

THE
BACK BADGE



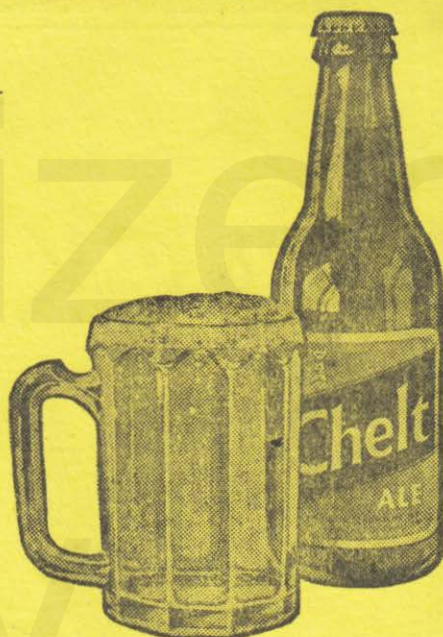
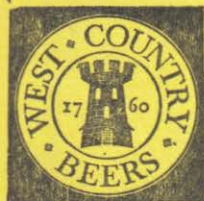
The Journal of
The
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Regiment

Summer 1966

THE BACK BADGE

WEST COUNTRY BEERS

*The Best
in the West*



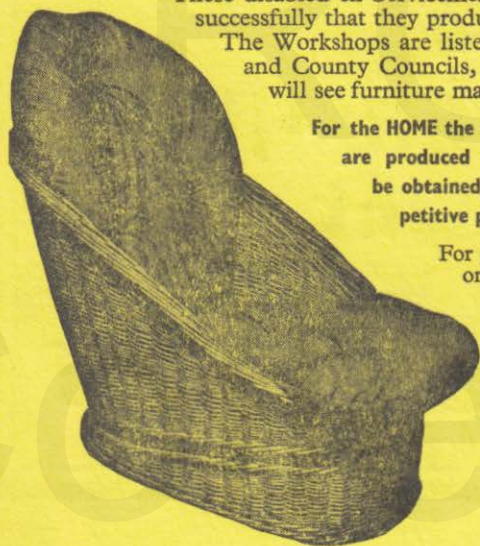
West Country Breweries Ltd., Cheltenham

Help your old Comrades

... in the Lord Roberts Workshops

These disabled ex-Servicemen are taught skilled crafts and trades and respond so successfully that they produce articles of a very high quality.

The Workshops are listed as contractors to H.M. Government Departments and County Councils, and in Hospitals, Clubs, Centres and Canteens you will see furniture made by them.



For the HOME the following
are produced and can
be obtained at com-
petitive prices.

Wooden Furniture of every description,
all types of Brushes and Basketware and
Lacquered Goods including Furniture,
Trays, Table Mats (plain or decorated,
or with crests).

For precision Woodwork for the Mess, Club, Canteen, Hospital or Factory, where requirements are for quantities, you cannot do better than consult:

LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS

118-122, Brompton Road, London, S.W.3

Tel: KEN. 3243

(There are eight Lord Roberts factories throughout the British Isles)

For perfect relaxation after an Exercise or a busy day at the office there's nothing to beat this comfortable, low-reclining "Swiss" chair.

Conway Williams

THE MAYFAIR TAILOR

Morning and Evening Wear, Court and Military Dress for all occasions. Hunting, Sports and Lounge Kits. All Cloths cut by expert West End Cutters and made exclusively by hand in our Mayfair Workshops by the Best English Tailors

REGIMENTAL TAILORS TO
THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

48 BROOK ST., MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

(Opposite Claridge's Hotel)

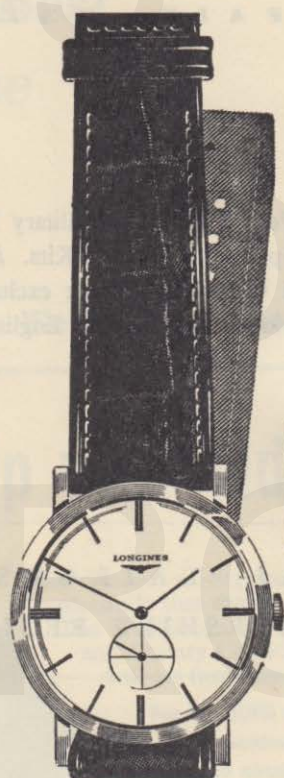
39 LONDON ROAD • CAMBERLEY

Telephone: Mayfair 0945—Camberley 498.

Telegrams: "Militaria Wendo, London."

MARTIN and COMPANY, LIMITED
of CHELTENHAM

Goldsmiths and Silversmiths since 1806



ELEGANCE
ENCLOSING
EXACTNESS

—that's the luxury of

LONGINES

THE WORLD'S MOST HONOURED WATCH

Ref. 331 - at £51 15s.
man's extra slim gold Longines.

FINE SWISS WATCHES BY:

Longines · Zenith · Certina · Vertex

19 PROMENADE · CHELTENHAM

Telephone 22821



GLOBE, GATE PLUG & CHECK



PRESSURE REGULATING



Bronze, Cast Iron ; Cast, Forged and
Stainless Steel Valves for steam, gas,
air, chemicals, water, oil, hydraulic
services.

SAFETY AND NEEDLE VALVES



Newman Hender make most types of
valve, in most sizes, for most tempera-
tures and pressures, for most industries,
all over the world.

NEWMAN HENDER & CO. LTD

WOODCHESTER • STROUD • GLOS • ENGLAND

Other companies in the Newman Hender group: George Clark & Sons (Hull) Ltd. Shiphams & Co. Ltd. Sydney Smith & Sons (Nottingham) Ltd.

**WILLIAM
MOSS
& SONS LTD.**

LONDON
LIVERPOOL LOUGHBOROUGH
CHELTENHAM

Building and Public Works Contractors

AREA OFFICE

"Liddington," 96, Leckhampton Road, Cheltenham

Telephone: Cheltenham 28191

LONDON

North Circular Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2

Telephone: Gladstone 8080

LOUGHBOROUGH

Queen's Road,
Loughborough

Telephone: 3101

LIVERPOOL

Yardley Road,
Kirkby Industrial Estate, Liverpool

Telephone: Simonswood 3341



DOWTY JET UNITS

provide the water propulsion for

ALVIS STALWART

giving it exceptional
manoeuvrability and performance

DOWTY GROUP LIMITED

Arle Court • Cheltenham • Glos



*Gloucestershire's Vale and the Cotswold Hills
Are a wealth of grace and fame—
But England's Glory is in this box
And worthy of the name—*

Made in Gloucester by

S. J. MORELAND & SONS, LTD

Invest in the Best

SUPERBLY CUT AND TAILORED

*in the finest materials to measure
by craftsmen*

HOUSE OF LEWIS

Established 1892

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Tailors

COLLEGE GREEN, BRISTOL

Telephone 23897

OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAYS



HOW YOU CAN HELP THEM

EVERY day brings to light new cases of hardship among ex-soldiers or their next-of-kin. The benevolent funds of Corps and Regimental Associations do what they can—but they rely financially on the Army Benevolent Fund. This is the central fund of all military charities. Through the Army Benevolent Fund you can give help where it is most needed.

Donations and legacies should be made payable to

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

Patron: *Her Majesty the Queen*

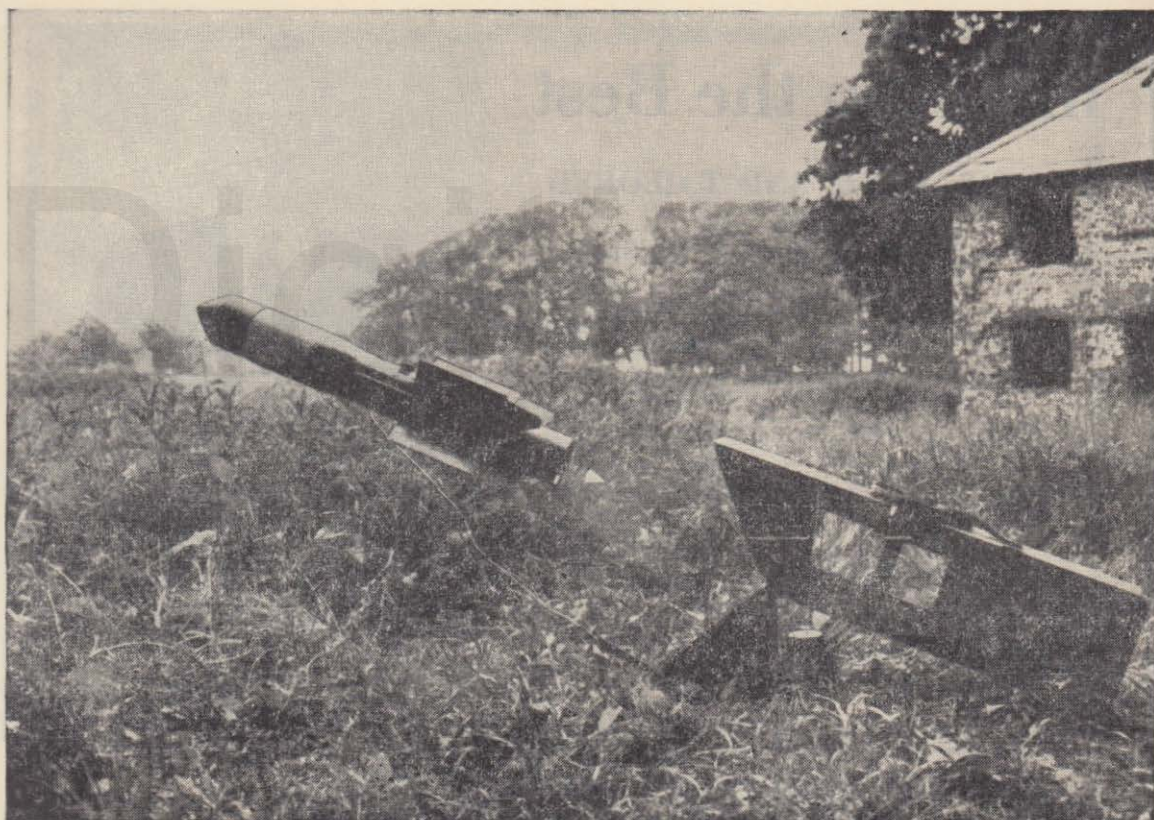
20 GROSVENOR PLACE, S.W.1 Telephone: BELgravia 5639

President: General Sir James Steele, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Secretary: Brigadier J. H. R. Orr, C.B.E.



SPACE DONATED BY
Mardon Son & Hall Ltd.



VIGILANT

one-man anti-tank missile

VIGILANT, the anti-tank guided missile with the mobility of a machine gun, the readiness of a rifle, but lethal against the heaviest tank, is the British Army's choice of an anti-tank weapon for the infantryman. During its British Army acceptance trials, Vigilant had to pass the toughest tests and match the most exacting standards. This one-man tank-killer is now in service with the armies of four countries : Great Britain - Finland - Kuwait - Saudi Arabia.

WHY THEY CHOSE VIGILANT

- ☐ Accuracy
- ☐ Lethality
- ☐ Speed into action
- ☐ Portability
- ☐ Ease of control and training
- ☐ Wide range bracket
- ☐ Adaptability
- ☐ Suitable for use by armoured vehicles

BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

GUIDED WEAPONS DIVISION STEVENAGE WORKS HERTS

THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. XI. No. 40 (New Series)

June 1966

Within a laurel wreath upon a pedestal inscribed "Egypt," a sphinx

"Ramillies," "Louisburg," "Guadaloupe, 1759," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah," "St. Lucia, 1778," "Maida," "Corunna," "Talavera," "Busaco," "Barrosa," "Albuhera," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Waterloo," "Chillianwallah," "Goojerat," "Punjab," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "Delhi, 1857," "Defence of Ladysmith," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeberg," "South Africa, 1899-1902," "The Great War, 24 Battalions—"Mons," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "Ypres, 1914," "15," "17," "Langemarck, 1914," "17," "Gheluvelt," "Nonne Bosschen," "Givenchy, 1914," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "18," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917," "18," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guillemont," "Fiers-Courcette," "Morval," "Pilckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosières," "Avre," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Béthune," "Drocourt Quéant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epehy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Beaurevoir," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1917," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Sari Bair," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915-16," "Egypt, 1916," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917," "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-18," "Persia, 1918."

The Second World War—"Defence of Escaut," "St. Omer-La Bassée," "Wormhoudt," "Cassel," "Villers Bocage," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "Risle Crossing," "Le Havre," "Zeten," "North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45," "Taukya," "Paungde," "Monywa, 1942," "North Arakan," "Mayu Tunnels," "Pinwe," "Shweli," "Myitson," "Burma, 1942, 44-45."

Honorary Distinction: 5th Battalion. A Badge of the Reconnaissance Corps, with year dates "1944-45," and scroll: "North-West Europe." "Hill 327," "Imjin," "Korea, 1950-51."

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIAL	258	A SARTORIAL NOTE	303
REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS	259	THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME	304
1ST BATTALION NOTES	262	THE 2/5TH BATTALION LEAVES FOR FRANCE	310
BACK BADGE DAY	276	REGIMENTAL MUSEUM	311
THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK	279	SPRING CLEANING A PAGE OF HISTORY	311
5TH BATTALION NOTES	281	CORRESPONDENCE	312
REGIMENTAL RALLYING	288	ROLLS OF OFFICERS	314
WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT	291	HONOURS AND AWARDS	316
GLOUCESTERSHIRE A.C.F.	292	FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"	316
DATES TO REMEMBER	293	THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION	317
SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS ON BACK BADGE DAY	294	OLD COMRADES MEET AGAIN	319
DRIVER, AIR FRAME, H TYPE	295	THE STAR AND GARTER HOME	321
MLILWANE GAME SANCTUARY	297	REGIMENTAL PENSIONERS	322
RECOLLECTIONS OF EX-C.Q.M.S. W. J. WAKEFIELD	298	OBITUARY	323
BOOK REVIEW	300	DOMESTIC EVENTS	324
SORTIE INTO THE GERMAN CAMEROONS	301	DONATIONS TO THE BACK BADGE	325



EDITORIAL

ALL our readers will be delighted at the decision of Cheltenham's Borough Council to grant the "Freedom"—the highest honour in their power—to the Regiment. The ceremony will take place in Pittville Park, outside the celebrated Pump Room on the afternoon of Sunday, 9th October, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

The link between Cheltenham and the Regiment is of long duration, for it was in 1858 that the town first raised a company of Rifle Volunteers which within a year or two was established as No. 7 Company of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment, and subsequently became "C" Company of our 5th Territorial Battalion. It is probably the fact that this direct link with the Regiment will unhappily be severed in the near future by the Government's decision to bring the present Territorial Army to an end, that has inspired the Borough to confer this great honour upon us before the final break occurs.

But the connection between town and Regiment is, of course, very much wider than that established by the Volunteers and Territorials, for ever since recruiting for the Regular Army was placed firmly on a County basis the young men of Cheltenham have been joining our ranks. In the first world war, too, many of its citizens flocked to join the Service battalions of the Regiment, and again in the second world war many of these same veterans came forward to wear with pride the Regimental badge in the Cheltenham battalion of the Home Guard. And it should not be forgotten, too, that many of our distinguished officers, including at least two Colonels of the Regiment, learnt the rudiments of their profession in the ranks of the Cheltenham College Officers Training Corps.

* * *

Once again the 1st Battalion has returned home, having successfully accomplished the delicate task of keeping the peace in actual or potential trouble spots, and in doing so has enhanced the name of the British Army in places where its reputation was not always too high. It is not becoming for the Battalion itself to sing its own praises, but it has, in fact, obtained an enviable reputation in many lands during its recent "un-accompanied" tour in Swaziland, Bechuanaland, and Basutoland, and in Mauritius, where the "powers that be" have all been unstinted in their praises, and more recently in Aden where "B" Company has been soldiering under more operational conditions. Now reunited once more with their families they are preparing to re-visit the County for a three-weeks' recruiting march, as a climax to which they will provide a major contribution to the increasingly popular Cheltenham Military Tattoo.

In fact, in one way and another, and in Cheltenham in particular, the County will see more of its Regiment than it has had the opportunity to do for many years.

* * *

In our last issue we invited comments and criticisms of the form and content of **THE BACK BADGE**, but we regret to say that only two of our readers had the interest and energy to reply. As this can hardly be regarded as representative of the majority view we have made no changes so far, but we shall always be attentive to suggestions.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

Full Military honours were provided by the 5th Battalion at the funeral of the late **General Lord Ismay** in December last at the little parish church of Wormington in North Gloucestershire. It is probably not generally known that "Pug" Ismay was attached to the 28th in India in 1905 for the first year of his service before being posted to his Regiment in the Indian Army. **Captains Vicary and Firth** also attended his Memorial Service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where they acted as ushers to the distinguished gathering. A very warm letter of thanks was received from Lady Ismay, to whom our sympathies are extended.

On 27th December, when announcing that the 1st Battalion was to provide the guard on the new Transmitting Station on the borders of Rhodesia in Bechuanaland, the B.B.C. referred to the **Royal Gloucestershire Regiment!** In point of fact the Regiment very nearly did become "Royal" in 1881 at the time when the 28th and the 61st Regiments were linked together to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the new County Regiment. The idea was mooted at the time but was discarded for reasons now unknown.

Ex-Sergeant-Major Albert Phipps, our Chelsea Pensioner, spent last Christmas and the New Year as the guest of an R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess in Malta. Three of the happiest years of his long service were spent in Malta with the 61st—from 1910 to 1912—and needless to say, he found things a bit changed: but all the same his holiday there was a really happy one.

In December last **H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester** paid an official visit to Malaya and Singapore, and **Major Bill Morris** had the honour of being presented to the Colonel-in-Chief.

Another ex-R.S.M. of the Regiment, **Mr. W. Stenner**, of Clifton, when ordering his copy of **THE BACK BADGE**, stated that he had served with six battalions of the Regiment at different times in his 26 years' service—the 1st Volunteer Battalion, the 1st and 2nd Regular Battalions, the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion, the 6th Territorial Battalion and the 9th New Army Battalion. Can any old soldier claim to better that?

Many serving officers have expressed their great regret that for personal reasons **Captain George Chapman** felt compelled to retire. The son of a former Commanding

Officer of the 2nd Battalion, Colonel A. F. Chapman, C.B.E., George was commissioned into the Regiment in December 1956. During his period of service, he was prominent in all spheres of activity, being Adjutant at the time of his retirement. He was an excellent all-round games player, having represented the battalion at Rugger, Swimming, Shooting, Boxing, Sailing and Cross-country running.

After some little delay the post of Chief Clerk at Regimental Headquarters made vacant by Mr. Wakefield's retirement, has been filled by **Mr. Reg Panting** (No. 5182070) and we are fortunate to have someone with such long and honourable service with the Regiment. Enlisting at Horfield in 1933 he served briefly with the 61st at Catterick, and then with the 28th in India and Burma. He fought through the 1st Burma campaign in 1942, and returned to England the following year to join the 61st, with whom he landed on D-Day in Normandy, and remained with them throughout the North-West Europe campaign.

Still with the Battalion in 1950 he went to Korea and was taken prisoner at the Imjin Battle. After release from prison camp he rejoined the 28th/61st and went to Kenya for operations against the Mau Mau. Then in 1956 his long service was rewarded with promotion to R.Q.M.S. at G.H.Q. Middle East, where he remained until he was posted in the same rank to the Aden Protectorate Levies in 1960. He finished his military career on 2nd January, 1965 after exactly 32 years' service, and we welcome him back to the Regiment.

The obituary notice of **General Harry Needham**, published in our last issue, did not mention the final and probably the most important episode of his distinguished military career, details of which we are now indebted for to his daughter, Miss L. Needham. When war broke out in 1939 the General was recalled from the Reserve to head the British Military Mission to the Belgians. When the Belgian Army was forced to capitulate in 1940 he had to make a hasty retreat to avoid capture. Whilst motoring through Brussels just at the time the Germans entered the city he was severely wounded, the driver and other occupants of the car being killed; but fortunately for him he was able to complete his escape and eventually reached England.

We congratulate **Major Sam Weller, M.B.E.**, on his appointment as Army Recruiting and Careers Officer, Gloucester, which he takes up in May. It is believed that this is the first time that the post of A.R.O. Gloucester has been filled by an officer of the Regiment.

We also congratulate **Captain Simon Firth** on his selection for an exchange with the Royal Canadian Regiment. He and his family left for Canada in April after he had completed a parachute course. There has unfortunately been a gap in our exchanges with our Allied Regiment since the 1st Battalion was posted to Cyprus in 1962, a trouble spot to which attached Canadian officers were not permitted by their Government to go. But this is now to be rectified and we offer a warm welcome to Lieutenant D. S. Morkem who will shortly be joining the 1st Battalion on exchange.

