

THE OFFICERS, BERLIN, 1948

Back Row. Capt. K. R. Thompson, Capt. A. S. Blackman, Lieut. A. Peckham, Capt. C. I. D. Haswell, Capt. N. A. H. Marsden, Lieut. G. A. Fearnside-Speed, Capt. D. J. White.  
Centre Row. Capt. M. R. H. Stoford, Lieut. T. J. Paterson, Capt. W. I. F. Sutton, Lieut. D. Mott, M.M., Lieut. A. T. Thomas, 2/Lieut. D. C. Munn, Lieut. P. A. W. G. Durrant,  
Front Row. Major R. L. Lyle, Major T. P. Simmonds, Capt. J. F. Hancock, Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E., General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., Major L. S. Sheldon, Major N. T. Lennan M.C., Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton, Capt. R. W. Jackson.

(To face page 51)



# The Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL ... ..	52	HISTORY OF 169 QUEEN'S BRIGADE ... ..	81
1ST BATTALION ... ..	52	OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES ... ..	82
BERLIN, AUTUMN, 1948 ... ..	63	O.C.A. NOTES ... ..	84
ON DRAFT TO GERMANY ... ..	66	WAR MEMORIAL FUND ... ..	85
THE DEPOT ... ..	67	HOME COUNTIES TRAINING BATTALION ... ..	86
REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK ... ..	69	8TH/9TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGT....	89
NEWS IN BRIEF ... ..	72	AN INFANTRY COMPANY IN ARAKAN AND	
5TH BATTALION ... ..	74	KOHIMA ... ..	90
DIARY OF A REGIMENTAL OFFICER OF 131		3RD CADET BATTALION ... ..	93
(QUEEN'S BRIGADE) ... ..	76	A VISIT TO COCOS AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS ...	93
6TH BATTALION ... ..	80	OBITUARY NOTICES ... ..	96
622 (QUEEN'S) H.A.A. REGT., R.A. (T.A.) ...	81	THE LONDON GAZETTE ... ..	97
		CALLING ALL SERVICEMEN ... ..	99

## ILLUSTRATIONS

	facing page		facing page
THE OFFICERS, BERLIN, 1948 ... ..	51	6TH BATTALION IN CAMP ... ..	80
TROOPING THE COLOURS ... ..	54, 55, 56, 57	THE OTHER RANKS DINNER ... ..	84
AT THE DEPOT ... ..	68	AT THE O.C.A. REUNION ... ..	85
THE REGIMENT v. THE GRASSHOPPERS ... ..	68	IN THE ARAKAN AND KOHIMA ... ..	90
131 BRIGADE IN NORMANDY ... ..	76	3RD CADET BATTALION ... ..	93
5TH BATTALION ... ..	77	BRIGADIER-GENERAL R. H. MANGLES, C.B.,	
622 H.A.A. REGIMENT ... ..	77	C.M.G., D.S.O. ... ..	96



# EDITORIAL

NOTE BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

I VISITED Berlin between 5th and 12th September in order to direct the final parade of the 2nd Battalion and the assumption of responsibility by the 1st Battalion. I found the Battalion living in the Olympic Stadium, a delightful place for the summer with fine playing fields, grand swimming baths and other sporting amenities, but no place in which to spend the winter as there were no means of heating the dressing and other rooms in which N.C.Os. and men were living. It is to move to other barracks for the winter. I found the Battalion in excellent shape, more than holding its own with other units in the garrison and with an excellent reputation for keenness and efficiency among the commanders under whom it was serving.

9th September, 1948, Salerno Day, will long be remembered in the Regiment, for it was at 5 p.m. on that day that the disbandment parade of the 2nd Battalion was held. The formal official disbandment will actually be recorded on some other date as it is concerned with the completion of schemes for the disposal of the property of the Battalion.

As far as we in the Regiment are concerned, however, 9th September will be imprinted on our memories because the Colours of the 2nd Battalion were trooped for the last time and were marched off parade to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." The parade which I had the privilege to direct was memorable for two reasons. Primarily, I think, because it was held in Berlin. None of us who served in the 2nd Battalion in years gone by, could have imagined in our wildest dreams that it would ever be disbanded and that, if it was, it would be in the heart of the capital of Germany. Secondly, because of the excellence of the drill, for it was quite first class and up to the "Queen's" standard throughout. It reflected the greatest credit on all ranks. An account of the parade appears elsewhere in the JOURNAL.

The disbandment of the Battalion is a sad blow to the Regiment, but it is due to circumstances beyond our control and we must loyally accept our loss.

Although we lose the Battalion its honours and records remain with the Regiment, never to be forgotten so long as the Regiment exists.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—Will sub-editors and contributors please note that the dates of sending in contributions have been altered to 1st April and 1st October. This, it is hoped, will enable the JOURNAL actually to come out in May and November instead of in June and December as at present.

## 1ST BATTALION

ALTHOUGH these notes are headed 1st Battalion, the majority of the events described refer really to the 2nd Battalion, for it was not till 9th September that the latter was disbanded and its members became the 1st Battalion. The ceremony at which the transfer took place is described elsewhere in this issue, and a few details concerning the funds and property of both Battalions appear later in these notes.

### THE COMMANDING OFFICER

It was with great regret that we learned from the Colonel of the Regiment, on 8th September, that Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E., was shortly to leave us. He took over command of the 2nd Battalion on its return from India on 4th February, 1947. The officers and senior N.C.Os. were mostly young and had little experience of peace-time soldiering, while large numbers of all ranks were due for release in the next six months. In spite of all the inevitable changes, which have meant a larger amount of work for himself, he has produced a battalion well up to the standard expected by the Regiment. This has been borne out by the letters of many senior officers, and was apparent to all who saw the parade on 9th September this year. Apart from that parade, perhaps the outward and visible sign of which he himself is proudest is the Drums. Although but a shadow of the Drums of the days when he was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, the eighteen drummers on

parade on 9th September were very nearly as impressive as those of Drum-Majors Biggs and Palmer.

Lieut.-Colonel East goes as D.P.M. to H.Q. Hannover District, so we shall hope to see him occasionally. We wish him the best of luck.

By the time these notes appear in print, his successor, Lieut.-Colonel T. H. Dyke, D.S.O., will have taken over.

### VISIT OF THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

We were honoured and delighted to have the Colonel of the Regiment with us for four days in September and were relieved that he looked as well when he left as when he arrived, in spite of his very full programme.

General Giffard arrived on 7th September and watched a practice for the parade to be held on the 9th. He made several alterations in the procedure to be carried out, including one that he would give certain words of command himself. The Commanding Officer was obviously a little worried as to how the Battalion would react. He need have had no fear; The General's word of command had lost none of its clarity or vigour, and the response of the troops was as excellent as it was during the rest of the parade. That night he dined with the G.O.C.

On Wednesday he took part in a dress rehearsal for the parade and went round barracks in the morning, watched the semi-finals of the Inter-Company Football Competition in the afternoon, and attended a Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess in the evening.

On Thursday, 9th September, he was photographed with Officers' and Sergeants' Mess groups, was on parade for nearly one and a half hours in the evening, attended a small party in the Officers' Mess after the parade and, later, a dance in the Sergeants' Mess.

Friday was an equally full day. In the morning General Giffard was taken for a tour of Berlin by Major M. V. Fletcher, who served in the Military Government of the British Sector from 1945 till early this year and is now employed with H.Q. Airlift; he had a well-qualified guide. In the afternoon he watched the final of the football competition, and in the evening there was another Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess.

The Colonel of the Regiment left Gatow Airfield at 7.30 on the morning of 10th September. We hope he enjoyed his visit as much as we enjoyed having him.

### MOVE TO BERLIN

The move started on 7th June when "A" Company and the Signal Platoon moved by road from Dortmund, and was to have been continued by similar parties at weekly intervals. On the 14th "C" Company and Battalion Tactical H.Q. moved, and that day it was announced that the bridge at Magdeburg was "closed for repairs." After some delay at the temporary ferry the party arrived safely in Berlin, but further moves by road were cancelled. On 28th June the move was resumed by air and, apart from a rear party left behind to look after the rest of the transport and baggage, was completed on 5th July. We were lucky eventually to get all our baggage up by air except three private cars, two billiard tables and the mowing machine!

Half the families moved by rail and road and the remainder by air.

### BERLIN

The Battalion is billeted in the Olympic Stadium, where accommodation is short but not uncomfortable. We are lucky to be surrounded by numerous excellent sports grounds, athletic tracks and swimming baths. Unfortunately, the stadium has no heating and we are due to move into barracks in Spandau in the middle of October, where, dependent on the air lift, we may be warmer but will lose many of the amenities attached to the stadium and to being near the centre of Berlin.

The Battalion is employed mainly on garrison guards, just short of 100 N.C.Os. and men being required for these duties daily. In addition, "B" Company has for a month found the guards at Spandau prison, where the seven major war criminals who received long sentences at Nuremberg are imprisoned. On several occasions companies have stood to for internal security reasons, but none has yet been called out.



In Spandau we shall be in Brooke Barracks, next door to Wavell Barracks where the 1st/5th Queen's were quartered in 1945. The following N.C.Os. and men then serving with 1st/5th Queen's are now with the 1st Battalion: Cpls. Dixon and Jones, L./Cpl. Moore, Ptes. Silk, Willis and Gates.

#### REGIMENTAL FUNDS AND PROPERTY

Some 1st Battalion Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess property came to Berlin with the Colours. More is being repaired in England and will follow shortly, but the majority is being temporarily stored at the Depot until it is decided whether any of it is to be disposed of.

As directed by the War Office, application is being made to the Charity Commissioners for a scheme to provide for the administration of the funds of the 2nd Battalion by trustees, who are to be the Colonel of the Regiment, the Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot, an officer to be nominated by the Colonel of the Regiment, the Secretary of the O.C.A., and the senior W.O. or N.C.O. at the Depot. It is being recommended that the interest from these funds should be allotted to any Regimental Institutions at the discretion of the trustees.

The Commanding Officer has also proposed that the trustees should have power to dispose of the property of the Battalion by sale, loan or storage as they see fit in accordance with his recommendations. Assuming that the 2nd Battalion may be raised again in peace time and that it is, therefore, necessary to retain enough property to set up Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and other Battalion institutions on approximately the same scale as at present in B.A.O.R., a committee of senior officers of the Battalion have divided all the property into what they consider should be retained and what may be disposed of. The property to be retained will either be stored or lent to units of the Regiment, including the 1st Battalion in B.A.O.R. Of the remainder it is suggested that officers of the Regiment, serving or retired, should be given an opportunity of buying what they want and that what is left should, if possible, be melted down to make some permanent memorial to the Battalion in the form of a statuette. Anything not required for this purpose should be sold.

Officers' and Sergeants' Mess silver was sent from B.A.O.R. to the Depot with the Colours on 25th September. The remainder of the Officers' Mess silver is stored at Carringtons.

#### TROOPING OF THE 2ND BATTALION COLOURS, BERLIN, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1948

9th September, 1948, dawned bright and clear and it seemed reasonably certain that only the political situation could mar the parade for which we had practised so long, though somewhat intermittently. How nearly it did we did not know till afterwards.

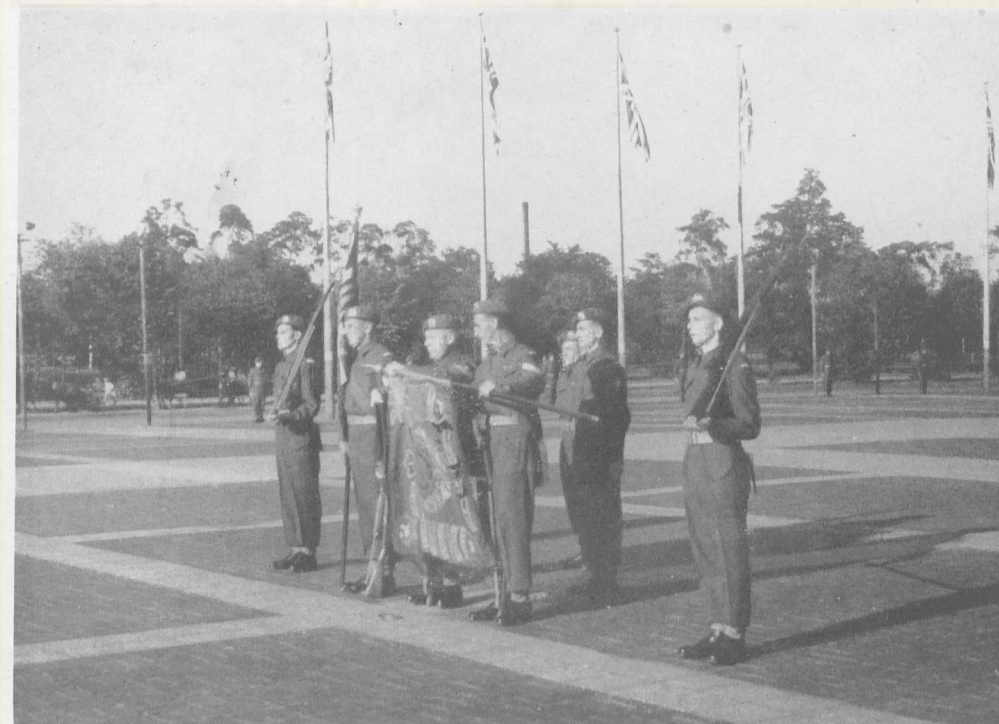
The ceremony was to take place on the Olympischer Platz, a paved rectangle some 400 by 80 yards, sloping gently up to the Stadium at its western end and fringed by trees. On each of the eighty flagpoles surrounding the Platz hung a Union Jack where once had hung a Swastika. On the southern side had been erected the saluting base flanked by spectators' stands.

By 4.30 p.m. the spectators had begun to arrive and by five o'clock, when the troops keeping the ground marched through the gates of the Stadium, the stands were full.

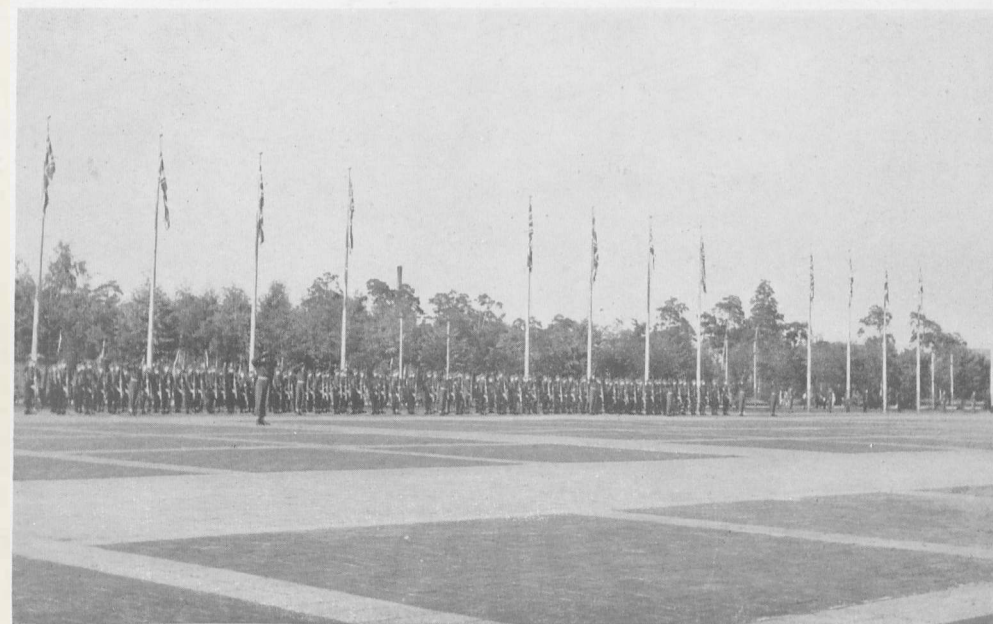
There were but few German spectators, perhaps because some 350,000 of the inhabitants of the Western Sectors of Berlin were gathered at an anti-communist demonstration outside the ruins of the Reichstagsgebäude.

At 5.10 p.m. the cased Colours of the 2nd Battalion were marched from the Stadium to the lower end of the ground, where they were uncased while the spectators stood. They were followed by the Colour party of the 1st Battalion, which halted facing them at the opposite end of the ground, the Colours remaining cased.

Headed by the Band and Drums, the 2nd Battalion, organized as four guards, marched through the gates at 5.20 and formed up in line facing the saluting base. The evening was perfectly still. The only sound as the Battalion awaited the arrival of the G.O.C. and the Colonel of the Regiment was the almost incessant drone of aircraft, to which we had become accustomed in the past ten weeks, carrying our supplies into Gatow. One could not help wondering whether the events which had brought us to this monument of Nazi Germany were leading us.



TROOPING OF THE COLOURS  
The 2nd Battalion Colours being Uncased



THE GENERAL SALUTE





THE ESCORT TAKING OVER THE COLOURS



MARCHING OFF THE 2nd BATTALION COLOURS

(To face page 55)

Major-General E. O. Herbert, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commanding British Troops, Berlin, arrived at 5.35, the Battalion being called to attention. At 5.40 General Giffard was received with a General Salute.

The Commanding Officer having asked permission to Troop, the ceremony began with the Band and Drums trooping across the front in slow time and returning in quick time. No. 1 Guard, the escort for the Colours, then moved in slow time up to the 2nd Battalion Colours, where they halted and the Colours were each in turn handed over by the R.S.M. After trooping them through the ranks of the Guards, they returned to their place at the right of the line.

We then bade farewell to these Colours which had been our proud possessions for 89 years. It was a sad moment, particularly for those who had served with them for any length of time, as the Colours of the 2nd Battalion were marched in slow time to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" to the left of the line and then to their place in the rear of the Battalion, where they were cased, never again to appear in the ranks of the Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment then came on parade and, having given the orders "2nd Battalion ground arms" and "1st Battalion, take up arms," instructed the Commanding Officer to have the 1st Battalion Colours uncased and marched on.

The 2nd Battalion had once again been disbanded and the 1st Battalion, which had been reduced to a cadre on its return from Singapore, was once again in full life and ready to continue in its 288th year of unbroken service.

General Giffard then addressed the Battalion as follows:—

"My first duty is to read you the message which our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Mary, has been graciously pleased to send by me:

"I am very sorry that the reorganization of the Army has made it necessary to disband the 2nd Battalion of my Regiment, and I send to you my sympathy in what must be to everyone of you a grievous blow.

"The record of the Battalion in its ninety-one years has been magnificent. Raised in 1857, the Battalion saw its first fighting in the Burma Campaign of 1886-87. Its next spell of active service was in the South African War, in which it served from the beginning in 1899 until peace was declared in 1902.

"Like most of the Regiments of the British Army, the Battalion fought on the Western Front in the First World War, but had a short spell in Italy. In the last war it was first in North Africa, where it was part of the garrison of Tobruk, and subsequently went to Burma to become part of Wingate's Chindits.

"In all its campaigns the Battalion has been highly reported upon by the Commanders under whom it served, and has not only maintained the fine record of the Regiment, but has added many battle honours to its history. In one respect it is probably unique, as it still carries in its ranks the Colours with which it was presented when it was first raised.

"This short message which I have charged General Sir George Giffard, the Colonel of my Regiment, to deliver on my behalf is to bid you farewell and to wish you all good fortune in your future careers, wherever they may lead you. Wherever you may go, do not forget the motto of the Regiment *Pristinae virtutis memor*."

General Giffard continued:

"I want also to say a word or two on my own behalf on this occasion which for all of us is one of great sadness and regret, for there is no disguising the fact that the loss of the 2nd Battalion is a grievous blow. The disbandment of any battalion brings to an end a page of history, for it has inevitably played its part in peace and war in the events of its day. The 2nd Battalion is no exception and has, in the 91 years of its existence, served, as our Colonel-in-Chief has reminded us, in most of the major campaigns of its time and been stationed in many garrisons all over the world. Both in war and peace it has made its mark; in war by courage and endurance it has added many honours to the long list already earned by the Regiment in its earlier years; in peace, by its smartness, efficiency, and good sportsmanship it has left a reputation second to none in all its stations. We can look back with pride upon its record and with thankfulness to the memory of those who made the Battalion what it is and handed down to us such a grand tradition. Today that passes into history and we bid farewell to the 2nd Battalion which goes home to be disbanded.



"It is comforting to remember that in former days we had 2nd battalions raised for the Regiment and subsequently disbanded, and let us hope that one day this Battalion may once again form part of the Regiment.

"Now we hand the torch to the 1st Battalion, which must carry forward the reputation of the Regiment unaided by the 2nd. That it will do so with success I have no doubt at all, and it will do so the better for the memory of all that the 2nd Battalion has done.

"I want you to remember, too, the gallant story of the landing at Salerno which we commemorate today. The Regiment owes a great debt to those six grand territorial battalions of the Regiment who formed 131st and 169th Infantry Brigades and added such glorious laurels to the record of the Regiment in that battle. Most of those fine battalions have also since been disbanded.

"However much we may grieve at their loss and that of the 2nd Battalion today, we must always remember that whatever the number of its units the spirit of the Queen's Royal Regiment lives on, and it is the duty of each one of us to see that the fame of the Regiment shall never diminish nor its record be tarnished. It is a precious heritage.

"I know that the good name of the Regiment is safe in your hands and I wish you all good fortune in the future wherever you may go."

After the Colonel of the Regiment's address, the Battalion formed up on the saluting base and marched past in column with the Colours of the 1st Battalion flying at the head and those of the 2nd Battalion cased in rear. They then re-formed line facing the saluting base and, after the advance in review order, gave a General Salute. Finally, the Battalion marched past in threes and then marched off into the shadows of the Stadium, the notes of "Georgia" fading away into the distance.

As the sun disappeared behind the Olympic Stadium, the Drums sounded Retreat outside the gates. The Union Jack on its top and those surrounding the parade ground were lowered. The spectators stood in an appreciative silence, whilst in the distance could be heard the Band marching the escort to the Colours back to the Officers' Mess. It was a fitting ending to a memorable occasion.

The following letter, written by the Colonel of the Regiment before he left us, must surely express the feelings of all those who witnessed the parade :—

"I cannot leave without telling you what an excellent parade it was yesterday.

"Ceremonial to be well done calls for great preparation and most careful attention to detail, and both of these were evident in yesterday's parade.

"What struck me particularly and all those officers who expressed their appreciation of the parade was the perfect steadiness of all ranks. It could not have been bettered and I doubt if it could have been equalled.

"The arms drill and marching were of an equally high order. The Band and Drums played and marched splendidly and added that finishing touch which made the whole ceremony complete. The steadiness and behaviour of the troops lining the ground, a long, tedious, but very important task, was very well done. The whole parade was fully up to the highest standards of the Regiment and there can be no higher praise.

"I congratulate you all on a fine parade."

To this the Commanding Officer added :—

"The Commanding Officer wishes to add his congratulations. There is no doubt that the celebration of Salerno, 1948, was a success, thanks to the real hard work put in by all ranks. The Commanding Officer wishes particularly to commend those officers, N.C.Os. and men who work in the background, such as Regimental Police, cooks, waiters, etc. Their duties are arduous and inconspicuous, but absolutely essential."

In reply to the message from Her Majesty Queen Mary, the following telegram was sent on behalf of all ranks :—

"The 2nd Battalion of Her Regiment on this sad but memorable occasion send, with their humble duty, their most grateful thanks for Her Majesty's gracious message which was greatly appreciated by all ranks."



