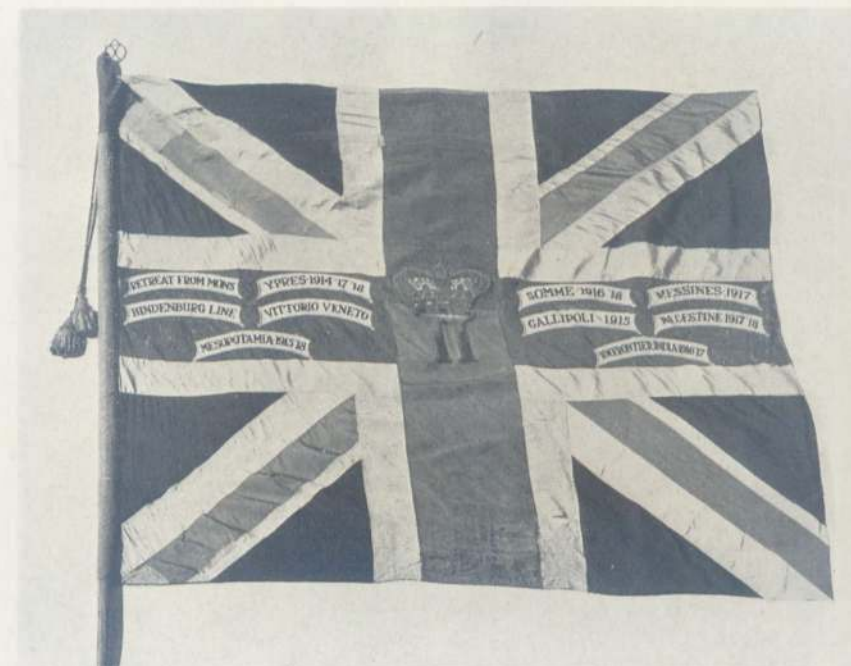
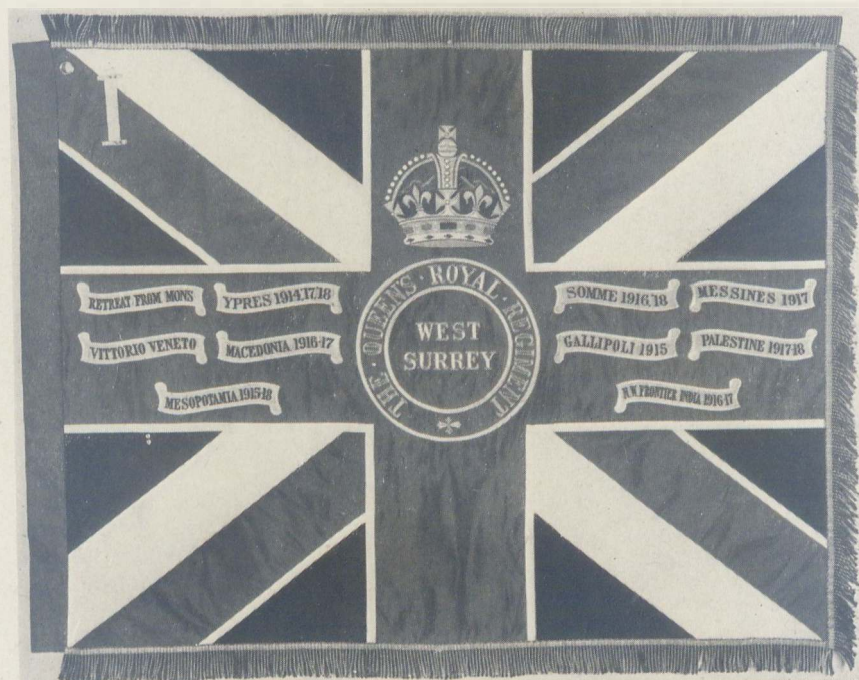


1st BATTALION



THE OLD COLOURS





THE NEW COLOURS



# The Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment

VOL. VIII

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No. 4

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## EDITORIAL

IT may appear at first sight that an unduly large share of this issue is devoted to the 1st Battalion, but under the circumstances no apology is needed. After the despatch of their news by an officer of the Colour Party on H.M.S. *Glory* the Battalion received the most sad news that it was to go into suspended animation for an indefinite period.

According to present orders the Battalion will return home as a cadre of about twenty in November, or early December, and will then be reduced to one officer and three N.C.Os. who will be attached to the Depot.

The 1st Battalion has had 286 years of unbroken service, and it is a great blow that this continuity should be broken. It was fitting, however, that their last big parade should have been as fine an effort as the Presentation of the New Colours undoubtedly was.

The sympathy of the whole Regiment goes to Lieut.-Colonel Gibbs and the officers and other ranks of the Battalion in the disappointment they must feel in the suspension of the fine Battalion they had built up.

Statements in the papers foretell further reductions and alterations, but nothing official is yet known.

The future of the JOURNAL will be reconsidered by the Committee after this issue. It is feared that, with the disappearance of the 1st Battalion and possibly of the P.T.C., circulation will be so reduced that the size and set-up will not be able to be maintained. But everything possible will be done.

His Worship the Mayor of Guildford has cordially agreed to a suggestion that the town of Guildford should have a regular column in future issues of the JOURNAL. In this, news which he thinks will be of interest to local men serving with the Regiment will be given and touch between the town and Regiment maintained.

## THE FRONTISPIECE

THE Old Colours of the 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment were trooped for the last time on 10th July, 1947. They were presented to the Battalion on 10th July, 1847, by Lady Augusta FitzClarence at Gosport. The pikes themselves are even older than this, especially the pike of the third Colour, dating back to 1750 or earlier. The pikes were probably carried on parade when the Battalion found a guard of honour for Admiral Lord Nelson at Gibraltar and again when the Duke of Wellington saw the Battalion marching past Apsley House at the time of the Gordon Riots in 1780. In 1937-38 they were repaired with great difficulty by Messrs. Hobson & Sons in order to make them last one hundred years, Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O., very generously financed this. During the recent war they were kept in store at Peshawar and were eventually brought down to the Battalion in January this year by Major A. R. C. Mott. On the 2nd September, 1947, the Old Colours were taken home by Captain D. W. Kirby and Captain A. J. Parkes in H.M.S. *Glory*, and were then laid up in the Museum at Stoughton Barracks. Colonel Clarke is again most generously having them netted and framed for the Regiment.

The New Colours were presented to the 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment on 10th July, 1947. These Colours were made by Messrs. Hobson & Sons, the actual colours being worked by members of the Royal School of Needlework from a scaled design held by the War Office. The Colours are different from the Old Colours in that the King's Colour now has the name of the Regiment in the centre, while the old one had a Crown with a Roman II underneath. The Regimental Colour no longer has a Union Flag in the top corner against the pike; there is a Lamb now in its place. But the most surprising change is that both the new Colours have a Roman I in the top corner against the pike, which presumably denotes 1st Battalion. After being inspected and approved by Her Majesty Queen Mary, the New Colours were brought out here by air by Captain J. B. C. Palmer at the beginning of June, while the pikes came by sea.

## 1ST BATTALION

SINCE notes were sent off for the May issue of the JOURNAL many changes have occurred in the personnel of the Battalion. In fact, it is always changing, due to drafts leaving and drafts coming. There is altogether too small a Regular element. This at the present time numbers 97, of whom 10 are officers.

The following officers have arrived in the Battalion since the last issue of the JOURNAL :—

Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E. (Regular), March, 1947.

Captain D. C. Snowden (Regular). Since appointed A.D.C. to H.E. the Governor of Singapore.

Major E. A. W. Lockyer (Regular), August, 1947.

Major I. P. Thomson, M.C. (Regular), June, 1947.

Captain M. A. Lowry (Regular), June, 1947. Appointed Adjutant.

Captain J. B. C. Palmer (Regular), June, 1947.

Captain (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharpe (Regular), June, 1947.

Captain S. White (Short Service Regular), August, 1947.

Captain D. L. Fennall (Short Service Regular), August, 1947.

Others, too, have come but have gone off to E.R.E., since the Battalion is no longer allowed to keep officers surplus to establishment.

Major Bill Griffiths, D.S.O., M.C., who was with the 1st/7th Queen's from El Alamein to Europe, commanding the Battalion from July, 1944, to January, 1945, is on the staff of Singapore District under which we come, so we see a great deal of him.

The period since the last issue has been a very intensive one. The Battalion has had to find the usual large number of guards. At the same time the whole Battalion, less casuals, has completed its range courses and one company (in rotation), except for a period of six weeks over the 10th July, has always been out in the training camp, some twenty miles away.

With all this, the event that overshadowed all other events was the 10th July parade on the Padang in Singapore, at which the hundred-year-old Colours were trooped for the last time and when New Colours were presented to the Battalion. This was a most moving and magnificent parade, fully up to regimental traditions. The New Colours were presented by the Hon. Mr. P. A. B. McKerron, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government of Singapore, in the absence through illness of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Hon. Mr. Malcolm Macdonald. The parade was watched by many thousands of people. A detailed account appears elsewhere.

### "THE QUEEN'S REVIEW"

This is the title of the Battalion newspaper, which is published fortnightly, except for a short lapse owing to some trouble with the printers. It is a paper to which all ranks are encouraged to contribute, and is designed to keep the Battalion informed of Battalion and Regimental current events and also of general news items of interest.

Lieut. H. J. Popper, now unfortunately medically boarded and gone home, was the *Review's* first editor, and was responsible for the first few editions. This meant a great deal of hard work and he is to be congratulated on it. Captain H. A. Blake has now taken over the editorship. Lieut. G. R. Miles is assistant editor.

### OBITUARY

On Monday, 25th August, 1947, near Changi, Singapore, in a motor-cycle accident, No. 14183669 Pte. John Richardson, H.Q. Company, 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was a despatch rider and was, at the time, in the execution of his duty. The deepest sympathy of all ranks of the Battalion is extended to his family and in particular to his twin brother, Pte. James Richardson, also a member of the Battalion. He was buried on 26th August, 1947, at Kranji, Singapore, with full military honours.



## 1ST BATTALION

## SOME STATISTICS

(29th August, 1947)

Total number of Release and Home Service Python, 1st April, 1947, to end of September, 1947 ... 244

Total number of incoming drafts to Battalion, 1st April, 1947, to 25th September, 1947 ... 123

Total number of Regulars (including Short Service Regular engagements) in Battalion at present time :—

Officers ... 14

Other Ranks ... 104

Total posted strength of Battalion at present time (including attached) :—

Officers (including R.M.O. and four in U.K.) ... 37

Other Ranks (including 132 on leave U.K.) ... 751

Existing War Establishment (including attached) :—

Officers ... 33

Other Ranks ... 813

Rank.	Name.	Engagement.	Rank.	Name.	Engagement.
Lt.-Col.	D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O.	Regular	Lieut.	R. J. Lewis ...	E.C.O.
Major	H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.	Regular	Lieut.	J. Stevens ...	E.C.O.
Major	C. F. Cole ...	Regular	Lieut.	D. G. Ireland ...	E.C.O.
Major	I. P. Thomson, M.C.	Regular	Lieut.	J. D. Bennett ...	E.C.O.
Major	E. A. W. Lockyer ...	Regular	2/Lieut.	A. C. Cross ...	E.C.O.
Capt. & Adj.	M. A. Lowry ...	Regular	2/Lieut.	R. W. Offwood ...	E.C.O.
Capt.	J. B. C. Palmer ...	Regular	2/Lieut.	D. P. Brooks ...	E.C.O.
Capt. (Q.M.)	S. W. J. Sharpe ...	Regular	2/Lieut.	G. R. Miles ...	E.C.O.
Capt.	H. A. Blake ...	Reg. S.S.	2/Lieut.	J. S. Dyson ...	E.C.O.
Capt.	N. I. H. Nielson ...	20th D.V.			
Capt.	D. L. Fennall ...	Reg. S.S.			
Capt.	D. W. Kirby ...	50th D.V.			

Python in Sept., 1947

Python in Sept., 1947

Capt.	A. J. Parkes ...	Regular
Capt.	P. N. Gould ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	C. Finch ...	Reg. S.S.
Lieut.	P. C. Arnold ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	H. T. Sebire ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	H. W. V. Thomas ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	D. H. Small ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	E. J. Norfield ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	D. G. Turner ...	E.C.O.
Lieut.	J. W. Gardiner ...	E.C.O.

Rank.	Name.	Engagement or A. and S. Group
R.S.M.	Kemp, J. ...	Regular, (22 years)
A./R.Q.M.S.	Motten, W. ...	Regular (22 years)
A./C.S.M.	Bohm, F. ...	Regular (5 and 7)
A./C.S.M.	Smith, E. ...	6c.
A./C.S.M.	Struthers, R. ...	Regular (7 and 5)
C./Sergt.	Cover, J. ...	Group 59
C./Sergt.	King, T. ...	Group 60
A./C./Sergt.	Forman, K. ...	20th D.V.
A./C./Sergt.	Chalcroft, A. ...	Regular (22 years)
A./C./Sergt.	O'Loughlin, E. ...	4, S.S.
Sergt.	Clark, M. ...	Regular
Sergt.	Norman, J. ...	4, S.S.
Sergt.	Ellis, L. ...	3, S.S.
Sergt.	Tilbury, F. ...	Group 59
Sergt.	Turpin, J. ...	Group 62
Sergt.	Stanbridge, A. ...	Group 68
Sergt.	Watt, K. ...	Group 62

Rev. W. G. Peck, C.F. ... Reg. S.S.

Lieut. W. G. Miln (R.A.M.C.) Reg. S.S.

## ON LEAVE AND COURSES, U.K.

Major A. R. C. Mott ... Regular

Capt. N. R. Ford ... Emergency

## E.R.E.

Major W. D. Griffiths, D.S.O., Regular

Capt. D. C. Snowden ... Regular

Rank.	Name.	Engagement or A. and S. Group
Sergt.	Lucas, A. ...	Group 61.
Sergt.	Richardson, K. ...	Group 61
Sergt.	Page, G. ...	Group 59
Sergt.	Buxton, J. ...	Group 63
Sergt.	Fetterol, F. ...	Group 62
Sergt.	Shearman, A. ...	Group 61
A./Sergt.	Davis, J. ...	Group 60
A./Sergt.	Lambert, J. ...	Group 62
A./Sergt.	Hinton, R. ...	Group 61
A./Sergt.	Fry, G. ...	4, S.S.
A./Sergt.	Elliot, T. ...	Regular (7 and 5)
A./Sergt.	Smith, H. ...	Group 62
A./Sergt.	Fry, A. ...	Group 61
A./Sergt.	Ingram, J. ...	Group 59
A./Sergt.	Dowland, F. ...	3, S.S.
A./Sergt.	Taylor, B. ...	Group 69
A./Sergt.	Brewer, A. ...	3, S.S.
A./Sergt.	Evans, F. ...	4, S.S.
A./Sergt.	Winfield, K. ...	Group 72
A./Sergt.	Geeves, W. ...	3, S.S.



1st BATTALION OFFICERS, JULY, 1947

Back Row.—Lieut. S. F. Butler; Lieut. D. H. Small; Lieut. H. T. Sebire; Lieut. D. G. Turner; Lieut. J. D. Berrett; 2/Lieut. R. W. Affwood; 2/Lieut. A. C. Cross; Lieut. J. W. Gardiner; Lieut. H. J. Popper.

Middle Row.—Lieut. W. G. Miln, R.A.M.C.; Lieut. C. Finch; Lieut. E. J. Norfield; Capt. H. A. Blake; Capt. P. N. Gould; Capt. A. J. Parkes; Lieut. D. G. Ireland; 2/Lieut. D. P. Brooks; Rev. W. G. Peck, C.F.

Front Row.—Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharpe; Capt. J. B. C. Palmer; Major C. F. Cole; Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.; Lieut.-Col. D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O.; Major M. A. Lowry; Major I. P. Thomson, M.C.; Capt. D. C. Snowden; Capt. D. W. Kirby.



THE SERGEANTS' MESS WITH A VIEW OF THE BARRACKS IN REAR





1st BATTALION CORPORALS, JULY, 1947

Back.—L./Cpl. Sturgess.

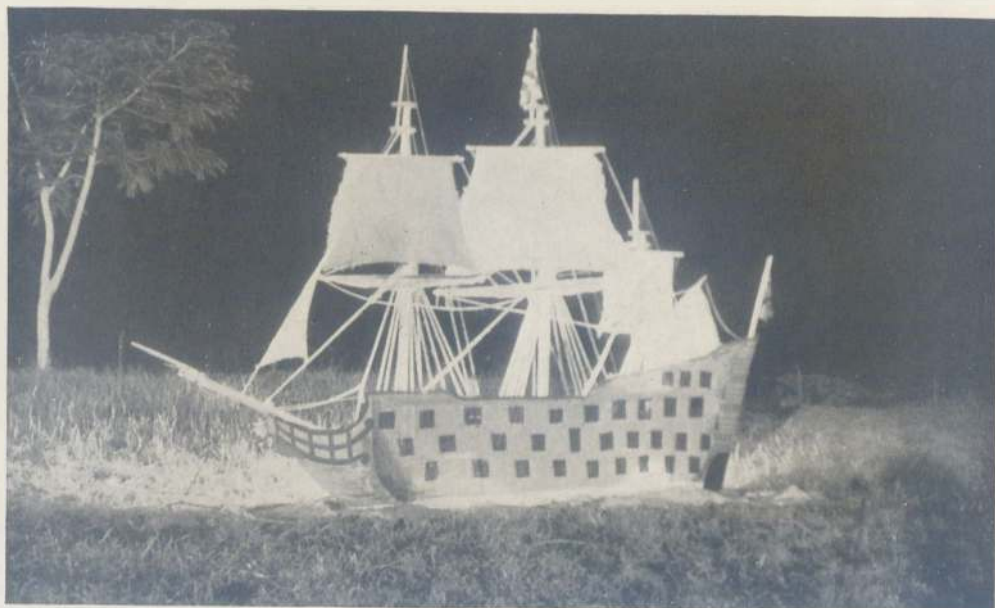
Fourth Row.—L./Cpl. Stanton; L./Cpl. Labbett; L./Cpl. Giles; L./Cpl. Baker; L./Cpl. Bloor; L./Cpl. Chart; L./Cpl. David; L./Cpl. Price; L./Cpl. Tamplin; L./Cpl. Jackson; L./Cpl. Sylvester; L./Cpl. Forsey; L./Cpl. Watson; L./Cpl. Hotsou; L./Cpl. Fox; L./Cpl. Marks; L./Cpl. Loughlin.

Third Row.—L./Cpl. Fletcher; L./Cpl. Turner; L./Cpl. Loud; Cpl. Cheesewright; Cpl. Maybe; Cpl. Brewer; Cpl. Jimson; Cpl. Harris; Cpl. Daniels; L./Cpl. Ellicott; L./Cpl. Clare; Cpl. Ritchie; L./Cpl. Marks; L./Cpl. Gale; L./Cpl. Fielding; L./Cpl. Day; L./Cpl. Lloyd; L./Cpl. Giovanni.

Second Row.—Cpl. Howe; Cpl. Taylor; Cpl. Foster; Cpl. Lancaster; Cpl. Hobbs; Cpl. Jones; Cpl. Hawkes; Cpl. Walden; Cpl. Peach; Cpl. Feldman; Cpl. Fairry; Cpl. Redwood; Cpl. Savage; Cpl. Beazleigh; Cpl. Trickett; Cpl. Ellwood; Cpl. Moss; L./Cpl. Stannard.

First Row.—Cpl. Riley; Cpl. Parr; Cpl. Carter; Cpl. Fenton; Cpl. Dunn; Cpl. Blythe; Cpl. Selves; Cpl. Winfield; Cpl. Hampson; Commanding Officer; Cpl. Geeves; Adjutant; Cpl. Cowden; Cpl. Dyer; Cpl. Healy; Cpl. Oliver; Cpl. Parsons; Cpl. Morgan; Cpl. Greenway; Cpl. Neil; Cpl. Wright.

Seated.—L./Cpl. Sharland; Cpl. Acteson; L./Cpl. Wilton; L./Cpl. Boseley; L./Cpl. Andrews; Cpl. Hall; Cpl. Boud; L./Cpl. Bennett; L./Cpl. Logan; Cpl. Martin.



THE MODEL OF H.M.S. "QUEEN CHARLOTTE" LIT UP

[To face page 5]

## FIRST OF JUNE

Since the 1st June was a Sunday, the various celebrations and sporting and social events were held on Friday and Saturday, 30th and 31st May. They comprised a two-day cricket match versus the Royal Navy, a football match versus the Royal Navy, a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, a Sergeants' Mess party and an All Ranks' Dance.

As far as was possible, Royal Naval Gunnery personnel from the various ships and shore establishments were included in the various teams and all such were invited to the several social events.

A very creditable model of the *Queen Charlotte* was built and set up in front of the Officers' Mess. The Battalion pioneers constructed her from drawings made by Comdr. (S.) K. Derwent, R.N., who himself rigged her.

## W.Os.' AND SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Since the last notes were published the Mess has moved to its rightful home in the barracks. Members were glad to leave the old building, although it has served its purpose more or less. Everyone is now settled down in the new building, and once again it is business and pleasure as usual.

Many of the members have now gone home on demobilization. Amongst these are the ex-Provost Sergeant Rigby and Sergt. Turner—the only members of the Mess to play for the Battalion football eleven—C.Q.M.S. North, a drinking member, and C.S.M. Puddephat of Yorkshire.

Hockey has figured prominently and several games have been played and won against the Navy, represented by H.M.S. *Simbang*.

The "Glorious First of June" celebrations were a great success in the Battalion, especially in the Sergeants' Mess. The Navy joined us in the evening and a good time was had by all.

The Colour Party for the presentation of the 1st Battalion's new Colours consisted of C.S.M. F. Bohm, C./Sergt. Cover and Sergt. Elliott.

Many more members have arrived and a hearty welcome is extended to them.

The monthly dances are increasing in popularity and are continuing until further notice.

In conclusion, members of the W.Os.' and Sergeants' Mess, 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, now stationed in Singapore, Malaya, extend best wishes for the future to all members of all W.Os.' and Sergeants' Messes throughout the Regiment.

## SERGEANTS' MESS SPORTS NOTES

From the Mess point of view, hockey has been the main activity in the world of sport. We are very proud of the fact that, up to the time of going to press, the team has been undefeated. We have been most fortunate in being able to field practically the same team for each match.

We deeply regret that very soon our team will be losing one of its stalwarts, C.S.M. Bolton, also the umpire, R.Q.M.S. Wickens, who is now quite an expert with the whistle, although many questionable and caustic remarks have been directed at him by various types whilst play was in progress. We have made some life-long friends from H.M.S. *Simbang*, having spent some very enjoyable and sober evenings in their company—hence the reason for the team being quite partial to the traditional daily tot.

Results up to the present are:—

H.M.S. <i>Simbang</i>	...	...	1	v.	Sergeants' Mess	...	...	2
"	"	...	0	v.	"	"	...	1
"	"	...	2	v.	"	"	...	9
"	"	...	0	v.	"	"	...	4
"	"	...	0	v.	"	"	...	4
Battalion Other Ranks	...	1	v.	"	"	...	...	1
"	"	...	1	v.	"	"	...	2
19th Air Fmn. Signals	...	1	v.	"	"	...	...	3

Played, 10; won, 9; lost, 0; drawn, 1.