Mr. R. F. Cleeveley (No. 5180283) reports that he has recently retired from the Army after almost 36 years' service. He is now living at Rheindahlen, West Germany, where he is employed with Barrack Services at H.Q. B.A.O.R.

An old soldier of the Regiment, aged 94, has just claimed a disability pension for the first time. He is **Colonel T. J. Byrne**, who was wounded in the shoulder in 1900 when serving as a sergeant with the 1st Battalion during the siege of Ladysmith. Although he now lives in South Africa, and he received the wound 66 years ago, his claim has been accepted by the Ministry of Pensions.

In the 1930s the Regiment obtained quite a number of recruits from South Africa, and very good soldiers they made. One of them, **Luther Jurgensen**, is now a Petty Officer in the South African Navy and, thanks perhaps to his route-march training with the 28th, has become a well-known long distance walker.

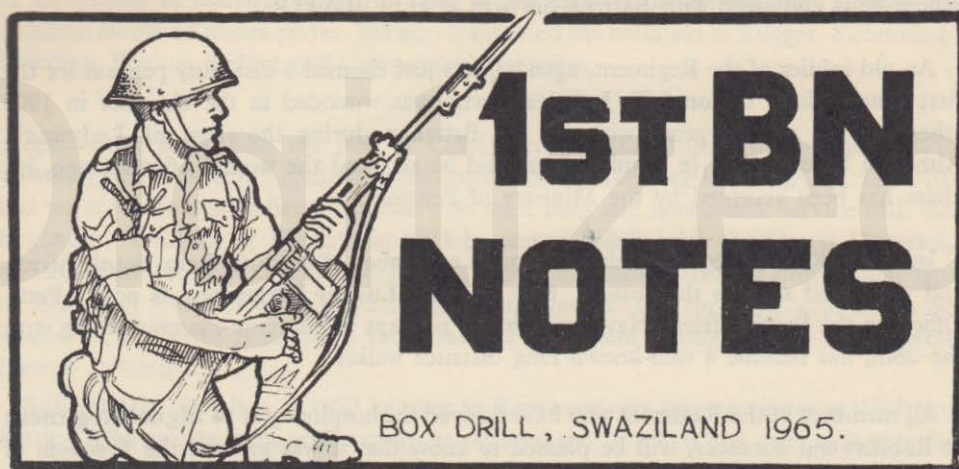
All members of the Regiment who have enjoyed the hospitality of **14 Signal Regiment** at Robinswood Barracks, will be pleased to know that it was granted the Freedom of the City of Gloucester on 28th April. This is the first occasion on which an individual regiment of the Royal Corps of Signals has been so honoured by any City or Borough.

As reported widely in the Press, one of the pieces of Regimental silver left behind by the 28th in Burma in 1942 has been recovered in Singapore. It is one of a set of four large candelabras presented in 1881, and it was found in a Chinese junk shop in Singapore a few years ago by a hotel keeper: **Major Tony Streather** happened to see it at the former's hotel in the Cameron Highlands and immediately recognised it as belonging to the Regiment. After protracted negotiations with its then owner, it was eventually handed over to **Major Bill Morris** in Singapore on 21st March, and is now safely back with the Regiment after wandering for 24 years in the wilderness. Our thanks to these two officers for this happy return.

In response to an appeal to all units of the British Army which are allied to units of the Australian Army, the Regiment has subscribed £17 to have our Back Badge carved on one of the pews in the new Memorial Chapel at **Australia's Royal Military College** at Duntroon.

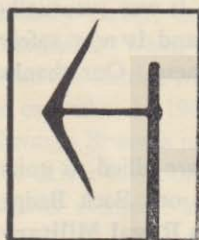
It is reported that **Brigadier John Waldron**, who now lives at Marbella on Spain's Costa del Sol, has started a Society for the Protection of Animals there. "It is not that the Spaniards are not devoted to their animals," he says, "but they are not too hot on knowing how to cure them."

Our condolences to **Brigadier Terry Clarke, C.B.E.**, for his narrow defeat in the recent General Election. Until then he had been Conservative Member for Portsmouth West for the last 16 years. Brigadier Clarke served with the Regiment from 1924 to 1936.



IT is to the sound of hammering of M.F.O. boxes and that semi-hysterical end-of-term banter that these notes are written: once more we are on the move, back to Chester, Families, K.A.P.E., Stanford and the thousand military shocks that flesh is heir to.

The relative peace and tranquillity of Swaziland has been shattered so often (as far as we are concerned) that it is with some cynical amusement that we look back on our pious hopes of yesteryear when we viewed this emergency tour with a certain amount of pleasure—plenty of training, sport, the Battalion together at last, etc. etc.! Let us take up where we last left off, now where was I . . . ?



November saw the last of our peaceful hopes shattered. We managed to get out on a short Battalion exercise, called "Commando," which was aimed at giving the section commanders their heads. In this it was successful, and we were preparing then to continue the process up to Battalion command level. Remembrance Sunday came and was unfortunately rained off after considerable preparation for Companies to hold separate parades in the District of their responsibility. U.D.I. was declared and, although there were many grim rumours mooted by both the South African and British Press of our future moves, all of which one could discount immediately, it was obvious to all that our lives were undoubtedly about to be affected. Little did we know!

December began quietly enough with Companies classifying on the new range in the Usutu hills. Although satisfactory, the range presented several mountaineering problems and indeed anyone obeying that old injunction to "stand back off the firing point" would have hurtled to his stony doom. Christmas drew nigh and sure enough in the true Glosters tradition of late, "things" started. On 22nd December we received a warning order to send a platoon (!) to guard the new anti-Smith B.B.C. relay station at Francistown, Bechuanaland. By Christmas Eve they were off, together with the 2 i/c

and I.O. It was clear to all that one platoon was not viable so far away, so the rest of the Christmas break saw "A" and "D" Companies preparing for the move of the remainder of the former. Christmas activities were somewhat curtailed by all this. Many people had received invitations to stay with friends which had to be cancelled. However, the traditional lunch was held and even 1 Platoon in Francistown had their share of the Christmas fare.

Meanwhile in mid-December "B" Company had been moved from Mauritius to Aden, hardly a popular move, but calculated to provide further interest as will be seen from their notes. Within a few days they were avoiding grenades and patrolling.



Cut grass? You're joking!
I've been cannibalised for the
Beverley

January provided a slight pause after the fuss. "D" Company, the only one left, had a couple of small exercises which were of great value, if marred by the weather. In fact, on reconsideration, January was pretty well marred altogether by the weather, culminating in cyclone Claude which devastated Mozambique, Lourenço Marques in particular, and whose outer fringes brought parts of Swaziland up to 22 inches of rain in less than three days. After this catastrophe "H.Q." Company responded by ferrying urgently-required relief rations. During this month we had two welcome visitors, Major-General Willoughby, the G.O.C. M.E.L.F., and Colonel Harding from Wessex Brigade, the latter staying for a week in which he was able to see much of the Battalion's activities and a fair slice of Southern Africa.

February began with a Signals (Battalion) exercise which, although a success, resulted in most of the "hierarchy" getting bitten by ticks and the consequent fever—Nemesis some would call it. In the middle of the month a most hectic period started. A Beverley aircraft was "posted in" from 11th February to 7th March and was in continual use throughout—in fact the R.A.F. sensibly sent two crews. First "D" Company took over from "A" in Francistown, then after a 24-hours' "rest" "A" and the Band and Drums flew to Basutoland, the former for two weeks' training and the latter to beat Retreats and play throughout the Territory. Then the Band moved back and on to Francistown for a "one night stand" and finally "A" Company returned. All these air moves involve considerably more work behind the scenes than is first imagined. The unit is responsible for refuelling (a bowser and R.A.F. technician are attached to us permanently), guarding the aircraft, ferrying crews, stores and passengers from all parts, and manning the fire truck; we even have been responsible for "in flight" meals!

It was during this period that the Commanding Officer was able to view the dispositions of his unit and find that he commanded sub-units and detachments as follows:

Chester (6,000 miles)
Aden (4,000 miles)

Bechuanaland (800 miles)
Basutoland (350 miles)

Even this makes the 1956 plot appear a concentration!

With March our thoughts turned to Back Badge Day and in spite of the difficulties due to packing up, dispersal and lack of numbers, a very successful parade and celebrations were held. These are reported more fully elsewhere but one must mention here the Battalion's great pleasure at being able to welcome Brigadier Heidenstam, our Colonel, to Swaziland. Shortly after this "A" Company relieved "D" Company in Francistown again, where they will remain until the task is taken over by the Royal Irish Fusiliers who are relieving us in Swaziland.

Thus we come to the time of writing; the Irish Fusiliers advance party is with us and our own is at this moment flying homewards. There is a certain festive feeling in the air as may well be imagined at the end of a nine-months' unaccompanied tour. It is, however, with mixed feelings that we leave; if one had to do another such tour one can think of few countries more pleasant and with nicer people. The tour has been an interesting one, although somewhat unsettled; but certainly one which has been a great experience and a "last chance in Africa."

"A" COMPANY

It feels, in "A" Company, that our feet have scarcely touched the ground since the last issue of THE BACK BADGE. After routine tasks, such as the Annual Range Classification, Company administration, etc., we were ready to settle down to a quiet and comfortable Christmas. Then, in true tradition, it all started. There were one or two false alarms, but two days before Christmas itself, Second-Lieutenant Hodson was summoned to Battalion Headquarters and told that 1 Platoon would probably be airlifted to Bechuanaland, to guard the controversial B.B.C. Relay Station at Francistown. Some 24 hours later, 1 Platoon was airborne wondering what form their first operational task would take.

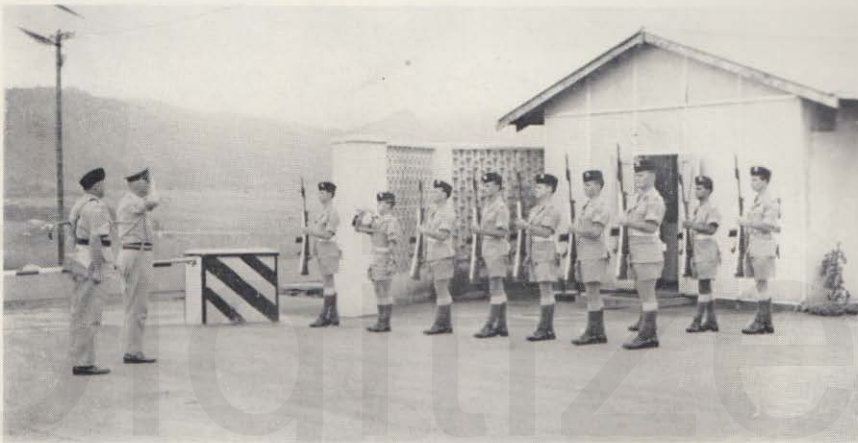
BECHUANALAND

1 Platoon: The most optimistic illusions were shattered as soon as the Argosy disgorged the platoon on to the hot, shimmering tarmac of a dusty airfield carved out of the bush. If possible, morale sank even lower at the first impression of the site, and of the clearing in the bush which was to be the platoon base for an indefinite period. Nothing daunted, the members of the platoon set to and plunged straight into the routine, which was to become the way of life of the "Guard Platoon" for the next six weeks. Despite everything the platoon did not forgo their traditional Christmas dinner, thanks to the efforts of McKinley, the cook.

A few days after Christmas the remainder of the Company arrived. We found that we had acquired a new Company Commander, Major D. L. Hudson, during the course of the move. The Company also had the temporary services of C.S.M. Cook, while Colour-Sergeant Ramsden was recuperating from an illness in Swaziland.

2 Platoon: A second rifle platoon was formed in Francistown, by the amalgamation of the Recce Platoon, the Assault Pioneers and 8 Platoon. This so-called 2 Platoon was commanded by Colour-Sergeant Clayden until the arrival of Lieutenant Mirehouse from England. Sergeant Simmance was the Platoon Sergeant.

Early days were devoted to making the defence of the "site" tactically sound. This involved clear-felling numerous trees and constructing sand-bagged positions. We were considerably aided in this task by the use of local convict labour—willing workers,



Battalion Quarter Guard at Matsapa saluting Major-General J. E. F. Willoughby, G.O.C. M.E.L.F.



The Corps of Drums on Back Badge Day parade



Battlefield tour in South Africa. The C.O. describing the action at Rietfontein, October 1899. In the foreground is the 1st Battalion Memorial



THE B.B.C. RADIO RELAY STATION, FRANCISTOWN

Top left: The Relay Station Top right: The Guard area

Bottom left: "A" Company H.Q. at the English School Hostel

Bottom right: Miss Eagers, W.V.S., on a visit to "A" Company from Swaziland

provided that they were suitably rewarded by the occasional fag. Off-duty days were spent at a school hostel. There we engaged in numerous activities, ranging from personal administration to training, from digging storm ditches to games and sports. Numerous sporting fixtures, both official and by casual, mutual arrangement, did much to improve relations with the Francistown populace. Games varied from soccer against the Police, to rugby with scratch teams of beer-drinking locals, on a dust pitch covered with stones.

Recce Platoon: From the point of view of the Recce Platoon, only half the members went to Francistown. All the Ferret crews had to be left behind to keep their vehicles on the road—a full-time job in Swaziland conditions. These members of the platoon fitted in at least one exercise with the Signal Platoon training programme. The Platoon also lost Lieutenant T. B. Dutton, who was required to fill the post of Company 2i/c.

All told, life in Francistown was not as bad as people had expected. Everyone knew the job he was supposed to be doing. When "D" Company relieved us in mid-February, many people were only half-pleased to return to Matsapa.

BASUTOLAND

It was less of a return than a flying visit to Matsapa, on that occasion. Two days later, the Company was again airborne, bound for Basutoland, on a fortnight's training. This time 8 Platoon were left behind, to carry out their specialist, support platoon training, and their place was taken by 16 Platoon of "D" Company.

Apprehension, as the Beverley came thundering in on a grass landing strip at Maseru, was soon forgotten at the airfield reception we were given. The Basutoland Mounted Police were our hosts and housed us in empty barrack rooms and in Troopers' houses at the Police Training School.

There was no delay in getting down to training—the main purpose of our visit. No. 1 Platoon were sent off to Leribe on a five-day detachment. There, they managed to do a few useful days of section training. Meanwhile, the new equivalent of 2 Platoon, this time consisting of the complete Recce Platoon and 16 Platoon, went off to train at Maktilile, some 60 miles the other side of Maseru. Their main comments about this place were on the subject of mosquitoes and are better not repeated.

Except for the odd day spent resting in the camp, the whole of the time in Basutoland was spent on training at places with such picturesque names as Lancers' Gap, Blue Mountain Pass and Marakabei. For the final days the whole Company took to the hills participating in an escape and evasion exercise at Marakabei.

Of our visit to Basutoland it can safely be said that the majority of the Company enjoyed the trip into a country of rugged scenery in spite of the effort entailed in training over such terrain at altitudes of never less than 5,500 feet and in spite of a harsh climate of extremes, causing sunburn by day and chapping and windburn by night. Some of the members of the advance party—namely the Ferret crews—were fortunate enough to fit in some horse riding with the police troopers, and in spite of one or two tumbles, no one suffered more than a somewhat sore "rear chassis."

Unfortunately, all the Platoon block leaves were planned for the January period, with the result that very few soldiers have managed to get away at all. Nevertheless, all who wished to go managed to get to Lourenço Marques for the weekend, but a visit to the Republic of South Africa, or to Durban, was out of the question.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

During this period the "Chunkies" have been employed on a number of enjoyable tasks. Two memorable ones were spent using explosives and rock drills, firstly on a new road being built in the south of Swaziland, the other assisting the P.W.D. in Basutoland, whilst on a fortnight's training there with "A" Company. This job required us to make a start on a base for a dam, in connection with an irrigation scheme. The P.W.D. provided literally everything we required, and a pleasant (but hardworking) fortnight was spent there. We say goodbye to W.O.2 Crompton, and welcome in his place, as Platoon Commander, Colour-Sergeant Clayden. We also welcome Sergeant Palmer. Our greatest loss?—Speedy Cagle, to Headquarter Company Stores!

After Back Badge Day this year, the Company as a whole are due for a final short tour in Francistown before our much looked-forward-to return to England, and a long spell of leave. It is interesting to reflect that during our tour in Swaziland, in the course of duty, the Company has already flown some 1,500 miles in four air moves; and we are due to complete over 2,300 miles in a total of six air moves before we finally leave Matsapa, homeward-bound, at the end of our short, but eventful tour. We have also had the rather unusual experience of living and working, as a complete unit, in each of the three High Commission Territories, within the brief period of 48 hours.

STOP PRESS

Our warmest congratulations and best wishes go to Colour-Sergeant Tom Clayden on receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Our congratulations also go to 8 Platoon for winning the Float Competition on Back Badge Day, with an excellent replica of a Roman chariot drawn by slaves.

"B" COMPANY

Our latter days in Mauritius turned out to be quite eventful. Towards the end of November we had intimation that the Company would transfer to Aden, and made initial preparations. Meanwhile, life continued normally.

On 20th November we held a highly successful Company dance at H.M.S. *Mauritius*, with over 200 very well dressed and behaved participants. Lance-Corporal Boulton is unlikely to forget his experiences! The day after the dance members of the Company met the Archbishop of Canterbury informally at the Merchant Navy Club in Port Louis. TV was in attendance, and the Island's screens later showed Glosters taking a friendly glass with "Archie."

On 3rd December we held a "Floodlit Boxing Competition" in Line Barracks against the Police and Special Mobile Force. Apart from being a really enjoyable evening, it was a public relations success. Over 2,000 locals, sailors from H.M.S. *Mauritius* and visiting ships, and members of the Police had bought tickets (for Police welfare funds) before entrance arrangements broke down; the enthusiasm of the crowd was amazing, especially during Lance-Corporal James's bout—boxed to a non-stop roar that echoed around the mountains! His Excellency the Governor Sir John Shaw Rennie, K.C.B., presented prizes at the end of the competition, and congratulated all participants for their courage and ability. The Company won the competition by five bouts to three. Lance-Corporal Williams and Private Mosely boxed an exhibition bout because opponents could not be found for them.

On 11th December a Christmas party for 100 old men, organised by the Mauritius Red Cross and financed from our funds, was held in the presence of Lady Rennie at one of the Government Old People's Homes. The old fellows certainly enjoyed their goodies, chocolate and wine; their reaction to a speech in French by Captain Giles was amazing! The Company also presented a radio to the Home.

Our orders to move came on 12th December, and we rapidly packed, handed over our barrack block (considerably improved by us) and moved to the airport via H.M.S. *Mauritius*. On the airfield at 0600 hours to see us off were many of our friends, including Mr. McCaffrey the Commissioner of Police and senior Police Officers, the Captain, First-Lieutenant and other Officers of H.M.S. *Mauritius*, the Commandant and Officers of the Special Mobile Force, the Police Band and numerous civilians. At 0630 hours, the Chief Secretary of Mauritius, the Hon. Tom Vickers, arrived and made a televised speech. This was followed by Major Hobbs presenting trophies—large silver cups—to the Commissioner of Police and the Mauritius Sports Association for Tug-o-War, Soccer and Table Tennis Competitions. Then plaques were exchanged, and to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" from the Band we emplaned.

On 15th December, 1965, "B" Company became operational in Aden, 20 hours after arriving from Mauritius. Since the 15th, the Company has been continuously on I.S. Duties, with a minimum of one platoon committed at all times; there has been one exceptional period—from 1800 hours 20th March to 0430 hours 22nd March when we were released in order to celebrate Back Badge Day—of which more later.

Our first five days in Aden were spent with two platoons guarding the Mansoura Detention Centre; following this we have taken our normal turn with Companies of the 1st Battalion The Coldstream Guards in three classes of duty—I.S. Company, Road Blocks and Static Guards. Each duty is performed for approximately 14 days, and the change round effected without a break. A little detail about each:—

(a) *I.S. Company*. This is responsible for the maintenance of security in the North Area of Aden State—about 25 square miles that includes the teeming urban areas of Sheikh Othman and Mansoura, and the predominantly European quarter of Khormaksar. There are also extensive areas of desert sand and Saltpans to be patrolled. By day these areas are looked after by one platoon providing mobile Land-Rover patrols, and another platoon on standby in barracks.

By night the platoon on mobiles is deployed literally to the last man, with all our Land-Rovers patrolling singly or in pairs; the standby platoon moves out of camp at last light to spend the hours of darkness behind sandbags on a large roundabout, while the third platoon also leaves camp at last light for an area of Saltpans, to patrol on foot until dawn.