THE BATTALION RETURNING AFTER THE PARADE



THE OLYMPIC STADIUM, BERLIN





THE SERGEANTS, 1ST BATTALION

Colour Party. C./Sgt. Biles. C./Sgt. Chesser. C./Sgt. Dodson. C./Sgt. Oldcorn. Sgt. Gill. Sgt. Northey. Sgt. Burn. Sgt. Vance.  
 Rear Row. Sgt. Goodchild. Sgt. Ward. Sgt. Ellis (R.A.F.C.). Sgt. Redman (R.A.F.C.). Sgt. Dure Delaney (R.A.F.C.). L./Sgt. Alder. Sgt. Blakesley.  
 Second Row. Sgt. Constford. Sgt. Westover. Sgt. Adkins. Sgt. Elliott. Sgt. Porch (A.C.C.). Sgt. Neal. Sgt. Diamond. Sgt. Norman. Sgt. Hunt. Sgt. Aubert. Sgt. Dowland.  
 Front Row. Sgt. Finch (R.A.F.C.). Sgt. Wright. Sgt. Borman. Sgt. Deacon. D/M. Harman. Sgt. Herbert. C.S.M. Born. B/M. Gains. Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East. General Sir George Giffard.  
 Sgt. Elkins. Sgt. Duffly. Sgt. Kingsland. S.I. McCarter (A.P.T.C.). C.S.M. Herbert. C.S.M. Baker. S.S.I. Coshy (A.P.T.C.). Sgt. Black.  
 R.S.M. Noke. C.S.M. Wickers. C.S.M. Motton. C.S.M. Waldron.

(To face page 57)

The following officers were on parade :—

#### 1st. BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

Officer Appointed to Command: Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Officer Carrying the King's Colour: Captain A. S. Blackman.

Officer Carrying the Regimental Colour: Lieut. A. D. Peckham.

#### 2nd BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

Commanding Officer: Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Adjutant: Capt. J. F. Hancocks.

No. 1 Guard "A" Coy.: Major G. H. W. Goode, M.B.E.; Capt. D. W. L. Palmer.

Officer Carrying the King's Colour: Capt. N. A. H. Marsden.

Officer Carrying the Regimental Colour: Capt. C. B. Rodger.

No. 2 Guard "B" Coy.: Major N. T. Lennan, M.C.; Capt. C. J. Grindley; Lieut. A. T. Thomas.

No. 3 Guard, "C" Coy.: Capt. K. R. Thompson; Capt. W. J. F. Sutton; Lieut. G. A. Fearnside-Speed.

No. 4 Guard "D" Coy.: Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton; Capt. R. D. T. Fletcher; Lieut. T. J. Paterson.

Troops Keeping the Ground: H.Q. Coy.: Major T. P. Simmonds; Capt. P. C. Wylde; Capt. D. J. White.

Regimental Sergeant-Major: B. T. Noke.

Band of The Queen's Royal Regiment: Bandmaster E. Gaines.

Drums of the 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment: Drum Major S. L. C. Harman.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

The usual celebrations for the "Glorious First of June" took place in Dortmund after the beating of Retreat.

During the afternoon the officers defeated us by the very small margin of one run at cricket. It is generally thought that this was due to the fact that Sergt. Bill Elkins had forgotten to adjust his windscreen wipers and was unable to see the ball; however, against such overwhelming odds it was considered we did quite well.

In the evening a social was held and the Commanding Officer, officers and wives honoured us with their presence. It was proved to be a very successful party owing to the increased sales of Aspros the following day.

The organization of entertainments was very much retarded after the 1st June, due to the move from Dortmund to Berlin over a period of a month or two, and the lack of sufficient space and facilities in our temporary abode.

However, we did organize ourselves sufficiently to beat 145 Mess C.C.G. and 54 Mess C.C.G. at darts. The former gave us a close run on our home ground, but they had a very sad story to tell after we had paid them a return visit in their own mess.

Invitations are regularly received from 22 Ladies' Mess, C.C.G., which houses some 200 females; on these evenings one would think the Mess had taken over the 7A bus route.

After the Trooping of the Colours parade on Salerno Day a social was held in the Mess and we were honoured with the presence of General Sir George Giffard and the Commanding Officer, officers and wives. This was an overwhelming success, and the many photographs that were taken that night will, no doubt, recall memories for years to come.

In the world of sport we have fared very favourably; our greatest success was on that memorable Whit-Monday when we trounced the officers at soccer 7-0. Our centre-forward, who scored all seven goals, has been wondering why Lawton has not been dropped from England's team before now. This game was attended both by officers' and sergeants' wives and an enjoyable time was had by all. So far the season has only produced two more games, both being against "B" Company in the Company Knock-Out Competition. The first was a very hard game in which we drew 3-3 after extra time. The second game, which also entailed extra time, ended in our being defeated 4-2. Grey hairs are believed to be the cause. We are now looking forward to many more games and a successful season. It is noted for the benefit of all that the R.S.M. claims that his soccer days are a long way from being over.

Since the last publication many new members have joined the Mess, and we welcome C./Sergt. Dodson, C./Sergt. O'Loughlin, C./Sergt. Atkins, and Sergts. Taylor, Alder, Hunt, Neal, Blakesley, Vance-Cotsford, Porch, Delany, and McCarter (A.P.T.C.).

We also welcome Drum-Major Harman on his promotion.



Many happy moments have been had meeting old acquaintances among these new arrivals, but it is with deep regret that we must say farewell to C.S.M. Cashford, who has left us owing to illness. We wish him a speedy recovery and the best wishes to both him and his wife in the future years to come. We have lost another grand friend in S.S.I. Cosby, known to us all as "Bing"; he has departed to the land known as "Civvy Street." "Bing" has been the cause of much fun and laughter and we shall undoubtedly feel the loss in future entertainments. He has also been the cause of many a heartache among female visitors to the Mess. However, he has gone to start in another field.

Last but by no means least is the "Daddy" of the Mess, C.S.M. Born. We must congratulate him on his classification as "Verger Class III." Many copious tears were shed on receipt of his posting to the Graves Commission. However, he is still a close neighbour, and we shall always reserve vacant bed space in the Mess for those who, like the wanderer, must always return to the fold.

### REGIMENTAL BAND NOTES

To quote the old saying, "A lot of water has flowed under the bridge," so a lot has happened to the activities of the Band since our last notes in the JOURNAL.

Soon after the 2nd Battalion Band's return from Japan in 1947 we had to embark on the War Office policy of amalgamating the two Regimental Bands, and we became for the first time in the history of the Regiment the representative band of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and so, in March, 1948, we said farewell to Guildford and set sail to join the Battalion in Germany.

This is the first time for ten years that the Regiment has had its own band with them, and to prove how enthusiastic they were, the second day of residence saw the Band combining with the Drums on a G.O.C.'s inspection. This was a prelude of things to come, as for the next three months we entertained all to parades, church services, lunch-hour concerts and many other musical activities.

A change from musical activities was a visit with the Battalion to Vogelsang, one of Hitler's strength through Joy" camps. We cannot vouch for the "joy" part of this camp, but we certainly gained "strength" by carrying our band kit up and down the slopes of this rather hilly country. In this camp I think we also amazed our Band President by doing a five-mile route march unaided, thus showing that we can read maps, as well as crotchets and quavers.

And so back to Dortmund to play at the divisional horse-racing meetings. We are afraid that Snashall and Nicholson were a little disappointed here as the dividends were not up to the Ascot standards. The highlight of our stay at Dortmund was a beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums on the "Hanza Platz." This was witnessed by many of the German population and so gave an historic finish to the Battalion's stay at this very old German city.

Our next move was to Berlin, and although a few of the Band boys were a little apprehensive as regards the journey by Dakota, we arrived at the Olympic Sports Stadium quite safe and sound.

Berlin has given us a chance to do a few civilian engagements, a little bit different from the sea front at Hove perhaps; however, the Germans have been very appreciative of our playing, and it has given them a little extra entertainment during their very hard times.

On Salerno Day the Colonel of the Regiment came and witnessed the Trooping of the Colours and changing over of battalions. This is dealt with in detail elsewhere in the JOURNAL, but I think that we all must give Drum-Major Harman credit for the way he handled the Band and Drums on this occasion.

Our social notes start with a sad note, as we heard of the death of Boy Harper at Kneller Hall, and we send his parents our sincere sympathy. Bdsman. Desmond had to return to United Kingdom with a severe arm injury, and we hope he will soon be fit and back with us. As regards sport we have held our own, with many playing in the Battalion teams. We have also been able to play a few games with our friends, the Band of the Worcestershire Regiment.

We have to congratulate our Bandmaster, Desmond, and Culligan, on all having sons as additions to their families. Future Bandsmen take note. King, our one and only Drummer, has joined the happy band of the married.

Congratulations are due to L./Cpl. Marks on his promotion to Cpl. and Bdsman. Allard on appointment to L./Cpl.

Before closing we have to say farewell to our Commanding Officer, who, although "chasing" us at times, has given the Band every help during our first few months in Germany.

We wish all our friends at Guildford all the best, and we hope one day to return there and give bigger and better programmes as a result of our stay in B.A.O.R.

### ATHLETICS AND CROSS-COUNTRY

In 2nd Divisional Inter-Unit Cross-Country Race the Battalion team was placed fifth out of 15 entries. The following represented the Battalion: L./Cpls. Bunton, Travers, Miles; Ptes. Gregg, Moorecroft, Mardell, O'Donnell, Elmes, Stockland, Diplock, Aitchison, Moore, Spargson, Rogan. Reserves: Capt. Palmer, Pte. Hobart.

Owing to the move to Berlin, we were unable to enter for either the 2nd Division or B.T.B. team athletic meetings, and there were only about 200 of the Battalion in Berlin at the time of the B.T.B. individual events. Of our entries the following were placed:—

Putting the Weight ... ..	Capt. Rodger	1st
1,500 metres ... ..	2/Lieut. Jones	1st
400 metres ... ..	2/Lieut. Jones	1st
5,000 metres ... ..	Capt. Palmer	3rd

### SWIMMING

We have been lucky to have two magnificent swimming baths with first-class German coaches easily accessible.

A Battalion swimming gala was held in July, the Inter-Company Cup being won by "B" Company, with "A" and "C" equal second.

We won the B.T.B. Inter-Unit Team Championships fairly easily and were runners-up in the water polo. The following were the Battalion representatives and the places they gained:—

1. 4 by 100 Metres Free Style: Pte. Smith (H.Q.), Pte. Bone ("C"), Pte. Carter (H.Q.), L./Cpl. Callard ("A"), Time: 5 mins. 56½ secs., 1st.
2. 4 by 50 Metres Breast Stroke: Pte. Elmes ("B"), Pte. Hurst ("C"), Pte. Forsythe ("B"), 2/Lieut. Fordham ("C"). Time: 3 mins. 5½ secs., 1st.
3. 4 by 50 Metres Back Stroke: Pte. Vanstone ("C"), L./Cpl. Bannon ("D"), L./Cpl. Callard ("A"), 2/Lieut. Munn ("B"), Time: 3.28 mins., 1st.
4. Diving, 1 metre springboard: Pte. Hurst ("C"), Pte. Vanstone ("C"). Total points 126.5, 1st.
5. 4 by 50 Metres Free Style: Pte. Smith (H.Q.), Pte. Bone ("C"), Pte. Wood ("B"), R.Q.M.S. Spence (H.Q.). 2nd.
6. 4 by 100 Metres Breast Stroke: Pte. Elmes ("B"), Pte. Forsythe ("B"), 2/Lieut. Fordham ("C"), Pte. Riley ("B"). Time: 7.40 mins., 1st.
7. Diving, 5 Metres fixed board: Pte. Hodgson ("D"), L./Cpl. Miles ("B"), 3rd.
8. 3 by 100 Metres Medley Relay: L./Cpl. Bannon ("D"), Pte. Elmes ("B"), L./Cpl. Callard ("A"), 2nd.
9. Water Polo Team: 2/Lieut. Fordham ("C"), Pte. Vanstone ("C"), Pte. Hurst ("C"), Pte. Broadribb (H.Q.), 2/Lieut. Munn ("B"), L./Cpl. Callard ("A"), Capt. Palmer ("A"), L./Cpl. Trickett ("C"), Reserve.

In the B.T.B. Individual Championships the following were placed:—

Plunge ... ..	Capt. Lyle ("C")	2nd
Diving, 10 metres ... ..	L./Cpl. Miles ("B")	1st
100 Metres Back Stroke ... ..	Pte. Vanstone ("C")	2nd
	L./Cpl. Bannon ("D")	3rd
100 Metres Breast Stroke ... ..	Pte. Forsythe ("B")	2nd
200 Metres Free Style ... ..	L./Cpl. Callard ("A")	3rd
400 Metres Free Style ... ..	L./Cpl. Callard ("A")	2nd
	Pte. Carter (H.Q.)	3rd
1,500 Metres Free Style ... ..	Capt. Palmer ("A")	3rd



## LAWN TENNIS

For the first time the Regiment has won the Inter-Regimental Doubles Trophy for lawn tennis. Capt. N. E. Hooper, formerly of the 2nd/6th Battalion, and Capt. C. J. Grindley, now with the 1st Battalion, played together at Aldershot and won the trophy without losing a set. The final match was against the Royal Artillery, represented by Capt. J. A. Stewart and Major J. F. Bassett, the score being 9-7, 6-3, 6-1.

Hooper played well during the Aldershot week, reaching the semi-final of the Singles and final of the Open Doubles. Grindley was rather below form at the beginning of the tournament, but improved as the week progressed and reached the semi-final of the Open Doubles. Subsequently both Hooper and Grindley were chosen to play for the Army in the Inter-Services match at Wimbledon.

After returning to B.A.O.R., Grindley and Hooper followed up their success at Aldershot by winning the Inter-Regimental Doubles of the B.A.O.R. Championship at Hamburg. This is the first time that these two trophies have been won by the same unit. Grindley reached the final of the Singles also, losing to Pte. Poulsen, a promising Danish left-hander. This was rather a surprise as Grindley had beaten Poulsen earlier in the season. Hooper won the Open Doubles with Lieut. Ansari R.A.M.C., beating Grindley and Lieut.-Colonel Young, Devons, in the final. Unfortunately Capt. Hooper is leaving the Army, so it will be necessary to find a new partnership to defend the Inter-Regimental Championships next season.

## CRICKET

The Battalion had a very enjoyable, if not entirely successful season. Starting at Dortmund, we played 1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers and 3rd A./Tk. Regiment, R.A., in friendly matches, losing the first by 20 runs and winning the second by an innings and 14 runs, the win being due to a whirlwind 64 by Major Glennie.

After moving to Berlin early in July we entered the British Troops Berlin Cricket League, finishing the season in fifth place. The season's outstanding performers were Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton, with a batting average of 37, and L./Cpl. Aitcheson, whose bowling figures in Battalion matches were 34 wickets for 304 runs for an average of just under 9. Both these players turned out regularly for the British Troops Berlin eleven, and both were included in the Berlin Combined Services eleven which played a two-and-a-half-day match against a Free Foresters' touring team in August.

Although the high hopes we had early in the season were not fulfilled, we enjoyed some keenly contested and entertaining cricket. Unfortunately, Major A. J. Glennie, D.S.O., left us before we commenced playing in Berlin and his batting strength was sorely missed.

## FOOTBALL

Since the Battalion's arrival in Berlin, soccer interest has soared to quite a high level, and has taken a foremost part in the field of sport. Games at battalion, company, and platoon levels at have been arranged and most keenly fought.

The highlight of the season so far is the Company Knock-Out Competition, which was held a week or so before Salerno Day, with the object of playing the final on the day itself but, owing to the Trooping of the Colour on the 9th, it was decided to hold the final the next day. The final was quite a colourful ceremony, as the Colonel of the Regiment kindly attended and most of the Battalion turned up to give cheer to their respective sides. The game which was between "A" and "D" Companies, commenced with the ball being kicked off by Mrs. L. S. Sheldon who, judging by her kick, is quite a good footballer. The pace of the game was fast and furious and during the first half there seemed to be not much in it, but in the second half "D" Company exerted their superiority, and ran out comfortable winners by four goals to one. Prizes were presented to the winners by the Colonel of the Regiment. The teams were as follows :—

"D" Company.—Cpls. Redford, Renshaw, Laurence, Power, Ptes. Winall, Crosswell, Harding, Barrett, Vickers, Payne, and Doland.

"A" Company.—L./Cpls. Callard, Topping, Ptes. Ambrose, Martin, Dagger, Barrs, Nisbet, Brooks, Pantling, Monkley, Hambleton.

The Battalion team is entered in the B.T.B. Senior League together with six other units, and to date is not doing too badly. Games and results so far are as follows :—

1st Queen's v. C.C.G. ...	...	...	Won	10-2
1st Queen's v. 1st Worcs. ...	...	...	Lost	1-6
1st Queen's v. R.A.F., Gatow ...	...	...	Lost	2-5
1st Queen's v. 1st Norfolks ...	...	...	Won	12-3

The team was considerably weakened at one period, due to half the team proceeding on leave, but most have returned and we are looking forward to quite a successful season. The following have represented the Battalion : C.S.M. Wickens, Sergts. Elkins, Taylor, Cpls. Potter, Lingfield, Redford, L./Cpls. Callard (Captain), Travers, Nabey, Aitcheson, Ptes. Castle, Ambrose, Crosswell, Bradman, Perry.

The Battalion 2nd eleven is entered in the B.T.B. Junior League, with four other units and is also doing quite well.

Games and results so far are as follows :—

1st Queen's v. C.C.G. ...	...	...	Won	4-2
1st Queen's v. R.A.F., Gatow ...	...	...	Won	4-2
1st Queen's v. P. & R.T. School ...	...	...	Lost	5-2
1st Queen's v. 1st Worcs. ...	...	...	Lost	2-1

This team, too, has been weakened by people proceeding on leave but, as before, they are returning and a bright future is being looked forward to.

The following players have represented the 2nd eleven : Capt. Grindley, 2/Lieut. Carn, Cpls. Morris, Renshaw, Weston, and Whaley, Ptes. Mardell, Norris, Barrett, Castle, McKenner, Caller, Fisher, Grove, Harding, Gregg, Barrs, Dagger, and Nicholson.

Important games to be played very shortly are first round of the Army Cup and first round of the B.T.B. Cup, in both of which we are hoping to do well.

## HOCKEY

So far this season we have played two league matches, the first against the R.A.F. at Gatow, and the second against the 11th Hussars, both of which we have won.

Several members of last year's team are again available and in addition several experienced hockey players have joined the Battalion recently in C./Sergt. Dodson, of "D" Company, Sergt. Northy, Sergt. Jones, Cpl. Drayton, Bds. Smith, Bds. Jameson, Bds. Snashall, Pte. Bennett of "A" Company, and S.I. McCarthur.

## BRITISH TROOPS BERLIN LEAGUE

## 1st League Match: 1st Queen's v. R.A.F., Gatow

From the start the team settled down quickly with forwards and backs swinging the ball about without undue dribbling. Within fifteen minutes two goals were scored after repeated open forward attacks. By half-time another goal had been added to give us a lead of three goals. The R.A.F. had not been allowed to develop their attacks and very rarely reached our circle.

In the second half the R.A.F. played hard from the bully-off to make up lost ground, but C./Sergt. Biles and C./Sergt. Dodson in particular tackled well and towards the end prevented any shot reaching the goalkeeper.

The forwards, well served with accurate passes, combined well to score a further two goals and win 5-0.

Although the opposition was weaker than had been met in previous friendly matches the team showed that it had improved. Goals were scored by Bds. Jameson, 1; Capt. Thompson, 1; and Capt. Fletcher, 3.

Team: Bds. Smith (Goalkeeper), C./Sergt. Biles, Bds. Snashall, C./Sergt. Dodson, Cpl. Drayton, Pte. Bennett, S.I. McCarthur, Capt. Thompson, Bds. Jameson, Capt. Fletcher, Sergt. Northy.

Umpire: Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East, D.S.O., O.B.E.



## 2ND LEAGUE MATCH

## 1st Queen's v. "C" Squadron, 11th Hussars

The standard of the play throughout the match was ragged on both sides, due mainly to the poor, uneven surface of the ground.

Despite frequent openings our attack missed opportunities of scoring in the opening stages; half-backs and backs were defending well and were unfortunate to concede a goal shortly before half-time, scored after a free hit and resultant struggle inside the circle.

After half-time, with the Hussars determinedly clearing the ball anywhere rather than allow our attack to get near their circle, play remained even until our first goal came from a good run through.

This forced the Hussars to keep the ball in play to enable their forwards to try and take the lead once again. Our forwards, however, gained the better control and finished hard to net a further two goals and win 3-1.

Goals were scored by S.I. McCarthur, Capt. Thompson, and Capt. Fletcher.

Team: Bdsm. Smith (Goalkeeper), C./Sergt. Biles, Bdsm. Snashall, C./Sergt. Dodson, Cpl. Drayton, L./Cpl. Critcher, S.I. McCarthur, Capt. Thompson, Pte. Middle, Capt. Fletcher, Sergt. Northey.

Since these notes were written two more league matches have been played. In the first we were unlucky only to draw 1-1 with the 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment, and in the second we beat H.Q. British Troops Berlin, who were previously unbeaten by 1-0.

The team has been much strengthened by the inclusion of Lieut.-Colonel Dyke who plays back in place of Bdsm. Snashall.

## BASKET-BALL

As the Battalion had an almost entirely new basket-ball team since the 2nd Division Competition in the autumn of 1947, there was some optimism as to their chances in British Troops Berlin. They seemed good as the team had been very much strengthened by the arrival of three experienced players, Cpl. Potter and Pte. Ashenden from Shorncliffe, and L./Cpl. Callard from the Middlesex in Hamburg.

In the first round of B.T.B. summer knock-out, the Battalion met "C" Squadron, 11th Hussars, who they defeated 26-6 in a good, hard game. Both teams had difficulty in scoring and time after time the ball rolled round the lip of the basket and then fell out again.

In the semi-final round against the Royal Engineers Berlin we had a very much faster game with more accurate shooting than in the previous match. The final score was, 2nd Queen's 44, R.E. Berlin 24.

In the final against 1st Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment the team played better than ever before. In the Norfolks they met a very well disciplined team, well trained in tactics and ball control. The Queen's team relied more on close marking and long range shots at goal. By marking their centre-forward all the time and keeping him bottled up the Queen's threw the Norfolk attack out of gear. In defence the Norfolk's relied on zonal play; that is to say, they let the Queen's forwards advance to well within their half before tackling. L./Cpl. Callard and Cpl. Potter spoilt these tactics by shooting and scoring from the half-way line. Pte. Ashenden, playing centre-forward, was in his best shooting form and when given the least chance put the ball safely in the basket.

The Queen's scored first within a few seconds of the start and kept the lead throughout the first half, although there were never more than two or three points difference between either score. At half time the score was, 2nd Queen's 18, 1st Norfolk's 17.

Early in the second half the Norfolks changed their attack and by half-way through the second half were leading 27-22. The team captain, Cpl. Potter, took time out and reorganized the team to combat these new tactics.

After this the two backs, Cpl. Redford and Capt. Rodger, assisted by the wings, Cpl. Potter and L./Cpl. Callard, held the attack so effectively that the Norfolk team were unable to score again.

The Queen's team, on the other hand, were able to return to the attack and added another eight points to their score to win by three points. 2nd Queen's 30. 1st Norfolk's 27.

It was a very great disappointment to the team that owing to the blockade of Berlin they were unable to represent B.T.B. in the B.A.O.R. competition.