Although hockey has been the main sport, we did try our hand at cricket on 4th August, with H.M.S. *Simbang* as our opponents. A fine example of bowling by C.S.M. Motton, S.S.I. Osborne and Sergt. Dowland dismissed the Navy with a total of 81 all out.

Our hopes of victory sank, however, when our first three wickets fell for one run. When S.S.I. Osborne took up his bat we had a grand total of 25 for 5. Both he and C.S.M. Motton made a terrific rally, and we declared with a 105 for 6, thus adding another feather to the proverbial cap.

Mess Sports Team : R.S.M. Kemp, R.S.M. Grey, C.S.M. Bolton, C.S.M. Motton, C.S.M. Struthers, C./Sergt. Chalcraft, S.S.I. Osborne, Sergt. Turpin, Sergt. Styam, Sergt. Lucas, Sergt. Winfield.

# THE FINAL TROOPING OF THE OLD COLOURS AND PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS TO 1ST BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT, 10TH JULY, 1947.

## OFFICERS ON DUTY

<i>Commanding Officer</i>	...	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O.
<i>Senior Major</i>	...	...	...	Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.
<i>Adjutant</i>	...	...	...	Major M. A. Lowry.
<i>No. 1 Guard—</i>				
<i>Commander</i>	...	...	...	Major I. P. Thomson, M.C.
<i>Subaltern</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. D. G. Ireland.
<i>Officer carrying the King's Colour</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. D. W. Kirby.
<i>Officer carrying the Regimental Colour</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. P. N. Gould.
<i>No. 2 Guard Commander</i>	...	...	...	Captain D. C. Snowden.
<i>No. 3 Guard Commander</i>	...	...	...	Captain J. B. C. Palmer.
<i>No. 4 Guard Commander</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. D. H. Small.
<i>No. 5 Guard Commander</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. H. T. Sebire.
<i>No. 6 Guard Commander</i>	...	...	...	Lieut. D. G. Turner.
<i>Officer in charge of Troops keeping the Ground</i>	...	...	...	Captain H. A. Blake.
<i>Regimental Sergeant-Major</i>	...	...	...	J. W. Kemp.
<i>The Band of the 2nd Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment—Bandmaster, B. B. White.</i>				

The New Colours were presented to the Battalion by the Officer Administering the Government of Singapore, the Hon. Mr. P. A. B. McKerron, C.M.G., in the unavoidable absence through sickness of H.E. The Governor-General of the Malayan Union, the Hon. Mr. Malcolm Macdonald.

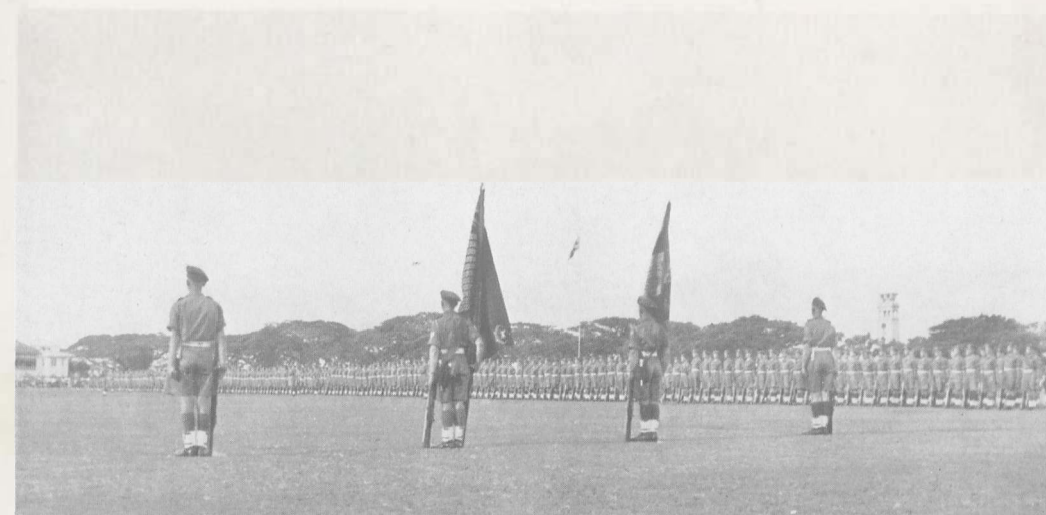
The dedication of the New Colours was carried out by the Assistant Chaplain-General, S.E.A.L.F., Rev. J. W. J. Steele, C.B.E., C.F., assisted by the Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General, Rev. D. C. Henderson, C.F., and the Padre of the Battalion, Rev. W. G. Peck, C.F.

The parade took place on the Padang, an attractive field of short-mown grass, flanked at each end by Cricket Club buildings and backed by the grand architecture of the Municipal Buildings of Singapore. The V.I.Ps. and invited guests sat in front of the Municipal Buildings and on its steps, looking out across the Padang towards the Cenotaph and beyond it to the Harbour. The saluting base was on the opposite side of the road to, and in the centre of, the Municipal Buildings; it was built on the pavement which runs along the north side of the Padang. The inspection line for the parade was marked out facing the Municipal Buildings and about sixty yards from it.

At 4.30 p.m. the keepers of the ground arrived and lined the three sides of the Padang roped off for the parade, while two sentries took up position, together with four Regimental policemen on either side of the saluting base.

Five minutes later the Old Colours, carried by C.S.M. Bohm and C./Sergt. Cover, arrived and took up position on the left of the inspection line, with two sentries to guard them. Here they were uncased.

Punctually at 4.45 p.m. the Battalion, marching in fours and led by the Band, advanced on

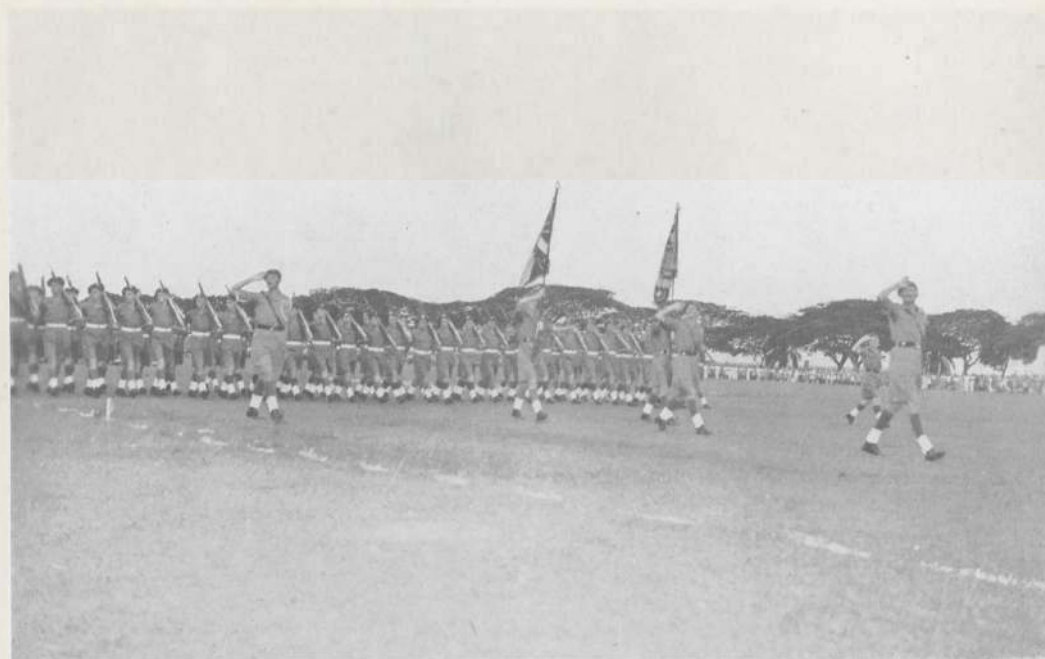
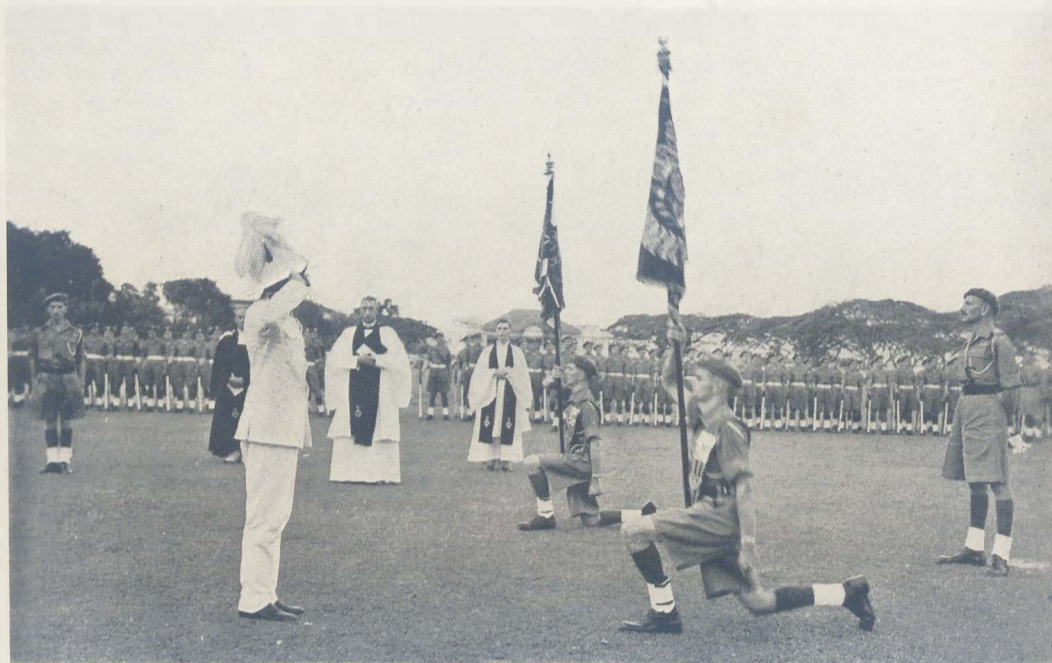


## PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS TO THE 1st BATTALION

*Above :* A general view of the Parade from the left flank.

*Below :* The Old Colours, having detached themselves from their escort (now marking time in the rear) and just before being cased.





Above: The Presentation completed as the Colour Officers rise.

Below: The March Past in quick time with the New Colours leading the Battalion.

to the Padang from the direction of the Cenotaph, wheeled on to the inspection line, halted, "advanced left turn" and surprised spectators by forming "two deep"—a manoeuvre some had never seen, while others had almost forgotten!

Following the fixing of bayonets, at 4.54 p.m. the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Neil Ritchie, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., arrived and was greeted by a General Salute. Six minutes later, at the stroke of five o'clock, the Officer Administering the Government of Singapore arrived and was given a Royal Salute. He was accompanied by Lord Killearn, Special Commissioner for South-East Asia, who took his seat on the saluting base in company with the Commander-in-Chief, the Flag Officer Malayan Area, Rear-Admiral H. J. Egerton, C.B., the Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal J. D. Breakey, C.B., D.F.C., and the Officiating District Commander, Brigadier H. P. Sparks, C.B.E., M.C.

The O.A.G. then inspected the parade, after which the Commanding Officer received his permission to "troop," and that order was given.

The Band, who had taken up their position on the right front of the inspection line, then slow marched to "Scipio" from right to left, counter-marching near the Old Colours and halting. They then returned in quick time to the "King's Colour" (Barsotti).

A drummer who had fallen out and placed himself three paces to the right of the line, then beat the "Drummer's Call" during which the Captain and Subaltern of the Escort for the Colours (No. 1 Guard) changed over, the Subaltern (Lieut. D. G. Ireland) taking command, the Captain (Major I. P. Thomson, M.C.) falling in next to the Captain of No. 2 Guard.

The Escort for the Colours, with the Band leading, then advanced in line to the "British Grenadiers" to the left of the line, halting twenty paces from the Old Colours. The ceremony of taking over the King's and Regimental Colours was then carried out by R.S.M. Kemp. Each Colour was received with an appropriate salute from the escort for the Colours, while the right and left guides and markers came to the "port" facing outwards. This is a relic of the old days when the Sergeants were armed with a halberd (or short pike) with a cutting blade, and the "port" is the first movement in pike drill for coming down from the shoulder for attack or defence.

Following this, the Old Colours were trooped for the last time in their one hundred years of life, the Battalion standing at the "present." The Band played "Land of Hope and Glory."

After the troop the Captain of the Escort to the Colours resumed command and the Old Colours were marched in slow time from the right to left of the line with their escort in line behind them followed by the Band playing "Auld Lang Syne," while the Battalion stood at the "present." After a "Left Form," the escort halted, and the Old Colours were finally cased, never to appear again on parade with the Battalion uncased.

The Battalion then formed three sides of a square, a drumhead was made by the drummers of the Band, and the New Colours were brought forward, uncased and semi-unfurled by the two senior Majors before being placed against the drumhead.

The Assistant Chaplain-General, who had taken up his position behind the drumhead with his two chaplains in rear, then began the service for the consecration of the Colours after the Commanding Officer had said, "Reverend sir, on behalf of the Regiment we ask you to bid God's blessing on these Colours." The Assistant Chaplain-General replied, "We are ready so to do." The service is made up of prayers and responses which were well replied to by all on parade.

At the conclusion of the service, the O.A.G., who had been standing in front of the drumhead, was handed the new King's Colour by the Senior Major, which he then presented to the Subaltern of the Colours (Lieut. D. W. Kirby), who received it kneeling on his right knee. The next senior Major (Major I. P. Thomson, M.C.) then handed the O.A.G. the new Regimental Colour, and he in turn presented it to the second Subaltern of the Colours (Lieut. P. N. Gould). Both Subalterns then rose.

The O.A.G. then addressed the Battalion, finishing up with these words: "Today will rightly be a historic day for the Regiment, all the more historic as it is exactly one hundred years ago to the very day since your old Colours, which we have just seen going into honourable retirement, were presented to you on the 10th July, 1847. On behalf of His Majesty the King I have had the proud honour today of presenting you with your New Colours. These Colours in their turn become the symbol and centre of loyalty to you who today guard the great traditions of the



Regiment and to the future officers and men of the Queen's who will carry on these great traditions, which are part of the yet greater traditions and the living history of our country. All of us will remember today's ceremony and all that it means. To take part in it with you has for me been a particularly moving experience, as I have myself served in a line regiment. *God bless you all, and long live the Queen's!*"

The Commanding Officer made a short address in reply in which, on behalf of the Battalion and Regiment, he accepted the New Colours as a "trust," "which we, with every constant endeavour, shall strive to uphold for our King and country."

Three resounding cheers were then given for the O.A.G., after which the Battalion re-formed line and the drumhead was removed. The New Colours were then officially received by the Battalion with a General Salute, which was immediately followed by the National Anthem, while the Colour officers slow marched to their positions in the centre of the line.

The Battalion then formed up in close column of guards and marched past the O.A.G. to "Braganza." The New Colours led the Battalion, and the Old Colours (cased) came past in rear in the supernumerary rank of the last (No. 6) guard.

The Battalion then re-formed on the inspection line and did a most impressive "Advance in Review Order," followed by a Royal Salute to the O.A.G.

The Commanding Officer obtained the O.A.G.'s permission to march off, and handed over to the Second-in-Command (Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.), who marched the Battalion off in "column of route" (in fours), each guard giving an "Eyes Right" as it passed the O.A.G.

That was the end of the parade, which took place in perfect weather conditions; it was an arduous performance, lasting one and a half hours. The organization for the ground, spectators and traffic for the parade had worked extremely smoothly, thanks to the untiring energies of Major C. F. Cole and his various assistants, both military police and civil.

That night morale in the Battalion was as high as it is ever likely to reach in peace-time soldiering. Few events, except battle, could have produced such a magnificent team spirit.

The following telegrams were received:

"Best wishes to all ranks on occasion of Presentation of Colours tomorrow.—GENERAL GIFFARD."

"Congratulations on hundredth birthday, 10th July, 1847, your glorious Colours.—COLONEL CLARKE."

"Congratulations and best wishes all ranks, 2nd Battalion."

"Every success with ceremony, Trooping Colour, 100th anniversary. Best wishes from all ranks at Stoughton."

"Congratulations and best wishes, 100th anniversary of Colours.—MEMBERS OF OFFICERS' CLUB."

"The Officiating Commander, Singapore District, extends his heartiest congratulations to all ranks of 1st Queen's upon their very fine performance at the ceremony of Presentation of New Colours yesterday. The Queen's have again, by their precision and smartness, upheld the best traditions of the Regiment and the British Army."

"To General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O. In unfortunate absence of Governor-General I had yesterday great honour and very moving experience of presenting New Colours to 1st Battalion of your Regiment at most impressive parade splendidly organized and commanded by Gibbs and faultlessly executed by the Battalion.—MCKERRON."

"From all ranks Queen's and Seaforth's aboard (the s.s. *Johanne van Olden Barneveldt*, going home), best wishes.—O.C. TROOPS."

"Congratulations from all ranks 1st Bn. Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on Presentation of New Colours."

The following are also extracts from letters to the Commanding Officer:—

From the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Neil Ritchie, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.:—

"I must write you a note of congratulations on yesterday's parade. It was excellent, and reflects the greatest credit on you, your officers and all other ranks of your Battalion. Further, I am convinced that it made a profound impression on the very large crowds of civilian spectators who witnessed the ceremony."

From the Special Commissioner, South-East Asia, Lord Killearn:—

"May I congratulate you on the parade this evening? It was magnificent, and impressed all present. Perfect drill, and perfect turnout. But I remember how smart the Battalion was when it furnished our guard at the Legation in Peking, now many years ago. It was a fine sight seeing them once more (I imagine all a younger generation?) drawn up on the Padang—smart and soldierlike as always. And what good looking troops they were."

From the Officiating Commander, Singapore District, Brigadier H. P. Sparks, C.B.E., M.C.:—

"I want you to know that I was very impressed by the excellence of your Presentation of Colours parade yesterday, 10th July, and all the arrangements that you made in connection therewith. The drill and turnout of your Battalion was of a very high order and the steadiness of all ranks on this long parade was very marked. I want to congratulate you and all ranks on the very high standard which was shown on that parade. It is a great credit to you and one of which your Regiment may well be proud."

From Lieut.-Colonel P. U. Campbell, D.S.O., G.S.O.1 Singapore District:—

"Congratulations to you personally for your own achievement yesterday, and to your Battalion on their steadiness. That was quite excellent."

From the Secretary of the Singapore Cricket Club, who very kindly allowed us to use their playing fields on the Padang for the parade:—

"That your parade was a great success was the unanimous verdict of members here; one of the best seen in Singapore for many a year."

From S.P. A. R. Anderson, O.C. "A" Division of Singapore Police:—

"May I congratulate you on the extremely fine parade."

## THE TRAINING CAMP

Nestling amidst the uniformity of an erstwhile rubber plantation somewhere in the north-west corner of Singapore Island, is a small tented camp which, to the curious traveller who has suffered the ordeal of a thirty-mile drive from Battalion H.Q. over roads seeming to have but the one idea of dissolving once again into the countryside from which they were claimed, denotes the end of his pursuit of the Training Camp.

Here it is that Companies find themselves stationed for periods of two weeks at a time with the formidable task of trying to instil into a soldier—whose main role, for many months, has been only to act as member of a ceremonial guard—the rudiments of that most important aspect of a soldier's training, preparation for battle. By no means is the course easy, involving, as it does, dashing up and down hills with the accoutrements of a modern infantryman, trying to find an R.V. with only a compass bearing and miles of mangrove swamp ahead—in fact, all the training required to bring out of the stock pot a trained section. Spartan existence though it may be, it is a very pleasant break from the dull monotony of guarding anything and everything from steam-rollers to V.I.Ps.

Once the summit of a hill has been gained and the landscape unfolded, it is very difficult to plunge into the mundanity of map-reading and to reconcile a few conventional signs with the brilliant shades and contrasts of colour and formations of hills which are apparent even to the non-æsthetic. The thrill of heights seems to bring a peace and trust which are foreign to the everyday process of life.

When the day's training is finished there is ample opportunity for sport of one kind or another, from kicking a football around to swimming at a point on the coast not very far from the leave camp. Several people who have started their swimming career with a few floundering strokes, now find that they are numbered among the stronger swimmers and find enjoyment from a very primitive form of water polo. Certainly there is no more satisfying feeling than to plunge into fairly cool water after a day of beating through the bush.

For those people who find that they have sufficient enthusiasm left to enjoy an evening in Singapore, transport leaves the camp in time to take them to a picture show or the bright lights of a cabaret. Those who wish a more staid life have an opportunity of a mobile cinema show three times a week, once in the camp itself and twice at an R.A.F. station a short distance away.



But, in the majority of cases, sleep is the main pursuit and mingling with the croaks and grunts from gallivanting bullfrogs come the snores from a tired but happy Company.

### LEAVE CAMP

Situated on the west coast of the island at Tanjong Pasir Laba is the Battalion Leave Camp, where a week in peaceful surroundings can be spent.

Originally the camp was a coastal battery position, but the emplacements and magazines were blown up when the Japanese invaded. The billets were left more or less intact, and these are now used for individuals on leave.

The locals who live near by firmly believe that the place is haunted, and that the late Battery Commander, who was killed at his post, stalks the ramparts at night.

The amenities in the camp are mainly for those who wish to relax. There is a good canteen, nicely furnished by the W.V.S., and equipped with a wireless set, table-tennis and dart-board. Beer, tinned fruit, fresh fruit, chocolate and cigarettes can be had for the asking.

There is a quiet room, with a gramophone, library and numerous games.

The living quarters are at the top of a cliff overlooking the Johore Straits. Steps lead down to the beach where canoes and a boat are kept and those on leave can swim.

### CRICKET

The cricket season out here lasts from February to September, but like all other games it is played as much out of season all the year round as during the actual season. As it normally happens that a good player at one game is also good at another, the result out here is that the gladiator finds himself playing for the Battalion on three consecutive days of the week, each one in a different game! For this reason more than any other, the Battalion cricket team suffered in the earlier part of the season; it also suffered due to "Liap".

The team is now much stronger due to the arrival of Major I. P. Thomson, M.C. He has taken over the running of the game and is a useful bat. Capt. J. B. C. Palmer is also a useful bat, and occasionally bowls as sixth change. Capt. M. A. Lowry is a good wicketkeeper and a bat; Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharpe a most powerful bat; S.S.I. Osborne, A.P.T.C., a keen bowler; Pte. Pedgrift a good spin bowler and L./Cpl. Twitchen is also a good bowler.

Of the old members of the team, Capt. N. L. Ford is in the United Kingdom on a course; Lieut. J. Stevens and Lieut. P. C. Arnold have just come back. C.S.M. Bolton, Ptes. Shepherd, Tomlinson and Saunders have been playing consistently for the Battalion.

The Battalion lost two good players in Sergt. Rigby and Sergt. Turner, who went home on release; they were also star players of the Battalion football team. We also lost a good opening batsman in Sergt. Critoph.

On Friday, 30th, and Saturday, 31st May, we played the customary "First of June" cricket match against the Royal Navy, represented by a team from H.M.S. *Simbang* combined with the 16th Carrier Air Group from H.M.S. *Glory*. The combination was too strong for us altogether and, combined with the rain, which made it a batsman's wicket, they made a total in batting first which we were quite unable to reach in two innings.