(b) *Road Blocks*. Road block duty is either on two big ones, "Bravo" and "Golf," or two small ones "Charlie" and "Juliet." The big ones demand 15 men each, so the Company is committed for six shifts, with a work-rate of six hours "on" and 12 hours "off"—for 14 days. "Bravo" and "Golf" have been ours for three periods of 14 days—generally agreed to be the least pleasant. The small ones can be looked after by a platoon each for 24 hours, which means that our platoons can do training every third day.

(c) *Static Guards*. Guards on the British Forces Broadcasting Station, Special Branch

H.Q. and the Search Party on our own "Singapore Lines" take up a platoon. We did this duty whilst 7 Platoon were "up country" for three weeks, so 5 and 6 Platoons shared doing 24 hours duty, 24 hours training.

Having mentioned 7 Platoon's duty "up country," a little may be said on their achievements. They were sent for three weeks duty as Garrison Platoon—responsible for defence, defence works and administration of the Mukeiras training camp a few miles from the Yemen border. "Training" Company H.Q. of 1 P.W.O. were the permanent residents, running cadres in the surrounding hills. No. 7 Platoon managed not only to do all their "garrison" tasks—including building some excellent dry stone walls (in the Cotswold manner) and sandbagged emplacements; they also did some useful training through the good offices of the P.W.O. Lieutenant Hill and Sergeant Hyde conducted, in the afternoons, cadres on the 81 mm. Mortar, Carl Gustav and G.P.M.G. All members of the Platoon have fired the 81 mm. Mortar, the G.P.M.G. and the Sub-Calibre Carl Gustav; Sergeant Hyde fired a demonstration full-calibre H.W. round from the latter. In addition, operational patrolling was carried out, with "one up the spout." The Company 2 i/c was most impressed when this took place on the first night of his visit. He is still being accused of having loose change rattling around in his pocket!

Warlike action against us to date has been:— from 36 grenades which, thank goodness, do not seem to have the danger area prescribed in the pamphlets; one tin of 5 lb. of plastic explosive packed with old nails—actuated by a time pencil fuse that was fortunately not too accurate (the bomb went off in our Standby Platoon's headquarters 40 minutes before time, causing extensive structural damage but no casualties); numerous rounds of small arms fire badly aimed at 7 Platoon, and replied to with interest (ask Messrs. Courtenay and "Taffy" Jones what is the standard length of burst from a G.P.M.G.!).

Back Badge Day was a welcome break, and was also the first Company parade since we left Mauritius. The Company formed up in hollow square in front of our sports pavilion office, while Major Hobbs addressed us on the Battle of Alexandria, K.A.P.E. and future events in Aden and U.K. Platoons then embussed with haversack rations for six hours on the beach, and were brought back to camp for a free film show—"The Intelligence Men," starring Morecambe and Wise. Then to bed, as checkpoint duty men had to be out and about at 0430.

We have had time for only symbolic sport, but have managed to beat "H.Q." Company 1 Coldstream Guards home and away; Lance-Corporal Bera and Private Courtenay have played rugger for the Army Team in Aden and at the moment some stalwart mountaineers, including Lance-Corporal James, Privates Cox, Kearney, Bridgeman and Moss, are training for a race up the formidable "Shamsan." We miss our Mauritius sports activities.

In Aden we have been visited by the G.O.C., General Willoughby (he also met us on our arrival at Khornaksar airport) the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Hargroves, and the Director of Army Training, General Lang. We are all now looking forward to our VC 10 flights back to U.K.

IMPERIALISTIC PLOT IN ADEN! (?)

As a footnote to "B" Company's arrival in Aden and the subsequent decision by M.O.D. to withdraw from that area, it was with some interest that we heard from

Intelligence sources that a number of 61st scarlet tunics of the 1913 era were discovered up-country. They were manufactured in the Royal Army Clothing Factory and are in excellent condition. They have been offered for sale at 10s. each.

One wonders what their chequered history is, and for how long they have been lying in some dusty go-down in the Middle East. Perhaps they are indeed brilliant forgeries from the Psywar apparat of the Egyptian regime, designed to bring confusion and a fall in morale to the despised Tommies!

"D" COMPANY

How the time flies—even Major Martin managed to do the same thing in November. Major Sims, uttering a sigh of relief, arrived from "H.Q." Company to take over.

Section and Platoon training were successfully completed, although interrupted by such things as duty company every other week, and a five-week stint in Francistown to look after the bush radio—of that later.

December was a "quiet month." The Annual Range Classification was completed as were the other training programme fillers, such as B.E. tests, Ts.O.E.T. and such like. A crash programme of inter-Company sports started and the Company was tying with "H.Q." Company when "A" Company suddenly took flight and disappeared overnight and everything came to a grinding halt. It didn't really matter as the result was obvious before it ever started!

Christmas—well, that came, stayed and went, and doubtless is well described in other parts of the journal.

We only managed to get in one Company exercise which squeezed in a defence, withdrawal and dawn attack in the River Komati area. One Platoon Commander obviously remembered the shades of Burma as he kept on asking for permission to bury his platoon cooker. As it was most of 14 Platoon's kit was "buried" after torrential rain had filled up the pits and washed some of it away—at least that's their story. No. 15 Platoon were so well camouflaged that even the Platoon Commander couldn't find them! The Drums took part but methinks they prefer "retreats." No. 16 Platoon, by the way, thought all this soldiering was a bit rough so pushed off to the other end of Swaziland to fire their weapons—who fired that grass? The C.O., 2 i/c and R.S.M. (a maker of excellent coffee) all appeared, so the Company Commander disappeared overnight on a recce to Francistown.

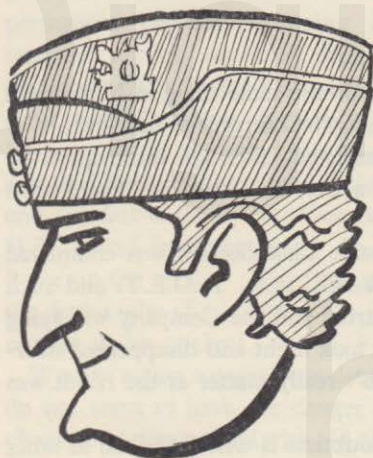
So on St. Valentine's Day, "Delta" flew into Bechuanaland and started to win the "hearts and mind" campaign. This was achieved with notable success except for one "knock" at the Press on the second night of our sojourn. Friendly relations were soon established through sport, perhaps a little beer and the Strangers working their fingers to the bone. The soccer team and rugby team were undefeated, the former let no goals in and the latter's line was crossed only once. The odd faint cry of "Up Rhodesia" was drowned by "Jig-a-jig-jig," etc. Incidentally we also worked very hard and we hope "A" Company will benefit slightly, and the Royal Irish Fusiliers should eventually live under much better conditions.

Well, the "hackles" are up, or here rather; vehicles have been inspected, nobody knows what the time is because of the instrument inspection, weapons are gleaming and ready to be condemned, the M.F.O. is packed, the baggage officer is looking worried, so it's about time we went.

SIGNAL PLATOON

"If at first you don't," etc. . . . Having failed to have published our last notes the period covered by these may be in excess of our allotted period.

Having settled in in Swaziland the Platoon embarked upon a three-month morse continuation cadre (a phrase that covered a multitude of swans).



We soon found that our H.F. working, despite our six weeks' training in Chester, was, to say the least, rusty. We were faced with the C13, a set that we hadn't seen before except in Ferrets, and a multitude of "elderly" V.H.F. sets full of Swaziland dust.

However, once we had got over the initial spell of familiarisation we found that communications in S.E. Africa are of a phenomenal nature.

Making full advantage of eight Land-Rovers and a three-tonner we made ourselves as scarce as possible and headed for the "Bush Veldt." In fact we installed ourselves at Stegi for the month of August and worked in the open nicely adjacent to the Bamboo Inn (not as exotic as it sounds). The Platoon made a lot of friends there and Lance-

Corporal Watkins became a permanent weekend fixture either under or behind the Stegi Golf Club bar.

We managed soccer matches and cricket matches against Stegi, but one of our outstanding sporting achievements of that month was Sergeant Tuggey's "five aces in one" at the Bamboo Inn. It took him many evenings' hard work to achieve it and at no small personal expense.

We were fortunate during the cadre period that we were allowed to do Battalion duties as a Platoon and therefore could plan well ahead.

In September we began to push sub-stations out to the corners of the territory and worked protracted exercises on morse for five to six days at a time. These became popular as the Platoon fast began to see more of Swaziland than anybody else. During September we made our first trip "en masse" to Lourenço Marques where Lance-Corporal Scurlock distinguished himself by being the only visitor to arrive at the Laurentina Brewery in the state in which everybody else left it—his excuse? His birthday the day before.

We managed the ranges in Swaziland so well that the next logical step was to try for a quick "swan" to the High Commission territories. To our surprise these were agreed and we sent, in all, two parties to Basutoland and one to Bechuanaland. One could "write a book" on our experiences in the High Commission territories but it is perhaps worth while to record some of the highlights both military and otherwise.

Colour-Sergeant Chappell took the first load to Basutoland and we found that communications were too easy to be true. The C11 was reaching Swaziland (375 miles away) on voice strength 5, and the smaller sets were having no trouble on Skywave.

Whilst down there the Chief Wireless Officer became a good friend of the Platoon and we managed a daily call on our sets to him five days a week. The party came back via the Battalion's battlefields in Natal, and spent a day-and-a-half on a quick Cook's tour of the lot.

Following almost on the heels of this the R.S.O. left with nine for Francistown (then a quiet, peaceful little spot). The trip promised to be eventful as the road from Gaberones to Francistown is 283 miles long and has only four petrol stations on it. And the whole thing is inches deep in powdered dust.

The R.S.O. being a born coward and having heard tales of "Black Mambas" moving faster than Land-Rovers (though beating ours is no tremendous feat), took a medical orderly who arrived looking like an extra from "Eureka Stockade" but was in fact Lance-Corporal Shepard, R.A.M.C. Also (and again with apologies to the M.T.O.) we took a R.E.M.E. fitter to be "on the safe side." We saw no snakes, though Bowkett and Mawlsley spent hours praying nightly for them. But we did break down. Eighty miles from Francistown at 3 a.m. the three-tonner, despite Lance-Corporal Schneider and Private Wilson's tender care, finally died. The fitter worked like a Trojan but by 9 a.m. we were still not on the move. Hopefully we switched on the C11 and waited. To the R.S.O.'s astonishment, but not Corporal Cleary's, we heard Matsapa getting a crafty aerial reading, and we were through, Strength 5.

Morale went up and we had our "Third" meal of chicken supreme. Francistown was fun and we stayed for 36 hours before driving back via Gaberones to camp. Only one thing marred the trip—the fact that each day we had to eat a meal of chicken supreme.

All good things must come to an end and at the end of November we rejoined the Battalion routine.

Christmas needs no mention, but Lance-Corporals Pitt and Green vanished back to Francistown and to a less friendly reception. We settled down to the job in hand and to date can boast that we have not had a day since communications were opened that we have failed to be on. Full marks to the operators concerned, more operators went to Basutoland and our daily net covered 775 miles with control in the middle. However, "D" Company in Francistown relayed messages from Maseru to Matsapa—no mean feat on voice but one that was often repeated. As regards personalities in the Platoon: It was sad to hear that Sergeant Tuggey's youngest son was killed in a motor accident and also that Cameron's elder brother was drowned. On a happier note—Lance-Corporal Pitt produced a daughter—to his amazement. Colour-Sergeant Chappell produced his second son to his amazement also. Nobody has got married yet, although Ogier fluctuates but who'd have him?

Corporal Reynolds and Lance-Corporal Scurlock went back to Hythe for the R.S.I. course and with Sergeant Tucker rejoin us in Chester. Sergeant Fisher rejoined us looking thinner both on top and in figure. Both Colour-Sergeant Chappell and Sergeant Tuggey leave the Platoon in Chester. One to the "New Look" T.A. and the other to the grocery business. Corporal Cavill is now Sergeant Cavill and rejoins us in Chester, having spent 10 months with "B" Company.

The Platoon as a whole is looking forward to getting back to U.K. and the reforming in Chester should prove somewhat interesting.

One final word about those unsung heroes, the exchange operators. They have done a particularly unpleasant and boring job well, and despite the odd "contretemps" with the "over-enthusiastic" user have retained their sense of humour well.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PLATOON

After the disappointment of taking over transport in Swaziland which was far below the standard of vehicles which we handed over in Cyprus the M.T. drivers got to work with a willing heart and slowly but surely overcame the difficulties and problems facing them. Two afternoons a week the N.C.O.s gave voluntary driving instruction to those unable to drive, and some 30 men reached the testing standard in addition to 12 men who attended Battalion Driving Cadres.

The "Petrol Feet" drivers (no names mentioned) who normally find themselves "otherwise engaged" when Back Badge Parade rehearsals start found that this year there was no escape, even the M.T.O. was wrenched from the gear lever and a sword put in his hand.

Problems encountered as a result of decentralised transport have still not all been overcome: this was highlighted by a certain "D" Company Support Platoon Officer who having spent a lot of time cleaning a vehicle finally got around to cleaning the number plate only to find that it was an "A" Company vehicle.

Reports have been received, however, that the transport we are to take over in U.K. on return is only three months old, so no doubt the drivers' spirits will rise at the sight



of them and they will once again manage to look a little more cheerful. The M.T. advance party have left for U.K. and are under the very capable supervision of our M.T. Sergeant, Colour-Sergeant Dench. We all look forward to meeting up with them shortly after a very successful tour in Swaziland.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

At the time of writing our tour of Swaziland draws to a close. We feel at a loss to include in so small a space the numerous activities of Band life especially of the last few months here: or rather, here and in Basutoland and Bechuanaland. As the time progressed, so have the number of engagements; therefore, let us think of the more personal and individual items which lately have been prone to omission.



Most of the married men have experienced the joy of additions to their families with the knowledge that when they get back there will be new faces to greet them. Sergeant Owen heard of the birth of a girl in November, W.O.2 Halstead now has two daughters, Lance-Corporal Phelps only this week had a signal telegram to say his wife had had a son, and beating his wife to the event, as it were, Bandsman Franklin's wife had a baby girl only a few hours before this. Corporal McKay has increased his fold (now four) with a boy! If all these additions turn out to be musical—what a Band! Sergeant Hannam, B.E.M., left the Band in March to take a Bandmaster course at Kneller Hall. To him we wish success in all his future musical activities and shall watch with interest his progress.

To pass the time away in Swaziland (not as though a Bandsman has much spare time, with all the study he should be doing) a varied round of sports and hobbies has been indulged in. The cricket, volley ball, football and hockey fiends now feel much more confident at tackling all opposition and we are wondering to what extent they will be able to continue their enthusiasm when returning home. Fishing and filming have been to the fore also. A short visit to Kruger Park in December '65 gave Sergeant Mann excellent opportunity to capture "wild life" in its most interesting aspect.

Sergeant Wake is now so adept at golf that he maintains he need not purchase any new golf balls for months to come, provided he does not make the same mistake as his opponents of driving his shots into the long grass!!

All this exercise, plus the fact that our overweight members have been dieting has considerably altered the "outstanding" features of some of us. Corporal McKay's nickname is now "Slim"—which proves the effectiveness of the M.O.'s diet sheet. Bandsman Michael Usher and Brian Carbin successfully completed their Pupils' Course at Kneller Hall in October '65 and rejoined the Band in November. Congratulations to them both.

We are now looking forward to an active musical summer when we return to Chester.

THE CORPS OF DRUMS

The Drums have spent most of the time around the Battalion H.Q. area of Matsapa, what with two companies being away; after all someone had to be on call, although we did on the odd occasion join one of the companies for a spot of training and managed to catch a few bush fires.

Having been called on for quite a few Retreats and Marching Displays in Swaziland, both near and far, some in the bush and others in towns (and all much appreciated by the local population) a ten-day tour of Basutoland with the Band was quite an experience.

What an odd assortment of transport! From a school bus with very narrow seats, to the Police riot vehicles with wire sides, and P.W.D. vehicles with almost no sides at all. But with all this the hospitality was great, even though we were on the move most of the time. One can honestly say that on this tour we received the greatest of crowds ever, and discomfort was not thought of; all agreed it was a pleasure to take part.

Being stationed with the Basutoland Mounted Police quite a few of the Band and Drums were introduced to horse riding, and some walked back dejectedly without a mount. Fishing is quite good in this area, and although the rivers were just getting out of flood the Fishing Club members managed to go out on occasions with the Drum-Major and had a good old fry up of Black Bass (of course, quite a lot got away). We have now managed to get Ron Kent interested, or should one say he has caught the bug. By the way, we have always wondered why two mace boxes are carried on tour.

On our last evening in Maseru, the capital of Basutoland, we all had the pleasure of meeting the Paramount Chief at the Residency. After a short display in the grounds we were all invited to cocktails which was a very good finish to a ten-day tour.

A visit to Delta Company in Bechuanaland is also worth a mention. After a Band concert followed by a combined Retreat we spent the rest of a very social evening with Delta. At first Colour-Sergeant Bird was going to show a film, but as soon as the Strangers started operating (this is the Company pop group) and the "Odd Can" was opened, one forgot about the film and a very good time was had by all (is it a fact that some members finished up in the goldfish pond?).

We accept any Platoon challenge to all types of sport, and have had plenty of opportunity to take part in this field. Hobbies are still going strong, and there are those with the fishing bug; Ron Kent, Reg Turk, John Hole, Chalkie White, Flash Harding, and on occasion, Cliff Hoare. Most members think that Pip Ambury has caught it. With all the kit these have we imagine that they will carry on in U.K.

Finally, congratulations to Lance-Corporal White on being selected for the Army P.T. course at Aldershot. We all console Lance-Corporal Barnfield on his Depot posting being cancelled, but rumour is that he will now be joining the mobile club.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

At the time of going to press the Sergeants' Mess, like all other departments are frantically trying to decide how and where to pack Mess property for our move back to Chester, having completed what can only be described as rather a hectic nine months in Swaziland, an experience that young and old members alike have enjoyed. The various moves made by the Battalion to such places as Bechuanaland and Basutoland over the Christmas/January period will no doubt be enlarged upon by the Companies concerned. From the Mess point of view the comings and goings of certain Mess members rather disturbed the afternoon siestas of the stalwarts of "H.Q." Company, coming from the distant bunks of Messrs. Clayden, Ramsden, Thomas, Bird and Marshallsay when murmuring in their beards (sorry Tom) "here we go again."

During the October Mess meeting it was decided unanimously that we should have a monthly Mess dinner, that the dress be formal and a display of silver by kind permission of the Officers' Mess be on show. Up to the time of writing, we have had six very successful dinner nights, and for the December dinner night we had the privilege of Dining In

the C.O., 2 i/c, Q.M., Paymaster and M.T.O. In January we found ourselves Dining In with great pleasure our new R.S.M., namely R.S.M. Masters, whom we take this opportunity of welcoming back to the fold, having, meanwhile, had a pleasant stay with the D.E.R.R. We trust his stay with us once again will be a very happy and pleasant one.

During our time in Swaziland it became increasingly obvious that the hospitality of European settlers was second to none, so in reply it was decided that certain male members would be elected as Honorary Members; they would be given a suitably inscribed Regimental Booklet and offered the hospitality of the Mess, and this was duly carried out by the current P.M.C. All Honorary Members and their wives have since been Dined In, a unique occasion for them as well as for all Mess Members.

In the field of sport the prowess of the Mess is worth a mention with particular reference to volley ball, for it is the done thing to challenge the Sergeants' Mess, whose skill and agility are unbelievable at times. Rumour has it that Ken Dowler is seeking a coach's job in U.K. We also have a strong golf team—to name but a few, Ben (Hogan) Hampton, Hector (Dai) Wake, Peter (Gary) Garland, and Olly Halstead, who is also a force to reckon with on the tennis court. Since the Unit acquired a trampoline various members have had a go, but with very little success, except for George (Slim) Thomas whose skill in performing a double somersault and twist has to be seen to be believed.

True or False: King Sobhuza of Swaziland, wants to know who this guy "King Billy" is at St. George's Barracks, Matsapa.

Past Mess members will be delighted to hear that we kept up the true tradition of the Sergeants' Mess by laying on an excellent Back Badge Ball on 21st March in Swaziland. It was held at the Masonic Hall of Mbabane, and we were delighted to have the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Heidenstam, as principal guest, also Mr. Ace Long, the Chief Secretary to H.E. Sir Francis Loyd, who unfortunately could not attend. All of our Honorary members and their wives plus many other friends attended. Naturally, all of our civilian guests were intrigued with the Old Guard in all their finery guarding the Colours and silver, and even more impressed with the changing of the Old and New Guards at midnight, undoubtedly a very familiar sight to past members of the Mess.

