



43rd and 52nd



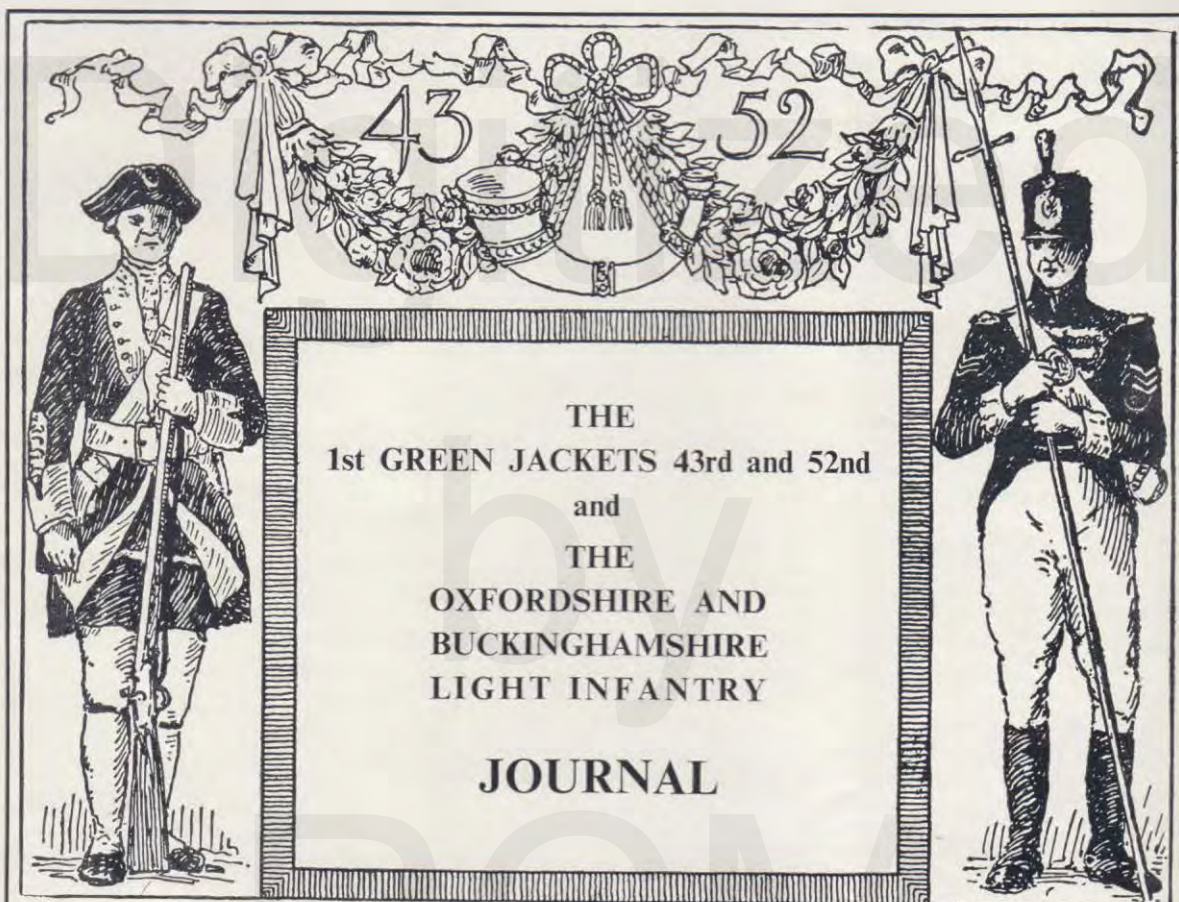
(1809)

Ist Green Jackets 43rd & 52nd
and
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire
Light Infantry
JOURNAL

Vol. XXVI

May 1959

No. 138



QUEBEC 1759, MARTINIQUE 1762, HAVANNAH, MYSORE, HINDOOSTAN, MARTINIQUE 1794, VIMIERA, CORUNNA, BUSACO, FUENTES d'ONOR, CIUDAD RODRIGO, BADAJOZ, SALAMANCA, VITTORIA, PYRENEES, NIVELLE, NIVE, ORTHES, TOULOUSE, PENINSULA, WATERLOO, SOUTH AFRICA 1851-2-3, DELHI 1857, NEW ZEALAND, RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY, PAARDEBERG, SOUTH AFRICA 1900-1902.

THE GREAT WAR—17 Battalions—MONS, Retreat from Mons, Marne 1914, Aisne, 1914, YPRES 1914, 1917, LANGEMARCK 1914, 1917, Gheluvelt, NONNE BOSSCHEN, Aubers, Festubert 1915, Hooze 1915, Loos, Tigris 1916, Mount Sorrel, SOMME 1916, 1918, Albert 1916, 1918, Bazentin, Delville Wood, Pozières, Guillemont, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le Transloy, Ancre Heights, Ancre 1916, Bapaume 1917, 1918, Arras 1917, Vimy 1917, Scarpe 1917, Arleux, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, CAMBRAI 1917, 1918, St Quentin, Rosières, Avre, Lys, Hazebrouck, Béthune, Hindenburg Line, Havrincourt, Canal du Nord, Selle, Valenciennes, France and Flanders 1914-1918, PIAVE, Vittorio Veneto, Italy 1917-1918, DOIRAN 1917, 1918, Macedonia 1915-1918, Kut al Amara 1915, CTESIPHON, DEFENCE of KUT al AMARA, Khan Baghdadi, Mesopotamia, 1914-1918, Archangel 1919.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR—9 Battalions—Defence of Escaut, CASSEL, YPRES-COMINES CANAL, NORMANDY LANDING, PEGASUS BRIDGE, Caen, Esquay, Lower Mass, Ourthe, Rhineland, REICHSWALD, RHINE, Ibbenburen, North-West Europe 1940-44-45, ENFIDAVILLE, North Africa 1943, SALERNO, St Lucia, Salerno Hills, Teano, Monte Camino, Garigliano Crossing, Damiano, ANZIO, Coriano, GEMMANO RIDGE, Italy 1943-45, Arakan Beaches, Tamandu, Burma 1943-45.

JOURNAL

OF THE

1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd

AND

The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Vol. XXVI

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Editor's Notes

Reorganisation of Regimental Headquarters, Cowley Barracks

With effect from 1st April 1959, as a result of the new reorganisation of Infantry Regiments, the Regimental Depot at Cowley Barracks closed and all recruits now go to the Green Jackets Brigade Depot at Winchester.

A new Regimental Headquarters consisting of two re-employed officers and a small civilian staff has been formed and is located at Cowley Barracks. The War Office has given approval for this Headquarters and the Regimental Museum to be located in the present Officers' Mess building.

The duties of the new Headquarters will include the work which in the past has been carried out by the Secretary of the Regimental Committee. As the present Secretary, Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., is beyond the age limit for re-employment by the War Department, his work has been taken over by Lieut.-Colonel M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O. Lieut.-Colonel Clare, however, will remain until the 31st March 1960 to advise and assist the new Headquarters.

Reorganisation of the Green Jackets Brigade

(a) The new titles of the Regiments of the Green Jackets Brigade are as follows:

1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd.

2nd Green Jackets, The King's Royal Rifle Corps.

3rd Green Jackets, The Rifle Brigade.

Authority, Army Order

No. 67/58 dated 30/8/1958.

(b) The following are the abbreviations to be used by the three Regiments of the Green Jackets Brigade:

	<i>Abbreviation</i>
1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd	1 Green Jackets
2nd Green Jackets, The King's Royal Rifle Corps	K.R.R.C.
3rd Green Jackets, The Rifle Brigade	R.B.
Authority, Army Council Instruction No. 12/59 dated 7/1/1959.	

We offer our congratulations to Lieut.-General Sir Michael West, K.C.B., D.S.O., on his award of the K.C.B.

EVENTS FOR 1959

Regimental Dinner and Regimental 'At Home'

The Officers' Regimental Dinner will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, 10th July.

As it will not be possible to hold the Regimental 'At Home' this year at Cowley Barracks the authorities of University College have very kindly given permission for the 'At Home' to be held at the College Cricket ground in Abingdon Road, on Saturday, 11th July. There will be a cricket match, the Regiment versus Major H. W. A. Ruck-Keene's XI.

Teas will be provided for officers and their friends and for members of the Old Comrades' Association.

The Old Comrades' Association

The London Reunion will take place at the Headquarters of the 21st S.A.S. Regiment (Artists) T.A. on Saturday, 10th October.

The Officer Commanding the 4th Battalion (T.A.) has kindly given permission for the Oxford Reunion to take place at the Territorial Army Headquarters, Marston Road, Oxford, on Saturday, 7th November.

Full particulars of these events will be sent out at a later date.

Remembrance Sunday

The usual Service will be held at the Regimental War Memorial, Rose Hill, on Sunday, 8th November.

Promotions

Major to be Lieut.-Colonel:

Major T/Lieut.-Colonel F. H. G. Higgins to be Lieut.-Colonel, 7th December 1958.

Captains to be Majors:

Captain I. R. C. Greenlees, 4th October 1958.

Captain O. P. Haig, 18th February 1959.

Lieutenant to be Captain:

Lieut. C. St C. Simmons, 6th February 1959.

2nd Lieutenant to be Lieutenant:

2nd Lieut. B. E. A. Pascoe, 15th November 1958.

Retirements

Lieut.-Colonel J. Granville retires on retired pay, 13th November 1958.

Honours and Awards

For distinguished service in Cyprus.

Mentioned in Despatches

Captain C. St C. Simmons.

Lieutenant T. M. Hartley.

W.O. Class I E. G. Field, B.E.M.

For distinguished service in Malaya.

M.B.E.

Major P. J. Durant.

Former Officers of the Regiment on the Active List 31st December 1958

Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B.,
D.S.O., M.B.E.

Director General Military Training, The War Office.

Lieut.-General Sir Michael West, K.C.B., D.S.O.
Commander 1 (BR) Corps, B.A.O.R.

Brigadier P. G. F. Young, C.B.E.

Commander, Northern Sub-District, Nigerian Military Forces.

Brigadier J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.

Commander 3 Infantry Brigade.

Brigadier H. J. Mogg, D.S.O.

Commander 28 Commonwealth Brigade, N. Malaya.

Colonel A. Clerke-Brown, O.B.E.

Q.M.G. (Quartering), B.A.O.R.

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. P. Montgomery, M.C.

G.S.O. 1, S.H.A.P.E. Mission to Portugal.

Lieut.-Colonel F. H. G. Higgins.

A.Q.M.G., L.O.G.S., Plans, S.H.A.P.E.

Major H. P. Patterson, Royal Army Pay Corps.
Attached 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd.

Officers of the Regiment Extra-Regimentally Employed

Lieut.-Colonel R. F. E. Hill

Garrison Commander, Nairobi, E. Africa.

Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle

G.S.O. 1 H.Q. S.W. District/43 Inf. Div.
(T.A.) Sherford Camp, Taunton, Somerset.
(Commanding Officer designate—1 GREEN
JACKETS, 12th July 1959.)

Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L. Bright

A.A.G. P.S. 10, The War Office, Lansdowne
House, London, S.W.1.

Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Hayter, M.B.E., M.C.

A.Q.M.G. (OPS) H.Q. B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40.

Major G. C. Rush

G.S.O. 3, 7 GL Section, Kuala Lumpur,
F.A.R.E.L.F.

Major G. N. A. Astley-Cooper

D.A.Q.M.G. (M) G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., B.F.P.O.
53.

Major J. S. Southey

Adjutant, Support Weapons Wing, School
of Infantry, Netheravon, Wilts.
(Retires w.e.f. 28th April 1959.)

Major A. V. Brown

3rd Bn The Ghana Regt, Ghana Military
Forces, Accra, W. Africa.

Major P. K. Everett

Australian School of Tactics and Adm.,
Melbourne, Australia.

Major J. M. A. Tillet

Bde Major 2 Inf. Bde, Crownhill Fort,
Plymouth, Devon.

Major H. J. Sweeney, M.C.

G.S.O. 2, M.O. 1, The War Office, Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

- Major R. R. W. Workman
G.S.O. 2 (M.T. 9), H.Q. D.G.M.T., The War
Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.
(Joint Services Staff College—April 1959.)
- Major P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D.
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
- Major D. B. Fox
Military Assistant to the Governor of Cyprus.
- Major H. J. W. Newton
D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Nigerian Mil Forces,
Lagos, W. Africa.
(1 GREEN JACKETS, July 1959.)
- Major D. C. Blake
Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, Mons.
- Major D. J. Wood
D.A.Q.M.G. 39 Indep. Inf. Bde, N. Ireland.
- Major R. S. C. Dowden
Bde Major 147 Inf. Bde (T.A.), Blackbird
Road, Leicester.
- Major E. F. Garcia
Range Officer, All Arms Training Centre,
Sennelager, B.A.O.R.
- Major O. G. Pratt
D.A.A.G. (M.P. 2), G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.,
G.P.O., Singapore.
- Major I. R. C. Greenlees
G.S.O. 3, H.Q. 1 Corps, B.A.O.R.
- Major J. H. W. Haddon
Staff College, Camberley.
- Major M. R. Pennell, M.B.E.
Staff College, Camberley.
- Captain T. D. R. D. Byrne
G.S.O. 3, M.O. 4, The War Office, London,
S.W.1.
- Captain E. W. Leask
5th Bn Malay Regt, Mentakab, Pahang,
Federation Malaya Mil Forces, F.A.R.E.L.F.
- Captain A. S. Payne
Somaliland Scouts, Hargeisa.
- Captain R. A. Pascoe
E.C.A.S., Shemlan, Lebanon.
- Captain J. R. G. N. Eveleigh
A.D.C. to Comd., H.Q. 1 (Br) Corps, B.F.P.O.
39
- Lieutenant M. J. Massy-Beresford
Jesus College, Cambridge.
(1 GREEN JACKETS, July 1959.)

Museum

The Medals of No. 9349 Serjeant Henry
George Richards, M.M.:
Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, B.W. and Victory
Medals.

(Presented).

The Bishop Gwynne Memorial Fund

The sum of £52 has been contributed to the
Bishop Gwynne Memorial Fund on behalf of
all ranks of the Regiment in memory of the late
Bishop's association with the 52nd in the War
of 1914-18: this amount having been made up
as follows: from the Regimental Committee,
£26; from the Old Comrades' Association, £10;
and from officers of the 52nd who knew the late
Bishop, £16.

In acknowledging this, the Hon. Secretary of
the Fund, Canon B. J. Harper, wrote:

I had the joy and privilege of serving the
Bishop as a Chaplain for 25 years in the
Sudan. He never lost his affection for your
Regiment and often spoke of his service with
it and of the friendships he had made among
all ranks.

The following is taken from a South African
newspaper, *The Natal Witness*:

Man [76] Stabbed Six Times by Intruder

'A 76 year old Hilton Road man who surprised
an intruder in his home on Wednesday afternoon
(29th October 1958), was stabbed six times in
the arm and chest before his assailant made off.

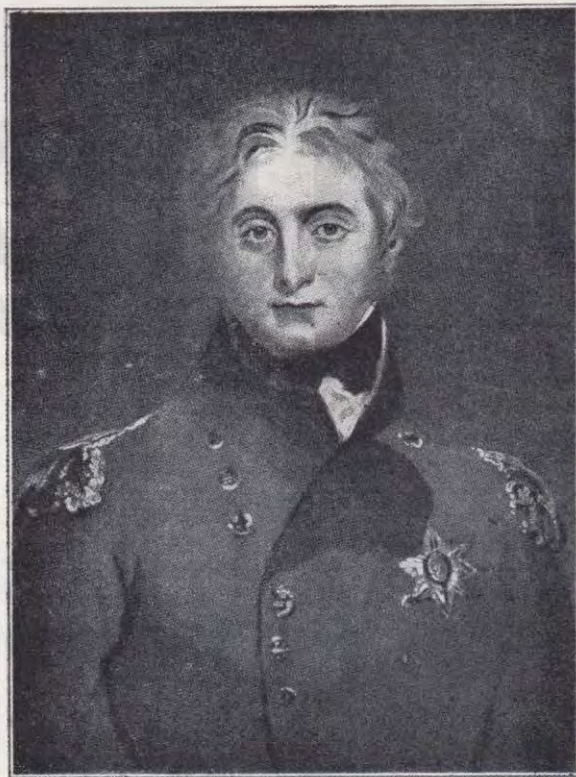
Major W. E. T. Morland of Tuleni, Hilton
Road, was alone in the house on Wednesday
afternoon when at about 3.45 he heard a noise
coming from another part of the house.

He went to investigate and found a masked
native in the bathroom. The native immediately
attacked him with a knife, stabbing him six
times in the left shoulder, right hand and chest.

Major Morland grappled with the native and
succeeded in ripping off the mask before the
Native escaped. A Native was later arrested by
the Hilton Road police at 6.45 p.m.

Yesterday Mrs Morland told *The Natal
Witness* that her husband's stab wounds were
not of a serious nature, and that he was not
taken to hospital.'

Older members of the Regiment will remember
Major (Pony) Morland, D.S.O., M.C., who was
commissioned in the Regiment on 18th January
1902. We are glad to know that his injuries were
not serious enough for him to be sent to hospital
and hope that he has suffered no after effects.



LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, K.B.

Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Sir John Moore—16th January 1959

The 150th Anniversary of the death of Sir John Moore was commemorated at York Minster and at Shorncliffe under arrangements made by the Headquarters of the Light Infantry Brigade.

At York Minster a short Memorial Service was held in the Regimental Chapel of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry which was conducted by the Very Reverend E. Milner-White, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

At Shorncliffe a short Memorial Service was held followed by the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were then placed on Sir John Moore's statue.

Major G. N. A. Astley-Cooper attended and represented the Regiment.

Change of Editorship

Lieut-Colonel M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O. as Secretary of the Regimental Committee will in future be responsible for editing the Journal. As this is the last number for which I shall be responsible I wish to thank all those who have sent me contributions during the past thirteen and a half years and I hope they will continue to give the same support to my successor.

F. CLARE, *Lieut-Colonel.*

This article by Sir Arthur Bryant appeared in *The Illustrated London News* of 28th March 1959, and is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor and Sir Arthur Bryant.

THE pattern of the British Army is constantly changing; the spirit remains the same. It is based on loyalty to what Sir Thomas Browne in the seventeenth century called 'the little platoon'—to the human group which is summed up in the word Regiment. From the Royal Regiment of Artillery—the greatest, numerically speaking, of all our Regiments—to the smallest regiment in the Army, the loyalty and *esprit de corps* which evokes virtue in war is, and always has been, for British troops, a family affair. It is the belief of every British soldier that his Regiment is the best in the world and the efforts of its officers and N.C.O.s from generation to generation to prove it so that have ensured that, despite the wellnigh impossible conditions under which our Army has usually been expected to fight at the outset of its wars, it has never failed to cover itself with glory and has nearly always at the end emerged victorious. This love of regiment and desire for corporate emulation, corresponding as it does to some deep-seated need in the British soul, has been a constant source of military efficiency; it has made men do their full and utmost duty which, without some such stimulus, men, being what they are seldom seem able or willing to do. For in the last resort the end of all military training—and the deciding factor in all wars—is that, sooner or later, as Lord Wavell once said, Private So-and-So will have to advance straight to his front in the face of the enemy. All the immense preparations, expenditure, training and equipment of war are designed for, and dependent on, what happens at that crucial moment. And if Private So-and-So should fail the test all would have proved in vain. With us, by and large, he never has failed the test, and the British Army has remained in consequence, if one is to judge efficiency by results in battle, one of the most efficient organisations known to history. This may seem strange, for the popular belief is that professional British soldiers, particularly officers, are very stupid and, therefore, inefficient; 'Colonel Blimp' and his type are for ever being ridiculed by those who form

public opinion in this country. Yet it has always seemed to me that a regimental officer who can turn the ordinary selfish, indolent 'browned-off' youth of to-day, or the hard-case slum-product of the *laissez-faire* past, into the kind of man who from Blenheim and Ramillies to Alamein and Falaise and Korea has so repeatedly won our battles, must have professional qualities of the highest and most efficient kind. He derives them, like the men he trains and leads, from his Regiment.

Bureaucrats and politicians never seem to understand this. And because an Army composed of countless little units that have grown accidentally out of long past history presents administrators and reformers with a host of what, on the face of it, would seem to be unnecessary and tiresomely irrational complications, bureaucrats and reformers are for ever trying, often with success, to change the regimental pattern of the British Army. Yet though, with their amalgamations and disbandings and—thanks to the vagaries of our foreign policy and the malice of our enemies—subsequent reincorporations, they have again and again altered the pattern of the Army, they have never, fortunately, succeeded in destroying, or for long damping, the regimental spirit that makes the Army what it is. Again and again when old units have been 'reformed' almost out of recognition, the spirit and *esprit de corps* of the old has immediately reappeared in the new. The sacred flame that burns so brightly in battle has merely been borne from one hearth to another. The 'legend' of the Regiment goes on and old prides and old traditions are grafted on to the new. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry may have seemed to some at the time of the Victorian Cardwell reforms to be a new Regiment. But as we can now see it was nothing of the kind. It was two great and ancient Regiments made one—the 43rd Foot and the 52nd, both of them preserving everything that had made them distinctive and glorious in the past yet, while doing so, becoming a single whole.