Since then we played G.H.Q. Signal Regiment on 7th June, who beat us by 25 runs. On 8th June we beat Singapore District by 74 runs, mainly due to a magnificent innings of 57 by Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp. On 15th June the Singapore Chinese Recreation Club beat us by 32 runs. On 29th June A.M.D.G.W. (R.A.F.) beat us by 96 runs in spite of a good innings of 49 by Lieut. D. Stevens, who has since left us. On 6th July G.H.Q., S.E.A.L.F., who have the Rev. J. W. J. Steele (C.F., 1st Class), a late Hampshire and Army player, in their team, very easily defeated us. On 13th July the Ceylonese Cricket Club made us field most of a very hot day while they scored 249, and then got us all out for 90, 54 of which were scored by Major I. P. Thomson, M.C., in a brilliant innings. On 20th July we beat Singapore District by 111 runs, when Major Thomson again scored 49. The last match was on 8th August against G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, when rain stopped play just as we were looking like avenging a previous defeat!



THE TRAINING CAMP



THE LEAVE CAMP



## FOOTBALL

Owing to the late arrival in this station the Battalion were unable to enter any Inter-Service Leagues. Consequently, all matches played have been friendly. From the outset the Battalion enjoyed success after success, but recently suffered several reverses—not surprising, of course, when five of the outstanding players were lost through the recent speed-up in demobilization. The trouble is now to find a team which can be kept as such and not broken up—a difficult task to say the least.

In the games mentioned above the Battalion team met the best of opposition in teams such as the Royal Navy XI, civilian sides, and the Scaforth Highlanders, who walked away with the Singapore Services League championship.

Towards the end of the season the Queen's combined with the Seaforths to form the Infantry XI in the Parker Cup—a team not easily reckoned with. It consisted of six players from the Seaforths and the remainder from the Battalion. Three games were played before finally entering into the final, winning each match with comparative ease. Football was of the highest standard throughout, and it was mentioned by the local sports critics that the combined infantry XI was the best Service team in Malaya. In the final of the cup the infantry met Embarkation H.Q., whom they trounced by 5 goals to nil.

Sergts. Rigby and Turner have been our outstanding players since the Battalion started playing in Bangkok, and it has been through their excellent performances and leadership that the Battalion team has done so well. Their absence in the team is felt in no little way. However, two very good players still remain in Cpls. Acteson and Howe.

A welcome is extended to Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharpe who joined us recently. He was a member of the team during the Battalion's stay in China many years ago.

Matches played by the Battalion : Played, 20 ; won, 12 ; lost, 6 ; drawn, 2.

## HOCKEY

New arrivals have much improved the Battalion team, the training of which has been taken over by Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., whose presence and skill as a member of the side have livened it up enormously, and it has now begun to win matches.

The other new arrivals are Major I. P. Thomson, M.C., who plays back, a place which is also hotly contested by Lieut. D. H. Small, who has just returned from "Liap"; Capt. J. B. C. Palmer, who is a very useful left wing, while Capt. M. A. Lowry plays on the right wing ; Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp is proving a very steady forward ; S.S.I. Osborne (A.P.T.C.), a useful player who plays at forward or half ; Pte. Pedgrift, an experienced inside-right, and plays a good hard game ; Pte. Baddley is proving a most useful goalkeeper. Of the old players, R.S.M. Kemp, C.S.M. Bolton, L./Cpl. Holley and Pte. Waterman play hard games at half-back, while the Commanding Officer is the soundest back and one of the steadiest players in the team.

Owing to the arrival of such a lot of talent, several old members of the team have descended to the 2nd XI. Those who deserve particular mention for their part in building up the team are Pte. Cochrane and L./Cpl. Sharland.

Of the matches we have played, we have lost just over 50 per cent, but that was earlier in the year. The 7th/1st Punjab defeated us twice, but more recently we have defeated them, when admittedly most of their officers were away ! H.M.S. *Belfast* beat us twice in March and May ; they had two Navy players in their team. We beat H.M.S. *Terror* (the Naval Base) in July and H.M.S. *Simbang* (the Naval Air Station). We also defeated 4th Special Wireless Regiment and G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, but were beaten in August by 1st Indian Field Survey Regiment, who fielded nine Sikhs ! The game against the latter was an excellent one. Finally, just before going to press we defeated the full 7th/1st Punjab team 3—2 in a very hard game.

The hockey season proper opens in October and with an improvement in our goal-scoring technique, we hope to do well in any local competitions.



## ATHLETICS

On joining the Battalion, S.S.I. Osborne (A.P.T.C.) went to work with Lieut. D. G. Ireland (Battalion Athletics Officer) to produce an athletic team for the Singapore District Inter-Services Annual Sports Meeting. All credit is given for the manner in which S.S.I. Osborne brought the spirit of training to these "young athletes," at a time when the period of training was very difficult. The training period for producing a team fell at the same time as the Battalion were engaged in extra regimental duties and those unforgettable rehearsals for the changing of the Colours. But due to S.S.I. Osborne's encouragement and coaching a team was produced.

Highlights in the events were the tug-of-war team, which did very well. In the semi-finals they pulled the 1st Seaforths off their feet in two straight pulls. Then, in the finals, they just missed winning against the 1st/7th Punjab. The team consisted of Capt. P. N. Gould, R.S.M. J. W. Kemp, C.S.M. G. Struthers, S.S.I. Osborne, Sergt. Norman, Sergt. Ingram, Sergt. Turpin and Pte. Coasby, and was coached admirably by C.S.M. Motton.

Other highlights which we did well in and showed form were all more or less in the preliminary events. Both Cpl. Howe and Cpl. Walden won the 100 Yards preliminary events in excellent time, and only just missed winning the finals in a very close finish.

R.S.M. Kemp won his heat in the 880 Yards. It was a glorious race, and he finished in fine style, clocking a time of 2 min. 15 sec. (which was quicker than the finals time), but owing to strenuous work in the tug-of-war he just missed finishing in the first three of the final event.

In the 220 Yards preliminary, Lieut. T. D. Bennett won his heat, clocking a time of 24 sec., but owing to bad positioning came in a very close fourth in the final.

The names of all the Battalion's athletic representatives have not been mentioned, but credit goes to all of them that entered into events at the meeting. Taking it all round, the Battalion showed good form, considering the time in which they had to prepare and train as a team.

One of the secrets of athletics is to have representatives in each event in which they specialize. That means more athletes are required in the future.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

As announced elsewhere, Lieut.-Colonel Hugh Merriman has resigned command of the 5th Battalion on account of ill-health. He has our sympathy, and we wish him an early and complete recovery.

Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy has been appointed to command in his place.

Lieut.-Colonel Paul Adams has resigned command of 622 (Queen's) H.A.A. Regt., R.A. (formerly 7th Battalion) for business reasons.

Major-General J. Y. Whitfield vacates command of the 50th Division in January on appointment as Chief of Staff, Northern Command.

We congratulate Brigadier R. E. Pickering on his C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. He is now a King's Messenger and spends most of his time in the air on the way to and from the various capitals.

News has been at last received from the Queen's Rangers, our allied Canadian Regiment. So far this news has been only a very generous offer of a Christmas parcel from their Sergeants' Mess, but we hope more general news will follow.

Lieut.-Colonel N. A. Keith has been appointed Commanding Officer of the 5th Bn. The West Yorkshire Regiment.

We congratulate the following:—

Lieut.-Colonel Michael Forrester and Miss Fisher, Major R. P. Mangles and J./Comdr. Peggy Tenne, Major Hartland Mahon and Miss Poole, on their engagements.

Capt. D. F. Stevens and Miss Campbell, Mr. (ex-Sergt.) W. E. Parker and Miss Acton, Mr. (ex-Sergt.) E. R. Bullen and Miss Gittings, on their marriages.

Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. John Metcalfe, on the birth of a daughter, and Major and Mrs. R. H. Philpot, on another son.

Lieut.-Colonel N. A. Willis has retired, and he and Mrs. Willis have opened a bookshop at Broad Street, Ludlow.

"A History of the 2nd/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1939-1945," written by Capt. P. N. Tregoning, M.C., with a foreword by Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., has been received. It is extremely well written, and provides most interesting reading for everyone connected with the Regiment. It is printed and published by Messrs. Gale & Polden Ltd., Wellington Press, Aldershot, and a few copies can still be obtained from them.

The following ex-officers of the 2nd/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, and their lady guests, met for a dinner dance at Oddenino's Hotel in London, on Saturday, 4th October:—

B. Barnett.  
P. C. Black.  
T. G. Blumson.  
J. W. Common.  
F. G. Cardwell.  
D. R. Edwards.  
P. B. Etheridge.  
C. R. Elverson.  
J. H. Green.  
H. J. Hales.  
L. W. Harding.  
J. B. Kealey.

D. C. Langford.  
R. P. Mangles.  
T. P. O'Connell.  
N. O. Quinn.  
K. A. Randall.  
G. P. Stevens.  
A. H. Sunner.  
G. Sayers.  
W. G. Stuart-Menteth.  
H. W. Vipord.  
W. A. Williams.  
R. H. White.  
G. E. West.

The next reunion will be held in the Brasserie of the Piccadilly Hotel on Saturday, 6th March, 1948. This will be an "after dinner" meeting, to which lady guests are not being invited. It is hoped to hold another dinner-dance in October, 1948.

Mr. C. J. Cundall, R.A., the artist of the regimental Salerno picture, writes from Salerno that he is very satisfied, and thinks the picture should be a success.

Mr. Arthur Brooks (late Private, The Queen's) was presented, by H.M. The King on 29th July, with the George Cross in lieu of the Empire Gallantry Medal awarded him for great gallantry in rescue operations during the Quetta earthquake.

A. R. Thorburn (late 2nd Battalion) writes from Dover Heights, Australia: "We do appreciate receiving the JOURNAL . . . If it does happen that any officers of the Queen's come to visit Australia, I should be very pleased if they would look me up, either at the above address or at the Imperial Service Club, Sydney."



The painting of the regimental Colour Party, presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey to the town of Guildford, was on show at Guildford House during August. It is a fine picture, and was much admired. It now hangs in the Guildhall.

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The following officers are known to be serving on the Staff or with the Control Commission in Germany: Lieut.-Colonel C. D. H. Parsons (Frankfurt), Major F. J. Jebens, Major W. S. Hooker (Kiel), Capt. R. N. Caton (Hanover).

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Major A. Lavender (late 1st/5th and 2nd/6th Battalions) has been appointed secretary of the Stoughton British Legion.

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Ex-R.S.M. George Burt has retired from the Dorset Police, after thirty-three years, with the rank of inspector.

\* \* \* \*

It may interest old Drummers to know that No. 6088329 Cpl. H. Warren (formerly Boy English) is now serving with No. 2 P.T.C. He returned with the following boxing achievements to his credit:—

- 1943 ... Bantam Weight Championship, Middle East Forces, 1943.
- 1945 ... Bantam Weight Championship, British Forces in Greece.  
Represented British Army versus U.S. Army.
- 1946 ... Bantam Weight Championship of South-Western Area, Southern Command  
and Southern Zone.
- 1947 ... Bantam Weight Championship, Army Professional, Southern Command.

\* \* \* \*

Bill Coldman is now licensee of "The Half Moon," Farncombe, on the main road to the South Coast. A hearty welcome awaits any serving or ex-service member of the Regiment.

\* \* \* \*

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED *re* IDENTIFICATION, UNKNOWN DECEASED SOLDIER

The body of an unknown British soldier was found buried in a field in Italy, Sheet No. 109, MR859805. Indications are that the body is probably that of one of the members of the 169th Infantry Brigade, which was fighting in the area at the beginning of September, 1944. The fact that a Queen's badge was found on the deceased's clothing points to the possibility of his being a member of one of the Queen's battalions in that Brigade. A compass, map case and some T.M.C. ammunition were discovered with the body, and it is assumed that the deceased may have been a Platoon Sergeant. Any information which may lead to identification would be welcomed by the Secretary, Old Comrades Association, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

## 2ND BATTALION

Commanding Officer	...	...	...	Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E.
Second-in-Command	...	...	...	Major L. S. Sheldon.
Adjutant	...	...	...	Captain F. J. Hancocks.
Quartermaster	...	...	...	Captain 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	...	...	...	Captain R. D. T. Fletsher.
O.C. "S" Company	...	...	...	Captain K. R. Thompson.

OVER five months have now been spent by the Battalion in B.A.O.R., the date of our departure from United Kingdom being the 10th May. During this period we have dug ourselves in solidly, and the barracks allotted to us in Camp 10, Dortmund—which were at first extremely disheartening by reason of their dirty and dishevelled appearance—have quickly turned into a most tidy and comfortable abode. Fine gardens have been made out of a wilderness. Especially remarkable was the completion of the Officers' Mess. After a period of two months apparent inactivity it suddenly sprang up overnight, and it has proved to be much better than was expected—indeed, it is the best officers' accommodation the Battalion has enjoyed for a long time.

Within a couple of weeks of our arrival in Dortmund the Battalion was split up by the despatch of "D" Company to Herzberg, to become a lumberjack company on Operation "Woodpecker." Reports from there show that, although there is little or no parade ground soldiering, life is physically tougher and more exacting than in the Battalion, but this is compensated by a wider scope of enjoyments and entertainments.

In June the Battalion (less "D" Company) moved west to Vogelsang to carry out three weeks' training under canvas. Starting at individual and section level, training progressed rapidly with each unit getting accustomed to working together. The "form" was soon learnt, with the result that each company culminated with a "wet" company attack exercise in co-operation with tanks and artillery. After a poor first week the weather favoured our somewhat Spartan life, and the heat wave recurred.

Vogelsang, on the Belgian border, has a history. Built in 1934, as a Nazi Political University, it contains a magnificent sports stadium, swimming pool, gymnasium and open-air auditorium built on Grecian lines for the gratification of Adolf Hitler and his ilk.

It is said that the Ardennes battle raged over the vicinity, and to very good effect, for little remains to assist even the most imaginative in their attempts to reconstruct the days of the Herrenvolk!

Apart from the foregoing, the training areas were excellent and we expect to be back there at the end of this September.

On its return from Vogelsang, the Battalion had a short respite from hard training for the remainder of July, although there was a steady drain of officers from company duties for such extra-regimental forms of employment as Operations "Check-up" and "Minesweeper."

The Divisional Rifle Meeting, which took place at Haltern, lasted from the 10th to 14th August. Over half the Battalion was engaged in the preparation and administration of the competitors' camp and the ranges for the first two weeks of August.

Besides being congratulated by the Divisional Commander for its excellent range work and for its organization of the camp, the Battalion also distinguished itself in the shooting by being the only infantry unit to win a match—the Unit Rifle and L.M.G. Match. The team in this event was captained by Major L. S. Sheldon, and L./Cpl. Dean, of "S" Company, achieved the highest score of the match, thus winning a medal and a money prize. The Battalion's officers' revolver team won third place in the Officers' Revolver Match.

September has proved to be a hectic month with three inspections by V.I.Ps.—the G.O.C., the Colonel of the Regiment, and the C.I.G.S.



Friday, 5th September, was the date of the inspection of the Battalion by the Divisional Commander, General P. M. Balfour, C.B., C.B.E., M.C. The day passed swiftly and successfully in a series of company inspections broken at midday by the Divisional Commander visiting "S" and H.Q. Companies at lunch and attending a buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess. The final results were most satisfactory, particular points for commendation being the standard of individual turnout, the cleanliness of "B" Company block, the general tidiness of the Battalion lines, gardens and the condition of the M.T.

This was swiftly followed by the fourth anniversary of Salerno, which was celebrated by a union of Queen's men, both past and present, who are serving in B.A.O.R. To mark the occasion the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., came out from England to stay with the Battalion for three days. On the morning of the 9th September a ceremonial parade was held on the Battalion parade ground. General Giffard first inspected the Battalion drawn up in line, then took the salute at the march past. At the conclusion of the parade, group photographs of the Corporals', Sergeants' and Officers' Messes were taken, followed by a buffet luncheon in the Officers' Mess at which the G.O.C. 2nd Infantry Division, General Balfour, and other senior officers of the Division were invited to meet General Giffard. In the afternoon each company entered five teams for an inter-Company Pentathlon—football, hockey, shinty, volley ball and soft ball. General Giffard presented prizes to the winning teams. The day's activities were concluded by a Regimental dinner.

It was a real pleasure to meet the several members of the Regiment who were able to come over for the reunion, and it is hoped that next year many more will have noted the date and so be free to attend. Major F. J. Jebens, M.C., now holding a legal appointment in the C.C.G., was our most senior guest. With him came Lieut.-Colonel Freeland, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel Swayne, Major Lenan, M.C., Major Camm, Capt. Roache, Lieut. Grauberg and Major Favelle.

On the 19th September "A" and "B" Companies of the Battalion received a lightning inspection by the C.I.G.S. during a divisional scheme near Hilden. The results were satisfactory in every way. There was one amusing incident worth recording. The current anecdote in the Mess is that the Field-Marshal remarked to a certain rifle company commander that he was sure he had seen him somewhere before, to which came the answer, "No, sir, I was in Africa." "Oh," replied the C.I.G.S. with a smile, "I was there, too, for a short while."

All these inspections were most successful, and the Battalion seems to be due for a short spell away from the limelight for the next couple of months. Nevertheless, it will soon return there as it is becoming one of the first battalions in B.A.O.R. to start training National Service men. The first drafts are expected here from P.T.C. in November, and thenceforth we may gradually change from a service battalion to a static training centre.

A final mention must be made of those officers who have left us on release or posting. In recent months a sad reduction has been made in the once serried ranks of the "old stagers" of India Command days. Indeed, within a couple of months there will have been a complete turn over of subalterns, and reminiscences in the Mess of Poona and the delights of Bombay will be few and far between. The following have left the Army on release to try their hand in civilian life, where we wish them the very best of luck: Capts. Cowling, Flaxman, Ramsden and Priest, and Lieuts. Barton, Dring and Strangeway. We congratulate Lieut. P. Sweet on getting his regular commission, and regret very much that he cannot remain with the Regiment.

Major-General F. M. Balfour, Commanding 2nd British Infantry Division, reported as follows on the Battalion after his administrative inspection:—

"I thought that the Battalion was extremely well organized, and I was very pleased with all I saw. I congratulate the Battalion on the progress it is making to achieve the high standard always set in the Regiment.

"P. M. BALFOUR, *Major-General,*  
*"Commander 2nd British Infantry Division."*

2nd BATTALION—SALERNO DAY



THE OFFICERS

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT WITH THE WARRANT OFFICERS  
AND SERGEANTS





THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT WITH THE CORPORALS' MESS



THE VISITORS



[To face page 17]

## SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

The Battalion's travels have ended—at least, temporarily—and the Sergeants have settled down in a comfortable Mess in Dortmund, Germany. It is a comfortable Mess, too, with a light, airy dining-room, a lounge that breathes tasteful design as well as cosiness, and spacious living quarters. What more could be desired? The regimental silver, so deservedly cherished by the members? Well, that, too, has arrived from Aldershot, and now occupies a prominent place.

Our appreciation of this comfort was increased by three weeks under canvas in June. This short period of field training at Vogelsang was rigorous and interesting, but we were glad when it came to an end.

Since the last issue of the JOURNAL we have welcomed some new members. "Am I depressed?" Deacon was recently promoted, and Sergts. Kingsland, Aukett and Westover have joined the Battalion. On the other hand, many members have left on "demob," outstanding examples being C.S.M. Hunt (Schnurbart), O.R.Q.M.S. "Smudge" Smith, and Sergts. Parker, Jenner and Sykes.

Sports grounds are limited, but we have managed a few games of hockey versus the 40th Field Regiment, R.A., 53rd Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., the Officers' Mess and the Corporals' Mess, the honours being fairly even. Our one game of football, against the Corporals' Mess, was lost by a small margin. A new pitch, however, is being constructed, so future prospects are good, lack of practise being the only fault in otherwise good teams.

We were able to extend a hearty welcome to Sergt. Saxby and Sergt. Freeman and C./Sergt. Davis at the reunion on Salerno Day, though we were disappointed at not having a larger number of guests, and especially at not hearing a well-known singer render "Begin the Beguine."

From the past to the future, and in that direction we look for more sport, more entertainment, and an increasingly pleasant time all round.

## A TRIP DOWN THE RHINE

By SERGT. D. BORMAN, 2ND BATTALION

OUR first glimpse of the river, as we embarked at Cologne, was of grey, smooth-flowing waters, flanked by the gaping shells of bombed buildings and twisted girders, all overshadowed by the twin spires of Cologne Cathedral, which rises scarred, but otherwise undamaged, from the wreckage of what was once the "Pride of the Rhine."

The s.s. *Bismarck*, her trim, white painted hull and canopies contrasting strangely with the grim background, lay at anchor at the point of embarkation, like a water-lily flowering in a stagnant pool. Although a familiar sight on the Rhine, to the Englishman's eyes the paddle-propelled steam boat has a rather old world appearance. Indeed, one almost imagined that at any moment Mr. Paul Robeson would appear on one of the companion-ways and give voice to "Old Man River"! We trooped down the jetty and were guided on to the boat and up to the decks by the ship's staff and, with surprisingly little fuss, were soon gliding smoothly downstream, our adventure started.

From our seats on the observation decks we could see the endless stream of traffic passing to and fro across Patton Bridge, named after that famous gentleman of the U.S. Army.

All the adjacent bridges are a weird tangle of distorted girders dropping at fantastic angles into the water, and as we nosed slowly down the river the same story repeated itself again and again—both banks strewn with rubble and empty shells of what were once houses and factories. However, once around the first acute bend in the river at Porz, the destruction faded into slight shell damage here and there, and the industrial skyline into a more rural landscape, hills being visible in the near distance on either bank.

Here the efficiency of pre-war German transport systems caught the eye, there being road,



and railway, running parallel with the river. Indeed, this system prevailed throughout the length of the river, the rail-track being about fifty feet above the road level.

Many types of vessels were now constantly passing us, and the flags of the British, American, and French zones were prominent. The Rhinebarge is unorthodox, inasmuch as the helmsman operates the rudder by means of a huge horizontally-mounted wheel of about 12 feet in diameter, housed in a large wheel-house on the bridge. Many craft of the Nederland Mercantile Marine were in evidence, their trim appearance and bright paintwork a credit to the country, which has always maintained a very high standard of canal and river craft.

Reaching the Sieg Estuary, almost opposite the town of Bonn, it could easily be visualized why the Sieg Valley is famed for the fishing and shooting amenities which it affords, as lush meadows and wooded slopes flank the river as far as the eye can see.

Upon approaching Bonn, the tremendous amount of bomb and shell damage was visible, especially to the University buildings. Here, too, the bridge is almost completely demolished, and navigation is a tricky problem over the partly submerged wrecks of barges and landing craft. The currents in the river are noticeably stronger here, the whirling cross-currents carrying smaller craft well off course at times.

Passing Bonn, the spires of the town of Godersberg came into view, and right down on the waterfront the Hotel Dressen held our interest, as it was here that Mr. Neville Chamberlain and Hitler held their conversations during those dark days of the 1938 crisis. In the background, towering above the shattered roof-tops of Godersberg, stands Die Rüngsdorf Hotel, majestic even in its ruins, where Mr. Chamberlain resided during the talks.