We would like to congratulate the following on their well-deserved promotion, C.S.M. John Alderman, C.S.M. Les Ramsden, R.Q.M.S. Ivor Dee, Colour-Sergeants Pete Garland, Keith Godwin, Tom Clayden, Sergeants Watkins, Hannam, Cavill, Westaway, Devlin. We welcome back to the fold Sergeant Dick Marshallsay who has just completed a tour with the D. & D. T.A. at Poole, Dorset, and Sergeant Ken Fisher from recruiting at Cheltenham.

Special mention must be made of two "Ye Olde Members" of the Mess, namely R.Q.M.S. Topper Brown and Colour-Sergeant Tom Clayden, congratulations to both of you on being presented with your L.S. & G.C. by Brigadier Heidenstam, but remember it is "undetected crime."

Finally, during our stay in Swaziland we have had a large contingent of Corps people attached, namely R. Sigs., R.E., R.C.T., R.E.M.E. (L.A.D.) and we trust their stay with us has been a pleasant one. Evidently it must have been for Staff-Sergeant Ron Whittle, of the newly-formed R.C.T., who presented the Mess his Regimental Plaque.

CRICKET

The cricket season, although limited, was most enjoyable. Games were played mostly, on Sunday mornings, starting at 0930 hours (not so good—ever seen Penguins playing cricket?) until the Padre arrived, after which the timings became a little more civilised. Because of our training commitments and possible tasks we did not play in the league, but arranged a series of friendlies with those teams. All the matches were played on grass wickets, and on many occasions they looked just like English cricket grounds—water logged.

The opposition seriously underestimated our strength for the first few games, so after a series of innings defeats our hosts strengthened their sides, which made the games more interesting, but lowered our batting and bowling averages. Everyone will be pleased to learn that the Colonel survived that “cut” outside the off stump at the beginning of his innings more often than not.

There are the makings of a very good Regimental side for next season in England, so let's hope the weather is kind.

The results of games played out here are:—

P	W	L	WO
8	3	2	3

The following represented the Battalion during the season:—

Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E., Major B. J. Sims, Captain Godfrey (too much golf), Captain Cross, R.A.E.C., Sergeant Broady, Corporal Clarke, R.A.P.C., Lance-Corporal Plenderleith, R.A.P.C., Lance-Corporal Ingham, Privates Llewellyn, Ludford, Pickard. The scorer was Private Portch, and Private Shrimpton “stood” on most occasions.

THE SLASHERS GOLF SOCIETY

The Society got off to a fine start when five members journeyed to Lourenço Marques for the week-end as players of the Usutu Club. For some it was their debut in competition.

The Polana course is an attractive one with the club house the height of luxury: we were looked after extremely well, and all felt a little sorry to leave for home on Sunday.

Our first fixture as a Battalion side was against the Seniors of Swaziland, the first of two most enjoyable fixtures held between the clubs. To date each side has one victory and it is hoped to arrange the decider before our departure.

Our members have travelled all over the territory playing in club competitions with much success, and we are often asked to provide players for the Government team. The Society has certainly been a success in Swaziland and has made many friends in our travels. It is hoped that it will continue to thrive on our return to U.K. and that we shall be able to find time for some matches. Old clubs are still wanted!



BACK BADGE DAY, 1966

It can be gathered from elsewhere in the journal that the difficulties which had to be overcome in order to produce a successful Back Badge Day in Swaziland were pretty great. Dispersion of Companies and lack of men added to the other factors of the



"B" COMPANY ON SECURITY DUTIES, ADEN
Top left: A mobile patrol on the outskirts of Sheikh Othman
Top right: Ready for any eventuality
Bottom left: At a checkpoint
Bottom right: A mobile patrol a few miles north of Aden



A 75 yard span suspension bridge being built by the Assault Pioneers over the Umbulzi River in Swaziland



[By courtesy of the Exeter Express

Colonel E. D. Harding speaking to Private B. J. Taylor, who has recently re-enlisted into the Regiment, at the Wessex Brigade Depot

imminent return to U.K., the unit vehicle and equipment inspection scheduled for the following day and the handover to the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Once it was decided to make the most of what we had and do our best, all ranks went to it with a will. Soldiers were prised from the most unlikely places, and even the M.T.O. found himself with sword in hand. For the two weeks prior to 21st March the square (a sand and gravel affair) resounded to the unfamiliar sounds of foot and rifle drill. The form of parade was simple, and after the time-honoured fashion. By Back Badge Day all ranks had achieved a standard of drill and steadiness which was remarked upon by many spectators.

The four guards marched on in bright sunlight, their white No. 3 Dress giving an unusually sparkling effect. After the Officers had fallen in and the Commanding Officer had taken over the parade, the first arrival of importance was the Ngwenyama, King Sobhuza II who received a general salute. He was closely followed by the Acting Queen's Commissioner and the Colonel of the Regiment. After the inspection R.Q.M.S. Brown and Colour-Sergeant Clayden received their Long Service and Good Conduct medals. This was then followed by an exchange of gifts between the Ngwenyama, The Assistant Queen's Commissioner and the Commanding Officer. A Regimental side drum was presented to the Ngwenyama in token of a happy tour in Swaziland. The Commanding Officer in his short speech pointed out the value of the drum as a piece of Regimental history, and hoped that in years to come it would remind the Ngwenyama of our stay. The Ngwenyama in return gave the Regiment a Swazi battle-axe, spear and shield, wishing us well and success in the future.

After a good march past the Colonel of the Regiment addressed the Battalion, congratulating them on their smartness. He brought a message from the Borough of Cheltenham saying that it intended to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on the Regiment this autumn.

Brigadier Heidenstam also read a message from the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, who sent his best wishes and said he hoped to be at the Freedom ceremony.

The parade then marched off and the visitors were entertained to lunch in all three Messes. After lunch the Battalion amused their guests with side shows and a parade of floats. The side shows were made and run by various platoons and departments and consisted of a treasure hunt, bowling alley, hoopla, tombola, ring the bell, coconut shies, roulette, and shove ha'penny. A total of £16 was collected, which will be given to charity.

Next came the floats: the Recce Platoon conjured a Dalek out of a Ferret, the Quartermaster's Department produced an excellent tableau depicting the Maternity Ward of Chester Hospital in January 1967 (not true we hope). Next came 16 Platoon's float, the Joko Tea Recruiting Van showing the limits one could go to in the hunt for new cannon fodder. The M.T. Platoon rowed past in a most realistic slave galley, with drum beating and whip cracking: to complete the Roman touch, 8 Platoon had manufactured a most realistic chariot and a host of gladiators complete with armour, whilst the Signals Platoon carried past a ravishing Cleopatra on her litter. Finally, 1 Platoon gave us their version of the much

maligned Francistown Relay Station. The judges—Lady Loyd, Brigadier Heidenstam



and the Commanding Officer found their task far from easy, but after a considerable debate and encouragement from the spectators the Roman Chariot was given first prize, the Joko Tea Recruiters were given second prize, and all other floats were judged to be third equal—a very satisfactory result.

Immediately after this a Regimental brooch was presented to Miss Clements from Manzini, who has been tireless in her efforts to find families and homes which would open their doors to the Regiment. The results of her efforts were outstanding, as will be confirmed by the scores of soldiers who have found a second home—from-home amongst the hospitable Swaziland Europeans.

Finally, with three cheers for Lady Loyd who presented the prizes, the show was now over and the afternoon was rounded off with a marching display by the Band and Drums.

In the evening the usual Back Badge Ball was held in the Masonic Hall in Mbabane. Despite the regrettable absence of the wives, it went with great zest and was thoroughly enjoyed. A word of praise here for the excellent buffet which was admired by all. To the strains of the last waltz it was with justifiable pride that the Battalion could look back on yet another successful Back Badge Day when so much was done by so few.

REAR PARTY AT CHESTER

Our dreary vigil's nearly done. The bronzed Battalion homeward wing
Whilst we, both blanched and numb with cold, wait patiently for England's spring.
Nine months we've spent in Saighton Camp, nine months of uninspiring work.
We've counted, costed, scrubbed and cursed through blizzards, driving rain and murk.
Brave Major Wood is still unbowed, though now his pate is shot with grey
From worries, cares and all the woes that crowd upon him day by day.
His aide in these, his darkest hours, is Corporal Godsall (ex R.N.),
An adept at the calming phrase, the march-out and the soothing pen.

The Q department rumbles on, though Taylor still types with his toes.
For Brown read Crompton, who now keeps the endless files, returns and rows
Of stores of every shape and kind. Now Sergeant-Major Brisland's here.
He drew a full G 10 (no less), from the Royal Irish Fusiliers.
The garages are jam-packed full with trucks of every shape and size;
Poor Corporal Hazell has more stores than an Egyptian thief has lies.
Here's Corporal Ryder back again. The thunder of his hammer roars
About the camp as he tries hard to keep the weather out of doors.

Our other heroes must be sung; Roots with his pay and Imprest Roll,
Laffoley with his bags of mail and Townley typing like a troll.
There's Harris, now the King of Fire, and Hodges at the Guard Room door.
(His son was born on Back Badge Day—what Gloster dad could ask for more?)
Fred Walton's won one thousand pounds but still commutes on creaking bike.
We nearly sent our beds to Crewe when threatened with a Railway strike.
We've blocked the Mersey Tunnel fast and sent our football team to play
On pitches waterlogged and foul. The credit's due to Sergeant Way.

So now you know just what we've done whilst here at home we've had to lurk—
Nine months we've spent in Saighton Camp, nine months of uninspiring work.

ANON.

DIE NASIONALE KRUGERWILDTUIN

(The Kruger National Park)

BY BANDMASTER D. CARSON

OBVIOUSLY a posting to Central or Southern Africa would be incomplete without a trip to one of the wonderful game reserves; and so a party of five members of the Regimental Band set out, during early November, for the Kruger National Park.

Firstly, for the geographically-minded, a few vital statistics. This great game sanctuary, covering an area of some 7,340 square miles, is situated in the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld. It occupies almost one-fiftieth of the total area of the Republic of South Africa, and is practically equal to the principality of Wales in size. Its length is approximately 200 miles and it has an average width of 40 miles.

Having overcome the most difficult task of our three-days' expedition—extracting a Land-Rover and trailer from the M.T.O.—we set out on the 112-mile journey from Matsapa to our nearest approach gate to the Park, Crocodile Bridge (see accompanying sketch map), during which journey the driver (as opposed to conductor!) became forcefully acquainted with the intricacies of "four-wheel drive" and was heard to exclaim: "I always wondered what that little red knob was for!"

Our first objective being the Skukusa Rest Camp, we excitedly completed the formalities of "booking-in" at Crocodile Bridge and set a north-westerly course. However, we had covered a mere 50 yards or so when we were confronted by a large, male leopard (I do think their opening gambit could have been something more in keeping with our

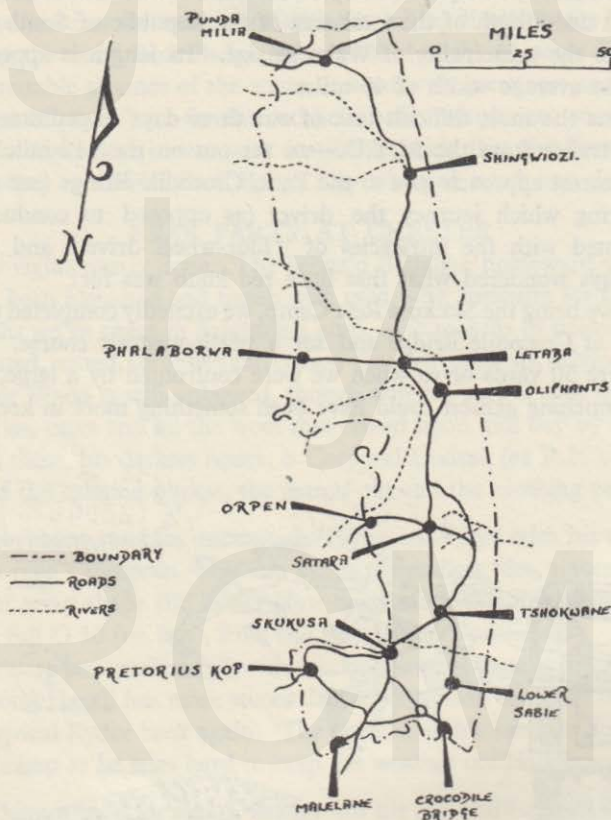


"L" plates) which, fortunately, appeared even more frightened of us than we were of him and beat a hurried retreat. To our chagrin he was the only leopard seen during our tour and, due to the initial surprise, he was unphotographed.

Having arrived later than intended at Crocodile Bridge we unfortunately had to make very good time to the Skukusa Camp or face the "on the spot" fine of one Rand (10s.) for the first quarter-of-an-hour late and three Rands for subsequent periods of 15 minutes

after the appointed hour (6.30 p.m.) of Camp closing. However, despite this handicap of speed we were indeed fortunate in seeing three elephants, two giraffes, a number of wart-hog, impala (by the score), kudu, water-buck and buffalo on this first evening.

Arriving at Skukusa without an A.W.O.L. penalty, but having nearly been caught speeding (you can't win!), we were at first disappointed by the fact that we were not permitted to pitch our tents (rules of this particular Camp); but, having been informed that the alternative was to sleep in one of the quaint, thatch-roofed, circular "Rondavels," we were completely mollified. These buildings are virtually high-class native huts and certainly lent an air of verisimilitude to the occasion.



Our temporary high spirits were soon to be shattered as they had never been shattered before (or, we pray, ever again). Having covered some 240 dirty, dusty, sun-baked miles in the course of the day, we very quickly repaired to the restaurant/bar for a shandy. I would be grateful if the reader would here call upon his (or her?) vivid imagination to envisage the indescribable look of dumbfounded, incredulous agony on the faces of five hairy-chested Bandsmen who had just been told, in no uncertain terms, that the complete 7,340 square miles of the Park was "DRY"!

Our only complete day in the Park was planned to the following itinerary:—(1) Pack, load Land-Rover, move to Pretorius Kop Camp by the "upper road" (see map) as early as possible and make camp. (2) Return to Skukusa by the "lower road" (not marked) for lunch. (3) P.m., circular trip taking in the Skukusa/Malelane—Malelane/Pretorius Kop roads. This particular area we found to be the most rewarding of all. Pretorius Kop lies at a considerably higher altitude than the rest of the Game Reserve and has a higher annual rainfall. This naturally makes for a higher percentage of both flora and fauna. The former is relatively picturesque for this particular region of Africa, being in the main: vaalboom, sicklebush, marula and kiaat trees, interspersed with tambookie grass. Animals we also found in abundance—herds of zebra, wildebeest and (inevitably) impala; blue wildebeest, giraffe, waterbuck, kudu, sable and roan antelope, buffalo, elephant, klip-springers, bush and reedbuck, baboons, vervet monkeys, wild dogs, jackal, hyena, cheetah *ad infinitum*. One great pleasure was the liberty afforded at the "Hippo Pool," where one is allowed to debus. Here there are two ferocious natives, armed with shotguns, waiting to escort parties to the pool—of course, a "tip" is inevitably forthcoming.

Our sole disappointments to date were the apparent lack of lions and rhinos. As far as the latter was concerned we left the Park without a sign (not unduly disconcerting as they are not at all rare in Swaziland) but, although we eventually followed, wide-eyed, the stalking of a herd of impala by a lioness, we were kept in suspense for long enough to have given up hope completely. We were, in fact, some five miles only from Crocodile Bridge gate, having begun our return journey to Swaziland, when we sighted this, our first lion. She was a beautiful, fully-grown creature, stalking with the true majesty of the "Queen of the Jungle." A fitting end to a wonderfully satisfying, if all too short, expedition.

5TH BATTALION TERRITORIAL NEWS



ANW.



OUR last Battalion Notes spoke of the shock and dismay felt by all our Citizen-Volunteer officers and soldiers at the prospect of the virtual destruction of the Territorial Army. The future is now beginning to take shape. This famous old Battalion, the last survivor of all the fine T.A. and Service Battalions of the Regiment, is not to disappear entirely except in name. We are to retain two Companies—one for the Army Volunteer Reserve and one for the Home Defence Force.

The Company for the new "Wessex" Battalion of the Army Volunteer Reserve will be 115 strong and is to be based in Gloucester. The other Companies of that Battalion are to be in Winchester, Reading and Dorchester, with Battalion Headquarters in Exeter! The Company Commander will be a T.A. Officer, but there is likely to be a Regular Permanent Staff of a W.O.2, a Colour-Sergeant and a Sergeant: we do not yet know what civilian staff there will be. The Company is likely to have Regular Army equipment and to carry out more training with the Regular Army than at present—including training overseas. Members of the Company will qualify for an Annual Bounty of £60 plus an Annual Training Bounty.

The 5 Glosters will also contribute a company to the Gloucestershire Home Defence Force Regiment. We are not in a position to give much information about this unit as yet. The Regiment will be made up from ourselves, the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, and Bristol units. It will consist of a small Headquarters and three Companies based in the county and in Bristol, but their locations and the title of the unit are not known at the time of going to press. The 5 Glosters Company is likely to be about 75 strong; it will be commanded by a T.A. Officer, and it should have a locally-recruited type "T" Engagement P.S.I. The Company and Regiment will NOT be a Civil Defence Unit: it will be a fully-military unit under the military authorities. One of its tasks will be to support the Police in maintaining law and order if necessary, but it will not be part of the Police in any way. The amount of weapons, equipment, and training time will, at first, be pathetically small. However, it is our clear duty to get this Company off to a good start, both because it will be the direct successor of 5 Glosters, and because it will be a basis on which to build in any future expansion. Equipment, training time, and numbers may well be improved and increased as time goes by.

The future of the T.A. has hung in the balance since last July. It has been remarkable that so much has been achieved by the Battalion during this long and weary wait. The spirit and determination of the Volunteers has been beyond praise in everything they have done. We should mention particularly the Battalion Rally Team who followed up their victory in the School of Artillery Rally by winning the main Rally Event in Southern Command, the Five Star Rally, against formidable opposition over a formidable course, and then completed the trio by winning the third major event, The Rally Atomique. The Shooting Team did very well in the T.A. Non-Central Full Bore Matches. Lastly, the Annual Administrative Inspection passed off well, and the hard work of everyone was rewarded by the Divisional Commander's comment, "A very good report."

We go to Camp at Plasterdown on Dartmoor from 25th June to 9th July. It will be our last Camp. Then we get busy in setting up and launching the two Companies which are to carry the Battalion into the future.

"A" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

The winter months are reputed to be the "close season" of T.A. activities, but unlike Caesar's armies, we have no time to repair to winter quarters.

"Pilgrims' Progress" would be more appropriate, as we sallied forth in November frost to "Forest Catch," a training weekend to practise patrolling, ambushing and watermanship in the Forest of Dean. Major Ridlington caught influenza and "Aqua" Attwood managed to avoid the water this time.

Guided by Staff-Sergeant Cleave, we avoided the pitfalls of the "Slough of Despond"—

the Annual Administration Inspection—and trudged doggedly on to the Brigade Medical Competition, where Lance-Corporal Scudamore, the team captaincy having been thrust upon him at very short notice, led our team to first place of the Battalion entries. Recruit Nelmes (three weeks' service) was also pressed into the team!

The next hurdle was the Battalion Patrol Competition, in mid-February, where Second-Lieutenant Poole and his merry band (less one) were beaten into second place by the narrowest of margins.

On we raced to the local "Grand National," i.e. "Cotswold Chase III". Many evaders were hunted down and Sergeant Murphy got a "mention" in the Press, for his unusual catch. The administration was first class; probably a little too good, for as the C.O. noted later "comfort must take second place to competence!" Two unusual incidents were noteworthy. Firstly, in the best Rorke's Drift tradition, Second-Lieutenant John Francis, R.E. (late 5 Glosters and now a Regular Officer), commanded No. 1 Platoon, having given up three days' leave to rough it with his old unit. Secondly, the affair of the unfortunate cadet, whose rifle was seized from his grasp, by an unscrupulous evader. This story became so distorted, that the Company Commander was hounded all day by a press reporter, demanding an interview with the "coshed" cadet!

We welcome Major Ridlington, and new volunteers, Privates Nelmes, Hamblin and Dinham. Farewell to Second-Lieutenant Francis and Private Wortley (to the Regular Army) and goodbye also to veterans Sergeants Watts and Murphy, J. G. Congratulations to the following on their promotion—C.S.M. Murphy, Sergeant Attwood, Corporals Scudamore, Fennell, and Viner, Lance-Corporals Watson, Stack and Marsh.

