

F. WASPE, MAJOR, *Secretary.*

H. G. VEASEY, LIEUT.-COLONEL, *Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treas.*

G. J. GIFFARD, *GENERAL, Chairman.*

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946

### GENERAL FUND

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
Salaries, Wages and National Insurance 630 9 8	£ s. d.
Printing, Stationery and Postage 103 19 5	324 12 0
Miscellaneous Expenses 17 14 8	68 4 0
Periodicals (Battalions overseas) 50 7 0	711 15 11
Balance, being excess of Income over Expenditure 309 16 4	Donations to cover cost of administering Simpson Bequest 2 2 0
	Bank Interest 1 19 2
	Badges 4 4 0
	Total £1,112 7 1

Total £1,112 7 1

### CHARITABLE FUND

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
Grants in Aid 961 4 6	£ s. d.
Donations and Subscriptions to other Organizations 164 0 0	502 10 8
Cheque Books 2 0 0	Donations 783 1 0
Balance, being excess of Income over Expenditure 7323 15 1	Bank Interest 4 9 5
	Income Tax Recovered 112 19 5
	Total £8,450 19 7

Total £8,450 19 7

### DINNER FUND

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
Salaries 20 0 0	£ s. d.
Printing, Stationery and Postages 15 11 8	Subscriptions 120 19 4
Dinner, 1946 139 18 0	Life Members (Proportion) 25 8 0
Miscellaneous Expenses 2 18 0	Dividends and Interest 19 1 8
	Balance, being excess of Expenditure over Income 12 18 8
	Total £178 7 8

Total £178 7 8

### WAR MEMORIAL FUND

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
Stationery 103 7 8	£ s. d.
Postages 90 8 6	Donations 5405 2 7
Miscellaneous Expenses 3 16 0	
Balance, being excess of Donations over Expenditure 5207 0 5	
	Total £5,405 2 7

Total £5,405 2 7

## REGIMENTAL OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1946

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>LIFE MEMBERS ASSOCIATION</b>			
Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 421 0 0	Lloyds Bank Ltd.	
<i>Add</i> Subscriptions received during 1946	263 13 0	General Account	... 883 12 2
	<u>684 13 0</u>	Charitable Fund Account	... 7214 8 7
<i>Less</i> Proportion transferred to Income and Expenditure Account	... 68 4 0	All Ranks Dinner Club Account	... 360 9 11
	<u>616 9 0</u>	War Memorial Fund	... 5206 11 4
<b>LIFE MEMBERS (ALL RANKS) DINNER CLUB</b>		Cash in hands of Secretary	21 8 9
Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 126 0 0		<u>13686 10 9</u>
<i>Add</i> Subscriptions received during 1946	132 18 8	Investments at cost at 31st December, 1945	... 15257 3 8
	<u>258 18 8</u>	<i>Less</i> Cost of 3 per cent Local Loans sold	... 2377 1 0
<i>Less</i> Proportion transferred to Income and Expenditure Account	... 25 8 0		<u>12880 2 8</u>
	<u>233 10 8</u>	<i>Add</i> Purchases	
<b>GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>		Australia 3½ per cent.	
Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 259 6 6	1965/69	... 2786 13 3
<i>Add</i> Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1946	309 16 4	Consols 4 per cent.	1603 9 0
	<u>569 2 10</u>	Defence Bonds 3 per cent.	... 1001 1 0
<b>SIMPSON BEQUEST</b>		Defence Bonds 2½ per cent	... 500 0 0
Amount received	... ... 50 0 0		<u>5891 3 3</u>
<i>Less</i> payments during 1946	... ... 20 0 0	(Held by United Services Trustee. Market value at 31st December, 1946 £20,652 14 6)	... 18771 5 11
	<u>30 0 0</u>	National Savings Certificates (held by the Association)	... 180 0 0
<b>CHARITABLE FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>			<u>18951 5 11</u>
Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 17781 5 10	All Ranks Dinner Club £600 3 per cent. Defence Bonds at cost at 31st December, 1945 (held by the Association)	600 0 0
<i>Add</i> Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1946	... ... 7323 15 1	Advances	
	<u>25105 0 11</u>	Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 73 0 0
<b>INVESTMENT RESERVE, CHARITABLE FUND</b>		<i>Add</i> Advances during 1946	... ... 346 0 0
Balance at 31st December, 1945	... ... 151 1 4		<u>419 0 0</u>
<i>Add</i> Profit on sale of 3 per cent. Local Loans	... ... 909 12 3	<i>Less</i> Repaid during 1946	... ... 108 0 0
	<u>1060 13 7</u>		<u>311 0 0</u>
Carried forward	... ... ... 27614 17 0	Carried forward	... ... ... 33548 16 8



2nd/4th BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT, O.C.A.  
Shrine Ceremony at Queen's House, Poplar Walk, Croydon, 17th November, 1946.  
D. M. Steele, S. Vintner (Vice-Chairman), H. Mann (Hon. Sec.), J. Green (Standard Bearer), F. Sheffield.



7th BN. THE QUEEN'S.  
Remembrance Day--Sunday, 10th November, 1946, Kennington Park. Brigadier R. H.  
Senior, D.S.O., says a few words of thanks.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward...	27614	17	0	Brought forward...	33548	16	8
ALL RANKS DINNER CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDI- TURE ACCOUNT							
Balance at 31st December, 1945	739	17	11				
Less Excess of Expen- diture over Income for the year ended 31st December, 1946	12	18	8		726	19	3
WAR MEMORIAL FUND Excess of Donations over Expenditure for the year ended 31st De- cember, 1946	5207	0	5				
				Total £33,548	16	8	Total £33,548 16 8

## AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE

We have examined the above Balance Sheet. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Association and is in accordance with the Books and Vouchers of the Association and the information and explanations given to us.

(Signed) KELLER SNOW & CO., Auditors,  
Incorporated Accountants.

Dated this 27th day of January, 1947.  
GUILDFORD.