## OFFICERS

## BATTALION H.Q.

C.O. : Lieut.-Colonel T. H. Dyke, D.S.O. (Queen's)  
2nd i/c : Major L. S. Sheldon (Queen's)  
Adjutant : Capt. J. F. Hancocks (Queen's)  
Quartermaster : Capt. R. W. Jackson (Queen's)  
R.S.M. : W.O.1 B. Noke (Queen's)  
R.Q.M.S. : W.O.2 J. Spence (Queen's)  
O.Q.R.M.S. : C./Sergt. E. O'Loughlin (Queen's)

## H.Q. COMPANY

O.C. : Major T. P. Simmonds (R. Sussex)  
2nd i/c : Capt. D. J. White (R.A., L.A.A.)  
I.O. : Capt. A. S. Blackman (Queen's)  
M.T.O. : Capt. W. H. Clarke (Q.O.R.W.K.)  
R.S.O. : Capt. W. P. O'C. Wylde (Queen's)  
Education Officer : Capt. M. R. H. Stopford (Queen's)  
Mortar Officer : Capt. C. B. Rodger (Queen's)  
W.T.O. : Lieut. D. H. Mott, M.M. (Q.O.R.W.K.)  
Bandmaster : W.O.1 E. Gaines (Queen's)  
Drum Major : D./M. S. Harman  
C.S.M. : W.O.2 S. Waldron  
C.Q.M.S. : C./Sergt. P. Biles

## "A" COMPANY

O.C. : Capt. N. A. H. Marsden (Queen's)  
2nd i/c : Capt. C. J. D. Haswell (Queen's)  
Capt. D. W. L. Palmer (Queen's)  
C.S.M. : W.O.2 F. Wickens  
C.Q.M.S. : C./Sergt. C. Cheeseman

## "B" COMPANY

O.C. : Major N. T. Lennan, M.C. (Queen's)  
2nd i/c : Capt. B. S. Burns, M.C. (Queen's)  
Lieut. A. T. Thomas (Queen's)  
Lieut. P. A. W. G. Durrant (E. Surrey)  
C.S.M. : W.O.2 I. Herbert  
C.Q.M.S. : C./Sergt. H. Atkins

## "C" COMPANY

O.C. : Major A. J. A. Watson (Queen's)  
2nd i/c : Capt. W. J. F. Sutton (Queen's)  
Lieut. A. D. Peckham (Buffs)  
2/Lieut. H. C. Millman (Queen's)  
C.S.M. : W.O.2 W. Morton  
C.Q.M.S. : C./Sergt. A. Chalcraft

## "D" COMPANY

O.C. : Capt. K. R. Thompson (Queen's)  
2nd i/c : Capt. J. M. Gibson (Q.O.R.W.K.)  
Lieut. T. J. Paterson (Queen's)  
Lieut. W. M. Turnock (Queen's)  
2/Lieut. A. P. Carn (Queen's)  
Capt. R. D. T. Fletcher, att. H.Q., B.T.B.  
C.S.M. : W.O.2 E. Baker  
C.Q.M.S. : C./Sergt. S. Dodson

## TEMPORARILY POSTED

Major M. V. Fletcher, H.Q. Airlift  
Capt. C. R. C. Elverson, H.Q., B.T.B.  
The following officers have been posted away from the Battalion since the last issue of the JOURNAL :  
Major G. H. W. Goode to H.Q. U.S. Army, Europe  
Major R. L. Lyle as M.A. to G.O.C., British Element Trieste Force  
Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton to King's African Rifles  
Lieut. D. B. Harley to Depot, The Buffs  
2/Lieut. P. T. Fraser to Chemical Warfare Experimental Establishment  
The following have left on release : Major C. F. Ottaway, Lieut. M. C. C. House, Lieut. G. Pophan, Lieut. R. W. Thrumble, Lieut. H. F. Clayton, Lieut. D. F. Shooner, Lieut. P. C. Evershed, Lieut. D. D. Champion-Jones, Lieut. T. H. S. Story, Lieut. S. W. Freame, 2/Lieut. B. Ramsey, 2/Lieut. H. Hann, 2/Lieut. W. C. Ansdell, 2/Lieut. P. W. Walter, 2/Lieut. J. B. Sharp, 2/Lieut. J. S. Prest, 2/Lieut. A. E. M. Fordham, 2/Lieut. K. A. Jones, 2/Lieut. D. C. Munn.

## BERLIN, AUTUMN, 1948

BY W. H. C. FREND

(Lieut. Frend is I.O. of the 5th Battalion. He was in Berlin for more than a year doing historical research work for the Foreign Office)

ON September 9th, while the ceremony of the Trooping of the Colours was being held at the Olympic Stadium, a demonstration of a different kind, but in its way equally significant, was taking place four miles away on the boundaries of the British and Russian Sectors. The square in front of the ruins of the Reichstag building was thronged by a crowd of nearly a quarter of a million people. It was the biggest political rally Berlin had seen since the end of the war, probably the greatest spontaneous demonstration in the history of the city. The democratic leaders who addressed the multitude were doing so at the risk of their lives, but they considered it more important to place solemnly on record their protest against three years of Russian misrule and Communist oppression, and to make what was possibly a final appeal to the Western Powers not to abandon Berlin.

For the great masses who had left their factories and offices early to trudge across the dreary wilderness of the Tiergarten, once Berlin's Hyde Park, the occasion was one of desperation as well



as a means of expressing their support for the Western Allies. Winter could bring no hope of improvement, nothing except fresh hardships. For three successive years they had hoped for the signing of a peace which would enable them to live normal lives with rebuilt homes and a fair chance of a job. Now, they were doomed to look out over the same desert of ruins, eat worse rations and live in a state of perpetual fear and insecurity. The blame for this they laid exclusively at the door of the Russians, but they also feared a lack of resolution on the part of the Western Allies; hence the size of the demonstration, and hence the note of urgency and the feeling with which the orators spoke and the crowds listened; hence the enthusiasm which greeted the demonstration of the Soviet flag on the Brandenburger Tor at the meeting's close.

To estimate how public opinion had become roused to this pitch one must bear in mind the living conditions which the average member of the crowd was enduring. Even before the blockade these had been grim enough. The war had seen the total destruction of over a third of the available housing space in Berlin. Much of what remained would have been by all but the standards of post-war Berlin, unfit for any habitation. Families had continued to exist in the cellars of houses otherwise razed to the ground, or in the remnants of blasted rooms isolated amid the wreckage of what had been a block of flats. Repair work was going at snail's pace. The Havel, which separates Berlin from Spandau, was for instance still being crossed by a Bailey bridge, though work on replacing the permanent crossing of the Frey bridge had been going on since 1946. Dismantlement in the Russian sense had entailed the reduction of 80 per cent. of the railways leaving Berlin to single-track lines, and the removal of some 65 per cent. of the industrial capacity of the Russian zone which surrounds the city. This had made the provisioning of Berlin with food and necessary materials a major problem even before the blockade. The imposition of this had dashed any hope the ordinary citizen may have had of an improvement in his lot.

But for the air-lift the Western sectors of Berlin would be starving and the factories and transport services stilled. As it is, food in the Western Sectors of the city had become by the end of September deadly monotonous if just sufficient in quantity. The housewife must make the best of bread, dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk and powdered soups—whatever could be brought in easiest over the air-lift. She was hard pressed to cook her scanty rations, as electricity was available for only four hours a day; extra household fuel, which last winter cost 200 marks per cwt. of coal on the black market (almost a week's salary of a worker), will be hard to get even from this source. The lengthening evenings would be spent by candlelight. Travel to and from work had degenerated into a struggle with one's fellows in the lurching and packed-out trams and underground. All this time unemployment had been rising owing to lack of materials in the factories. In mid-September about 100,000 workers were jobless in the Western Sectors of Berlin, out of a total population of two and a half millions.

This aspect of the situation has not been quite so desperate as suggested by the figures. A good many have been able to find work on the airfields. All classes are represented among the workers loading and unloading the planes, but for the youngest and ablest the thought uppermost in their minds is to emigrate. Australia, South Africa, anywhere where there is a chance of leaving Berlin for ever and of starting on a new life. It is for the same reason that any lecture given in English at a discussion group is listened to with rapt attention, regardless of subject. In fact, the duller and more abstruse the theme, the likelier of picking up new words for one's vocabulary.

The blockade has not only crippled the lives of the ordinary citizen; it has produced complete disorganization in the life of the city itself. The attempt by the Russians from 22nd June onwards to force their zonal currency on Berlin, and make the holding of the Deutsche Mark issued by the Western Powers a punishable offence, has brought about the complete division of the western and eastern halves of the city. The fact that the two currencies were circulating led gradually to the creation of two separate and hostile city administrations, two systems of education, two universities, two rival police forces, one Communist and the other non-Communist, two presses, one controlled by the Russians and the other by the Western Powers, and even two different types of postage stamps valid in the Eastern and Western Sectors respectively. The only vestige of the original Four-Power Administration of Berlin remaining in September, 1948, was the international supervision of the seven ageing war-criminals locked in the Military Prison at Spandau (guarded at

the time by soldiers of the Regiment). This served as a telling reminder of Allied co-operation in war and failure to agree the moment hostilities ended.

Throughout the summer and autumn the great majority of the population accepted the situation calmly. Berlin has not known "normal civilian life" for twenty years, and there was a tendency to look upon even the present situation as "normal." During the Moscow negotiations there were many who preferred the existing uncertainty to some sort of settlement which they feared would mean in the long run surrender to the Russians. What the latter had failed to secure by force or fraud, they might obtain by some "formula" in the course of negotiations.

In contrast to the lack of faith in Allied diplomacy, public confidence has remained unshaken in the technical ability of the British and Americans to provision Berlin throughout the winter. This confidence expressed itself in a number of ways. For instance, despite the fact that the Russian-sponsored Eastern Mark circulates as legal tender throughout the city and that in the Western Sectors 75 per cent. of the individuals' wages are paid in it, the unofficial exchange rate between it and the West Mark has remained fairly steady at 1 West Mark to 3½ East Marks. The Berliners know perfectly well that any Four Power agreement on currency would almost certainly involve the withdrawal of the West Mark, and its cancellation at par, if not below. Nevertheless, they prefer to cling on to any West Mark they can obtain, in the belief that the Western Allies would in fact maintain their original positions.

The successive crises of the last twenty years have lent to the ordinary citizen a keen sense of the immediate possibilities in a given political situation. He weighs up the chances of a conflict breaking out in the rubble of his city if the Allies remain, with a certainty of an indefinite period of Communist rule and Soviet occupation if they leave. He realizes, too, that it is not simply Berlin that is at stake. Whatever else may happen, Berlin and not Frankfurt-on-Main will remain the capital of Germany, and Germany in his view is destined to be as much a centralized state as are its neighbours. The time for the revival of the provinces endowed with elaborate constitutions is passed, and the idea of their revival does not inspire him. He considers, and rightly, that the fate of Berlin would decide the fate of Germany.

His preference for the Western Allies has been strengthened by experience of Soviet rule. Memories of 1945 die hard. In the Eastern Sector of Berlin too many families have lost one of their circle taken off by the Communist Police, and imprisoned in the Soviet concentration camps at Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg. Others have been forced to work for the Russians as spies on their fellows in order to save themselves from a similar fate. The presence, too, of large numbers of refugees from Pomerania and Silesia who have been expelled by the Poles from their ancestral land is a constant reminder of the possibilities in store for the German minority in a predominantly Slav Empire, a large proportion of whose inhabitants are used to a far lower standard of living than they are themselves. Self-interest as well as sentiment combined during the first three months of the blockade to put the mass of the population on the side of the Western Powers. Without that support the position of the latter would have become untenable.

Whether that support will continue during the winter depends purely on the air-lift. The health and physical resistance of the great majority of the people is low. They are exceedingly tired, their thoughts and movements are slow by malnutrition. In a hard winter they would be prepared to listen to Communist arguments that the Soviet could easily feed Berlin, were it not for the other Powers. If shops are well stocked in eastern Berlin and empty in the west, opinion would tend to flow against the Allies. It must be borne in mind that even in July and August the air-lift only brought in one-third of the total food, coal and raw materials that was transported by normal routes during the previous year. Despite the construction of the third airfield in the French Sector, this average may be difficult to maintain. The average man realizes this, and knows that his own fate and that of his country may well be decided before next summer.

Meantime, little change may be expected in the Russian attitude. Since the middle of June, 1948, they have been proclaiming publicly that Berlin is "an integral part of the Russian Zone, and is linked to the Zone economically and politically." As a temporary concession the Western Powers might be allowed to retain garrisons without, however, participating in any way in the administration of the city as a whole. Thus, the Russian Commander, General Kotikov, addressed the other Allied Commanders as "Garrison Commandants" while reserving to himself the title of



"Commandant of Berlin." The Russians in fact can hardly afford to climb down. Without Berlin they cannot consolidate their hold of Eastern Germany, let alone move on to support the Communists in the Ruhr. Berlin, too, provides a permanent haven for the political opponents of Communism. With Vienna and Trieste it constitutes an important salient of Allied influence in central Europe. It must be captured ere Russian influence in Europe can feel itself unchallenged.

In these conditions the responsibilities falling on the Regiment have been immense. It has been brought home to the troops that the safety of their people at home, as well as of the great majority of the Berliners whose good will they enjoy, depends on the outcome of the struggle. For themselves it has not been merely a matter of carrying out routine duties efficiently. Their real job begins after the day's work has finished. Any incident in a cafe, a quarrel with the German civilian, a chance brawl with Russian soldiers (the Russian-occupied Berlin radio stands hardly 300 yards away from the N.A.A.F.I. building) might kindle the blaze. At the same time, balancing in his mind the possibilities of an immediate relief from want with the long-term prospect of economic and political tyranny, the German takes careful note of the bearing of the individual soldier with whom he comes in contact. "Are these men worth respect, can they safeguard me and my family? Why should I prefer them and their civilization to that of the Russians and their Communist Allies?" These are some of the imponderables which will form Berlin public opinion during the coming months, and that opinion may become an important factor in world affairs. So far, our troops have done well. The ceremony of 9th September was proof of their mettle.

27th September, 1948.

BERLIN.

## ON DRAFT TO GERMANY

6088329 CPL. H. W. WARREN, 1ST BATTALION

**W**E were to go to join the 2nd Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, youngsters who were travelling abroad for the first time. It was somehow bewildering, but we were decidedly anxious and excited at the prospect of going to Germany.

We knew what we were going to; our fathers and older brothers had spent much time in describing their experiences in that very same country during the 1914-18 war and also the 1939-45 war.

Young soldiers as we were, we fully realized how important we were to be, for we were to do what many an old soldier would envy, travel to one of our occupied countries with the King's Colour and the 1st Battalion Colours of the Regiment. Also we were to escort the regimental silver of the 1st Battalion, who were to take the place of the 2nd Battalion (the 2nd Battalion was to go into suspended animation). We set off to Liverpool Street Station in two three-ton lorries from the Depot at 16.30 hrs., Friday, 25th June, 1948, with the silver, Colours and drum kit; and although we became part of the confused holiday transport from Sandown race course, we reached Liverpool Street station without incident. After much unloading and loading on to the train, we left the station at 20.00 hrs., eventually arriving at Harwich Docks at 22.00 hrs. After we had unloaded our baggage, etc. (the Colours being well escorted throughout), it was inspected by the Customs authorities, who it seemed thought we had a couple of tons of coffee, but as we convinced them it was Officers' and Sergeants' Mess silver, etc., we were cleared. A hearty meal was served up in the dining-hall, minus the sugar in the tea, but nevertheless we found it added zest to our work, for we loaded the baggage on to the boat (H.M.T. *Empire Parkeston*) in double-quick time. We boarded and settled down for the evening. The ship sailed dead on midnight and, after viewing the ship from as many vantage points as possible, we turned in to the bunks; but as we were so hot we did not use the one blanket provided. We woke up to find ourselves at the Hook of Holland, moored up at the quayside.

We disembarked from the ship at 08.15 hrs., 26th June, but not before we enjoyed a hearty breakfast of bacon, beans, chips, white bread, butter (not margarine), and tea and marmalade.

The job of loading the trolleys with our baggage, etc., then on to the train completed, we went to the canteen to repose to the strains of the resident orchestra; whilst the loud-speaker system announced that the cinema would be open to all who cared to use it.

The trains are numbered, so we took our seats when No. 4 train was announced, and we started our journey at 12.00 hrs.

The country is identical to British countryside, with little damage to view until passing Bentheim. When we passed Amersfoort at 13.45 hrs. the canteen on the train was opened for cigarettes, tea and cakes. The cigarettes are only 1s. 6d. for 20, quite different to the 2s. 4d. for 20 in England. However, we arrived at Bentheim in Germany just off the frontier, where we were given a hot meal at a well-equipped cook-house and dining-hall. Our meal consisted of boiled fish, mashed potatoes, bread rolls, a cup of tea and a bar of chocolate.

We proceeded on our journey and the first stop was at Hamm, where we changed trains, the time then being 20.20 hrs.

Eventually we arrived at Dortmund at 22.00 hrs., where we were met by transport from the Regiment, who were stationed just a few miles away in camp 10, a well-constructed barracks, where we received a good welcome in the dining-hall.

So in all the journey from Guildford to Dortmund took us thirty hours—not bad at all.

Incidentally, the Commander of our draft was Major A. C. Lynch-Staunton. Officers: Lieut. M. Perrott-Young and 2/Lieut. A. Fordham. W.O.: R.S.M. J. W. Kemp. Colour Party: C.Q.M.S. F. King and C.Q.M.S. E. O'Loughlin.

## THE DEPOT

**W**ITH the closing down of No. 2 P.T.C., on 21st April, 1948, the Regimental Depot is the sole occupant of Stoughton Barracks, as, at the time of writing, no other unit has come to share the accommodation.

Major J. W. M. Denton left the Depot on retired leave on 1st September, 1948, and Major J. A. R. Freeland took over command from him. In the New Year, Major Denton comes back to us as the civilian Administrative Officer.

It may be interesting to note what the present establishment of a Depot is: four Officers, fifteen O.Rs. and three Civilians; but above this we are fortunate in being allowed a further increment of nine other ranks.

The following are on the Staff here: Major J. A. R. Freeland, Commanding Officer; Capt. M. A. Lowry, Adjutant; Capt. S. W. J. Sharp, Quartermaster; Capt. C. R. Sandys, Administrative Officer.

*Permanent Staff.*—R.S.M. F. Harcup; C.Q.M.S. C. Sleet; Sergt. H. Bingham; Cpl. C. Newbold; Ptes. G. Cowell, A. Franklin, H. Howlett, R. Langford, F. Sheffield, A. Tyler, F. Taylor.

*Increment.*—C.Q.M.S. F. King; Ptes. D. Battleday, S. Bellord, G. Elbourne, P. Hall, J. McDowall, J. Murphy, R. Sharp, K. White.

*Civilians.*—Mr. J. Moule, Chief Clerk; Mr. L. Larcombe, Officers' Mess Caterer; Mr. J. Whitcombe, Sergeants' Mess Caterer.

*A.C.C.*—Ptes. F. Bailey, K. Bashford, B. Couch, D. Rowsome.

### SPORT

In spite of our small numbers, the Depot ran a cricket side throughout the summer and played twelve matches; of these we did in fact only win one. However, the games were enormous fun, and enjoyed by everyone. The energy and enthusiasm put into the play would have scored a hit with the Minister of Agriculture.

During the season the following played for the Depot: Capt. M. A. Lowry, Capt. I. D.



Beattie (5th Battalion), Capt. S. W. J. Sharp, Sergt. H. Bingham, Pte. S. Bellord, Pte. F. Bailey (A.C.C.), L./Cpl. G. Cowell, Pte. A. Franklin, Pte. H. Howlett, Pte. J. Murphy, Cpl. C. Newbold, Pte. A. Tyler, L./Cpl. F. Taylor, Pte. K. White.

We have been having some soccer and hockey practices and we are assured of a team for both. Our small numbers necessitate matches being arranged so that we play hockey one week and soccer the next, throughout the season.

#### FAMILIES' CLUB

There are fourteen families (not all Queen's) living in Stoughton Barracks, and four others (Queen's families) in the neighbourhood.

Since the last issue of the JOURNAL, meetings have been held about once a month, and two most successful outings, one to Bognor and the other to Chessington Zoo, were arranged—fortunately on lovely days.

On 15th September a very successful dance was held, at which some 150 tickets were sold by invitation.

#### 2ND BATTALION COLOURS

The Colours of the now disbanded 2nd Battalion arrived at the Depot on Sunday, 26th September, 1948, and at the moment are in the Officers' Mess. There will be a Ceremonial laying up of the Colours at some near date.

#### OPERATION "GRASSHOPPER"

We found it difficult to keep the grass down with our few numbers during the summer, so one afternoon a week all work would cease and we would take off our coats—"Buzz" Waspe his shirt—and out with all tools at our disposal.

One photograph shows two men and a boy at work sharpening the instruments!

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Since the last publication of the Regimental JOURNAL, the Mess has become very much depleted. The average strength of serving members since last April has been about sixteen; these have been made up mostly of attachments to the Regimental Depot, 5th Queen's (T.A.), and male personnel of the A.T.S. Camp, etc.

Naturally, with such a small number our entertainments have been very limited. We have been running an outing to a show in London about once a month which has proved very popular. On the 1st June a social was held in the Mess and was attended by many ex-members living in and around Guildford. The evening proved a very enjoyable one; plenty of dancing, etc. C.S.M. "Viv" Edwards gave his "Guard Mounting" show, much to everyone's amusement, and R.S.M. Nash, of R.C.M.P., told some very interesting stories.

Life is very quiet in the old Mess these days; we have about twenty-four Honorary Members and they contribute in no small way in keeping the Mess going. As a matter of interest to readers, we thought that we might mention a few of these by name: Lou Larcombe, Len Barton, George Garnham, Matravers (ex Cook Sergeant), Wally Mearing, Charlie Scott, Charlie Cronk, Jock Plaw, Harold Ridgeway, and finally we must not forget our Caterer, Jack Whitcombe, who has been on the job for twenty-four years.

It is with very much regret that we have to record the passing of Ted Ellsey. Ted was connected with the Regiment for many years, serving in the 5th Bn. The Queen's and 8th Service Battalion in the Great War, 1914-18, and afterwards until 1933 in the 5th Bn. Queen's (T.A.). He was a great supporter of the Depot Mess, as many of our readers will remember, and practically up to the time of his death he was a regular visitor to the Mess. We find it hard to realize that he has left us. To Mrs. Ellsey and family we offer our most heartfelt condolences.

On two week-ends we have had the 6th Bn. The Queen's (T.A.) down for training. It is almost like old times to see some extra soldiers around, particularly so many dining members. We hope we shall be seeing more of them in the future.

The Garden Party, no doubt, has been fully reported elsewhere in the JOURNAL, but we would



C.S.M. R. Huskinson, Pte. Howlett and Boy Morgan.



THE REGIMENT v. THE GRASSHOPPERS

Back Row.—D. H. A. Block (Captain), T. Sewell, A. H. Barnett, G. G. Hill, D. Lomax, J. D. Barrow, A. J. Pickard, J. S. Wyatt, Capt. S. W. J. Sharp, Capt. P. Black.  
Centre Row.—G. Neale, C. T. Reichwald, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. Rimbault, J. Turner, H. W. Hall, C. Greenwood.  
Front Row.—Major M. A. Lowry, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Upton, C. A. Merriman, Brigadier A. P. Block, A. G. Howland-Jackson, Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton.



like to take the opportunity to mention how very much we appreciated having as our guests for a couple of days Ptes. Hole and Stacey, of Chelsea Hospital.

In the past few months many ex-members of the Regiment have dropped in and "had one" for old times' sake, including Peter Picton, Charlie Brooks, Jack Frost, Dick Howland, Ike Bowman, "Chewey" Phillips, Mr. Wilkinson, Nick Carter, Freddie Jode, Burra Toone, Mr. Jones, D.C.M., M.M., and Mary Stedman.

R.S.M. Henderson has just taken the plunge into civil life to become a prison officer. R.Q.M.S. Cousins has recently been posted to Lingfield. To both, we wish every success in their new work. R.S.M. Kemp (ex 1st Battalion) has been posted to the 5th Queen's (T.A.) in place of R.S.M. Henderson; since he has been with the T.A. the entire country has been buzzing with a recruiting campaign; we wonder whether R.S.M. Kemp's appointment has anything to do with this. Dick Huskinson is shortly leaving for civil life; he has been here since January, 1947. The following members are awaiting postings; R.S.M. Simmons, M.C., C./Sergt. King, and Sergt. Dorricot.

Recently the Mess has completed a Billiard Tournament, with R.S.M. F. Harcup the winner and Jock Plaw the runner-up. The Snooker final between Lou Larcombe and Wally Mearing has yet to be played.