We wish a speedy recovery to Lance-Corporal Clark (our para man) who suffered severe burns when his mechanical digger struck a gas main. We hope to see him in time for Camp!

And so we march on to the future—to the signings of "Declarations of Intent"—a document which would seem more appropriate to the political policy makers in whose hands our future rests. Undaunted by all this, we press on to AVR1/2/HDF—as always in the T.A.—"you pays your money, and you takes your choice!"

"B" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

With the ink still wet on the last journal the task of writing the next episode is upon us. Without the spice of a trip to B.A.O.R. to record, the prospects of an interesting contribution seem as remote as usual.

Perhaps the most important fact to record first is that the enthusiasm and spirit of everyone in the company is as good as ever and everyone always appears to be in good heart. It is this spirit that draws people to patrols in the Mendips in almost arctic conditions, and why we can still give a good account of ourselves in most of the Battalion competitive functions.

C.S.M. Bill Russell has settled down well, and with the help of his wife has provided the company with its youngest recruit. Under the ever-watchful culinary eyes of C.Q.M.S. Loftus we continue to be the best fed company in the Battalion, and I'm sure there are not many who would argue with that. Newly promoted Corporals Feaver, Williams and Stutt still continue to give their support to the company training sessions, and C.S.M. Wade is always there to dig the spurs in when it is necessary.

Privates Davis and Longhurst, our newest recruits, have almost lived at the T.A.

centre since they joined, and are rapidly proving themselves to be valuable members of the company. Private Stinchcombe still provides an excellent steak and we hope that it won't be long before Private Seymour is back to try his hand at cooking again.

A successful and enjoyable weekend in the Forest of Dean before Christmas provided us with some material about certain characters. Private Longhurst for instance has the following world record to his credit. He arrived at the T.A. centre on a Monday evening, was attested and medically examined on Wednesday, kitted out on Thursday, in the Forest on Friday. During watermanship training on the Saturday he was the only man in the Battalion to fall in the river. In the cookhouse, where he was drying out, the cooks used his underwear as oven cloths, and on Sunday during the patrol march through the Forest he was the only man to have blisters; needless to say, he was forced to drop out and thus concluded the most eventful six days of his young life.

Sergeant Marriott is again booked for the Small Arms School and will be accompanied by Corporal Feaver. They will no doubt be driving us through weapon training tests the day they come back. Sergeant Marriott has contributed a great deal to this Company in all forms of training and will always be an asset to the T.A. in whatever form it takes.

The pressure is now on our last Annual Camp and the preparations are well under way. I'm sure that old P.S.I.s like C.S.M. Ivor Dee would agree that this is the time that the country gets value for its money and the youth of today become better citizens because of their experience.

"C" COMPANY

Our children's party in December was once again a very considerable success and we can only hope that in future years it will be possible for these parties to be continued. The fact that Father Christmas bore a marked resemblance to "Neighbour Agg" in heavy disguise went unnoticed by all but the discerning eyes. That evening 65 members of the Company and their wives attended the dinner dance at which Major I. Scott Cooper was our guest of honour. A silver tankard was presented to Major I. Scott Cooper by C.S.M. Pack on behalf of the Company.

We added yet another cup to our collection by winning the Battalion Patrol Competition on a stormy night in February. The Patrol consisted of Captain H. C. Jessop, Sergeant Joyner, Corporal James, Lance-Corporals Heatley, Young, Page, Scammell, Harvey, Stevens, R., and Privates Bartlett and Stanford. Our success in this competition followed several weeks of intensive patrol training at Cleeve Hill, including a night map-reading exercise in a thick fog and a patrol ambush exercise during which our patrol "shot" the Company Commander and P.S.I. mistakenly believing them to be the enemy.

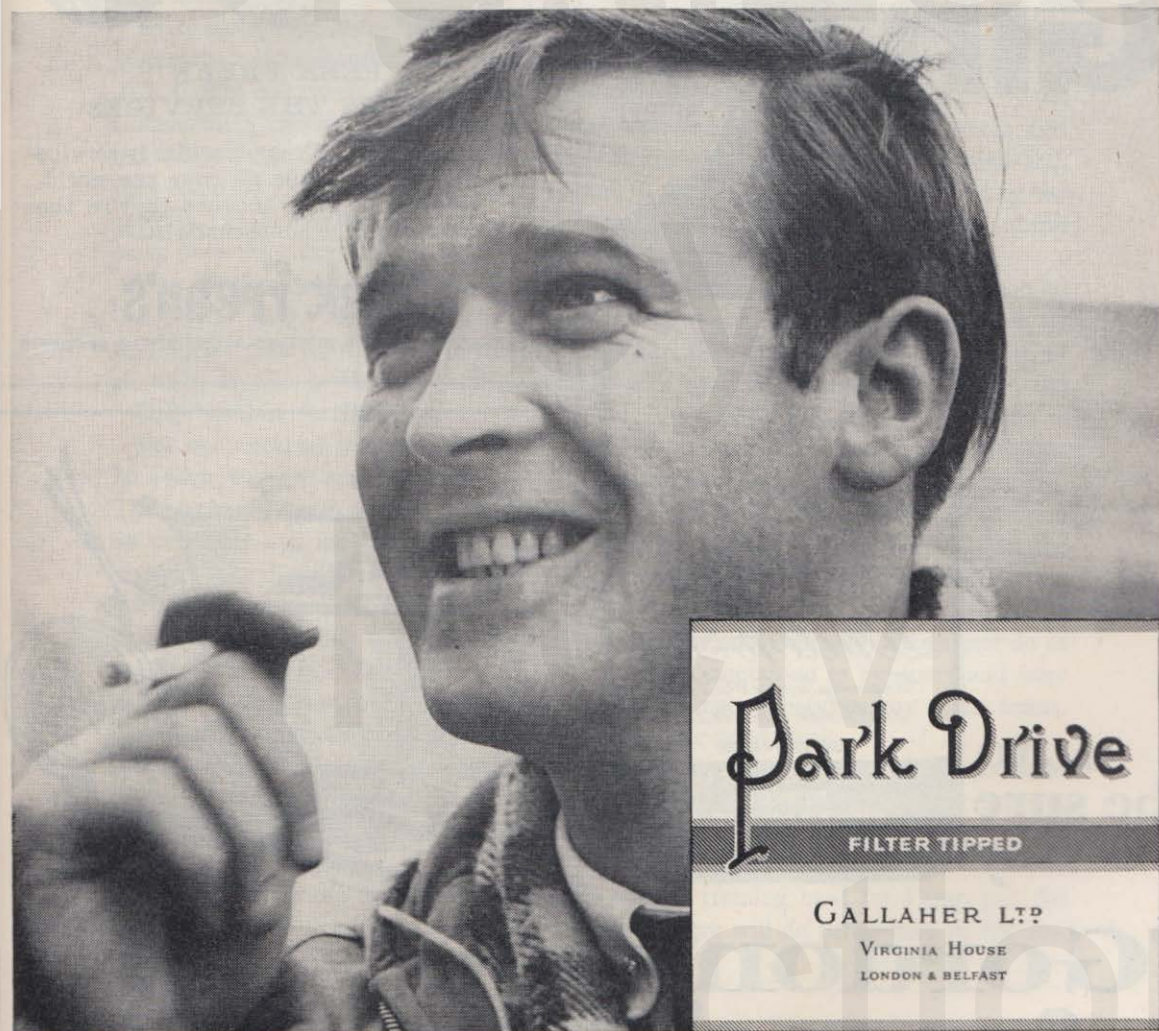
The exercise "Cotswold Chase III" has been renamed "Wilde's Banquet," following the cordon bleu cooking served by C.Q.M.S. Wilde assisted by Privates Stephens and Agg. So formidable was the menu, that by an overwhelming majority the Company elected to forgo one meal completely as none of our copious free time seemed to be left for sleeping. During this exercise C.S.M. Pack proved that even Company H.Q.s occasionally captured the enemy on exercises.

We congratulate Captain H. C. Jessop on his promotion, and on a domestic note, we congratulate Lance-Corporal Harvey and Private Farmer on their recent marriages, and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Heatley on the birth of a daughter. Captain R. Boyle has

What people say about Park Drive

**"I like them - a good smoke
and good value for money"**

Mr. Alexander Montgomery of Lee Bank



Park Drive
FILTER TIPPED

GALLAHER LTD
VIRGINIA HOUSE
LONDON & BELFAST

try PARK DRIVE you'll like them

This is the Gin*

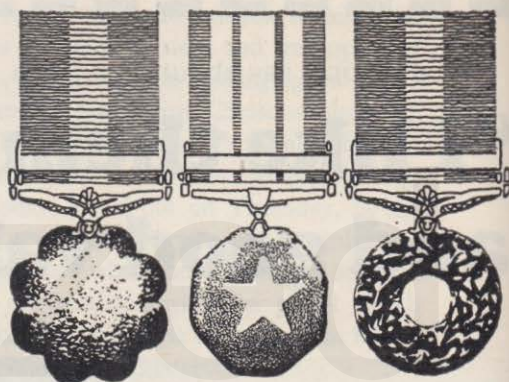


*PURE
GRAIN
SPIRIT

...to
be sure
say

'Gordon's for me'

THE LARGEST SELLING GIN IN
GREAT BRITAIN, THE USA AND THE WORLD



PEEK FREAN SERVES THE SERVICES

You'll find Peek Frean biscuits in service canteens and Naafis all over the world. They're so popular because they're the biscuits with the home-made taste.

Peek Frean's

MAKERS OF FAMOUS BISCUITS & CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS



For the flavour
of real
home-cooking ...
always add
a cube of Oxo



now left us for another Company and our shooting team in particular will feel the loss.

It was with some regret that we said goodbye to C.S.M. Cheater, but with our usual ability to overcome impossible situations, we persuaded him to allow us to welcome him back again a week later.

We now look forward to the lighter evenings and with them the opportunity of more interesting outdoor training on patrol nights, Camp and the prospect there of winning even more cups in the skill at arms competitions.

"D" COMPANY

The last six months have been rather quiet, with members of the Company having to re-assess their attitudes in respect of the re-organisation of the T.A.

Even though the future has been unsettled, we have had some interesting training during the winter months. The most successful innovation has been getting out of the T.A. Centre one evening each month for a short exercise. The first exercise, set by the Commanding Officer, was a Cordon and Search of some old cottages. This was carried out well and enjoyed by all as we had been told that, as the cottages were to be demolished, they could be torn apart if required. Sergeant J. Cross did very well commanding the exercise. In November, on a rather cold evening, Sergeant D. Mears took an ambush party onto Stinchcombe Hill and a very successful ambush was laid.

The .22 Shooting Competition went quite well; "D" Company finished third behind "C" and "H.Q." If all the team could have been as consistent as Sergeant Mears we would have done a lot better. In the recent .22 N.S.R.A. Competition we came fifth to all units in Gloucestershire entering teams—once again being beaten by "C" and "H.Q." within the Battalion.

For our weekend training before Christmas, the Company has been on the Mendips for a night compass march with "B" Company and the Battalion weekend at Monmouth. The last exercise was very interesting being split between working in the Forest of Dean on patrolling and ambushes, and watermanship on the river at Monmouth. On the river we placed our lives in the hands of those who said they could construct our rafts. Fortunately, they all floated and nobody ended up in the water.

In the two Battalion competitions held in December and February, we did not do as well as in the past. We trained hard for the Patrol competition in February and were unlucky to come last, but there was not a very large margin between any of the teams. The Commanding Officer commended our patrol for good work.

The winter session once again finished on a high level with Exercise "Cotswold Chase III." Those who attended felt that it was one of the most successful exercises they had taken part in. Three members of the Company managed to get into an A.T.V. newsreel.

For the next three months the Company will be training hard for Camp and the Skill at Arms Competition; we are determined that we will do better than in the last competition.

"H.Q." COMPANY

We are still playing our part in Battalion affairs, with another active six months behind us. We enjoyed our weekend at Monmouth in November, much valuable work being done by the Assault Pioneers and Signals Platoon. In February we had our Children's

Party, which as usual went with a bang and the sound of 170 young voices. We congratulate the Battalion Rally Teams for their successful efforts in the Five Star Rally, School of Artillery Rally and Rally Atomique. We are pleased to see "H.Q." Company so well represented by Captain D. B. Rice, Staff-Sergeant A. Taylor, Sergeant G. Cromwell, Corporals W. Sadler and D. Base. The Company also won the Inter-Company .22 Shoot and with it the Wilson Cup. Much thanks are due to the R.S.M.'s expert coaching. The Annual Cotswold Chase went well for us, and for once the weather was perfect. Our Company Commander became exercise C.O., and the Paymaster became Company Commander: he found that being a Company Commander was not all fun after all. The Drum Major had his Recce Platoon well hidden when the Exercise C.O. and I.O. endeavoured to find them, to let them know the exercise was over—very nearly another search party.

There have been a number of moves to and from the Company. Captain M. Fenton left to become 2 i/c "C" Company, Captain D. B. Rice has left us owing to his moving out of the district. The new Mess Secretary is a former member of the Company, Lieutenant P. L. Jacques, who comes from "D" Company. The following have been promoted: Sergeant A. Taylor to Staff-Sergeant, Corporal J. M. Winter to Sergeant, Private Shipway to Lance-Corporal and Private Hyam to Lance-Corporal. The following members of the Company have recently married, Privates Harvey and Beard, and we wish them and their wives all future happiness. We all look forward to another active three months until Camp.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Despite various rumours, reports and papers (both White and news) on the possible demise of the T.A. in general and 5 Glosters in particular we remain as strong as ever.

R.S.M. P. Martin has formed a Zero-Zero Club which in practice means that all shots fired in a particular shoot just manage to pass the target without actually touching it. He then amazed us all by becoming President with Staff-Sergeant Jim Loftus as Vice. C.S.M. Keitley listens with fears and trembling every time the scores are phoned back as he has not YET become eligible for membership. Further technical details and achievements will be covered in the Shooting Notes.

In company with our Officers' Mess we also had the pleasure of the company of the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman T. H. Martin, M.B.E., our Honorary Colonel, at a Ceremonial Dinner on 9th October at Gloucester. At this dinner the Honorary Colonel was presented with his parchment. Other guests were Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. and the City Higher Sheriff of Bristol.

Our Sergeants' Mess Annual Dinner was held in December at Bristol and was fully enjoyed by our guests, Mess members and ladies. R.S.M. Martin was also presented with a silver teapot from the Battalion as a memento of his winning the British 50 Metre Smallbore Championship.

Recent promotions include: Staff-Sergeant D. D. Howells to W.O.2 Acting Bandmaster; Sergeant "Spud" Murphy to C.S.M. of "A" Company, also Sergeant A. Taylor, Recce Platoon, to Staff-Sergeant.

We welcome Sergeant J. M. Winter and Sergeant B. Attwood to the Mess, being both recently promoted to Sergeant.

We celebrated Back Badge Day with a Ball at Gloucester with guests from many



"A" Company putting their trust in home-made rafts. Monmouth



[By courtesy of T. R. Beckett]
"H.Q." COMPANY SMALLBORE TEAM
 Winners of the cup presented by Brigadier C. A. Wilson, which was won by him when a Lance-Corporal in the 5th Battalion in 1909



5TH GLOSTERS RALLY TEAM

Left to right: Captain Rice, Sergeant (now Colour-Sergeant) Taylor, Corporal Sadler, Corporal Base, Lieutenant Grazebrook, Captain (now Major) Jarman



The Sioux Helicopter, to be issued to the Infantry on the scale of three per battalion

Sergeants' Messes with whom we have become friends. The theme was continental this year, and the atmosphere and decor were authentically reproduced. Thanks are due to the committee for organising this wonderful evening.

SHOOTING

Fullbore

The 1965-66 season reached a climax when the results of the Decentral T.A.R.A. matches were known. They were:—

L.M.G. Pairs Match		2nd	Sergeant Cross Sergeant Mears	} Two Bronze Medals
		5th	Major Lee-Browne Colour-Sergeant Loftus	

China Cup (Rifle and L.M.G.)		3rd	Major Lee-Browne, Captain Boyle W.O.2 Keitley, Colour-Sergeant Loftus
------------------------------	-------	-----	---

Rifle Team Match		6th	Sergeants Mears and Cross.
------------------	-------	-----	----------------------------

The team have continued to practise throughout the winter on Sneedhams Green, and results give great hope for a successful Division Rifle Meeting which takes place on 16th-17th April 1966. Lance-Corporal Shipway and Private Worrall, two young soldiers from "H.Q." Company have been training for the L.M.G. Pairs Match and show great promise. On Sunday, 13th March they actually beat the Class A Pairs in practice. Contrary to rumour this was not because Colour-Sergeant Loftus had shown them a photograph of himself taken in a local niterie; although this seemed to have an adverse effect on Colour-Sergeant Wilde who joined the exclusive Zero-Zero Club, nothing to do with James Bond, simply achieving a wash-out on a rapid or snap practice.

Smallbore

The end of the season is nearly here and the Inter-Company Championship has been resolved. The 1966 Smallbore Champion is W.O.2 Richard Keitley, of "H.Q." Company, and the runner-up, three points behind, Corporal Dave Ellaway, of "C" Company. "H.Q." Company have won the Wilson Cup being unbeaten in both Divisions during the winter, thanks to great effort and time spent by Dick Keitley.

The National Smallbore Rifle Association have introduced a much more difficult target for the 1965-66 season and the marked improvement in the Battalion Smallbore Shooting can be seen in that most firers are obtaining the same scores this season, as they did last on much easier targets.

In the N.S.R.A. Smallbore Match "H.Q." Company scored 1,476 and "C" Company 1,469, both qualifying for the Final Stage, the former with their captain, Dick Keitley, in bed with the 'flu and unable to fire; Corporal Hancock came in as reserve and scored a creditable 188 x 200.

The Wilson Cup was presented by Brigadier C. A. Wilson on 17th March, 1966. Brigadier Wilson won the cup as a Lance-Corporal in the 5th Battalion The Gloucester-

shire Regiment in 1909. He presented it to this Battalion in 1964 and it was a great honour for the team to be presented with the trophy by the donor.

R.S.M. P. Martin was selected for the Army Team to fire in the Inter-Services Match 1966.

Results: Battalion Smallbore Champion 1966 .. W.O.2 R. Keitley 564 x 600
 Runner-up Corporal D. Ellaway 561
 Third Sergeant D. Mears 557
 Champion Company "H.Q." Company
 "A" Team: Major M. S. Lee-Browne, W.O.2 R. Keitley, Corporal W. Sadler,
 Corporal D. Base.
 "B" Team: Sergeant E. D. Charles, Sergeant T. Clapham, Private Shipway,
 Private Price.

REGIMENTAL RALLYING

FOR the past two-and-a-half years, members of the 5th Battalion have been competing in motor car rallies, driving Land-Rovers or Champs, with really remarkable success considering the quality of the opposition. A brief description of what a rally is may assist those whose thoughts on the subject get no further than the "Monte" on the one hand, or the annual church treasure hunt on the other. A rally is not a race, but entails visiting a number of points within a given time allowance. It is part of the navigator's task to sort out the information given by the organisers and talk his driver round the set course. The information given is usually a string of six- or eight-figure map references, but may also include bearing and distance problems or even more obscure ways of getting from one place to another. Vehicles are started one by one at minute intervals and the crews are penalised for being either late or early at any route control, and thus in no sense are they racing each other but rather competing against the organisers and the clock.

It is hoped that those who have come across rallying before will forgive the preceding explanatory paragraph, and now read on. Late in 1963, the officers of 5th Battalion Headquarters were trying to think of more interesting forms of training as well as a sport, which the Battalion could undertake seriously. The Adjutant, who had been reading Southern Command Orders where such things are mentioned, suggested rallying as a possible way of combining training and sport. Having opened his mouth, this officer found himself unanimously elected "playing captain" and invited to get on with it. Accordingly, two crews were entered in the next "authorised civilian event" to appear in Orders. Neither crew completed the course, one of the vehicles taking a farm wall broadside on at 45 m.p.h. which knocked down the wall but didn't leave a scratch on the Rover.

Though chastened, the team had learnt several valuable lessons, and early in December 1963, the Battalion entered a team of three vehicles in the Five Star Event. This rally is run by The British Army Motoring Association (Southern Centre) as the annual highlight of military competitive motoring in Southern Command. Ninety-two military vehicles lined up for the start at Bulford with the crew of Sergeant Taylor/Captain Jarman/Lance-Corporal Webb drawn No. 28, much to their delight. The route of

approximately 200 miles was half cross-country and half minor roads. In the middle of the night the crew of No. 28, which had been badly lost around Imber, were delighted to find a control "out of the blue" and to be told that they were the first vehicle this control had seen! Spurred on by this news and despite a frustrating encounter with a herd of cows going for early milking, the crew reached the finish at Bovington to find that only 12 from the original 92 vehicles had completed the course and that they were placed 8th as well as being awarded the Best Novices Award.