Almost opposite, on the west bank, the town of Drachenberg and its neighbouring village, Honnef, is dwarfed by the Seven Mountains, looking most inspiring against the skyline, with the palace-like Petersberg Hotel, and many ancient castles dotted about their summits. Although the day was a dull one, it was a photographer's paradise, and many cameras were in evidence as we steamed slowly past this vast panorama of beauty.

On the lower slopes luxuriant grape vines and cherry orchards can be seen, and it is astonishing how these almost perpendicular slopes have been tilled and planted almost with military precision, lines of trees and vines climbing from the foot almost to the peak of the mountains. Workers could be seen amidst the vines, toiling up the difficult paths to tend their produce.

By now it was mid-afternoon, and we had partaken of our first meal on board, not losing one moment of the passing scene, as the windows of the dining saloon were specially constructed so as to provide the maximum all-round view whilst dining.

Passing the Nonnenwerf Island, looking very green and fertile in midstream, the barriers denoting the French Zone could be discerned, whilst on the opposite bank an American Army H.Q. could be seen, and so on to Remagen, where the United States Army made their memorable crossing of the Rhine in March, 1945, just before the bridge collapsed. Grim reminders of the ensuing battles can be seen by the hulks of landing craft and burnt-out vehicles, which litter the west bank of the river. Of the bridge itself little remains, except the broken spans rearing up out of the swirling depths.

Both east and west banks now claimed our attention for the next few miles, for picturesque old castles tower above the river from every mountain top, amongst them the mighty ruins of the Hammerstein, a schloesse wherein Emperor Henry IV took refuge in A.D. 1105.

Past here the river encloses many small islands, one of which is the Niederwerth, larger than Heligoland, and very fertile. Just around the bend of the river, past Niederwerth, we came in sight of Coblenz, or Koblenz, which was partly destroyed by two fierce air-raids at the end of 1944, but which still contains some good examples of old German architecture in its churches and universities.

Koblenz is famous for the old Roman Moselle bridge, which is two thousand years old, and only one span of which was destroyed during the war. On the opposite banks the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein rears skywards to a height of 400 feet above river level, and the architecture and design are plainly French, for it was here that the Franks were in occupation as far back as 1486. History has indeed repeated itself here.

By now evening was upon us, and we were informed that we would be stopping the night at

Braubach, on the west bank, where a tented camp had been set up. We were all glad of the opportunity to stretch our legs ashore, and the trip had given us all terrific appetites, which we proceeded to appease in no uncertain manner. Having refreshed ourselves, we set off to explore the village and surrounding district, which was a part of the French Zone. The more energetic members of the party climbed the mountain-side to see the picturesque ruins of Marksburg Castle, which is now in the tender hands of the Society for the Preservation of German Castles, having its main turrets shrouded in scaffolding. We wended our way back to camp as darkness fell, but not before we had sampled a few bottles of Rhenish wine, vintage 1940!

The following morning we re-embarked, by now feeling seasoned river-voyagers, and set off once more up-river in the direction of Boppard, a town on the bend of the river. It is most beautifully situated at a point where six separate valleys converge, a spa and a great holiday playground of days gone by.

And so, on round yet another bend, past the "Hostile Brothers," reputed to be the most romantic spot of all the Rhine—huge ivy-clad ruins rearing up out of tall poplars.

Here is the land of German myth and fantasy, ancient legends tell of the Maidens of the Lorelei, whose charms were irresistible to any man who dared to roam that way. The Lorelei itself is a great cliff of Basalt Rock, its sheer sides dropping to the river's very edge.

Passing Die Pfalz, an eleventh century castle, and Oberwesel, on the west and east banks respectively, we steamed slowly on to Bingen, past romantic-looking villages, set like jewels in the emerald of the wooded hills and dales, and we knew that at Bingen we must turn and go back whence we came, as time was closing in on us. Although we had passed through the same places only a day previously, our interest was maintained, as the ceaseless changing of the river traffic was always a source of comment and discussion. Three French motor torpedo-boats, cutting through the water at a fine speed, enlivened the morning's tea break, as we sped on, now travelling "full-steam ahead" for Cologne.

I found it a trip which I could undertake time and again and still find fresh interests. The 2nd Division Army Welfare are to be heartily congratulated upon their thoroughness and organization—a most memorable and gratifying experience.

## THE SITTANG BEND BATTLE

**A**FTER the triumphant drive of IV Corps down the Mandalay-Toungoo-Pegu road to Rangoon, many elements of the Japanese Army were trapped in the Pegu Yomas, that spine of jungle-covered hills lying between the Prome and Pegu roads. Elements of 19th, 20th and 17th Indian Infantry Divisions were to destroy these and in addition the 33rd Indian Infantry Brigade of 7th Indian Division were detailed to push across the River Sittang to neutralize a possible Jap offensive from the untouched bases of Mokpalin and Sittang (site of the famous bridge battle in the 1942 campaign). In this Brigade were the 1st Queen's. It was thought that the Japs would attempt by this push to relieve their forces in the Pegu Yomas.

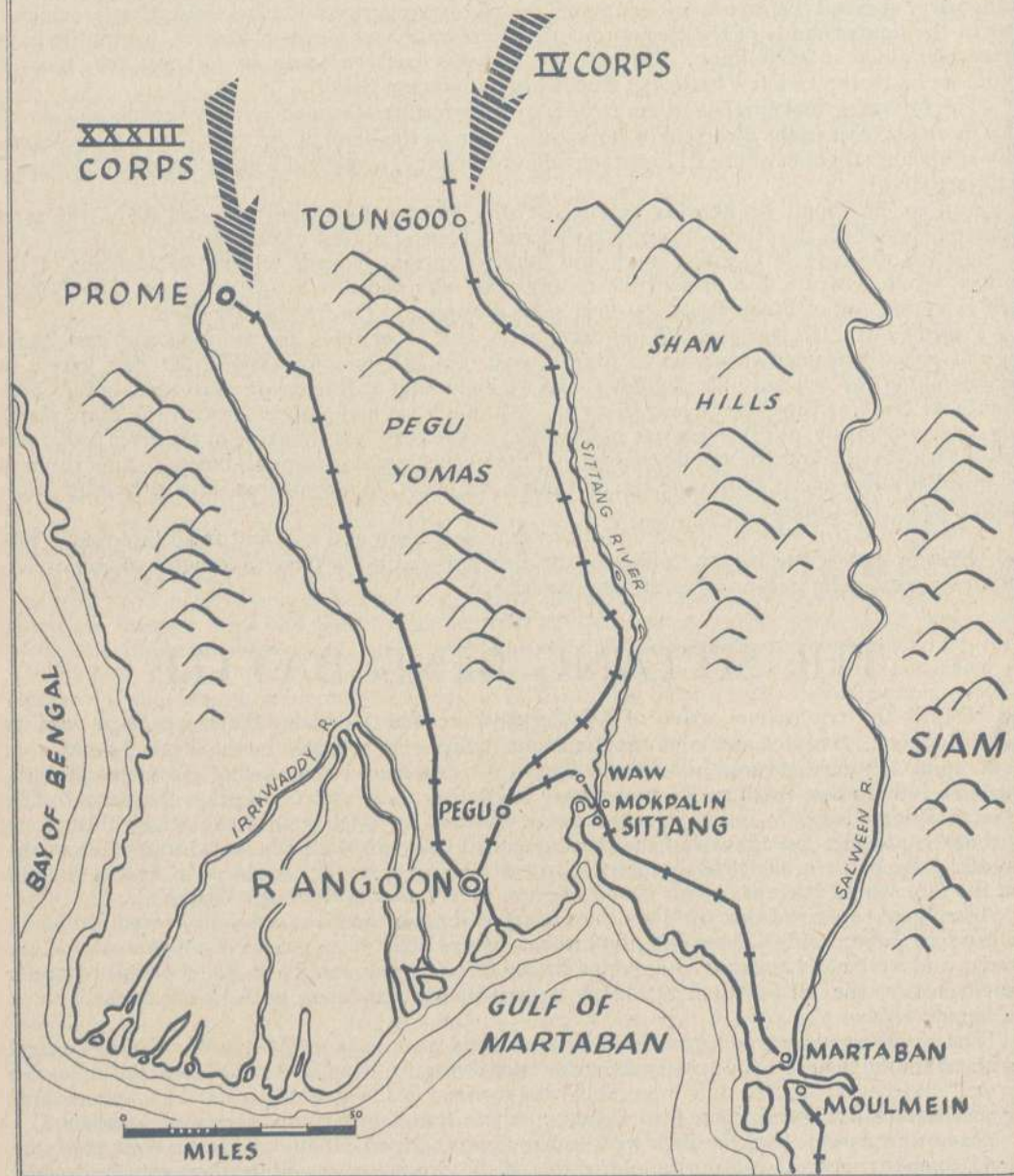
Intelligence received that the Japs were to try and cross the river was indeed well founded; for early in June, 1945, a battalion of Gurkhas moved into Nyangkashé, a village east of the Sittang, and were hotly engaged by superior enemy forces and surrounded. Relief of this battalion was effected by the 1st Battalion 11th Sikh Regiment, and our forces pulled back to the west of the Sittang river.

The 33rd Brigade moved forward and by the second week in June the 1st Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment found themselves opposite the celebrated "Sittang Bend." At this time the monsoon was well under way, and the only motorable road forward in the area was from Waw, where 33rd Brigade headquarters was situated, to Payabyo, where Battalion headquarters was established.

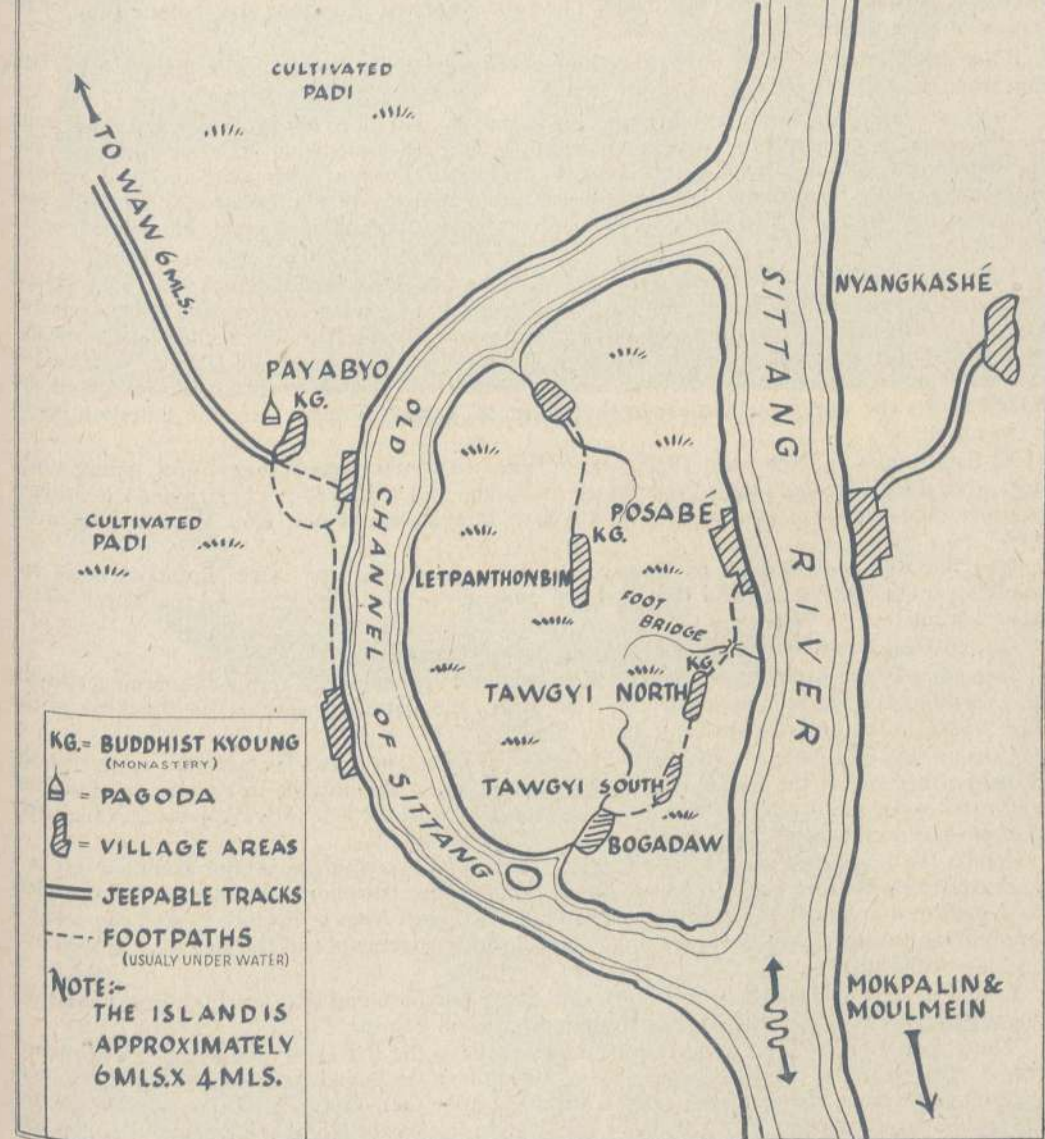
One company defended Payabyo with a platoon on the track junction with the Waw road; the second company was situated on the old course of the Sittang river. Since there was no system of supplying the water-logged island which lay between the Battalion and the Japs, it was decided to dominate it by patrols. Hence a patrol base was established on the island at Letpanthonbin village and patrols worked forward from there.



# LOWER BURMA



## SKETCH MAP OF SITTANG BEND AREA (NOT TO SCALE).





The island is flat and devoid of all standing vegetation. At the time, the only parts not knee deep in water were the actual villages which are situated on slightly higher ground. No paths or tracks were visible in the mud and flood water. Patrols moved at a speed of one and a half miles per hour by day and half a mile per hour by night, and were exhausted by even this rate. The whole area was infested with buffalo leeches, which always penetrated the men's clothing and caused great loss of blood. Most men smoked on the march or carried calico bags of salt as an antidote to these leeches. The average time out per patrol was three days. The average time back at Payabyo between patrols was five days. The patrols carried all rations and ammunition for the duration of their patrol.

Thus the Battalion toiled on in conditions that were truly hellish. Mail and a scant beer ration were the sole relaxations.

Once an intrepid photographer came up as far as Battalion headquarters and took some specially-posed photographs of patrols splashing around in padi-fields about a hundred yards from Battalion headquarters. Later, copies of *Illustrated London News* were received showing men coming ashore from native craft on a Jap-infested island. On the background could be seen a company sign stating "B" Company were in residence. This caused much amusement and a little bitterness.

However, on 27th July, it was arranged that the Battalion would attack and hold Posabe village until relieved by 4th/15th Punjab Regiment. Leaving a platoon, plus advance parties of the 4th/15th in Letpanthonbin village commanded by the Battalion Second-in-Command, Major Halliday, the remainder of the Battalion, under Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Terry, embarked in native craft and paddled down the old Sittang channel to Bogadaw village, disembarked and plodded across the watery wilderness to the village of Tawgyi South. Here the Battalion lay up for the night.

At 0100 hours on 28th July, 1945, the advance to contact was resumed and, acting under orders from 33rd Brigade, jittered the village of Posabe and withdrew. The original intention to capture Posabe had been modified. The 4th/15th Punjabs could not, after all, cross on to the island.

The Battalion pulled back to Tawgyi and were "brewing up" when dramatic news was received over the "48" sets. The Japs also had crossed the island and invested the patrol base at Letpanthonbin.

Our platoon was hemmed in and suffered heavy casualties.

Immediately the Battalion moved to the rescue, and the long slow approach march across the island via Bogadaw was commenced. By 1300 hours the Battalion were on the outskirts of the village when the leading platoon came under fire.

Contact was established with Major Halliday over the "48" set. He gave the news that the Japs held either end of the village and he was hanging on in the middle, in his original positions. He also told us of the death of a Punjab major who was with the 4th/15th Punjabs advance party and of several members of the Battalion.

Whilst the leading element of the Battalion provided covering fire, Major Halliday put in a platoon attack on the Jap position which was holding up the Battalion's advance. This, complete with 2-inch mortar fire, was absolutely as per the book, and from a distance looked more like a training demonstration than the real thing. It was utterly successful and the Battalion moved into the village without delay.

Letpanthonbin is a long narrow village, and at the northern end of it is a Buddhist Monastery (Pongyi Kyaung), and it was there that the Japs were well dug in.

There were signs of great activity within the village as the Battalion took over from the weary garrison. The wounded were evacuated to the waiting boats at Bogadaw, and as R. and O. Groups moved into operation, the men set to with a will to prepare their first meal of the day. In this, the scant rations were supplemented by tins of I.T. compo left by the Punjabi elements. Peaches and condensed milk were the order of the day.

The plan evolved by the Commanding Officer was an intense bombardment by 25-pounders of 136th Field Regiment, R.A., from across the river behind Payabo, followed up by a frontal



1st BATTALION PATROLS IN BURMA, 1945

[Crown Copyright]



[Crown Copyright]

THESE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE PROBABLY SOME OF THOSE TAKEN BY THE "INTREPID" PHOTOGRAPHER REFERRED TO IN THE ARTICLE. BUT THEY GIVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE COUNTRY AND CONDITIONS.

[To face page 22]



bullet and bayonet attack. Owing to the narrowness of the village, no other tactics were permissible.

At 1600 hours the gunners went into action with a terrific cannonade. This was directed by an air observation post of an L5 aircraft, but nevertheless one of our platoons was hotted up a bit also, with disastrous effect. Subsequent events proved that the bombardment had been equally effective with the Japs.

At 1630 hours the attack went in at a walking pace on a two-company front. Bullets and bayonets it was too. On the left the company commanded by Major Mullins, on the right the company under Major Caesar's command. Many Japs were found in their usual positions, up trees and on the roof tops.

Dusk fell to find that the sole remaining pocket of resistance was an M.M.G. in the far north-east corner of the village. The company engaging this was greatly hampered by the lack of ammunition. Major Mullins at this point showed magnificent disregard, which earned him his M.C. He constantly exposed himself to draw fire and replied by hurling grenade after grenade into the enemy area, but to no avail, I.M.Gs. were needed but there was no ammunition.

The Commanding Officer decided to withdraw to a more tenable position and finish the Japs with a dawn attack. Word was not passed forward soon enough.

Major Mullins, Sergt. Everett, Sergt. Walker, Pte. Skinner and a platoon commander found themselves alone before the Jap M.M.G. with twenty rounds between them. Major Mullins appreciated the situation and decided to hold on all night rather than leave his advanced position.

As darkness came down, so the mosquitoes came up, until the air was thick with them and a constant hum filled the air.

At about 2000 hours the Japs pulled out, taking with them their wounded and the M.M.G. Ten of the precious twenty rounds were expended in farewells.

Five men settled down to a wet and weary vigil.

About an hour later a voice came from the gloom enquiring whether there were any Queen's about. The owner of the voice rattled off his name and number and implored that no shots be fired. As an afterthought he added the names of the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and the Adjutant. The platoon commander crawled forward to investigate, and released his bonds (his puttees)—he was a member of the Pioneer Platoon of the Battalion, who had been captured and beaten by the Japanese. Everyone considered him very lucky to be alive, since it was a well-known habit of the Japs to behead prisoners. The pioneer had been guarding the packs of the Letpanthon-bin platoon when captured. He, too, had been injured in the 25-pounder barrage.

And so the night was passed, each in turn trying in vain to snatch some sleep despite the mosquitoes. Then at first light the six men passed back into the arms of the Battalion, who were lined up for the assault, bringing with them the good news that no attack would be necessary.

After burying its thirty-odd dead, the Battalion moved back into Brigade reserve at Waw, arriving there on 28th July.

On the 29th came the unexpected treat of an E.N.S.A. show with real English girls. 'Troubles forgotten, leech bites and jungle sores disregarded, the Battalion stamped and applauded. The sick parade that morning had been two hundred strong.

Two weeks later, whilst still at Waw, the war ended.

As was stated earlier, Major Mullins earned an immediate M.C. in this action, Sergts. Everett and Walker, M.Ms.



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

ONE way and another our social activities throughout a fine summer have been pretty full. To some extent one might say that entertainment has, in some measure, resembled pre-war days, though the bogey of Austerity is always with us. This year it was our turn to entertain H.M.S. *Excellent*, and this we did to the best of our ability. June 1st fell on a Sunday; we therefore utilized the 30th and 31st May for our celebrations.

On the afternoon of 30th May our Naval guests arrived consisting of Captain P. V. McLaughlin D.S.O., and 15 officers, 50 C.P.Os. and P.Os. and 25 W.R.N.S. Cricket commenced at 2.45 p.m. in the most gorgeous weather, the match being concluded the following day; a more detailed account of the game is given elsewhere. In the evening an All Ranks' Dance took place in the Gymnasium. This was very well attended—in fact, there was hardly standing room.

The following morning the cricket was carried on on a scorching hot day. In the afternoon we were very pleased to welcome to tea some of the naval officers' wives, together with many other regimental guests. In the evening both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes entertained our guests in the usual way. In the case of the Officers' Mess, a special marquee had been pitched on the tennis courts to cater for the large number dining. Our efforts, we hope, were in keeping with bygone years and once again our mutual friendship was well cemented.

Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (captain of Regimental Cricket team) made a speech of welcome, to which the captain of *Excellent*, Captain P. V. McLaughlin, D.S.O., R.N., replied. As midnight chimed our glasses were lifted in commemoration of the battle which had brought about such happy associations.

On the 6th June representatives of all ranks visited Whale Island to witness the annual competition for the Brickwood Cup. To some this was their first visit, and certainly everyone had a most enjoyable day.

On the 17th July we were visited by twenty-one Foreign Attachés, who were conducted round the P.T.C., watching the training and studying our methods. A suitable lunch, with the Band in attendance, made a pleasant break in their visit.

On the 19th July a Regimental Officers' Reunion Party took place, details of which appear elsewhere; this equally applies to the All Ranks' Reunion and Church Parade which took place the following day. Three of our Chelsea Pensioners who attended the Reunion stayed on with us as our guests for a few days. They were Sergt. Gallagher, Ptes. Mole and Stacey. We hope they had a pleasant stay; they certainly appeared reluctant to leave us!

On the 1st October an "At Home" at Barracks was arranged, the object being to show the general public how the young soldier at the P.T.C. lives and trains. Training during the afternoon was carried out as per programme, while conducted tours under N.C.O. guides visited barrack rooms, institutes, cookhouse, dining hall, Regimental Museum, also watching training. During the afternoon the Band played, and later took part in a ceremonial Guard Mounting parade, which was carried out by the fourth-week-of-training men. A census of attendance showed that over six hundred people had passed through the Barrack gates. This was certainly encouraging for those of the Permanent Staff who had taken endless pains to make the "At Home" a success.

On the 20th September we were very sorry to say goodbye to Major C. A. Norton, whose association with both the I.T.C. and P.T.C. was considerable. We all wish him the very best of luck. The Training Company has now been taken over by Major C. J. D. Haswell, who has recently been serving on the Staff in East Africa.

The arrival of the Old 1st Battalion Colours, which took place on 15th October, has been reported separately. On the same evening an "At Home" was given in the Officers' Mess in honour of the arrival of the Old Colours. These were placed in the Colour racks and were, of course, the centre of much interest. General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., the Mayor, and Deputy Mayor, together with several other retired and serving officers living in the locality, were present. On the same evening an All Ranks' Dance was given to mark the occasion and further to entertain the escorts from H.M.S. *Excellent* and Shorncliffe. There was a very full attendance.