Preparations are now going ahead for the Christmas Draw, which will take place on Wednesday, 22nd December, 1948.

In conclusion we would like to extend to readers our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Although the Regimental Depot is apt to give one the impression that it is "dead," the Sergeants' Mess is very much alive and we invite any ex member to drop in any time they may be passing by.

F. G. H.

## REGIMENTAL CRICKET WEEK

THE first Regimental Cricket Week since 1939 was held this year. In spite of the weather, it was a tonic to have this pre-war annual event in our midst again; it was held during the first week in June. As it turned out it was probably one of the wettest weeks of the season.

The first match on 31st May against The East Surrey Regiment never started—we got as far as lunch.

On 3rd June the Regimental side got as far as Charterhouse School for tea, where we were to play Brookhall (their team of masters), but no ball was bowled.

It was our turn this year to visit H.M.S. *Excellent* at Whale Island on 4th and 5th June.

A strong wind blew across the wicket both days; however, the sun came out on the afternoon of the 5th. This year the Navy made up their loss of last year with stylish vengeance. Their batsmen were too good for our bowlers.

The match against The Grasshoppers on Sunday, 6th, had to be abandoned before our innings was completed, but we managed lunch and tea.

To summarise the Regimental Cricket :—

We Won	1—v. East Surrey Regiment.
„ Lost	2—v. Royal West Kent Regiment. v. H.M.S. <i>Excellent</i> .
„ Drew	1—v. Reigate Priory.
Abandoned	3—v. East Surrey Regiment. v. Charterhouse Masters. v. Grasshoppers.

For the details here are the score cards.



## 1st JUNE

## REIGATE PRIORY v. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

At Stoughton Barracks

REIGATE PRIORY		THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT	
L. M. West, c Black, b Kingsley	25	P. C. Kingsley, c and b Christopherson	28
J. C. Christopherson, b Greenwood	55	H. W. Hall, b McGill	3
J. G. Mundy, c Lowry, b Kingsley	44	Capt. R. Mans, b McGill	—
O. G. Odgus, c Upton, b Greenwood	—	D. Black, c Potter, b Neale	48
A. C. Neale, c Upton, b Block	17	C. Greenwood, b McGill	2
J. P. Pope, b Block	3	Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton, not out	37
R. F. Potter, c Black, b Kingsley	3	Major M. A. Lowry, b McGill	34
T. L. Colville, b Kingsley	19	Brigadier A. P. Block, not out	—
R. P. Foster, b Kingsley	—	Capt. I. D. Beattie	} did not bat
N. McGill, b Greenwood	10	Capt. S. W. Sharpe	
C. M. Chase, not out	—	A. C. Upton	
Extras : Wides 1, Byes 3, Leg Byes 3	7	Extras : Wides 0, Byes 2, Leg Byes 0, No Balls 0	2
183		154	

Match Drawn.

## 2ND JUNE

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT v. THE ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT

At Stoughton Barracks

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT		THE ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT	
H. W. Hall, b Turner	4	Defrates, b Symms	15
Capt. R. Mans, b. Turner	19	Harris, b Greenwood	24
J. Wyatt, b Block	13	Shearburn, b Sharp	47
R. H. Atwell, c Thomas, b Brown	1	Keenlyside, c and b Atwell	30
Major M. A. Lowry, b Shearburn	30	Hollamby, b Atwell	4
Capt. S. W. Sharp, b Shearburn	27	Turner, c Hall, b Sharp	22
Capt. I. D. Beattie, b Shearburn	2	Crook, c Hall, b Sharp	6
Brigadier A. P. Block, b Brock	2	Thomas, b Atwell	2
C. Greenwood, b Shearburn	—	Funt, c Mans, b Symms	3
R. Symms, b Brown	2	Brock, lbw b Symms	11
A. C. Upton, b Shearburn	1	Brown, not out	5
Extras	—	Extras : Byes 3, Leg Byes 3	6
101		175	

Lost by 7 wickets.

## 4TH-5TH JUNE

## H.M.S. EXCELLENT v. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

At Whale Island

1st Innings		1st Innings	
THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT		H.M.S. EXCELLENT	
Capt. R. Mans, run out, Naylor	19	Hammond, c Lowry, b Grimston	80
H. W. Hall, c Burnett, b Charman	21	Burnett, b Greenwood	15
Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton, b Naylor	—	Hillis, c Block, b Grimston	11
Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton, lbw Naylor	5	Scotland, b Greenwood	1
Major M. A. Lowry, b Naylor	27	Tuck, not out	72
Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston, b Charman	9	Varley, lbw, b Greenwood	—
Capt. S. W. Sharp, b Charman	15	Begg, b Greenwood	6
Brigadier A. P. Block, not out	22	Naylor, c Hall, b Greenwood	—
Major I. P. Thomson, c Cameron, b Hillis	17	Tyler, b Greenwood	7
J. Mansel, b Naylor	6	Charman, b Grimston	—
C. Greenwood, b Hillis	—	Cameron, b Grimston	1
Extras : Byes 2, Leg Byes 1, No Balls 1	4	Extras : Wides 1, Byes 2, Leg Byes 1	4
145		197	

## 2nd Innings

H. W. Hall, b Naylor	13
Major M. A. Lowry, b Naylor	2
Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton, c Scotland, b Hillis	57
Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston, c Tyler, b Naylor	7
Capt. S. W. Sharp, b Naylor	14
Capt. A. C. Lynch-Staunton, lbw, b Naylor	21
Major I. P. Thomson, not out	14
Brigadier A. P. Block, b Naylor	2
J. Mansel	} did not bat
R. Mans	
C. Greenwood	
Extras : Byes 2	2

## 2nd Innings

Tuck, lbw	20
Hammond, not out	47
Scotland, run out	—
Tyler, not out	15
Begg	} did not bat
Burnett	
Hillis	
Vaerly	} Byes 2
Extras : Byes 2	
84	

132

Lost by 8 wickets.

## 6TH JUNE

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT v. GRASSHOPPERS

At Stoughton Barracks.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT	
H. W. Hall, b Turner	3
Major M. A. Lowry, b Merriman	11
Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton, b Turner	5
P. Black, lbw, b Merriman	12
Capt. T. Sewell, c Merriman, b Barron	8
C. Reichwald, b Maerrimn	7
G. Neale, b Pickard	11
Brigadier A. P. Block, not out	4
Capt. S. W. Sharp	} did not bat
C. Greenwood	
A. Upton	
Extras : Byes 8	8
58	

Match abandoned.

## 21ST JUNE

## THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT v. THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT

At Kingston-on-Thames

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT		THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT	
Major M. A. Lowry, c, b Hammant	24	Hammant, b Cole Biroth	17
Stringer, c, b Simper	1	Newman, b Greenwood	—
Capt. S. W. Sharp, lbw, b Simper	9	Lewis, c Lowry, b Sewell	17
Syms, c, b Hepple	—	Hepple, c Sharp, b Greenwood	2
Cpl. Owen, b Hepple	13	Simper, lbw, b Greenwood	4
Sergt. Bingham, b Ford	—	Taylor, lbw Greenwood	4
Cole Biroth, hit wicket, b Simper	6	Ford, b Sewell	2
Capt. T. Sewell, run out, b Simper	—	Ridger, b Greenwood	—
Street, not out	10	Conner, stumped Lowry, b Greenwood	2
C. Greenwood, c, b Hepple	—	Inskip	—
Pte. Bellord, b Hepple	—	Franklin, c Lowry, b Sewell	—
Extras : Byes 4, Leg Byes 9	13	Extras : Byes 6	6
80		54	

Won by 26 runs.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

We congratulate Major-General I. T. P. Hughes on his appointment as D.L. for the County of Surrey. He has lately moved from Bognor to Great Bookham.

Captains C. J. Grindley and N. E. Hooper won for the Regiment the Inter-regimental Double at the Army Tennis Championships, beating the gunners' pair in the final 9-7, 6-3, 6-1. This is the first time the Regiment has won this event.

We also heartily congratulate Charterhouse on winning the Ashburton Shield.

The following marriages have recently taken place :—

Capt. N. A. H. Marsden and Miss Henry.  
Capt. S. Playfoot and Miss Dodds.  
M. H. Valler and Mrs. Davis.

Capt. H. R. Gill is serving on the staff of the Venezia Giulia Police Force in Trieste.

G. C. Oldham is in New Zealand. He sent a cable of good wishes to the Officers' Dinner.

Major-General R. F. K. Belchem, the son of Lieut.-Colonel O. K. Belchem of the Regiment, has been appointed Chief of Staff to Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, at the early age of 37.

Brigadier H. G. Veasey is now working at the Conservative Central Office.

Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston was responsible for the training and organization of the British Hockey Team at Olympia. Though beaten by India in the final, the experts commented on their exceptionally high standard of training.

Major Charles Cole who came back with the 1st Battalion Cadre from Malaya this year is now serving with the Somaliland Scouts.

We congratulate the following on the birth of a son :—

Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. David Lloyd Owen.  
Major and Mrs. Ian Thomson.

The story of the Battles of the 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment in Arakan and Kohima, 1943 and 1944, has just been received by Gale & Polden of Aldershot for publication.

The day-to-day account was written by Major M. A. Lowry, with a foreword by the Colonel of the Regiment, who commanded the 11th Army Group in which the Battalion was serving at that time. It is expected to be on sale by November next year at a cost of about 10s. 6d. To get a forecast of the numbers of copies required by the Regiment, would anyone interested please write to the Adjutant at the Regimental Depot.

On the occasion of the Communist attack on the Berlin Municipal Council the *Times* stated that "a spirited protest was also made by the Liaison Officer at Russian Headquarters, Major F. J. Jebens."

### INFORMATION SOUGHT

Any information available regarding the service of the late Major R. T. Smith, M.B.E., The Cheshire Regiment, killed in action 24th October, 1942, whilst serving with The Queen's Royal

Regiment, will be welcomed by Colonel A. Crookenden, C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel, The Cheshire Regiment, 33, Langborough Road, Wokingham, Berks. Major Smith's grave was situated at an isolated site, three miles north-east of Quaret-el-Hemerat.

### WELFARE—FOOD PARCELS

Geoffrey Vaughan, Esq., J.P., Waterfall, New South Wales, Australia, has kindly offered to arrange food parcels for nominees of the O.C.A. A list has been sent to him.

He would very much appreciate any news of Capt. F. Travers, who previously served in the 7th (S) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, 1914-18, and of the relatives of Capt. Hebler, who was mortally wounded with the 7th (S) Battalion in September, 1915.

R. Highton, Esq., who formerly served with the 8th (S) Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, now in Kenya, East Africa, has made an arrangement whereby gift food parcels are being sent to ex-members of that Battalion who are in need.

The former Bandmaster of 2nd Battalion, Mr. R. Barsotti, is now Director of Music, Metropolitan Police Central Band. This Band can frequently be heard broadcasting.

Capt. P. Tracey (Pat) visited the Depot in April. His presence at the All Ranks' Dinner made one think of first aid posts in the Holy Land.

P. S. W. Richardson looked very well at the Dinner. Despite the loss of a leg as a result of bombing near Crete, he is still active, cross-country running still interests him although he is not able to show us how to do it.

### OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE !

Cpl. Poulter (Jim) visited the Depot on 9th September looking hale and hearty. We are assured that the following anecdote is correct :—

A ward in St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, about 4 a.m.—a magnificent moustache showing above the blankets—one nurse holding the wrist for pulse action—another trying the heart—matron standing at the foot of the screen encircled bed exclaiming, "Ah! poor old man, he is strong to have stood it all, but I'm afraid he has gone now." Upon hearing this the old man remarked, "He ain't, you know!" The matron fainted.

We found he had not gone by the number of casualties among the "pints" during his visit here on 9th September.

Training in the Quartermaster's Store brings astounding results. This thought came to mind when we again met at the dinner that well known storeman, 6076312 G. H. Bailey.

Capt. S. Swanwick enjoys the sea air at Shoreham-by-Sea so much that he has decided to settle there permanently. He still loves a hand-made cigarette, made by himself, of course.

Cpl. Harry Warren (Boy English) has taken on a new trainer. He is now married. Heartiest congratulations to them both.

### ADVANCE NOTICE OF CRICKET FIXTURES

Our Regimental Cricket Fixtures for 1949 are :—

27th/28th May	...	...	...	H.M.S. <i>Excellent</i>
30th May	...	...	...	East Surreys
31st May	...	...	...	Reigate Priory
1st June	...	...	...	West Kents
2nd June	...	...	...	Charterhouse Masters
25th/26th June	...	...	...	Grasshoppers (Jubilee match)



## 5TH BATTALION

At the time of writing only a few weeks remain of the T.A. Training Year, 1947-48. That period, however, will be for all of us a time to look back on with pleasure and a feeling of something accomplished towards our providing our cadre to train the National Service man when he comes to us in 1950. It is satisfactory to place on record now, before the nation-wide recruiting campaign is fully in its stride, that our numbers have increased since the last publication of the JOURNAL and we are now over 100 strong.

Whilst new faces continue to appear almost daily, we have, with regret, said "goodbye" to some of the old ones. Capt. P. Markham, of "C" (Dorking) Company, has had to leave us on taking up a new appointment in Sussex. R.S.M. J. Henderson, M.M., has taken his discharge in order to become a member of another of His Majesty's services as a prison warder in his home town of Leeds. C.S.M. Waite has also taken his discharge. To all of them we extend our best wishes for success and happiness in their new careers.

We welcome the following new members of the Battalion.

**Officers.**—Capt. E. A. Smith, H.Q. Company; Lieut. P. Winch, "A" Company; Lieut. D. Hodges, "C" Company.

**Other Ranks.**—R.S.M. J. Kemp; C.S.M. Marks; Sergts. Freemantle and Atkins (late 1st Battalion); Drum-Major Newman (late 2nd Battalion); Sergt. Newman; Cpl. Budd; Ptes. Rasell, Watts, (G.), Bateman (T.), Ross-Ross, Barry, Green, Dennett, Burrell, Bracken, Huggett, Morgan, Sutton, Burrows, Peach, Patterson, Dixon, Godfrey, Sheplam, Tomlinson, McTravers, Chandler, Gentle, Bateman (W.), Gilbert, Gaskin.

### TRAINING

During the period covered by this edition of the JOURNAL training has gone ahead well, but owing to the small numbers it has not been possible to allocate men to specialist platoons for specialist training. General opinion seems to be that we are really learning something—and that the training is interesting. Only one week-end camp has been held this year, but this proved to be a successful experiment in what can be done by improvisation. Our own week-end training centre at Dunley Hill was not ready for occupation, so in May Aldershot District were asked if they would lend us a camp. We were informed that we could have Puckridge Camp on the edge of Laffans Plain. Through the good offices of the A.C.C. Depot and Training Centre and Pioneer Group sufficient cooks and dutymen were provided to make the camp possible, and a comprehensive training programme was mapped out. This included an assault river crossing by night and was rounded off by an afternoon spent at the M.T. School, Bordon, where we saw various types of vehicles waterproofed and waded. Our sincere thanks are due to the Chief Instructor, Major Hingston, and his staff for the really instructive afternoon they gave us.

In May the Brigade Commander announced that the main subject for study at the annual camp would be combined operations. The Adjutant was despatched on a course to the School of Combined Operations so as to ensure that training was on the latest lines. The Commanding Officer set the ball rolling with a lecture on the 5th July on the Salerno landing, at which he was assisted by the Quartermaster and Wing Commander Bartram who gave us the air side of the picture. This training was attended by the whole Battalion and provided an excellent opening to our study. On the Adjutant's return a series of cloth model T.E.W.T.s were run during which we were extremely fortunate to have an excellent short exposition on bombardment from Capt. P. Eastman-Nagle, the Adjutant of 298th Field Regiment, R.A. As a result of this training the Battalion went to camp with a sound grounding in the principles of combined operations.

### ANNUAL CAMP

131st Infantry Brigade went to annual camp this year at Dibgate Camp, Shorncliffe. This is a statement of fact, but it was through no help of "the clerk of the weather" that this statement can now be made! In fact, six days before our camp was due to start there was no Dibgate Camp to go to as it had been blown down by the storms which seem to beset all good soldiers when they get

under canvas (certain stormy "old" T.A. members were overheard saying, "Remember 1939 camp?"). Despite these initial trials the whole Battalion arrived in camp in excellent spirits. Here they were welcomed by an advance party of the permanent staff and certain members of the Battalion who can always be relied on to come forward to help get the show organized.

The training programme for this year's camp was a heavy one (one member of the Battalion was heard to rejoice on the fourth day "that from midnight till six o'clock is all my own"). A short period of P.T. started the day off and work continued till 1630 hours. We were very fortunate to get the School of Infantry (Hythe Wing) to give us two very good demonstrations whilst from our own resources we ran T.E.W.T.s. and a simple field firing competition fired under service conditions. 119th Field Engineer Regiment R.E. (T.A.) very kindly brought a team from Brighton and gave us an interesting afternoon's instruction on rafting and watermanship. Last, but not least, the combined operations exercise "ANA" was staged. Owing to the weather it was impossible to carry out the full exercise which involved embarking in a L.C.T. at Dover and travelling to a launching area off Hythe. There the troops were to transfer to L.C.As. and carry out a combined assault on the coast with a supply drop in the morning which was to have been carried out by the 615th (Surrey) Squadron, R.A.A.F. At least we were able to embark, transfer and land, but all in Dover Harbour and the taste of combined operations which we all experienced was in no way wasted.

The enthusiasm with which all ranks tackled the training was really excellent. We hope that by the time annual camp comes round again next year we shall have larger numbers which will enable more advanced training to be carried out.

A Families' Day was held on the Wednesday during our period in camp and a large number of wives and children travelled to Dibgate by coach. The weather cleared and it turned out to be a sunny day. N.A.A.F.I. provided lunch and tea for everybody and it was generally voted to be a great success.

Our Honorary Colonel, Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., also visited us that day. It was the intention that our Colonel should present medals to members of the Battalion on a ceremonial parade but time and weather unfortunately did not allow of this.

### BATTALION RIFLE MEETING

The Battalion Rifle Meeting was held at Cæsar's Camp, "B" Range on Sunday, 26th September in perfect weather. An Inter-Company Rifle and Bren Team Competition, in which nine teams competed, kept everyone busy from the time they arrived until 1600 hours. During firing on the range three pool bull targets were run and all pool bulls were scored by members of "B" Company.

"B" Company, who had the best results in their Annual Weapons Course, again proved their right to be called the Champion Shooting Company by carrying off the Inter-Company Rifle and Bren Competitions with their "A" team, which consisted of Major Clarke, C./Sergt. Moxon, Pte. Blake, Pte. Bateman, Pte. Watts and Pte. Rasell, for both Rifle and Bren Competitions. Space will not permit naming all the winners, but special mention is made of the following:—

Battalion Champion Shot (all weapons) ...	C./Sergt. Moxon, "B" Company
Battalion Champion Shot (rifle) ...	Capt. Clemson, "S" Company
Battalion Champion Shot (Bren) ...	Capt. Smith, H.Q. Company

### BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

The Battalion Annual Reunion was held at Guildford, on Saturday, 2nd October. This reunion is for all men who have ever served with the 1st/5th or 2nd/5th Battalions.

Approximately 200 past and present members of the 5th Battalion attended and after the initial ice had been broken talk and reminiscence ran freely until 1130 hours when a good-humoured police contingent intimated that the licence had expired.

The Commanding Officer made a short speech welcoming everyone who had come along to support us, and extending a special welcome to the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, and General Sir Walter Kirke.



Our special thanks for the organization go to R.Q.M.S. Pullen, the Secretary. We should also like to mention the excellent sandwiches and sausage rolls provided by Mrs. May and Mrs. Pullen. Although a mighty stock was provided it is proof of the excellence of the food that only empty plates were cleared away after the evening was over. The thanks of all present are also due to many seen and unseen helpers.

## DIARY OF A REGIMENTAL OFFICER OF 131 (QUEEN'S) BRIGADE

NORMANDY, JUNE-AUGUST, 1944

By LIEUT.-COLONEL B. E. L. BURTON, 'THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

(Continued from page 28, May, 1948, issue)

13th June.—We got into our lorries and made a very early start, going across several main up and down routes. The Armoured Brigade led the way with 1st/7th Queen's under command. The gap did exist and the Armoured Brigade got to Villers Bocage. This meant that we were right behind Panzer Lehr Division, who would have to pull back unless the Germans did something quick. As it happened, 2nd Panzer Division were on their way to attack the Americans at Caumont; but owing to the advance of 7th Armoured Division, they were diverted from their original task and ordered to meet our thrust instead and save Panzer Lehr. 1st/5th Queen's concentrated near Le Paumeric cross-roads on the main road running east from Caumont. Shortly after, we received orders to move forward towards Villers Bocage, where we would come under command of the Armoured Brigade.

Owing to its isolated position and the sudden arrival of 2nd Panzer Division, 22nd Armoured Brigade had to evacuate Villers Bocage, and decided instead to hold a position for the time being on some high ground about a mile west of Villers Bocage near Amaye-sur-Seulles (4). To help hold this ground 1st/5th Queen's were ordered up and by the late afternoon were disposed on the ground, "B" and "A" Companies facing south, "C" Company facing south-east and "D" Company facing north-east. 1st/7th Queen's came out of Villers Bocage and took up a position on a feature between 1st/5th Queen's and Villers Bocage. On our hill we had most of the Armoured Brigade (less a battalion of tanks), the greater part of two armoured recce units and a regiment of Royal Horse Artillery. The perimeter was very large for one and a half infantry battalions to hold in this close country, but even so it was not big enough to enable the rest of the force to get inside comfortably. The result was a congestion of vehicles, tanks and guns in every orchard on our hill; a perfect target for the enemy artillery and air force.

14th June.—Our force remained in the same area. In the morning the Germans started shelling the area, not heavily, which was lucky for all of us. Their snipers also got busy and caused some casualties. Two or three snipers were shot out of trees. There were a lot of bullets flying about, but of these many were from our own troops who were counter-sniping.

During the day it was obvious that the German was very much on the war-path and was feeling round our south and west flanks with tanks and infantry. 1st/6th Queen's and an armoured regiment moved up towards us, but met quite strong forces of the enemy. It was obvious by now that our position was untenable. 50th Division on our left had tried to take Tilly and conform to our advance. Their progress, however, was too slow, so the decision was taken to withdraw 7th Armoured Division to the area Briquessard-Livry and thence to link up with 50th Division on our left somewhere in the Granville area. Recce parties were sent back to the new positions.

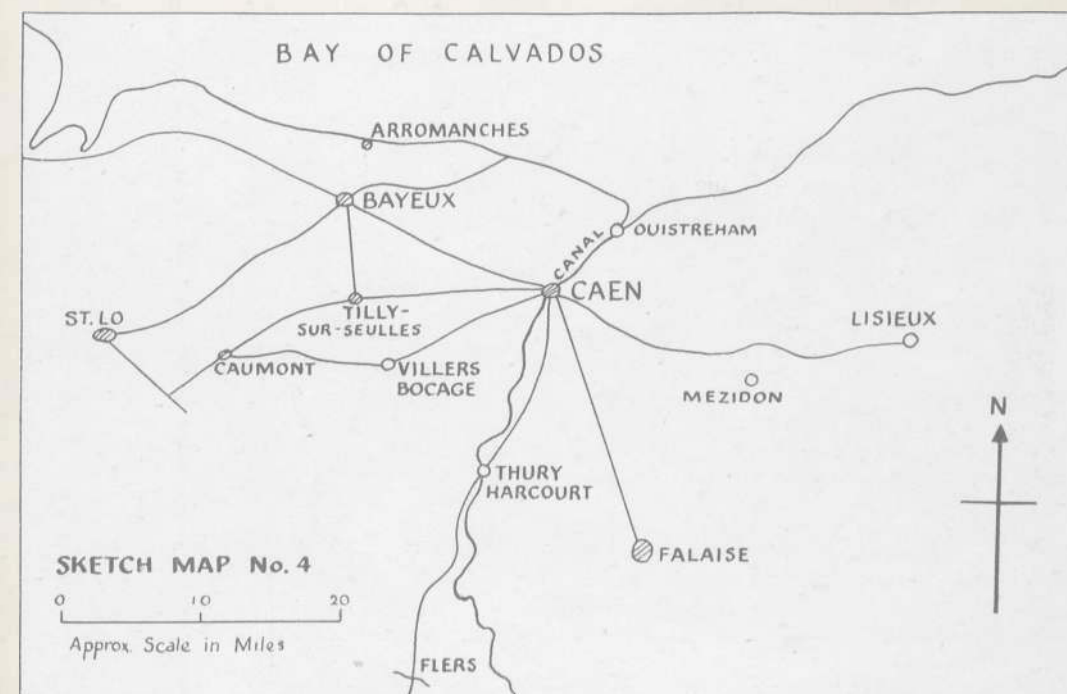
The prospects of an easy withdrawal, even though it was to be after dark, were remote; the enemy appeared to be in some strength and very active. 2nd Panzer Division also had the reputation of being a good division more or less complete (actually they were short of tanks).