During 1964, the Battalion entered crews in two civilian events which had military classes. In one of these events Taylor/Jarman came 6th out of 15 finishers from 36 starters. At this stage we were learning another valuable lesson; if we were ever to achieve anything as a team rather than as individual crews, every crew must finish the course however many penalties they had incurred.

For the 1964 Five Star Event, the Battalion entered four vehicles, three of which formed the team. The Event was now upgraded to Restricted status and included civilians from Land-Rover Owners' Clubs as well as military entrants from other Home Commands. The Event retained its character though, and was still only suitable for four-wheel-drive vehicles, the 80 miles or so of cross-country out of a total mileage of over 200, being fairly rough. The weather was kind that year and there were 53 finishers from the original 82 starters. Sergeant Taylor/Captain Jarman/Lieutenant Jacques were going really well until an hour from the finish when a puncture during a cross-country section cost them 20 minutes and dropped them down from a possible 4th to 11th place. Second-Lieutenant Dryhurst/Captain Rice/W.O.2 Keitley had a trouble-free run to finish 20th. Corporal Sadler/Sergeant Charles/Lance-Corporal R. Hill lost an hour when their engine packed up, but showed great determination in fixing the trouble and finished 45th—a very commendable performance. Corporal D. Base/Lieutenant Grazebrook/Lance-Corporal Vaughan were having an excellent penalty-free run until a burnt-out condenser put paid to any hopes they had of completing the course. The results were much better than 1963, but still not good enough.

By now we had decided that there was little value in carrying a passenger for rallies at this level, and certainly not in the military cross-country events.

Two teams of two vehicles each were entered for the School of Artillery rally in May 1965. This was a closed event of about 150 miles, mainly cross-country, and confined to members of B.A.M.A. in military vehicles. Both Taylor/Jarman and Base/Grazebrook had excellent runs, finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively out of the 21 finishers from 44 starters. These placings were good enough to gain the Battalion the Team Award: of the 20 teams entered only six qualified as finishers. Our second team fared less well. Corporal Jefferies had bad luck in turning over his vehicle while "pressing on" which shook up the Jefferies/Dryhurst crew quite considerably while Sadler/Charles got themselves badly lost, but still managed to finish 20th.

We were particularly pleased to win this Team Award since it had never been won by an infantry unit before. The School of Artillery "A" Team, who were obviously very disappointed at being only runner-up in their own event, very generously presented us with a bottle of whisky with which to christen the cup—a gesture which we will all remember for a long time to come.

So it was with high hopes that we tackled our third Five Star Event in November 1965. We entered the maximum number of crews allowed, six in two teams of three

each. It proved to be a really tough 240 miles, 180 of those miles being on as difficult going as we had yet encountered. Reade/Dryhurst and Jackson/Vaughan, both from the "B" Team, were early casualties, though not before the Reade/Dryhurst vehicle had managed to extract Taylor/Jarman from a morass: both crews were off course at the time! The organisers managed to fool five of our six navigators, but our reputation was salvaged by Base/Grazebrook who had a really excellent run to finish 1st out of the 37 finishers from 120 starters. Despite their navigators the Sadler/Rice crew came in 13th and the Taylor/Jarman crew, who had spent 20 valuable minutes changing a wheel, limped in 16th. These placings gave the "A" Team the Stalwart Trophy as the winning team, and our one remaining crew from the "B" Team, Sergeant Cromwell/Captain Boyle, finished 25th, a very commendable performance since neither of them had rallied before that night. As an indication of the task imposed on the drivers, it should be mentioned that one in six of the vehicles which started the event had to be brought in by R.E.M.E. recovery.

Since the Southern Command Championships for 1965 were decided on the aggregate of individual performances in the School of Artillery and Five Star Events, Corporal D. Base became the Champion Driver and Lieutenant Grazebrook the Champion Navigator of the Command.

The latest event in which the Battalion has taken part is the Rallye Atomique, organised by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment Motor Sports Club, in March 1966, entering four crews permed into two teams of three, as allowed by the regulations. The Taylor/Jarman and Base/Grazebrook crews ran in both teams. This time we had a wonderfully clear night, apart from half-an-hour of fog, for a course of about 140 miles, mainly on roads. Sadler/Rice decided to investigate a track off the route and it took the combined efforts of Base/Grazebrook and Cromwell/Boyle to get them back on the road. This good Samaritan act was to cost Base/Grazebrook 1st place and to drop Cromwell/Boyle down a few places, but was an excellent example of team before self. Despite this setback, Base/Grazebrook finished 2nd out of the 21 finishers from 26 starters in the Military class, Taylor/Jarman came in 6th, with Cromwell/Boyle 11th and Sadler/Rice 14th. These placings gave the "B" Team 1st place and the "A" Team 2nd place from the 10 teams entered. The event incorporated a voluntary "tie-breaker" which was a speed trial around Little Rissington aerodrome. Seventeen of the Military class attempted this novelty, Base being 2nd fastest, Sadler 3rd and Taylor 5th.

Let it be said that none of the above results would have been possible without the active support of the Battalion Quartermasters during the period reviewed; Major John Gillett, Major Charles Phillips and Lieutenant Leslie Courtney. Apart from allowing us to "bend" their vehicles at the most awkward moments in the training programme, they have often gone without a night's sleep in order to welcome us in at the end of an event. The Teams are also indebted to all those who have turned out in petrol vehicles or as relief drivers to bring the vehicles back from a rally. Thanks, too, are due to those officers who have done without their Land-Rovers or Champs because they were being rallied.

Nineteen members of the 5th Battalion have had some excellent training as navigators or drivers, or both, and 12 of those 19 have at least one award to show for it. It is always invidious to single out individuals, but Lieutenant Grazebrook has proved to be

an outstanding navigator whilst the driving of Sergeant Taylor, Corporal D. Base and Corporal Sadler has reached an extremely high standard. Captain Boyle and Sergeant Cromwell look like being up amongst them, given a little bit more practice.

R. A. F. J.



WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT

THE priority of recruiting still stands with the Devon and Dorset Regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, resulting in only a small trickle of men who have firm "ties" being posted to 1st Glosters. On average, the number of recruits who have suitable "claims" number four in every 30 men arriving at Wyvern Barracks.

It will take about 6 months to get the D. & D. and D.E.R.R. up to the required strength for Germany, and until then the priority will remain the same.

Much thought is being given to the possibility of giving recruits a four- or five-weeks' Continuation Training Course at Okehampton Battle Camp immediately after completing the 10-weeks' basic training at Exeter. The main snags are concerned with the extra rations, transport and manpower which this continuation training would require. If this work could be done in England it would take a considerable burden off the shoulders of the Wessex Brigade Regiments, who naturally need to concentrate on battalion training. The final decision rests with the Ministry of Defence, but we hope to have this within the next few months.

Major Matson has now left the Depot where he was O.C. Training Company, and has taken over command of "B" Company of the 1st Battalion at Chester.

The Officers' Mess shoot on the nearby Culver Estate has got off to a reasonable start and various improvements are in hand. The first organised shoot of the season with volunteer Junior Soldiers as beaters, took place on 20th November. Results were a little disappointing, mainly due to the weather, and now we are on better terms with the pheasants. A number of officers posted to the Depot do not have their own guns, and if anyone has a 12-bore which he is unlikely to use again, it would be very welcome at Wyvern Barracks where good use would be made of it in future seasons.

The Devon and Dorset Regiment and Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment have now settled in Munster and Minden respectively, and the first reports coming to the Depot underline the amount of hard work that has to be put into being a battalion up to combat readiness.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment have recently moved to Malaya from Hong Kong, on a 12 months' "unaccompanied" tour of the Far East.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

THE continuing discussion and delay over the future of the Territorial Army has not, we regret to say, had a very helpful effect on our recruiting: indeed our strengths, particularly in Bristol, have fallen considerably. We have been told, however, that the Army Cadet Force is to continue and further that when the T.A. is reduced we shall have to find help from the Regular Army. We wonder about this, for the help the Territorial Army has given at Annual Camp, weekend training and in providing transport has been very considerable indeed, and much appreciated. We can only hope that the Regular Army will be half as helpful.

Our detachment at Eastington remains closed for lack of adults, but the other detachment we had to close at Coleford has been re-opened and has made a good start. They attended Annual Camp at Penhale almost 100 per cent. The Forest of Dean now supports only two detachments, Coleford and Cinderford, and it is of interest that they are commanded by two brothers, Sgt. Instructor R. Niblett at Coleford and Sgt. Instructor F. Niblett at Cinderford.

Shooting

This year our detachments at Tewkesbury, Whiteladies, Robinswood and Malmesbury Road entered teams in the "News of the World" .22 Competition but again were unable to match the standard of the teams from Somerset and Cornwall, who continue to dominate these competitions. The Robinswood Detachment were adjudged County .22 Champions in the Competition. Better luck next year.

Certificate "A"

In this training year so far at County level we have held one Certificate "A" Pt. I Board and one Pt. II. These have been very well attended but although the Pt. II results have been excellent those for Pt. I, which is a considerably easier exercise, have been rather disappointing. Fewer passes mean a smaller grant from the Treasury so every effort will be made to improve our next results.

Training with Territorial Army

This continues on a large scale and is much enjoyed by the Cadets who look forward to a change of scenery from the frequently rather dismal surroundings of a cadet hut. The most recent highlight was the exercise Cotswold Chase where again this year 80 of our number took part and were able to capture quite a number of "escapers."

Regular Attachments

We continue to send many Officers, S.M.I.s and Cadets on attachments with the Regular Army where they attend Courses on Physical Training, Cookery, Weapon Training, and these are much enjoyed. In April we have four cadets attending a P.T. Course at the School of P.T., Aldershot. R.S.M. Wintour of Dursley is attending a Platoon Weapons Course at Hythe. Cadet Hills of Stroud is off to a Cookery Course at Aldershot.

On 11th/12th March Lieutenant Brian Thomson, Cadet Bick of Stroud, Corporal Talbot of St. Thomas More and Corporal Jenks of Speedwell were the guests of the Para. and Airborne Forces Depot and had a wonderful time.

Pick the creamy
Salad Cream
that goes
straight to
the heart
of a
lettuce
Pick the
best—
pick



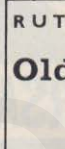
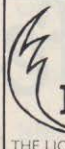
Easy..Safe.. Investment *in*

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK
PREMIUM SAVINGS BONDS
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS
FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

and

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS
**FOR MESS AND OTHER SERVICE
FUNDS**

YOUR UNIT SAVINGS OFFICER CAN GIVE
FULL DETAILS OR WRITE TO:
THE SECRETARY,
H.M. FORCES SAVINGS COMMITTEE,
BLOCK B, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS,
LONDON ROAD, STANMORE,
MIDDLESEX.

 FAMOUS DRINKS IN YOUR MESS		
 RUTHERFORD & MILES Old Trinity House BUAL MADEIRA	 WILLIAMS & HUMBERT'S DRY SACK THE SHERRY THAT PLEASURES EVERY PALATE	 Benedictine DOM <i>La Grande Liqueur Française</i>
 VINTAGE PORT MATURED IN THE WOOD NOVAL 61	These and all other famous drinks are obtainable through N.A.A.F.I.	
 Drambuie THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED	LEMON HART JAMAICA RUM. LAMB'S NAVY RUM. <i>Tia Maria</i> COFFEE LIQUEUR	 CROWN OF CROWNS <i>a Langenbach</i> wine
 DUFF GORDON EL CÍD AMONTILLADO SHERRY	 BIANCO CINZANO RED · DRY	Carlsberg SOUTH AFRICAN WINES <i>The luxury you can afford for every occasion</i>

LOUIS DESROCHES & CO



FINE OLD
FRENCH BRANDY



**Variety!
Quality!
Value!**

Sherbet Suckers
Choc Nougat
Sweet Tobacco
Everlasting Strip
Bubble Gum
Coconut Ice
Jelly Babies
Licorice Telephones
Aniseed Balls
Dolly Mixtures
Love Hearts
Popcorn
Jolly Lollies
Licorice
Nougat
Mint Imperials

What a range for children



Barratt & Co. Ltd.,
London, N.22

Boxing

This year our boxers were unsuccessful and did not reach the finals, which were held at Colchester. We hear the boxing there was most disappointing and due to this and the continuous lack of boxers it is very unlikely that the Championships will proceed in the future beyond Command level.

Cross Country

Cadet Emberson of Robinswood for the second successive year won the Southern Command A.C.F. Senior Cross Country Run and again in record time. In the team event the Seniors' were placed 3rd and the Juniors' 5th. Regrettably the influenza "virus" carried off two of our Senior team 24 hours before the start.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Since our last notes we are delighted to report that our Cadet Sergeant Ian Crawford and our Cadet Lance-Corporal Davis both of Innsworth Detachment have gained the Gold Award and will shortly be called to the Palace to receive their Certificates from the Duke of Edinburgh. These are the first Gold Awards to be gained by a member of the Gloucestershire A.C.F.

Camp 1966

We are again fortunate this year to be going to a seaside camp, namely Chickerell near Weymouth. Our last visit there was in 1957, so it is most unlikely that any cadets of that era will still be with us. However, some of the Officers who were there will still be asking what the Staff Officer did with what was left of the "kitty" at the "Moon Fleet."

Officers' Mess—Farewell Dinner

It was with some sadness that 78 of the Officers and their ladies sat down to dinner on 2nd April, 1966 at the T.A.C., Arle Road, to dine out Captains Braine and Brown who have left us after a combined total of 34 years service with the County. Each was presented with an inscribed cigarette box as a token of the County's regard for them and for their services. We wish them a happy retirement. We wonder what they will do now with all their spare time.

DATES TO REMEMBER 1966

26th June.—Old Soldiers' Day at Saighton Camp, Chester. If you would like to attend get in touch immediately with your nearest Association Branch Secretary.

2nd July.—"Open Day" at the Wessex Brigade Depot, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

7th to 9th July.—Cheltenham Military Tattoo.

8th October.—Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Reunion, Gloucester.

9th October.—Presentation of the Freedom of the Borough of Cheltenham at 2.30 p.m. in the Pittville Gardens.

21st October.—Officers' Regimental Dinner, United Services Club, London.

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS ON BACK BADGE DAY

BY MAJOR R. H. A. STREATHER, M.B.E.

IT is 21st March, 1966, and I am Commanding "C" Company, 1/6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. My Company Base is not far from the Indonesian border, at over 3,000 ft. in the central highlands of Borneo. I shall be leaving my base later today, with the bulk of my Company, to move by helicopter to Back Badge, the nickname I have given to a point out in the jungle where my force will concentrate before setting off on a long patrol.

Had this patrol not been planned, it is likely that I would have been in Singapore, for an historic event is taking place there today. A candelabra, part of the 28th silver buried south of the Chindwin in the retreat through Burma, is being handed back to the Regiment. Alan Ladds and I found this piece of silver in an hotel in the Cameron Highlands of Malaya, last summer, when we were both serving with the Malaysian Rangers. Since then Bill Morris, who is serving with the Singapore Guard Regiment, has been negotiating for its return.

It is the thought of the jungles of Burma that prompts me to write today.

The Burma campaign is way back in history now, but since then, with the exception of course of the Korean war, the Gloucesters have not been to the Far East—in fact there are not many serving now who will even remember the jungles of Kenya. But the Far East is where the trouble is today and where it will be for some years. All Infantry Battalions will take their turn in serving here before long, and it would be as well for us (and I talk now with two badges in my hat and not my crossed kukries) to be at least mentally prepared for our turn to come.

There is nothing "kushi" about this war in Borneo, and unless a battalion is well trained, acclimatised, really fit and with high morale it has little chance of success. Commanders must be aggressive: there is no point in sitting securely in one's Company base. The area must be dominated by ambush and patrol: the enemy must be searched out and killed. Here the junior leader comes into his own, for it is he who will usually command the ambush or patrol. His responsibilities are heavy and he must learn to make his own decisions. Individual training of the soldier must be of a high order and in particular he must be a good shot, able to kill a fleeting target with his first round or burst. And lastly all must be physically fit, fit in a robust sort of way so that they can endure appalling conditions, cover long distances with heavy loads on their backs and make do on half rations or sometimes without any food at all. They will have to live for long periods in the jungle without normal comforts.

And so we have the following essential requirements for success:

- aggressive spirit
- good junior leadership
- really good shooting
- physical fitness.

The jungle is cruel in the way it exposes any weakness in discipline, morale or training. I saw recently a sub-unit, which had best remain nameless, arrive in the forward area and put on a know-all, tough-guy act. Soldiers were unshaven even before they set off on patrol; jungle hats had been cut to weird shapes, in keeping with the modern craze of self

expression, and knives were hanging from their belts. The jungle soon found them out and it was only days before Gurkhas were having to go to their rescue.

I make no secret of the fact that however good the British soldier may be, and he has proved himself time and again to be the best, I do not consider that he can yet compete with the Gurkha in the jungle. This has been proved many a time here in Borneo. It is not surprising, since what counts above all the points I have mentioned is experience. No unit can be expected to be really fit to fight this kind of war without at least four months hard training and acclimatisation. By the time they achieve this, most British Battalions have only months to serve before their short tour is over. Those units stationed in the Far East and returning to Borneo for their second tour are the ones that do well. The Gurkhas on the other hand have been at it for years. My present Battalion spent much of the last war in Burma and went straight from there to Malaya, on the partition of India in 1947. They served in Malaya throughout the Emergency and hardly had that finished before they became involved in Borneo. They are now here for their third tour and will return for further tours until Confrontation ends. This wealth of experience coupled with the Gurkha's natural toughness and fighting skill make him today a jungle soldier second to none. There is much he can teach us.

Sometime within the next few years the 28th/61st will surely find themselves in the Far East—be it in Borneo, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand or elsewhere. If through hard training and experience, they can achieve the high standard of professional competence in the jungle that the Gurkhas have set, they will have much to be proud of. And in any case, I know they will admire and respect these tough, happy warriors from Nepal who join with us now as comrades in arms, as they did in Burma, to fight the Queen's enemies.

DRIVER, AIR FRAME, H TYPE

BY LIEUTENANT R. D. GRIST

SOME time ago I was told by someone whom I thought ought to know, "To be a good Helicopter pilot you've got to be slightly twisted." Whether this is true or not the idea of this article is simply to relate how it happens. Fortunately as far as I am concerned the Services do not agree with the old lady who according to Michael Flanders said, "If God had meant us to fly he would never have given us the railways." The decision in 1964 to extend the number of Army Helicopters by giving them to units gave me my opportunity to ask to learn to fly.

All Army pilots are volunteers, or so say the Manuals, and that is nearly true. However, the snag to this is that if you are a volunteer, then having volunteered you must undergo Selection Tests. These as far as the Army are concerned are run by the R.A.F. at Biggin Hill. There are five written tests of eleven plus type and therefore desperately hard for anyone over the age of twelve, and two practical tests. The latter are designed to test co-ordination and are very like the sort of thing one pays sixpence to do on a pier, only this time it is free. Having passed so far one then has a Medical. This is very thorough and takes a day and a half. The examination of my eyes was performed by an Indian doctor who having established my own nationality said in a perfect Peter Sellers accent: "If you had to marry a girl, not English, which race would you choose?" A long discussion followed while he examined my eyes and then he said: "Now, what are the four most important qualities in the girl that you marry, in your opinion?" Being still single I will

not reveal what my answers were, and whether they had any deep significance as far as the medical went I shall never know. Those who have passed now go straight to Middle Wallop where there are some fairly simple military tests and an interview. If all goes well one is at last accepted for training as a pilot. It is worth making the point here that although half those who take these tests fail them there is absolutely no disgrace involved.

Well the easy bit is over, now the hard work starts: thirty-one working weeks of learning to fly. The time is very simply split up into four. The first week is spent on pure ground school, to use an R.A.F. term. The next ten weeks are spent learning to fly a Chipmunk in which one flies 60 hours. In the following ten weeks one learns to fly a Hiller, a basic helicopter, and once again 60 hours are spent on this. Then, finally, in the last ten weeks one is converted on to a Sioux helicopter and learns to use the helicopter on the battle field. Having got this far "wings" are presented and another pilot has been born. I must explain that this is how a unit pilot is trained to go and fly for an infantry battalion in the Air Platoon. Those who fly Beavers and Austers are not generally from the Infantry, and those who are destined to fly Scouts for the Army Air Corps spend a further five weeks at Middle Wallop.