## 6TH BATTALION O.C.A. REUNION

THE Old Comrades Association organized a reunion on Saturday, 11th January, for the benefit of both those serving with the 6th Battalion during the last war and those in the 22nd London in the 1914-18 war.

The evening was a great success and about 300 members attended, many of whom came from considerable distances, including one from north Yorkshire and another from Devonshire.

The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, was kind enough to come and he made a speech in which he gave some information about the activities of the Association generally, and also such details as he knew concerning the post-war Territorial Army. He also gave news of the two Regular Battalions.

A buffet bar was provided which proved to be very popular, and both liquid and solid refreshments successfully lasted out the evening. Entertainment was provided in the form of three artists who very kindly gave their services for the evening, but unfortunately, their songs could not be appreciated to the full and to the extent they deserved owing to the fact that by that time the general conversation had ousted all thought of any outside entertainment.

The party broke up shortly after 10 o'clock and everybody was unanimously of the opinion that another reunion of this kind should be arranged in the near future.

## WAR MEMORIAL FUND

THE task of the Committee under Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., having been completed and the appeal launched on the terms of its report, a new Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O.

The new Committee's first object is to explore methods by means of which the target figure of £12,000 is to be reached. The Fund at present has a balance in hand of £6,408 17s. 9d.

In collaboration with The East Surrey Regiment, further publicity is being sought by means of an appeal signed by the Colonels of both Regiments addressed to prominent people in the county.

Social events are being organized in several places and a sub-committee is to be formed to organize an "Emblem Day" throughout Surrey. It is hoped to hold this day on 2nd August, 1947. Advice and collaboration on this subject are being sought from The British Legion, the S.S. and A.F.A., and the police.

It is hoped that all units and organizations of the Regiment will help the Fund on its way by efforts to raise more donations and publicity within the limits of their own contacts. Much hard work is still necessary and all interested are urged to give all help possible in order to reach the sum required.

The objects of the Fund, *i.e.*, alterations and additions to the existing Memorial in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildford, and the establishment of a Holiday Centre have been acclaimed as most worthy and the desire of all is to see these objects become an established fact.

Donations, however small, would be most gratefully received and should be sent to:—  
General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

#### ENTERTAINMENTS HELD IN AID OF THE FUND

**DANCE.**—A successful Dance, organized by Capt. N. V. Riches, was held at the Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead, on 13th December, 1946.

Many officers and friends of the Regiment attended. Music was played by Bert Bishop and his Embassy Dance Band.

As a result the Fund benefited to the extent of £40 9s. The Committee's thanks are due to Capt. Riches for this splendid effort.

**DRAMA.**—The Camberley Players Dramatic Society presented J. B. Priestley's "They Came to a City" on 18th January, 1947.

The members of the Society worked very hard in producing this play and the acting was excellent. It would be invidious to select individual members for mention where such merit was general, but the Committee desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the Dramatic Society's interest in the Regiment. It should also be mentioned that this Society gave many generous donations to the Regimental War Welfare Fund during the war.

**GALA BALL.**—A grand Gala Ball, organized voluntarily by Mr. and Mrs. W. Russell-Owen, took place at The Lion Hotel, Guildford, on Wednesday, 16th April, 1947. The Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford (Councillor and Mrs. A. W. Graham Brown) lent their patronage and were received at the Ball by Major Norton.

The Band of the 1st Battalion played for the occasion and in addition to novelties and spot prizes a Cabaret Show was given by Ivy Colman and her London Sunshine Girls.

A sale of gifts realized the sum of £33.

Mr. Russell-Owen, who acted as M.C., thanked all who attended and gave a brief outline of the objects of the Fund.

The Committee extends its thanks to all who helped in this successful function and in particular to:—

Mr. and Mrs. Russell-Owen     ...     ...     ...     Voluntary organizers and for Gift Prizes.

F. R. Bristow, Esq.     ...     ...     ...     Free use of Ballroom.

Alfred Gittings, Esq.     ...     ...     ...     Prize Gifts of Fruit and Wine.

The Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess, Stoughton Barracks     ...     ...     ...     Prize Gifts of Spirits.

The Managers of the Odeon Cinema, the Playhouse, the Plaza Cinema, the Cinema, Guildford     ...     ...     ...     Publicity and Prize Gifts.

The Odeon Cinema, Woking; the Odeon Cinema, Farncombe; the Rialto, Woking; the Ritz Cinema, Woking; the Regal Cranleigh     ...     ...     ...     Publicity.

As a result a useful sum has been credited to the Fund.



2nd Bn. BAND AT KOTOHIRA, JAPAN.



9th (EASTERN AND HOME COUNTIES) BN. THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT.  
On parade at their celebration of the second anniversary of the Rhine crossing.

## THE BAND OF THE 2ND BATTALION TOURS JAPAN

LAST autumn the band of the 2nd Battalion was chosen to proceed on a winter tour to the Far East. Previous tours have included India, Holland and Germany, and this time the station was to be Japan.

This was the signal for lively and rather amusing barrack room talk, such as "geisha girls," "saki parties," "pearls," and would our friend Driscoll need a ladder as part of his kit. Even Ackerman thought he would be able to introduce and extend his American customs. However, Colonel Piggott kindly came down from Yorkshire to give us details of Japanese life, culture, and how our entertainment would be utilized. Needless to say this talk nipped a few of our "Romeos" in the bud.

On 7th November we said good-bye to Stoughton Barracks, embarked and set sail from Southampton. Two other bands were on the same boat, The West Yorkshire Regiment and The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. This provided a competitive spirit, and gave the troops on board plenty of musical entertainment. Massed band music was provided at Singapore and Hong-Kong on entering these ports. After brief halts here we reached Kure on 15th December.