So, one trusts, it will be with the latest revolutionary changes enforced by politicians and bureaucrats on the British Army. Historic Regiment after Regiment is being amalgamated and given a new name and entity which, to anyone who does not know England, might seem to obliterate the old. Yet those who are the repositories of the traditions of the merged Regimentst will, one can be sure, spare no effort to ensure that they are well and truly planted in the living soil of the new, for only so, they know, can they survive. And the success of so many earlier amalgamations is an assurance that they will be. The present month, for instance, has seen the bicentenary celebrations of a cavalry Regiment which, in one sense, was only formed thirty-seven years ago, in 1922, when the 5th Royal Irish Lancers were amalgamated with the 16th The Queen's Lancers to form the new 16th/5th Lancers on whom, after their brilliant service on the battlefields of North Africa and Italy in the last War, her present Majesty in 1954 conferred the title of 'The Queen's Royal Lancers'. Yet this great Regiment is not one Regiment formed in the reign of King George V, but two Regiments to-day living as one, the one founded in the reign of William III 270 years ago and re-founded in that of Queen Victoria just over a century ago, and the other founded in that of George II 200 years ago. The 5th Royal Irish Lancers was one of the regiments of dragoons raised in 1689 by William III—the 'Liberator'—to preserve the Protestant succession in these islands and expel the French from Ireland. It fought in all Marlborough's campaigns and at Blenheim charged and captured a set of French kettle-drums belonging to the Grand Monarch's till then invincible and all-conquering army. When the other day, the Queen's Royal Lancers received its new Guidon from the Queen at Buckingham Palace, these historic kettle-drums—now in the Armoury of the Tower of London

—formed the top two drums of the piled drums on which the Guidon rested prior to its consecration and presentation to the Regiment. Later, after being disbanded at the end of the eighteenth century, the 5th Royal Irish Lancers were re-formed and renamed at the turn of the 'fifties and 'sixties of the last century; in 1921, after sixty-two years of further service, they were disbanded again only to be resurrected in the following year on their amalgamation with the 16th Lancers. This great Regiment was raised in 1759 by Colonel John Burgoyne as the 16th Light Dragoons. A favourite corps of George III, who conferred upon it the title of 'The Queen's' at the request of Queen Charlotte, it fought in the American War of Independence, in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. Converted to Lancers in 1816, it was the first British cavalry regiment to charge with the lance—at the Battle of Bhurtpore in 1831. At Aliwal, fifteen years later, the Regiment broke the magnificent Sikh infantry—the most formidable troops against which the British ever fought in India; in honour of which its lance pennons, encrusted that night with dried blood, have ever since been crimped. When after the First World War the 16th Lancers were amalgamated with the 5th Lancers, the 'Scarlets' as they were called, from the fact that they were the only Lancer regiment to wear scarlet, possessed more battle honours than any other cavalry regiment in the Army. Since then, with the other Regiment united to it, it has added to them by its fine record of service in the last war.

So it has been—and so it will be—with many another historic regiment whose continuance in new forms is the guarantee that the British soldier will remain in the future what he has been in the past: the heir and guardian of traditions that enable him on the battlefield to do all that a man can do and more.

The 52nd in the War of 1914-1918

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL R. B. CROSSE, D.S.O.

Thirteenth and Last Instalment, 1918-19

THE RHINE ARMY AND THE RETURN HOME

(Incorporating the story which should have appeared as the final Article [LIV] of the previous series, 'The Regiment in War', in the JOURNAL of November, 1939, had it been published.)

They dug us down and earthed us in, their hasty shovels plying,

Us the poor dead of Oudenarde, Ramillies, Waterloo;
We heard their drum-taps fading and their trumpet fanfares dying

As they marched away and left us, in the dark and silence lying,

Home-bound for happy England and the green fields that we knew.

We slept. The seasons went their round. We did not hear the rover

Winds in our coverlets of grass, the plough-shares tear the mould;

We did not feel the bridal earth thrill to her April lover
Nor hear the song of bees among the poppies and the clover;

Snow-fall or sun to us were one and time went by untold.

We woke. The soil about us shook to the long boom of thunder—

War loose and making music on his crashing brazen gongs—

The sharp hoof-beat, the thresh of feet stirred our old bones down under;

Wheels upon wheels ground overhead; then with a glow of wonder

We heard the chant of Englishmen singing their marching songs.

* * * *

Year in, year out, along the roads the ceaseless wagons clattered;

Listened we for an English voice ever, ever in vain;

Far in the west, year out, year in, terrible thunders battered,

Drumming the doom of whom—of whom? Hope in our hearts lay shattered . . .

Then we heard the lilt of Highland pipes and English songs again.

On, ever on, we heard them press; their jaunty bugles blended

Proudly and clear that we might hear, we dead men of old wars,

How the red agony was passed and the long vigil ended.
Now may we sleep in peace again lapped in a vision splendid

Of England's banners marching onwards, upwards to the stars.

With acknowledgements to the Author, C. GARSTIN.

After eight nights in billets at Villers Pol, the Regiment began the march to the Rhine on Saturday, 16th November, 1918. Under varying conditions of roads, weather, and sometimes of supplies, it covered some two hundred miles in twenty marching days between the 16th November and the 27th December, and reached its penultimate quarters on the latter date. On the 7th January, 1919, the Regiment moved from Stommeln to Zons-am-Rhein, between Cologne (to the south, the centre of the bridge-head) and Düsseldorf, there to remain until 16th March.

The route is given in detail in the full record, of which this is no more than a very much shortened version; and the line of march can only be followed conveniently on sheets of the 1/100,000 Series, numbers 12 (Valenciennes), 8 (Namur), 9 (Marche), 7 (Liege) and 9 again, in that order, as far as Stavelot (8/9 Dec.), just short of the enemy frontier. The halting places were: Preux-au-Sart, 16th Nov.: via Bavai to Douzies, 17th: halt, 18th and 19th: Grand Reng, 20th: halt 21-23 Nov.: Merbe-Ste-Marie, 24th: Charleroi, 25th: halt, 26th and 27th: Sart-Eustache, 28th: Bois de Villers, 29th: halt, 30 Nov. to 3 Dec.: across the Meuse by a German pontoon bridge to Nameche, 4th Dec.: Solières, 5th: Seny, 6th: Harze, 7th: Stoumont, 8th: via La Gleize and Stavelot across the frontier to Malmédy, 9th: halt, 10th: via Weismes to Weywertz, 11th: Montjoie, 12th: Schmidt area, 13th: Niederau, 14th: halt, 15th and 16th: via Düren to Steinstrasse and Lich, 17th: Rommerskirchen and Eckum, 18th: halt, 19-26 Dec.¹

It is interesting to compare the previous march routes of the 52nd in Flanders: namely

1914: *the Advance to Mons*: Wassigny—Mennevret—La Groise—Landrecies—Maroilles—Leval—Pont-sur-Sambre—La Longueville (2½ m. E of Bavai)—Malplaquet—Genly—Pâturages.

The Retreat from Mons: Pâturages—Sars-la-Bruyère—Bavai—Pont-sur-Sambre—Leval—Aymeries—Tainnières—Marbaix—Le Grand Fayt—Barzy—Boué—Etreux—Guise—Mont d'Origny—Neuville—La Fère—Servais—Barisis—Coucy-le-Château—Terny—(north of Soissons)—Pommiers—Laversine—Boursonne—Villers Cotterets—Cuvergnon.

1815: *to Waterloo*: Ostend—Brussels—Grammont—Lessine—Quevaucamps—Elligüies—Ste-Anne—Ath—Enghien—Soignies—Nivelles—Mont St Jean.

Waterloo to Paris: Caillon (Maison du Roi)—bivouac 19/20 June, 1 m. beyond Nivelles—Binche—Bavai—Le Cateau—Joncourt—Beauvois and Lanchy—Roye—Crevecourt-le-petit—St Just—Clermont—Creil—Chantilly—La Chapelle—Paris.

It will thus be seen that the Regiment passed through or near Bavai on four occasions in 1815, 1914 and 1918.

There is no space here for a day-to-day description of the march, the billets and the weather. All kinds were met with.

¹ The CHRONICLE, 1917-18, page 153, has inaccurately reproduced the War Diary as regards the marches on 12th and 13th.—R.C.

An interesting example of one who made good ought not to be forgotten. During November a sentence of six months imprisonment, hard labour (suspended), on a 52nd soldier was remitted on the recommendation of the Commander, 5th Infantry Brigade, and the record expunged, for good conduct during the active operations of Aug.-Nov., 1918.

The march of Monday, 25th November (not 26th, as has been mistakenly recorded), from Merbe-Ste-Marie to Charleroi was a very hard one, and the next two days' halt was very welcome, with baths available.

On the 27th, seven officers and seventeen n.c.o.s, chosen by length of service with the 52nd, went by lorry to the Field of Waterloo and there spent a day of great pleasure and profit.²

On the 2nd December, to supplement the insufficient rations, a cow was bought from a farm, jointly by the commanding officers of the 52nd and 74th, to be shared between the two regiments. This, however, proved a failure, though an amusing one, the corpse being condemned by a veterinary officer. Fortunately, for the first time in four days, bread and fresh meat came up with rations.

On the four days during which the Regiment remained at Bois de Villers, leave parties visited Namur. On the 4th, on the march to Nameche, over bad and hilly roads, the crossing of the Meuse was effected by a German pontoon bridge.

It seemed proper to make some ceremony of the crossing of the frontier into Germany on Monday, 9th December. It had been hoped that our General Davies, who had led the 52nd into France fifty-two months gone by, would have been available to lead it into Germany, but this could not be.

From the last halt before the border the band proceeded ahead, to be in position as the Regiment approached, to play the Regimental Marches of the 43rd and 52nd while the whole column, led by the buglers, went by, in order: 'A' (Capt. Bailie), 'B' (Lieut. Horley), 'C' (Capt. Bobby, M.C.), 'D' (Capt. Eagle), First Line Transport (Lieut. E. H. Vigars, D.C.M.), Second Line Transport, or 'Train' (Lieut. F. Barnes, M.C., Quartermaster).

Nobody who had spent the last few years with the 52nd could watch the Regiment go by that day without being very much moved. There are emotions about a column of marching men with its horses and wagons which no fleet of mechanised vehicles can stir up.³ Platoon after platoon went by at that step which was so clearly light infantry, and which had made possible a long tea halt on every hard march. No less moving was the sight of the Regimental transport, men, horses and vehicles, on each of the last a large 52 in white, displayed boldly on the ten-inch square painted rifle-green, with veteran horses as well as men: Botley and his greys; Weaving and his steady old pair; Bunning and his prize-winning light draught pair; Bunning, who had served with the 43rd in South Africa eighteen years gone by, and with whose turnout even 'Old Pole-chain', a name irreverently bestowed on an exacting senior inspector of transport, could find no fault; shoeing-smiths, cold-shoers and brakemen, still rigidly at the trail despite the recent heathen hints that they would look better at the slope; the good Padre's canteen cart and the cooks, who served the Regiment so well on these marches and always:

² Another visit to Waterloo was paid by a similar party of the 43rd and 52nd on 18th June 1956. CHRONICLE, 1956, page 42.

³ On or about the 19th May, 1945, on the road between Hanover and the border, I passed a column of vehicles which must have belonged to the Airborne Division. On some of them I saw the badge of the Regiment.—R.C.

⁴ Not in the 52nd.—R.C.

⁵ With acknowledgements to the Author, A. P. Herbert.



PTE BOTLEY AND HIS GREYS

The Officers' kits and the long low limbers,
The Maltese cart and the mules go by
With a sparkle of paint and speckless timbers,
With a glitter of steel to catch the eye;
But the things I like are the four black chimneys
And the smoke-tails scattering down the wind,
For these are the Cookers, the Company Cookers,
The cosy old Cookers that crawl behind.

The Company Cooks are mired and messy,
Their cheeks are black but their boots are not;
The Colonel says they must be more dressy,
And the General says he'll have them shot;
They hang their packs on the four black chimneys,⁴
They're a grubby disgrace, but we don't mind
As long as the Cookers, the jolly black Cookers,
The filthy old Cookers are close behind.

For it's only the Cooks can make us perky
When the road is rainy and cold and steep,
When the songs die down and the step gets jerky,
And the Adjutant's horse is fast asleep;
And it's bad to look back for the four black chimneys
But never a feather of smoke to find,
For it means that the Cookers, the crazy old Cookers,
The rickety Cookers are ditched behind.⁵

Don't be vague—Ask for

Haig



Such a warm-hearted whisky—and so smooth

PLAYER'S

Britain's
best liked
cigarettes

They taste better —
that's why



What about a tyg in the snug?



THE ORIGIN of the word 'tyg' is unknown even to the compilers of the Oxford Dictionary. It means a drinking cup, or bowl, with two or more handles. 'Snug', of course, is short for 'snuggery'; it is probably the cosiest room of all in which to enjoy the best long drink in the world.

Beer

the best long drink
in the world!

ISSUED BY THE BREWERS' SOCIETY, 42 PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

First for quality...
now as always



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS
W & K JACOB & CO
(L'POOL) LTD.



CREAM CRACKERS



KIWI
DEEP SHINE
LOOKS SMARTER

The rich waxes in Kiwi sink deep into the leather, to give a gleaming, long-lasting shine.



deep shine with **KIWI** 'DEEP-GLOW' COLOURS

It is pleasant to remember that among Serjeant Hazell's team of cooks in the last year of the war was an old North-west Frontier soldier, J. Abery—'Joe' of 'C' Company, universally approved as a cook, less unanimously agreed with as a football referee; also that there had come back to us via the 6th (S) Battalion a contemporary of his, Serjeant A. W. Bond, alias 'Mrs Bond', who assisted the Quartermaster and ruled over our rations.⁶

May what the Regiment owed to its 'rearward services', and especially to the cooks, never be forgotten. They never led the Regiment as did the buglers, admired by all beholders, but they made possible what could never, without their devoted service, have been accomplished.

To maintain that standard of sounding expected of the buglers of the first light infantry regiment, it was necessary to keep them together, and to ensure that their practice was as little interrupted by the events of war as circumstances allowed. When, therefore, the formation of anti-aircraft lewis-gun teams was ordered, for the defence of the rearward services against air attack, teams of buglers were trained for this duty, which they combined with their bugle practice; but dignitaries like the Commanding Officer's and Captains' buglers always went into the line with their officers.⁷

Similarly the company assistant accountants performed a dual rôle by being trained in chirography—'those cultured pruners of the feet of men', as one of our 52nd poets wrote of them.

As the Regiment was settling into billets, a factory shared with the 24th R. Fusiliers, for its first night in Germany, the following message was received from Brigadier-General W. L. Osborn, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding the 5th Infantry Brigade:

My congratulations to the 52nd Light Infantry on crossing the enemy frontier to-day as a result of the battles they have fought this year.

British infantry throughout history have proved themselves to be second to none, and I am proud to have the Regiment in the Brigade I command on such an historic occasion.

On the 10th, the Regiment stood fast. The 13th, between Montjoie and the Schmidt area, was a very bad day, with continuous rain, everybody being wet through. Old soldiers were heard to say that it was the wettest day they had ever known. In some of the billets of all companies it was possible to have one fire among four or five men, which made the drying of clothes to some extent possible.

Before marching off, Captains of companies were told that their companies must march either in jerkins or in the Mark VII waterproof capes. Only 'B' Company chose the former, and kept to them, and was copied by 'C' Company next day: but both orders of dress have much to be said for and against them.

After two days' halt at Niederau, whence passes had been allowed into Düren on the 15th and 16th, the march was resumed on the 17th via Düren to Steinstrasse and Lich. In the march through Düren the Brigade column was led by the 74th Highlanders, with pipes playing, bayonets fixed and Colours flying.

The 52nd carried no Colours in the Rhine Army. There may never be another opportunity to explain why the offer of permission to send a party home to bring out the Colours was refused. There were two reasons: our Colours were very precious. Could they be properly guarded in Rhine Army conditions? It had been customary to keep them, cased, for security in a cell in the guard room at home. The guard rooms we might expect to have, and did in fact have, in Germany were not the quality of place where those precious emblems should be. On one occasion, indeed, there was a highly discreditable disturbance, including a free fight, in the room where those Colours would have been lodged, and only by a miracle would they have escaped harm. And further: our Colours were not of the 'battalion' or 1881 pattern bearing the joint honours of the 43rd and 52nd, but they were the *Regimental Colours* of the 52nd, taken into wear at Limerick in 1868 and fiercely clung to in 1881, when replacement would have been normal. They had thus fifty years' service in 1918, and they bore, with only one blemish, which had been removed, only the eighteen honours of the old 52nd.⁸ Again, fighting the enemy having ceased, it was undesirable to engage in combat in this matter any high-up busy-bodies now with comparatively little to do, whose energy might have been expended in discovering that a regiment accustomed to do things in its own way was displaying non-regulation Colours.

The Regiment accepted loyally the decision to have no Colours. A quarter-size painting of the 52nd Regimental Colour was made by an Oxford firm and sent out to Germany. From it, lectures on the Colours were given to everyone, until the reasons for our not having our Colours with us had been made plain to all.

On the 18th December, then, the Regiment reached the area of Rommerskirchen and Eckum, where it was to remain till the 27th. In the few days before Christmas it was possible to make some rearrangement of billets

⁶ So named from an old North Country song:

Oh, what have you got for dinner, Mrs Bond?

There are sheep in the meadow and ducks in the pond.

⁷ Extract from Major-General Adam's Inspection Report on the 52nd: 26th October, 1815, 'The buglers are perfect in their soundings, and the best I know', William Chew, Commanding Officer's Bugler at Waterloo, was still wearing the Waterloo medal *in uniform* in 1876, as Quartermaster, Antrim Rifles Militia. He died in 1878.

⁸ On one occasion, in the Rhine Army, 1919, when it had been necessary to punish these paragons of virtue—some thought too lightly—and provide them with some profitable spare-time occupation, the following variation of an old song could be heard as one took an evening walk through the billets:

Serjeant Jones, Serjeant Jones,
Keep your eye on the buglers for me;
Or they may go wrong on the Continong and get five days' C.B.
They'll report to you as defaulters do,
At the guard room after tea,

But if Serjeant Hazell wants his cookers cleaned,
He can come along and parlez-vous with me.

* 'Quebec', it is true, was forced upon the 52nd in 1882, but by order of the then Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Davies, I had removed it (with a razor blade) in 1913.—R.C.

for greater comfort, and on the 22nd, 'B' Company was moved from Eckum to Rommerskirchen. Christmas Day passed quietly and pleasantly, as many letters home testified. There were the usual Services and such celebrations as were possible. Some officers who had gone to Cologne on Christmas Eve to complete their companies' shopping missed the last train and spent the night on Cologne Station. The 74th had exchanged such duties as Divisional and Brigade guards with the Regiment, so that the 52nd might be free of them for Christmas Day and the 74th for New Year's Day. Pork for the Christmas Dinners of serjeants' and company messes cost 3,918 marks and was paid for regimentally from canteen profits. 400 lbs. of plum pudding were bought from the Regimental Comforts Fund and sent out from home. The rate of exchange was then 5 marks = frs. 2.50 = 1/11.

On Friday, 27th December, the Regiment marched to Stommeln, there to remain until the final move on 7th January 1919, via Sinnersdorf-Worringen-Dormagen to Zons-am-Rhein. The War Diary records:

Marching conditions perfect. Band and buglers good. Usual half-way halt for tea, on this occasion supplemented by a rum issue. The troops were in very high spirits. Billets fair only, but capable of great improvement.

On Sunday, 12th January, there was a 'Casuals' Christmas Dinner, i.e. a dinner for all those who were not present with their companies on Christmas Day, to the number of 85, in the Recreation Room. The cost was borne regimentally save for ten marks paid by each participant. It was considered a great success.⁹

Meanwhile attention was centred upon educational and recreational training. The classes which began at Stommeln on 2nd January and which had been suspended for the move, were resumed at Zons on the 9th, in English, drawing, shoe-making, tailoring, veterinary science and horse-shoeing, as well as in all-round preparation for the Third Class Army School Certificate examination for those who would remain in the post-war Army. By the 15th, 150 men were under instruction.

On the 16th, the 110th anniversary of the Battle of Corunna and the death of Lieut.-General Sir John Moore, K.B., Colonel of the 52nd, appropriate lectures were given and Regimental War Tales, pp. 53-57 (first edition) read in school.

On Sunday, 19th January, in the Rathaus Platz (renamed regimentally Nightingale Place), the ribbon of the 1914-15 Star was issued to all ranks present who were entitled to it.

On receipt of the conditions offered to serving men, i.e. regular soldiers whose terms of colour service had expired or would expire before 1st April 1919, and others serving on 'duration' or T.F. engagements, if they would continue on short service re-engagements in the post-war Army, Colour-Serjeant (C.Q.M.Sjt.) Dodd was appointed Regimental Recruiting Serjeant. Re-enlistments were for 2, 3 and 4 years, to 31st March 1921, 1922 and 1923, with bounties of £20, £40 and £50 respectively, and first priority for release leave, at the end of which men would report to the Regimental

Depot. Colour-Serjt Dodd said he would enlist 100 men, and by the date he left for his own demobilisation in March he had done it, namely 57 for 2 years, 15 for 3 years and 28 for 4 years. This was believed to be the highest figure reached by any infantry battalion in the Rhine Army, and the Recruiting Serjeant's achievement was due not only to his enthusiasm but also to his careful and straightforward explanation of the conditions. He designed his own recruiting posters, one of which was:

LOST

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Reward

£50 and three months' furlough

Keeping a measure of control over the civil population occupied the attention of a certain number of Regimental personnel, especially the ever-vigilant police. The Commanding Officer, in his capacity as Summary Court Officer, did his best to execute justice and maintain truth among Germans caught bicycling to work without lights, unlicensed vendors of potent and unwholesome beverages known as 'Red Biddy' and 'Fixed Bayonets', and ladies of easy virtue, a bevy of whom were found to have established themselves in close proximity to a company headquarters. A raid on this hive of industry is better described elsewhere than here. In these embarrassing situations the Summary Court Officer was ably assisted by Lieut. John Brown Murray, already mentioned in this record, as town major and magistrate's clerk, an official interpreter (a Belgian *sous-officier*) and Bugler (alias Dolmetscher) Barnett.

There was an occasion when, acting on information received, a party consisting of the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Murray and the late Secretary of the Regimental Committee entered, before dawn and without knocking, the premises of a prominent citizen, Herr Burchbach, and made some interesting discoveries.

Thus passed January and February, 1919. During the latter month, notification was received that the 52nd would be relieved by the 6th Bn London Regiment (Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Benson, D.S.O., Reserve of Officers, formerly 52nd) and would be reduced to Cadre establishment for transfer to England. On the 2nd March this battalion arrived in the adjoining area, which gave rise to the hope of being home soon: but there was still a period of more than three months to wait.

On the 1st March, Major-General C. E. Pereira, C.B., C.M.G., late Coldstream Guards, addressed the Regiment in Nightingale Place on the occasion of his leaving the Division.¹⁰ The day was saddened by the departure for demobilisation of a draft of very fine old soldiers, though these had not been given quite the priority of release which was their due. It was then and later, and universally throughout the armies stationed abroad, a cause of grievance and discontent that some who came out as late in the war as 1918, were released before them, having been claimed as key men in industry and agriculture.

⁹ Lieut. H. E. Wells, 2nd Lieut. R. M. Harman and sixty other ranks had joined from the Divisional Reception Camp on the 29th December.
¹⁰ As the parade was dismissed, a staff officer handed to the commanding officer a typed copy 'for your records' of what, no doubt, the General had intended to say: but Corporal R. M. Coulson, a skilled shorthand writer, concealed behind the big drum, had taken down what he did in fact say, and produced the transcript ten minutes later. I have it now.—R.C.