The following successes were gained in athletic and sporting events during the period under review:—

C.S.M.I. J. McLoughlin (A.P.T.C.). In Instructors' Weapon Competition, A.P.T.C.: Foil, 1st; Sabre, 1st; Epée, 2nd. In the Army Individual Championship: Epée, 2nd. Invitation Open Relay team event at 47th Coast Training Regt., R.A., Athletic Meeting. Winners, No. 2 P.T.C. Team: Lieut. J. D. Palmer, Sergt. P. Smith, Cpl. G. Ford, Pte. M. Chitty.

Diving Competition, Guildford Youth Organization. Winner: Cpl. E. Wharf. Lieut. B. P. Elverson represented Home Counties District and Eastern Command in the High Jump at the Army Athletic Meeting.

### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

We were unable last month to include a note about Sergt. Feeney, who obtained "Distinguished" at the Small Arms School, Hythe. On this splendid result the Army Commander sent his congratulations and to these, of course, we add ours. "Well done, Paddy!"

Another member of the Mess who distinguished himself is C.S.M.I. McLoughlin, who obtained second place in the Army Fencing Championships at Epée and fifth in the Inter-Services Championships. We do not know whether it's the Guildford air that has that uplifting effect on our P.T. chief, but we offer our heartiest congratulations, and from all accounts the latter of these championships consisted of about 8,000 competitors. Keep it up, Mac.

About the middle of March we accepted a challenge from the Corporals' Mess, and actually managed to turn out a reasonable soccer eleven. We were defeated, but not disgraced, the result being 6—2. We had a couple of injuries in the opening stages of the game. Sergt. Wright had to retire after five minutes' play, and Sergt. Ebers, although he received an ankle injury, carried on to the end. Needless to say that he was hobbling about for days after with an ankle twice its normal size.

On the 17th April we had a darts match and social evening with members of the "Wooden Bridge," and we managed to scrape home with the most points. We also beat them at darts for the "gallon," so naturally with most pints also!

We have welcomed many members to the Mess since the publication of our last notes, and here they are: R.S.M. Spence, from the Boys' Technical Training School, who came to take up the appointment of R.S.M. of the 5th (T.A.) Battalion; Sergts. Johnson, Stewart, Ford, Phillips, Bashford and Telling. Many members, too, have departed for civilian life, and we wish them every success. These were C.S.Ms. Howland and Jacques, Sergts. Heathcote, Landsdown, Collinge, Eden, Potter and Sharpe. Sergt. Wright left to take up a job with the T.A. at Bromley, and Sergts. Aukett, Bishop and Kingsland have left for the 1st Battalion via Home Counties Brigade Training Centre. We wish them every success in their new surroundings.

We were very sorry to lose C.S.M. Cronk, who was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, in June for an operation, but are pleased to say that he is doing very well and should soon be fit again.

In passing, of course, we must not forget to offer our very warmest congratulations to C./Sergt. (Nobby) Hall on his promotion to W.O. 2nd Class.

We have not been lacking in entertainment for on the 2nd May we had a very successful dance in the Gymnasium, which included a very good cabaret. On the 13th May we held a social evening at which an invitation was extended to honorary members. This, too, was very enjoyable.

Next came the Glorious First, and as it fell on a Sunday this year, celebrations had to be arranged accordingly, and these started with an All Ranks' Dance on the Friday evening, which included a Cabaret show. The Mess was represented here by Sergt. Last, who very professionally took the role of a Riding Master. Saturday, however, was the real day for jollity and entertainment, when it was our particular job to entertain the C.P.Os., P.Os. and W.R.N.S. of H.M.S. *Excellent*. This entertainment took the form of a social evening, with two bars in full swing, one in a marquee erected outside the Mess and the other, of course, in the Mess. These sailors certainly showed us how to drink.



The 2nd June was also a day of activity, but in quite a different direction. A unit Sports Meeting. Sergt. Smith of the P.T. Staff well represented the Mess and won the 100 Yards, 220 Yards and Javelin. Well done, Sergt. Smith! Sergt. Spencer took second place in the Three Miles.

Before we go any further with these notes, we would like to welcome Bandmaster Start, of the Cameronians, and C.S.M. Vail, who had been away on a job in a prisoner-of-war camp in Derbyshire. The former took over the Band of the 1st Battalion, in succession to Bandmaster Brooks, who left us for civilian life after twenty-nine years' service. We wish him the best of luck and trust that he will settle down in his new surroundings.

A party visited Whale Island, on the invitation of H.M.S. *Excellent*, to watch a Field Gun Display and had a very enjoyable outing from all accounts.

Many members renewed acquaintances with old members at the O.C.A. Annual Dinner at Kennards Restaurant, Croydon.

The Royal Tournament gave us the opportunity of spending an evening out later in June, and a coach was arranged for a party of about thirty-two.

Another social evening was spent entertaining the Womersley Working Men's Club later in June. I think the Mess managed to beat them at all indoor games, which included the final 501 up for the gallon.

July, with its glorious weather, allowed little time for Mess functions, but mid-July—the 15th, to be precise—gave us the opportunity of playing the Officers at cricket. This match ended in a win for us, only by a small margin. On the 24th a coach was arranged to take a party to see the Tommy Trinder show at the Palladium, which I think everyone will agree proved to be good entertainment.

Garden Party, 20th July. Many old Mess members put in an appearance, including three pensioners from Chelsea Hospital—namely, Sergt. Gallagher, Ptes. Hole and Stacey.

September, and we are still getting the sunshine. On the 11th we once again managed a trip to London to see the Sid Field show, "Piccadilly Hayride." About thirty members went by coach. This was a rather disappointing show, as Sid Fields could not appear owing to illness and the show was not as good as everyone expected.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Bandmaster Gaines who took the matrimonial plunge on 13th September.

This month we also welcomed to Guildford an old Mess member, C.S.M. Edwards, who although not actually serving with the P.T.C. or Depot, is very close. He is C.S.M. of the male personnel employed at the A.T.S. Training Centre.

The next big function of the Mess was in the form of a dance held in the Gymnasium on the 10th October.

#### CRICKET, 1947

Although of the twelve matches played during the past season, three only have been won and, of the remainder, eight lost and one drawn, we have enjoyed a good season's cricket.

The rapid changes that take place among the personnel of a Primary Training Centre have, at times, made the raising of an XI difficult. However, the keenness shown by both Permanent Staff and trainees alike has enabled at least one match to be played against a neighbouring unit each week, and made possible the arrangement of inter-Company and other representative games.

#### RESULTS

Versus Guildford Police : Police, 92 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 81. Lost by 11 runs.

G.P.O., Guildford : No. 2 P.T.C., 143 for 6 ; G.P.O., 60. Won by 83 runs.

Corps of Royal Military Police : C.R.M.P., 75 (Capt. Syms 4 for 11) ; No. 2 P.T.C., 49. Lost by 26 runs.

No. 50 P.T.C. : No. 50 P.T.C., 176 for 9 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 34. Lost by 142 runs.

No. 31 P.T.C. : No. 31 P.T.C., 64 (Lowis 6 for 28) ; No. 2 P.T.C., 70. Won by 6 runs.





MEMBERS OF THE CORPORALS' MESS, No. 2 P.T.C.



THE ARRIVAL OF THE 1st BATTALION OLD COLOURS AT STOUGHTON BARRACKS, 15th OCTOBER, 1947

## THE RETURN OF THE OLD 1st BATTALION COLOURS

27

G.P.O., Guildford : No. 2 P.T.C., 106 (Major, 36) ; G.P.O., 157 (Spencer 5 for 45).  
Lost by 51 runs.  
3rd Training Battalion R.E. : 3rd Training Battalion R.E., 176 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 102  
(Major, 42). Lost by 74 runs.  
No. 31 P.T.C. : No. 31 P.T.C., 128 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 129 for 4. Won by 6 wickets.  
6th Bn. The Queen's : No. 2 P.T.C., 155 for 9 dec. (Major, 51) ; 6th Bn. The Queen's,  
159 for 5 (Block dec. at 49). Lost by 5 wickets.  
No. 50 P.T.C. : No. 50 P.T.C., 171 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 71. Lost by 100 runs.  
No. 7 P.T.C. : No. 7 P.T.C., 167 ; No. 2 P.T.C., 90. Lost by 77 runs.  
Godalming Police : No. 2 P.T.C., 189 for 5 dec. ; Police, 156 for 8 ; drawn.

## THE RETURN OF THE OLD 1st BATTALION COLOURS

ON the 15th October the 100-years-old (presented 10th July, 1847) King's and Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion were deposited in the Officers' Mess at Stoughton Barracks at 4.55 p.m. The events leading up to their reception were as follows :—

From the Regiment a party of twenty were authorized to proceed to Devonport to meet and escort the Colours from H.M.S. *Glory* (aircraft carrier), which had conveyed them, together with a 1st Battalion escort party, from Singapore. The party consisted of five files (including a Corporal), one Bugler, one Sergeant, under command of Lieut. P. Whenmouth. With the exception of the Bugler, all ranks came from our personnel at the B.T.C. at Shorncliffe. The remainder made up the reception party consisting, for the most part, of old 1st Battalion members, Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., Major J. W. M. Denton, Major W. Watford, Major P. R. H. Kealy, R.S.M. P. Tasker, C.S.M. C. R. Huskinson and Pte. F. Sheffield. In addition to the above, as was fitting for such an historic occasion, the Regiment was honoured by an equivalent escort from H.M.S. *Excellent* under command of Lieut. A. Power, R.N.

On the 13th October the entire party from Guildford, Portsmouth and Shorncliffe concentrated at Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport, where they were accommodated till the morning of the 15th. Owing to the unavoidable absence of General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., deputized on his behalf.

On the 14th October, at 11.30, escorts from *Excellent* and the Regiment were drawn up facing each other on the jetty of No. 1 Dock. H.M.S. *Glory* was alongside. In addition to the above, a naval guard, found by *Glory*, was stationed on her flight deck. The Colours of the 1st Battalion were carried by Capt. D. W. Kirby (King's Colour) and Capt. H. J. Parkes (Regimental Colour), the escort consisting of C.S.M. G. Bolton, R.Q.M.S. F. Wickens and Pte. H. Howlett, all from the 1st Battalion.

At approximately 11.30 the Colours were disembarked. All escorts came to the slope and the Colours (cased) slow-marched between the ranks of *Excellent* and the Regiment to music rendered by the ship's Royal Marine band, halting at the far end of the jetty. The regimental escort then presented arms to H.M.S. *Excellent* and, in turn, the latter to the Regiment. Escorts then took position either side of the Colours, with *Excellent* leading. The Colours were then marched off to the Naval Barracks headed by the Marine Band. There were a good many spectators on the small jetty. The whole ceremony was most impressive and will remain fresh in the memories of those of the Regiment who had the honour and privilege of being present. Captain W. T. Couchman, D.S.O., R.N., captain of H.M.S. *Glory*, after the conclusion of the ceremony, very kindly entertained the regimental reception party in his cabin.

On the 15th October the Colours, with escorts, arrived at Guildford station at 3.25 p.m. Here they were met by the Regimental Band and a further escort of twenty under command of Major C. J. D. Haswell. Arrangements had previously been made to make use of the privilege bestowed upon us by the Borough of marching through the streets with fixed bayonets, Band playing and Colours flying (though in this case the Colours remained cased).



And now, on the last lap of their long journey, the Colours, headed by the Band and H.M.S. *Excellent*, with the increased escorts in rear, proceeded through the streets lined with the inhabitants of Guildford. They had come to pay their homage to the passing of our Old Colours. Up North Street and down the High Street where, to the strains of the Regimental March, the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Wykeham Price, J.P.), deputizing for the Mayor, surrounded by the Borough Councillors suitably robed, took the salute at the Guildhall. General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., was present, and alongside the Deputy Mayor. Among the spectators at the Guildhall were several serving and retired officers.

Later, before entering Stoughton Barracks gates, the Colonel of the Regiment took the salute. Passing through the gates, with young soldiers of the P.T.C. at the slope on both sides of the road leading to the Mess, and on the Tennis Court the newest recruits formed up in column, the escorts halted and faced the Mess. And now came the most impressive moment for, to many of us old soldiers, this was indeed the climax of the whole ceremony, for now the Colours for the last time had to leave our ranks. As we stood waiting for that final command many memories were conjured up in our minds—memories of those very same Colours with which we had served in many parts of the world. And so, with permission gained from the Colonel of the Regiment, the commander of the regimental escort gave the command, "March off the Colours." To the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" the Colours left the ranks of the Regiment after over one hundred years of service.

## 5TH BATTALION NOTES

THE Battalion was re-formed on 1st May, 1947, and the Drill Halls at Guildford, Reigate, Camberley and Woking have been opened for training. Dorking Drill Hall is open, but we are still awaiting the arrival of our first "C" Company recruit. At present the strength of the Battalion is 12 officers and 41 other ranks, and we expect these numbers will increase during the coming months. In the meantime the object is to ensure that by the time the National Service intake arrives in 1950, we have a properly trained cadre to enable their training to be continued.

Since the last issue of the JOURNAL our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel H. Merriman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., has, much to our regret, been placed temporarily on the Reserve owing to ill-health; he is much missed, and we send him every good wish for a speedy recovery. We extend a hearty welcome to Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy, D.S.O., who has just been appointed as our new Commanding Officer.

Capt. W. P. O'c. Wylde has left us *en route* for the 2nd Battalion, and we are delighted to have Capt. I. D. Beattie in his place as Adjutant. Mr. R. S. Crockett, our Orderly-Room Sergeant, has been forced to leave us on taking up a job in South Africa, and we welcomed in his place an old friend of the Regiment, Mr. H. G. Stafford.

The first real bit of training to take place was Annual Camp, which was run on a brigade basis. It was held at Crowborough West from the 30th August to 5th September and, despite our small numbers, it was a great success. The organization was excellent and we derived great value from the six days' training. The weather was kind and we returned from camp bronzed and fit. During camp we were visited by Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Chairman of the Surrey T.A. and A.F. Association, and by Lieut.-Colonel D. Over, M.B.E., the Secretary.

On 27th September, 1947, the Battalion held a reunion at the Drill Hall in Guildford, which was attended by some 220 past and present members of the Battalion. By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., music was provided by the Regimental Band. Among those whom we welcomed were Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Brigadier G. V. Palmer, C.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel J. P. B. Phillips and Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy, D.S.O.

Major H. B. Watson made a short speech welcoming our guests and saying that we intended to make the reunion an annual function. All members of the Battalion are requested to let the Secretary, R.Q.M.S. Pullen, know their address, so that notification can be sent them of future events, for this year our records were far from complete. The reunion was undoubtedly a great success and was much enjoyed by everyone.

Since the last issue of the JOURNAL we welcome the undermentioned officers to the Battalion: Major Blackstone, from the Lincolns, to command "C" Company (Dorking); Capt. Clarke, an old member of the Battalion, to Second-in-Command of "B" Company; Capt. Johnson, Lieut. Overington and Tallent to "A" Company, all old members of this Company, and Capt. Clemson to "S" Company at Guildford.

## 6TH BATTALION NOTES

THE 131st Brigade, consisting of 6th Queen's, 6th East Surreys, and 5th Queen's, under the command of Brigadier A. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., held their Annual Camp at West Camp, Crowborough, from the 30th August to 7th September. Unlike pre-war camps, when we were under canvas, West Camp is a permanent camp consisting of brick buildings. The weather was ideal, and the surrounding Sussex countryside lent itself perfectly to training. The latter was on a battalion basis, with the exception of the Brigadier's T.E.W.T. for officers and warrant officers and sergeants, and certain Brigade lectures of general interest.

The Brigade T.E.W.T. was most efficiently arranged and most instructive. Representatives of the Brigade's supporting arms, such as artillery, tanks, signals, were present, and before the whole party moved on to the ground selected for the T.E.W.T. each representative gave a short talk on the latest developments in his respective unit.

Battalion training, as far as the 6th Queen's were concerned, consisted of fieldcraft, section and platoon handling, R.T. and general schemes. We concentrated on training which would be impossible during the rest of the year at our Drill Hall, and made full use of the opportunities afforded by the ground. We also concentrated on officers and men all getting to know one another better. In both these directions I think we succeeded.

One of the most popular and interesting exercises was that of R.T. training, in which we used 18 and 38 sets. All ranks had opportunities of sending and receiving messages and of practising correct R.T. procedure.

The camp was quite definitely a success, despite our small numbers. Battalion total strength is now 55, of which about 40 attended camp. The only regret almost universally expressed was that the duration of camp could not be extended for a second week. Next year it is hoped that with our increased strength, we shall return to the pre-war fortnight.

However, we all enjoyed ourselves, and the enthusiasm of the few was most encouraging, and we feel we have a fine nucleus on which to rebuild our Battalion.



# THE LONGEST APPROACH MARCH IN HISTORY

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

BY CAPTAIN C. T. W. REICHWALD, M.C.  
(Continued from page 33, May, 1947, issue.)

In Cairo the roads are wide, the shops numerous and well-stocked, the restaurants and hotels spacious and possessing everything, and the whole city is thriving with the artificial war-time trade brought by the British forces. For, in addition to its normally large British and French population, there has been, of course, since the outbreak of war, a large number of service men and women from Britain, India, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. Shepherd's Hotel in the early days of the desert fighting produced some strange spectacles. Into the staid and respectable atmosphere of the outside lounge and the inside bar, kept up by immaculately-dressed civilians and red-tabbed and lesser staff officers from G.H.Q., all finely turned out in their freshly laundered bush shirts or khaki drill tunics, would come suddenly the occupants of a truck just back from the desert. Five or six dusty, begrimed officers in filthy boots, dirty shorts and shirts, with a choker round their necks, would run up the steps and begin their brief leave by ridding their throats of some of the Western Desert sand in the bar. And the women in evening dress and the staff officers with brightly-polished buttons would look down their noses at the dirty bare knees of the newcomers, and give their fly-whisks a swish of unusual haughtiness. The men from the desert, in the unlikely event of their noticing their reception, would make it their business to be rowdier than they otherwise would have been.

It is always easy to tell in Cairo which men are in the city on leave and which are permanent residents of G.H.Q. or one of the base formations in the vicinity; one does not have to be long in Cairo before one acquires the lazy, rather *blasé* attitude of a Middle East "base wallah." Bad feeling is, I suppose, inevitable between the fighting troops and the necessary men in the rear. It is in a sense healthy, for the fighting man's opinion of himself goes up when he sees others who are not, he knows, undergoing the same dangers as himself, and he goes back to his unit with a greater sense than ever of pride in his battalion or regiment.

G.H.Q.s. are necessary formations, and no one will grudge those employed in them their moments of enjoyment and relaxation. But there was a good deal of well-founded criticism of the undue size of the staffs and of the very high standard of living in Cairo, while in the desert men were living for weeks on bully and biscuits and sand, and sleeping in slit trenches under the stars.

And so, having had huge ices at Groppi's, beer at Tommy's Bar, dinner at the Auberge du Turf, having sampled the artificial and rather nauseating atmosphere of the Bardia, and having walked the streets, gazed in the shops and made a few purchases, we returned to Tahag for more issuing, checking, cleaning, and loading of vehicles.

On 9th April the Battalion split up once again into two parts, one travelling by train and the other by road. I was again in the rail party, and we set off to march to Kassassin station to entrain there as darkness was falling. Again a similar journey, with the men in cattle trucks and the officers in one uncomfortable coach.

By daylight we were passing through Alamein station, and from then on each side of the track as far as the eye could see was a mass of wrecked tanks and vehicles, mine signs, barbed wire, and all the other as yet uncleared litter of the great battlefield.

On the morning of 11th April we reached Tobruk, which was at that time the railhead. We detrained on a cold and windy morning, and lined up for a meal with which was mingled the sand which the wind whipped against our cheeks, up the legs of our shorts and into our mess tins.

We were not due to start the next part of our journey—the whole Battalion on the

6th BATTALION



INSTRUCTION IN COVER BY R.S.M. GROVES, M.M.



MAJORS NEWTON AND STRINGER ON THE FIRING POINT

169 BRIGADE



THE END OF THE LONGEST APPROACH MARCH IN HISTORY: THE QUEEN'S MARCH THROUGH ENFIDAVILLE



road again—till the next day, so had a chance of going into Tobruk and seeing the harbour. No fewer than 123 ships had been sunk in that deep, clear, blue area and the masts of many of the hulks were showing. The remains of the deep and extensive perimeter defences could also still be seen, with not a few burnt-out tanks and planes among and around the wire.

And so on 12th April we continued our remarkable journey over the best part of two continents, and this phase was perhaps the most remarkable of all. The 1,300-odd miles from Tobruk to Enfidaville we covered in fifteen days, on two of which we did not travel at all.

For the first day our surroundings were what we expected from the coastal belt of desert. But when we came, following the fine Italian-built road, to the prominent "bump" of northern Cyrenaica, we had an eye-opener from the scenery. Down the very steep Derna pass, through the neat, white-housed watering-place of Derna, up the other side, and across and along luxuriantly vegetated saddles and gorges, the road passed through country as fine as that we had seen at the Cape. Pine trees growing on steep slopes alternated with heathland thickly covered with strong, healthy bushes of a very different type to the desert scrub which is all one finds just south of this area.

In the Barce district is the chief area of Italian colonization, from which, however, nearly all the Italians had now gone. For mile upon mile one saw small farms of perhaps only from five to ten acres each, each with its own white plaster bungalow, and packed together as tightly as they could be. Much progress had been made, and the farms had obviously once been fertile and prolific. But one saw how regimented the Italians had been, and how little freedom of choice or action these colonists had been allowed. The only difference between each farm and house (which in design were identical) was that some had painted on them the Fascist slogan, "Credere, obedire, combattere," others "The Duce can do no wrong," others "Ente Colonizzazione Libia," and others merely "Il Duce" repeated either twice or thrice. "Credere, obedire, combattere" we saw on every other house and building when passing through a "model" town such as D'Annunzio. It almost seemed as if one bought a house with (a), (b), (c) or (d) slogan on it.

We followed the road and came to Benghazi on the 14th, where we stopped near the airfield for a day's maintenance of vehicles. Benghazi itself was dead and yet just alive, with a very small British garrison of line of communication troops in occupation.

Once more on the road we soon passed through the typically Italian Marble Arch which marks the boundary between Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. This grandiose and showy structure, which is about a hundred feet high, stands astride the road in the middle of nowhere, and is symbolic of the superficial hold which Italy had on its African colonies. All this time we were continuing with our routine of starting at first light and driving until perhaps four or six p.m. Our evenings were now, whenever possible, punctuated with a bathe in the beautifully clear waters of the Mediterranean, which was a necessity as much as a pleasure, since you never got enough fresh water to have a really good wash.

After covering the many miles of the road along the south of the Gulf of Sirte, we arrived at Azizia, just south of Tripoli, where we had another day's maintenance of vehicles. This enabled us to take a short peep at Tripoli, which did not impress us any more than did our subsequent stay there of three months. The harbour, the rather artificial new Italian town built on to the old Arab city, and a vain quest to the bulk N.A.A.F.I. store for beer for the Battalion are my first recollections of Tripoli.

From this time on we began to park our vehicles tactically each night, dispersing them widely and using every tree and piece of cover we could find.