From here we proceeded to the Island of Shikoku, one of the most natural and beautiful parts of Japan, our destination here being the Headquarters of the 5th Infantry Brigade, and prepared for our tour of duty. Living conditions were "Spartan," barracks still in the stage of completion, one needed at least six Australian blankets to keep warm, and at this time a fire was a luxury only to be found in the canteen. However, plenty of Australian butter, good food and ample canteen issues was a compensation for the discomfort caused by climatic conditions. One thing worried the authorities, "How were the five band boys to get their pint of fresh milk per day?" Cows are not found in Japan, and the only solution seemed to be in importing a few from Australia. This still remains an unsolved problem.

And so starts our tour of the United Kingdom battalions. Unfortunately, just after this tour commenced we were involved in the earthquake of 21st December, which caused much loss of life and property to civilians in the coastal regions. Our only mishap, a minor one, was that our solo cornet, Jamieson, woke up to find himself the sole supporter of a barrack room wall.

The tour of this island lasted two months, during which we travelled many hundreds of miles by boat and rail, entertained the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Dorsets, and the Cameron Highlanders in dances, lunch hour programmes, parades and variety concerts. Civilians were also catered for, and for many of the Japanese it was the first time they had been introduced to western music played by a military band. During the latter end of February our Band Sergeant, Sgt. Smith, and Boy Lancaster were admitted to hospital, seriously ill, and we hope that by the time these notes go to print they will be well on their way to recovery. This month also saw the departure of the 5th Brigade to Malaya, and we said farewell to many old friends.

Here our journey returns to the mainland, and we find our way to Okayama. The band have had a week's rest and we renewed our acquaintance with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers band.

Our next port of call, Kure, and the Australian sector, where we carried on with dances and concerts. The band also had broadcasts on the Forces radio net-work, the "highlights" being Boy Boynton playing one of his own compositions, and O'Leary broadcasting in the Sinatra style. The Australians were very pleased with our efforts, and expressed a desire that British Army bands would visit Australia.

From Kure we had instructions to report to base, and return to the United Kingdom on the s.s. *Ranchi*. We embarked on 9th March and, being the only band on board, were kept very busy, playing at some musical activity every day, and entertained troops and civilians until docking at Southampton on 14th April.

To conclude, we thank our many friends in Japan who gave their utmost support to the band, also those in England who supplied newspapers, etc., and we are very honoured to have had the privilege of being one of the three regimental bands to have visited Japan, and have shown that East can meet West, and that perhaps we have sown a few "seeds" of democratic feeling in the Far East.

With reference to the above description the following remark by Major-General D. T. Cowan, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (Commanding British and Indian Division B.C.O. of Japan), in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel F. J. C. Piggott is of interest:—

"The Queen's band was sent by me to 5th Brigade on arrival, and it was only when I visited the latter with the Adjutant-General the other day that I first met them. I was most impressed by the men, their turn-out and their general military bearing. The Bandmaster struck me as being an excellent type. They live up to the very highest traditions of your Regiment, which is saying a very great deal. I hope to get them up to Tokyo before they return to the United Kingdom in March."

## HISTORY OF 9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

### INTRODUCTION

IN November, 1942, the 10th Battalion The Essex Regiment became the 9th Bn. The Parachute Regiment and moved from St. Albans to Bulford for reorganization. During December, 1942 and January, 1943, the Battalion completed hardening training under the direction of Capt. Harold at Hardwick and qualified as parachutists at Ringway. It was then incorporated with the 7th (L.I.) and 8th (M.C.) into 3rd Parachute Brigade. Later in May, 1943, the Brigade became part of the newly formed 6th Airborne Division.

During the period ending May, 1944, the Battalion was stationed at Bulford and took part in a number of airborne exercises in England, Scotland and Wales. The object borne in mind was always the same—an airborne assault on an enemy strongpoint. In the early days the only aircraft available were a few Whitleys and later Albemarles, but in January, 1944, an almost unlimited supply of American Dakotas became available and the Brigade made the first mass drop at Winterbourne Stoke. During this time the 7th (L.I.) Battalion was replaced in 3rd Parachute Brigade by 1st Canadian Battalion.

### PART TWO—NORMANDY

In May, 1944, the Battalion moved to a bivouac area at West Woodhay and there from aerial photographs and with the assistance of bulldozers constructed a full-scale replica of the German battery at Salanelles in Normandy.

This battery consisted of four 150 mm. guns which enfiladed the beaches on which the seaborne landings were to be made on 6th June, 1944. Their destruction was essential. Each gun was housed in an enormous casement of concrete and earth, which 4,000 lb. bombs dropped by the R.A.F. could not penetrate. The gun area was mined and protected by two concentric belts of wire and an anti-tank ditch. There was an exterior minefield and in addition to the gunners, the battery was defended by a company of German infantrymen.

The Commander's plan was rehearsed by day and night until every one knew his job perfectly. "A" Company were to provide diversionary parties and two platoons to crash land in gliders on the battery, "B" Company were to breach the outer minefield, blow the two belts of wire with bangalores and bridge the anti-tank ditch, "C" Company were to assault. Mortars and M.M.Gs. were in support and providing flank protection respectively. One troop of anti-tank guns and a detachment of 3rd Airborne Signals, R.E., were included in the Battalion group to shoot down the steel doors at the rear of the casements and blow the guns respectively. The operation was to be preceded by an all-out bombing effort by the R.A.F.

The Battalion then moved to a transit camp near Broadwell where detailed briefing took place and the Rev. John Gwinnett, M.C., S.C.F., consecrated the Battalion flag which survived all operations and now hangs in the Officers' Mess.

At about 2300 hours 5th June, 1944, the Battalion emplaned and set a course for Normandy. The flight was uneventful until crossing the French coast when moderate flak was encountered and many aircraft were knocked off their course. Some men of the Battalion were dropped up to thirty miles wide and some sticks were measured in miles. The drop, near the village of Varraville,

was timed for 0050 hours, 6th June, 1944, but having been dropped over an enormous area, only 150 assorted all ranks arrived in the R.V. by 0250 hours. There were no Sappers, Gunners or Field Ambulance personnel, no mine detectors or special stores and only one machine gun. In addition the preliminary bombing effort missed the battery completely and all but landed on the remnants of the Battalion.