### 131 BRIGADE IN NORMANDY



(Crown Copyright)

QUEEN'S CARRIERS ADVANCING THROUGH A CORNFIELD, PASS A BURNING GERMAN TANK



To face page 76)





[Photo: Hamlin's Photo-News Service, Ltd., Folkestone

5th BATTALION  
RAFTING AND WATERMANSHIP DEMONSTRATION



[Photo: K. L. Knight, Ltd., Bude

622 H.A.A. REGIMENT R.A. (T.A.) late 7th BATTALION  
THE REGIMENT IN CAMP

At 19.30 hours a strong infantry attack developed against the south flank of 1st/5th Queen's. It was estimated that a brigade of Panzer Grenadiers were launched on a one-battalion front. We were ready and for the next hour and a half all hell was let loose against the Germans. Our tanks moved up into our forward localities and fired into the orchards against the advancing German infantry. Our artillery were firing air bursts at ranges sometimes of only 400 yards. The result was that no penetration of our position was made and the Germans had a bad mauling, so bad that they withdrew to lick their wounds. Our casualties were very light indeed. "A" Company, 1st/5th Queen's, on whose front the main weight of the attack fell, had no casualties. This abortive attack by the Germans altered the whole situation. They had been so badly knocked about that our whole force was able to withdraw after dark completely unmolested. Bomber Command helped by sending over a powerful force to bomb the Germans. The force moved back all night down the one road; vehicles went head to tail!

15th June.—By dawn 1st/5th Queen's had reached its new position (5) and started to dig in. The troops were very tired as they had been without much sleep now for about four or five days. Our brigade was very spread out in its new position, with 1st/6th Queen's rather isolated in Briquessard, 1st/5th Queen's holding a position 2,500 yards long in very enclosed country, and the 1st/7th Queen's on the left also very spread out. 1st/5th Queen's had such a wide front that all its four rifle companies were in line and every platoon had to be up to guard all the approaches. The result was that there was little depth and hardly any reserve available. The close nature of the country and the width of front to be held forced these unusual dispositions on the battalion. Carrier patrols were sent out in front of 1st/5th Queen's to some low ground about 500 yards away to watch the crossing over a stream. About midday they reported a little enemy activity, and as these patrols were unsupportable owing to the closeness of the country they had orders to withdraw.

During the afternoon the German advanced elements arrived in the form of strong fighting patrols. They started tapping the whole position from right to left, and very well they did it too. These patrols were fought off without much trouble, but the enemy had no doubt gained the information he wanted. Whether he appreciated that he was up against our main positions is not known, but from subsequent events it looked as if he did not know.

16th June.—In the morning the Germans made their first attack on 1st/6th Queen's in Briquessard. They got roughly handled here and later moved forward and contacted the right company of 1st/5th Queen's, dug in and then started to mortar our positions. This part of the Brigade front became one of the hottest parts of the line during the next fortnight. It guarded the Livry cross-roads and was continually shelled and mortared by the enemy. The signs were that, having failed at Briquessard, the enemy might try next against 1st/5th Queen's. Against a determined attack our position was not strong and a squadron of tanks was ordered up and put under command of 1st/5th Queen's. We were liberally supplied with anti-tank guns, but lacked infantry to cover adequately the wide frontage.

17th June.—At dawn the squadron of tanks arrived. There now was something available to deal with any penetration. 1st/6th Queen's on the right was pulled back to Briquessard wood, and 1st/7th Queen's was relieved on the left by the 2nd Rifle Brigade and came into reserve except for one company which was inserted on the right of 1st/5th Queen's, taking over its right company position.

In the evening the Germans had a prod at Briquessard wood and our tanks were rushed off to help. After a short while things quietened down. 1st/5th Queen's now had a company available as a reserve, and the tanks were withdrawn to rest and carry out maintenance. Battalion H.Q., 1st/5th Queen's had been in an orchard near some farm buildings, but the enemy started to shell the whole position and soon it was evident that he had the orchard registered, so H.Q. was moved behind the farm buildings. The Germans, however, made this spot too hot also, so H.Q. moved a second time. Our new H.Q. was more centrally placed and lay in a dip near a chapel. The aid post was also here. This field remained extraordinarily free from shelling during the whole period we were in the Livry area. The enemy appeared to have registered certain fixed areas in our position and these were shelled and mortared regularly. The shelling was not as intense as some we experienced



later, but even so was rather uncomfortable. In our second battalion H.Q. we had counted 65 shells falling round us in one hour.

At about this time our second flight of vehicles arrived from home and the first reinforcements. They were very welcome as we had had some casualties.

*18th June-1st July.*—During this period we remained in the same area, just holding the line. On other parts of the front strong attacks were made in an effort to enlarge our bridgehead and to keep the best German troops opposite 21st Army Group, so that the Americans would have an easier time in the assault on Cherbourg.

50th Division captured Tilly, and 49th Division on their left got across the Caen-Tilly road and captured the high ground near Juvigny. Progress between Tilly and Granville was, however, more slow and several sharp battles were fought for Hottot. VIII and XII Corps had arrived by now and a thrust was made towards the Orne from the north-west via Pt. 112 and Evrecy and Maltot. The fighting here was some of the heaviest and bitterest of the campaign. Farther left still I Corps and the Canadians attacked towards Caen and gradually closed in towards the town, the Canadians having a grim fight for possession of Carpiquet airfield.

On our right was an American infantry Division which held Caumont.

1st/5th Queen's position was a dog-leg in shape; that is to say we had one and a half companies facing south and one and a half companies facing east. The corner was a group of farm buildings. Any movement in the forward localities of the south face brought immediate enemy reaction in the form of shell or mortar fire. We were very close to the enemy posts on this face, about 200 yards in one or two spots. The enemy opposite us was holding a string of outposts. Generally speaking, he never occupied the same post two days running. He had plenty of alternative posts dug for his Spandau teams and he rang the changes. His mortar O.P.s. were close up and very hard to find. We used to send small reconce patrols out by day to the south to try and find out all we could, and after a time were able to pin-point some places which seemed always occupied. At night patrols were sent out to try and get a body, dead or alive. Generally speaking, these patrols had bad luck and our total bag was one dead German, and he had no marks of identification on him. The units which relieved us had exactly the same experience, so we were told later.

As has been said, the Germans were fairly regular in their habits regarding shelling and mortaring. Most of this was of a harassing nature and usually fell in the same areas. However, this was sufficient to cause a steady dribble of casualties. The troops soon found out that a slit trench does not give 100 per cent. protection in close country owing to shells bursting in the trees and the splinters coming down like shrapnel. So the trenches were provided with head cover. The Germans did the same. Some of our original weapon pits were not very satisfactory. We have always to learn the hard way, it seems. After a bit things improved and weapon pits in hedges and banks were well sited and dug, but seldom in my opinion reached the standard of the Germans. The British soldier hates digging!

In a captured German intelligence summary (not on our front) it was stated that the British always gave their positions away by careless movement in the forward localities and by smoking after dark! Everyone soon learnt that discipline in forward positions saved casualties. One weakness which was brought out during our stay in the Livry area was one common to most of the army. Because the Luftwaffe made only very rare appearances, track discipline was allowed to go to blazes. I saw an aerial photo of a battalion area taken by our own aircraft. The veriest amateur of photo interpretation could see the whole "layout" from this photo. The infantry are not always so much to blame as the attached troops, such as anti-tank and machine gunners and tanks. Troops did not seem to realise that a photo reconce machine flies so high as to be invisible and possible soundless.

Towards the end of our stay here on a summer's evening a strong force of Lancasters flew over us and bombed Villers Bocage to bits. Villers Bocage was a vital centre of road-communication and any threat to it made the Germans react violently.

*30th June.*—News came that we were going to be relieved by the second U.S. Armoured Division. We were naturally delighted. We had been at it since landing in France and, owing to our closeness to the enemy and the very short nights, the men were tired through lack of sleep. Our Brigade was by no means unique in this. 50th Division, who had landed on D Day, never had a rest—a fine tribute to their guts.

*2nd July.*—The Brigade arrived in its new area about one and a half miles north of Tilly (6). 50th Division were in front of us with all its brigades up in contact with the enemy. Our Division had the role of giving depth to 50th Division and to counter-attack as and when necessary. This meant that the troops were at short notice and were within range of the enemy field artillery. Our area was in fact shelled from time to time and caused us some casualties.

*3rd-5th July.*—These three days were spent in washing and cleaning-up generally and making up arrears of sleep.

*6th-16th July.*—During this period we carried out some intensive training, chiefly with the tanks. We were practising a technique for coping with the German in the Forman Bocage country. This technique involved the closest co-operation between the individual tank and the infantry working with it, in clearing each field methodically. It was soon apparent to all that it would be a slow and laborious business. First the infantry would creep down the hedges, covered by the tanks. They would then clear the far hedge, look through it to spot any hidden German anti-tank gun. When things looked all right the tanks were called up and the process repeated. If an enemy tank or anti-tank gun was spotted the infantry were to stalk it or tell the tanks, who would try to get into position for the kill. The troops entered into this with a will and the standard of fieldcraft reached was very high. But, as I have said, it all seemed too slow. Maybe it could not be helped. Tank for tank, our tanks seemed to be no match for the Panther and the Tiger with their superior gun and armour, except in mobility. At this period, too, the anti-tank gun was leading in its race against the tank. The German 88 mm. gun is reported to be the best gun on the battle-field, with their high velocity 75 mm. running second. At shortish ranges the British 17-pounder is first-class and will hole most German tanks anywhere, except perhaps the new Tiger Mark II in front.

*6th-16th July.*—Round about the beginning of July, Caen was stormed and cleared of the enemy. The Germans had hung on to Caen and had fought extremely hard to hold it. Caen is a vital centre of communication; its port has quite a large capacity for unloading ships; it was the pivot for the whole German position in Calvados; it was on the most direct route to Paris and the "doodle-bug" country. A thrust from Caen towards Falaise would endanger the whole German position in Calvados. The German touchiness about Caen was correctly appreciated, so an offensive was prepared for three armoured divisions to cross the Orne and canal north of Caen and strike south and south-east. The country there is very open, rolling country with few hedges and trees. It is ideal tank country and, as was shown later, ideal anti-tank gun country also.

On the 16th reconce parties were sent off to our concentration area. This was near Gabrielle, a few miles east of Bayeux (7).

*17th July.*—The Brigade arrived in the new area. It is worth while here to describe what living conditions were like when not actually engaged in battle. First and foremost, we always lived in the open. Houses and barns could be used as reading and recreation rooms, etc., but all troops slept out. For the most part we "leagured" in fields and orchards, tucking ourselves away in any available cover. Slits had to be dug as protection against air attack and harassing fire by artillery. When the weather was dry and warm it was lovely and very healthy. In wet weather the troops had to improvise bivouacs out of their ground sheets and gas capes. Even so it was not really possible for them to keep their bedding dry. There does seem to be a case for the issue of a light and properly designed waterproof bivouac.

Food in the early stages of the campaign consisted of "compo" packs. These packs contain rations for 14 men for one day. Everything is tinned and the food is ready prepared and cooked and only requires heating. The contents of the packs vary; some were more popular than others. One got a bit tired of "compo" after a bit; but there is no denying that our rations were very good. When our "build-up" had progressed sufficiently, we stopped getting "compo" rations and went on to the Field Service scale of rations. This meant bread, fresh meat once or twice a week and fresh tea and sugar and tinned milk. The cigarette ration was seven a day plus a weekly issue from N.A.A.F.I. of about sixty, making a total of about fifteen cigarettes per day. After the first month we had to pay for what we got from N.A.A.F.I., and except for the weekly bottle of beer everything was cheap enough. For example, whisky and cigarettes were free of duty. The mail from home, on the whole, came regularly and quickly. The homeward mail during the first month was very slow but improved later. Baths for the troops have been patchy. A mobile bath unit is worth its weight



in gold, some formations have been luckier than others in this respect. The writer, to date, has bathed all the time in a biscuit tin, half filled with hot water, and has managed to keep clean. Platoon commanders have a very important duty to perform in insisting on their men keeping washed and shaved both in and out of battle. Feet particularly should be washed every day if possible. All this is well known, but must be insisted upon. In the Brigade we have had very little trouble in the form of skin and foot ailments. Out of battle hot water is easy to produce. A cigarette tin half filled with dry earth soaked with a cupful of petrol is ample to heat half a biscuit tin filled with water.

The waste of materials in war is enormous. Much of it is quite unnecessary. All over Normandy, wherever allied troops have been, there lie valuable petrol cans and empty ammunition boxes. Both these are made of steel and are expensive. Even if damaged they are good for salvage. Why leave them *in situ*? Why not have them collected and dumped on the side of the road where they can be collected by the salvage people. This is a unit responsibility, but it was evident that lots of units did not bother.

(To be continued)

## 6TH BATTALION

THE 6th Battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment (T.A.), whose H.Q. are in Bermondsey, attended their annual camp at Dibgate, near Hythe, from 21st to the 28th of August. The Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Colonel J. Mason, D.S.O., forms part of the 131st Brigade (with the 5th Queen's and the 6th East Surreys), commanded by Brigadier A. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

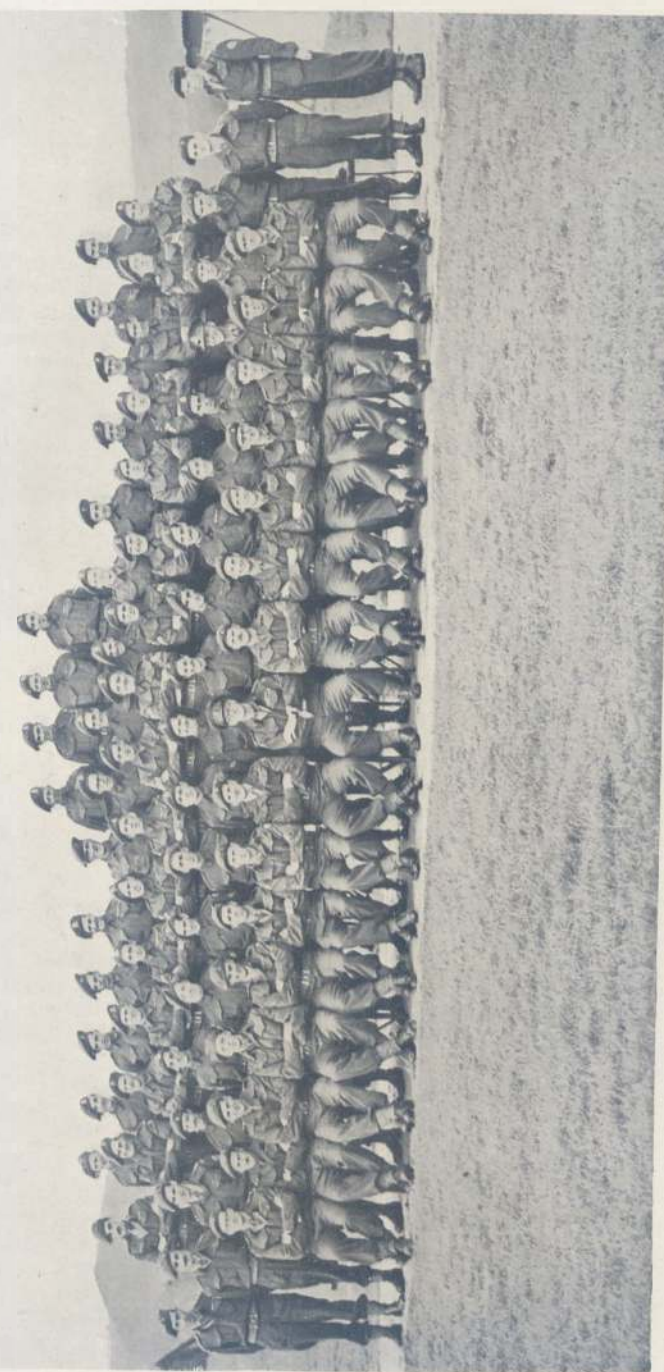
The weather was mixed but, generally speaking, did not prevent us from making full use of the surrounding countryside for training. In our particular case, as a London Battalion, this week's training in the "open spaces" is most important, as apart from one or two week-end camps it is our only opportunity of training, outside our drill hall.

The high spot in the training was a Brigade scheme entailing an assault landing.

Combined Operations had been studied in the individual Battalion's training programmes for some weeks previously, and the Brigade scheme was the practical culmination of much theoretical work.

The Brigade was to have left Dover Harbour and assaulted the Hythe Beaches, with air and naval forces, followed by an attack inland. Unfortunately, on the night planned for the scheme the weather broke, and neither the Navy nor the R.A.F. could co-operate as arranged. However, a smaller scheme took place in Dover Harbour, so that it was felt all the preparatory training was not wasted. It was notable that the Press took great interest in the scheme, as sixteen reporters representing the leading newspapers visited the camp, and we felt the ensuing publicity was of great value to the T.A. generally in the present recruiting drive. The rest of the training was under Battalion arrangements, and consisted for the most part of courses in anti-tank gun, carrier, R./T., etc., as our present strength did not allow full training on a company or battalion level. Several excellent demonstrations were also arranged by the Small Arms School at Hythe.

One afternoon was set aside for "Wives' Day," and three coaches of friends and relatives left Bermondsey to visit the camp. Both lunch and tea were provided for the visitors in the N.A.A.F.I. tent, and during the afternoon the visitors and their T.A. friends visited Folkestone. An added attraction for "Wives' Day" was the presence of a film unit, who took several shots of the lunch and tea party. This unit had worked throughout the week "shooting" various items of training in connection with a recruiting film to be released in October. Altogether an enjoyable and instructive camp, our only regret being, as last year, that it could not be extended to the pre-war fortnight.



[Photo: Hamlyn's Photo-News Service, Ltd., Folkestone]

THE 6th BATTALION IN CAMP



## 622 (QUEEN'S) H.A.A. REGT., R.A., T.A. (LATE 7TH BN. THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGT.)

SINCE the last note appeared in the JOURNAL much progress has been made in training and a very happy spirit has naturally resulted. The Regiment did a great deal of preparatory work before annual camp, and as a result the experience of firing for the first time was possible with only two days' silent instruction.

The Regiment, under Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Akroyd-Hunt, R.A., attended practice camp at Cleave, Cornwall, from 7th to 21st August, 1948. Attendance figures were : Officers, 6 ; O.Rs. 32 ; total, 38.

The attendance figures, relative to the size of the Regiment, were somewhat better than the average of pre-war years. Everyone was very keen and enthusiastic.

Sufficient officers and men were available to provide teams (with a few spares) for Control Post, Command Room, Radar, and two guns. Officers and men were constantly exercised in their duties with live and silent practice for the whole camp, and by the time "break-up" arrived, really efficient results were being obtained.

In all 560 rounds were fired, partly at a towed target and partly "180° off." Hits in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle were estimated at 30 per cent., which our I.G. considered good.

The weather was cold and somewhat damp, but despite this several cricket matches were played. Officers and Sergeants beat the Bombardiers and Gunners by three wickets in scenes of terrific excitement !

In general a most successful time was had by all ; the only drawback, apart from the climate, was our lack of numbers.

Can we again appeal to Queen's officers and Queen's men of the London District to join up? Officers are particularly needed.

## HISTORY OF 169 QUEEN'S BRIGADE

FEBRUARY TO MARCH, 1944, ANZIO

(Part V.—Continued from page 38, May, 1948, issue)

AFTER a brief period to rest and refit and to absorb 300 reinforcements the Brigade sailed on 17th February to join the remainder of 56th (London) Division in the Anzio Bridgehead. When the Brigade arrived the situation was somewhat tense, the Germans just having launched a full-scale armoured and infantry attack down the axis of the main Albano-Anzio road. This had been held, but only at the expense of some loss of ground, and it looked as if the Germans might renew the offensive at any moment in order to cut the lateral road running through the flyover bridge.

The first task given to the Brigade was, therefore, to position itself to the west of the flyover bridge with a view to counter-attacking the flank of any main German attack which developed down the east of the main road. The only area available was subjected to very heavy artillery and mortar fire, and although the Brigade moved in under cover of darkness some casualties were incurred before they dug in.

As no major German attack developed, 2nd/7th Queen's were ordered to take over from an American battalion who were holding on grimly to an isolated salient to the west of the main Albano-Anzio road. In order to relieve the American battalion, 2nd/7th Queen's had to carry out a fighting advance under very difficult conditions. This they achieved and, though there was great difficulty in getting through reserves of ammunition and supplies, the American battalion were nearly all safely relieved within forty-eight hours. There then followed an epic stand, when 2nd/7th Queen's, cut off and surrounded, withstood the onslaught of five German battalions, supported by tanks, throughout the whole of one day. Two company localities were overrun by sheer weight of numbers, but the locality containing Battalion H.Q., one company and a machine-gun platoon



held out until ordered to withdraw after dark. The Germans attacked continuously throughout the day, but so accurate and deadly was our artillery and small-arms fire that all attacks were beaten off with very heavy casualties. Though only a small party of 2nd/7th Queen's were able to fight their way through the enemy lines after dark, there is no doubt that this gallant stand of the Battalion not only enabled the hard-pressed American unit to withdraw, but kept off superior German forces for a vital forty-eight hours whilst the whole position in rear was strengthened.

The night 2nd/7th Queen's were ordered to withdraw, 2nd/6th Queen's had been ordered forward to form a firm base behind them in the hamlet of Pantoni and the neighbouring wadi. This was achieved despite considerable German opposition, and for four days and nights, until relieved by a neighbouring formation, they clung tenaciously to their hard-won localities. The Germans put in many counter-attacks, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses. Pantoni in particular proved a thorn in the German side. Though heavily shelled and mortared almost continuously, it defied all the German efforts to close with the defenders and occupy the area. 2nd/6th Queen's snipers proved particularly effective, one of them accounting for five Germans in one day.

After only twenty-four hours' rest, 2nd/6th Queen's were again in action in a very difficult wadi locality on the left of the Brigade sector, and here they greatly distinguished themselves by their offensive tactics, inflicting heavy casualties on the Germans and capturing many German prisoners, including two Company Commanders.

2nd/5th Queen's had throughout the difficult task of occupying a heavily shelled and mortared wadi as a firm base for the Brigade area. They did all that was asked of them and were continuously in action without relief until the whole Brigade was finally relieved on 12th March.

2nd/7th Queen's, re-formed, were also back in the line, holding a reserve locality immediately behind 2nd/5th Queen's.

The Queen's Brigade finally left the Anzio bridgehead on 12th March after three weeks of the heaviest fighting of the whole campaign. They had seen all attempts by the Germans to break through in their area frustrated, and, though their own casualties were by no means light, those of the Germans were far heavier, and by the time the British left the Germans had turned from the offensive to the defensive.

## OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

THE Officers' Garden Party was held at Stoughton on 17th July; about 120 attended, among whom we were especially glad to see General Sir Walter Kirke, the Captain of H.M.S. *Excellent*, and Major du Vallon. We are most grateful to H.M.S. *Excellent* for their great kindness in sending their splendid Band.

The weather was atrocious, but there was plenty of room under cover and the general opinion seemed to be that the concentration of this year was better than the greater dispersal of last. Many thanks are due to Major J. W. M. Denton and the very limited staff of the Depot for all their help and great credit for the excellent condition in which the Mess and grounds are still maintained. The N.A.A.F.I. supplied an excellent tea.

The Officers' Dinner was held at the Connaught Rooms, on Friday, 17th September, and the following members warned-in. Actually 99 members dined.

Major N. B. Avery, M.C.	Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Bolton, D.S.O.	Colonel J. B. Coates, O.B.E., M.C.
Lieut.-Colonel D. E. Bathgate	Capt. T. F. Bonnett	Major G. J. H. D. Collins
Lieut.-Colonel D. C. Baynes, D.S.O., M.C.	Colonel J. D. Boyd, D.S.O.	Lieut.-Colonel Herbert Cook, M.C.
Capt. A. C. Beach	Major T. O. M. Buchan, M.C.	Major G. F. Camm
Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Beattie, C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C.	Major D. E. Bugg	Capt. E. W. Dawson
Major J. G. Bevington	Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton	Capt. C. P. Dear, M.C.
Capt. T. G. Blumson	Lieut.-Colonel P. B. Carroll	Major J. W. M. Denton
Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	Capt. J. F. L. Clarke	Capt. E. D. Drew
	Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O.	Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Duncombe, D.S.O.
	Major E. B. G. Clowes	Colonel G. N. Dyer, C.B.E., D.S.O.

K. M. East, Esq.  
Major D. R. Edwards  
Lieut.-Colonel F. C. Edwards  
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. M. Evans  
Lieut.-Colonel W. F. O. Faviell  
H. P. Ford, Esq.  
Major R. C. G. Foster, M.C.  
Major J. A. R. Freeland, D.S.O.  
General Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O.  
Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O.  
Capt. H. J. Goldner  
Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Grimston  
Capt. C. A. Haggard  
Wing-Commander V. C. Harvey, M.C., D.C.M.  
Major N. J. P. Hawken, M.C.  
Capt. P. Hoggarth  
Major W. S. Hooker, M.B.E., T.D.  
Major R. L. Hazell  
Major-General I. T. P. Hughes, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.  
Brigadier H. N. A. Hunter, D.S.O.  
Major W. T. Irish  
Colonel F. A. Jacob  
Major K. A. Jessup  
Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy, D.S.O.

Capt. D. F. Kellie  
Brigadier M. Kemp Welsh, D.S.O., M.C.  
General Sir Walter Kirke, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., D.L., J.P.  
Major H. C. Leon, M.C.  
Lieut.-Colonel D. L. L. Lloyd Owen, D.S.O.  
Major-General L. O. Lyne, C.B., D.S.O.  
Lieut.-Colonel M. E. M. MacWilliam, D.S.O., M.C.  
Major R. P. Mangles, M.C.  
Capt. R. S. N. Mansel  
Major J. W. M. Mansel  
Brig.-General F. C. More Molyneux Longbourne, C.M.G., D.S.O.  
Major A. R. C. Mott  
Lieut.-Colonel B. C. Owen, T.D.  
Lieut.-Colonel M. W. H. Pain  
Colonel R. Papworth, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.  
Capt. A. J. Parkes  
Brigadier R. E. Pickering, C.B.E.  
Lieut.-Colonel F. J. C. Piggott, D.S.O.  
Lieut.-Colonel F. J. K. Ponsford  
Capt. C. T. Reichwald, M.C.

Major G. G. Reinhold, M.C.  
Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Renshaw, D.S.O., M.C.  
G. D. Restall, Esq.  
Major A. N. S. Roberts, O.B.E.  
Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.  
Major J. G. Rusted  
Colonel H. J. Sanders, D.S.O., M.C.  
Major E. G. Sandys, M.C.  
Major R. O. Sillem  
Brigadier R. H. Senior, D.S.O.  
Major I. P. Thomson  
Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O.  
General Sir Ivo Vesey, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O.  
Lieut.-Colonel H. F. Warden, D.S.O.  
Major A. J. A. Watson  
Capt. P. H. Whenmouth  
Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O.  
Brigadier H. Wood  
Lieut.-Colonel A. F. F. Young, O.B.E., T.D.  
Colonel W. Q. Simpson, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.

Before the Dinner a Committee Meeting was held at the R.U.S.I., Whitehall, at which the following were present: General Sir George Giffard; Brigadier M. Kemp Welsh; Colonel G. N. Dyer; Lieut.-Colonel A. F. F. Young; Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy; Major R. C. G. Foster; Major A. J. A. Watson; Major J. A. R. Freeland; Capt. D. F. Kellie.

The following points were discussed:—

### 1. DATES OF FUNCTIONS FOR 1949.

The Garden Party on 16th July.

After discussion as to the comparative merits of a Dinner proper and a Buffet Party, it was decided this year to try the experiment of holding both, a Buffet Party on 25th March, and a Dinner on 21st October. Details will be circulated later.

### 2. AMALGAMATION OF REUNION AND DINNER FUNDS.

This was suggested as the former was not solvent, while the latter has a large surplus. It was decided that instead of amalgamation the Reunion Fund should be made self-supporting by raising the charge for extra guests at the Garden Party to 5s., and charging for drinks.

### 3. DATES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNAL.

In order that the JOURNAL may actually come out in May and November, instead of June and December as at present, it was approved that contributions should in future be in by 1st April and 1st October.

### 4. REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS.

In answer to Colonel Kealy, it was laid down that the use of Regimental Cards should be confined to serving members, Regular, T.A., S.R. or Cadet.

### SALERNO PICTURE.

It is regretted that sufficient orders have not yet been received to justify reproduction. Any further orders (stating maximum price that would be paid) are welcome.



## O.C.A. NOTES

### ALL RANKS' DINNER CLUB.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Dinner, All Ranks, was held at the Old Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, 26th June, 1948.

The attendance was somewhat disappointing, only 320 being present as compared with 400 in 1946 and 1947. Those who did attend were representative of all Battalions and of the Regiment's service over a period of nearly 60 years. It was gratifying to hear a large proportion of 1939-45 soldiers exchanging reminiscences with veterans of past campaigns. Lieut. Mackay and Sail-maker's Mate Mitchell, from H.M.S. *Howe*, and Petty Officer Billington, from H.M.S. *Excellent*, were among the guests.

The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, presided, and during his address read telegrams of good wishes exchanged with Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Mary, our Colonel-in-Chief. Her Majesty's telegram read, "I hope all comrades of my Regiment are having an enjoyable evening."

The evening was enjoyable in every respect, and it was pleasant to hear that forceful speaker, Capt. H. E. Reimann, again when he proposed the toast of "Absent Comrades."

The disbandment of the 2nd Battalion was a subject of much discussion after General Giffard had given news of it, but one observed the Quartermaster's staff of the 1920-30 years (Bill Bailey, "Chips" Burgess and A. N. Other) preparing plans for its revival over many pints of beer. On the other hand the 1st Battalion were in high spirits (and beer!) over the continuity of service of that Battalion. The Territorial Army did not neglect opportunities, however, and one heard Gallipoli, Macedonia, Salerno, Anzio, and Normandy all being compared.

One also noted heavy exchanges (in pints, etc.) between H.M.S. *Excellent* and H.M.S. *Howe* on the one side and the O.C.A. staff, supported by some enthusiastic London members, on the other. We hope honours were even.

### CHURCH SERVICE AND GARDEN PARTY.

The attendance at the Church Service and Garden Party on Sunday, 18th July, was a marked improvement—nearly 200, including wives, attending the Service at Holy Trinity Church in the morning and over 1,000, including families, the Garden Party in Stoughton Barracks during the afternoon.

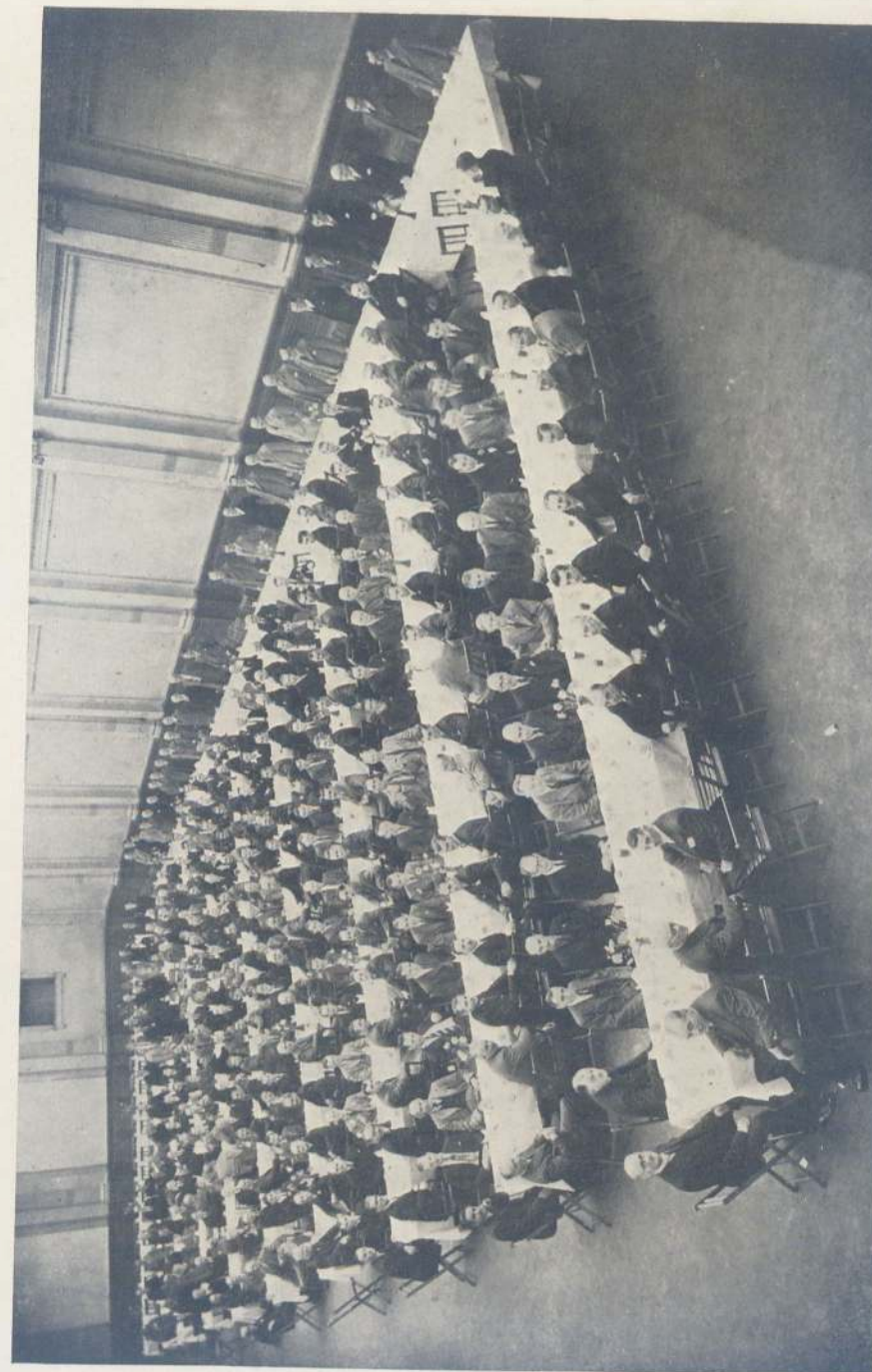
The Church Parade formed up at the Cattle Market and, preceded by the Royal Marine Band of H.M.S. *Excellent*, marched to the Church, where the Service was conducted by the Right Reverend R. S. B. Sinclair, Provost of Guildford, and the address given by the Reverend V. Castle, formerly Chaplain to the 131st Brigade in North Africa. The Mayor of Guildford, Alderman A. Williams, and members of the Corporation attended and afterwards accompanied General Sir George Giffard, Colonel of the Regiment, at the saluting base for the ensuing march past. The parade dismissed at Millmead and many proceeded direct to Stoughton to have lunch.

The weather was fine and the afternoon's gathering was much more enjoyable in consequence. We sympathized with the Officers' Club whose party was rained out on the previous day.

Sideshows and competitions organized and conducted by the Depot Staff were all well patronized and the younger children among the visitors found much pleasure in riding round in the pony and trap supplied by Mr. Snell, of Worplesdon.

H.M.S. *Excellent* Band again helped enormously by playing throughout the afternoon, and lunches and teas provided by the N.A.A.F.I. added to the visitors' comfort. The refreshment bar provided by the Sergeants' Mess, when open, proved a great attraction as usual, C./Sergt. King and Sergt. Bingham being kept at high speed by the constant barrage of orders from all sides during the lunch hour and early evening.

The Regimental Museum was open during the afternoon, and the Salerno Battle Picture was on view there. The exhibits and the picture were studied with the greatest interest.



THE OTHER RANKS DINNER AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S HALL ON 26th JUNE, 1948





FRATERNIZATION !



FATHERS' RACE

["Surrey Advertiser" photographs by W. Dennett]

(To face page 85)

Prize winners were as follows :—

## RACES :

*Girls (under 14).*—1, Evone Hewitt ; 2, Edna Townsend ; 3, Hazel Hewitt.*Boys (under 14).*—1, Boy McQuillan ; 2, Boy Norsworthy ; 3, Boy Cooper.*Men (over 45).*—1, Mr. Dale ; 2, Mr. Baldock ; 3, Mr. Ford.*Men (under 45).*—1, Mr. Hibbert ; 2, Mr. Hughes ; 3, Mr. Connor.*Ladies.*—1, Miss Hamilton ; 2, Miss Stevens ; 3, Miss Humphries.

## SHOOTING :

*Ladies.*—1, Mrs. Webb (23) ; 2, Mrs. Berry (15) ; 3, Miss June Savage (13), (age 6).*Gents.*—1, Mr. Young (22) ; 2, Mr. Clarke (21) ; 3, Mr. Ruffell, Mr. Brown (Tie, 19).

## LUCKY DIP :

*Ladies.*—1, Mrs. Thake ; 2, Mrs. Cunningham.*Gents.*—1, Pat Hughes ; 2, Mr. Fletcher.

Presentation of prizes was carried out by Mrs. J. W. M. Denton.

Our thanks are recorded to all those who helped in the preparation of and the conducting of the whole of the afternoon's shows and to all those who kindly gave help in material and work.

A most enjoyable and successful reunion and we are already looking forward to next year.

## WAR MEMORIAL FUND

**N**EGOTIATIONS are now in progress for the necessary additions to the War Memorial in the Cathedral Church of Holy Trinity, Guildford. Designs and nature of the additions have been approved by the Committee. The date upon which the necessary work is to be carried out is not yet arranged as certain particulars are still awaited.

The Roll of Honour has now been submitted to the printers, and it is hoped that this part will be completed shortly.

Owing to the difficulty of immediate establishment of a Holiday Centre, it was decided to operate a temporary holiday scheme, whereby approved cases could have a holiday under their own arrangements in collaboration with various local branches of the S.S. and A.F.A. with assistance from our Fund. During 1948 to date 44 grants amounting to £280 14s. 0d. have been authorized, mainly to widows with families who could not otherwise afford a holiday.

Many letters of grateful thanks have been received, of which the following examples are typical :—

*Widow, with children.*

Daughter writes :

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

I am writing on behalf of my mother, who has bad eyesight and unfortunately cannot write to you. I am writing to you to thank you very much indeed for a glorious holiday, which you have so willingly helped in. We are having a lovely time and I am sure we will feel better for the holiday.

JEAN B.

*Man seriously ill (T.B.) and in hospital a distance from family.*

DEAR SIR,

I am writing this letter to thank you very much for the grant that you allowed to my wife so that she and my son could have a holiday and visit me. It benefited them very much and they enjoyed every moment of it and it also bucked me up. I myself am progressing favourably and the M.O. reckons I shall be here at least another six months. Am enclosing receipt for board and lodging for my wife and son. Thanking you once again for all you have done for me, I will close and remain

Yours,  
H. E. G.



*Widow with two children.*

This is to thank you very much for the grand holiday we all had. We had a very nice time at St. Leonards and the weather was quite good. The boys and I went to St. Clement's Caves. Three or four hundred people slept in these caves every night during the war. The large main cavern is now a dance floor, lit by lanterns and with sitting-out places all round. From there we went to see what was left of the Castle and down to the Whispering Dungeons there, a most interesting feature. We spent a whole day at the Fish Market and the Old Town. The fishermen's huts and fishing smacks make a grand setting. On the pier, the children used to like Uncle Percy's Hour with Punch and Judy and Alexandra Park, boating on the lake, with fireworks at night.

We had very good apartments, comfortable room and excellent food.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. G.

The Committee wishes to place on record the services of the S.S. and A.F.A., which have been of great help in putting us in touch with families to whom a holiday was a great boon and in helping to find accommodation for those who were unable to do so themselves.

The War Memorial Fund Accounts now show a credit of £11,136 at date of writing these notes.

## HOME COUNTIES TRAINING BATTALION

AS most readers are aware, for the past year the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre has been established at Shorncliffe for the purpose of completing the training of National Service personnel who have been received from the Primary Training Centres of regiments in the Home Counties group. When this training has been completed, the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre has been responsible for holding trainees until drafted to regiments of the group. At the same time all other personnel of the regiments of the group while awaiting posting orders, etc., have been held on strength of the Training Centre until posted.

In order to save man-power, the War Office at the end of 1947 decided on a new system for the training of National Service personnel, which in general terms can be said to be as follows:—

- (a) All P.T.Cs. are abolished.
- (b) Regular Battalions are now required to undertake the complete training of National Service personnel.
- (c) Units such as the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre as previously constituted are also abolished.

Consequent on this new organization, the 2nd Battalion of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment on its return from B.A.O.R. have been nominated to be the first battalion of the Home Counties group of regiments to undertake the training of National Service personnel on behalf of the Home Counties group. It is understood that this commitment will be held in rotation at Shorncliffe by the different regiments in the group and that the normal tour of duty will be for not less than two years.

Therefore, on 4th March, 1948, the 2nd Battalion of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment took over their new role from the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre, under the title of 2nd Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent (Home Counties Brigade Training Battalion).

The Battalion are at present organized into four training and two holding and drafting companies. The permanent staff for the companies are members of the different regiments of the group, and each training company represents one or two regiments as under

"A" Company	Queen's and East Surreys	O.C. Major P. Kealey, Q.R.R.
"B" Company	Bufs and Royal Fusiliers	O.C., Major S. Rose, R.F.
"C" Company	Sussex and Middlesex	O.C., Major C. H. Marsh, Mx.
"D" Company	Queen's Own Royal West Kent	O.C., Major C. H. Keenlyside, R.W.K. Regiment

In addition, the permanent staff of the holding and drafting companies contain representatives from all regiments, and are at present commanded as follows:—

No. 2 Company	...	Major P. Lewis, The Buffs
No. 3 Company	...	Major B. Wills, The Buffs

National Service trainees on arrival are posted to the company of the regiment covering the area where they live. It is, of course, appreciated that when personnel complete their basic training at Shorncliffe they are liable to be posted to any of the regiments of the group, but later they have the chance of going back to their own county regiments, when they leave the Army and start their T.A. service. All trainees during their time at Shorncliffe wear the badge of their own county regiment.

It will be appreciated that one major object of the training battalion is to foster a group *esprit de corps*, and from all reports received this has been achieved without difficulty, and it is probably correct to say that most members of the permanent staff have welcomed the opportunity of making new friends of members of other regiments of the group, with whom they have always been so closely associated. At the same time every effort is being made to retain the identity of individual regiments by observing regimental days and the establishing of regimental rooms, in which are displayed regimental trophies, records, etc., which can be seen and studied by recruits. These regimental rooms are now an outstanding feature, and well worth a visit from any members of the Regiment who may find themselves at Shorncliffe.

The Home Counties Training Battalions are occupying all of the four barracks at Shorncliffe overlooking the English Channel, and with the coming of summer there can be few pleasanter places in the whole of England in which to soldier. Sport is now in full swing, with a long list of cricket fixtures to be played, together with an Inter-Company Cricket Tournament being run on a league system. The unit athletic meeting is due to take place on 19th May prior to the District Sports Meeting early in June. In addition, a team representing Eastern Command is now in training to take part in the obstacle race demonstration which is to be an event in the Royal Tournament at Olympia.

On 2nd May the Training Battalion received a visit from General Sir Evelyn Barker, who spent two hours inspecting the recruits under training, while on 8th June the Battalion is being inspected by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, when it is planned to hold a ceremonial parade, which will be of interest to many of the young soldiers who have not, as yet, taken part in such a parade.

It is hoped in future issues of this magazine to include as a regular feature items of news from Shorncliffe. In conclusion, it is emphasized that all ranks of the Training Battalion are most anxious that all members of the regiment of the group will look upon the Training Battalion as a unit connected very much with their own regiments, and that any officer or other rank who may feel he would like to see something of the work that is being done will always be most welcome.

### JUNE

The main item of news during June has been the visit of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent to the Training Battalion at Shorncliffe on 8th June.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by Lady Rachel Davidson, was first entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess, and afterwards proceeded to Risborough Stadium, where she inspected the Battalion drawn up by companies in line under command of the following officers:—

No. 1 Coy., Major C. H. Keenlyside, R.W.K.	No. 5 Coy., Major D. C. Nolda, Mx.
No. 2 Coy., Major P. Kealey, Queen's	No. 6 Coy., Major P. Lewis, Buffs.
No. 3 Coy., Major S. Rose, R.F.	No. 7 Coy., Major B. Wills, Buffs.
No. 4 Coy., Major H. Marsh, Mx.	

Also on parade were Major R. C. Guy (second-in-command), Capt. D. N. Court (Adjutant), a Colour Party of the 50th Foot, the Band and Drums of the Queen's Own, and R.S.M. McCloughlin. After walking down the lines and speaking to a number of men, Her Royal Highness returned to the saluting base, and the Battalion, headed by Lieut.-Colonel P. H. Macklin, O.B.E., then marched past in column of platoons. After the march past, members of the Queen's Own formed a



hollow square in front of the saluting base for the presentation of a Diamond Regimental Brooch to Her Royal Highness to commemorate her recent appointment as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Later, before returning to London, Her Royal Highness was entertained to tea on the lawn of Moore Mess, after which the wives of the senior officers and warrant officers were presented to her. Finally, Her Royal Highness was photographed with the officers and sergeants, to bring to a close a very pleasant and entertaining day.

\* \* \* \*

The Battalion Sports took place on 19th May, when a large crowd watched some keen and interesting events. Times were necessarily slow by reason of the grass track, while field events were affected by a strong wind that was blowing. Tea was provided at the Stadium for all ranks, while during the interval the Band played selections of music. At the conclusion of the events the prizes were presented by Mrs. Macklin.

On 2nd June the District Sports were also held at Risborough Stadium and the Battalion were narrowly beaten into second place by the Royal Engineers after an exciting afternoon's sport. However, as a compensation, it is pleasing to note that some fifteen members of the Battalion have been selected to represent Home Counties District in the Eastern Command Sports.

The Battalion cricket team has made a good start to the season and to date have played nine matches without defeat.

In conclusion, it is to be noted that, in view of the fact that the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment have now completed their amalgamation, with effect from 1st June, the Home Counties Brigade Training Battalion has now been redesignated 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (50th and 97th).

### OCTOBER

It is hard to realize that the summer is over for the Brigade Training Battalion at Shorncliffe, but, despite many dull days with overcast skies, our summer activities have been in no way restricted.