After two further days we passed through Gabes, and then this part of our journey finished at a little town called Hergla, several miles south of Enfidaville, where we had our last bathe for a few weeks. Not many hours previously we had passed through Sousse. A day or two before we had been shown over the Wadi Akarit battlefield by John Kealy\*, our second-in-command, who had been in charge of the battle-experience party which went from the 2nd/7th. They had all been attached to a battalion of the Green Howards in 50th Division, whose Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Seagrave, won a posthumous V.C.

\* Major J. B. H. Kealy (later Lieut.-Col. J. B. H. Kealy, D.S.O.).



From Hergla we went on the next day (26th April), without any respite by lorries to Entidaville town, and thence by foot to the battle area, which was about six miles on. This march proved a great ordeal for us untried men. It was very hot, and the shells were falling spasmodically all around us as we marched. I was weary myself when we arrived in a small copse, and some of our weaker and older men showed visible signs of strain. It was less than another day before we found out those who could not stand the strain of real warfare. Some were strong, fit men who, in training, had appeared to be the pick of the company; but on the first shell landing near them they collapsed like card-houses in a breeze and were useless to us any more.

That night the Battalion took over positions from the 1st Scots Guards, who were later to serve with our Division. Our approach march was finished.

## HISTORY OF 169 QUEEN'S BDE.

### PART III.—MONTE CAMINO

(Continued from page 29, May, 1947, issue.)

After this action the Brigade was re-grouped and ordered to force a bridgehead over the River Savone with a view to passing through two other Brigades and the Greys. Once more it was obviously desirable to avoid the main crossings and to achieve the surprise which had enabled the previous operation to be successfully carried out with such light casualties. A possible crossing-place was found immediately west of Montanaro, the track leading down to it showed promise of rapid improvement to take wheeled and tracked vehicles. Air photos also showed a continuation of this track, though between deeply sunken banks, on the far side of the river. It was no easy task to obtain adequate footing on the far side of the river in this area. Though the river was only some twenty yards wide its banks were a full fifty feet high in most places. They were precipitous and the top covered with close undergrowth which then gave place to open fields well covered by German machine-gun positions in farms standing back from the river and from a sunken lane and railway embankment running parallel to the river some five hundred yards beyond it. Some very hard fighting indeed took place in this area between a company of 2nd/7th Queen's, which was the maximum number of infantry that could usefully be deployed across the river at this stage, and the German defenders. The action went on continuously from 0700 hours on the 26th until 1600 hours on the afternoon of 27th October, when the Boche, deciding that he had had enough, withdrew from his positions in broad daylight—a most encouraging sign. The bridgehead was now extended by 2nd/5th Queen's, who passed through, and a Class 9 and scissors bridge erected to take wheeled and tracked vehicles. It was found that the sunken lane on the far side was a foot too narrow for Sherman tanks to pass through, but by dint of hard work by the Field Company (R.E.) and 2nd/6th Queen's, this difficulty was overcome and the bank cut away so that the whole Regiment were enabled to pass up the lane and enter the open country beyond. Twenty-four hours after the capture of the bridgehead another brigade and two squadrons of the Greys had been passed over the river to attack the German positions on the Tranzi spur, and once more a complete tactical surprise had been achieved.

After this action the Brigade were again withdrawn for ten days' reorganization and training in the Sparanise area, though during this period there were several calls upon battalions to act as porters in the difficult mountain country in which the Division was now fighting.

When the Brigade was again moved forward it was to take up positions facing the formidable mountain massif of Mount Camino. This natural mountain barrier, its strength as a defensive position greatly improved during the preceding two months by the ingenuity of German engineers, was one of the keystones of the German Cassino winter line. Its clearance of enemy troops was necessary before the advance along Route 6 could continue or the River Garigliano be crossed. A first attempt to take it by storm had been unsuccessful, mainly through administrative difficulties and extremely adverse weather conditions.

2nd/6th Queen's on the right and 2nd/5th Queen's on the left, from advanced patrolling bases at Caspoli and Campo under the precipitous eastern face of the 3,000 foot mountain, did much active patrolling in late November to find ways up and enemy positions on the top.

For the attack on the night of 2nd/3rd December, 2nd/5th Queen's were given the task of capturing Razor-back Ridge and Scots Guards Ridge, with subsequent exploitation to the Monastery feature which dominated the whole of this area. 2nd/6th Queen's were to divert the enemy's attention by a feint attack in the direction of the saddle to the north of Monastery Hill. Both 2nd/5th and 2nd/6th Queen's were to send fighting patrols to attempt to capture the Monastery feature before dawn. American troops were attacking on the right the Defensa feature (the northern half of the Mount Camino massif), while another brigade of 56th (London) Division was to attack on the left up the southern slopes of the mountain.

The attack by 2nd/5th Queen's necessitated a five-hour climb before the first objective was reached, and it was necessary to employ nearly the whole of 2nd/7th Queen's as porters to ensure that twenty-four hours' reserve of ammunition, food and water were dumped at the top by dawn the following morning. The attack was supported by "terror crashes" by all available artillery on known and suspected enemy localities, though these had, owing to the nature of the ground, to move back from the immediate objective some hours before the infantry assault was due to go in.

The attack by 2nd/5th Queen's was entirely successful. Little opposition was encountered on Scots Guards Ridge, but hard fighting took place on Razor-back, and a number of prisoners were taken. Neither fighting patrol was able to achieve its object on the Monastery Hill, the latter being much more strongly held than had been thought.

The weather on 2nd December became very bad and rain and sleet fell almost continuously. 2nd/5th Queen's were now faced with the job of tackling the Monastery feature. All approaches from our side were precipitous and completely open to spandau fire from the defenders, who were mainly grouped round a small church, from which the feature took its name, just short of the summit and from dug and blasted positions round the summit itself. A covered line of approach from the valley behind made their reinforcement still possible. The attack was made by one company 2nd/5th Queen's under cover of a thick mist and, despite the most determined German resistance, succeeded in reaching and occupying the area of the church. Three men of the Queen's actually reached the summit itself and were killed in hand-to-hand fighting. Three efforts to storm the top were all unsuccessful, the Germans covering the only two possible approaches with spandaus and grenades. It was decided next day to put in a final attack to capture the summit of Monastery Hill under cover of darkness, using tommy guns and grenades supported by 2-inch mortars firing at very close range. Late that afternoon, however, the Germans themselves put in a very strong and obviously rehearsed counter-attack, and after a very heavy mortar concentration on the chapel area were able temporarily to reoccupy it. Next day the Monastery area was continuously under mortar fire, and in the early afternoon the Germans finally withdrew and a company of 2nd/7th Queen's, who had been placed under command of 2nd/5th Queen's, occupied the summit. In this ding-dong battle, which lasted for three days in the most appalling weather conditions, no praise could be too high for the spirit of the attacking troops. The German positions, often blasted out of solid rock, covered any possible approach, and such approaches were more often in the nature of a climb than a walk. Despite this, the dogged determination of the infantry enabled them to overcome all obstacles to close with the enemy and, in hand-to-hand fighting, to inflict very heavy casualties upon them.

The next day it was found possible to relieve 2nd/5th Queen's by 2nd/7th Queen's, and the 2nd/6th Queen's took over the Defensa feature from the Americans. The Brigade remained in this area for another week while clearing-up operations were taking place and the last scattered Germans were being rounded up on the north-west slopes of Mount Camino.

On the 19th December the Brigade moved back into a rest area in which they were able to do justice to the very ample Christmas fare, to reorganize and to retrain ready for the next phase.

If little mention has been made of the supporting arms it is only because this is meant to be mainly a story of the Queen's battalions. Never, however, can a brigade have been better supported and the close and intimate co-operation between all arms has been one of the major factors in our successes.



## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

**M**EMBERSHIP is 440, and still increasing. An address list was sent out in May. The Reunion Garden Party was held at Stoughton Barracks on Saturday, 19th July. It was, as usual this year, a glorious day and about 250 attended. They were of all generations.

Lieut.-Colonel Veasey and the officers and other ranks of No. 2 P.T.C. and Depot had most kindly given up a lot of time and thought to organizing and running many sideshows and attractions, and we are most grateful to them all. If one name may be chosen out of many, it would be that of R.S.M. Harcup.

The Museum had by great efforts been opened in time and was a most interesting and attractive display.

Many thanks are also due to the 2nd Battalion Band, who sacrificed their week-end to play at this and the Other Ranks' Reunion next day. The N.A.A.F.I. provided an excellent tea, though the ices miscarried.

All arrangements, including a very special dinner and wines, had been made for the Annual Dinner on the 26th September, when the full seriousness of the economic crisis became apparent and serious doubts arose whether we were justified in holding it. Her Majesty Queen Mary was asked her opinion, and her secretary replied that, in view of the situation, she considered we should not hold it. It was accordingly cancelled, and it is hoped the cancellation reached all members in time. About 170 members had warned in.

A Committee meeting is being held early in November to consider whether a cocktail party, or some other form of reunion which would comply with the rules of austerity, should be held early next year.

Mr. Cundall, R.A., the artist of the Salerno picture, writes from Salerno that he is well pleased with the prospects of the picture. He is meeting participants in the battle on his return and the picture should be ready by the spring.

*Stop Press.*—The Committee have decided to hold a Reunion Drink Party, in place of the cancelled dinner, in London on Friday, 13th February. Details will be notified to members later.

## REGIMENTAL CRICKET, 1947

**T**HIS year we have won all of our matches. Against H.M.S. *Excellent*, by 10 wickets; *v.* East Surrey Regt., by 143 runs; *v.* Guildford, by 74 runs; *v.* Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt., by 60 runs. The scores speak for themselves, but the following performances were outstanding:—

The batting of P. G. T. Kingsley *v.* H.M.S. *Excellent*, and the slow spin bowling of Major G. S. Grimston.

The first wicket partnership of H. W. Hall with Kingsley in the second innings *v.* H.M.S. *Excellent*, and of 126 with Howell *v.* The East Surrey Regiment.

The 65 by Gunn *v.* Guildford, and 61 by Howell *v.* The East Surrey Regiment.

In the match against Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment a good 56 by Capt. Sewell and an excellent spell of bowling by Reichwald, who snatched the game out of the fire by taking 6 for 41.

## REGIMENTAL CRICKET, 1947

Next year the various matches will be combined into a Cricket Week, as follows:—

31st May	...	The East Surrey Regt. at Stoughton.
1st and 2nd June	...	H.M.S. <i>Excellent</i> at Whale Island.
3rd June	...	The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt. at Stoughton.
4th June	...	Reigate Priory at Stoughton.
5th June	...	Grasshoppers at Stoughton.
6th June	...	Regimental Pick-up at Stoughton.

### RESULTS.

The Queen's Royal Regiment *v.* H.M.S. *Excellent*. Played at Guildford on 30th and 31st May, 1947.

#### H.M.S. "EXCELLENT"

1st Innings.				2nd Innings.			
Comdr. Scotland, b Syms	...	...	1	c Morley Clarke, b Kingsley	...	...	26
Lieut. Archibald, c Kingsley b Mills	...	...	7	b Mills	...	...	10
Lieut. Farr, st Upton b Grimston	...	...	2	c Hall b Mills	...	...	2
Comdr. Henderson, c Kingsley b Grimston	...	...	7	b Grimston	...	...	73
C.P.O. Charman, st Upton b Grimston	...	...	34	c Grimston b Syms	...	...	16
Sub-Lieut. Dutch, b Neale	...	...	1	b Syms	...	...	0
Lieut. Tyler, lbw b Neale	...	...	5	b Grimston	...	...	10
Lieut. Armstrong, lbw b Neale	...	...	2	c Kingsley b Grimston	...	...	34
P.O. Jackson, not out	...	...	2	c Upton b Syms	...	...	4
P.O. Fairweather, lbw b Grimston	...	...	0	not out	...	...	3
O. A. Wood, b Neale	...	...	2	lbw b Kingsley	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	17	Extras	...	...	13
Total	...	...	80	Total	...	...	181

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

1st Innings.				2nd Innings.			
O.	M.	R.	Wkt.	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Capt. Syms	6	1	14	Capt. Syms	13	5	28
Major Grimston	6	1	9	Major Grimston	13	1	55
Cpl. Mills	4	—	13	Cpl. Mills	4	—	18
Major Neale	7	—	19	Major Neale	11	2	33
				Major Kingsley	7	—	32

#### THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

1st Innings.				2nd Innings.			
Major Kingsley, c Armstrong b Charman	...	...	35	c and b Jackson	...	...	57
Major Hall, b Fairweather	...	...	1	b Charman	...	...	78
Lieut. Morley Clarke, lbw b Armstrong	...	...	19	b Farr	...	...	7
Major Grimston, b Farr	...	...	17	Not out	...	...	36
Major Neale, b Jackson	...	...	53	Not out	...	...	7
Capt. Mans, run out	...	...	3				
Brig. Block, c and b Jackson	...	...	17				
Major Mansell, lbw b Farr	...	...	2				
Cpl. Mills, not out	...	...	1				
Capt. Symes, lbw b Farr	...	...	1				
Lieut.-Colonel Upton, b Charman	...	...	1				
Extras	...	...	15	Extras	...	...	13
Total	...	...	163	Total for 3 wickets	...	...	198

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS

1st Innings.				2nd Innings.			
O.	M.	R.	Wkt.	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
C.P.O. Charman	13	5	46	C.P.O. Charman	16	1	86
P.O. Fairweather	5	1	19	P.O. Fairweather	4	—	19
Lieut. Archibald	2	—	18	Lieut. Archibald	2	—	7
Lieut. Farr	10	1	43	Lieut. Farr	18	—	40
P.O. Jackson	4	—	24	P.O. Jackson	10	1	38

Result: Queen's Royal Regiment won by 10 wickets.



The Queen's Royal Regiment v. Guildford. Played at Guildford on Wednesday, 11th June, 1947.

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT.

B. Gunn, lbw b Dawes	...	...	67
T. E. Howell, c Carter b Dawes	...	...	4
Lieut. I. Morley Clarke, b Granshaw	...	...	6
Capt. R. S. Mans, b Granshaw	...	...	3
Lieut. F. Dorward, b Granshaw	...	...	0
Major G. Grimston, b Dawes	...	...	2
Cpl. R. Mills, lbw b Hall	...	...	60
Lieut. J. Webb, b Granshaw	...	...	11
R. Wynn, b Granshaw	...	...	5
Capt. R. G. Syms, st Munday b Granshaw	...	...	4
Lt.-Col. A. Upton, not out	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	0
Total	...	...	162

## GUILDFORD.

H. Hall, b Mills	...	...	13
H. Fuller, c Dorward b Gunn	...	...	15
W. Carter, run out	...	...	28
R. Smith, c Upton b Syms	...	...	2
A. Dawes, b Syms	...	...	0
H. Granshaw, lbw Gunn	...	...	0
J. Prentice, c Morley Clarke b Syms	...	...	1
H. Munday, c Mills b Grimston	...	...	4
B. Ellard, not out	...	...	19
A. Rust, c Mills b Grimston	...	...	1
R. Bourner, c and b Gunn	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	12
Total	...	...	88

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Bourner	...	...	3	17
Granshaw	...	...	14	71
Dawes	...	...	9	44
Hall	...	...	3	30

Result : Queen's Royal Regiment won by 74 runs.

## BOWLING ANALYSIS

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Gunn	...	...	16	45
Mills	...	...	5	9
Syms	...	...	8	15
Grimston	...	...	3	7

The Queen's Royal Regiment v. The East Surrey Regiment. Played at Kingston on the 16th June, 1947.

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT.

Major Hall, b Prescence	...	...	83
T. Howell, b Simper	...	...	61
Lieut. Morley Clarke, b King	...	...	2
L. Stringer, c Wreford-Brown b Prescence	...	...	10
Capt. Mans, c and b Simper	...	...	15
Lieut. Webb, run out	...	...	30
Cpl. Mills, b Simper	...	...	5
Lt.-Col. Upton, c Weatherstone b Leyland	...	...	0
Capt. Greenwood, c Humphries b Simper	...	...	1
Capt. Syms, c Humphries b Simper	...	...	6
Lieut. Dorward, c Humphries b King	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	11
Total	...	...	225

## THE EAST SURREY REGT.

Eatwell, lbw b Howell	...	...	30
Simper, lbw b Greenwood	...	...	1
Weatherstone, c Dorward b Mills	...	...	0
Branker, b Greenwood	...	...	29
Leyland, b Greenwood	...	...	0
Wreford-Brown, c and b Greenwood	...	...	10
Little, b Howell	...	...	7
Armstrong, b Howell	...	...	0
King, c Howell	...	...	0
Prescence, not out	...	...	0
Humphries, st Upton b Greenwood	...	...	5
Extras	...	...	1
Total	...	...	82

## BOWLING ANALYSIS

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
King	...	...	20	48
Simper	...	...	15	57
Prescence	...	...	9	16
Humphries	...	...	9	55
Leyland	...	...	8	55

Result : Queen's Royal Regiment won by 143 runs.

## BOWLING ANALYSIS

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Mills	...	...	8	44
Greenwood	...	...	10	33
Howell	...	...	2	2





SCENES IN THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

[To face page 37]

## THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

37

The Queen's Royal Regiment v. Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Played at Guildford on 16th August, 1947.

### THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT.

L. Stringer, b Killick	...	...	39
Capt. R. Mans, b Defrates	...	...	29
H. Hall, lbw b Defrates	...	...	6
P. Black, c Rawlings b Killick	...	...	11
D. Street, run out	...	...	4
Capt. J. Sewell, c Saville b Scott	...	...	58
C. Reichwald, c Rawlings b Defrates	...	...	2
Lt.-Col. R. E. L. Burton, c Flemming b Shearburn	...	...	4
Brig. A. P. Block, run out	...	...	1
Capt. R. G. Syms, not out	...	...	0
Lt.-Col. A. Upton, b Killick	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	5

Total ... 164

### BOWLING ANALYSIS

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Shearburn	9	1	30	1
Killick	24	10	37	3
Scott	9	1	41	1
Western	3	—	13	—
Defrates	15	3	38	3

Result : Queen's Royal Regiment won by 60 runs.

### QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.

P. Turner, c Mans b Syms	...	...	13
D. Flemming, lbw b Reichwald	...	...	39
R. Shearburn, c Reichwald b Syms	...	...	16
S. Saville, c Burton b Reichwald	...	...	0
H. Scott, c Hall b Street	...	...	13
H. Killick, c Stringer b Reichwald	...	...	1
F. Hancock, c Upton b Reichwald	...	...	12
G. Defrates, c Upton b Reichwald	...	...	4
S. Wilson, b Street	...	...	2
S. Rawlings, b Reichwald	...	...	1
E. Western, not out	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	3

Total ... 104

### BOWLING ANALYSIS

	O.	M.	R.	Wkt.
Reichwald	16	6	41	6
Syms	10	1	47	2
Street	5	1	14	2

## THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

**D**URING the war years the exhibits of the Regimental Museum were put into storage at Camberley. In the meantime the old home of the Museum, part of the Hospital, has been taken over and the whole building used as a permanent C.R.S. In view of this a new location had to be found before the Museum could be reinstated. Permission was given for the first floor of the Keep to be used for this purpose and so, early in July, exhibits were taken out of store and, after the necessary work for their reception was carried out, the Museum was once more re-established. Thanks to the efforts of C.S.M. C. R. Huskinson and other helpers, the Museum has once again become a centre of regimental interest.

The approach to the Museum is by a doorway near the Guard Room, thence up the stairs through a small lobby into the main large room. We have used most of the available space of the walls by the stairs for hanging regimental photograph groups, while the small lobby and main room house the exhibits. There is still much to be done in redecoration, but the work is progressing slowly but surely. Since reopening, a few presentations have been made as shown below. The President of the Regimental Museum Committee, Stoughton Barracks, will be most grateful for any presentations in the way of exhibits of regimental interest. The following have been presented recently :—

- Full Dress Belt Buckle, belonging to the late Lieut.-Colonel D. Warren. Presented by Mrs. Lampin.
- Halberd that may have been used at Sedgemoor. Found in derelict Tudor house, Leominster. Presented by Mr. Muscamp (late of the Regiment).
- German Officer's Sword, found in the ruins of Munich. Presented by Lieut.-Colonel Lord Sysonby, D.S.O.
- Japanese Officer's Sword, taken in Burma. Presented by General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O.
- Arab Sword and Dagger, presented to Major-General G. A. Pilleau, C.B.E., M.C., by the Mohafez of Damascus. Presented by Major-General G. A. Pilleau, C.B.E., M.C.
- Historical Records of the British Army : Second or The Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot, 1837. Presented by Captain D. F. Kellie.
- Japanese Light Rifle, taken in Burma. Presented by Lieut.-Colonel F. J. C. Piggot, D.S.O.



Coat of Chain Mail, taken from body of Arab in action near Sokoto, Northern Nigeria. The headpiece is reputed to date from the time of the Crusades. Presented by Brig.-General Wallace Wright, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.L.

"Standards and Colours of the Army, 1661-1881," by Samuel Milne Milne. Presented by Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Drum Major's Sash and Mace, period 1880. Presented by Mrs. Paul Fearon.

In addition to the above presentations, the Museum Fund have purchased wooden plaques with coloured Divisional signs:—

- 7th Armoured Division.
- 44th (Home Counties) Division.
- The Chindit Force.
- 7th Indian Division.
- 36th Division.
- 56th (London) Division.
- 70th Division.

Thirty-eight painted wooden figures depicting uniforms of the Regiment from 1661 onwards. These are most attractively done and give very fine detail.

## OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

*All Ranks' Annual Dinner.*—Four hundred subscribers attended the Annual Dinner at Kennards Restaurant, Croydon on Saturday, 14th June, 1947.

General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel of the Regiment, presided and in his address said he had sent, in the name of the assembly, a telegram to Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, congratulating Her Majesty on her eightieth birthday. He also read the following reply from Her Majesty:—

"My heartfelt gratitude for loyal greetings from all ranks of my Regiment met for their annual dinner tonight. I deeply appreciate their kind congratulations on the recent anniversary of my birthday—Mary R.—Colonel-in-Chief."

Other telegrams of good wishes from the 1st Battalion and H.M.S. *Excellent* were also read.

H.M.S. *Howe* was represented at the dinner by Lieut. C. F. H. Watson, R.N. The toast of "Absent Comrades" was proposed by Capt. D. F. Kellie. Mr. C. Sales was at the piano.

*Reunion Church Service and Garden Party.*—The Annual Old Comrades' Church Service took place in Emmanuel Church, Stoughton, by kind permission of the Rev. F. A. Rostron, Vicar, on Sunday, July 20th, 1947. Two hundred Old Comrades attended and the Service was conducted by the Rev. F. Donkin-Roberts, formerly Chaplain to the 44th (Home Counties) Division. The parade formed up in Stoughton Barracks and marched to the Church with General Sir G. J. Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel of the Regiment, leading. The Band of the 2nd Battalion under Bandmaster E. Gaines, played for the march and the church organist and choir kindly gave their services for the occasion. The collection realized £9 and, together with the collections from other services at the Church on the same day, was donated by the Vicar to the Regimental War Memorial Fund.