In spite of these difficulties the "Trowbridge Party" commanded by Major G. E. Smith, M.C., located the battery, exterior minefield and enemy posts and reported back to the Commanding Officer. The main body completed the approach march, penetrated the minefield, wire and ditch and in the face of heavy opposition overran the battery and captured the guns which proved to be of 105 mm. calibre, and of the German garrison only about 120 prisoners of war. The guns were put out of action by stuffing German bombs in the breach and firing a round of S.A. into them.

By first light the success signal, yellow smoke, was put up and a crumpled pigeon dispatched on its way to England with the news. About 75 men of the Battalion came out of the battery on their feet and the Battalion, greatly depleted, moved on to their next objective, the village of Le Plein. This was strongly held, but later in the day, reinforced by the 45th (Marine) Commando, the Battalion took the village. During the night 6th/7th June, the Battalion moved further inland south of the village of Breville to Bois du Mont by Chateau St. Comm, where they dug in and held repeated German attacks for the next eight days and nights. A number of fighting patrols were sent through the German lines and on occasions the Battalion was surrounded. An attempt to relieve the Battalion, now about 180 strong all ranks, by a B.W. Battalion proved unsuccessful, but eventually one of our Airlanding Battalions, 2nd Oxford and Bucks took over the positions, and the Battalion moved to the area of the Le Mesnil Brickworks.

At this time a number of N.C.O.s. and men who had been dropped wide of the dropping zone made their way back through the enemy lines. Although, except for patrols, little physical contact was made with the enemy, mortaring and shelling were heavy, but on 17th June the Battalion was relieved by the 13th (Lancs.) Parachute Battalion and moved into the rest area at La Carde for a few days.

The first day was devoted to weapon cleaning and rest, the second to clothes washing, hair-cutting and refitting and on the third day training programmes were called for. These consisted chiefly of elaborate exercises which involved travelling the longest possible distance away from the theatre of operations, physical training and fishing with grenades or swimming in the Caen canal. C.S.Ms. Knight and Ross organized an E.N.S.A. show in a corner of a field, but being in a gun area, the show was almost inaudible.

On the fifth day the Battalion moved back into the line—a matter of 1200 yards—into the familiar brickworks and until 17th August occupied various positions between Le Mesnil and Troarn. The Battalion provided a number of patrols and beat off a number of enemy attacks, so frustrating the Boche intention to break through and play havoc in the bridgehead.

During the night 17th/18th August the enemy began to retreat eastwards towards the Seine, but left strong rearguards on all features to delay our advance. The Battalion stuck to their heels all the way, firstly across the River Dives, and then along the road running eastwards towards Port Audemer. 3rd Parachute Brigade was completely committed in the battle at Putot-en-Auge. The Battalion assaulted by night through a river, about eight feet deep and twenty yards wide, and captured their objective, the railway station and crossing. The Battalion held their positions and despite determined counter-attacks and heavy shelling and mortaring, held on for two days. The weather at this time was very wet, and everybody was soaked for about a week.

The Battalion then headed the advance again to Dozulles, Annebault, La Haye Tondu and St. Gatien, having skirmishes here and there, but the last battle of the campaign was fought a mile north of Beuzeville when "B" Company had assaulted through the inevitable stream and up on to a high, wooded range of hills. "A" Company supported the attack with fire.

It was at this time that after three months' continuous and savage fighting the Battalion went into billets at Beuzeville. The advance, mainly on foot from the bridgehead to the Seine was phenomenally quick, considering having to fight stiff battles under foul conditions.

After a few days resting and refitting the Battalion travelled back to the bridgehead in transport and embarked on the *Empire Gauntlet* for Southampton. Just over three months after taking off from England, approximately 75 all ranks of the Battalion returned to Bulford.

(To be continued)

## CADET NOTES 2ND CADET BATTALION

30th April, 1947.

DEAR SIR,

In your last number you published a photograph of the Queen's Shield presented to the Surrey County Cadet Committee for the County Boxing Championship. I thought that you would be interested to know that this year a Queen's Cadet Battalion won this shield for the first time. In 1945 and 1946 East Surrey Cadets won the shield, but this year it was won by the 2nd Cadet Bn. The Queen's.

The 2nd Cadet Bn. The Queen's consists of five companies in the Woking-Camberley area, of which three are school companies. The other two are open companies, "A" Company in Camberley and "C" Company in Woking. These companies are small and the chief reason for this is the shortage of officers. There are also boys in the Bagshot-Chobham area who ought to have the opportunity of pre-service training and all the facilities provided by the Army Cadet Force, but for whom no officers can at present be obtained.

I have written this with the hope that I might attract the attention of former Queen's officers and warrant officers who are now in civil occupation and would be willing to give a portion of their leisure to this work. Boys are still hero-worshippers and would respond to a good lead given them by experienced men, and I am sure that any who would take on a job of this kind would get full value out of it in the enthusiasm they could engender and in the service they could render the rising generation and the country itself.

If any Queen's men in the Camberley, Woking or Bagshot areas who are interested would get in touch with me I should be glad to discuss the matter with them. I do not disguise the fact that there will be initial difficulties, but these, I am sure, will not deter the Queen's. My private address is:—Colonel W. H. Hammond, O.C., 2nd Cadet Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, Scrivelsby, Woodham Waye, Woking. Telephone, Woking 2769.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. HAMMOND, Colonel,  
2nd Cadet Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS

ACTIVITIES, 1939-45

DURING the long years of the war, while in every theatre of operations the battalions of the famous Queen's Royal Regiment were, as usual, covering themselves with glory, one of the "Queen's" elder children, the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps, was doing its very best, in spite of great difficulties, and many disappointments, to keep their proud little flag flying at Caird Hall, Camberley: and I cannot help feeling that our parent Regiment, to which we are so intensely proud to be affiliated, will feel a thrill of pride in what the Corps has done, in all three elements, during the late struggle.