The first week at Middle Wallop, doing ground school, covers such subjects as Principles of Flight or "Why it stays up;" Airmanship, or the rules of the air; Engines; Navigation, or how to avoid getting lost; Meteorology or the weather, and all the obvious Military Subjects. Then one is at last allowed to step inside an aircraft. The Chipmunk instructors are all civilians, largely ex-R.A.F. and most served during the war. One's first flight is generally a nauseating experience but, not to worry, there are bags provided and one soon gets over it. After about ten hours flying there comes a moment when the instructor suddenly says "Well, I'm going to get out now and you can do a circuit on your own." Thirty seconds of blind panic follow, and then one is off on one's first solo. By the time the sixty hours are over one can loop, spin, roll and stall turn the Chipmunk nearly correctly. The nicest thing about the Chipmunk is that having made a ghastly muddle, if one leaves everything alone, the aircraft will sort it out, which is very confident making.

All too quickly one has left the familiar sight of wings behind and is climbing into a helicopter for the first time. The one used at Wallop is a Hiller 12B and all the instruction is done by civilians who work for Bristows who also own the aircraft. The first few weeks trying to master the art of helicopter flying are perhaps the most disheartening of the course; it just does not seem possible. The only consolation is that other fools have done it so why shouldn't this one. In the end it comes, and then it is great fun. At last one is finding out what this helicopter thing is and what it can do. One of the most unexpected things is that it cannot, or certainly does not generally, come down vertically; but it can go backwards. During all this time half of every day is spent doing ground school.

At last the moment comes when one reaches the aircraft that one is to fly operationally. For the first time the instructors are all soldiers apart from one Royal Marine officer, for Middle Wallop also trains pilots for the Royal Marines. The first five weeks are spent learning to fly the Sioux, and then the tactical application starts. Gun-fire is controlled from the air, fighter attacks are talked in from the air; there are several exercises and one goes to fly in the Welsh mountains for a couple of days.

Throughout the whole course people fall by the wayside, some to be backcoursed, some to leave completely. Of the sixteen that started with me nine have finished. The overriding



Major Bill Morris receiving the recovered Candelabra from Mr. Middleton-Foster in Singapore on 21st March, 1966



Major Hobbs, O.C. "B" Company, presenting a competitive cup to the Commissioner of Police, Mauritius, on leaving the Island. The Hon. Tom Vickers, C.M.G., Chief Secretary to the Colony, looks on

CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE TERRITORIAL ARMY



UNITS of all arms of the service
throughout the County include the

TERRITORIAL BATTALION OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT



Apply at any T.A. Centre or write to the
Secretary, *Glos. T. & A.F.A.*, 2 Beaufort Road, Bristol, 8

IS THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT UP TO DATE? We can commission first-class artists to depict the Regiment's actions in the last war, its overseas service since and other momentous occasions, so that future generations may visualise the life of the Regiment in our time. If your existing collection needs restoration, our expert restorers are at your service. Our large and ever changing stock of military prints, paintings, curios may contain some items of particular interest to your Regiment.

*The Gloucestershire Regiment, Private, 1884
Original water colour. (Anon.)*

THE PARKER GALLERY

2 ALBEMARLE STREET,
PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: GROsvenor 5906/7

FOUNDED
1750



principle here is safety and the object is to produce safe pilots. I know some who know me will mutter, "they've made an error there." Undoubtedly the course is long and is hard work, but provided one enjoys the flying then it is the greatest fun imaginable, and at the end of it all there is the reward of one's "wings" which I must confess I'm very proud of: but then, I got mine this morning.

MLILWANE GAME SANCTUARY, SWAZILAND

BY LANCE-CORPORAL M. DIX

"**H**OW about a trip to that Game Sanctuary towards Mbabane?" "Okay, it sounds a good idea and I have nothing else to do." Those few words between Corporal Dave Humphries and Lance-Corporal Maurice Dix were the beginning of what later proved to be the start of an exciting, unforgettable adventure in the African bush.

Mlilwane Game Sanctuary is situated about 12 miles from Mbabane in the foothills between the giant man-made forests of Usutu on the Highveld and the Malkerns valley, famous for its citrus fruit growing. An ideal situation, with an abundance of lush green grass, trees and water. Mlilwane Game Sanctuary is the only game reserve in Swaziland and one of the smallest in Africa, but stocked with many species from rhino down to springbok and impala.

The Sanctuary was started two years ago by Mr. Terence Reilly, who wanted to conserve the game in Swaziland which is being rapidly poached out, and who had once been a game ranger at the Kruger National Park. We met Mr. Reilly at his game sanctuary and he offered to show us around, pointing out more than we could have hoped to find out on our own, being complete strangers to African game. We saw kudu, springbok, rhino, giraffe, impala, waterbuck, zebra, black and blue wildebeest (gnus to Englishmen) among many other interesting species of African wildlife.

A hasty return to camp, pleading for an extension of leave, followed an offer by Terence to take us to Kimberley 700 miles away to collect some game from a game reserve in the famous "land of diamonds."

A start at 1100 hours saw us off on the first leg of the journey, fully loaded with crates and extra fuel tanks (on this continent you can cover many miles without seeing a petrol station) to Johannesburg. An overnight stay, during which we were shown the sights of Jo'burg, and we were off to an early start on the long haul to Kimberley. Our vehicle broke down with fuel pump trouble just 40 miles outside Kimberley during which time we were hit by a large dust storm followed by half-an-inch of rain, which made life quite unpleasant (incidentally that was the most rain they had had in that area for six years).

There followed an interesting stay of two days in Kimberley during which time we visited the famous Big Hole—a large hole 500 yards across which had been excavated in the big diamond strike of the 1900s and had produced three tons of diamonds, saw ancient bushmen etchings and toured the large game reserve there. Our beasts loaded we started off on the long non-stop journey back to Swaziland, stopping only to feed the animals.

After arriving back and a well-earned day's rest we were off again, this time to catch completely wild zebra inside Swaziland. This was to prove the first of many exciting adventures into the Swaziland bush.

Once we reached our destination at nightfall we set up a base camp and began to prepare our equipment and vehicle for the chase—the chase has to be done at night, since it is practically impossible to get close enough in daylight. Carefully mixed drugs are prepared and the gas gun darts assembled ready for the first “hunt.” When everything had been checked and re-checked with something of military precision we set off: Terence driving, one man operating the spotlight, and the remaining crew carrying the gas gun and spare darts.

We drove slowly through the bush swinging the powerful spotlight side to side: we may travel for only a few seconds or several minutes looking for the tell-tale eyes that give the game away—even at large distances the colour, shape and size of the eyes tell the expert what kind of beast they belong to. Suddenly someone shouts “zebra left” and we are off in the direction of the herd: they hesitate, they are not sure what to do and then they are off too. Everyone is holding tight as the vehicle surges through the bush, the herd is weaving in and out of trees and we are gaining ground upon them. We are practically blinded by the dust thrown up by the herd (the driver wears goggles), our vehicle is weaving at speeds of 45 to 50 miles per hour dodging dongas, trees, holes, rocks and tree stumps. We are now very close to the thundering herd (we have to be 15 to 20 yards from the herd to ensure accuracy and also the short range of the gun). Terence calls for the gun, he is driving with one hand as he selects the beast he wants: he is in range and fires, the dart strikes home, but it is not over yet. The beast has to be tailed until the drug takes effect and this can vary according to the beast from 2 to 10 minutes. The animal gradually slows down and then totters to a halt. The vehicle stops and we all dismount as all hands rush to grab the beast. The beast is dragged dazed by the drug, but unharmed, to the vehicle where it is loaded on board for the journey back to base camp to be placed in a crate and given an antidote to the drug; a few seconds and the beast is once again fit and protesting about its temporary confinement.

We are still tingling with excitement as we prepare our equipment for another such journey of adventure and danger as we have never known before. There are many hazards to be encountered, a wrong turn could bring us in collision with some obstacle. But these things are never thought of until they happen; and thanks to skilful driving, they rarely do. Terence is also an experienced bush mechanic, repairing holed differentials with soap amongst his many skills.

At dawn the vehicles are prepared for the return to the game sanctuary, where the previous night's catch will be released to freedom from the hunters' bullet. As the beasts are released, two soldiers look at each other, lost for words but proud that they have done something to help conserve wild life, and with memories that will stay fresh for the rest of their lives.

THE RECOLLECTIONS OF EX-C.Q.M.S. W. J. WAKEFIELD (continued)

WHEN Colonel Fane assumed command of the Battalion in 1925 Major R. L. Beasley became P.R.I. As many who knew him will remember he was inclined to hand out “rockets” on the slightest provocation, but if the rocket proved to be unwarranted he

would always apologise. Whilst at Beverley in 1926 I was the recipient of one of these rockets whilst drawing rations in the N.A.A.F.I. Later in the day he came over to the P.R.I.'s office and requested me to go to the Canteen with him and there he asked the manager if he could possibly get the customers who had been there earlier in the day. When these had been found he explained that as they had been present when I had received an unwarranted dressing down he wanted them to be present when he apologised to me. When Major Beasley left the 1st Battalion in 1927 to assume command of the 2nd Battalion he gave me a very nice Meerschaum pipe as a parting present. My next P.R.I. was Colonel Victor Johnson, with whom I had the honour and pleasure of working for several years and am still proud to look upon him as one of the many friends I made whilst in the P.R.I.'s office.

Whilst in Singapore I was sent by the Commanding Officer, Colonel A. F. Chapman, to run a canteen at Kuala Lumpur, during the fortnight the Battalion had a shooting team up there. It was also in Singapore that I was "returned to duty." Colonel Chapman had been inspecting the P.R.I. accounts one Sunday morning and decided also to inspect the messing account. He had got to that morning's breakfast, which was bacon, kidney and tomato, when he remarked that the tomatoes were rather dear. I replied that the price quoted was per 3-lb. tin as I did not consider fresh tomatoes worth buying, whereupon the Commanding Officer told me that my views were too outspoken and that I was returned to duty as from then and would go to Tanglin market the next morning and purchase fresh tomatoes for him to see. I replied that I could not do this as I was on Government House guard and was told to do it the day afterwards. On dismounting guard on the Tuesday morning I was passing the Orderly Room on the way to my married quarter when the Commanding Officer called me to and said: "Sergeant Wakefield, get back into that P.R.I.'s office, I shall never get anyone to keep those accounts and run the messing like you do," so my return to duty was very short-lived and I remained in the P.R.I.'s office until I reverted to Home Establishment from India in February 1936.

On arriving home, I was posted to the "Details" of the 2nd Battalion at Catterick as the Battalion was in the Western Desert at Mersa Matruh. On the journey up to Catterick my two small daughters were very excited at seeing their first snow, but were not so pleased when they found it was both wet and cold. Whilst on disembarkation leave I was notified that I had been selected for a tour of duty at the Depot as P.R.I.'s clerk! I was only at the Depot a few weeks when the Adjutant, Lieutenant A. E. Wilkinson, informed me that I had been promoted C.Q.M.S. by the 2nd Battalion and would probably be going out to Egypt to join them. I have another of my very good friends, Colonel J. R. Guild, to thank for this promotion as it was on his recommendation that Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Cox, commanding the 2nd Battalion, promoted me when he had never seen me. Instead of going out to Egypt I was posted back to the Details at Catterick in relief to Frank Durrant, who had been promoted C.S.M. I assisted in bringing the Details from Catterick and taking over Mr. Hore-Belisha's modern Seaton Barracks at Crownhill, Plymouth. On the return of the Battalion in January 1937, I took over the duties of C.Q.M.S., "H.Q." Company, whose pay strength, including Brigade H.Q. from Crownhill Fort, was just over 300, about four times the strength of other companies. Fortunately I had an excellent Company Clerk, Private "Tod" Wells, to assist me. During this time I was detailed to train a couple of sergeants with a view to their being promoted to

C.Q.M.S. I also ran a short course on regimental accounts, which the senior members of the Sergeants' Mess were detailed to attend.

During 1939 I began to look around for civilian employment as I would complete 21 years' service in June. The Depot were advertising for civilian clerks, one of which was for employment in the P.R.I.'s office. I applied for, and obtained, this post and commenced on the 29th July, the day after completion of my terminal leave. In addition to the P.R.I. accounts I also had to keep the Messing and Workshop accounts. On mobilisation being ordered the messing became almost a full-time job with the call-up of reservists and the opening up of camps on the county cricket ground and at Eastville Park. The Depot changed its title to Infantry Training Centre, and in October 1940 moved to Reservoir Camp, Gloucester. Later we were merged with the I.T.C.s of the Somerset and the Wilts to become No. 15 I.T.C. and when this Unit moved to Colchester in 1942 I was posted to the Regimental Depot party, which remained at Gloucester, and was promoted to T.C.II and appointed Chief Clerk. I sat the Civil Service exam. in 1945 and was established as a Clerical Officer w.e.f. 1st January, 1946. In 1951 the Depot re-opened as a training establishment once more, and War Office gave approval for a Clerical Officer (myself) to be employed as Chief Clerk instead of the more usual Orderly Room Sergeant. My staff and myself were kept busy with the documentaton of Regular recruits and N.S. men. The documentation of N.S. men was most interesting, the majority of these "knew all the answers," whilst some others would burst into tears on being asked particulars of next-of-kin, etc. I remember on one occasion having difficulty in ascertaining the religion of one man as he said he did not go to any church. In desperation I asked if he had a girl friend, when he said "Yes." I said: "Well, when you get married will it be at a Church or Chapel?" He replied: "Neither, I shall go to the Register Office." Ask a silly question . . . When the P.O.W. of the 1st Battalion returned from Korea in 1953 we worked day and night to get their documentation completed and get them home. If my memory serves me right we got them all away in three days.

When the Depot closed in March 1959 I was posted to Regimental Headquarters and sadly missed the busy life of the Orderly Room, but in compensation I again became responsible for keeping quite a number of accounts, which I have always enjoyed. I had the great honour of being awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List 1961 for long and faithful service to the Regiment.

I retired in October 1965 after just over 47 years' "service," all but six months of which had been spent with the Glosters.

(Part I of these Recollections appeared in the Winter 1965 issue)

BOOK REVIEW

HORSES AND SADDLERY by Major G. Tylden, published by Allan & Co., price 6 guineas. Only briefly at Tattoos and displays do we catch a nostalgic glimpse of the Army as it was a mere 30 to 40 years ago, when units were almost entirely dependent upon the horse. In this admittedly expensive book, largely written around a splendid collection of illustrations, the author has provided a fascinating work of reference on what has now become virtually a forgotten military art. Despite the title, the book covers all animals used for military transport—yes, even elephants.

FOR STRIKING RESULTS



BRITISH MADE BY BRYANT & MAY



All the richness. All the flavour.
All the freshness of just-perked coffee!

THE GREATEST NAME IN CIGARETTES



WORLD COPYRIGHT

Leslie Charteris looks in at the local

I WROTE the first Saint book in 1927—largely during time when I should have been sticking to my law books and preparing to be a model professional man.

Its success rather astonished me. And it brought its own penalty: I had to sit down and write more of the damn things. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull novelist, so I occasionally unchained myself from the type-writer and mooched round to the local.

A game of darts

In those days a pub was a place to meet friends, eat inexpensively, have a game of darts and enjoy a pint or two.

Today, thirty odd years later, it's more or less the same. I still meet friends. I still eat inexpensively (and, I might add, a good deal faster than I would in most restaurants). And I still enjoy a pint of good beer.



£5,000
for 25/- per month

This is an example of the amount of cover that can be secured by an Officer up to the age of 40, who wishes to protect his family against the risk of losing his terminal grant by premature death.

Higher ages at slightly increased rates.

We represent the War Office officially approved underwriters of the Officers' Terminal Grant Trust.

We also offer impartial advice on House Purchase, Provision for School Fees, Children's Security, Capital for Retirement, Investment Schemes etc.

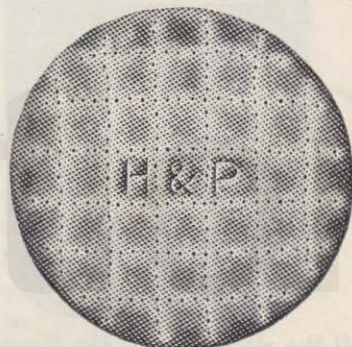
Write now to:

MR. A. A. KIRBY
G. H. BULL (Life and Pensions) LTD.
16 THE BROADWAY
WOKING
SURREY
Tel. Woking 4097-8

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HUNTLEY & PALMERS LTD. BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS

Huntley & Palmers

Cornish Wafers



Such spready biscuits for butter, so ready for cheese!

A SORTIE INTO THE GERMAN CAMEROONS, AUGUST, 1914

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. N. VINEN, D.S.O.

IN the summer of 1914 I was commanding "B" Company of the 1st Northern Nigerian Regiment at Katagum, a village which was nine days' trek east of Kano and about 250 miles west of the border between Nigeria and the German colony of the Cameroons.

The mail took well over a month to reach us at Katagum and there was no telegraph service there, so when on the 7th August I received an urgent message by swift runner, which read "Be prepared to move to Nafada at short notice," I and my subaltern spent much time wondering why anyone should want to move us a hundred miles south-east to Nafada in the middle of the rainy season.

Three days later a mounted messenger arrived, and his message read "War declared. Inform all. Move company under your command to Nafada. Take all ammunition. Leave sick and women." This would have been more illuminating if it had said who had declared war on whom, but soon doubts were dispelled by the arrival of the Resident who had received a private letter from a friend in Kano by the same messenger. There was at the time an unwritten but widely prevailing notion that in the event of a European war there would be no scrapping between white men in West Africa, but this of course proved to be false.

An essential for the move was the provision of a sufficient number of porters, the only form of transportation; and these being guaranteed by the local Emir, orders were given for the Company to march at 2200 hours the same day. There was no regular road from Katagum to Nafada, a route which Europeans would never have occasion to use in normal circumstances, but a list of villages in the direct line was obtained, and the Resident said that with good going we ought to complete the trek in nine days. Actually we did it in six, but as we always marched by night we arrived somewhat sleepy. Many of the carriers had had to be left along the route from sheer exhaustion, and recruiting replacements from the villages we passed through was not always easy.

When we reached Nafada on the 16th August we found "A" Company awaiting us, sent up from Bauchi with orders to come under my command and await further orders. So for ten days the column remained at Nafada without orders and without news, but resting, and collecting a store of grain in anticipation of the next move. What operations were being planned could only be guessed with the help of an outline map in the back of a handbook on the German Cameroons scale 32 miles to the inch, and with only about three place names marked, all of which were thought to be garrison towns.

On 26th August, belated orders arrived sending "A" Company to Lagos, while "B" Company was to march to Gumsuri on the Cameroon border, and there endeavour to get in touch with the Maidugari Column (Maidugari being another company station of the 1st N.N.R. near Lake Chad). Two Political Officers and one Medical Officer were attached to my Column and I moved off an hour or two after receipt of orders.

Again we had to use an unusual route which necessitated the use of local guides from village to village, seven miles from their own hearth and home being about the greatest limit of their knowledge. The Political officers and the Doctor found the pace too hot for them and couldn't appreciate the necessity for "all this damned hurry." The Doctor

solved the problem by getting to hear of a white man somewhere in the Bush just off our line of advance, who was alleged to be in extremis. He obtained leave to go and succour the poor chap, but never reappeared. More than once the column encountered rivers which were not marked on the hopelessly inadequate maps, and indeed it was quite possible that the villages we passed through had never before seen a white man—we were certainly a curiosity.

On the 5th September we reached Gumsuri, an inconsiderable collection of huts, about 100 miles east of Nafada on the Nigerian bank of a river which formed the frontier. On the opposite side was German Gumsuri which seemed quite a respectable village. My orders did not state which side of the river I should be, so I took the precaution of crossing it and occupying the German bank. Having attached my only Union Jack to the roof of the most imposing looking building, I summoned the local chiefs and informed them that Gumsuri now belonged to Nigeria and that the German Empire existed no more as far as they were concerned.

I gathered from the local chiefs that there might be some Germans at Uba, so after a 24-hours' halt to gather more grain we set off once more. Uba unfortunately held no Germans, but there I learnt that Mubi, a short distance further on, was a permanent German garrison, although most were thought to have trekked south.

The porters by now were quite exhausted and many of the soldiers were pretty tired. I therefore decided to push on with a half company of fit men and leave the rest as escort to my supplies. Leaving at 2000 hours we reached Mubi at 0300 hours only to find the birds had flown. The next day our "tail" caught up with us and all were accommodated in the German fort.

So far we had had no news of the Maidugari Column for which I had been told to look out. Now I received a message "We are in great straits here—heavy fighting and many casualties. I do not know how long the force can hold on—please come to our assistance as soon as possible."—(Signed) TOM SNOOKS, Political Officer.