It is with regret that early in October we said goodbye to Lieut.-Colonel P. H. Macklin, O.B.E., who left us on reaching the age limit for command to assume the appointment of D.P.M. British Troops, Austria. We wish him and Mrs. Macklin every good wish in the future while at the same time welcoming Lieut.-Colonel A. Martyn, R.W.K., who has now assumed command of the Battalion.

The Battalion have had a busy and successful summer in the field of sport. The cricket eleven played thirty-four matches of which only three were lost, and Lieut. Shepherd and Lieut. Shearburn are to be congratulated on playing on a number of occasions for Sussex and Kent second elevens respectively.

During June the Battalion provided a team to represent Eastern Command in the Inter-Command Obstacle Race which was one of the events of the Royal Tournament at Olympia. We are pleased to be able to report that this team won all its eight matches against other Command teams, thus winning the competition for Eastern Command. In addition to the above success, the Battalion also won the Eastern Command Basket Ball Championship as well as providing a number of members for the District and Command Swimming and Athletic teams.

During the last week in August a very successful Married Families' outing took place at Dymchurch. The outing took the form of games, bathing, entertainments and tea on the beach, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

During June a meeting of all Colonels of the Home Counties Group took place in London, presided over by Major-General The Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C., Colonel, The Buffs. This meeting was a great success, allowing a number of Group policy matters to be discussed and agreed. Probably the most interesting item agreed was the proposal to adopt a Group flash which will be worn by all members of the Group. The new sign that has now been approved by all Colonels is a crest with seven sides which aim to represent the seven regiments of the Group, forming a ring around part of the arms of the City of London.

A recent suggestion has been made that in the spring of 1949 a Home Counties Group Golf Meeting should be held at Littlestone, Kent, open to all officers, *past and present*, of the regiments

of the Group. This matter is now being considered by regiments and further information will be published at a later date.

During the summer the Battalion have been pleased to receive visits from Major-General The Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C., Colonel, The Buffs; Colonel W. V. Palmer, acting Colonel, The Queen's Own; and Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment. These visits are always very popular with all ranks of the Battalion.

It is unfortunate that every few months always see the departure of a number of old friends of the Battalion, and it is with regret that we have had to say goodbye to Majors Kealey and Brock, Capt. Irwin and Randall, R.S.M. Tasker and Drum-Major Pattendon. All ranks wish them the best of fortune in their new appointments.

In conclusion, it is felt that it may be of interest to all regiments if an order of battle in the senior appointments in the Battalion are published. This is given below with parent regiments of personnel shown in brackets.

C.O. : Lieut.-Colonel A. Martyn (R.W.K.)  
2nd i/c : Major R. Guy, M.C. (Surreys)  
O.C. "A" Coy. : Major F. Halliday (Surreys)  
O.C. "B" Coy. : Major S. Rose (R.F.)  
O.C. "C" Coy. : Major H. Marsh (Middlesex)  
O.C. "D" Coy. : Major D. Nolda (Middlesex)  
O.C. H.Q. Coy. : Capt. W. Grimshaw (R.W.K.)  
O.C. 2 (D) Coy. : Major P. Lewis (Buffs)  
O.C. 3 (H) Coy. : Major B. Wills (Buffs)

Trg. Officer : Major R. C. W. Thomas, O.B.E. (R.W.K.)  
Adjutant : Capt. D. N. Court (Buffs)  
R.S.M. : McCloughlin (Middlesex)  
R.Q.M.S. : Grubb (R.W.K.)  
R.Q.M.S. : Barham (Buffs)  
O.R.Q.M.S. : Catt (Buffs)  
Bandmaster : Jackson (R.W.K.)  
Drum-Major : Watts (R.W.K.)

## 8TH/9TH BN. THE PARACHUTE REGT.

Major P. M. A. Taylor, M.C., writes :—

"I feel that it is my duty as the senior Queen's officer attached to the Parachute Regiment to write to the JOURNAL to give news of the members of the Regiment.

"As is by now well known, the 9th Bn. The Parachute Regiment, our affiliated Air Regiment, amalgamated with the 8th Battalion in January, 1948, and now the 8th/9th Battalion is disbanding on 21st July, 1948, as part of the break-down of the 6th Airborne Division.

"However, despite this tragedy, the Regiment will be well represented in the new and only Parachute Brigade now forming in Schleswig Holstein.

"Capt. J. W. Sewell (ex 2nd Battalion) is Adjutant, and Lieuts. P. G. Collyer, J. M. Gaff, R. H. Miroy, and E. J. E. Mills (ex 1st/6th Battalion) are Platoon Commanders, and I have been commanding the Battalion since 2nd April, 1948, when in Haifa. Sewell, Collyer and myself will go to the New Brigade in Germany, Gaff to the Permanent Staff of the Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot, and Miroy and Mills await decisions concerning Regular Commissions. C.S.M. Marks has completed his Parachute Tour and is anxious to rejoin the Regiment in an active role.

"We do not like to feel outcasts in any way serving in this magnificent Regiment and feel that we are doing a very necessary task in the building of a modern Army, but are very often worried by the thoughts of being the Regiment's 'Prodigal Sons' when our time comes to return to the Queen's.

"When in Germany, Sewell's address will be 3rd Bn. The Parachute Regiment, B.A.O.R., and my address 2nd Bn. The Parachute Regiment, B.A.O.R.

"It is feared that we will not be able to attend the Garden Party as we are all about to be drafted to B.A.O.R., where we hope to see something of the 2nd Battalion (to be the 1st Battalion).

"Best wishes to the Regiment from its loyal members in the 8th/9th Bn. The Parachute Regiment.

"P. TAYLOR, Major,  
"Commanding, 8th/9th Bn. The Parachute Regiment."

CIRENCESTER PARK CAMP,  
CIRENCESTER, GLOS.



# AN INFANTRY COMPANY IN ARAKAN AND KOHIMA

*Extracts from the book (to be published next year) about "B" Company, 1st Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, by Major M. A. Lowry.*

**I**N order that the extract can be understood, this was the situation at the time: News came to us on 5th February, 1944, that a large Japanese force had cut the communications and were round the rear of 7th Indian Division. In the words of Lord Louis Mountbatten himself we were to "Hold on at all costs, large reinforcements are on their way."

## "WE ARE ENCIRCLED" (MAP No. 1)

Not much sleep for any of us last night, 5/6 Feb. A hell of a scrap went on over on the Punjab front from dusk to daylight this morning. The ambush party of 1 and 5 from 11 platoon last night shot up a party of 4 Japs who appeared to be on patrol. The ambush party opened fire too soon, as Cpl. MacDonald was unable to tell me definitely what casualties he inflicted. They shot up this patrol at 2215 hours; it was probably the patrol of Japs that "cannoned" from one feature to another between 'D' Coy. and ourselves, firing off discharger grenades and L.M.G., trying to draw our fire. MacDonald's patrol reported in soon after midnight.

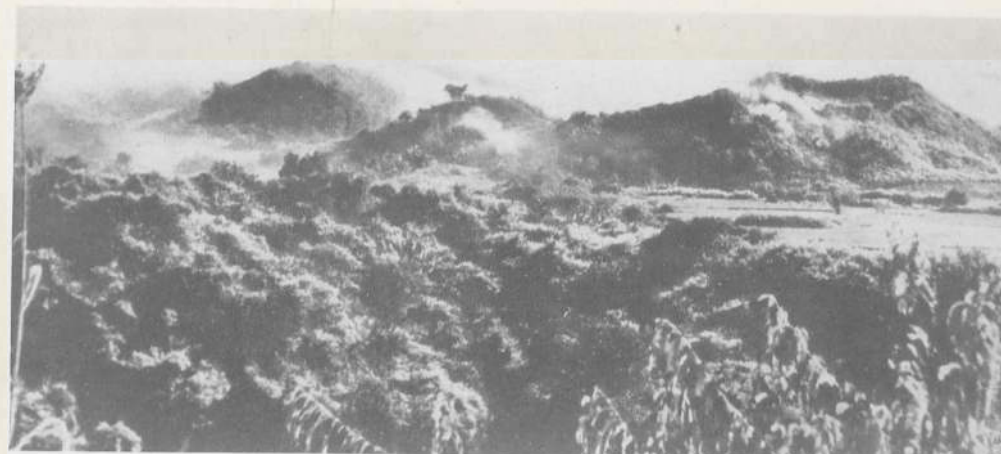
At 0245 hours Sgt. Inskip—10 platoon commander (Uttley sick)—rang me up. He had a most important message for me, and to say the least it was a little disturbing. In front of his position there was considerable noise of movement and talking, jingling equipment and neighing mules and horses. He couldn't make out from which side of the chaung the noise came. But at any rate it was in the Letwedet village and chaung crossing area. I told him that it was quite possibly the supply convoy to the Gurkhas on "ABLE" although I hadn't been warned that it was going out tonight. Nevertheless I would ring up the Adjutant and let him know of this and find out whether the convoy was actually moving tonight. In the meanwhile he was to listen hard and report any further developments. I phoned up H.Q. and Dick told me that there was nothing going to "ABLE."

At 0300 hours we in Coy. H.Q. could hear the jabbering and rattling of equipment. Inskip 'phoned to say that the pandemonium in front of his position had increased. These shoutings and jabberings were now unmistakably of Jap origin. I didn't hesitate any longer, but told Inskip to tell the F.O.O. with him to get on to his Battery and put down Defensive Fire tasks Nos. 13 and 14, and then rang H.Q. to tell them of my action and asked Dick to duplicate my request by ringing the R.A. Regtl. H.Q. Five minutes later the crumps started. We only heard the initial opening of gun fire, of the rest, all we heard was the swish of shells close over our heads and their explosions, which seemed that they must be landing in our own positions. But the shoot was admirable. Two ten-minute periods of rapid were put down. At the end of the shelling the panic-stricken noises of the Japanese were indescribable. Shouting, yelling, mules and horses neighing and stampeding.

During the hours of darkness we still expected to be attacked. This hubbub continued after daylight until 0730 hours, but we couldn't see anything to shoot up as we were shrouded in a damp heavy mist which normally prevails up to about 0830 hours. The noise of Japs shouting and chasing spare animals moved round to the rear, just between the Company and Battalion H.Q.

Real daylight came and we could see kit strewn all over the paddy fields and on both sides of the Letwedet chaung; we collected some of the kit in. Amongst some articles that were retrieved was a Japanese Lieutenant's complete valise—in good condition; in this were found a half dozen of the most obscene water colours imaginable. This is not the first time that we have come across really dirty photos, drawings and paintings amongst enemy kit or on their persons.

It was quite clear to us now that it was an enemy supply column endeavouring to reach their encircling troops that we had shot up. Two pack horses and two mules were later rounded up and found their way to our transport lines! I don't think any of the enemy convoy got through or



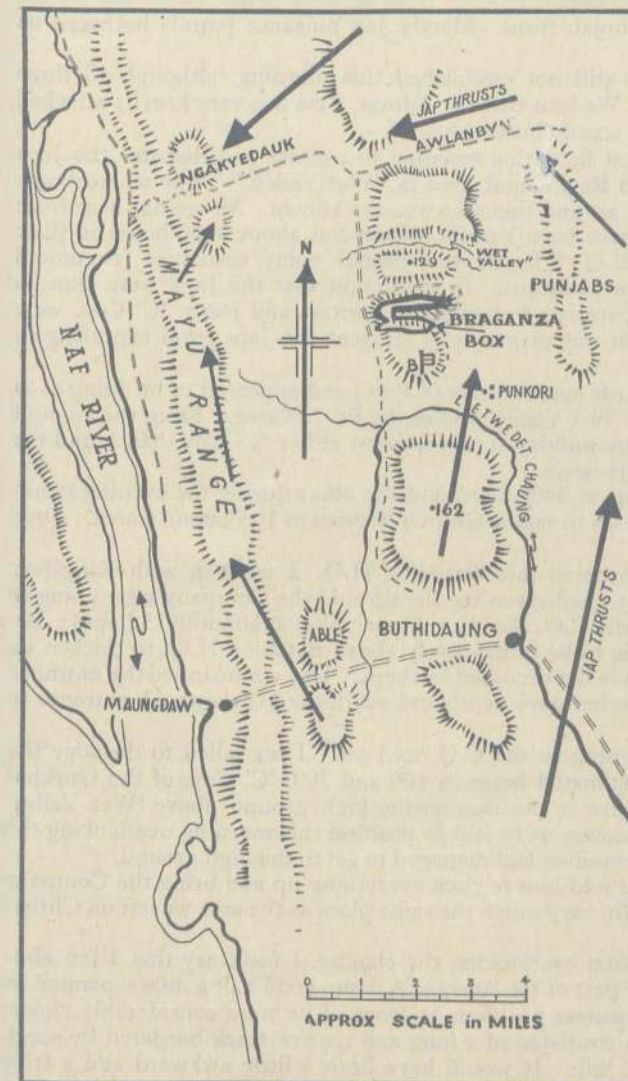
TYPICAL ARAKAN COUNTRY

*Indian Official Photo*



This Memorial to all ranks who died in the Battle for Jail Hill, Kohima on 7th, 11th, 12th, and 13th May, 1944, was constructed by the Battalion Pioneers and unveiled on 31st August, 1944, by Lieut.-General M. G. M. Stopford, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. XXXIII Indian Corps





round us. The bulk of the enemy transport were caught in the artillery fire whilst still on their side of the chaung, so one might deduce from the amount of stores deposited around the lower slopes of their positions, which were under observation from 10 platoon.

A Brigade moved back last night to the area of Awlanbyn just south of the road. They had been in positions immediately to the west of us across the paddy fields in the Mayu foothills. By moving this Brigade I think it was intended to lessen the gap between us and Div. H.Q. Little is known of the enemy strength or where he is, except that they are known to have taken the hill feature north of Awlanbyn and the road. This means our lines of communication are directly overlooked and threatened. It would appear that the Brigade move last evening is to drive the Japs off the feature.

About half the guns—one battery of 25 pounders and one of 3.7's—in the Brigade gun area were firing backwards throughout the day. The remainder were on harassing tasks forward in the Punkori and 162 areas. The enemy shelled our gun area during the day on a small scale. They were also firing from our rear!

Later in the day we had all sorts of rumours about Div. H.Q. being overrun; anyhow they had definitely moved and Brigade H.Q. were not apparently in touch during this morning. The Ngakeydaung Pass is now closed and the enemy are supposed to be astride it somewhere but no one knows where!

However, the fact that the Pass was closed was borne out by the fact that we had an air drop of ammunition towards dusk. Twelve D.C.2's came over and dropped ammunition by coloured parachutes in the Brigade area.

The C/s. informed me when he came up this evening that we were to be on half rations from today.

February 7. Jap planes over again, between 30 and 40 of them. But we saw no Spitfires or Hurricanes. Plenty of A.A. fire greeted them and at least two planes were shot down, one of which we in Coy. H.Q. and 11 platoon clearly saw. Many cheers. The enemy were having a crack at the gun areas; this effort of theirs came at 1030 hours.

Another air drop at 1730 hours, still ammunition. The Battalion and 'B' Coy. were shelled again towards dusk.



February 8. The air was 'singing' with heated missiles from an hour before dawn and for the rest of the day over on our left on the Punjab front. Merely Jap nuisance patrols bothered us during the hours of darkness.

Communications with Division were still not established this morning, although all three brigades are now in touch with each other. We hear that the Admin. Base was very heavily attacked all last night and that the Ngakeydaik Pass was definitely closed.

'C' Company were ordered out at first light this morning to contact and disperse the Japs that apparently burst into the Jungle Field Regimental Area in "Wet Valley." The whereabouts and strength of the enemy who were in or around this area was not known. All we did hear from Brigade was that the Jungle Field Regt. have been heavily attacked at about 0700 hours in their harbour area, just in rear of Brigade H.Q. They have suffered many casualties (rumoured at 100) and were caught queueing up for breakfast. It is thought that the Japs were now in the jungle in the hilly area immediately covering the gunners' mortars and jeeps. 'C' Coy. were Battalion Reserve Company and were sent out primarily to prevent the Japs from capturing or destroying the guns and mortars.

The 25 pounders were firing backwards again to-day (8 Feb.) and appeared to be doing so at very close range on to the jungle slopes of 'Wet Valley' and in the Pt. 129 area. From the amount of small-arms fire coming from this area by midday it was evident either 'C' Coy. had found the Japs or the latter were attacking the gunners again.

Had two air drops of ammunition, one at 1400 hours and the other during the evening stand-to period. 1400 hours Tom Garrett came up to take a Church Service in 10 Platoon's area. Only 50 per cent. of company could attend.

February 9. At 0830 hours I was ordered into Battalion H.Q. I went in with Kingshott wearing full kit, as Dick Kensington (Adj.) had given me the tip that the Company were going to move back closer to Battalion H.Q. Saw the C.O. (Lt.-Col. Duncombe) at about 0915 hours; our new position (see Map Braganza Box) was to be immediately above Battalion H.Q. to thicken up 'C' Coy. and to occupy two features that were not occupied by them. One commanded the entrance to Battalion H.Q. from the east, and the other gave depth and overlooked the ambush entrance to the west.

'C' Coy. returned late yesterday evening so the C.O. told me. They failed to dislodge the Japs, who were in great strength, now estimated between 100 and 300, 'C' Coy. of the Gurkhas were called in from "ABLE" and were now in position on the high ground above 'Wet Valley' and so to keep an eye on the Japs. The enemy were still in position this morning overlooking the jeeps and mortars, whilst the gunners themselves had managed to get to the high ground.

At 0930 hours I gave Tiny a call and told him to pack everything up and bring the Company back whilst I reconnoitred the new area (in very much the same place as the area we left on Christmas Day).

When we were in the forward position overlooking the chaung, I can't say that I felt altogether too happy with this flare-up in our part of the Arakan. A damn good half a mile separated us from the nearest troops. In fact, the Japanese positions in front of us were considerably closer. Our lines of communication to Battalion consisted of a long and narrow track bordered by scrub jungle and steep densely covered jungle hills. It would have been a little awkward and a trifle unpleasant if the Japs had decided to plant even a platoon astride the only means of obtaining our daily bread (now biscuits for the duration, or so it seems).



### 3rd CADET BATTALION



BATHING PARADE

[Photo: L.N.A.]



OFFICERS IN CAMP

[Photo: L.N.A.]

Standing. Lieut. McCallum, Lieut. Clark, 2/Lieut. Rose, 2/Lieut. Grigson, C.U.O. Smith, 2/Lieut. Gross, 2/Lieut. Hawes, 2/Lieut. Williams.  
Sitting. Capts. Hewitt, Vaissiere and Clark, Major Stocker, Capts. Hora, Walter and Towell.

(To face page 93)

## 3RD CADET BATTALION

THE Battalion has suffered a great loss in the departure of its Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel J. H. F. Johnson, who has reluctantly had to resign. Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Shelton, D.S.O., has been appointed Commanding Officer temporarily until such time as another can be found to take command. We wish Lieut.-Colonel Johnson the best of luck in the future.

Early in June the Battalion took over hutments in Mitcham Road Barracks, West Croydon, and all Companies, with the exception of "A," moved in. It is a very close fit and it has already been found necessary to endeavour to arrange for "B" Company to return to their old quarters at Winterbourne Road Schools. There has not yet been time to establish close contact with the T.A. units quartered in the barracks and it is hoped when this has been done we shall be able to use their drill halls; until then there is no space for P.T., company and Battalion exercises in bad weather, or social functions after dusk. However, all concerned are putting their backs into it and hope to overcome present difficulties.

The annual inspection was held on Sunday, 20th June, 1948. Colonel G. W. Browning, O.B.E., the inspecting officer, presented the Battalion trophies and Certificates of Merit granted to C.S.M. A. T. Smith, C.S.M. Andrews and C.S.M. T. Stevens, and after the parade had a long and interesting talk with the officers.

Once again the Battalion went into camp for summer training at Nodes Fort, Isle of Wight. This is our second stay at "Nodes," which is ideal for training exercises; it is not too near the towns, but both Ryde and Sandown are within reasonable distance.

On arrival in the island we were told our camp had been washed out and that we were to proceed to Parkhurst; fortunately, we were able to get to Nodes the next day and settle down. The weather remained good right up until the last evening when rain made it necessary to move the cadets under cover of huts in the Fort. The Ryde Regatta Sports Day was delayed to enable the Battalion to take part and provide the Band for the parade along the esplanade and on the field during the afternoon. The organizers provided tea for the cadets and free entry to the firework display in the evening. A very good time was had by all.

## A VISIT TO COCOS AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS

*The script of a Broadcast given over the Blue Network of Radio Malaya by Captain D. C. Snowdon, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor of Singapore, on 30th April, 1948.*

WHEN I was asked to describe our journey to the Cocos Keeling group of islands and Christmas Island, I was a little alarmed, because most people who have been lucky enough to visit them have a far wider knowledge than I. But perhaps I may be allowed a purely descriptive talk, which may interest those who are as vague as I was before our visit, of the whereabouts and nature of these islands.

His Excellency the Governor found it necessary to visit these islands because a number of post-war problems require settlement. As a result of his visit it is hoped that these problems will soon be resolved. Incidentally, Sir Franklin Gimson is the first Governor to land in this capacity.

The party went aboard H.M.S. *Hart*, a small anti-aircraft frigate, during the morning of Sunday, 11th April, and we sailed at eleven o'clock.

We reached the equator at seven o'clock that evening and engines were stopped. King Neptune's envoy came aboard, forward, and read a convening order for the Court to assemble in two days' time. The envoy's message was accompanied by bugles and the crash of thunder-flashes; he looked very salty covered in seaweed, but our suspicions were aroused by the lack of water about his person.

In due time the Court assembled: the King, a very large portly gentleman, and his Queen, a seaman beauty from the wheelhouse. Both had everything but fish tumbling from their flowing



robes. The surgeon and barber, covered in blood, were fearsome visions: and the police, a mixture of pirates and the local football team, made an awe-inspiring picture. The Court scribe opened proceedings against His Excellency who was duly found guilty and awarded the Order of the Mug—a blue ribbon with an enamel mug attached. Brigadier Clarke, the Director of Disposals, won the Order of the Disposal Bucket, and Mr. Marsh, the Agricultural Research Officer, the Order of the Twin Potatoes.

Then the proceedings against the real offenders began. Two canvas baths had been rigged below the stage on the quarterdeck, and after a liberal lather of some evil-smelling liquid soap, and at least two pills of soap and quinine, the unfortunate victim was tipped back into the bath to receive a severe ducking at the hands of four huge sailors.

Two more days and we sighted Cocos at six o'clock in the morning; a small boat came out to guide us into the lagoon, as the channel is narrow and tricky. The group can be described as an egg, the northern edge being the slim end, the shell forming the ring of islands joined by a coral reef, the white and yoke forming the lagoon in the centre. But this is quite a large egg, north to south about ten miles, east to west at its widest, some eight miles.

It is generally accepted that the islands were first discovered by Captain Keeling in 1609 when sailing to England from Java, but they remained uninhabited until 1825, when Captain Le Cour stayed less than a year; and in 1827 John Clunies Ross and Alexander Hare arrived and started the permanent settlement.

The islands are built of coral clinker and are mostly under ten feet above sea level. Our view, once inside the lagoon, was the story-book scene of a Pacific island. A wide ring of palm trees, dazzling white beaches and the sea in colours beyond description. The nearest I can get is to say the water varied in colour from black to blue to the brightest green through all the shades; not gradually as a rainbow, but in sharp patches of contrast. Fish of similar fantastic colours swam round the ship: but the lagoon is dangerous because the sinister shark and barracuda are always present.

The Administrator's launch came alongside and took the party ashore; the silence was shattered by the booming of a Governor's salute from the ship. We carefully followed the narrow channel in the coral, and were met by Mrs. Clunies Ross at the little jetty. After introductions to the headman, we walked along the beach path, past the rows of houses in the Kampong, to the large timbered residence of the Ross family. There are about 1,800 people on the estate of very mixed blood; but, generally speaking, the impression is Malay in looks, speech and religion. Naturally a community of such varied origin, in such an out-of-the-way place, has formed its individuality in all aspects of life.