The Garden Party was attended by about 700, including families, and took place in Stoughton Barracks in the afternoon. Weather was fine and sideshows were well patronized, many prizes being won at clock golf, Aunt Sally, shooting, etc. The Museum was open to visitors for the first time since the war and attracted the attention of all present. Messages of good wishes from overseas battalions were displayed on a notice board and an account of the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion at Singapore evoked much interest. Teas provided by N.A.A.F.I. were on sale and the Band of the 2nd Battalion played a programme of music throughout the afternoon. It was a great pleasure to meet such renowned soldiers of the Regiment as ex-R.S.M. G. Sullivan and ex-R.S.M. F. Gostling. Three pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Messrs. J. Callaghan, E. Stacey and H. Hole attended and remained for a further week as the guests of No. 2 P.T.C. and the Sergeants' Mess. General opinion voted the function as successful and it is hoped to arrange another excellent party in 1948.

*Association Subscriptions.*—Subscriptions are coming in well, there being 1,545 paid-up Life Members and 713 annual subscribers to date of writing these notes.

*Assistance Given.*—Calls upon the Charitable Fund have again been heavy this year and 341 cases have been dealt with and 197 grants authorized. Much assistance in practical advice on many subjects and employment has been given. Lack of housing for men with families is still a great handicap in placing applicants for employment.

*Gifts of Food Parcels.*—By command of Her Majesty Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, a list recommending widows with children and aged persons of the Regiment to receive gift parcels of food was sent to Lady Anderson, British Children's Comforts Fund, Sydney, Australia. Information that the parcels are being received is to hand. All Old Comrades will join in expressing gratitude for this practical help.

*War Memorial Fund.*—The Fund is gradually increasing and the balance in hand at 1st October was £6,617 6s. 6d.

Among methods exploited to raise sufficient money for the objects of the Fund were a joint appeal in collaboration with the East Surrey Regiment and the organization of a Flag Day in parts of Surrey. The joint appeal up to the time of these notes has raised £533 and the Flag Day realized £1,093 4s. 10d. After deduction for expenses, the balance from these efforts will be equally divided between the War Memorial Funds of the two regiments. Amount to be credited to the Queen's Royal Regiment War Memorial Fund from the Flag Day is expected to be £500 and when the joint appeal is closed a further sum exceeding £250 is expected.

It still requires some effort to reach the target set at £12,000 and donations would still be gratefully accepted.

*Keeping Touch.*—Members of the Association are again appealed to for notification of changes of address. Many Annual Reports sent out this year were returned and it is feared that this results in news of the Association's activities not reaching all concerned. Local representatives are giving all information possible, but it is emphasized that individual co-operation is essential.

## 4TH BATTN. QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT.

(EX-63RD SEARCHLIGHT REGIMENT, EX-127TH L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A. (QUEEN'S), AND NOW 598TH L.A.A. REGIMENT, R.A. (QUEEN'S), T.A.)

THE last account of the Battalion's activities appeared in the July, 1939, issue of the JOURNAL, and was mainly concerned with conversion from Infantry to Anti-Aircraft (Searchlight) under the new designation of 63rd Searchlight Regiment, comprising 438, 439 and 440 Companies.

So much has taken place since, that one hesitates just how or where to start the story of the following six and a half years. One point that should be stressed, however, is that throughout those years the Regiment never lost its jealously maintained and proud tradition of being part of the "Queen's."

The Regiment's activities are perhaps best split up into the following four phases:—

- (a) The initial deployment in a L.A.A. role (with L.M.Gs.).
- (b) Searchlight operational deployment.
- (c) Conversion to L.A.A. (Bofors) and deployment in A.D.G.B.
- (d) Employment from D Day until disbandment in late 1945.

### 1. INITIAL DEPLOYMENT, AUGUST, 1939, TO APRIL, 1940.

The Regiment was embodied on 24th August, 1939, and was given the task of A.A. protection of vital points over a wide area from Portsmouth, Southampton and Basingstoke to Bristol and Avonmouth Docks. Our guns were L.M.Gs., and our posts mainly on tops of high buildings—gas works, flour mills and ammunition dumps. Mercifully (for us) this was the era of the "phony



war," and little happened to disturb the inevitable round of practice alarms, inspections by Higher Authority and the discomfort of life under canvas during the bitter winter months of 1939-40. One item of interest that occurred during these early weeks of the war was the sending off to France of a draft of 3 officers and 40 other ranks. They landed in France about the 13th September and were some of the first Territorial Army men to go overseas. Their task was to man special observation posts in front of the Maginot Line and give early warning of approaching enemy aircraft.

We took life fairly seriously on the whole, even to the extent of having the *Aquitania* moved some three hundred yards in Southampton Docks, to improve the line of fire of an L.M.G. detachment. The cost (on paper) to the Regiment was some £600 for this service, but regimental records fail to disclose the source of payment!

Early in March, 1940, the Regiment was concentrated in Cornwall for three weeks' intensive searchlight training, and in April moved to the Aldershot—Farnham—Midhurst areas to take over operational searchlight sites.

## 2. SEARCHLIGHT DEPLOYMENT, APRIL, 1940, to NOVEMBER, 1941.

We had barely settled down in our new role of Searchlights when the German onslaught in the West broke out. At a time when the pride of the British Army—the B.E.F.—appeared to be on the point of destruction, and invasion of this country only a matter of weeks, we were given the dual role of A.A. and ground defence. Life was rather hectic and entailed concentrated infantry and anti-tank training, constant alerts and "stand-to's" and increasing A.A. duties by day and night as the Luftwaffe commenced its bombing programme.

We were more than glad to train (from scratch) and reinforce the Regiment with the first batch of "in-takes" who arrived early in August, 1940. They were our first reinforcements since war began, and the strain was beginning to tell on our depleted numbers.

It was in August, too, that the Battalion was transferred to the Royal Regiment of Artillery (as were all A.A. units) and regretfully had to replace "Lambs" with gunner insignia and corresponding other rank titles.

As the night bombing attacks increased during the winter and spring of 1940-41, so our unspectacular and often disappointing vigil continued. This was the lowest ebb of searchlight achievement from the purely technical view, and no amount of training and endeavour could make up for a feeling of disappointment and frustration at the results obtained. Perhaps the one exception was the numerous occasions on which our own crippled or lost bombers were safely guided home by means of our "homing beacons."

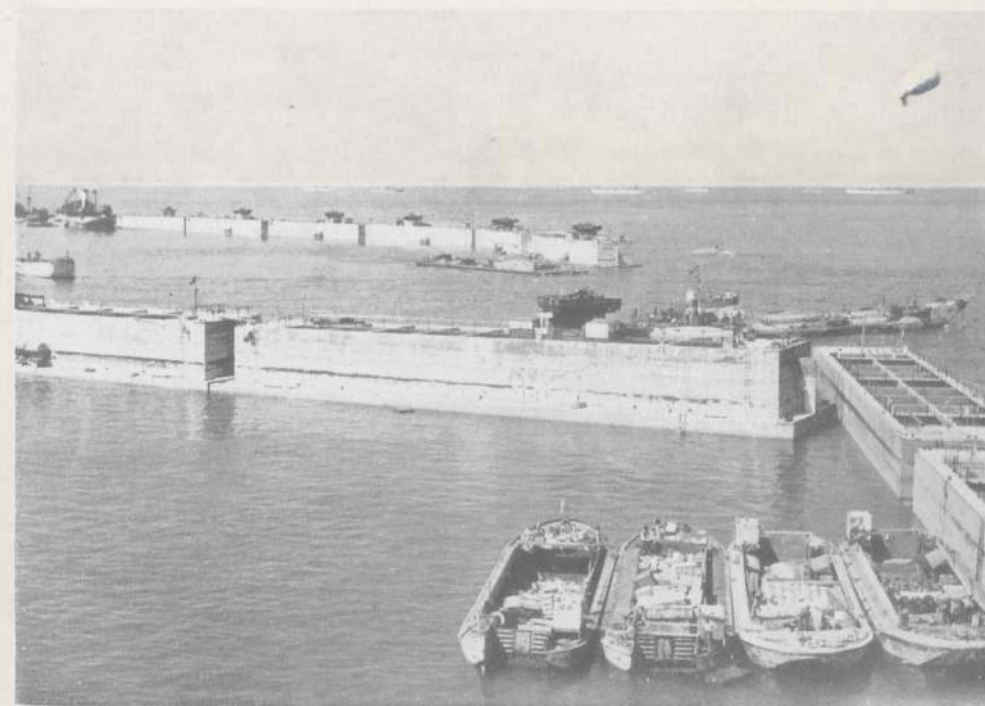
In September, 1941, the Regiment (less 438 Battery) moved to the North London area as part of London's "Inner Artillery Zone" of defence. This move was much welcomed, as offering chances of more active participation in the defence of London and as a means of testing new equipment and tactics. In fact, nothing of the sort happened, as early in November the Regiment was given the choice of converting to L.A.A. (Bofors)—a choice which was gratefully and enthusiastically accepted by all ranks. The Regiment handed over its equipment and was concentrated for the first time since March, 1940.

The next three months were spent in reorganizing, training and weeding out low medical category men and accepting suitable reinforcements.

## 3. L.A.A. CONVERSION AND DEPLOYMENT IN A.D.G.B., FEBRUARY, 1942, to JUNE, 1944.

The Regiment carried out its conversion to L.A.A. at Buxton and then proceeded to a firing course at Stiffkey, on the Norfolk coast. It now consisted of 439, 440 (original) Batteries and 416 (ex-5th West Yorks) and 420 Batteries, the third original Battery (438) having remained Searchlight and been re-regimented. In May, 1942, the Regiment deployed on operational sites in the East End of London, but there was little excitement so far as hostile aircraft were concerned. This was the time of the Baedeker raids on cathedral towns, and foreshadowed the sneak daylight raids on South Coast towns which were such a feature of Hun tactics from July, 1942, until the beginning of 1943.

To meet this new form of sneak attack the Regiment was moved south again to the Bourne-mouth—Poole—Swanage and Bridport area. At Swanage we claimed our first L.A.A. victim—a F.W.190—which fell to a troop of 440 Battery. During the next few months the Regiment saw



THE GUNS OF 127 L.A.A. REGIMENT PROVIDING A.A. PROTECTION FOR SHIPPING USING THE MULBERRY HARBOUR OFF THE BEACH-HEAD AT ARROMANCHES, JUNE, 1944



plenty of action and in various places on and around the South Coast gave a very good account of itself.

In December, 1942, we received orders to commence Part I of mobilization for overseas, and in February, 1943, were moved to the North of Scotland to cover an operational area bounded by Wick in the north to Glasgow and from Aberdeen to Poolewe in the west.

Mobilization proceeded steadily, and in June, 1943, the Regiment (less 420 Battery, who became an independent Battery) proceeded to Penybont, in North Wales, for four weeks' battle training. Two days prior to conclusion of this training, 439 and 440 Batteries were sent off on embarkation leave. It eventually transpired that those Batteries were to form part of an independent A.A. brigade, being sent to the Azores. This expedition did not in fact take place, though it was some weeks before 439 and 440 Batteries rejoined us.

The Regiment was now deployed in the main on fighter aerodromes in the Chichester area and also took on the task of training R.A.F. Regiment N.C.Os. in L.A.A. gunnery. Exercise "Harlequin" was the next excitement and was much enjoyed by all ranks.

Towards the end of 1943 the Regiment moved to the East Coast in the Felixstowe—Harwich—Parkeston Quay areas and then on to practice firing camp at Clacton. This was the final practice camp the Regiment attended. The excellent standards attained by the Regiment at this camp set the seal on our future employment.

After Clacton the Regiment deployed in the Humber Defence Area, including Grimsby Docks. Whilst in this area in April, 1944, the Commanding Officer was ordered to report to London for special orders. These were to the effect that the Regiment had been selected to provide the A.A. defences on the floating Mulberry Harbours with two batteries (416 and 440), whilst 439 Battery were to man (a) the light cruiser H.M.S. *Despatch*, and (b) three old tramps which were to be sunk as blockships to form the initial breakwater for Mulberry.

The role assigned to H.M.S. *Despatch* was that of H.Q. ship until such time as the Royal Navy could establish Port H.Q. ashore. She carried her full complement of sailors and marines and, in addition, the various staffs for operating the Operations Room, planting the Phœnixes and running the port. No. 439 Battery placed sixteen Bofors on board, with 5 officers and 120 other ranks to man them. Such was the secrecy that selected men towed the guns from Scunthorpe to various points in Hampshire whence two officers drove the tractors to the quayside in Portsmouth Dockyard.

The remainder of 439 Battery went to Oban and manned guns on each of the three tramp steamers. These vessels sailed from Scotland a week before D Day, and the Battery can justifiably claim to have been the first troops to set sail for Normandy; the troops remained on board whilst holes were blown in the ships' bottoms so that they formed a breakwater on Calvados reef.

The task allotted to this Battery was of particular interest, in that it provided a link with the Regiment's past history of service as Royal Marines.

For the next two months up to D Day the Regiment was hard at work at Selsey, Dungeness, the Thames Estuary and Portsmouth Dockyard, preparing for the invasion of Normandy.

#### 4. D DAY TO DISBANDMENT, 1945.

On the evening of 5th June, 1944, the Phœnixes forming the Mulberry Harbour were raised and sailed across the Channel to Arromanches. The journey took twenty hours, with only one incident—one Phœnix was torpedoed with a loss of one officer and ten other ranks.

By the evening of D Day the Regiment was completely deployed off the Arromanches beach-head and there remained until early October. There was a fair amount of shooting during the first month, but afterwards the Boche showed a strange reluctance to come over and concentrated mainly on mine-laying far out to sea. The Regiment's success can be judged from the fact that during the whole operation off Arromanches not a single bomb dropped inside the Mulberry Harbour.

The great storm in mid-June off the beaches threatened to destroy everything and caused the Regiment a few casualties. The figure would have been higher, but for the gallantry of an R.A.S.C. sergeant who, in a converted fishing trawler, evacuated 179 ranks from the Phœnixes.

On the 7th October the Regiment moved into Belgium and concentrated at Alost, preparatory to going into position on the south bank of the River Scheldt. A few days later came a further



move to a concentration area near St. Gillis-Waas on the borders of Belgium and Zeeland Flanders.

In addition to carrying out reconnaissance for gun positions on the south bank of the Scheldt, the Regiment had to provide at short notice 600 all ranks for guard duties at Antwerp Docks. A mobile striking force was also formed in case of a counter-attack against the Canadians, who were driving the Boche westwards from both banks of the Scheldt.

By the first week in November the Regiment was deployed on three sides of Terneuzen, which is at the entrance to the canal to Ghent. Its tasks were:—

- (a) To prevent mine-laying in the main channel of the Scheldt.
- (b) To provide A.A. defence for Terneuzen, especially for the lock gates, already destroyed, but being repaired by the Sappers.

The weather was atrocious, and getting guns into position on top of the dykes was a most difficult task. However, morale was, as usual, very high and sickness practically non-existent.

The Regiment had a certain amount of shooting at pilotless motor-boats fitted with explosives and launched by the Boche from the north bank of the river some 5,000 yards away. Our real chance came on New Year's day, 1945, when the Luftwaffe carried out an intensive and well-organized series of raids on R.A.F. airfields in Belgium and Holland as far west as Ostend. A number of F.W.190's, on their way home from these attacks, flew in towards the regimental area at zero feet seemingly oblivious of the danger. For the next twenty minutes the Regiment had the time of its life—a change we had always dreamed about, but almost despaired of getting. Very few aircraft survived. It was found impossible to allow individual claims for victims, but the Brigade area was finally credited with thirty-seven aircraft definitely destroyed, and many more seriously hit and unlikely to reach their bases.

Little more remains to be told. On the 21st April, 1945, the Regiment handed in its guns and became a Garrison Regiment, and on 1st May arrived in Kreis Alfeld to take over control of that area from the U.S. Army. The duties were many and varied—mainly guards on food stores, factories and mines, not to mention our efforts to bring thousands of displaced persons under some form of discipline and control.

On 31st July, Lieut.-Colonel T. F. Poole, M.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment. He was the only officer who had served right through with the Regiment since August, 1939, and it was indeed appropriate that he should command until within a few weeks of our eventual disbandment.

## NOTES ON HISTORY OF 1ST CADET BN. THE QUEEN'S

### PART I

THE Battalion was formed during the early part of the year 1918, though its companies had existed as independent Cadet Corps prior to this date, Selhurst Grammar School and Whitgift Middle School Corps both being formed in 1915, the former shortly before the latter. It should be stated that one of the oldest Cadet units in the country—formed in 1886—originally held the title of "1st Cadet Battalion The Queen's," but upon the formation of the Territorial Army in 1908 it lost its designation, as its recruiting area is in the County of London, and is now called "1st (London) Cadet Battalion The Queen's."

Selhurst (our present "A" Company) has therefore the distinction of being one of the three oldest companies in the County of Surrey—the other two being Farnham Cadet Corps (now in the 5th Queen's Battalion), formed in 1911, and the oldest unit in the country, and Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps (now in the 2nd Queen's Battalion), formed in 1912.

The Richmond County School Cadet Corps was formed in 1900, but it lapsed in 1930 for some years and is now incorporated in the "East Sheen and Richmond School Company."

The Selhurst Company or, as it was originally named, "The Croydon Company," was called upon during the last war to act as a guard of honour and for other duties at civic functions, such as the presentation of medals and proclamations by the Mayor. It was often on duty outside the Town Hall, and helped to line the streets at the Peace Procession in Croydon.

The original formation of the Battalion was three companies—

"A"	...	...	Selhurst Grammar School.
"B"	...	...	Whitgift Middle School.
"C"	...	...	Croydon High School.

The Battalion Commander was Lieut.-Colonel Roper (a former Commanding Officer of the 4th Queen's Territorial Battalion) who, however, did not command for very long and was succeeded in 1920 by Lieut.-Colonel J. Atkinson, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D. (late R.A.S.C., T.A.).

The Battalion was presented with Colours in 1922, which were consecrated by the Rev. W. P. G. McCormick, Vicar of Croydon, at a drumhead church parade held on 8th July of that year in the grounds of Selhurst Grammar School.

The Battalion is the only one in Surrey which at present possesses consecrated Colours. Prior to the present war, each company in rotation was accorded the privilege of taking charge of the Colours for a period, and of supplying the Colour Party at church parades and other occasions upon which they were brought on parade. The ceremony of 'Trooping the Colour' was performed on several occasions at Battalion Tattoos. On Sunday, 22nd November, 1942, the Colours were "laid up" in the church of St. Katherine, Merstham, until the conclusion of the war, at a special service which was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Sir Malcolm Fraser, Bt.).

In 1926 a fourth company was added, designated "D" (Norbury College) Company. It existed only for two or three years before changes in the school (which was privately owned) caused its disbandment. Although never very strong in numbers, it was extremely efficient.

Colonel Atkinson resigned in 1930, after commanding for ten years, and was succeeded by the present Commanding Officer (Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Wilkinson, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.), who was already well known to the Battalion and had a long previous record of service in the Cadet Force, having been for many years an officer in the Church Lads' Brigade and, at one time, Adjutant to the 1st Cadet Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. In the same year the Government decided to withdraw recognition from the Cadet Force and the Battalion, in common with the rest of the Force, passed through a very difficult period during which, however, it succeeded in keeping going with little if any reduction in strength. It was at this crisis in the history of the Cadet Movement that the British National Cadet Association came into being, mainly through the initiative of the late Viscount Allenby and the late Lieut.-General Sir Hugh Jeudwine, without whose vision and leadership the Cadet Force could hardly have survived.



Surrey can claim to have been the first county to form a "County Cadet Brigade" when this occurred, to which Lord Ashcombe (the Lord-Lieutenant) gave his personal crest as a cap badge until recognition was restored, and much valuable help was rendered by other prominent people in the county. The chief motive power, however, came from the County Commandant (Lieut.-Colonel F. G. Poole, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L.), whose energy and unfailing optimism inspired all ranks with his own enthusiasm and resulted in the Cadet Force in Surrey never falling below quite a respectable strength, of which our own Battalion provided at least one-third of the total number of Cadets in the county, with a strength of about 450 in 1930, which increased to 750 between the years 1935 and 1939. It should be realized that at this time the Battalion had to stand absolutely and entirely "on its own legs," and that *everything*, including the purchase of uniforms, provision of camp equipment, etc., was provided by private funds and that even when recognition was restored two years later, the position was very little better, since the War Office grant amounted to only 4s. per cadet, and uniforms, etc., still had to be purchased privately. A state of affairs which lasted until the expansion of the Cadet Force in 1942.

In 1935, Reigate Grammar School, formerly an O.T.C. contingent, joined the Battalion, being given the vacant designation of "D" Company, this being the first occasion upon which the Battalion had extended its border beyond the Borough of Croydon. The keenness, loyalty and efficiency of this Company have ever since proved a great source of strength to the Battalion. This was followed two years later by the formation of "E" Company. A company of the Church Lads' Brigade had existed at Merstham from 1931 (the C.L.B. being then a part of the Cadet Force) which had taken part in many of the Battalion's activities and was well known to it. When, in 1937, the Church Lads' Brigade decided to sever its connection with the Cadet Movement, this company decided to leave the C.L.B. and remain loyal to the British National Cadet Association. Although the Battalion had hitherto consisted of school companies only, the suggestion that a non-school company should join it was heartily welcomed, as it was felt that a mixture of both types of companies would be most desirable and beneficial—a view which has since proved to be abundantly justified. (Incidentally, "E" Company soon brought distinction to the Battalion by winning the County Shooting Shield on three consecutive occasions—in 1937, 1938 and 1939—being the first Company other than a school unit which had ever held this trophy.) A small Cadet Company at Warlingham (originally a C.L.B. Company) was affiliated to and administered by this Battalion from 1937 to 1940, though it did not actually form a part of the Battalion. Warlingham is not now in our area.

(To be continued.)

## 2ND CADET BATTALION THE QUEEN'S

SOME 350 cadets of the 2nd Queen's enjoyed a really first-class camp at Cliff End Fort, near Yarmouth, in the Isle of Wight, from the 10th to 24th August. Of course, marvellous weather—not a drop of rain for the whole fortnight—made everything better than it would otherwise have been; but even without that, the arrangements were as nearly perfect as they could be, and thanks are due to the authorities for the success of their efforts in making the camp really enjoyable and useful. There were several excellent demonstrations by the Greenjackets Platoon stationed in camp, by the Gunners from Larkhill, and by the Royal Signals. Training was the direct responsibility of the Battalion, and assistance was given by three officers of the Greenjackets together with two staff-sergeants and a P.T. sergeant, and was invaluable. This arrangement was, of course, the ideal, as none but Battalion officers can know what training is the best for the cadets under their command, and it is to be hoped that never again will training be superimposed from outside.

The next most important item—and perhaps, in the eyes of the cadet, the most important item—was the food. Army food is always good, but good food can be made uneatable by bad cooks. It is necessary only to say that the cadets could never have been fed better than they were

this year at Cliff End: good food in ample quantity, with plenty of choice and really excellently cooked was the invariable rule. Bathing in Colwell Bay, launch trips by the Waterborne Wing of the R.A.S.C., and trips to Portsmouth Harbour and the *Victory* rounded off a first-class camp, and the result of all these arrangements was that there were no disciplinary troubles of any sort, and what amounts to almost a miracle was that at the closure of the camp deficiencies to be written off were nil!