We have been able to keep our ordinary activities going, in spite of difficulties, and now that we have, for over three years, been one of the units of the new Army Cadet Force, we carry out a very strenuous training programme each year, because every Army Cadet leaving this unit at the end of his three years' training is, quite rightly, considered capable of taking his place, as a fully trained recruit, in any infantry unit, and becomes a very valuable and (to the Government) inexpensive addition to His Majesty's Forces.

One of the most gratifying incidents during the war, was the presentation, to the Corps, by parents and guardians of our cadets, of a most beautiful Regimental Colour. The idea was initiated and carried out by the parents and guardians themselves and was perfectly executed by the Royal School of Needlework in Kensington: it has been consecrated, and presented officially to the Corps by General Sir Ivo Vesey, Colonel of the Regiment.

## RED AS A BEETROOT OR WHITE AS A SHEET

43

The Corps is now in the thirty-ninth continuous year of its existence, and is a source of pride and admiration to all our many friends and supporters; we had a very good gathering for the annual prize-giving at the end of December, 1946, carried out most excellently by General Sir Richard O'Connor, Adjutant-General, and Lady O'Connor, preceded by a most inspiring address by the General.

## RED AS A BEETROOT OR WHITE AS A SHEET

*[This amusing extract from his account of life in the ranks of the Guards, "Bright, Clean and Slightly Oiled," is published by kind permission of the author, Mr. Gerald Kersh.]*

"I SEE a bit in the paper," says Lance-Corporal Punishment, "and so it says that book you wrote ought to be shoved away with the boot-brushes. Didn't it, Meaty?"

"When was that?" asks Meaty.

"The other day. It didn't half give you a coating. 'More spit than polish,' it said. Laugh? I died laughing, didn't I, Meaty? 'Wait'll ole Gerald sees that,' I said, 'then there'll be some blinding and bloodying,' I said. I bet that shook you, Gerald. Like that seven days' Peck Harris give you for skiving a bren-gun parade. I'll never forget the look on poor old Gerald's face when the Iron Duke shot 'im out of Number Six Company Office. It was like poor old Gerald'd been fired out of a bloody bazooka: woosh! Peck Harris was Company Commander, Meaty. The one that 'ad the brindle Staffordshire pup: the pup that used to jump up from behind and 'ang on to your thumb as soon as you stood at ease before marching into Orders."

Meaty says: "Old Foxy Fox used to have one of them. It could kill a mastiff, he reckoned; but he was always a bloody liar. Used to be a Provost Sergeant in the Tower, last war; he was used for shooting spies, or something. Happiest days of old Foxy's life, they were."

"Well, they say you get an extra rum ration, on a firing-squad; and no more parades for the rest of the day, or something."

"I know a man in Great Harwood, a butcher, I forget what name—he's a hangman in his spare time—so this bloke breeds them terriers for fighting. Chains two pups up so that their noses almost touch, see, and leaves a pan o' water and a nice meaty bone between 'em: lets 'em stay like that three days and nights without food or drink, see; then lets 'em go. They mix it. The one that wins gets the bone. The one that loses is chucked into the canal. Splosh! I bet 'is dog could beat Foxy's."

"Peck Harris's pup looked leggy to me."

"Poor old Gerald looked leggy alright. Come out so sudden 'is feet never touched the ground. 'I got seven days,' 'e says; 'is there no justice in this here world?' You would have cracked yourself laughing. Poor old Gerald: white as a sheet, tears in 'is eyes, shaking like a leaf . . .'"

"Red as a beetroot."

"It's a dirty lie!" I shout.

They roar with laughter. "Shove 'im away with the old boot-brushes!" says Meaty, choking.

"Mr. Agate said that my book ought to be kept on every Guardsman's shelf, together with . . ."

"Wouldn't keep it there long," says Lance-Corporal Punishment, with gloom, "not in our 'ut. I put a new razor-blade down for a few seconds the other day, and the minute I turned my back somebody won it."

"Aygit? The geezer that writes them bits? Reads some books and then gives 'em a ballocking in the papers; that one? Little pitchers of 'imself all over the place. I dessay they pay 'im for all that."

"He is a critic," I tell Meaty, "a literary critic."

"You sort of send a cricket a book, kind 'o style, and so 'e does a bit about it," says Lance-Corporal Punishment. "I dessay a man like that, 'e gets a lot o' books free of charge."

"Thousands," I say, making a big gesture.

"Does 'e flog 'em when 'e's read through 'em? Or send 'em back?" asks Meaty.

"Some he flogs, some he keeps, and some he throws away," I say.

"It's a lovely life," says Lance-Corporal Punishment. "I wouldn't mind being a cricket myself. I couldn't half criticise. I . . ."

"A bloody fine Aggit you are," says Meaty.

"I'm a bloody better cricket than what you are, any day."

Meaty says to me: "The other day, so the Company Commander asks old Punishment to describe some wallah what went absent, and all old Punishment can say is, 'Sort of short-arsed Guardsman, sir, that snuffles when 'e talks.' Might of been anybody. . . . Might of been you, Gerald."

"Ever see poor old Gerald do a slow march?" asks the Lance-Corporal. "Remember when Colonel Edwards come, and we march past? Laugh? Eh, Meaty?"

"Old Gerald leans over backwards when 'e slow-marches. It's dead funny. If we didn't get the 'Quick march' in time 'e'd be lying flat on 'is back with 'is feet wagging," says Meaty. "Waggle-de-waggle-de-waggle. . . ."

"Or else poor old Gerald goose-steps."

"At Caterham, Kelly used to call 'im General Hindenburg."

"Old Gerald was a trier," says Lance-Corporal Punishment, "but 'e overdone it. Once, when the Sar'nt told poor old Gerald to swing 'is arms further back, 'e knocked Spencer out stone cold from be'ind, just swinging 'is arms."