There were other sad days to follow. On the 8th all men 'retainable in the Army of Occupation' had to be told that, in accordance with orders received, there being no battalion of the Regiment detailed for the Rhine Army, they would be transferred to the 9th (S) Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment (Pioneers) in the 29th Division, II Corps. A week later 117 rank and file for transfer entrained at Dormagen for Solingen.¹¹

On the 16th March, the Regiment left Zons after an easy and pleasant hand-over, and occupied scattered billets in the area Delrath, Nieveheim, Uckerath. The same day the results were received of the examination held at Zons and other centres on the 28th February for Second and Third Class Army School Certificates. Of the eight candidates for 'Seconds', four were successful, and of the fifty-two for 'Thirds', thirty only. This was disappointing, as forty had seemed certain, but it was comforting to know that only thirty-two 'Thirds' had been gained by the Division and that of these thirty had come to the Regiment.

At the same time it was notified that the 2nd Division had been renamed 'The Light Division' in the Army of the Rhine, and that the 5th Infantry Brigade would become the 1st Light Brigade. The 52nd had joined the 2nd Division from Shorncliffe (10th Infantry Brigade), on 29th September 1911, and had served with it in the 5th Brigade since then. On parade on the 1st March, 1919, there were present forty of all ranks who had been with the Regiment in 1911.

Thus the time had come when what remained of the old Aldershot 2nd Division must be dispersed. Hordes of black-buttoned youths, in Young Soldier battalions of Rifle regiments, had replaced the old regiments, and the question arose of a new divisional sign to replace the old three stars. Some curious person suggested a feather, of an unspecified colour but one which would presumably agree with the rules of heraldry (which the old sign did not, but it had come to mean much to those who had worn it for so long).¹² A protest, prompt and energetic, went in on behalf of the first Light Infantry Regiment, representing THE—the Peninsular—Light Division, and if the feather was ever adopted it was after the 52nd had gone home, but the idea is believed to have been dropped.

At the end of March, with the 52nd reduced to some 300 other ranks, the Regiment's tour of duty in the Rhine Army was held to be over. It remained only for orders to come for the demobilisation of the remaining eligibles and for the move of the cadre to England. Yet six weeks were to pass before the latter event took shape.

This was a period disturbed by several orders and counter orders; for instance, that the cadre would entrain at short notice, and men for demobilisation would be attached to a regiment remaining on the Rhine.

The cancellation of this was almost as welcome as an order to go home would have been. Then it was notified that 'owing to strikes in England' all leave and demobilisation had been suspended; and this again was amended to mean 'owing to threat of strikes' and to be 'merely a precautionary measure'. Then there came a warning that the cadre would entrain at Rommerskirchen 'shortly' without reference to the fate of the demobilisables, who, with the prospect of being left, were provisionally organised as one company.

The first three months of 1919 had been on the whole very happy ones, with all ranks together under something like peace and barrack conditions: and now began a period of unsettlement which is unavoidable when there are gathered together several hundreds of individuals most of whom expect to be going their different ways at any time; whereas for the rest the perpetual saying good-bye to so many, and especially to the old soldiers of long service in the field, was a very depressing experience.

On the 2nd April, Captain Bailie and all available regular subaltern officers were ordered home to report to the composite battalion to be called the 1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, then forming at Aldershot; and on the 4th, Captain Bailie and the following officers left: Lieuts Sturges, Dowson, Blackwell, Giles, M.C., Booth, Eagle, Coad, M.M., Vernon and Haymen, 2nd Lieuts Simmons, Holland, Plaistowe, Thorne and Harman.

On the 7th, the Regiment made a short move to Gohr and Broich. On the 10th, Captain Milne, M.C., and Lieut. Murray were ordered on indefinite leave pending posting, and the Reverend E. M. Guilford, M.C., C.F., who had been with the 52nd for so long, was transferred to duty at Calais. On the 18th some photographs were taken for record purposes. These will be found in CHRONICLE, 1919-20, pp. 121-7.

In this period of perpetual procrastination and disappointments what mattered most was the provision of every possible kind of occupation. The War Diaries of April and May tell of Educational Training, n.c.os' classes, lectures and talks on every subject which any officer was capable of conducting, sports, football and hockey, each six-a-side, bathing, dances, whist drives, leave to Cologne (via a Regimental 'bus' to Nievenheim Station), which proved too much for certain buglers, sing-songs, concerts by various professional and amateur troupes, and even a singing competition. In May the heat became trying, which made the evening the time for exercise.

On the 3rd May the cadre stood in its final form: a very small headquarters and one company commanded by Captain E. H. Whitfield, M.C., with C.S.M. Lay, M.M., and C.Q.M.S. Parkinson. On the 21st came a warning to proceed home via Düren and Antwerp, the immediate

¹¹ I accompanied this draft, the first and much the largest of several to follow, and met the O.C. 9th Gloucestershire Regt, Lieut.-Colonel, E. P. Nares, M.C., 22nd (The Cheshire) Regt, whom I knew. One officer per company went also, to hand over his own men. The journey seemed somehow to have the air of a funeral. Never till then did I realise how much men whose profession was not soldiering could feel separation from their own regiment.—R.C.

¹² A Divisional Sign, like other signs, can be used in unorthodox ways. I remember some 'aquatic sports' in the Béthune—La Bassée Canal, when one of our funny men painted the famous three stars on his not very elaborate bathing costume. Entering the water unnoticed, he swam under it for some way, and surfaced, with the decorated part of himself uppermost, exactly opposite the grandstand, whereon sat the Major-General commanding the Division, who was greatly pleased.—R.C.



BUGLERS' FOOTBALL TEAM—GERMANY 1918-19
 Salcombe, Sanderson, Freeland, Pill, Collier, Weller
 Jefferies
 (Comdg Officer's Bugler), Connell



52ND CADRE MARCHING THROUGH OXFORD ON 12TH JUNE 1919

destination being given as Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich. On the 26th, the cadre moved to billets in Düren: subsequent moves being:

27th: entrained at Düren: 28th, 6 a.m. arrived at Antwerp and there, after some more delay, embarked.

1st June: arrived Tilbury and via London to Woolwich: strength 7 officers, 75 other ranks and one unofficial traveller, a bandsman's pet dog, a model of good behaviour, making never a sound, though concealed in a pannier marked 'signalling equipment'.

An astonishing feature of this move was that no reception arrangements seemed to have been made at all, a state of affairs which reflected credit upon nobody; and on this first night of arrival all ranks were preparing to bivouac on a barrack square cricket pitch when someone provided better accommodation and issued a few blankets. Proper barrack-room space was made available next day, but there was to be more than a week of this before the long-promised move to Oxford was accomplished on the 12th June when, after a civic welcome at the Station and some speeches, the cadre marched to the Depot and Lieut.-Colonel A. J. F. Eden, C.M.G., D.S.O., resumed command of the 52nd.

The full story of the home-coming need not be told here, though there is little enough to tell. There were speeches of which the only known record is in the Press. The silver bugles given by the County of Oxford in 1913 had been recovered from store and were heard again between the Station and Cowley Barracks. The welcome most appreciated was that of a party of old 52nd men, all now in civilian clothes and some bearing the marks of war disablement.

Forty years have inevitably reduced the number of survivors of the 1914-19 52nd, but there are still many who remember gratefully the *Padrés* and Medical Officers of those days. Of the *Padrés* the first was the late Bishop Gwynne, who saw to it that 'my old Regiment, the 52nd Foot' had only the best that the Royal Army Chaplains' Department could provide. There is a long roll of Medical Officers, British and United States, who cared for the Regiment so well.

Then there were those who made our prisoners-of-war their special responsibility. The full record of their work must be looked for in *CHRONICLE*, 1919-20, pp. 42-53; but upon four ladies, Mrs C. M. Wilson, Mrs H. R. Davies, Mrs A. J. F. Eden and Miss Audrey Ashhurst (later Mrs H. L. Ruck Keene), devolved the principal work of the Regimental Care Committee, of which Lieut.-Colonel Sir Charles Cuyler, Bt, commanding the Depot, was Chairman. What our prisoners-of-war owe to their labours can never be known, let alone repaid.

And as long as any survive who served under them, there will be remembered the two commanding officers who prepared the 52nd for that war: Major-General Sir Robert Fanshawe, K.C.B., D.S.O., in command 1907-11, and Major-General H. R. Davies, C.B., in command 1911-15; both of the pattern of the greatest light infantryman of all time—Lieut.-General Sir John Moore, K.B., Colonel of the 52nd, 1801-09.

In the *Chronicle*, 1957, p. 77, there is given in full the Regimental Prayer now in use. On the 29th April 1930, in St George's Church, Ypres, the Rector of Cottesmore,

the Reverend E. M. Guilford, M.C., Chaplain with the 52nd from 1916 to 1919, at a special Service for members of the Regiment, used an earlier Prayer. He said:

We are here to remember. To remember, with all honour before God and men, our comrades, who in the war which we waged to save the world from cruelty and wrong, gave their lives in the service of their country. Especially do we remember with proud thanksgiving the 63 officers and 1,098 other ranks of the 52nd Light Infantry who made the supreme sacrifice . . . We have come also to reconsecrate our lives to God in the memory of the great past . . .

Let us pray:

For all those our comrades, who suffer in mind or body as a result of war;

For those who lost their work or livelihood and have not yet been able to make good;

For those who lost their nearest and dearest; for fatherless children, and for those who live in loneliness and sorrow . . .

That we may never pass by suffering without eyes to see, and that we may open our hearts to the needs of others.

Let us thank God for the wonderful spirit of comradeship amongst all ranks of the 52nd during the years of war; and that this spirit has lived on, scattered though we are over all the world, through the years of peace.

And let us pray that the bond of comradeship between us may grow stronger as the years go by . . .

'The bond of military service', a great historian has discovered, 'is closer than any blood relationship.' He might well have pointed to the Regiment in support of what he said.

So ends another edition of my story of the 52nd in the war which began in 1914.¹³ It has been called 'The First Great War', a name which ignores the conflict of 1793-1814-1815. This broke Napoleon as the two later wars broke the Kaiser and Hitler respectively, and it established the 52nd as 'a regiment never surpassed in arms since arms were first borne by men'.

There exists, in fact, for the 52nd, a record of sorts, covering the period August 1914—June 1919, which may be thought better than no record at all, but which is capable of being improved upon and enlarged almost without end.

The period of Colonel Davies' command in the field (to 23rd February 1915) has been published in book form. The rest exists only in typescript and will be given into the keeping of the Curator, Regimental Museum, for such action, if any, as some future Regimental Committee may be able and willing to pay for.

To supplement these efforts of mine there are the War Diaries for the whole period of the War, extracts from which have appeared in the *Chronicles*, 1914-15—1919-20 (five volumes); the Regimental Order Books, 1914-19 (six volumes); War Letters of a Light Infantryman (Neville); the Official History; a limber load of correspondence, training programmes, operation orders, memoranda and maps; and, less reliably, the History of the Second Division (two volumes).

¹³ First, the Short History . . . (1925); second, Articles I—LII in the *JOURNALS* of 1931-9.



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ROBERT FANSHAWE, K.C.B., D.S.O.
Commanded the 52nd, 1907—1911

The 1914 Star Roll has been published in the *Chronicle*, 1954.

It remains for someone to take the material which exists, and most of which has been in my keeping, for want of a better resting place, for nearly forty years, and write up the whole book.

The fact that in present-day conditions few people may be interested, or may have time to be interested, in the history of the Regiment, ought surely not to deter anyone who can have access to the material, from putting it into such shape as will make it readily available to those who will come after us when fashions and circumstances change. It is that which is too commonplace to-day to be noted for which fifty years hence

biographer and historian search with vain regret.¹⁴ That is my answer to any who may think that these thirteen 'Instalments' in the *JOURNAL* or anything else I have written, contain matter which it was unnecessary to record: and I believe that there will come a time when some perhaps yet unborn will want to know more about how nations fought each other between the eras of the bow and arrow and of nuclear warfare, and how the building of new armies was achieved upon the foundations of the old, and that they will turn for what they seek to such histories of the 'steady old regiments of the line' as may then exist.

R.C.
17 April 1959.

¹⁴ Sir J. F. Maurice; *Diary of Sir John Moore*, II, 85, f.n.

Home Pilgrimage

DEAR EDITOR,

I have already inflicted on you my usual 'spasm' for the May copy of the JOURNAL. In view of the impending changes in the Regiment one wonders how the JOURNAL will be affected and I therefore submit this article as there may still be space for it.

After an evening with the intake at Regimental Headquarters in June, I gave myself the luxury of a pilgrimage in Oxon and Bucks. This brought so many memories of the Regiment and contacts, that I feel they are worthy of recording.

First, Oxon. A visit to Kelmscott Manor once the home of Wm Morris, social reformer, who is buried in the village churchyard beside my Grandad. Then across the road to see Jack Pettifer. We both joined the Regiment in 1898. He has since not fared so well as some of us and is very lonely. If any old comrades live near or visit Kelmscott please look him up. He is just across the road from the village local. Anyone would direct you. He bucked up as we chatted over old times. Around the walls of his lonely room hang photographs of two of his brothers who served with the Regiment. We recalled an interesting coincidence about his family, which is the main reason for recording these notes.

When on embarkation leave for India in 1900 my relations took me to see Shepherd Pettifer, Jack's father, who with his famous sheepdog were local celebrities. I still remember that visit and our talk together. 'So you be George Dancy's boy?' . . . 'Yes Shepherd' . . . 'Where be from now?' . . . 'From Ireland and going to India' . . . 'To India, that's a long way, yet both be across the water' . . . A quaint way to put it, yet the old shepherd was right. As I said good-bye the shepherd had something on his mind. I was so glad he managed to reveal it. He said, 'If you get to India you may see our boy (I do not remember his name, but it was not Jack), tell him mother and I be well and send our love'. I promised to deliver the message if possible. Then back to Buttevant, Co. Cork, to join 'The Details', still hoping that the War Office had cancelled the order that invalids from the South African War would not be allowed to return to S. Africa that year. Alas! the order still stood, so I sailed for Bombay to join the famous 52nd. On arrival, most of the first month I spent in taking sick men to hospital or putting many, not seriously ill, to bed and looking after men in the barrack room. They were a sick crowd. The Regiment was still suffering from that awful epidemic of dengue fever (so called) which caused such havoc and many deaths in Ferozepore in 1900. By the end of January the health of the Regiment had improved, and although several were invalided home things became normal and our draft were 'fitted out'. As I drew my buff equipment, etc., I asked the storeman, Ginger Beckley, if there was a man in the Regiment named Pettifer. He said there had been, but he had died at Ferozepore. He added, 'This equipment you are now drawing belonged to him'. I thought of the shepherd and his family at Kelmscott who like many other parents before and since, were denied the joy of welcoming their sons back from the Service. A small world, is it not? Nowadays, with accounts of news over the radio the same day that events happen, with planes travelling over a thousand miles an hour, the

present generation must feel the world is small. The coincidence recorded above made even us ancients think and speak of a small world. It was years later before I could do anything about the undelivered message. Then as inspecting officer from the Waziristan Field Office I had to visit various stations in the Punjab, including Ferozepore. There on Boxing Day, whilst knocking a golf ball around the maidan a ball went very wide (no new experience for my shots) and rolled towards the cemetery. My wife walked with me to retrieve it. We went into the cemetery and looked amongst the long line of headstones with the names of men, women and children of the Regiment who died in the epidemic of 1900. Amongst them was the name of Pettifer. We tidied up the grave whilst my wife found some flowers to place on it. After a word of prayer for the family far away, a friend snapshotted us beside the grave. The snaps came out well so we sent them on to the Pettifer family at Kelmscott. On finally returning from the East we found the shepherd and his dog had gone the way of all flesh. The mother holding the snapshots in her hand and with tears in her eyes tried to express her gratitude. Yes, a small world, but thank God for loving links and memories that bind so many of us together. Would that all nations might be bound together that way too.

You will understand how glad I was to be at Kelmscott and to visit Jack Pettifer. I had intended whilst there to visit the Editor of the *Chronicle*, General Higgins, my old Company Commander in the 43rd. I met him about eight years back, hale and hearty, tramping around the estate. He looked rather suspicious of the trespasser, not recognising me until I assured him I had come to see him and produced my credentials in the form of photos of 'C' Company cross country team. Mentioning the Editor I take this opportunity of thanking and congratulating him and his helpers including the printers for the lay out of our JOURNAL. A pity the Editor is too modest to let readers know his name, yet I feel sure they would all join me in thanks, etc. had they known whom to thank. That same week my pilgrimage took me on to Bucks, with first halt at Chesham. It was from there I ran off as a boy of sixteen years to enlist in the Regiment. I spent a day around the Chalfonts, visiting the home where John Milton wrote 'Paradise Lost', from there to the Jordans where William Penn the Quaker worshipped at the Old Meeting House and where his family are buried. At sunset I was at Stoke Poges, very peaceful and quiet even in these days of rush and bustle. As one stood in the country churchyard it was easy to visualise the scenes described in Gray's *Elegy*. Even there I had a reminder of the Regiment, as moving on to Gray's Field I read on the cenotaph these words, 'The paths of glory lead but to the grave'. Naturally my thoughts turned to another part of this small world, as I remembered that General Wolfe quoted these lines just before he was mortally wounded at the capture of Quebec. Strange to say I had another reminder of the Regiment that day and of a grave far away. Back in Chesham I looked up an ex-signaller that I knew at Army Headquarters, Army of the Black Sea. As I left he came to the gate to say good-bye. A neighbour passed by and I was introduced. I

was asked to wait a moment as the neighbour wanted to show me something. He returned with a photo and asked if I had ever met the original. What a coincidence, to find it was the photo of Colour Serjeant Olney, D.C.M. With the photo was his Burma, L.S. and G.C. and South African War Medals. Alas, I fear he did not live long enough to see the latter. If readers care to look up page 53 of the JOURNAL for November 1958, they will see I mentioned Sjt Olney as my guard commander when Lord Roberts visited the 43rd on Field Service in S. Africa early 1900. I was able to tell the neighbour that I not only knew his relation, Clr-Sjt Olney, but I had served with him and was proud to have been his friend. I may add that I had not previously met the neighbour or any of his family other than the Colour Serjeant. A small world. I am now in correspondence with the authorities in S. Africa at the request of the family asking for particulars of the grave at Kronstad and if possible a photo of the same. It may be that later the family and possibly myself will join in a pilgrimage to South Africa War Cemeteries and battlefields. From Chesham to Newhaven to meet my wife on her return from the Continent. As I told of my wanderings, my wife reversed an old proverb which became—'What's good for the Gander is good for the Goose'. She also would be a 'Pilgrim' and as such visit her old school

'Hookstead' at Crowborough, Sussex. This suited me exactly as I remembered my old Paymaster, now General Fuller, lived at Crowborough. I had not seen him since we were in the regimental pay office at Lucknow, though we corresponded occasionally. He was always kind to his old Paymaster Serjeant. We dashed from the boat to dinner on the meridian line at Peacehaven, and phoned General Fuller I would call later. After visiting 'Hookstead' we found General and Mrs Fuller at the Manor House. I congratulated them on their comfortable surroundings only to be told that they were about to move on. As I looked at the many books in the General's library, I wondered if I might have offered sympathy instead of congratulations. The General was looking hale and hearty. It was surprising how many places and persons we recalled in our short time together. That's enough from the Pilgrims except to add we now await sea passages to Thessalonica to visit the War Cemetery where the only brother of my wife is buried. As I served there in 1st Great War I have to be guide there and also at Constantinople where I met a Battalion of the Regiment at Scutari. I remember Jack Arlett was with the Battalion.

ARTHUR JAMES DANCEY, MAJOR (Rtd),
Ex No. 5636 Paymaster Serjeant, 43rd Lt Infnty.

The League of Remembrance (1914-1945)

(REGISTERED UNDER THE WAR CHARITIES ACT 1940)

The League of Remembrance 1914-1945 first came into being over forty years ago. It has its traditional and also its practical side.

In its Hall of Remembrance at Headquarters you will find a Bowl of Remembrance, which has been kept filled with Rosemary ever since the foundation of the League. Upon the walls are rows of little silver plaques, each bearing a Regimental Crest and a soldier's name, set there by members of the League in memory of some relative or friend.

Also to be seen are Naval and Military trophies; the sword of a V.C., and those of other valiant soldiers. Close by is a map of the Western Front signed by 'Haig and Byng'.

In one corner is a wooden bucket from H.M.S. *Vindictive*. There is a Worcester Vase encrusted with semi-precious stones given by Queen Mary, two tattered flags nearly 100 years old, and paintings which famous Artists have dedicated to the League, and many other rare treasures.

The Lords of the Admiralty have recently presented the League with the History Scroll of H.M.S. *Norfolk*, and the name-plates of H.M.S. *Ajax* and *Achilles*.

As you stand on the threshold of this room, an atmosphere of utter tranquillity reaches out towards you like the embrace of a living eternal spirit.

The practical side is of equal importance—the assisting of widows and dependants of Officers of the three Services, and the Nursing Services. These ladies form the Remembrance Workers Staff, and receive a Grant in Aid for Services rendered, i.e. the making of Hospital

Dressing and other requisite for the sick. Luncheon and uniform are provided, but perhaps greatest of all is the provision of suitable work in happy surroundings, which in its turn defeats loneliness and has an uplifting effect, inasmuch as it proves that there is still use for those who are no longer young, but who refuse to become old. These ladies attend daily at seven of the large London Hospitals, including King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

In the year just ended over a quarter of a million articles were made.

The League is not State aided. Its resources are limited, though if Funds were available its expansion is almost unlimited. Help and interest are needed.

There will always be small Pensions to augment, always the spectre of idle loneliness to dispel and, fortunately, always a desire to do useful work. Work for the sick is both useful and unending.

The following appeared in *The Times* in December 1958:

'In remembrance of someone, will you help
The League of Remembrance 1914-45?

Donations will be gratefully received by the
Secretary at 32 Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.'