The product of the islands is copra. Both men and women work in this industry, and their main relaxation is sailing with a view to catching fish, the staple diet after rice. Our first morning was spent looking at Home Island; the only other inhabited island is called Direction, and here the European staffs of the Cable and Wireless Company and the Admiralty Station live.

The *kampong* on Home Island is laid out on model lines. Each house is identical with the next and every family has an equal-sized garden. The men bring in the coconuts from the other islands in their sailing boats, called *dukongs*, which vary between 15 and 19 feet in length. The nuts are then shelled, leaving only the white part. This is the only preparation done on the island. *Dukong*-building is carried on on a large scale and practically every family has one. However, the shortage of wood is a great handicap.

During the afternoon of the first day we visited Direction Island. A cable from London was handed to the Governor as he landed. I would like to read this to you because it shows the important part the men of this lonely station played during the war.

"Delighted to welcome Your Excellency at the Cable and Wireless Station on Direction Island where the Company's staff after bombardment by the Japs secretly maintained the Empire Communications during three years of war. I understand that you are the first Governor to visit the Cocos Keeling Islands. Your visit will therefore be remembered as an historic occasion in the lives of those who operate an important link in the Imperial telegraph services in this remote station.

(Signed) STANLEY ANGWIN."

His Excellency replied to this cable on the spot.

During the First World War this station was destroyed by the crew of the German cruiser *Emden*, but only after the message had been sent which brought the Australian cruiser *Sydney* to the scene. After a running fight *Emden* was set on fire and beached on North Keeling Island—a few twisted girders remain to this day.

Next day we visited West Island and the huge abandoned airstrip which was built during the war. A notice on the control tower gives the name of the station and shows the height above sea level—"Cocos 3 feet." Some 28,000 coconut trees were cut down to make way for this strip; but now trees are even growing up from the coral foundation through the strip metal runway. I was aware of a strange atmosphere on this Island. A large community had worked and fought here; not a soul was left, but at every turn the little everyday signs of life appeared—the Standing Orders on the doors, the pin-up girls in the barrack rooms. I was tensed to hear the roar of an irate adjutant or the drone of a bomber coming in—but nothing, only the booming of the surf on the reef and the sighing of the wind through the palms.

In the late afternoon we were taken fishing and I was lucky enough to land the biggest fish I am ever likely to catch—a baby shark. I was soon disillusioned when the Governor landed a large *sembak*—a fine eating fish. My shark was of no use, even despised, as the locals usually just throw them back into the sea. The islanders' afternoon holiday was celebrated with a *dukong* race; about fifty of these craft raced over a long course inside the lagoon, making a brave show with their spotless white sails and highly coloured hulls.

The evening came and dinner. A huge turtle had been killed the day before and made a delicious meal—a suitable foundation for the traditional Cocos dance which followed. All the islanders came up to Ross House for the dance. The band—four very old violins, played by four very old men. They played in pairs, two resting, two playing—but all four joined in at the climax of each dance. While at dinner the tiny tots started the fun—all dressed in their best and looking very old and wise as they solemnly went through the steps. All the dances are a mixture of Scottish reels and Malay *rongeng*. It was difficult to reconcile "A Hundred Pipers," as the tune groaned from the fiddles, with this scene. When the children were tired they just curled up on the floor or in the garden and went to sleep. After dinner came the adults' turn, women dancing quietly and with great dignity, while the men performed a wild tap dance with their feet. The one making most noise scores the most marks. A fiendish din, and as each dance lasts about ten minutes everyone is exhausted and deafened, but with hardly a pause they are off again.

Next morning we sailed away, always to hold vivid and pleasant memories of this strange and beautiful island settlement. For those who wish to look at a map you should find the islands at 11° 48' south of the Equator and 98° 49' east of Greenwich and about 600 miles south-west of Java Head.

While wallowing in latitudes and longitudes, perhaps I might fix Christmas Island as at 10° 25' south and 105° 34' east—180 miles south of Java Head and 530 miles east of Cocos Islands. Three days' steaming brought us at dawn on 21st April within reach and sight of Flying Fish Cove. Chart instructions say dawn is the only time to approach, owing to the depth of sea close to shore. A ship coming in goes backwards, trailing an anchor on as long a cable as possible from the bow. In this way it is hoped the anchor will grip before the ship hits the cliff face, and enable the crew to make fast the stern to a buoy—an interesting and exciting experience. We made it.

Christmas Island was first sighted on Christmas Day, 1643, but it was not until 1888, in June, actually Brigadier Clarke's birthday, that the island was formally annexed, and placed under the Government of the Straits Settlements. In November of that year Mr. Clunies Ross of Cocos Island established a settlement at Flying Fish Cove. A few years later the working control of the island passed to the Phosphate Company, who have been operating ever since. Now the name Flying Fish Cove has a romantic ring—pirates and pieces of eight—but disappointment comes soon; an industrial pier with a full-sized railway covered in phosphate dust is all there is to be seen. The island is shaped rather like a dumb-bell lying on its side, with a larger knob at its eastern end, 13½ miles long, 12 miles wide and about 1,100 feet at its highest point. The island was originally famed for its booby and frigate birds and robber crabs. Then phosphate deposits were discovered and, as far as I can see, they must be the only reason for human life on the island.



We were taken ashore by the District Officer and shown the town—a settlement some of twenty Europeans, and a labour force of Chinese and Malays; an excellent school full of good-looking and well-fed children; and the hospital, well equipped, and built by the Japanese to an original pre-war plan. A wide-gauge cable railway runs up the cliff face to a conventional line at the top. This railway goes to South Point, where the phosphate is quarried at this time. Before the war all the work was done by hand, but now mechanization has set in and grabs do most of the work.

Millions of years ago Christmas was an atoll like Cocos, and the lagoon full of fish. The lagoon bed, slowly covered with bird droppings and fish bones, was pushed out of the sea, and over a period of years phosphate was produced—in some places this layer is forty feet thick—nestling between pinnacles of lime stone. A worked-out section is like a dead world—nothing grows, and tall gaunt spires of lime stone point their dead fingers to the sky.

The Frigate Bird and the Booby are seen in quite large numbers—the Frigate an unpleasant chap because he steals the Booby's food even after it is eaten. This is done by attacks on the wing, and as the frightened Booby disgorges his meat the Frigate catches the food, often before it reaches the ground.

The most outstanding beast inhabiting this island is the tree-climbing robber crab. Nothing short of a nightmare could conjure up an image of this crab. The only good thing that can be said for them is that they are edible, and good scavengers. We brought a large one back with us, but he is so unpleasant to look at—his fate is already sealed.

A pleasant and interesting stay ended after two days and we set sail for Singapore.

Well, I have only been able to give you a very brief glance at these island outposts. If you are interested in further study you should consult the writings of Dr. Gibson-Hill of Raffles Museum, who is the authority.

## OBITUARY NOTICES

AMENDMENT.—Re Obituary Notices, May, 1948: For 2603 Cpl. W. C. Stringell, read 2603 C./Sergt. W. C. Stringell.

No.	Name	Battalion	Service	Date of Death
	Brigadier-General R. H. Mangles ... ..	1st and 2nd	1894—	September, 1948
	Brigadier-General C. F. Watson ... ..	1st and 2nd		July, 1948
	Colonel A. G. Shaw ... ..	Comd. 3rd Bn. 1914–1918		4/5/48
5625	C.S.M. J. F. Grundy ... ..	1st	1894–1919	8/10/48
355	R.S.M. J. Garvin ... ..	1st and 2nd		1943
6076164	C.S.M. J. Booth ... ..	1st	1903–1924	24/6/48
6079311	Sergt. J. Ellsey ... ..	8th and 1st/5th	1914–1933	10/9/48
6085784	Sergt. R. Stedman ... ..	1st, 2nd and 2nd/6th	1933–1945	31/8/48
11413236	Cpl. J. Jakes ... ..	2nd/7th	1942–1946	1947
6391	Pte. C. Keeley ... ..	1st and 2nd	1900–1904	28/6/48
6082688	Pte. R. Kingshott ... ..	1st	1925–1938	1948
6350047	Pte. A. Wright ... ..	2nd/7th	1942–1946	5/12/47
37731	C.Q.M.S. T. Dean ... ..	3rd V.B. 4th/4th	1906–1919	1946
6079971	Cpl. C. Pearce ... ..	1st and R.A.S.C.	1922–1945	3/10/48
	Sergt. A. Rofe ... ..	Ireland, 1922		

### BRIGADIER-GENERAL R. H. MANGLES

(From *The Times*, 1st October, 1948)

Brigadier-General Roland Henry Mangles, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., died on Wednesday at his home at East House, Dedham, Colchester, at the age of 74.

Born at Losley Park, Guildford, on 9th February, 1874, the youngest son of the late Ross Mangles, V.C., of the Bengal Civil Service, he was educated at Marlborough, and was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1894. In 1896 and 1897 he played rugby football for England. He saw service in West and South Africa, and in France and Flanders, where he was eight times mentioned in dispatches, and from 1923–26 he commanded the Cairo Infantry Brigade. He retired in 1927, but during the last war served as a subaltern in the Home Guard, commanding the Dedham Platoon.



[Photo: Elliott & Fry, Ltd.]

BRIGADIER-GENERAL R. H. MANGLES, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.



He married in 1909 Sylvia Amy Rhys, eldest daughter of the late Rev. W. Hand, and there were two sons of the marriage.

## BRIGADIER-GENERAL C. F. WATSON

(From *The Times*, 13th July, 1948)

Brigadier-General Charles Frederic Watson, C.M.G., D.S.O., died at Brighton on Thursday at the age of 71, as already briefly announced.

He was born on 29th June, 1877, the son of the late Colonel F. Watson, and was educated at Wellington. Entering The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1898 from the Militia, he accompanied his Regiment to South Africa in 1899, where his distinguished services gained him the Queen's Medal with six clasps, the King's Medal with two clasps, two mentions in dispatches, and the D.S.O. Having passed through the Staff College, he received the brevet of major just after the outbreak of war in 1914, and served on the staffs of various divisions in France until early in 1917, having a year previously been made a C.M.G. In July, 1917, he joined the staff of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force with the grade of G.S.O.1, and in September of that year was given command of a brigade in that force, and did fine work with his formation against the Turkish right. In 1922 he was appointed to the command of the 2nd Battalion of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and served his full term. After a period on half-pay he was given command of the Rangoon Brigade in 1927, and retired from the Army in 1931.

He married in 1906, Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr. W. H. Woodruff. His widow and two sons of the marriage survive him.

## THE LONDON GAZETTE

4th May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. F. Cole to be Captain 7/9/48, with seniority 29/5/43.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

2nd/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) A. B. C. Stubbs from Emergency Commission to be Lieutenant 31/1/48 with seniority 19/5/44.

7th May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

2nd/Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) H. Judge, M.C., from Supp. Res. of Officers (Recce Corps) to be Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) 8/12/47 with seniority 2/3/41 and granted the hon. rank of Major.

11th May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Lt. A. R. Farrup relinquishes commission 12/5/48 and granted the hon. rank of Captain.

14th May, 1948.

The undermentioned granted unrestricted permission to wear the following decoration conferred by the President of United States of America :—

## SILVER STAR

Lt. C. T. Reichwald, M.C.

Decoration conferred by the President of the National Government of the Republic of China :—

## ORDER OF CLOUD AND BANNER, SPECIAL ROSETTE

Major (Temp.) F. G. Bishop.

Decoration conferred by Her Majesty the Queen of The Netherlands :—

## OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF ORANGE NASSAU WITH SWORDS

Lt.-Col. G. M. Elias-Morgan.

14th May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Col. E. F. Bolton, D.S.O., placed on retired pay, having exceeded age limit, 14/5/48.

21st May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Lt. W. M. Turnock to be Lieutenant 22/5/48 with seniority 18/5/48.

## REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. F. H. Bowyer, having attained age limit, relinquishes commission 21/5/48 retaining rank of Lieutenant.

25th May, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Capt. N. R. Ford relinquishes commission 29/3/48 and granted the hon. rank of Major.

28th May, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major (T./Lt./Col.) B. Lockey, awarded the Efficiency Decoration, Territorial Army.

Capt. (T./Major) F. A. H. Wilson, awarded the Efficiency Decoration, Territorial Army.

Lt. G. T. H. Coffey, awarded the Efficiency Medal Territorial Army.

## REGULAR ARMY

Capt. C. F. Cole to be Major 29/5/48.

Lt. P. G. Collyer to be Lieutenant 29/5/48 with seniority 24/5/48.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Capt. (Qrmr.) F. E. Packer to be Capt. (Qrmr.) 1/11/47.



1st June, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

2nd/Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) P. Markham to be Captain 19/3/48 with seniority 29/10/44.

10th June, 1948.

## ARMY CADET FORCE

Lt.-Col. (acting) J. W. Bowey, T.D., to be Ordinary Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of The British Empire.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

11th June, 1948.

Lt. R. D. S. Carrington, awarded Efficiency Medal (Territorial).

18th June, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

## SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) C. B. W. Ford to be Lieutenant 1/5/48 with seniority 26/10/48

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) J. M. Gaff to be Lieutenant 1/4/48 with seniority 27/10/48.

## EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Lt. G. G. Bennett relinquished commission 17/6/48 and granted hon. rank of Lieutenant.

22nd June, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Lt. (War Subs. Major) T. V. Close, D.S.O., to be Captain 7/12/46 with seniority 9/7/43. (Substituted for notification in *Gazette* (Supp.) dated 3/1/47.)

Lt. (War Subs. Major) P. M. A. Taylor, M.C., to be Captain 21/12/46 with seniority 25/1/44. (Substituted for notification in *Gazette* (Supp.) dated 4/2/47.)

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. J. Grindley to be Captain 25/10/46 with seniority 13/5/46. (Substituted for notification in *Gazette* (Supp.) dated 22/11/46.)

22nd June, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

Cadet J. S. Gray to be 2/Lt. 3/4/48.

29th June, 1948.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) P. D. Newport relinquishes commission 2/4/48 on appt. to commission in Union Defence Force and granted the hon. rank of Major.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. (Act. Major) P. L. Blackstone, T.D., to be Major 5/12/47 with seniority 21/8/47.

Capt. (War Subs. Major) P. L. Blackstone, T.D., to be Captain 21/8/47 with seniority 19/7/41 and granted acting rank of Major.

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) D. L. Hodges to be Lieutenant 19/3/48 with seniority 26/2/47.

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) A. H. Bennett to be Lieutenant 27/4/48 with seniority 1/10/42.

2nd July, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Major J. F. K. Ponsford retires on retired pay 1/7/48 and granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major J. W. M. Mansel, T.D., from active list to be Major 10/11/47 retaining his present seniority.

6th July, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) R. I. Bishop to be 2/Lt. 27/4/48 with seniority 23/2/46 and granted acting rank of Lieutenant 27/4/48.

9th July, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. F. J. Street to be Captain retaining his present seniority 19/3/48.

16th July, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

Cadet J. H. Pappin to be 2/Lt. 1/5/48.

Capt. C. F. Ottaway, awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) without gratuity.

27th July, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

2/Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) J. G. Markham to be 2/Lieutenant 27/5/48 with seniority 6/4/46 granted acting rank of Lieutenant.

30th July, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt. (Hon. Major) J. A. Beard, awarded 3rd Clasp to the Efficiency Medal.

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) F. A. Boddy (Territorial):

3rd August, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

Capt. (Qrmr.) F. D. Packer relinquishes commission on account of disability 1/8/48 and is granted the hon. rank of Capt. (Qrmr.).

6th August, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Capt. (War Subs. Major) T. V. Close, D.S.O., to be Major 9/7/48.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

## (GENERAL LIST)

C. T. Reichwald, M.C., to be 2/Lt. 11/2/48 and to be Lt. 11/2/48. Cranleigh School Contingent.

20th August, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Cadet H. C. Millman to be 2/Lt. 15/7/48 from R.M.A.S.

27th August, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Major D. E. Bathgate having exceeded age limit for retirement placed on ret. pay 27/8/49, granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

## SPECIAL LIST

Lt. (Hon.) R. K. McEwan to be 2/Lt. 9/7/48, A.C.F., Derby.

3rd September, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major A. G. Neale, awarded the Efficiency Decoration (Territorial Army).

7th September, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. J. F. L. Clarke, to be Major 11/11/47.

10th September, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

2/Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) L. R. Fisher to be Capt. 1/8/48 with seniority 7/3/47.

14th September, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Major (War Subs. Lt.-Col.) H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., having exceeded age limit for retirement is placed on ret. pay 13/9/48 and is granted the hon. rank of Brigadier.

14th September, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Lt. D. A. Jilla relinquishes his commn., 3/3/48 and granted the hon. rank of Captain.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Col. H. J. Tortise, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., retained on active list supernumerary to establishment 26/8/45.

17th September, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

## UNATTACHED LIST

Major J. W. Taylor, T.D., from active list (unposted) to be Major 31/8/48 retaining present seniority and granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

Capt. G. Stokoe, T.D., from active list (unposted) to be Capt. 31/8/48 retaining present seniority and granted the hon. rank of Major.

21st September, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Lt. D. M. L. Bolt, relinquishes his commn. 24/8/48 and granted the hon. rank of Lt.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Col. (Hon. Brig.) G. V. Palmer, C.B.E., T.D., retained on active list supernumerary to establishment.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) E. A. Smith to be Capt. 24/5/48 with seniority 25/6/48.

24th September, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY

Major J. B. P. Phillips having exceeded the age limit for retirement placed on ret. pay 25/9/48 and granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

1st October, 1948.

## REGULAR ARMY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) W. H. V. Lee relinquishes his commn. 1/10/48 and granted the hon. rank of Major.

5th October, 1948.

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt. (Act. Maj.) L. E. Stringer to be Major 9/9/48 with seniority 1/5/47.

## CALLING ALL SERVICE-MEN

**W**HAT are you going to do when you leave the Service? Do you know where to go and from whom advice and assistance can be obtained in happily resettling you into a congenial job?

This is to remind you of the National Association for Employment of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, which is a large organization at your service and is to a great extent supported by Service funds. In order that you may fully appreciate the working of this Association let us follow the future of ex-Private Blank, who has arrived at the Demobilization Centre preparatory to leaving the Service.

The Centre is most efficiently organized and he receives many and varied instructions with regard to civil life, amongst which he is told about the National Association and the necessity of registering for a job while he is on leave. At the time this seems most unnecessary, as ex-Private Blank is anxious to get home and have a bit of leave. "Let the job wait," he says to himself. He little realizes that he is making a big mistake. By registering at once he gives the Association Branch Manager, or Jobfinder as he is called, plenty of time to fix him up in the right kind of job while he himself is still drawing Service pay on leave. There is no charge and all work done on his behalf is free. At the Demobilization Centre his attention is called to a card which should be filled up and sent in to the National Association Head Office either by the Centre or by himself. He thrusts it into his pocket and thinks no more about it.

After three weeks' leave ex-Private Blank decides that he might as well start looking round for a job. He has no idea what he wants to do; as he was a qualified Vehicle Mechanic he thinks that any engineering firm will welcome him with open arms. "Surely they will want me," he says to himself; "I was the best Vehicle Mechanic in the Squadron." But no; he tries firm after firm, but there seems nothing for him. In many cases the gatekeeper will not even let him in! Everything seems against him. Depressed and weary, he suddenly remembers that he heard about some Association or other which deals with finding jobs for ex-Service men. "Wasn't I supposed to fill



up a card or something?" he thinks. Feverishly he goes through his discharge papers and the documents with which he was issued on demobilization. The card is found and ex-Private Blank fills it up and sends it in. (It is already stamped and addressed.)

A few days later he receives a card asking him to call at the Association's local branch office in a nearby town. After his recent experience he feels somewhat dubious of ever getting a good job, but he goes along as he is now getting desperate and his leave is nearly finished. His spirits go up when he arrives and finds a nice waiting room and one or two other fellows sitting round waiting their turn. He talks to them; one is a sailor and another from the R.A.F. Very soon it is his turn to enter the inner office. He is surprised at the informal atmosphere that prevails; he is asked to sit down and the interview begins. Very soon he finds himself talking about his Service experience, his hobbies and his hopes for the future. His particulars are taken down and all types of jobs available in the area are explained to him, with the various wages he will get. Now and then the conversation is broken when the telephone rings and ex-Private Blank soon realizes that employers are constantly ringing through for men of the right type. His spirits rise and he thinks that perhaps he will be one of the lucky ones soon! "There seem to be lots of jobs about," he thinks. "Why couldn't I have found one? I've visited nearly every firm in the town." The answer is easy; by himself he was treated just as another man looking for work, but as one of the Association's men he carries a guarantee as to character and is supported by the high reputation and experience of the Association. Employers know that all Service men recommended by the Association are specially selected for the employment they require and are, in fact, "round pegs for round holes."

Ex-Private Blank considers a job in the Police and a job in the Post Office. Security for the future in such jobs as these is explained to him. He thinks about the high wages one of his pals is getting in a certain firm, but suddenly realizes that this will only last a short time as it was only temporary. After considering a number of jobs, he selects one and is given an introduction card to one of the very firms he himself had visited only last week. He jumps on a bus and goes along that very afternoon. The gatekeeper, an ex-R.S.M., recognizes him. "What, you here again! What do you want this time?" he asks. Private Blank presents his card of introduction. "Oh, you are from the Association, are you? That's all right. I got this job through them. Come in."

Ex-Private Blank is accepted. He finds that, although the basic wage is low for him at present, he can increase this wage with certain bonuses and overtime so that his weekly pay packet is larger than he originally expected. He is determined to make a good show in this his first job as a civilian, as he fully realizes that the Service as a whole will be judged by his work. If he is a success, other men coming after will be more likely to be accepted.

Ex-Private Blank is only one of the many thousands placed annually. If Service men would only realize that during their service their units are paying for the upkeep of this Association and it is only a form of employment insurance, these payments corresponding to the yearly premiums! When they are demobilized is the time to receive that insurance by going to their insurance company, the National Association.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION, 14, HOWICK PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1.

#### THE RETURNED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION (INCLUDING CIVILIAN INTERNEES)

34 EATON PLACE, S.W.1.  
Phone: Sloane 3031.  
29th October, 1948.

DEAR SIR,

As you may already have heard, the Overseas Food Parcel Scheme organized by the Association has now been in operation since 1st January of this year. Many parcels have been going out, but we still feel that there must be hundreds of disabled or unfit ex-prisoners of war who have not heard of the scheme. I would be grateful, therefore, if you would publish the following notice in your Magazine at the earliest possible opportunity.

"All ex-prisoners of war who are sick or disabled as a result of their captivity, are invited to

communicate with the Returned British Prisoners of War Association, 34, Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for full particulars of the Association's Overseas Food Parcel Scheme."

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH DOWNEY.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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

Offices: STOUGHTON BARRACKS, GUILDFORD.

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

1. Assistant Editors should frame their material on the following lines:
  - (a) A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part—i.e., Battalion General News.
  - (b) Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
  - (c) Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important Battalion matches should be given, mentioning names of goal-scorers, good scores or good bowling performances at cricket, together with the names of teams in each match. Concerts, dances, etc., should be included under this sub-head.
  - (d) Sergeants' Mess News.
  - (e) Corporals' Mess News.
  - (f) Company and Platoon Games and Sports.

2. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and should, if possible, be typewritten, but this is not essential. They should be submitted not later than 1st April, 1949.

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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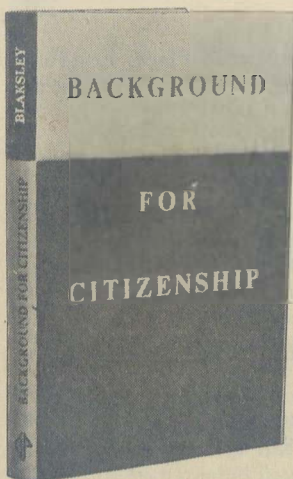
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