"They give poor old Gerald a dose of drill when 'e got that seven days' though," says Meaty, chuckling. "Poor old Gerald done fourteen drills that week, plus a nice basinful of spud-bashing. Laugh? 'E was the only defaulter that week, and the Picquet-Sar'nt give 'im a proper chasing. I laughed till I cried."

Lance-Corporal Punishment stood in an extraordinary posture, his head forward and his backside protruding. "Old Gerald standing to attention," he says, and snuffles, "Sir, I was only trying to do my duty." What a chancer! So Peck Harris looks poor old Gerald up and down and says, "Seven days' C.B. Fall in!" And out comes poor old Gerald, red as a beetroot."

"White as a sheet."

"Like a hop-step-and-a-jump winner at the 'Tabloid Sports'."

"Remember old Gerald putting the weight at the Tabloid Sports?"

"With that sweater on?" asks the Lance-Corporal, as if he didn't know.

"The Iron Duke says, 'Blimey, we've got somethink 'ere,' 'e says; 'stand back, men.' Old Gerald looked like 'e was going to put that weight from the football-field to the Brigade Naffy. . . . Meaty chokes on a laugh.

"That moustache bristling out, eh?"

"Feeling 'is muscles, eh?"

"Sticking out 'is chest, eh, Meaty? So 'e takes a run, and 'e stops, and 'e takes another run, and 'e stops again, and 'e takes another run, and 'e lets fly. People ducked seventy-five yards away, didn't they, Meaty? They thought old Gerald was going to put that sixteen-pound shot through the Officers' Mess . . ."

"I covered me eyes with me 'ands," says Meaty. "I couldn't bear to see it."

". . . and the shot goes three foot in the air and comes down on poor old Gerald's foot," says Lance-Corporal Punishment. "Even the Sar'n-Major peed 'imself laughing. So did I."

"Me too," says Meaty.

"So the C.Q.M.S.I. says, 'Try again: try 'olding the shot in both 'ands and chucking it backwards over your 'ead.' So poor old Gerald says, 'Yessir,' and 'e tries. Talk about Buster Keaton! Eh, Meaty?"

"Talk about Laurel 'n Hardy! Eh, Punishment?"

"Talk about Nellie Wallace! Old Gerald puts this shot with both 'ands, and crowns 'imself with it—bomp!"

"Well, it went up in the air and 'e 'ad to run away from it," says Meaty. "Then 'e tries to do the long jump on one leg. Said 'e'd ruptured 'is cartridges."

I cry, "Cartilages!"

"What a chancer!" says Lance-Corporal Punishment. "I caught 'im trying to cut off a mile and a half on the cross-country run. Said 'e'd lost 'is way."

Meaty adds, "That time on observations exercises. Officer points to some 'ouses about three miles away: you couldn't see 'em 'ardly. 'Look theah for thirtuh seconds, and then tell muh what you see.' So old Gerald takes a quick look, and says: 'Three houses, sir, one with a pointy gable-end and a gate with chipped stone-collar paint with 'Saint John's Villa' in small Roman letters on the top bar; gravel path; lace curtains tied with green cord; clothes-line with two pairs of smallish-size woollen pants, two pairs of peach-coloured cam-knickers, six pairs of socks, and a vest 'angin on it; rabbit-'utch with one female white rabbit in the background, and a red setter bitch about five years old sunning 'erself on the doorstep.' The officer gets out a telescope and looks, and it's just like old Gerald says, so 'e says, 'Remarkable!' and give 'im full marks."

"Old Gerald was bluffing?" asks the Lance-Corporal.

"No, 'e lived at St. John's Villa. But the way 'e screwed 'is eyes up, you'd of thought 'e was a gorblimey bleeding eagle."

"I never see anybody bob as much as old Gerald did before a C.O.'s. parade," says Punishment. "E'd 'ave is kit on the night before, almost. Remember the time the Drill Sar'nt said 'What's the matter with you, man? Are you an idiot?' And Gerald says 'Yessir,' 'E used to go into a sort of trance on C.O.'s. parade."

"Stood as though 'e'd just done something and was afraid to move."

"And marched like a duck with the piles. Old Thingummy, when 'e was Adjutant, 'e said, 'For God's sake take that man round the corner and learn 'im 'ow to slow march.' Ah, we 'ad some good times then, didn't we, Gerald?"

"We did, Meaty, we did," I reply.

"Nothing like it up at the camp now," says Lance-Corporal Punishment.

". . . But the way old Gerald put that weight!" cries Meaty.

"And the way 'e 'opped!" shouts Punishment. "Eh, Meaty?"

"That long jump! Oh Christ, that long jump! And 'im doing that sprint, three-halfpence-twopence, bompity-bompity-bomp! What a game, what a game!"

"That'll be about the time Russia come into the war. . . ."

"Germany marched on Russia before them Tabloid Sports, Meaty."

"Just after."

"Just before."

"Remember old Tommy Leeming. 'E wanted poor old Gerald to do that 'opping act in the concert."

"So what did you say, Gerald?"

"It would take too long to repeat just now," I muttered.

Now the truth of the affair is as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

One day, when I was out on Field Training, something disturbing happened: I heard a sharp crack, and felt as if an elastic band had snapped inside my left knee. Looking down, I found myself standing on one leg, like a flamingo; the other had bent, and was locked back.

The Sergeant said, "More of your little jokes, Kersh?"

"My knee's locked," I said.

"Are you chancing your arm?"

"I tell you, Sar'nt, my knee's locked!"

"A likely story! Was I born yesterday? Unlock that knee, and make it snappy!"

I couldn't. "Feel it and see," I said.

"I don't want to feel your horrible legs. Take 'em to the M.O.—doctors are used to that sort of thing: I'm not. Go sick."