Readers of this JOURNAL are cordially invited to view the League and are welcome on any weekday, Saturdays excepted, between the hours of 11 a.m. to 12 noon and 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

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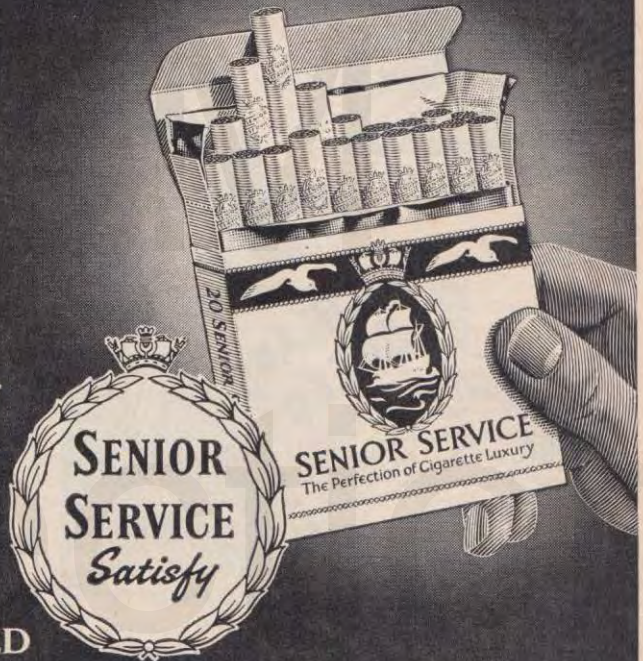
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Regimental Notes

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

THESE are the last Journal Notes from Regimental Headquarters at Cowley Barracks as on the 31st March the Regimental Depot will close after being in existence for the past eighty-three years and the newly-formed Regimental Headquarters will take over.

There have been many rumours concerning the disposal of the barracks but at the time of writing these notes we have not heard anything official except that the War Office have agreed in principle that the present Officers' Mess building should be retained by the Regiment for the new Headquarters and also accommodate the Regimental Museum. It is to be hoped that whatever is to be the ultimate fate of the barracks, the playing fields will be retained as the late groundsmen, Mr Bennett, after several years of hard and skilful work got the field, and particularly the cricket pitch, to a state of perfection never before attained.

The last 'Passing Out' parade of recruits took place on the 23rd of January when the Salute was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment. In addition to the relatives and friends of the recruits a large number of past and present members of the Regiment watched the parade. Among the Officers were General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Major-General K. Bayley, C.B., C.B.E., Brigadiers R. J. Brett, D.S.O., D.L., and D. D. Zvezinsov, O.B.E., Commander 129 Infantry Brigade (T.A.), Colonels P. Booth, A. Clerke-Brown, O.B.E., and H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley, Lieut.-Colonels H. T. Birch-Reynardson, C.M.G., D. R. L. Bright, F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., M. N. Harbottle, C. L. C. Ward, J. T. Weatherby, D.S.O., and E. H. Whitfield, M.C., Major P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D.

On parade were Major J. F. Ballard, the Commanding Officer, Captain J. St C. Simmons, Adjutant and Lieutenant F. J. B. Taylor, the officer commanding the Training Company.

After inspecting the parade the Colonel of the Regiment presented awards to Rfn P. Quartermain as the best recruit and to Rfn R. Boswell who was the best shot.

At the conclusion of the parade Serjeant Cook L. Bastin, Army Catering Corps, was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Colonel of the Regiment then addressed the recruits as follows:

'For most of us here this is a sad occasion. If Cowley Barracks is passing into history it will certainly have a special place in the annals of the Regiment. Times change, we have to change with them, and it is the Regimental tradition that we should adapt ourselves to changed circumstances.

This was one of the lessons learnt from Sir John Moore, the 150th anniversary of whose death at Corunna falls in this month, and whose memory we revere, not only because he was Colonel of the 52nd and commander of the famous Light Brigade, but also because of his teaching, which has influenced the Regiment and the Army right down to the present day.

Our departure from Cowley Barracks does not imply any change in our relationship with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire; we are still the Regiment of those two Counties.

Our relationship with the Territorial Associations will remain as close as ever and our special position in Oxford will be fostered by the Regimental Headquarters which we shall leave here.

The Colonel paid tribute to the support which he had received from the authorities of the two counties.

In congratulating the Intake on the turnout, bearing and drill of its members, he said that they would be going to join the Regiment in Cyprus where he was hoping to pay them a visit in March.

You are going out from here and from your homes to a new life. I ask you to remember that you carry with you, not only the love and good wishes of your families, but also the blessings of all who have served in the Regiment, whose honour and tradition you must guard.'

The band of the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment played for the parade.

PERMANENT STAFF

Commanding Officer: Major J. F. Ballard.

Adjutant: Captain J. St C. Simmons.

Quartermaster: Major (Q.M.) F. Clay, M.B.E.

Civil Administrative Officer: Lieut.-Colonel (Retd)

M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O.

Orderly Room Quartermaster-Serjeant: Warrant Officer Cl. II K. Dorward.

Company Serjeant-Major: Warrant Officer Cl. II F. Petra.

Company Quartermaster Serjeants: Colour Serjeant J. Jeffrey, Colour Serjeant M. Kempster.

Serjeants: G. Wall, E. Tofts, M. Brown, B. Hill, N. Munday.

43RD & 52ND LETTER

DEAR EDITOR,

The last letter brought us up to the large scale Operation Matchbox and the lessening of inter-communal trouble in Limassol. It also ended with the optimistic hope that the next letter would deal with more peaceful matters. However, although the Greeks and Turks stopped indulging in mass arson they were still very suspicious of one another and flooded the streets with noisy mobs on the slightest pretext. Indeed, during the first few days of August we had to fire a number of shots in anger. This had a salutary effect and the forming of mobs with the attendant dangers of serious rioting disappeared.

We remained very busy collecting wanted men who had slipped through the net on Matchbox, patrolling the rural area on foot and in transport, and carrying

out snatches based on information gained by interrogation of suspects. Thanks to the industry and determination of the patrols and snatch parties, a surprisingly large number of wanted men, vehicles, weapons, explosives and hides were found in August and September. One particularly interesting find was an underground foundry equipped to manufacture weapons.

Early in August, Lieut.-Colonel Collier, R.A.S.C., was murdered in Limassol. He was shot in the head several times at point blank range as he worked in his garden one Sunday evening.

Shortly after that, a night cordon we had slipped round a village observed a woman hiding a bomb in the garden of her house. The follow-up on this led to a hide for which we had been searching for some months.

A few days later we found nine home-made shot guns in Limassol.

One evening early in September, the sleepy peace of Berengaria Families Village was shattered when a bomb went off in the N.A.A.F.I. shop which then blazed furiously and was burnt to the ground.

Some heads of families gallantly rushed in and saved an unspecified quantity of whisky.

The N.A.A.F.I. gained increased unpopularity by salvaging the outstanding bills which had thoughtfully been locked in a safe.

MY JOURNEY TO CYPRUS

BY 23569772 RFN K. BRITNELL

I was one of a draft of twenty-three recruits who left the Depot on the 23rd September 1958, to join the Regiment in Cyprus. We were to fly out and the following is a description of my personal feelings during the journey. I had never before travelled far from my home and the prospects of this journey was to me a great adventure.

An officer was in charge of our party and we travelled in a truck to Oxford railway station. We had a wait of half an hour before our train arrived which was to take us to Swindon. I sat on a seat on the platform and my thoughts were of those I was leaving behind and the new life that lay before me.

On the arrival of the train we were ordered to fall in with our kit bags and were allotted to our compartments and within a few minutes we were on the first stage of our journey. It was not long before we arrived at Swindon and after a short wait we were taken by a motor coach to Swindon Airport, which is about eight miles outside the town.

On arrival at the Airport our first job was to have our kit bags weighed and attach labels to them. We then went to a dining hall where we were given a good tea and waited on like lords. We were expecting to start our flight at 8 p.m., but to our delight we were told that we should not start until sometime the next morning. That night we spent at a Transit Camp.

I sat talking with my comrades until 11 p.m. when I retired to bed, but it was some time before I got off to sleep as there was much talking and singing going on. My thoughts while lying in bed were of my parents, my brothers and sisters, and my girl friend who I should not see again for some time. I awoke at 7 a.m. next morning and hurriedly washed and dressed and then went to the dining hall where we were given a good breakfast. It seemed a long wait before transport arrived

to take us to the Airport and we did not leave until half-past eleven. On arrival we were taken to a lecture room where a Flying Officer explained to us how we should act in the event of the aircraft crashing into the sea.

Very shortly after the lecture we emplaned in a Comet Jet aircraft. We had to remove our boots and put on our canvas shoes while in the lecture room and the reason for this was apparent to me when we entered the aeroplane. I was surprised to find how small the space seemed inside the Comet.

We sat in pairs in comfortable seats, which were somewhat like a dentist's chair. A safety belt was attached to each chair which we were told need only be used on taking off and landing. It was only a matter of seconds after we were comfortably settled in our seats that the huge jet engines started up. We all were rather nervous at this moment, some more than others. After a few minutes the aeroplane started to move slowly along the runway. After turning on to the main flight runway it stopped with the engines still roaring. The steward then told us to fasten our safety belts. We then started off, the aeroplane gradually increasing speed as it roared along the seemingly never-ending runway. My ears were cracking and popping, something I had never before experienced, and I felt I was going to be sick. By the time we were over Bournemouth I was feeling better. It seemed only a few minutes after taking off that to my surprise we were flying over France. We were now at forty thousand feet and flying at five hundred miles an hour, which made it impossible to view the landscape properly. I took a short nap and awoke to find we were flying over a large mountain range which we were told was the Italian Alps.

About this time a steward handed to each of us a lunch box and coffee. It all seemed very strange to me as we hurtled through the air at such an unbelievable speed but just then I was more concerned about getting to our destination than I was of the wonderful view which lay below us.

Shortly after eating my lunch I was surprised to find that we were approaching Cyprus. It was now dusk and my first glimpse of the island was much stranger than I expected.

As the aircraft descended my eardrums seemed as if they would burst. We touched down so smoothly that I did not realise we had actually landed. Soon after the aeroplane came to a halt, the door was opened and two sun tanned officers came aboard. Their first words were "Welcome to Cyprus". So ended a very pleasant experience.

MY FAVOURITE SPORT

BY 23552620 RFN C. POOLE

My favourite sport is boxing or as it is sometimes called, the noble art of self defence. A boxer is an athlete who requires intensive and specialised training. Some people think that pugilism is a brutal and senseless sport but this opinion is not mine. It is a sport that calls for endurance, speed and the maximum amount of concentration.

Boxing has a history that dates back thousands of years. The first records come from the days of the Romans. In those times leather gloves were not used but instead the contestants wore bands of metal across their knuckles. The contest usually took place between



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two gladiators for the amusement of rich Romans. As the gladiators were nearly all slaves it mattered not to the crowds what condition they were in when the contest finished and in most cases it ended in death. As long as there was plenty of blood flowing the crowds were easily satisfied.

The sport continued through the ages with variations in rules and methods. The days of the bare fisted fighters are the most romantic of all. Then, the pugilist fought anybody at any time. The money they earned was usually contributed by their backers and followers. At this time boxing was illegal and there are many records of strange and unusual bouts. For example, there was the time when a fight took place in the middle of a river on a barge. There was always the threat of the contests being stopped by the Bow Street runners and it was not unusual for coaches to be standing by ready to carry away the boxers from the officers of the law.

The rules of boxing in those days were rather elastic. Some of the contests lasted for hours until one of the contestants was incapable of continuing. A round ended when a fighter was either thrown or knocked to the ground.

In the year 1864 a set of rules were drawn up by the Marquess of Queensbury. These rules superseded the old rules known as the London Prize Ring Rules. The Queensbury rules abolished wrestling and hugging. Also they introduced better gloves and regulated the duration of the rounds and the rest period between them. These rules were internationally recognised and observed until 1923 when the National Sporting Club Rules were adopted. These rules were based very much on the Marquess's rules with a few additions.

At the present time boxing is international and common rules are in use in every country of the world. Good contests attract very large crowds who pay high prices for their seats. The money purses are very high for those boxers who reach the top of the profession. The most coveted prize undoubtedly is the heavyweight world title.

Boxers are now classified under a weight system. These weights are bantam, feather, light, middle, light heavy and heavy. Many men have found fame and fortune in boxing and one of these is Joe Louis.

When I am at home I attend as many boxing promotions as I can. The atmosphere both outside and inside the hall where the contests are to take place is full of excitement. Everybody is friendly and the conversation is all about the contests and the records of the contestants. For the big fights the contestants on entering the ring are greeted with a fanfare from trumpets and cheering from the spectators. The boxers and the referee are then introduced by the Master of Ceremonies in a raucous voice and with the command 'Seconds out' from the Timekeeper the bout begins.

ON PATROL WITH THE FERRETS

It is early morning at Buckingham Camp. Suddenly the still air is shattered by the roar of engines, and the Ferret Platoon moves off on yet another patrol.

Let me try and put you more in the picture of what I mean by the Ferrets.

The Ferret Platoon is made up of four armoured vehicles each armed with a machine gun and wireless, and two accompanying land rovers. When on patrol they form two sections, two armoured Ferrets in each and a landrover carrying the infantrymen and their commander. In command of the platoon is Lieut. Pascoe. He and Serjeant Naylor command a section each whilst on patrol. Let us now for a while look back over the period of the last patrol.

The patrol left Buckingham Camp early in the morning and soon swung onto the Yerasa road. We travelled on, watching the road and surrounding hills intently. On seeing anything suspicious we would stop and investigate, though in nearly all cases it would turn out to be a herd of goats.

The first stop is at the village of Yerasa. On entering the village one patrol goes into the village itself, and the other searches the stone walls and old well sites and rubbish centres for pipe bombs, cartridges, weapons and literature, in fact anything that would help the EOKA terrorists carry on their activities.

Whilst in the village the patrol visits the coffee bars and meets the people, for since the truce talks began the villagers seem a lot more friendly towards us.

After a given time the patrols return and compare notes. If anything has been found it will be handed to the platoon Commander. Often articles are found, and this goads the other patrol into a frenzy to find something, as there is a great competitive spirit between the two sections.

As we leave the village behind we travel along an ever curving road up into the hills towards Zoopyi, a village which nestles about 3,000 feet high on the southern slopes of the Troodos mountains.

As we enter the village we are welcomed by a hail of stones and rocks, which narrowly miss causing us some casualties, and so as not to cause any more unrest we withdraw from the village, followed by shouts of 'EOKA' from the villagers.

Often we go on 'walkabout' patrols. This means we set out from a given point, and go across country to a village or a lonely church. On the way we check the valleys and hillsides for EOKA hides, caches or arms. On these patrols we often have a fine opportunity of seeing the Cyprus countryside in all its beauty, for at the present oranges and lemons are still growing in profusion in the hill valleys, and the almond trees are now in full bloom.

Also when we are high in the hills we are able to see the whole of the Limassol coast line and many miles further. The whole countryside in this season is covered in various shades of green and yellow, so that a truly lovely picture is set before us.

As the day draws to a close we stop to make our evening meal. Here you will find every man takes a hand, each preparing some part of the meal whilst the others 'Stag it' on guard. When we have finished our meal we clean up and load up the vehicles ready to move off to a site already checked by our platoon commander.

When we arrive we form the vehicles into a hollow square, with the machine gun turrets facing outward s



43RD AND 52ND—FERRET PLATOON



LIEUT. I. G. ELLIOTT ON AN OPERATION WITH 'D' COMPANY
near Yerasa, 6th February 1959

and then put up the 'Big Top'. This is a large Tarpaulin which we attach by the four corners to the corner vehicles and, with a pole in the middle this forms our overhead cover. Under this each man places his camp bed and sleeping bag and blankets if he has brought them, for in the month of February it gets very cold at night. After this Sjt Naylor makes out the guard list. We do this by picking out the 'stags' from a hat, for the two on the last guard have each to prepare breakfast for his own section and have it ready to be eaten by 0615 hours for by 0730 hours next morning we will be on the road ready to move back into our permanent camp. You may wonder why we should stay out for a night and go back into camp next morning. This is easily explained, for before the truce talks began and even up to a few weeks before it was signed, we did night ambushes, patrols round the village coffee shops, and snap road blocks.

On the whole the members of the Ferret Platoon are happy in their work as they are always on the move and the great variety of work they do makes them feel an above average platoon and a much sought-after one.

LEAVE IN ISRAEL

BY 23429236 RFN M. COWDY

So you want to get away from it all, you think you need a break. Cyprus is starting to play on your nerves, you feel you are cracking up. Well then, in that case, Israel's the place that you're looking for; wine, very beautiful women, and a strange kind of eastern music that grows on you, as your ears slowly become accustomed to the chanting melodies.

Exactly one hour and five minutes flying time from Nicosia and you arrive at Lod Airport, where you are met by a dashing young red head, who helps you through the customs, and seems only too eager that your stay in Israel should be a memorable one.

After a dilapidated and maybe leaky tent, your hotel seems the height of luxury, and takes some time in getting used to; but good food, and a restful atmosphere soon helps one to settle down.

There is so much to see and do and everything is expensive, two shillings for a coffee and as much as six shillings for the cheapest cinema seat. But then I forgot, you've come for a holiday and financial worries are of a minor importance. Sightseeing tours are well organised and with the aid of a knowledgeable guide well worth the while. For one of the cheaper tours try the one that takes you through Haifa, often known as the 'Naples of Israel', then on to Tiberias by the sea of Galilee, scene of many episodes of Jesus' life, and lastly to Nazareth, where Jesus lived for twenty-seven years of his life. In Nazareth alone you can visit Mary's Well, Joseph's Workshop, The Church of the Annunciation, and other Holy sites.

I nearly forgot, what of the night life? Well, there's plenty of that, coffee bars seldom close before midnight, and night clubs stay open as long as you care to stay on the premises, even if it does mean supplying the four piece band with large cups of black coffee to keep them from accidentally dropping off to sleep.

There is no language problem, wherever you go you are bound to find someone who speaks English and, failing that, try French or German, even though Hebrew is the everyday tongue of the Israelite.

Israel is a great land for development, progress, and building, even grassland has been farmed from sand-dunes and fifty years ago Tel-Aviv, which is now the largest town in the country, never existed. The people are friendly, hard working and gay. Think twice, and spend your leave wisely.

A TYPICAL AFTERNOON WITH THE I.S. PLATOON IN CYPRUS

BY 2ND LIEUT. P. J. WATTS

It was a very hot afternoon and the Platoon drove slowly along patrolling the town. Suddenly we heard wild and desperate shouts coming from the side of the road. There were two women standing on the roof of a nearby house frantically screaming at us 'Help Johnny, come quickly!' Without waiting we dashed off across some unfortunate person's back garden to a small group of pre-fab houses about 400 yards away from where the shouting appeared to come. Our route was lined by many more women shouting at us and imploring us to hurry. I began to break out into a cold sweat. What was I going to find. Judging by the noise there was a fight to the death with knives in progress. Fortunately, on arrival, we found it was not so bad. Some of the pre-fab houses were owned by Greeks and others by Turks. At that moment the Turks were engaged in a full scale siege of a Greek house. Several of the windows had been broken and the front door was being pounded with a battering ram, a mop.

To my great relief, as we arrived the besiegers ran. However this was not all. Just beyond the small block of houses on either side of a large field, the opening barrage of a battle was starting. The Turks on our side were lined up shoulder to shoulder hurling stones at an equal line of Greeks on the other side. What was even worse was that if we tried to disperse them we should be hit by stones from both sides. Eventually I charged one way with one half of the platoon whilst my platoon Serjeant (Sjt Babbage of Henley, Oxfordshire, now a P.S.I. with 4th Bn Oxf. and Bucks) charged the other way. Fortunately the two sides soon dispersed.

The platoon then had to go off to another job so I left Corporal McGinn (of 47 Abbermarley Crescent, Scarborough) and his section behind to see that there was no more trouble. After the platoon had left, CPL McGinn had to impose his own special curfew and throw a tear gas grenade to prevent another clash.

When it got dark we had to take away this section, but patrols visited this spot at frequent intervals throughout the night. On the Turkish side of the square sat a group of Turks playing cards and watching the other side, where a group of Greeks were on the same 'Home Guard' duties. Both sides were very pleased to see us, but we had to be very careful that if we stopped for a

coca-cola on one side, we did the same on the other lest we be accused of favouritism. It was not until 5 a.m. that the two opposing groups could be persuaded to go to bed.

The next day however all was well for the Greeks who here were in the minority evacuated their houses and went off to a safer area.

MY FIRST AND LAST TURKISH WEDDING

BY 2ND LIEUT. J. G. C. GOODWYN

Do you ever get that feeling of wanting to splash money about? You do: then try going to a Turkish wedding.

Out of curiosity more than anything else I accepted an invitation to go to a Turkish policeman's wedding, in a little village called Moutayiaka. I took along several of my Company who had also been invited and we all arrived at 12 o'clock feeling a little self-conscious of our pistols tucked into our belts. We were very warmly greeted by Moustaffa Hasan (the bridegroom) and most of the village. He led us towards a back yard that resembled a cross between a pig sty and a farmyard and bade us be seated at a table in the middle of it. Stepping gingerly towards it we noticed a three piece band in one corner of the yard playing so called music, and it was whilst the food was being brought out to us at the table that I noticed the little brass bowls at the feet of each musician, enquiring what they were for, I was told it was customary to put money into them at the end of each tune. I suppose it was only a coincidence but the time I only dropped five mils into the bowl the tune seemed awfully short.

Between bites of fried food we watched the bridegroom being shaved by a boy of about 10 years old, and for the privilege of watching this it was explained that it was again customary to slip 5/- into his shaving bowl to bring him good luck.

Next we all had to line up and have our thumbs plastered in mud and a pink or green handkerchief tied round them, then various words were said over the thumb and 10/- slipped into the bowl on the table.

Next we were led to a room with two mattresses on the floor and while musicians danced round them we were requested to throw silver coins onto the mattresses (to make the marriage fertile), the mattresses were then blessed and the money whisked away.

Feeling a bit glum with the whole affair we suddenly brightened as we saw the bride emerging from a doorway, she looked radiant among all the drab colours in a dazzling white silk dress with lace everywhere. I wondered where the money came into this; I soon learnt when one or two men and women went up to the bride, kissed her on both cheeks and pinned a £1 note on both the bride and the groom.

We again were ushered forward and before the first of us could get to the bride we were politely told that only relatives could kiss the bride, disappointed we pinned our £1 notes in the appropriate places and soon after we were thanked for coming very much and told that the ceremony was now over.