The Battalion has barely enough officers to carry out the work, with the result that the "willing horse" had far too much to do, and although there was no grousing and, in fact, all the officers enjoyed the camp, it certainly could not be called a holiday for them. Cannot ex-Queen's officers and N.C.Os. living in the Woking and Bagshot areas be persuaded to take up commissions with the 2nd Cadet Bn. The Queen's and so help to maintain the prestige of the Regiment of which they were found? The Cadet Battalions are part and parcel of the Regiment and, in present circumstances, a most important part of the Regiment, and one or two evenings a week helping them along would be well spent in every sense of the word.

W. H. H.

## 4TH CADET BATTALION THE QUEEN'S

THE new Cadet year is too young as yet for there to be much more to record than that this year's camp at Yaverland, Isle of Wight, is still a very living memory and the main subject of reminiscence. But throughout the open and school companies of this widely scattered Battalion the normal week-to-week work is in full swing. When the time comes—and it is reported to be near—and Battalion Headquarters is obliged to move from the fine modern Drill Hall at Coulsdon, there will be good wishes for the T.A. gunners who are already in process of taking the premises over, but regret at leaving the old war-time home and the two fine stone carvings of our own Regiment's badge over the portals. Still, in a small way it represents the inevitable movement of military life. There is, and will increasingly be, plenty to think about in future—above all, Certificate "A," with one examination close upon us and another to come in February—without worrying about smaller things. We take Certificate "A" seriously; we do not like easy "posses," and in the coming tests we hope and believe that we shall get some genuine and hard-earned ones.

## "RESISTANCE"

By MAJOR I. P. THOMSON, M.C.

(Major Thomson escaped from a German P.W. camp in 1944 and later joined the Maquis.)

MANY books have been written since the war about resistance movements in Europe, but most of these have had a personal bias. Most are biographies, some historical, others merely sensational, with the spirit of resistance used as a backcloth only to the personal and immediate actions of an individual or number of individuals who happened, for some reason or other, to be present at the renaissance of a nation from the first bewilderment and horror of occupation by a ruthless and efficient conqueror. Few, if any, have attempted to explain the national motive force which brought about these Europe-wide rebellions or, one should more rightly say, Europe-wide revivals.

This is a great pity, since, for Britain and for the British people, it is by the very nature of their own war contribution impossible to realize the implications behind resistance to the German occupation. Britain met the German nation impersonally as the country which sent over a variety of missiles by air, whether these were piloted or radio controlled, or whether they did little or great damage, did not do more than stir up impersonal hatred against an unknown enemy. The British people met Germany as the country which produced their own immediate adversary, either on sea or on the land or in the air. Here Germany was represented by a more tangible enemy certainly



in the shape of his sailors, soldiers or airmen or the instruments of war manned by them. Nevertheless, here again Germany, though represented by hostile individuals, remained a largely impersonal although much more tangible enemy.

In an occupied country there was no impersonal feeling about Germany. The presence of Germany and Germans was only too real. Their presence dominated every phase of national life: the visible presence in the shape of Germans and their German women sitting in their cafés, Germans occupying their barracks and administering their country from their own public buildings and, above all, the invisible presence of the Gestapo and their paid traitors and denouncers. These were the German representatives in an occupied country which did the most harm, for they sowed the seed of doubt which caused a free people to distrust one another. This the British people will never and can, I believe, never understand.

Whether there were few or many traitors matters not at all. The fear of only one unknown traitor could, and did, poison the atmosphere of every village and town in occupied Europe. It bred mistrust and fear, a very real fear, when denunciations were followed by arrest and death or, worse, torture. It was in this atmosphere that resistance in Europe grew.

It is interesting to see how the spirit of resistance to aggression and occupation grew, particularly since the Germans were, once they had got over the first elation at conquest, as scrupulously correct in their dealings with the average citizen as they were brutal in their dealings with those who resisted their authority.

I am speaking now of France particularly, where the German policy was one of appeasement of the French people in the hopes of winning them over to a passive if not active co-operation with the local population. This was not, of course, the policy in every country as the history of their occupation of Poland and Holland shows. It was, nevertheless, generally speaking, their policy; the only alternative was complete military occupation with martial law and military government, a policy which was precluded by their military commitments and manpower situation.

Alan Moorhead, in his book "Eclipse," observing the feeling of the people of Normandy towards the Germans after the landing, says: "The mere presence of the Germans in the role of overlords grated on these country people in a surprising way. It was not that the Germans behaved very badly. It was simply that they had the power to behave badly or any other way they chose. . . . He (the Normandy peasant) did not hate the Germans *per se*, but simply what the German represented, the abasement of France."

Why, then, did countries not being unduly oppressed rise against the occupying authority, and who led the rising, and what manner of men formed the nucleus of what later became a nationwide military resistance to this authority?

Tolstoy clearly gives the answer to this first question in his great book, "War and Peace." He says, speaking of the resistance of the ordinary Russian to occupation by the French, "One of the most conspicuous and advantageous departures from the so-called rules of warfare is the independent action of men acting separately against men huddled in a mass. Such independent activity is always seen in a war which assumes a national character. In this kind of warfare, instead of forming in a crowd to attack a crowd, men disperse in small groups, attack singly and at once fly when attacked by superior forces, and then fly again when an opportunity presents itself. Such were the tactics of the guerillas in Spain, of the mountain tribes in the Caucasus, and of the Russians in 1812.

"War of this kind has been called partisan warfare on the supposition that this defined its special significance. But this kind of warfare does not follow any rules of war, but is in direct contradiction to a well-known rule of tactics, regarded as infallible. That rule lays it down that the attacking party must concentrate his forces in order to be stronger than his opponent at the moment of conflict.

"Partisan warfare (always successful, as history testifies) acts in direct contradiction to this rule.

"Military Science assumes that the relative strength of forces is identical with their numerical proportions. Military Science maintains that the greater number of soldiers, the greater their strength. *Les gros bataillons ont toujours raison.*

"To say this is as though one were in mechanics to say that forces were equal or unequal simply because the masses of the moving bodies were equal or unequal.

"Force (the volume of motion) is the product of the mass into the velocity. In warfare the force of armies is the product of the mass multiplied by something, an unknown *x*.

"Military Science, seeing in history an immense number of examples in which the mass of an army does not correspond with its force, and in which small numbers conquer large ones, vaguely recognize the existence of this unknown factor, and try to find it sometimes in some geometrical disposition of the troops, sometimes in the superiority of weapons, and most often in the genius of the leaders. But none of these factors yield results that agree with the historical facts.

"One has but to renounce the false view that glorifies the effect of the activity of the heroes of history in warfare in order to discover the unknown quantity *x*.

"*X* is the spirit of the army . . ."

This, perhaps, answers the question as to what provides the motive force of resistance, but who was the leader? Who led the rising, and what manner of men followed them?

The leaders were patriots. Some were officers who evaded the Germans at the collapse. Some were lawyers and professional men, and many were N.C.Os. or soldiers who, seeing the greater issues involved in their country's capitulation, hoping for greater things to come, or perhaps at the immediate time, hoping merely to avoid going to Germany.

At the time of the collapse who can judge the motives, least of all the men themselves? Why do you back a horse? By studying previous form or by a hunch of what might come to pass. A combination of both, perhaps. In any case, hope is the basis of either bet.

So with a conquered country, and again I use France as an example. There was hope—vague and indefinite though it was. There was hope, morale, *x*, call it what you may, lacking only, at this moment, leadership which arrived soon in the person of de Gaulle with his Cross of Lorraine—a symbol—and his word that France was still alive and would not only survive, but would regain its former greatness.

At this time de Gaulle stood rather, to France, in the position in which the Crown stands to the British Commonwealth of Nations today. He was the figurehead, the symbol of leadership and the spirit of a people. In him were centred all the feelings and all the potential spirit of resistance which still remained dormant through bewilderment, fear and a lack of a policy of resistance.

But de Gaulle was much more than this. He was the General who had foretold *blitzkrieg* and the enormous scope of armoured warfare, the man who had been scoffed at by the orthodox soldiers, but who had been proved right in the event.

Now, through the medium of wireless, he could put over propaganda expounding future plans and giving hope to the men who were prepared to resist. These men, who through fear of the Gestapo and denouncers, kept their hopes of resistance to themselves, now began to realize that there were many thousands of their countrymen who were, like themselves, prepared to work actively against the Germans, once they had the organization to resist. Thus started the formation of small groups of resistance, or more accurately, cells of resistance.

Necessarily, at first, instructions over the wireless had to be general. No information of future intentions or plans could be given owing to German monitoring of all wireless broadcasts from England. Nevertheless, vague as plans were, they raised morale and prepared men for the explicit instructions, operation orders and operational directives which were later to come.

It is interesting to remember that, at this time, it was forbidden by the Germans to listen-in to any foreign broadcasts. German and French controlled were all that were permitted. Any contravention of this order was severely, and more often than not brutally, dealt with. This was perhaps the beginning of the hysterical fear of the invisible anti-German feeling in Europe. Despite this, there must be few Frenchmen who did not regularly listen to the English broadcasts.

Later, after personal channels of communication between France and England were opened, instructions ceased to be vague. The orders were conveyed to cells, which were expanding into resistance groups, by an elaborate code system which was broadcast openly at the conclusion of the French programme of the B.B.C. European system.



This code was disturbing to the Germans. Who could tell whether, in fact, a message which said that the baker's daughter had eloped with the butcher's grandfather, really meant anything to anybody, or whether it was an enormous bluff.

Psychologically, in the war of nerves, this series of code messages broadcast from the B.B.C. daily in all languages showed genius. The Germans could only continue to ask each other was this bluff, the machinations of the vile British Secret Service, or was there some sinister influence at work in the midst of the occupied countries. Probably, at first, it was regarded as propaganda, but gradually, as a patriot was arrested here and another there, they realized only too well how very real a menace this was. What crimes were committed by the Germans in gaining information from arrested patriots, who would not at first talk, one does not dare contemplate.

Thus was resistance formed. A few trusted companions met a few more until, eventually, leaders were chosen. Leaders contacted leaders until in one portion of a country there were thousands of people organized to resist when they had the means.

The means were in time to come; but not until leaders had been to England to learn how best to exploit their potential strength, to learn the current codes, to undergo courses in demolitions, and to be put in the overall picture of the Resistance plan. At the same time these leaders and couriers took back with them to England vital information. The methods of getting back to England personally, and also of getting information back were both devious and ingenious.

Here, I think, it would not be out of place to tell something of the story of Paul. This was not his real name, but his *nom de guerre*. Paul was an artillery officer who had served in both world wars. He was, I believe, a Lorraine, but may have been Alsacien. He was of an old and prominent family who at the capitulation returned to Paris to his house and took up his civilian profession, but was immediately involved in Resistance affairs. I do not know how many times he visited England and by how many different routes, but it was more than a dozen times. He was granted the rank of Major in the British Army and thereby the status of a soldier amongst his companions. This alone meant a great deal in the peculiar circumstances of the resistance movement. In Paris he moved in high German circles, his German was fluent, being by birth bi-lingual, and was on cordial terms with, amongst other German officers, the Gestapo Colonel in Paris. Paul realized only too well the dangers he ran in his work in Paris. Besides his affairs in Paris he was the leader of groups as far apart as Normandy, Burgundy and Haute Savoie in the French Alps.

When the Germans first realized what Paul's true work was is not known, but that they had known for some time was shown certainly later on. He was not arrested since it was thought that, by leaving Paul free, the Germans could, when eventually they did arrest him, break up his whole organization.

On D-1 Paul left Paris and took command of an active resistance group in the country. By this time the term "Maquis," which started in Haute Savoie, though its derivation is Corsican, had been accepted generally to mean any group of Frenchmen who were ready to resist or operate against the Germans actively in the field.

I joined Paul's maquis on D Day from Paris. I was escorted by train to the country by a Lorraine girl who was later denounced and tortured by the Gestapo. No one knows what finally happened to her, though all were convinced that under torture she would divulge nothing; this was borne out later by facts.

I had heard so many stories of Paul from friends of his in Paris, and of his great worth, that I was looking forward to meeting him. He was indeed a fine man, quiet but of great personality. His maquis, which was not a normal one, was a headquarters from which he administered a large portion of the French underground, and from which he was in touch with England by wireless. The wireless set, its operator, a Frenchman trained in England, and an English girl, for liaison work, had been dropped by parachute some time before.

Paul, after greeting me, told me that he feared that his headquarters had been betrayed, and sent me off to his new headquarters, a disused farm some miles away, saying that we should meet up again the next day. Paul's fears proved correct, as shortly after leaving the village in which his headquarters were situated, it was surrounded and searched, but without anyone or anything being found.

In the new headquarters we lived for several weeks doing little but provide escorts for the wireless set, which had to transmit from a different place each day, in training in the weapons which had been dropped recently by parachute, in receiving visitors to Paul, with an occasional but abortive ambush for the German radio direction-finding van.

At this time we were engaged also in frequent night parachute droppings of supplies. We have no word in English for the dropping of supplies by parachute; the French call it parachutage.

During this time I got to know Paul well. He was a remarkable man of enormous personality, of fine organizing ability and of great intelligence. His escort, which was recruited from the local peasants, loved him and had complete confidence in him.

One morning the headquarters were raided by the Germans, but fortunately a local peasant, who had seen them assemble, left his cottage and went off into the forest where he fired a shot which warned us of their approach.

A patrol established the fact that the Germans were in considerable strength, and it was clear that they intended primarily to arrest Paul together with those of his staff whom they considered to be of value to him.

This raid was not unexpected, as it had been known to Paul that the Germans had for some time been aware of his presence and that of his staff in the locality without knowing of his exact whereabouts.

Due to the lucky warning we were all able to get away with most of our arms, ammunition and stores, though our evacuation was hampered by the presence of a wounded Frenchman and a wounded British airman.

After meeting again at a pre-arranged rendezvous, Paul gave his escort each a sum of money sufficient to enable them to live for a fortnight without coupons—this was not difficult in the country where food was plentiful—and instructions to meet again at the same place in a fortnight's time.

Paul and his staff, after a long march, took train for Paris where they were to spend the next two weeks. During this time Paul held conferences with his lieutenants from all over his area of France, whilst the rest of us met from time to time to meet Paul and receive his instructions. Otherwise we were free to enjoy things as best we could. This time in Paris was a welcome break from the discomforts of the country, particularly since we had plenty of money.

During this time Paul continued meeting the Gestapo Colonel, each thinking that he was gaining vital information for his side. But one day we learnt that Paul had been arrested by the Gestapo. This was a great blow to us who had relied so much on his leadership and inspiration in the past. What effect it would have on the rank and file of his numerous maquis we could not tell, but we realized that it would be a great blow to their morale.

Paul was later shot in Buchenwald. That the Germans shot him and did not hang him was at least a compliment, the last and probably the greatest compliment ever paid him, since they executed him as an officer and not as a rebel.

Such was one of France's Resistance leaders, there were many more like him, though there were also rogues as well. Any organization which is struggling against established law and order must attract the type who uses resistance as a cover for his own personal greed and advancement.

Happily these were few, and Paul may be taken as an example of the best of the Resistance leaders. That so many of these leaders were arrested and executed for their work for France in war is her tragedy, since they are above all the type of man that France needs so badly now as leaders in peace.



# ROYAL MILITARY MEMORIAL CHAPEL

## SECOND WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

THE amalgamation of the Royal Military Academy and the Royal Military College has been far more than a fusion of two military establishments. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, has become not only the central source of Regular Officers, but also the focus for Officer Cadet instruction in the Service; its influence will flow through every corps of our future armies.

From the Woolwich Chapel will be brought those memorials which can be moved, and they will be re-erected in a new wing to be added to the Sandhurst Chapel. Thus the Royal Military Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, becomes not only a unique memorial to past officers, but a parent Church of Officers throughout the Army.

The Chapel War Memorial Committee for the Second World War Memorial is composed of the following members:—

Major-General F. R. G. Matthews, D.S.O., Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Lieut.-General Sir B. D. Fisher, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Past Commandant, Royal Military College.

Major-General F. W. H. Pratt, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., representing Royal Military Academy.

The Very Rev. H. W. Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C., Past Chaplain, Royal Military College.

The Rev. T. Wingfield Heale, O.B.E., Past Chaplain, Royal Military College.

The Rev. G. W. Battersby, O.B.E., C.F., Chaplain, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

The Committee consider that any plan for the Second World War Memorial must be completely comprehensive and must not be limited to a commemoration of past Sandhurst or Woolwich Cadets, which has been the rule for memorials in respective chapels in the past.

It is therefore intended that the proposed Memorial should commemorate all the officers of the British Commonwealth and Empire who gave their lives in the Second World War, whether they were trained at Woolwich, Sandhurst, or one of the war-time Officer Cadet Training Units, and whether they held Regular, Territorial or Emergency Commissions.

His Majesty the King has graciously signified his approval of this plan, which is to be carried out in the following form:—

- (i) A Book of Remembrance containing the names of all Commissioned Officers of the British Commonwealth and Empire who lost their lives in the Second World War, to be suitably placed in the Chapel.
- (ii) Oak pews to replace the present chairs in the main body of the Chapel. These pews are to bear, on the panels and ends, the carved crests of the regiments and corps of the British Army and the Dominion and Colonial Forces.
- (iii) A new organ with screen to be built to replace the existing instrument, which is both musically and architecturally unworthy of the Chapel.

Field-Marshal Sir Claude J. E. Auchinleck, G.C.B., G.C.I.E., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C., Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, has agreed to the new organ and screen being the particular memorial to Indian Army officers. The corps and regimental crests of the Indian Army will be carved on the screen.

The Committee have estimated that the total cost of these proposals will not be less than £35,000. We hope, however, that the response to our appeal for funds will be on the most generous scale, as we feel that such a memorial will give expression to the wishes of both serving and retired officers, of all who know the Memorial Chapel, and indeed of all who remember with thankfulness and admiration the qualities of leadership displayed by those bearing the King's Commission who gave their lives in the war.

We are confident that the past and present generation will welcome this opportunity of beautifying the spiritual home of the future officers of the British Army.

The Honorary Secretary will be pleased to answer any enquiries about the proposed memorial. The Committee wish it to be known that private memorials may still be engraved on the walls and pillars of the Chapel, but that owing to the lack of space, these must be limited to memorials of past cadets of the Royal Military Academy, the Royal Military College, or the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

F. R. G. MATTHEWS, *Major-General,  
Chairman, Chapel War Memorial Committee,  
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.*

[It is hoped that the Regiment will play a worthy part in this scheme. Battalions have been notified to subscribe. Subscriptions from individuals of all ranks will be welcome. They should be sent to O.C. Depot, Stoughton Barracks, as it is intended to send a donation from the Regiment as a whole.]

## OBITUARY NOTICES

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR G. F. ELLISON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.  
(Extract from *The Times* of October 29th, 1947)

### "ARMY ORGANIZATION."

"Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Francis Ellison, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., who died at his home at Taunton on Monday, at the age of 86, will perhaps be best remembered as the secretary of the Esher Committee, which was the instrument for effecting such important changes in the organization of the Army after the South African War. A great 'office man,' his flair was for administrative matters rather than for General Staff work.

"The second son of Canon Ellison, he was born on 18th August, 1861, and educated at Marlborough. In 1882 he entered the Army as a University candidate, receiving his commission in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, now The Loyal Regiment, of which he was gazetted Colonel in 1926. He graduated from the Staff College in 1889 while still a subaltern, and was promoted Captain into The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment in 1891. In 1894 he married Lilian Amy, the only child of Colonel Robert Bruce, C.B., by whom he had a son and a daughter. After serving in the War Office as Staff Captain, he was appointed in 1897 Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at Aldershot. After the outbreak of the South African War in 1899 he went out to Natal on Sir Redvers Buller's staff, and was present at the operations which eventually resulted in the relief of Ladysmith. Next came his selection as secretary to the Esher Committee, and in 1904 he was created C.B. for his services. When Mr. (later Lord) Haldane became Secretary of State for War in 1905 Ellison acted as his principal private Secretary.

"In 1908 he became Director of Organization at the War Office, which he left in 1911 to become Chief Staff Officer to Sir Ian Hamilton, then Inspector-General of Overseas Forces. When, at the beginning of the 1914-18 war, Hamilton was given command of the Home Forces—known as the Central Force—his staff officer accompanied him as Major-General, General Staff. It was in the following July that Ellison went to the Mediterranean theatre as Deputy Inspector-General of Communications, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and at the beginning of the August offensive he was made Deputy Quartermaster-General. In November he went to Egypt in temporary command of the Levant base, but was soon recalled for duty in England, where he filled important administrative posts for the remainder of the war. In 1916 he was created C.M.G., K.C.M.G., in 1919, and K.C.B. in 1922. He was promoted Lieutenant-General in the following year, and retired from the Army in July, 1925.

"In 1898 he published a plea for universal military service under the title of 'Home Defence.' The basis of this little book was the essay with which he had won the Gold Medal of the Royal United Service Institution in 1895. 'The Perils of Amateur Strategy,' published in 1926, urged that all was not well with our higher direction of war, particularly as exemplified by the conduct of the Dardanelles campaign. Deeply interested in the history and topography of the small West Country town in which he settled after his retirement, he published in 1936 'The Sieges of Taunton.'"



## COLONEL WILLIAM PARKER

Extract from *The Times*: "Colonel William Parker, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., whose death at his home in London was briefly announced in *The Times* on Monday, was born in 1880, the son of George Parker, of Douglas, Isle of Man. He was educated at the City of London School, and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1901. It was, however in the business world rather than in the Courts that his talents found scope. He became a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, of which he was president, 1929-30, and was also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

"At the age of 18 he joined the 4th Volunteer Battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, which as the 1st/24th Battalion, The London Regiment, he was later to command in war and peace. He won the D.S.O. in the operations in the Ypres Salient, 1916-17, on which he contributed the chapter in the War History of the 47th (London) Division. On the reconstitution of the Territorial Army he returned to command the 24th London Regiment for three years, and from 1920 till his recent retirement he was an active military member of the County of London Territorial Army and Air Force Association. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County in 1934.

"He married in 1910 Ethel Grace, daughter of Mr. Thomas Fall, of Hampstead, and had one son and one daughter."

No.	Name.	Battalion.	Service.	Date of Decease.
	Major G. A. Copps, M.M.	...	...	March, 1947
	Lieut. (Q.M.) A. E. Griffin	...	...	...
196	Sergt. J. Burgess	...	...	8/5/47
2820	Pte. J. Chadwick	...	...	14/8/46
G/21950	Cpl. G. Cooper	...	...	2/6/47
3863	Pte. E. Heather	...	...	17/8/47
6549807	Pte. A. Lee	...	...	1945
5348190	Pte. L. Lovegrove	...	...	April, 1947
	C.S.M. W. Plows	...	...	13/1/47
6077971	Pte. P. Searies	...	...	15/8/47
6102970	Pte. B. Spain	...	...	July, 1947
G/4473	Pte. A. Stevens	...	...	6/6/47
3221	Pte. H. Tilley	...	...	12/9/47
1646	Pte. R. Ward	...	...	May, 1947
	(Mr. Ward was an In-Pensioner, Royal Hospital, Chelsea)			
	Pte. W. J. Taylor	...	...	29/9/47
	C.S.M. Dick Fisher	...	...	April, 1947
		22nd London (The Queen's) and 6th	1901-1922	

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor and Hon. Treasurer : MAJOR R. C. G. FOSTER.  
Offices : STOUGHTON BARRACKS, GUILDFORD.

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

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

- A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part—i.e., Battalion General News.
- Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
- Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important

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 April, 1948.

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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