Next morning I went to see the M.O. About thirty seconds before my name was called, my knee cracked again, even louder than before, and straightened. All the professional malingerers glanced at me with bitter envy: it had all the appearance of a clever trick made twice as impressive by an unearthly noise. They wanted to know how I did it, and when I told them that I hadn't the faintest idea, a young soldier known as Sciatica said, "You might want a favour from me one o' these days"—and turning away he rehearsed a few assorted groans, for today was his big day, and he was to perform in Aldershot before a Specialist.

The M.O. was a kind man, but he had been imposed upon, and had grown suspicious. "It cracks and locks back, does it?" he said, feeling my knee. "H'm. Sergeant McFall, is there a route march today?"

"There is, sir."

"Ah, I see. I see. M. and D. Iodine. Next. . . . Oh, Kersh . . ."

"Sir?"

"Be ashamed, man, be ashamed!"

Sciatica came in howling, and I hobbled off to the route march. It was a thirty-five mile one. I covered the last ten miles on one leg, hopping. Then the knee unlocked and swelled: it looked, as Hitchens said, like a hairy blanc-mange. I took it back to the M.O.

"Sergeant McFall," he said, "I believe there are Tabloid Sports today?"

"Yes, sir, there are."

"Just as I thought, McFall."

"Me too, Sir."

"Sticking-plaster, M. and D., and Kersh . . ."

"Yes, sir?"

"Pull yourself together, man, pull yourself together."

"Yes, sir."

That afternoon I made athletic history. I hopped the one-mile run, I did the hundred yards on a leg and a half, performed a high jump of which Grock might not have been ashamed, and achieved a long jump of three feet six inches. Then I put the weight, in the manner described by Lance-Corporal Punishment; after which the other knee clicked like a garden gate and locked itself.

The Sergeant said: "Enough is as good as a feast, sonny boy. Carry this lark too far and you'll regret it to the longest day you live."

"Can I help it if my knee locks?"

"Knee locks! An intelligent man like you! Knee locks! Knee locks!" And he murmured another word. "That's what it is, if you ask me. A great hairy ape like you. Haven't you got no sense of proportion?"

"Yes, Sar'nt, but . . ."

"What you're after is to skive the night-stunt."

"Night stunt?"

"Trench digging in the dark, nine o'clock."

So I marched a few miles, and dug a trench near the golf course, and marched back. Next morning I had to bang my legs straight with my fists, and then I couldn't bend them again. I returned to the sick-bunk and reported. "Now my other knee has gone, sir."

"Gone where?" asked the M.O. The Sergeant was convulsed with silent laughter. I explained: it had gone backwards; it had gone purple; it had gone.

"You're for guard duty today, I see?"

"Yes, sir."

"Eh, Sergeant McFall? Eh?"

"Eh, sir?" said the Sergeant, with a grim smile.

"Kersh . . ."

"Sir?"

"So you're for picquet, eh?"

"Pig-buckets, sir."

"What does he mean by pig-buckets?"

"Guarding the swill-bins, sir. Once upon a time a man concealed a leg of pork in a swill-bin and smuggled it out of camp, sir. Guard's duty to scrutinise incoming swill and see it goes into the proper . . ."

"I see, I see. Kersh . . ."

"Sir?"

"Play the man, Kersh, play the man. Have self-respect, man, have proper pride! Strap the knee up. M. and D. And Kersh . . ."

"Sir?"

"I'm getting sick and tired of this little game of yours."

Thereafter I hopped. Sometimes my right leg folded back; more frequently it was my left leg. Without warning I assumed the shape of a figure four, to the suffocating delight of my companions, who thought that I was doing it on purpose. They brought friends from remote parts of the camp, offered me cigarettes, and said, "Go on, hop!"

The sick-bunk Sergeant said: "I might as well warn you, to save your time and ours, that it's no use pretending to be off your nut these days. That game's played out. One or two geezers get their ticket with Schizophrenia, but then they've got Schizophrenia. Anyway, they don't hop."

"It's my knees, Sergeant, not my brain."

"Not much wrong with your knees if you can hop about three feet in the air on either foot."

"What can I do if my knees lock?"

"Oh, go and get a key cut. Scram. Oh, Kersh . . ."

I paused at the door. "Sar'nt?"

"Hop it!" he said, and laughed aloud for the first time in living memory.

And so I did. At the end of the year I had to be operated on. Mr. Paton removed a semilunar cartilage with a complete bucket-handle tear. He gave it to me: it looked exactly like a chewed wishbone. I kept it for luck and then gave it to an American soldier in exchange for a Zippo lighter.

So the cartilage of my left knee is in Tennessee. The one they afterwards cut out of the right knee is in Hampstead. The tonsils Mr. Steeler excised between times must have floated out to sea by now. I am getting scattered. God knows where it will all end.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Ah," says Meaty, "we don't get any laughs like that now."

"Camp's dead," says Lance-Corporal Punishment.

"Never be the same again."

"Used to 'ave a bit of fun then."

"Different class o' people now," says Meaty. "I remember old Gerald keeping up a stream of dirty jokes for three hours by the clock one Sunday. It was a church parade. Old Gerald never went—said 'e was an Acrostic."

"Agnostic."

"I bet 'e made it up, just to get out of church parade. Old Gerald would of said 'e was a Chinaman, to get off a church parade."

"Remember the time old Big Bill Thompson caught old Gerald on that printing lark?"

"Laugh? 'E says to poor old Gerald, 'You're a lit-ry man, I 'ear?' Old Gerald says, 'Yes, sir.' 'You know all about newspapers, and that?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Printing, and reporting, and all that?' 'Yes, sir.' Old Gerald thinks 'e's on somethink dead cushy. 'I shall be happy to tell you anything you want to know about the newspaper business, sir.' 'Good, you're just the man I've been looking for. Go and pick up all the waste-paper in the Company Area and stick it in the salvage-sack, you horrible man!' You should of seen old Gerald's face! Red as a beetroot."

"White as a sheet. Ah . . . we used to 'ave some fun then, Meaty."

"Them was the days, Punishment."