Feeling very out of pocket but also having gained vast knowledge of the Turks we made our way back to camp.

KALAVASSOS

BY 2ND LIEUT. M. WHITFIELD

About twenty miles North-East of Limassol in the foothills of the Troodos range there is one of the largest and most important copper mines in Cyprus named after the nearest village, Kalavassos. It is a hazardous journey to reach the mines, as once one has turned off the Limassol-Nicosia road, the route is either too narrow or the surface very rough. In the village itself, there are many marks made by lorries scraping the sides of the houses.

At the mine, there is an explosives compound and to ensure that no dynamite is misappropriated, a military guard is kept there permanently. However, this is not the only job to be done by the soldiers. The strength of the detachment is about thirty and whenever the local miners come to get some explosives it is issued to them by the Guard Commander. They sign a book saying how much they have had and are then escorted to the mine face by two soldiers, to ensure that all the explosive is used. After a blasting, the rubble is inspected and anything that does not explode is returned to the compound. Also, observation posts are placed above the railway sidings to see if anything is removed from the trucks, and searches are carried out on the miners as they come out of the mines.

It is certainly an experience to go down one of these mines and in most cases once is enough as conditions are poor: but as blasting takes place three times every day in three different places, more than one journey has to be made and the soldiers become used to this.

One of the mines is peculiar because instead of going down into the earth it goes straight into a hillside and once inside the tunnel tends to go up. The railway lines enter the tunnel through iron doors and lead for nearly half-a-mile to the mine face. At first it is damp and very muddy under foot and the air is considerably cooler than outside. For the first two or three hundred yards the roof of the tunnel is about seven feet high, so that one is spared the crouching which is necessary in the rest of the mine. Having advanced that distance, instead of following the railway, one turns up a flight of steps leading off to the left, at the top of which is a good solid, wooden door.

Once through the crouching begins since there is only about five feet of clearance, the atmosphere becomes humid and the continual droning of the ventilation tunnels becomes more apparent. Another walk follows, which this time seems even longer than the first stretch, with an ever increasing pain across the neck and shoulders. Other smaller tunnels keep branching off, down which echo strange noises, and there is a strong feeling of claustrophobia.

Farther and farther, one lopes along, and because the copper oxidises when exposed after a blasting the temperature is ever increasing; till at last the noises of automatic drills, shovelling and voices can be heard and one knows that the mine face is near at hand. The tunnel opens up into a large cavern where there is a scene of activity: holes are being drilled for the next blasting and rubble from the last blasting is being shovelled into trucks, the railway having reached the mine face by some other route. Now it is very hot and sweat pours off everybody. One feels as though one has just reached the centre of a maze and the chances of getting out are viewed with distaste. But having seen everything, the exhausting walk back starts and eventually that strip of silvery light round the exit door appears and soon the ordeal is over.



43RD AND 52ND—TWO ANIMALS OF THE REGIMENTAL TRANSPORT

OPERATION RED ANT

It all started one morning when our Serjeant-Major told us that some of the Company were going out into the hills by sections to act as observation posts. Later that morning the sections were selected and briefed on the job they had to do. It caused a certain amount of laughter when we were told that we had to dress up as Cypriots. We were also told that washing and shaving were out, and that pleased most of us.

A lot of work was put into preparing for the operation until at last came the time for us to set off into the hills. We travelled in trucks most of the way to the positions that each section had been given. As we started out in the evening it was rather difficult to locate the actual positions, but when they were found the men sorted themselves out and settled down for a night's rest which was welcome after the march with their heavy packs.

During the next few days our time was taken up in making OP's on villages and marching to and from the Company H.Q. to fetch water and food. The marches were rather long and it rained most of the time. One section got lost for two or three days, and when found by the Ferret Platoon they were all very hungry and tired. None of the men had much sleep because it was cold and very wet at night.

Each OP consisted of one N.C.O. and three men.

The parties were so small it was difficult to know how to carry rations and equipment without making more than one journey. One or two of the OP parties found that they were unable to reach their position the first night so they had to lie up the following day and continue the march to their position the next night.

Once in position we made ourselves as comfortable as possible. This was not easy as we were on the side of a mountain overlooking villages. We noted down everything we saw and remained hidden as far as possible, only showing ourselves when we went down to the villages to collect water, and when we moved at night to place written messages in pre-determined places to be collected each night by a representative of Company Headquarters.

Our only transport during this operation was a donkey. The C.Q.M.S. used to ride it sometimes, and it brought the rations up to the OP's every day. We were in a precipitous country and motor vehicles would have given away our positions.

We had become expert at cooking our own food, keeping warm, and sleeping in all sorts of positions, but we were pretty tired when we got back to camp. We heard that we had obtained quite a lot of useful and valuable information and felt proud of having contributed towards the defeat of EOKA.

THE 'FOOTSORE' SONG OF RIFLEMEN COY 'A'

BY LIEUT. G. F. METCALFE

We marched around the flippin' hills, a ton upon our backs,
And camped on Kyperissia to ambush mountain tracks.
We heard Headquarter Company shout, 'we're alright you jacks,
And we ate the flippin' weevils roaming round our ration packs.

All night we'd climbed (our breath as short as serjeant-major's hair),
Along a path beside a stream, and flippin' tired we were.
Our officer was leading us, he thought the way was clear,
But to our horror and dismay we saw him disappear.

He'd fallen in the icy stream, we kept our faces straight,
Regretting we'd no camera to photograph his fate.
'The water's cold', we heard him cry, 'Do not procrastinate',
We didn't like the word he'd used, and so we made him wait.

We made our tents from ponchos and we dug the ground with picks,
We cut down all the flippin' trees and made a fire of sticks.
The Serjeant-Major told us not to kick against the pricks,
But we complained it wasn't only sheep with flippin' ticks.

An 'elicopter dropped us food with someone else's mail,
So we signalled and we shouted and we cursed to no avail.
We stuck it out another day amid the snow and hail,
And then marched back to flippin' camp; that's how I end my tale.

SERJEANTS' MESS

The time has come, as we always knew it would, for the JOURNAL notes to be written for the last time on this overseas tour. By the time you read them we shall either be putting the finishing touches to our packing or establishing ourselves somewhere around the Salisbury Plain Area.

Feelings are somewhat mixed at the prospect of leaving this lovely but unlucky island. Especially those of us who knew it in the 'palmy days' of 1950. In those days there were great sighs of sorrow when we sailed for Egypt, but to-day's feelings can be judged by the remarks of a prominent 'Phat' playing member, 'All I want to see of this island is its disappearance from the back of a boat'.

There will, I have no doubt, be written in the next JOURNAL, something of our final days on the island. So let me now endeavour to bring you up-to-date with current events.

Our arch enemy 'Uncle George' has seen fit to relax his activities recently, consequently life has been considerably more pleasant, especially from the social side.

War stories are fast becoming a thing of the past. (Some members now find it difficult to make conversation.) The general topics are the various rates of pay in the U.K., Disturbance Allowance, L.O.A. at Warminster, etc., etc.

Our departures fortunately have been few. Most notable being Regimental Sjt-Major Field, B.E.M., to take up a Quartermaster's appointment in the Aden Protectorate Levies. Our heartiest congratulations to him on his well-earned promotion and also on his being awarded a Mention in Despatches. We wish him and Mrs Field the very best of luck in their new environment.

Sjt Lawless has left us to take a course prior to selection for the permanent staff at the R.M.A. Sandhurst. Our best wishes to him and we hope he is eventually accepted.

On the credit side we welcome back Regimental Sjt-Major Shepherd of old 'B' Company fame. It is rumoured he carries a couple of hockey sticks at the bottom of his case. (The hockey officer we are afraid is slipping as at the time of writing he has not yet been asked to show his ability.)

It is not true that the Regimental Sjt-Major suffers from insomnia Sjt Brown I asked him !!! Nor is it true that he intends to start a cross country team, even though one would think so to hear the puffing and panting that comes from the area of Harding Avenue Gate round about sunrise each morning.

We welcome to the Mess C.Q.M.S.'s Boustead and Allcock, Sjts Jackson and Cutts, late of the 60th. They are, no doubt, the forerunner of many inter-Bde postings. We hope their stay with us will be a happy one, and we are looking forward as no doubt they are, to seeing their wives in the Mess, as unfortunately they did not arrive with them from Tripoli.

Also welcome is S.-Sjt and Mrs Slater (A.C.C.) from one of the many cavernous kitchens of G.H.Q. He has looked after us well. Reminiscent of days gone by. We hope his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Congratulations to Sjt Brimfield on his well earned promotion. To Sjt Semmens on his reason for buying 'two' drinks all round, and Sjt Brown on his becoming a proud father.

Honours were even and thirsts quenched in a Hockey Match v. The Officers. We are now looking forward to the return game with a vengeance.

Christmas came and gone with all the pleasant evenings and nasty mornings that go with it. Our Christmas Draw was the best ever, even though the Padre was heard to remark, 'It's a big fiddle'. Mark you, a casual observer would have been inclined to agree with him seeing how many times Regimental Sjt-Major Field, C.S.M. Hornblower and Sjt Wall stepped up to take prizes.

The New Year's Ball was heartily enjoyed by all, especially as the I.S. restrictions were somewhat relaxed to allow some members really to see the New Year in. Maybe it is a good thing after all for the Commanding Officer to be I.S. commander of the area !!!

A Fancy Dress Ball was held on Valentine's Day. To say the least the judges had a most difficult time. Congratulations however to Mrs Clarke on her supreme effort as a gollywog and to C.Q.M.S. (Sir Edmund Hilary) Trahearn. Also to Sjt Summerfield who was better looking that night than we have ever seen him before.

It is rumoured that when it was all over the 'mad' Russian really went mad.

We are now eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Colonel of the Regiment and we hope he brings the name of the troopship.

To conclude, our very best wishes to our new Mess Comrades of the 60th and Rifle Brigade. Any time any of you are in the Tidworth or Warminster Area the door will always be open to you. Also not forgetting our old Light Infantry Friends, as you well know, the same applies.

CORPORALS' ROOM

Since the last issue of the JOURNAL there has been little activity. A Dance and Social Evening, organised by the Committee, was held at No. 27 Independent Company, W.R.A.C. N.A.A.F.I., on Saturday, 13th December, and those who attended had a very enjoyable evening.

Over the Christmas period two Social Evenings were held in the Corporals' Room. The first of these, held on 25th December, was attended by the N.C.O.s of Letters 'B', 'C' and Headquarter No. 2 Companies, who, after spending a very happy evening, went away feeling full of the Christmas spirit. The N.C.O.s of Letter 'A', Support and Headquarter No. 1 Companies attended on the second evening, held on 27th December, which was just as successful as the first. We thank the members of the Band whose playing helped in making these two events so enjoyable.

Another Social Evening was held on 7th February. An invitation was sent to the local Military Police Detachment, who unfortunately were unable to attend due to I.S. commitments.

We would like to thank Sjt Kettle and the members of the canteen staff for their assistance at these Social Evenings. The canteen staff will soon be replaced by a female N.A.A.F.I. staff from England and a great increase in attendance at our functions is expected.

All members of the Mess congratulate Cpl Brimfield on his recent promotion to Serjeant and L.-Cpl Kinghorn on his marriage and welcome Mrs Kinghorn to the Mess.

LIST OF OFFICERS

1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD & 52ND

Regimental Headquarters

Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E.
Major A. C. Mason
Captain W. M. Cracknell
Lieutenant T. M. Hartley
Major (Q.M.) S. A. G. Cox, M.B.E.

Headquarter Company

Major R. M. Colville
Major H. P. Patterson
Captain J. D. F. Mostyn
Captain C. St C. Simmons
Lieutenant K. J. Smith
Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. J. Howland

'A' Company

Major P. E. Gerahty
Lieutenant G. F. Metcalfe
2nd Lieutenant C. S. Downie
2nd Lieutenant M. J. C. Draco
2nd Lieutenant D. Orr-Deas

'B' Company

Major P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.
Lieutenant J. P. Watts
2nd Lieutenant E. J. H. Acton
2nd Lieutenant P. G. Costley-White

'C' Company

Major P. W. Mitchell
Lieutenant J. M. Meade
2nd Lieutenant A. J. Davies
2nd Lieutenant M. Whitfeld

'D' Company

Captain C. A. S. Hinton
2nd Lieutenant J. G. C. Goodwyn

Support Company

Major W. S. C. Chevis
Lieutenant I. G. Elliott
Lieutenant B. E. A. Pascoe

I.S. Area H.Q.

Captain G. C. Stacey

SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

The five Companies began training their Cross Country teams soon after Christmas. The teams consisted of seven runners with five to count.

The inter-Company race had to be postponed from 8th to the 23rd January. It was decided to have the same course as last year, about three and a half miles.

The weather on the day of the race was perfect. The competitors started off to a fast pace set by Rfn Allum and Barnard who got well into the lead after about half a mile. By this time the field was strung out and it was difficult to see how the teams were placed.

The Headquarter Company 'A' team won by a good margin with Support Company second. The first man home was Rfn Allum followed by Rfn Barnard, both of H.Q. 'A' team.

The Regimental team for the Cyprus Major Units Championship, which took place at Nicosia on the 3rd February, was selected from the first fifteen in the inter-Company race. The team arrived there the day before which enabled them to walk the course. Again we had perfect weather for the race and much of the course was good underfoot, although a great part of it was under plough.

There were a hundred and sixty-four starters from the eleven Major Units competing. We were fortunate to draw the best position at the start and as is usual there

was a mad scramble for the first few hundred yards. Our position at the start gave us an enormous advantage and we were able to settle down in our stride almost immediately without being continually jostled. Rfn Barnard and Allum finished together in 3rd and 4th places respectively with a further three runners coming within the first twenty, and our team was placed second, being just beaten by the Wiltshire Regiment. Our team was a good one and put in many hours of hard work but we felt rewarded by coming in second out of eleven Major Units.

Four members of the team were chosen to train for the Army against the R.A.F. on the 18th February. Cpl Tobin, L.-Cpl Godsell, Rfn Barnard and Allum. Unfortunately both Cpl Tobin and L.-Cpl Godsell were unable to train for the team, but our two strongest runners did extremely well. Rfn Barnard came 8th and was first in the Army which was a great achievement. Rfn Allum did well in coming in 14th.

On the 28th February the All Island Championship takes place in Nicosia. This being the final race of the cross country season. We are entering three individuals—Rfn Barnard, Allum and Clifton. We have high hopes that they will do well.

RESULTS

Inter Company Race

1st	H.Q. 'A' Team	35 points
2nd	S.P. Coy	58 "
3rd	'C' Coy	61 "
4th	H.Q. Coy 'B' Team	71 "
5th	'A' Coy	125 "
6th	'B' Coy	160 "

Individuals

1st	Rfn Allum	19.58 secs
2nd	Rfn Barnard	20.15 "
3rd	Cpl Tobin	20.35 "
4th	Lieut. Elliott	20.42 "

Major Unit Championship

1st	The Wiltshire Regt	130 points
2nd	1st Green Jackets	183 "
3rd	37 Fd Engr Regt	229 "
Distance 5½ miles. Time 30 mins 2 secs.		

Regimental Team

Rfn Barnard	3rd
Rfn Allum	4th
Cpl Tobin	13th
L.-Cpl Godsell	15th
Lieut. Elliott	18th
Rfn Clifton	37th
L.-Cpl Budge	41st
Rfn Tubb	52nd
Rfn Simmons	63rd
Rfn Carpenter	75th

The Army v. R.A.F.

Rfn Barnard	8th
Rfn Allum	14th

CRICKET

It is unfortunate that the Regiment has not been able to play any cricket during the 1958 season. This was due to the very heavy Internal Security duties which we had to perform during the summer and which committed every Company. But we hopefully erected two nets in the camp which were used occasionally.

We look forward to two full seasons cricket when the Regiment is stationed at Warminster. This will be the first time we will have been able to enjoy the game on English wickets since the war.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The 1958-59 season started in early October when the temperature was around the 80° mark. An unofficial inter-Company Knock-out Competition was organised straight away to enable the selectors to pick a Regimental team to play in our first match in the Major Units League in the middle of the month. These games were naturally played with great keenness, but did not produce any exceptional players other than those whose ability was already known. In the final, SP Company defeated 'B' Company 3—1, and the selectors were faced with the problem of finding the best eleven players out of about thirty odd players, all of whom seemed about as good as each other, except for Corporal Lewis, 'C' Company, who was appointed Captain with L.-Cpl Curran as Vice-Captain.

We have had mixed success in the Major Units League in which matches are played each Saturday. The games we remember best were a 3—2 defeat of 45 Commandos, a 4—3 defeat of an R.A.F. team from G.H.Q. Episkopi, which was a real thriller, and our forwards showed great improvement by the introduction of Rfn Cox (SP) who had recently arrived from England and celebrated the occasion by scoring two great goals. The match against our next-door neighbours, 37 Field Engineer Regiment, was also full of excitement. The first half was rather tame and by half-time we were 4—2 down, but in the second half we were constantly on the attack and goals by Rfn Cox and Rfn Davidson gave us a well deserved draw. The following have been regular players in the Regimental team :

'A' Company: Cpl Carr.

'B' Company: L.-Cpl Hall, Rfn Davidson.

'C' Company: Cpl Lewis.

SP Company: Rfn Cox.

H.Q. Company: L.-Cpl Curran, Rfn Lawton, Wright, Harvey, Codling, Carter, Margetts, Beasley and Pte Lockett, R.A.O.C.

Companies were grouped to a strength of about one hundred and sixty for the Limassol area Minor Units League and the Limassol/Episkopi Minor Units Knock-out Competition. Headquarter Company had the best record in both these competitions, finishing third in the league and were narrowly defeated in the semi-final of the Knock-out Competition, after successfully defeating a much stronger R.A.S.C. team in the previous round. L.-Cpl Curran deserves great praise for his consistent play and leadership in these matches.



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The highlight of the season, as in England, is the Island Cup. We reached the semi-final of the South Western area by defeating the Durham Light Infantry 3—1 on their ground, which was a very notable performance when one remembers that they won the Army Cup only a few years ago. The game was played in glorious weather and despite our I.S. duties some hundred and twenty supporters travelled about forty odd miles to watch the game. As might be expected there was never a dull moment. Rfn Codling opened the scoring after about ten minutes and at half-time the Regiment were leading 2—0, the second goal being scored by Rfn Cox. This was a useful lead, but it was our turn to play against a strong wind in the second half and excitement reached fever pitch when the Durhams made it 2—1 soon after play was restarted, and the Regiment were almost constantly on the defensive until the Durhams were awarded a penalty kick which they missed. This seemed to make them lose heart and in the closing stages of the game Pte Lockley put the result beyond doubt by adding another goal. The full team played splendidly and great credit is due to the defence for holding out in the second half. Rfn Codling unfortunately broke a bone in his arm in this game and has been very much missed as he is a fine example of a hard working inside-forward. The semi-final match against 42 Survey Regiment was a real tragedy. The Regiment never seemed to get going and missed many chances before being beaten 3—1 in a game which they should have won comparatively easily on earlier form.

Several players with good reputations and obvious ability are now arriving from Cowley, and the prospects for next season are very good. We also have a considerable number of qualified referees who have regularly helped to make our season both happy and enjoyable, even though we shall not be bringing any trophies home. Corporals Currey and Jarvis from the Pay Staff have also been invaluable in ensuring that our administrative requirements have been cared for.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Rugby football is a sport far from popular in Cyprus as most pitches are made of earth, which are either rock hard in dry weather or deep mud after rain. Consequently there are few volunteers and seldom is a match played. However, the R.A.F. at Akrotiri, challenged us recently on their own ground and we gallantly accepted in spite of not having played as a team before. On inquiring, it was discovered that they had been practising since the beginning of November and had had several successes over their numerous opponents. We were soundly thrashed which was not a great surprise.

At the time of writing there is another fixture against 37 Field Engineer Regiment and the Group IV Seven-a-Side Tournament which we won last year has yet to be contested.

HOCKEY

We have had rather a mixed season both from the playing and ground angles. For the first three months we played the bulk of our games on the square whose tarmac surface had been broken up by the ravages of the ammunition boot and the rain. This 'sporting' surface appeared to suit our methods—and particularly those of Major Mitchell—and we lost only one match on it. However the Square since early January has been in the hands of the D.C.R.E., so that we have been homeless. Fortunately there is an excellent tarmac ground at Episkopi, some fifteen miles away, which we use now from time to time, and we had a number of most enjoyable games on it, losing as many times as we have won. Perhaps our best game was against the Durham Light Infantry when we won 1—0 after a hard, clean game in which it was a pleasure to play.

In the local area League, we have rather fallen from grace. At the end of 1958, we were top of it, but unfortunately we then lost Captain Balls and Sjt Lawless on posting to U.K. and two of the teams in the league—I. 'A' and S.H. and 45 Commando R.M.—whom we had beaten, withdrew from it, thus losing us four hard-won points. We now stand about the midway mark.

In the Cyprus inter-Unit Knock-out Competition, we beat 37 Field Engineer Regiment 4—0 in the first round and are about to play 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment in the next.

Lieut. Pascoe and the Bandmaster both played in the Cyprus final Army trials and Lieut. Pascoe would have been picked to go on tour with the Army team, had not operations or the lure of Beirut (the writer is not sure which) prevented him.

A number of inter-Company games were played before Christmas and an inter-Company/Squadron competition was started. We hope to finish it when the newly-surfaced square becomes available again next week, and at the same time to find some younger players for next season's team.

The present Regimental team is:

Rfn Meanwell H.Q. (goal); L.-Cpl Windeat H.Q. and Major (Q.M.) Cox (backs); Cpl Warwick (H.Q., Major Gerahty 'A' (Capt.), W.O. I Kenny H.Q. (halves); Lieut.-Col. Martin, M.B.E., Lieut. Pascoe S.P., Capt. Cracknell H.Q., Lieut. Elliot S.P. and Cpl Cowan H.Q. (forwards).

Results up to 15th February 1959.

v. 37 Fd Engr Regt R.E.	Won	3—1
v. 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regt	Lost	0—1
v. 42 Survey Engr Regt	Lost	2—3
v. I. 'A' and S.H.	Won	3—0
v. R.A.F., Akrotiri	Won	1—0
v. 45 R.M. Cmdo	Won	2—1
v. R.A.F., Akrotiri	Won	2—1
v. 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regt	Drawn	2—2
v. R.A.F. Episkopi	Lost	2—4
v. 37 Fd Engr Regt	Won	4—0
v. C.R.E. Episkopi	Lost	0—1
v. I D.L.I.	Won	1—0
v. R.A.F. Akrotiri	Lost	2—3
v. 42 Survey Engr Regt	Lost	1—4
v. G.H.Q. Group	Drawn	1—1

BOXING

Last year when the inter-Company Boxing Competition was held it was not possible to include an individual competition. This year, however, the two were combined. This produced a number of problems but these were overcome and each of the five Companies eventually entered a team of eleven. The competition started on the 27th January.

The standard of boxing was, surprisingly, much higher in the preliminaries and in the semi-finals than in the finals. This may be accounted for by the fact there had been little time for training, and all contestants had a number of preliminary fights, and became progressively more tired as time went on.

In the preliminaries Cpl Brooks (S.P.) boxed Rfn Dellar (C) and won the Lightweight class after a good fight, the referee congratulating both boxers, unfortunately Cpl Brooks injured a muscle in his arm during this fight and had to withdraw from the remainder of the competition. In the Light-Welter Weights C.-Cpl Corbett (A) showed himself to be a clever boxer with a good punch and he beat Cpl Catlin (S.P.). Cpl Dallimore (C) beat Rfn Wright (H.Q.) in the Light-Middle Weights in a bout, which although exciting, was more remarkable for its courage and determination than its skill. Another good fight was between Cpl Rowe (S.P.) and Rfn Carpenter (C) in the Heavyweights, when Carpenter, a less experienced boxer, won by his capacity to take punishment and his ability to return it with even greater interest.

The next day, 28th January, the Semi-finals began. Boxers now began to score points for their Companies, whereas in the preliminaries winners had merely qualified for the Semi-finals. There were two sessions, one in the afternoon and another in the evening. The best boxing of the whole Championships was without doubt in the afternoon. In the first string Light Welter Weight class L.-Cpl Corbett beat Rfn Shorter (C) in a very close hard-hitting fight. Unfortunately the former was unable to compete further in the competition because of a rib injury. The Referee congratulated second string Welters, Rfn King (H.Q.) and Rfn Nash (S.P.), on a close fight which Nash won. In the Middleweights L/Cpl Joseph showed that he could hit hard and tirelessly when he beat L.-Cpl Mills, the referee stopping the fight. One of the best fights of the competition was the Light Heavyweight bout when Rfn Wyatt (B) was narrowly beaten by Rfn Harris (H.Q.), both of them experienced boxers, who now have a place in the Regimental team. In the Heavyweights Rfn Carpenter fought the only officer to enter the competition, 2nd Lieut. P. G. Costley-White. The referee stopped the fight and Carpenter won. Both boxers took a tremendous amount of punishment, but Carpenter's blows found their mark a split second before his opponent's. In the last fight of the afternoon L.-Cpl Cox (A) beat Rfn Dorricott (C), they were both very evenly matched in skill and ringcraft but L.-Cpl Cox got in a very good punch at the beginning of the bout and the referee stopped the fight.

During the evening of the 28th February, the boxing was not very spectacular with the exceptions of the fights between Rfn Glewis (A) and Rfn Moody (B), and Rfn Wagerfield (S.P.) and Rfn Jenkins (C). In the first of these bouts, Glewis, a boxer who has had considerable experience before joining the Army, beat Moody who had never fought in a competition before. This fight earned both boxers the referee's congratulations and

Moody proved himself to be a natural boxer. In the second contest Wagerfield, who was three inches shorter than his opponent, won by going in and hitting hard and often.

In the Finals, Company scores stood as follows: 'B', 'C' and S.P. Companies 14 points. H.Q. Company 11, and 'A' Company 9 points. The first two fights were uninteresting with 'B' Company gaining a 3 point lead over S.P. Company.

Second string Welter, L.-Cpl Budge (C) already very fit from Cross Country running beat Rfn Nash (S.P.), a good fight which earned the referee's congratulations. In the Finals of the Middleweight Class L.-Cpl Joseph (C) beat Rfn Waine (S.P.). The Light Heavyweight fight of Rfn Harris (H.Q.) against Rfn Wagerfield (S.P.) was a classic example of a boxer against a fighter; the boxer, Harris, won. Rfn Carpenter beat L.-Cpl Bentley (H.Q.) in an excellent, hard, straight, and most exhausting fight, and this meant that Letter 'C' Company were assured of winning the Cup. They scored 22 points. Letter 'B' Company tied with S.P. Company for second place with a score of 21 points. H.Q. Company scored 16 points and Letter 'A' Company 14.

No time was lost after the Company boxing in choosing a Regimental boxing team, and we met our old friends, 37 Field Engineer Regiment, in the first round of the Cyprus inter-Unit Championships in our dining hall on 10th February. On the whole, the Sappers were stronger and more experienced boxers than we were, and we were fortunate to win the match, for out of the eleven fights we only had one straight win. The other winning fights being either from disqualifications or accidental injury to our opponents, when the referee was forced to stop the fight. It was therefore an unsatisfying evening's boxing to watch. The feather and bantamweight fights were both uneventful, though Rfn Drummond was only just beaten on points. Rfn Glewis in the Lightweight bout met a stronger and more experienced boxer than himself. It would be true to say that had it not been for a series of foul blows from his opponent, who was disqualified, he would have certainly lost his fight. As the first string Light Welter, Rfn Moody again acquitted himself well. Although he was hit hard by a more powerful boxer, he kept coming back, giving and receiving punishment. His opponent was disqualified. An interesting fight was the second string Welter bout. Rfn Dorricott fought very well and coolly, and many people in the audience were surprised to hear that he had lost.

After the interval Rfn Davidson fought Spr Rembridge—Light Welter second string. This fight from the short time it was in progress looked promising with both boxers going hard and cleanly, but the Sapper fell, twisting his ankle and the fight was stopped. L.-Cpl Joseph, who had won the Regimental Middleweight, represented the Regiment as a Light Middle. His fight was a close one, but he was not quite quick enough for Cpl Pickering. His chief fault at the moment is that he will not defend himself, and in this fight he took a lot of unnecessary punishment from blows to the body. Rfn Wyatt fought Serjeant Aitkin in the Middleweight. The Serjeant was a much older and slightly more experienced boxer, who was inclined to hit wildly. Wyatt, despite his tendency to hold had the advantage in the first two rounds, and proved his superior fitness in the last round by flooring his opponent several times, until the referee stopped the fight in his favour. Rfn Harris had the misfortune to be partially stunned in the

early part of his Light Heavyweight fight against L.-Cpl Greenhan, and the referee stopped the fight. Rfn Boddy's opponent in the Heavyweight bout was rumoured to have been a Harringay All-in Wrestling Champion. He was disqualified in the first round for persistently hitting low. The only fight where the referee congratulated both boxers was the last, this was the first string Welter contest. L.-Cpl Cox and Sapper Mews fought a fast, clean fight, which the latter won. The Regiment won the match, scoring 16 points as against the 14 points scored by 37 Field Engineer Regiment.

On the 24th February the Regiment met 40 Commando R.M. who entered the Championships very late, having only just arrived from Malta. This provided an excellent evening's boxing and there was a noticeable change in the standard of boxing by the Regimental team.

40 Commando, Royal Marines started with a disadvantage by not being able to produce two Light Welters, so the Regiment had a four point lead when the match started. In the first fight of the evening, Bantamweight, Cpl Nicholls had a hard fight with Mne Thompson, who looked like winning but was disqualified. Cpl Brooks, Featherweight, who had sweated off 9½ lbs in five hours, fought hard with Mne Rigg. He was knocked out by a blow to the side of the head. Rfn Glewis again showed his skill as a Lightweight. He boxed brilliantly against Mne Austin who, although he was outclassed, fought back valiantly. Glewis did not put a foot wrong and won amid tremendous applause with a knock-out.

It was difficult to imagine why the Marines did not choose Mne Steel to be their first string Welter. In a special bout, he quickly knocked out L.-Cpl Cox. Rfn Dorricott boxed next as the second string Welter. His main fault at the moment is that he tends to swing wildly and after a hard close fight Mne Bullen eventually knocked him out. In another special bout Cpl Jones was knocked out by Mne Davies.

Rfn Margetts, who had to lose 6½ lbs to box Light Middleweight beat Mne Kanlett. His boxing has improved enormously since last year, but he must still learn to follow up an advantage. In the Middleweight bout, Rfn Wyatt came out fighting and he easily knocked out Mne Potter. Rfn Harris then fought the Light Heavyweight bout against Mne Walker. He began his fight a little cautiously, but he went from strength to strength as the fight progressed and he eventually knocked out his opponent after he had floored him several times.

L.-Cpl Boddy in his Heavyweight bout boxed like a flyweight and in a scurry of pulverising blows knocked out Mne Black in seconds. The last fight of the evening was the first string Welter contest. In the first round Rfn Davidson, who was in complete command of the situation, demonstrated a text-book left to the body, right hook to the jaw and knocked his opponent out. The final score was 43rd and 52nd 20 points, 40 R.M. Commando 10.

Unfortunately, because of deep snow, no spectators from 40 Commando were able to watch and encourage their team but one of them very nicely asked the writer to thank 'The Green Jackets for cheering for us as well!' They deserved it. Although they lost, they were a very sportsmanlike team, and the Regiment showed its appreciation.

We now go forward to the Island Semi-final against the Royal Welsh Fusiliers which we have high hopes of winning.

Results of Combined Individual and Inter-Company Boxing Championships—Year 1959

<i>Bantam</i>	Cpl Nicholls (B)
<i>Feather</i>	Rfn Drummond (B)
<i>Light Weight</i>	Rfn Glewis (A)
<i>Light Welter (1)</i>	Rfn Davidson (B)
<i>Light Welter (2)</i>	Rfn Cleaver (C)
<i>Welter (2)</i>	L.-Cpl Budge (C)
<i>Light Middle</i>	Rfn Davies (S.P.)
<i>Middle</i>	L.-Cpl Joseph (C)
<i>Light Heavy</i>	Rfn Harris (H.Q.)
<i>Heavy</i>	Rfn Carpenter (C)
<i>Welter (1)</i>	L.-Cpl Cox (A)

FINAL SCORE

Letter 'C' Company	22 points
Letter 'B' Company	21 "
Letter 'Sp' Company	21 "
Headquarter Company	16 "
Letter 'A' Company	14 "

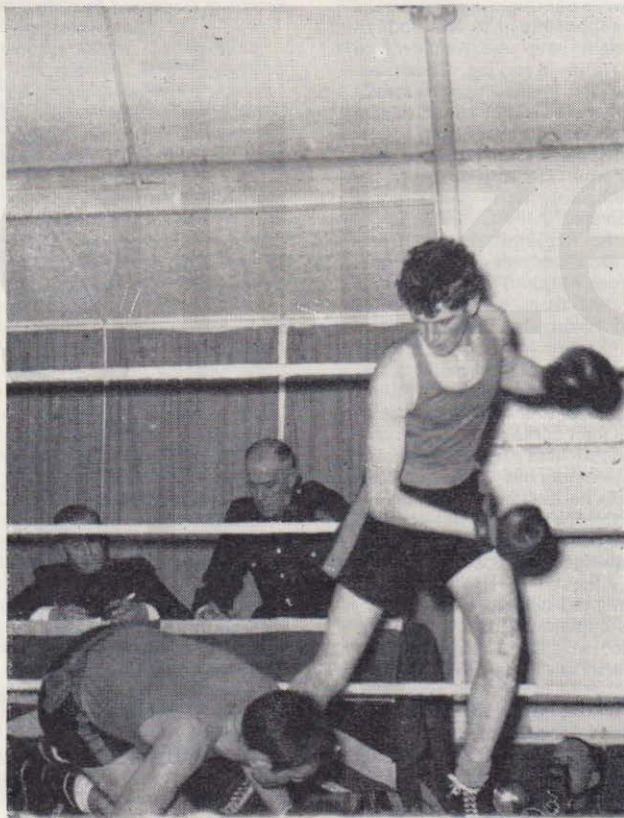
Results of the Regiment v. 37 Field Engineer Regiment

10th February 1959

1st Green Jackets 43rd & 52nd	37 Fld Engr Regt
<i>Bantam</i>	
Cpl Nicholls (B)	lost to Spr Chute
<i>Feather</i>	
Rfn Drummond (B)	lost to Spr Edge
<i>Light</i>	
Rfn Glewis (A)	beat L.Cpl Evans (disqualified)
<i>Light Welter (1)</i>	
Rfn Moody (B)	beat Spr Wareham (disqualified)
<i>Welter (2)</i>	
Rfn Dorricott (C)	lost to Spr Whitfield
<i>Light Welter (2)</i>	
Rfn Davidson (B)	beat Spr Rembridge (Ref. stopped fight)
<i>Light Middle</i>	
L.-Cpl Joseph (C)	lost to Cpl Pickering
<i>Middle</i>	
Rfn Wyatt (B)	beat Sgt Aitken
<i>Light Heavy</i>	
Rfn Harris (H.Q.)	lost to L.-Cpl Greenham
<i>Heavy</i>	
Rfn Boddy (H.Q.)	beat Spr Harris (disqualified)
<i>Welter</i>	
L.-Cpl Cox (A)	lost to Spr Mews

FINAL SCORE

The Regiment	16
37 Fld Engr Regt	14



BOXING—43RD AND 52ND v. 37 FD ENGR REGIMENT
Rfn Dorricott (C) puts Spr Whitfield on the floor.

Result of the Regiment v. 40 Commando Royal Marine

24th February 1959

1st Green Jackets 43rd & 52nd 40 Cmdo R.M.

Bantam

Cpl Nicholls beat Mne Thompson
(disqualified)

Feather

Cpl Brooks lost to Mne Rigg

Light

Rfn Glewis beat Mne Austin (K.O.)

Light Welter (1)

Rfn Slaymaker Walk Over

Welter (2)

Rfn Dorricott lost to Mne Bullen (K.O.)

Light Welter (2)

Rfn Mead Walk Over

X

Light Middle

Rfn Margetts beat Mne Kanlett

Middle

Rfn Wyatt beat Mne Potter (K.O.)

Light Heavy

Rfn Harris beat Mne Walker (K.O.)

Heavy

L.-Cpl Boddy beat Mne Black (K.O.)

Welter (1)

Rfn Davidson beat Mne Cudbertson
(K.O.)

FINAL SCORE

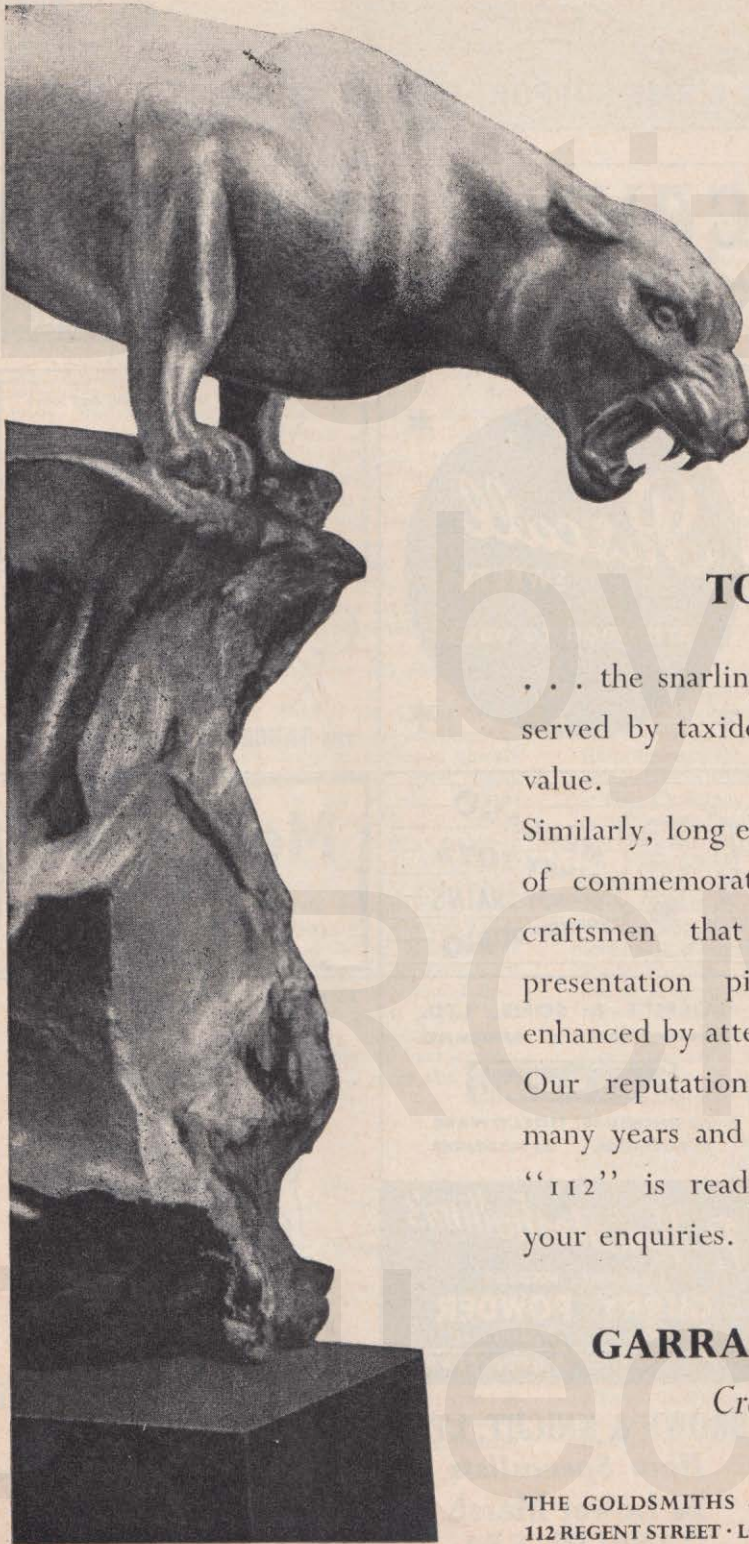
The Regiment 20
40 Cmdo R.M. 10

SQUASH

This year quite a lot of squash has been played very enthusiastically, if not very skilfully, by a small band of players. The main obstacle to an improved standard and a larger number of players has been the difficulty of getting transport down to the courts at Berengaria. However a squash ladder has been started in the Officers' Mess and the struggle to reach the top is keen. In fact a certain officer, who shall be nameless, was heard complaining bitterly in the Mess that his opponent, who shall also be nameless, had even gone to the lengths of striking him with a racket in his efforts to attain the



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coveted position at the top of the ladder. On the more serious side, we have played our first round match against G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., in the Western Area Major Units Championships, and a match was played against the R.A.F. Headquarters at Episkopi. But the less said about these the better since both teams swept the board with us. Our team, for both these matches, was :

2nd Lieut. A. J. Davies, Lieut. T. M. Hartley, Major P. E. Gerahty, Lieut. I. G. Elliott, Captain W. M. Cracknell.

The first two strings of the team have played for the Western Area team.

SWIMMING

As always, in the hot Cyprus summer, swimming was extremely popular. Unfortunately, this year, owing to the Internal Security situation, the opportunities for swimming have been rather more limited than in past years. However, a large number of soldiers managed to get down to the guarded beach at Ladies Mile on afternoons when they were not engaged on operational or regimental duties. Coaching facilities were almost non-existent owing to the fact that in the circumstances it was impossible to fix up a training programme that stood any chance of being adhered to. In spite of this, a large percentage of the Regiment have succeeded in passing the swimming test, which out here is allowed to count towards star classification. For reasons outlined above we could not hold any Regimental swimming sports this year, and attempts to raise a water polo team were unsuccessful although we did play one or two matches.

At the beginning of the summer the Under Water Fishing Club had a large and enthusiastic membership. This sport, which was a new one to most people, quickly became very popular, and the members spent many happy Sundays fishing in the sea off the Akrotiri peninsula, during expeditions organised by the Club.

Owing to other commitments of a more pressing nature it was impossible to continue these expeditions during the latter half of the summer, and it was decided that members of the Club should be allowed to draw out equipment from the stores for their own use whenever they were able to get down to the sea. Many people took advantage of this and managed to do quite a lot of fishing. The Club now has a large selection of first-rate equipment, including harpoon guns, masks and flippers. We do not as yet have any aqua-lungs, owing to lack of funds. However we shall start off next summer well equipped and we hope to have a large and active membership.

FENCING

Up till now there has been little interest taken in fencing in the Regiment. However instruction is being given on two nights a week, and it is hoped that a team will be sent to the Island Fencing Championships which take place in April.

PENTATHLON

It was probably not the thought of taking part in all five sports that attracted considerable interest in Pentathlon this year, but rather the Motor Cycle Scrambling Event which aroused people's enthusiasm. Despite

this, those who are sufficiently interested and who are proficient enough, are being trained for the Cyprus Pentathlon Championships which will take place in May. The sports involved are: running, fencing, pistol shooting, swimming, and cross-country riding (horse or motor cycle).

4TH BATTALION

'RECRUITING.' The word is seldom off our lips. We discuss it at all conferences, it was the main theme for after dinner speeches at the Company Christmas dinners, and features prominently in our account books. At least we are able to report that our labours are bearing fruit and our returns for February show a net gain of 14 Other Ranks, bringing the total strength of All Ranks to 242. Sjt Sperry and Cpl Johnston of H.Q. Company have been most successful with the 'personal' approach method and the other Companies are beginning to follow suit.

The training year ended with a successful Amphibious Patrol Exercise 'MARINE COURT' in the Poole area at the end of October. The fighting patrols commanded by Major Long and Major Battley were landed by the Royal Marines at night on an enemy held island, captured their objectives and returned to base in time for a well earned breakfast at Poole.

On Saturday, 8th November, the Colonel of the Regiment unveiled a Memorial to all Territorial Volunteers of the Regiment who lost their lives in the 1939-45 War. The Memorial is a replica of the one in memory of members of the 1/4th and 2/4th Battalions and hangs opposite to it at the entrance to the Drill Hall. The following day the Battalion was represented at the Remembrance Day Parade Services at St Giles and Rose Hill, wreaths being laid on both Memorials.

The Christmas Social events followed their usual pattern. Mixed parties were given by the Rifle Companies and Serjeants Mess, but a 'men only' dinner by the City Companies. The Children's Parties were most appreciated and we were all delighted that the Band ventured forth to play Carols at the T.A. Club Social.