Nostalgia is creeping in—the nostalgia of the old soldier who is in perpetual mourning for the day before yesterday.

Drawing deep breaths, the mythologists and fabulists of Pirbright make their elbows comfortable and settle their chins over their collars. Meaty shuts his left eye, as if he is focusing the rose-coloured perspective-glass of reminiscence. Lance-Corporal Punishment hooks his heels over the top bar of his stool and eases his haunches into the most convenient hollow of its worn oak seat, and then, folding his arms, falls into the position of an ancient Persian story-teller. You half expect him to drone. "Once upon a time there was a time when there was no one but God . . ." But he grunts: "You don't know this place's changed. Not long ago it used to be the loveliest village you ever see in your life. Didn't it, Meaty?"

Meaty nods. "Pretty as a picture," he says. "Wasn't it, Gerald?"

I know that Brookwood, from the station to the Arch, and Pirbright, from the Arch to the "White Hart," have been nothing but a limbo of stillborn brickwork for the past forty years;

so I say "Ah!" This "Ah!" is meant to be non-committal: I breathe it out. Then I think of something, pause, and say "Ah!" again, with a certain emphasis. For the place has grown on me: wherever I go, a certain part of my heart yearns for this eyesore of a thrown-up village in the Surrey dust-bowl, which never could have been pleasing to any stranger's eye in living memory.

"Why, back in 1940," says Lance-Corporal Punishment, "back in 1940 I remember . . ."

Like a faded woman prowling in the half-dark beyond the light of a street lamp, the Past looks back at us and winks; but we must hurry on. Glancing over our shoulders at the next corner, we see nothing but the rain-washed pavement. You had something there, says Memory . . .

"Why, back in '40 . . ."

## OBITUARY

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members of the Regiment which have been notified since our last issue.

Name		Service Bn.		Date of Decease
Major E. C. Sheppard, O.B.E., T.D.	...	22nd London Regt., and 1st/6th Bn., 1912-1945	...	21 Feb 1947
Major W. O. Ball	...	1st/5th Bn., 1939-1945	...	12 Feb. 1947
Capt. G. Osborne, M.M.	...	1st and 2nd Bns., 1912-1945	...	15 April 1947
Number	Rank	Name	Service Bn.	Dates
6076149	C.S.M.	Wilce, J.	6th	1914-1943
6090922	C.S.M.	Fisher, R. H.	1st	1901-1922
6677	Pte.	Evison, A. G.	1st/7th	1939-1945
1966	Pte.	MacKrell, A.	2nd	1901-1913
	Pte.	Adsett, S. J. H.	2nd	1881-10 Apl. 1947

Pte. Adsett died at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, soon after being admitted and was a veteran of the Burma Campaign, 1885-1889.

## FINDING JOBS FOR SERVICE MEN

THE National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen (short title: Regular Forces Employment Association), which is supported mainly by Regimental and other Service funds, placed 43,418 men in jobs in the first ten months of 1946, representing 70.2 per cent. of the number of men registering during that period. Of these placings 24,223 were Regulars and 19,895 were men who served not less than two years in the 1939-45 war.

The Association now has branches or sub-offices in the following places, several having been opened or reopened since the war:—

Barnsley, Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Bury St. Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chatham, Chelmsford, Chester, Coventry, Croydon, Derby, Devonport, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Gloucester, Halifax, Hull, Hamilton, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, London Central, Acton, Bow, Deptford, Wood Green, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Mon.), Norwich, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Salisbury, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Stockport, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Swansea, Taunton, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Wrexham.

For the first time an R.A.F. officer has been appointed to the post of General Secretary of the Association. He is Air-Commodore W. D. Budgen, C.B.E., and succeeds Brigadier F. H. Stapleton, C.M.G., who held the post for twelve years.

Figures of recent registrations and placings show a steady increase in the percentage of men placed.

## CORRESPONDENCE

598 L.A.A. Regt., R.A. (Queen's), T.A.

The Barracks,  
Uniteham Road,  
West Croydon,  
Surrey.

31st March, 1947.

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

DEAR MAJOR,

May I first of all apologise on my Colonel's behalf at his failure to answer your letter personally. You will, I am sure, appreciate that T.A. duties and business calls leave him very little time. Add to this the fact that he has delegated responsibility for providing you with information re the Regiment on my shoulders, he rather thought that I might as well start right away.

Might I point out straight away that whilst we are an Artillery Regiment, it is our firm intent to carry the traditions of the 4th Queen's forward to form the background of the new Regiment. I promise to do everything I can to keep you informed of what goes on. To that end, I have asked Major P. D. Connery, M.B.E., to write up a short history of the 4th Queen's, 63rd S./L. Regiment, 127th L.A.A. Regiment, from 1939 onwards to date. This I hope to be able to let you have by the middle of April.

With regard to the new Regiment. These are very early days and much remains to be done. Recruiting is due to begin on 1st May and we are battling to get the place in good order by then. Attempts are being made to get in touch with old members of 4th Queen's who may wish to serve again, both officers and men. We are hoping to form the nucleus of the Regiment from tried and tested material. How successful we shall be remains to be seen.

Yours sincerely,

P. ASHWORTH, Capt. and Adj't.

## 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) A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part—i.e., Battalion General News.
  - (b) Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
  - (c) Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important Battalion matches should be given, mentioning names of goal-scorers, good scores or good bowling performances at cricket, together with the names of teams in each match. Concerts, dances, etc., should be included under this sub-head.
  - (d) Sergeants' Mess News.
  - (e) Corporals' Mess News.
  - (f) Company and Platoon Games and Sports.
2. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and should, if possible, be typewritten, but this is not essential. They should be submitted not later than 15th October, 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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THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE COMPETITION IS 31st October, 1947, after which no further entries will be considered. Results will be announced in this journal.

Entries should be sent to the Public Relations Officer, NAAFI, Ruxley Towers, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

Entries will be judged by a panel of experts and their decisions will govern the award of the following prizes:—

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