Five Officers, including the Commanding Officer and Second in Command, attended the Annual Divisional Study Exercise 'Dragon's Teeth' at Taunton at the end of January and all enjoyed the 43rd (Wx) Division Dinner which followed it.

In February, despite the ravages of influenza, we had a most successful and well attended Regimental Training week-end at Oxford. The Officers and Senior N.C.O.s studied Nuclear Warfare, while a comprehensive individual training programme was prepared for the remainder. On the Saturday evening a Cocktail Party followed by a Cold Buffet Supper was held in the Officer's Mess and an All Ranks Dance took place in the Drill Hall itself and proved most popular.

Several changes have taken place in the Permanent Staff. Major G. N. A. Astley-Cooper took over the job of Training Major/Adjutant temporarily from Major P. K. Everett in November when the latter left for Australia. Now Major E. R. R. Hicks has arrived and the job changes hands once again. Sjt Flannery, our able M.T. Serjeant, leaves for the Hong Kong Police in April and L.-Cpl Ward from Cyprus steps into his shoes. Several officers including John Pattison, John Taylor, Mark Birchall and Mike Pearce have left us for business reasons. At the moment we have several vacancies for

officers, but they are gradually being filled mostly by officers living in the two counties. Our readers will be sad to hear that Company Serjeant-Major Plant has at long last been 'struck off strength' after many years of faithful service to the Regiment.

Our programme for the immediate future appears to be very full. We have had a warning order to find a Royal Guard of Honour early in April, a great honour for the Battalion. The Divisional Rifle Meeting is also in April, and practice on Otmoor Range has already started. Our team of Nijmegen Marchers are extremely keen and have already done two ten mile training gallops. The M.T. run a driving cadre each Sunday and the motor cyclists are preparing to enter various trials. The Band have several engagements for the summer and we hope that they will lead the Battalion on a Church Parade in June which the Mayor is attending.

Camp is at Castle Martin in Pembrokeshire from 4th to 18th July and from all reports the training facilities are excellent.

In the next issue of the JOURNAL we hope to give details of the change of name of the Battalion and the alterations of dress, resulting from the Regiment joining the Green Jackets Brigade. These changes are under discussion at the time of writing.

THE INAUGURATION PARADE OF THE NEW GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE

A parade was held at the Green Jackets Depot, Winchester on the 6th November 1958, to inaugurate the new Brigade cap badge and the assumption of the new Regimental titles.

H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel in Chief of the Rifle Brigade, inspected the parade, and he was accompanied by the Colonels Commandant of the three Regiments. Nine platoons of recruits from the Depots at Winchester and Cowley took part in the parade. The contingent from Cowley barracks was organised into two platoons, with a total strength of seventy men, and was under the command of Major J. F. Ballard.

At this parade the new Brigade cap badge was worn for the first time, and spectators saw the new drill evolved for the Green Jackets Brigade. In general this follows rifle drill lines but all movements start and finish at the 'at ease' position, and all marching is done with rifles at the shoulder, the carry being used at the double.

After inspecting the parade His Royal Highness presented a number of awards to the recruits who had finished their training that day. He then addressed the riflemen on parade and expressed himself pleased with their turn out and steadiness, he also stressed the fact that the Rifle Brigade and the 43rd and 52nd had a common ancestor in Sir John Moore and all three Regiments had a record of distinguished services in the Peninsula War. He also said that from now on, all recruits would do their training at Winchester which would mean a sad break for the 43rd and 52nd with their old home in Cowley, but they would receive a warm welcome at Winchester. The parade then marched past in quick and double times.

Between six and seven hundred spectators watched the parade amongst whom were the Lords Lieutenant of Hampshire and Buckinghamshire, the Mayors of Winchester, Aylesbury and Banbury, and the Deputy Mayor of Oxford; the Mayor having died two days previously.

A coach party of old comrades from Oxford attended the parade and the following officers of the Regiment were present :

Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Major General K. Bayley, C.B., C.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel W. A. R. Ames, O.B.E., Colonel P. Booth, Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L. Bright, Major W. S. C. Chevis, Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., Lieut.-Colonel D. C. Colvill, D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., Colonel R. H. Doyne, Major I. R. C. Greenless, Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Luard, D.S.O., O.B.E., Major J. L. Portal, D.S.O., Brigadier J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., Major P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D., Major J. M. A. Tillet, Lieut.-Colonel C. L. C. Ward, Major G. J. F. White, M.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Whitfield, M.C.

ROLL OF OFFICERS

Battalion Headquarters

Lieut.-Colonel D. H. Morris, T.D.
Major G. Montague-Jones
Major E. R. R. Hicks
Captain J. A. Rowlatt
Major H. N. Smith, M.C., R.A.M.C.
Captain B. Cox (Q.M.)

Headquarter Company

Major R. F. Barnes, T.D.
Captain K. H. Lander
Lieut. M. D. Birchall
Lieut. J. Daniel
Lieut. R. C. Mitchinson
Lieut. M. Bawtree (N.S.)

Support Company

Major J. R. Hollis
Captain A. C. Simpson
Captain A. E. Smith, T.D.
Lieut. C. A. Pasternak
Lieut. R. A. S. Melliush
Lieut. M. A. F. Stanford (N.S.)
Lieut. N. Pullen (N.S.)

'A' Company

Major H. A. R. Long
Captain D. R. Micklethorn
Lieut. J. C. Adnitt
Lieut. G. P. Blaker
Lieut. J. H. Stallworthy (N.S.)
Lieut. D. C. Dickinson (N.S.)
Lieut. A. H. Thornton (N.S.)

'B' Company

Major R. A. Colvile
Captain P. J. Robinson
Lieut. M. R. Radcliffe
Lieut. M. St E. Burton
Lieut. E. P. Coulman (N.S.)
Lieut. I. S. T. Senior (N.S.)

'C' Company

Major R. W. Battley
Lieut. J. C. Gardner
Lieut. P. A. Raymond-Barker

'D' Company

Major E. Riddell-Smith
Captain J. P. Raison
Lieut. T. Clarke
Lieut. R. V. R. Sale
Lieut. O. R. W. Wynne
Lieut. M. J. R. Miller (N.S.)
Lieut. C. K. Patey (N.S.)
Lieut. H. I. Sutherland (N.S.)



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H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER INSPECTING THE PARADE AT WINCHESTER

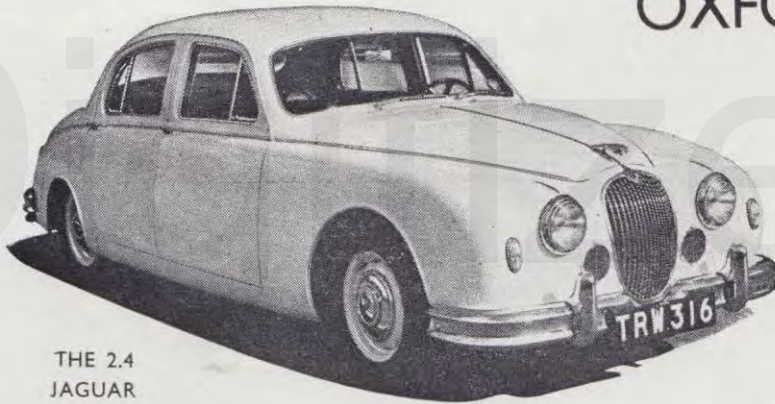
Collection



PARADE AT GREEN JACKETS DEPOT, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1958 (Photo by E. A. Sollars, Winchester)

Left to Right: Lieut.-General Sir Euan Miller, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Field-Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C.(P), General Sir Montagu Stopford, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major-General Sir John Winterton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.B.E., General Sir Francis Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.

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CHURN CAMP 1909

S. J. Butler, H. J. Heavens, Sjt East (4898), L/C Lee, Sjt Beare (6109), Sjt Challen (4826)

Obituary

MR STEPHEN J. BUTLER died at his home, 1 Northcote Avenue, Isleworth, on the 19th September 1958, aged 72. As Regimental No. OX/7592 he enlisted for the Regiment in 1904, and served with the 52nd only. Unfortunately the full particulars of his Regimental service are not forthcoming, but many will remember him as a first-class signaller, who often acted as an assistant instructor, and as a prominent member of the 52nd football team which won the Aldershot Senior Cup before the 1914-18 War.

In civilian life he was a trolley bus driver at Hounslow, until he retired at the age of 65. In the 1939-45 War he was a serjeant in the 45th Bn London Home Guard (K.R.R.C.). R.C.

MR BERTIE DAVID COYNE died suddenly at his home at Cowley, on the 9th November 1958, aged 70 years. Late Army number 5373300, he enlisted for the Regiment on 15th September 1914, and served in France in 1915, and then with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from late 1915 to 1919 in Service Battalions. He re-enlisted for the post-war Army while serving at Salonika on 30th March 1919, and joined the 52nd at home. As a platoon serjeant he served with 'B' Company at Cork and Lichfield, and he accompanied the Regiment to India in March, 1922.

Transferred to the home establishment in December 1928, he was discharged to pension on 6th March 1938, in the rank of Colour-Serjeant (C./Qr-Mr-Serjeant); being then in possession of the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. The funeral service took place at Oxford Crematorium,

on 13th November 1958, the Regiment being represented by Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M.

Mr Coyne was a quiet, kindly man, with a high sense of duty and a very 52nd-like approach to any difficulty which confronted him. He will be remembered with respect and admiration by those who served with him. R.C.

HENRY GEORGE RICHARDS, M.M., formerly OX/9349 died at St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight, on 7th June 1958, aged 66 years. He enlisted in the Regiment in 1910 and in 1913 was posted to the 43rd in India. He proceeded to Mesopotamia with the Regiment but was invalided home and posted to the 1/4th Battalion in Italy where he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in action on 15th June 1918. He was discharged to pension in the rank of Serjeant in 1931.

Medals: Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, B.W. and Victory Medals.

IN-PENSIONER JESSE WALTERS died at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on the 22nd February 1959, after a short illness, aged 81 years. The funeral took place at Brookwood Cemetery on the following Friday and a wreath was sent from the Regiment.

Walters enlisted in the Regiment at Oxford on the 8th April 1896, OX/5224, and was drafted to India during the trooping season 1896-97 to join the 52nd. He took part in the operations on the N.W. Frontier, receiving the medal with clasp, Punjab Frontier 1897-98. He returned to England with the Regiment in November 1903, but went back to India in 1909 on posting to the 43rd. In 1914 he proceeded with the Regiment to

Mesopotamia but the record of his service during the war is not available. In March 1919, he was discharged to pension after serving for 23 years. He entered the Royal Hospital on the 18th July 1950 and was very happy there and was often heard to say that if he were left a fortune he would never leave the Royal Hospital. He regularly spent a week at the Depot at Cricket Week and for the Old Comrades' reunion. He was universally liked and his turnout at all times was what one would expect of a good old soldier—perfect in every detail.

In his prime Walters was a fine upstanding man but in later years he suffered with arthritis which so affected his spine that he became very bent, but this disability did not affect his outlook on life and he always was cheerful and very good company. His death was caused by the recent influenza epidemic.

Medals: India General Service Medal with Clasp, Punjab Frontier 1897-98, 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Old Comrades

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1958

The Service at the Regimental War Memorial, Rose Hill, Oxford, on Sunday, 9th November, was taken by the Rev. A. G. Whye, Vicar of Cowley. The Colonel of the Regiment read the Lesson and volunteers from the Morris Motors Band provided the music for the Service. There was a good attendance of Old Comrades and the general public.

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1958

The combined ceremony for all Regiments of the Light Infantry Brigade and the Highland Light Infantry took place at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, 8th November. Lieut.-General Sir Harold Redman, K.C.B., C.B.E., Colonel of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, unveiled the Light Infantry Cross as Field Marshal The Lord Harding, who is the representative Colonel of the Light Infantry Brigade, was unable to be present.

Mr W. Fisher planted the Regimental Crosses and also planted fifty-eight small crosses on behalf of relatives who were unable to attend the ceremony.

CRICKET WEEK, 1958

There was a good attendance of Old Comrades at the Regimental 'At Home' in Cricket Week on Saturday, 12th July. Teas were provided for about 120 members and their families.

REUNIONS, 1958

The London Reunion took place at the Headquarters of the 21st S.A.S. Regiment (Artists) T.A., Dukes Road, Euston, W.C.1, on Saturday, 11th November, when 106 members were present. We were pleased to have with us the Colonel of the Regiment and the following past and present officers: Brigadier P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., Colonel P. Booth, Lieut.-Colonels F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., J. B. Jarvis, Majors J. F. Ballard, E. K. Blyth, C. A. Brown, A. B. Hamilton, J. W. Meade, J. L. Naimaster, W. Older, M.M., and C. T. O'Neill, Esq., M.C. A most welcome guest was In-Pensioner Jesse Walters.

A small string orchestra from the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) played during the evening and, as always, their playing was greatly appreciated.

The Colonel of the Regiment in a short speech gave an account of the activities of the Regiment in Cyprus.

A coach party with the Hon. Secretary, Mr Martin, in charge travelled up from Oxford and another coach

party came from Amersham and district under arrangements made by Mr A. W. Hazell, who unfortunately was unable to attend owing to illness.

The Oxford Reunion was held in the Gymnasium at Cowley Barracks on Saturday, 8th November. Just over 300 were present, which is almost the same number that attended last year; seventy-one were provided with accommodation for the night and given breakfast the next morning. The Annual General Meeting was held immediately before the Reunion at which Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare, the Vice-Chairman of the Association, presided.

Officers present at the Reunion were the Colonel of the Regiment, who addressed the gathering, Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Colonel P. Booth, Lieut.-Colonels F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., D. H. Morris, T.D., W. A. Ramsay, E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., Majors G. N. A. Astley-Cooper, F. J. Ballard, W. J. Bowen, F. J. Connell, P. K. Everett, C. T. Moody, R. H. L. Philpin, J. R. Ruck-Keene, P. J. P. Somers, E. Smith, D. C. Taylor. Captains B. Dudley, H. D. Fabian-Barter, M.C., H. Piper, C. St C. Simmons. J. A. D. Lord, Esq., F. J. B. Taylor, Esq., and C. E. W. Jones, Esq. We were also pleased to welcome Major A. B. Dudley, Royal Artillery, the son of Captain B. Dudley who served for many years in the Regiment.

THE SOUTH BUCKS AREA OLD COMRADES 'GET-TOGETHER' ASSOCIATION

DEAR EDITOR,

We were able to send a good representative party of our Group to the London Reunion and arrived there in remarkably good time considering the frantic directions given to the driver of the coach by one of our members. The welcome given to us by Lieut.-Colonel Crosse, D.S.O., and many other Officers of the Regiment gave us all great pleasure; together with the fine playing of the Band and the excellent repast provided, made our visit very enjoyable.

The final meeting of the Old Comrades' Association at Cowley Barracks was very well supported. A coach load of the Group made an excellent event of the occasion by entertaining themselves to a high tea at Ifley before going on to the Reunion and so we were very well fortified to meet the long evening that was before us. A number of other members travelled to the Reunion under their own arrangements.



OLD COMRADES' REUNION, OXFORD, 8TH NOVEMBER, 1958

(Members of 2nd Bucks Bn. who attended)

This year we were fortunate in having a representative in Mr B. D. Heath at the Light Infantry Brigade Service at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. We hope Mr Heath will describe the ceremony during one of our meetings.

The cold frosty winter rather froze the Annual Meeting held at High Wycombe in January, however, a party assembled from the neighbouring towns and with the aid of two good fires and liquid refreshment we got down to business. The Chairman welcomed all who had braved the elements, the Acting Secretary made his report and the Treasurer told us how much he had spent and how much he had left to spend. The absence of many of the regular stalwarts owing to illness was of course very noticeable; our Secretary, Mr A. W. Hazell, being one and we missed his driving and guiding hand during our discussions. A number of members sent apologies for being absent through illness but of course they couldn't help that. It is hoped that they will be able to attend our next meeting.

It was very nice to see at our meeting Lieut.-Colonel D. H. Morris, T.D., of the 4th Battalion, and we hope that he enjoyed the little game of Housey-Housey,

although the ladies were rather too skilful to allow many of the prizes to escape from falling into their hands.

The services of the Officers and the Committee must have proved very satisfactory during the past year as they were all re-elected to carry on again. The funds are fairly healthy and contributions are coming in, so if occasion requires it we can give a helping hand in any deserving case of hardship.

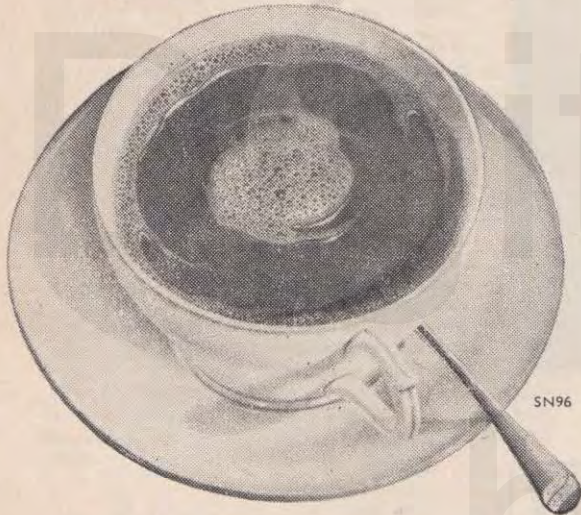
A little while ago we sent a telegram of good wishes to Mr Best who was in hospital. He is now back at home and in a fair way to recovery, but has to use crutches. We hear that Mr 'Tich' Sindle of Reading is in hospital. We hope he will soon be well again; perhaps a telegram will do the trick.

Many members who live in the Counties of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and who read the JOURNAL may like to know more of this 'Get-together' Association. Mr A. W. Hazell of 25 Whieldon Close, Amersham, is the Secretary and will be pleased to enroll anyone wishing to join and will give them all information regarding the Association.

Yours truly,

DAN REGAN.

good coffee



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2/4TH BATTALION (1914-19) OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION, 1958

More than eighty Old Comrades of the 2/4th Battalion and their guests attended the annual reunion dinner which for the first time was held in the new Territorial Drill Hall in Marston Road, Oxford.

Lieut.-Colonel R. F. Symonds, O.B.E., T.D., who proposed the toast of 'The Regiment', spoke of the great changes which were taking place in the Regiment on the entry of the First Battalion into the new Green Jackets Brigade. He spoke of the distress which was caused to him and many other people by the dropping of the Territorial designation and which, he pointed out, would mean an added responsibility for the Fourth Battalion who would be the unit to represent the Regiment as the old members knew it.

'I personally feel that we want to hold on still to our County affiliation', he added. 'We must remember that in two World Wars a large number of battalions were formed and that most of those who served with them came from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.'

Major P. K. Everett, the Adjutant and Training Major of the 4th Battalion, said that the reduction in the Regular Army enhanced the importance of the Territorial Army, the primary rôle of which was as a reserve to the Regular Army.

60 YEARS ON — OR 1898 TO 1958

(third instalment)

The wooden huts we occupied at the Curragh Camp were much out of date. We were not the only occupants as prolific families of rats were also in residence and very much in evidence.

There may still be a few old 43rd men who remember Donnelly's Hollow on the way to the River Liffey when we went for swimming lessons. We used to put our feet in the traditional footprints of the famous fighter Donnelly. You would need a size 24 shoe to fill up those footprints nowadays. Many will also remember Bandsman Mills at the Curragh, songster and clown, with his



RECRUIT 'A.J.D.' FEBRUARY 1898
(Why should England fear?)

performing dog, a welcome turn at the weekly concerts run by Padre Macpherson in the C.E. Institute long before radio or cinemas were thought of.

In September 1898 the 43rd moved by road to Mullingar, County West Meath. A three days march right through the Bog of Allen with heavy rain en route. A depressing journey with long straight roads, and little to see except the bog. As we marched the weight of the men all stepping together on the road made the water ooze up through the soddened spongy peat each side of the road. The music of the band and bugles alternately helped to relieve the monotony of the march. We were all glad to reach Mullingar and to get into dry clothes. On arrival most of us were busy drying and pipe claying our white buff equipment ready for parade next day. As the band were only due for practice next morning quite a few went out to see the town. Some of course soon found an inn. 'The Local' was not heard of then.

Mine host was a Mr O'Connell, who was asked what he thought of the band. O'Connell was reported as saying, 'Shure 'twas an illigant band it was, but begorra we thought 'twas too many cornets yez had in it'. This caused much amusement to the gentlemen of the band, who explained that Light Infantry Regimental Bands were supplemented by the Bugle Band at times, especially on entering or leaving lines or barracks. The explanation was accepted. Whether mine host gave a free round as a forfeit for his wrong judgment was not recorded.

Mullingar was a large market town. When Market Day and our weekly route march clashed there was great excitement. It gave us a little idea what Donnybrook Fair must have been like. It was not too bad until the band and bugles struck up for our last lap into barracks. What a mêlée then. First a cattle-infantry jamb, when 'those in rear cried "forward"', and those in front cried "back". Galloping horses, braying donkeys, squealing pigs, lowing cattle added to the noise and confusion. Nothing daunted the jaunting car drivers hurled their cars and steeds into the fray to the danger of pedestrians both civil and military. Emulating the charioteers of old the drivers would stand up slashing around with their whips yelling at the top of their voices. Not to be outdone perspiring N.C.O.s were also shouting and pushing here and there in a gallant effort to keep The Thin Red Line intact. Sometimes there were casualties. Our veteran bugler, Mick Crowley (of whose episodes I hope to record in another article) was actually charged with dodging round a cart. A good thing he did or he might have been sandwiched. The hearing afterwards at Orderly Room caused much amusement.

I need hardly add there was very little fraternizing here with civilians.

Eventually we recruits were 'passed out' and became trained soldiers. What an ordeal the passing out parade was. First 58 seconds with the old bayonet exercise, followed with physical drill with rifles, arms drill, marching and turnings. There was one snag. Our P.T. had always been done to our own time. We could hardly expect the band to be playing for recruits. Yet we were expected to follow the band at inspection parades. Not full marks for this. Still we got through and were ready for guards and all the duties that a 'real' soldier is called upon to do.

These were the 'piping days of peace'.

Still we got through, and to us that was all that mattered. Being dismissed from recruits' drill the thoughts

of most of the recruits turned to a staff job. It is strange what things a soldier will tackle rather than be at 'duty' as we understand this word. He will be glad to become officer's batman, gardener, even nurse the baby. Butcher, barber, painter, clerk, groundsman, any of these, and 'umpteenth' other jobs seemed preferable to marching up and down on guard or on parade hugging a 9 lb. 10 oz. rifle.

Most of our draft that afternoon appeared to be very interested in Orders and Details. As trained soldiers there might be something there which might offer opportunity for a change. There was. This was sixty years ago, so my memory may fail me a little. But as far as I remember this was the gist of it. 'Wanted, some smart, intelligent and well educated young soldiers, for the purpose of joining the regimental band.' (Then followed a saving clause.) 'Knowledge of music not necessary.' With the usual modesty of young soldiers we felt we possessed all the required qualifications.

We were young soldiers. (Every day and hour the 'old sweats' reminded us of this.) Smart and intelligent? Of course had we not just been dismissed drill. What better proof. Well educated? At least we could all sign our accounts. Above all, we had no knowledge of music. I well remember the ordeal of my interview with the Colour-Serjeant that evening. Knocking on his bunk door, then standing at attention patiently awaiting permission from His Mightiness to enter his domain. A mysterious buzzing noise could be heard inside. I found later this meant the many totals of the Company Pay and Mess Book were being added up and agreed. There was no response to my feeble knock. I knocked again more boldly. A roar from inside meant 'Come in'. I was inside and stood to attention. Apparently the totals in the Pay and Mess Book were not in agreement that night. Silence was golden. Eventually something sounding between a sneeze and a growl had to be translated to mean 'What's you want'. I replied, I want to join the band Colour-Serjeant. What for? That did it. I dare not say I wanted to get away from the Company for a change. The C.S. might say, from me I suppose. I could not have truthfully denied even this. I might have replied along the lines of a recruiting poster slogan, My Queen, country and the band need me. Fortunately I was silent which was just as well. Colour-Serjeant's 'funny bones' did not always respond to humour when accounts did not tally. The Orderly Serjeant worked at a table nearby. He was trying to find out where he had dropped three men in the daily parade state. This meant more buzzing and checking of totals. A more subdued buzzing than that of His Mightiness the Colour-Serjeant.

Presently the C.S. shouted to the O.S. something that sounded like 'Put its name down'. So 'It' reported to the Orderly Serjeant to await developments. A 'return of men recommended for etc.' was produced and I was questioned as to Regimental No., Rank and Name, Service, if married, Religion, etc. I wondered if it was really so important to know the religion of a man before he could be trusted to clash the cymbals or beat a drum. All these important particulars having been recorded, I escaped from my superiors thinking about the step I had taken. Probably I visualized the bandsman's epaulettes already on my shoulder and my name disappearing from the duty roster. Being in the Army you could hardly expect Nelson's historic signal about DUTY to refer to the junior service.

Not a word was mentioned about the band amongst the ex-recruits the next morning. I was warned to parade

at the Band President's office at noon. I started early by a circuitous route to get there in time. Soon I spotted others working on a similar plan. The game was up. Many of the ex-recruits had the same ambition as myself. We sat down on 'forms, wooden, soldiers backless', to await orders! Party . . . shun, all sprang to attention as the Band President arrived. Sit down. Captain Owen gave us a critical look before telling us he expected us youngsters were looking for an easy time in the band. For once we had made a mistake. We were told that the band practised all day and played most of the night. No loafers were wanted here. He packed us off to think about this. If we really meant business and hard work to report again the next day. To amend the lines quoted by one of the famous generals of the Regiment . . . 'The paths of duty, lead but to rebuffs'. What a shock to our enthusiasm. Apparently the band was not on its last legs and could carry on for a little longer without our help.

I walked away with one of my squad who had enlisted as . . . Atkins. It may have been his correct name, but as birth certificates were not then required on enlistment, no one could be sure of this. Remembering the patriotic song of our period, 'Tommy Atkins' became his name throughout his service. 'T.A.' asked me what I thought of our interview. 'Not much', I replied. 'Nor me', said 'T.A.' Alas 'Tommy Atkins' WAS there the next day and for years after as an extra bandsman wishing himself anywhere, except with the band.

I was saved from a similar fate. The same evening another bait in Orders. More smart, intelligent, etc., etc., soldiers were required to join the new instructional class with the Machine Gun Section under 'long' Serjeant Parry. That did appeal to me. Gone all the glamour of the band now. There was another reason. I had not yet done any firing with a rifle, but its movement when I tried to hold it steady on aiming drill had convinced me that I should stand a better chance of hitting the target (or enemy) when the barrel was securely fixed to a carriage as the machine gun was.

For the second evening in succession I paraded at the Colour-Serjeant's bunk. I was admitted. Before I could say anything the Colour-Serjeant looked at me as only a veteran N.C.O. of the old Army could look at a youngster just dismissed drill. 'WHAT AG'IN.' What a wealth of meaning he got out of those two simple words. 'Yes Colour-Serjeant.' I replied, hoping for the best. He had at least recognised me. 'What the . . . do you want this time.' 'I want to join the new training class with the Machine Gun Section, C.S. You were here last night wanting to join the band.' 'Yes, Colour-Serjeant, but I find that if I joined the band, I should have to move to the band room away from the Company.'

I left my senior to picture the misfortune that might (or might not) mean for the Company and the C.S. Again 'its' name, number, etc. and religion had to be recorded. This time I 'clicked' and enjoyed six interesting weeks in learning about the using of the Maxim Nordenfelft Machine Gun. Alas this was to become a link which nearly started my criminal career in Her Majesty's Service. At the conclusion of the instructional class an exam was held. The top two of the class were to be selected for another class of instruction in range finding. What surprises you get in the Services. I am not sure if I or the men of 'H' Company were most surprised when Pte Say and myself headed the list as top of the class. My Company soon found a solution to this. An inefficient clerk had been allowed to copy the exam results, being



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new at his job he had copied the names but started at the bottom of the roll. 'A prophet is without honour in his own Company.' This solution pleased them and as I was struck off duty for another six weeks I was pleased too. Say and I paraded under Sjt Parry to fathom the mysteries of range finding with the help of the Watkins mekometers. We found it all very interesting. Alas for us, our instructor had to start training another machine gun class and we were often left to our own resources. All went well until one Saturday which was a free day, we decided to put in some extra practice with the mekometers. Having arrived on the sports ground, Pte Say's enthusiasm soon waned. He said, 'No more ranges for me to-day'. 'Why not', I said. He explained that he knew all the distances around. He rattled them off. How far to the prison, workhouse, asylum, cemetery, etc. What powers of observation and what taste of subjects? What could I reply to such wisdom except to ask what he proposed to do next. This was soon settled. Some of the civilians at Mullingar had grazing rights on our sports field. Their donkeys were grazing peacefully there. 'I'm going for a ride on one of these mokes', shouts Say. He promptly mounted one. What noise and excitement followed. Surely Neddy's braying must be heard in barracks. But Say did not ride around. Neddy bucked, jumped and rolled but would not advance. Say still clung on. Then alas I was drawn into the picture. 'Give him a poke', shouts Say. Foolishly I 'tickled' Neddy with a stick. Then the braying increased. Great fun but nemesis was at hand. Not for Neddy, but for us two legged 'donkeys'. Our buglers were practising at the other end of the field. Instead of carrying on the good work they were more interested in our antics.

Bugle Major 'Dick' Hughes soon discovered the reason of wrong notes and promptly took action to remedy matters as becoming one responsible for the high standing of Light Infantry bugles. A very short N.C.O. in the person of Cpl Grant alarmed me with the startling statement, 'Consider yourself a prisoner'. 'What for Corporal?' 'Don't answer me back.' Again the ever-green enquiry, Regimental No., rank and name etc. 'Alright go and report yourself to your Orderly Serjeant, tell him you are under arrest. and your CRIME will follow.'

Then came the turn of my colleague. What 'an extra turn' that was. What's your name? 'Say, Corporal.' 'Never mind about SAYing, what's your name?' 'Say, Corporal.' Poor Corporal. I ventured to remark, 'His name is Say, Corporal.' 'Then why didn't he SAY so!' Who could help laughing, not me. 'Get off that animal.' Say dismounted, to give same particulars, rank and name, etc. Then off we both went to our respective orderly serjeants to break to them our sad news. Under arrest, etc. What for, I did not know. I did later in the day. My crime report had come in. CRIME IN THE ARMY. The report read thus. 'Improper conduct in molesting an ass in the capacity of a range finder, in the sports field between the hours of 10 and 11 a.m. etc.'

The comma was entered after the word 'ass' at first. When shown to R.S.M. Pears he said that during all his Army service he had not known of an ass in the capacity of a range finder. (He had not seen us that morning apparently.) Anyway the misplaced comma did not clear us, we were still prisoners, and had to wait until Monday to know our fate. What an ordeal on the Monday.

We both had to report at the guard room early and fall in with the week-end drunks, deserters and others on

remand, to be marched across the square where the parade was drawn up in marching order ready for a route march. All eyes seemed to be on us as we went on to the orderly room. If ever I wished I was not so tall and visible I wished it then. Say being in 'A' Company, was dealt with first. As the 'Jockey' he was awarded seven days C.B.

My turn next to appear before the Company Officer Major Day. The charge was read. 5636 Private, etc. Is that you? Strange question after many months in the company. I admitted it was. First evidence Sjt Bugler Hughes. (Bugle Major in these later days only being a courtesy title.) I wish space allowed me to quote all that was said, and above all how it was said. The Sjt Bugler said he saw me riding the ass. Hurrah there was a slip there. Cpl Grant tried to confirm that statement on these lines. 'I saw the prisoner molesting the—pause—he jibbed at donkey—ass! A stern voice recalled me to possible consequences, 'What have you got to say?' I replied—'Sir, I hardly know what to say, the Sjt Bugler stated I was riding on the ass, I never rode it. The Corporal stated I was molesting it'.

I had attacked the weak spot in the prosecution. Major Day to the Serjeant Bugler. 'Was this man riding on the ass?' Reply, 'one of them was, Sir.'

Then—Sjt Bugler, was the man riding the ass or not? Alas this only brought the same reply. The Major was getting impatient and it was nearly time for all to be on parade for route marching. He turned to me, 'Were you or were you not, riding on this . . . confounded ass.'

No Sir. Then in a flash, 'What where you doing with the ass, anyway'. Sir, I was persuading the ass to keep away from the mekometers which were on the ground. They are very valuable, Sir. (Something I had learnt on the class.) 'How do you persuade an ass?' 'With a stick, Sir.' Dare the Major smile? Self control gained the victory. A hasty look at my clean defaulter sheet. Then the verdict! You have been in the Service some months without crime. Hasty confirmation by the prisoner. 'Yes, Sir.' I am giving you the benefit of the doubt on one condition, do you understand. I did not, as the condition had not been mentioned, but promptly replied, 'Yes, Sir'. Orderly Room is not the place for a prisoner to appear too smart. Then came the condition. 'Don't you ever dare to appear before me again in connection with any of these . . . confounded asses.' I never did. As a prisoner I had been bareheaded. The Colour-Serjeant stood near holding my green helmet with brass fittings. He banged it sharply and firmly on my head, and shouted 'Salute and fall out'. I rejoined my Company on parade, rejoicing that the Field Marshal's baton, which Lord Wolsely said was in every recruit's haversack, was figuratively speaking still there. Fortunately my company was standing at ease and I was able to take off my helmet and rub my scalp. My helmet had been banged on with such force that the bottom part of the long screw attached to the spike had contacted my 'thick head'.

Such was 'Crime in the Army'. I have often wondered how it would have effected me had I been awarded C.B. Then as often happens whilst on C.B. got an extension thereof. Thank God I did not. I can laugh over it now, it was no laughing matter at the time I assure you.

Now for two reactions to this incident. Some months later the regiment was at Modder River, S. Africa. There were hundreds of animals assembled there for transport for the column about to move on to the Relief of Kimberley. I happened to be crossing the

pontoon bridge shown on page 40, *O.L.I. Chronicle*, 1900. The Boers had blown up the original bridge. I met the bugle major there. Having now been appointed Lance-Corporal I even dared to speak to a senior N.C.O. when off duty. 'Good morning, Major.' 'Good morning, Dancey, how are you.' I replied and asked him a similar question. Before parting I tried a parting shot. 'Have you noticed something familiar moving around here, Major?' No, he had not. 'What about the asses then?' 'Now my boy, that's enough of that.' Discretion being the better part of valour, for once I beat a hasty retreat. If these lines catch the eyes of the Bugle Major, I trust he will enjoy the joke.

The other reaction is more recent. Through the kindness of Sir Bernard Paget, then Colonel of the Regiment, and the Officer Commanding, Regimental Headquarters, I was invited to a passing-out parade taken by General Paget at Cowley in 1954. I was allowed to present a New Testament at the conclusion of the parade to each recruit. With my wife I went on to the S. Africa War Memorial to take a coloured film as a memento. What a sad reminder of my first crime. The names of Major Day, Cpl Grant and Pte Say are all recorded on the memorial.

My first Christmas Day in the Army was at Mullingar 1898. My next twenty-nine Christmases were on the seas or overseas. 1899, in the Bay of Biscay, 1900, The Red Sea. Others at Bombay, Deolali, The Punjab, The United Provinces, Burma, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, with the last one at N. China in 1927, where the temperature was at times below zero and the sea frozen over. I well remember that first Army Christmas. On picket duty meant being early on guard mounting duty. My duty was to patrol between two large bins. In one, the waste from the cookhouse nearby, was placed. The other was for ashes or other use. The picket was there to ensure each bin was only used for its own particular use. The Christmas dinners had a tantalising odour whilst being cooked, and later passing by the lonely young soldier on patrol. Picture me in a red serge coat, piped blue trousers, white pipe clayed buff equipment, side arms, on Christmas Day, only to ensure that no mess orderly dared to enter tea leaves into the swill bin, nor any food into the ash bin. This to protect the contractor who had bought all swill, etc. for his pigs.

More important events soon cropped up. In May 1899, we went back to the Curragh Camp. Our camp was pitched below Hare Park, not a pleasant reminder for those who had been that way before. (Military Prison.) A bad place for a camp, lying too low, especially as it rained most days. On rainy days guard mounting took place in the institute tents. How disappointing after labouring to get all your kit spick and span, coat rolled, etc., in a wet crowded tent, to have to hastily unroll your coat, shake out creases, rebuckle equipment in a hurried fifteen minutes after the three G.s at the of guard call, meant that the guard would wear great coats for guard mounting. I managed to get 'stick orderly' quite a few times which meant a night in bed instead of on sentry go. I think our equipment then favoured us taller men. With shorter men the valise seemed to be resting on his mess tin and did not show off his equipment and red serge between valise and mess tin. Our camping ground became a quagmire. Daily we went cutting gorse to lay on paths between our tents. In time the paths were level with the tops of the bottom small walls of our tents, i.e. in line with the bottom

part of the sloping tops of the small bell tents. Clothes, equipment and bedding all damp. It was a wonder we kept so well. After a succession of wet days, General Roberts, C-in-C. in Ireland, came to inspect the Camp. There was a rumour that he would try to get us back to barracks if the rain still kept on. Of course it stopped then, for a time.

In August 1899 we took part in the Irish manoeuvres. A welcome change which gave us a chance of passing through counties and towns not seen before. At the close of one day's march we had a pleasant surprise. The 60th Rifles had pitched our tents. As I write this I have before me a *Daily Telegraph* account of the inspection of the new Greenjackets Brigade on its formation at Winchester by the Duke of Gloucester. What an honour for the 43rd and 52nd to become the 1st Green Jackets, with the 60th Rifles, our friends mentioned above, as the 2nd and the famous Rifle Brigade the 3rd. Here's success to the Green Jackets.

After manoeuvres we returned to the barracks at Mullingar. As usual we were just in time for the annual inspection by the G.O.C. What a scrubbing of rooms, furniture and equipment with polishing of buckles and boots. I had an extra turn in this being responsible for the machine gun which of course also meant the heavy carriage with spotless drag ropes and all spare parts. The Bn received a very good report. More excitement in September (99) and we went back to dear old England via Dublin, Holyhead, and Bristol for Crownhill, Plymouth, with a detachment at Bull Point, Devonport. Just one snag, the Worcester's had not moved out. So notwithstanding our period of camp life and manoeuvres in Ireland we had to pitch camp once again and wait for the barracks to be handed over. Then we got comfortably settled in, but not for long as the next article will show.

ARTHUR JAMES DANCEY, MAJOR (Retired),
Formerly OX/5636.

P.S.—Thanks to all who have thanked me personally or by letter for previous articles. I still meet old hands of the Regiment. Up the Rhine recently our courier had been an officer attached to the Regiment in the last war. Here in Torquay, a grocer and also an osteopathist who served with the Regiment in war time, looks forward to future articles. I trust they will become subscribers to THE JOURNAL.

The weather in Devon last July was too bad for me to motor over to Cowley for the annual 'At Home'. I had some consolation in September when I was again given the privilege of presenting New Testaments to recruits at Regimental Headquarters. What a unique experience to meet sixty recruits in the same barracks where I was a recruit sixty years ago.

I hope to meet some of the Old Comrades of the Regiment at the proposed Jubilee parade of South African War Veterans in London 1959.

A.J.D.

Mr Harold Williams has become the landlord of 'The Rock of Gibraltar', Bletchington, which is situated about fifty yards from Bletchington Station. He would be pleased to welcome any of his old comrades who happen to be passing that way.



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Notices

LIGHT INFANTRY CLUB

AUTUMN GOLF MEETING, 1958

The Autumn Golf Meeting was held at Camberley Heath Golf Club on Saturday, 27th September 1958, in fine weather. Seventeen members competed and results were as follows:

Singles (Stableford on Handicap)

Winner: Colonel H. Barker, K.O.Y.L.I., 38 points
 Runner-up: Lt.-Col. D. Russell-Roberts, K.S.L.I. 34 points.

Pairs (Stableford on Handicap)

Winners: Brigadier C. Howard, Som.L.I., Lt.-Col. R. B. Y. Simpson, D.L.I., 36 points.
 Runners-up: Colonel M. A. C. P. Kaye, K.O.Y.L.I., Colonel H. Barker, K.O.Y.L.I., 31 points, tied with Lt.-Col. D. Russell-Roberts, K.S.L.I., Captain C. H. Lynes, K.S.L.I., 31 points.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1958

The Club celebrated its Silver Jubilee at the Annual Dinner which was held at the United Services Club, on Friday, 17th October 1958. 106 Members attended. The guests were General Sir Francis FESTING, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Commander B. C. G. PLACE, V.C., R.N., late Captain of H.M.S. *Corunna*, and Colonel H. C. B. COOK, O.B.E., Officer-in-Charge Records, EXETER.

ANNUAL SQUASH COMPETITION, 1958

The Annual Squash Competition was held at the BATH CLUB, on 18th and 19th October 1958. Entries were received from Som.L.I. (1), D.C.L.I. (1), K.O.Y.L.I. (1), K.S.L.I. (3) and D.L.I. (1). The D.C.L.I. unfortunately had to scratch reducing the entry to six teams. The result was in doubt till the end and some of the closest and best matches in recent years were played.

The Cup, presented by the Highland Light Infantry, was again won by the Somerset Light Infantry (Colonel Maud, Lieut. Bennett and Major Burgess) who just beat the Durham Light Infantry by two matches to one in the final. Detailed results are given below.

It is hoped to be able to continue to play this competition at the Bath Club but the Club is moving to BROOK STREET during 1959.

STAFF COLLEGE CLUB

The Committee of the Staff College Club wish to draw the attention of all serving or retired officers who qualified on War Staff Courses to the fact that they are eligible to belong to the Club.

The annual subscription is 5/- and full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary at the Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.

This year, the Reunion Garden Party for members of the Club will be held at Camberley on 27th June.

CALENDARS

The Green Jackets Brigade have produced a framed perpetual calendar with a coloured print of a soldier of the Rifle Brigade, The King's Royal Rifle Corps, and of the 43rd, in the Peninsular in 1808.

These calendars, price 6/9 post free, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The Old Comrades' Association, Cowley Barracks, Oxford.

THE ROYAL WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE DINNER CLUB

General Sir Lashmer Whistler, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant of The Royal West African Frontier Force, is Chairman of the Dinner Club and he is most anxious that as many officers as possible who have served at any time in The Royal West African Frontier Force should gather together each year at the annual dinner, which is held normally in October.

Life membership of the Dinner Club is 10/- only and enquiries for membership should be sent to the Honorary Secretary:

Lieut.-Colonel G. Blackburne-Kane,
 Bisterne,
 Normandy,
 Surrey.

5TH BRITISH INFANTRY DIVISION (1939-1945)

A three hundred page History, with over seventy photographs, recounting the story of the famous 'Y' Division will be published in March 1959.

The number of copies will be limited, and all those interested in reserving a copy should write to:

Lieut.-Colonel Bill van Namen,
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RESULTS

1st Round	}	Semi-Final	}	Final
K.O.Y.L.I.	}	K.O.Y.L.I. (3-0, 3-1, 3-0)	}	Som.L.I. (3-2, 1-3, 3-2)
K.S.L.I. 'C'				
K.S.L.I. 'B'	}	Som.L.I. (3-0, 3-1, 3-0)	}	Som.L.I. (3-2, 1-3, 3-2)
Som.L.I.				
D.L.I.	}	D.L.I.	}	Som.L.I. (3-2, 1-3, 3-2)
D.C.L.I. (Scr)				
K.S.L.I. 'A'—Bye	}	K.S.L.I. 'A'	}	Som.L.I. (3-2, 1-3, 3-2)

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' & AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

THE SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO, 1959

Performances Doubled

With the co-operation of the Navy, Army and R.A.F., the Searchlight Tattoo will be staged at the White City on eight nights with one matinee this year, double the number of last year's performances.

There will be eight evening performances and one matinee between 17th and 28th August.

This will be a 'combined operation' with units from all the Services. Normally there are about 2,000 performers.

The massed bands—the largest band in the world, consisting of about 700 musicians in old time, full dress uniforms—will be one of the features. Plans are in hand for several new items, some of which will include horses.

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All prices include cost of postage.

'THE JOURNAL'

Published half-yearly on 1st May and 1st November. The annual subscription is 4s., post free.

Bankers Orders, cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary, Regimental Committee.

Contributions to the *JOURNAL* are welcome. They should be typed if possible with double spacing. If photographs are sent they will be returned after use.

BOOKS

The following may be obtained from the Secretary, Regimental Committee:

Regimental War Tales, illustrated, cloth cover, price 4s. 6d.

A Short History of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 1741-1922 by Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., price 1s. 6d.

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