No time—no date, and no place! The Officer Commanding Maidugari Column was a good fellow and a good soldier, but he was certainly unfortunate in the type of officious young Political Officer attached to him. I had sent out no less than nine messengers to try to contact the Maidugari Column, but none had returned with an answer, so it was far from easy for me to decide on the best course of action for carrying out my rather indefinite orders. Fortunately, while I was still resting at Mubi I received another message, this time from my Battalion Commander at Yola. It was addressed to "Officer Commanding Gumsuri Column or any British Troops," and read: "Who are you? What are your orders? Hold on where you are if you can, and report to me. If unable to maintain your position, withdraw across frontier and march through Nigeria to join me."

With this definite order I set about putting the fort at Mubi, whose walls were only arrow-proof, into a state of defence, and formed a Mounted Infantry Section on bush ponies which I had collected, and this unit proved most valuable for long-distance patrols and gathering information.

For three weeks my little column remained in its captured fort working daily to improve the defences. But then an order came to withdraw to Yola: except for the fact that European supplies had reached a very low ebb, we were most reluctant to go, realising that our arrival at Yola would be the end of the Gumsuri Column as an independent force. Since entering the Cameroons I had fed my column almost entirely on captured

supplies and, indeed, having commandeered a number of German donkeys for the return march, I was able to hand over 60 donkey loads of grain on arrival.

A week or two later, having broken my leg, I was being paddled down the Benue River for 10 days in a dug-out canoe to its junction with the River Niger, where I changed to a river steamer to the coast, and eventually joined the 1st Battalion in France early in 1915.

Note.—It is of interest to see that on the modern maps of that area both Uba and Mubi are included in Nigeria, so Captain Vinen's comment to the headmen of Gumsuri was prophetic.

A SARTORIAL NOTE

FORMER Officers of the Regiment will be interested to hear that a Wessex Brigade pattern Mess kit is about to be introduced which all newly-commissioned officers in future will be required to buy. The style is described as Canadian, but is in fact that of the old cavalry-type Mess kit, with a high collar and an open front, displaying a be-buttoned waistcoat up to the neck. The facings will be blue, but regimental collar badges will be worn.

The reason for its introduction at the present time is to overcome the diversity of Mess kits now to be seen in all Regiments of the Brigade, due to the wide exchange of officers between Regiments. At the same time Warrant Officers and Sergeants are, for the first time, to have the opportunity of wearing a temperate climate Mess kit. This, too, will be of a Wessex Brigade pattern and basically the same as that of the officers.

No. 1 Dress (Blue Patrols to an older generation) is on its way out and is no longer a compulsory dress for officers, since No. 2 Dress (the old Service Dress) has replaced it for ceremonial and everyday wear. Battle dress, too, has passed into history for regular units, its place being taken by the more effective combat dress.

Another innovation is the introduction of a heavy-duty pullover, black in colour, to be worn by officers in barracks to save wear and tear on the Service Dress jacket. Some more than average "with it" officer at Brigade suggested that the most suitable neck wear for the new pullovers would be a gold coloured stock, but the reactions of the 28th/61st to the proposal were emphatic:

"We welcome the sweater in bright royal blue,
And shout our acclaim for the pantaloons too.
But cannot conceal our disgust and our shock
At the thought of a uniform gold-coloured stock.
We'd vote for a kilt or for puttees of pink,
For bustles that rustle or lotions that stink.
We'd even approve of a coloured cockade,
Spaghetti for breakfast or lashings of braid.
But if anything leaves us both chilled and stone cold
It's the thought of a shimmering 'neck stock' of gold."

Brummel

"Shoot when you can see the knots in their stocks."

Soekharno

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

JULY-OCTOBER 1916

IN a few days' time the British Army will be commemorating at Thiepval, in Northern France, the first Battle of the Somme, which began on 1st July, just 50 years ago. There is not a regiment in the army that does not number Somme 1916 amongst its battle honours, but the Glosters do so with particular pride, for seven battalions of the Regiment fought there with distinction, and suffered grievously in so doing; the 1st, the 4th, the 5th and 6th first-line Territorial Battalions, and the 8th, 10th and 12th New Army Battalions. The 13th Forest of Dean Pioneer Battalion was also employed in the battle area.

The objects of this summer offensive, which were strategic rather than tactical, were threefold; to relieve pressure on the French at Verdun, to assist our Eastern Allies by pinning down German divisions on the Western front, and to wear down the enemy's strength.

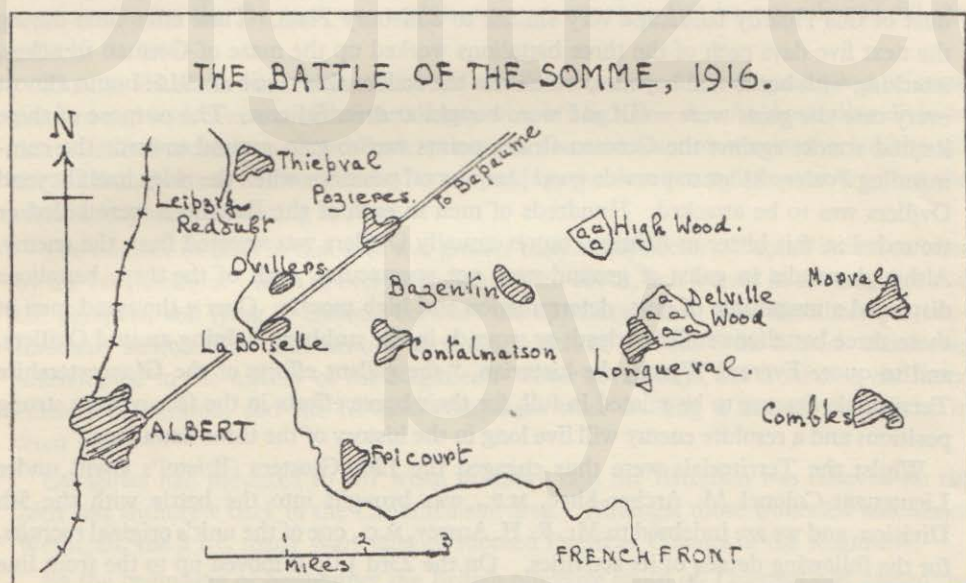
The initial attack was preceded by a massive artillery bombardment which lasted seven days but, in spite of this, it was a ghastly failure on over half its 12-mile front. No progress was made and our losses amounted to 57,000 on that day alone—the most concentrated massacre in British military history. The losses at Waterloo, even on a proportional basis, pale to insignificance beside these.

Fortunately no Gloster battalion was involved in this first attack, but two days later the 8th Battalion, which had been mainly recruited in Gloucester in 1914 took part in a night attack on the village of La Boisselle, two miles south of Thiepval, which lay at the centre of the original offensive. The legendary Carton de Wiart, who had already lost a hand and an eye in previous battles, had recently taken over command of the Battalion, and wrote many years later in his autobiography: "I could never wish to meet a nicer lot of officers or men: they were a fine battalion and in wonderful training." La Boisselle was one of the many strong points in the German defences, and already there had been two unsuccessful attacks against it, so no-man's land presented a ghastly sight strewn with British corpses in all the grotesque attitudes of death.

The 8th advanced and, regardless of their casualties, succeeded in their task. But the remainder of the Brigade was less successful and when all their Commanding Officers were hit these other battalions wavered and began to withdraw. But Lieutenant-Colonel de Wiart, by his personal bravery and sheer personality, succeeded in rallying them and ensuring that the ground gained in the attack was not lost; and for his leadership that day he was awarded the Victoria Cross. One of his officers, severely wounded in this same attack, was Lieutenant M. A. James, later to win the V.C. himself whilst still serving with the same battalion.

It is quite impossible in the space of this brief account to detail all the bloody actions in which the seven battalions of the Regiment were involved, and only the highlights can be mentioned. After the disastrous opening of the offensive there was a brief pause for regrouping, and the second phase, which began on the 14th July on the southern half of the original front of the offensive, was quite different in character, being a series of attacks with limited objectives which in most cases made ground. Already the strategic aims of the offensive were succeeding, for more and more enemy divisions were being drawn into the Somme fighting.

On the 12th July the 1st Division, which included the 1st and the 10th Glosters, had marched into the battered town of Albert, after having been withdrawn from another part of the line. In spite of foul weather everyone was happy at the prospect of getting into the scrap, which they feared at first they would miss. Two days later the 1st Battalion moved into the front line which was by then $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of La Boisselle. In the early hours of the 14th July the 1st Division was launched into an attack, but both the 1st and 10th Battalions were initially in reserve and took no part. However, on the afternoon of the 16th Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Pagan, commanding the 1st Battalion (later Colonel



of the Regiment) received orders to make a night attack beyond the village of Contalmaison. The Commanding Officer himself, accompanied by Sergeant Biddle, the Signal Sergeant, carried out a detailed daylight reconnaissance, and with the aid of tapes and lamps which they set out, the Glosters were safely deployed in no-man's land, east of the village, a few moments before our barrage came down at 2350 hours.

That night everything went well in spite of drenching rain and impenetrable darkness, and in no time, with Colonel Pagan at their head, the leading companies had crossed the German first and second line trenches, and the slight casualties received were mostly from getting too close to their own barrage. Two nights later the Battalion was relieved and went into reserve. Not only was the 1st Battalion a very experienced unit, but it was also a very happy one, wrote Brigadier Tug Wilson, then a Sergeant of "C" Company, and to Colonel Patsy Pagan, "the little man," must go the credit. His courage was a byword in the Battalion, and he knew personally every man under his command, his history, possibly his number, and certainly his sporting ability. Sergeant W. Biddle, later C.S.M., was also a byword in the Battalion as a fighter, and he won the M.M. and bar, the D.C.M. and bar and the Military Cross for his bravery before the war was done.

This successful advance was followed up two days later by the 1st Brigade, and at 1230 hours on the 23rd July the 10th Battalion attacked trenches south of Martinpuich,

which is two miles east of Contalmaison. Unfortunately, this attack was only partially successful at the cost of 147 casualties to the 10th.

Meanwhile the 48th South Midland Division had also been moved south and in the third week of July the 1/4th, 1/5th and 1/6th Battalions were all launched into a series of co-ordinated attacks against the flanks of a German salient round the village of Ovillers, three-quarters of a mile north of La Boisselle, where a brigade of the Prussian Guard, nicknamed the Cockchafer, was most obstinately and bravely defending a series of strong points.

The weather had now changed to summer heat and the battle raged on in the chalk dust of this Picardy landscape very similar to Salisbury Plain. Time after time during the next five days each of the three battalions worked up the maze of German trenches, attacking with bomb and bayonet, which was the fashionable tactic of 1916: but in almost every case the gains were small and were bought at dreadful cost. The purpose of these limited attacks against the German strong-points was to gain ground towards the commanding Poziers Ridge to provide good jumping off positions when the ridge itself beyond Ovillers was to be attacked. Hundreds of men in each of the Battalions were killed or wounded in this bitter in-fighting, but eventually Ovillers was wrested from the enemy. Although results in gains of ground were not spectacular, each of the three battalions displayed a magnitude of guts, determination and high morale. Over a thousand men of these three battalions suffered death or wounds in the stubborn fighting around Ovillers, and to quote Everard Wyrall, the historian, "the gallant efforts of the Gloucestershire Territorials deserve to be related in full, for their brave efforts in the face of very strong positions and a resolute enemy will live long in the history of the three battalions."

Whilst the Territorials were thus engaged the 12th Glosters (Bristol's Own) under Lieutenant-Colonel M. Archer-Shee, M.P., was brought into the battle with the 5th Division, and we are indebted to Mr. R. H. Anstey, M.C., one of the unit's original recruits, for the following details of its activities. On the 23rd July it moved up to the front line at Longueval, three miles east of Contalmaison, and took a leading part in an attack on Delville Wood a few days later. Here it greatly distinguished itself, earning praise from higher command by grimly holding on to three vital positions already won against massive counter-attacks. The Battalion found itself in a sharp salient and exposed to very heavy flanking fire from the Germans, suffering in all 320 casualties during the ten days it was in the line.

Also on the 23rd July the 8th Battalion returned to the front line to take part in one of the innumerable attacks on High Wood, another salient mid-way between Longueval and Contalmaison. This was a most unhealthy spot in every way, and this attack, like those that had preceded it, was a complete and expensive failure, involving 200 casualties in the 8th Battalion, amongst them being Lieutenant-Colonel Carton de Wiart, for no gain in ground. Only a week later on the 30th July the 8th repeated the attack on High Wood, but it withered away once more under enfilade machine-gun fire, and by evening those who had survived were back in their trenches, having suffered a further 169 casualties.

The heat at the end of July was very great, and a permanent haze obscured the movement of enemy troops, although it was known that many fresh German divisions had been poured in to stem the British tide.

August opened quietly for the Regiment, with all seven battalions withdrawn to rest. But on the 13th of the month the 48 Division moved up once more to the Ovillers sector

and each of the three territorial battalions was again committed to a series of expensive local attacks on strong points, and slowly but surely they made a little ground in the network of battered trenches.

As a contrast from these bomb and bayonet affairs the 1/4th carried out a most successful surprise daylight attack "over the top" against the southern face of the German Leipzig Redoubt north-west of Ovillers. They followed close up behind a brief but intense barrage, and when they reached the enemy trenches the defenders were still sheltering in their deep dugouts. The 1/4th gained all their objectives and captured 150 Germans. By the end of the month, after successfully resisting three German counter-attacks, the Division was withdrawn once more to lick its wounds and fill the gaps in its ranks.

The 1st Battalion had remained out of the line until the 15th August when it came forward and took over trenches immediately west of High Wood. An Australian division on its left had recently captured Pozieres and the German reaction was intense. Although the 1st Battalion was neither attacked nor attacking, the next seven days were amongst the worst it experienced during the war.

The number of dead in that area was greater than in any sector occupied before or after by the 1st Battalion. Men of every regiment lay all about, half buried in the trenches and the parapets, and lying in clusters between the opposing lines. The Battalion was continuously subjected to concentrated shell fire, much of it from 8-in. heavies which was unexampled in the history of the Regiment. After seven days the front line had been entirely obliterated, and the forward companies were holding a line of shell holes in front of it.

Casualties had mounted to 187 when in heavy rain the Battalion was relieved on the 28th and withdrew back to the Contalmaison area. Amongst those wounded was Major Wetherall, the 2 i/c, many years later to succeed Pagan as Colonel of the Regiment.

By the beginning of September the British offensive south of Thiepval had gained the Pozieres ridge on a front of seven miles, an advance at its deepest of a little over four miles. The Germans had brought into action a total of 61 divisions and were thought to be in no very happy state. On Sunday, 3rd September, at 12 noon the whole of the British right pressed forward, and the 12th Battalion took part in the 5th Divisional attack on the right flank.

Although its objectives were a nameless line of trenches and a sunken road west of Morval, the 12th had captured them all within two hours and was digging in 3,000 yards ahead of its start line. An unsolicited testimonial to their gallantry came in a letter from the C.O. of another regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel Archer-Shee. "The Battalion came on in their extended lines as steadily as if on parade, although suffering heavy losses, passing through a German barrage, and troubled by long-range machine-gun fire . . . On that day your men covered themselves with glory and no troops could have carried through such a difficult task with more dash or indifference as to consequences." Once more the cost was high, and the Battalion suffered 328 casualties in that attack.

But four miles to the west, at High Wood, the situation remained unchanged. On the morning of the 4th September, Colonel Pagan was told that the 3rd Brigade had been ordered to make a further attack upon the Wood. It was not an alluring thought in view of the many failures that had already taken place, and it is difficult to see what advantage

could be gained by the operation, particularly when a new phase of the offensive, to be carried out on a wide front, with tank support, was due to begin on the 15th.

Because the area was so battered and the trenches so knocked about the forming up of the Battalion for the assault proved troublesome, and to add to the difficulties our own shell fire was falling short on our own trenches. But at 1800 hours on a lovely autumn evening, the advance began as scheduled after two days of preliminary bombardment, culminating in a final half hour of heavy mortar fire. "A" and "B," the leading Companies, reached their objectives in the German trenches in and around the wood, and began to consolidate.

But now the German counter-barrage came down with enfilade machine-gun fire, and the support companies suffered terribly from the storm of fire, and only a few got across unhurt to join up with the leaders on their objective. Amongst these, too, casualties were mounting, and when darkness fell the remnants of the Battalion were ordered back to the trenches from which they had gallantly started. At 0300 hours on the following morning the Germans counter-attacked part of the 1st Battalion's positions, but they too were bloodily repulsed. Later in the morning the 1st Glosters were relieved and marched back to Bazentin not to be committed again in the Somme offensive. The Battalion had done its best and received the congratulations of the Corps Commander, but in this useless, wasteful effort only four officers and 96 other ranks of the Battalion were alive and unwounded on their return, and Captain D. Baxter, as the senior surviving officer, took over command.

The 10th Battalion had been loaned to the 3rd Brigade for this attack, and also suffered severely in this senseless affair, losing all told 122 officers and men. This battalion was in the trenches opposite High Wood once more on the 21st September, but now all was quiet for the first time in weeks in this former death trap: the Germans had withdrawn and during daylight the 10th moved forward unhindered through the wood and dug in on the slopes beyond it, remaining there until the 1st Division was withdrawn on the 25th September.

Now of the Glosters only the 12th Battalion remained on the battle front, and once more it took part in a successful operation. On the 25th September the whole of the IV Army went into the attack with the most successful results achieved on any single day of this offensive: on a front of six miles the British advanced to a depth of more than a mile. On the extreme right flank of the British attack the 5th Division did particularly well, and the 12th Battalion made a dashing attack through the village of Morval, and consolidated on the far side. When the Division was withdrawn to rest on the following day it did not again enter the Somme battlefield.

Bristol's Own Battalion—the 12th—had been raised as a battalion of "business and professional men," magnificent material; but during the Somme battles 736 out of the original 950 members became casualties, and it was never quite the same again for the rest of the war.

The fighting continued until the winter weather finally put an end to the campaign in November. Strategically it had achieved its three objects, but at the fearful loss of over half a million British casualties. Unfortunately the War Diary of the 1/4th T.A. Battalion omits its casualty figures, but the officers and men killed, wounded and missing in the other six battalions of the Gloucestershire Regiment engaged in the battle amounted to a total of 3,427, or well over half of their total establishment of 5,700.



The country over which the 8th Battalion fought near La Boisselle on the 3rd July. The original British front line is in the near foreground



The country over which the 12th Battalion advanced near Morval on the 3rd September



[By courtesy of the Cheltenham Echo]

At the Annual Reunion Dinner of the 1/5th Battalion, held at Tewkesbury. Included in the group are Mr. Faville, Major Wilcox, Colonel Johnson, Captain Nason and Mr. Finch



Ex-C.S.M. Charles Cox, D.C.M., CROIX DE GUERRE, aged 86, proudly displays his medals as he receives a gift from the Regiment



[By courtesy of the Gloucester Citizen]

The 8th Battalion's Reunion Dinner. The group includes Brigadier James, Colonel Parks, Colonel Elkington and Lieutenant-Colonel Durant

It will no doubt surprise the present generation and those who fought in the 1939-45 War how battalions could time after time lose 150, 200, or even 300 casualties in a single day, yet retain their undoubted high morale. They were mostly composed of able-bodied, unmarried and gay young men who had rushed to enlist in 1914 in a wave of mass patriotism. They were now banded together by a unity of experience and comradeship, and sustained by an unreasoning pride and a hearty contempt for everyone who was not a front-line soldier. It is not in the nature of youth to grieve for long, and when they came out of the line after a scrap and the gaps were filled with reinforcements from their own towns and villages in Gloucestershire it was not long before their gloom was forgotten and their tails were up once more.

But in the 5th Gloster's Gazette, written and edited in the trenches throughout the war, the following verses appeared in August 1916 showing that those who had fallen in the Somme offensive were still remembered.

God be with you and us who go our way
And leave you dead upon the ground you won.
For you at last the long fatigue is done,
The hard march ended. You have rest to-day.

Not now for you the glorious return
To steep Stroud Valleys, to the Severn leas,
By Tewkesbury and Gloucester, or the trees
of Cheltenham under high Cotswold stern.

For you no medals such as others wear
—A cross of bronze for those approved brave.
To you is given, above a shallow grave,
The wooden cross that marks you resting there.

Rest you content. More honourable far
Than all the Orders is the Cross of wood,
The symbol of self-sacrifice that stood
Bearing the God whose brethren you are.

Footnote

Why this vast offensive was named the Battle of the Somme is anybody's guess, for the river of that name threads its sluggish, tortuous way towards the sea four miles or so from the southern flank of this British battlefield.

T. N. G.

THE 2/5th BATTALION LEAVES FOR FRANCE, 24th MAY, 1916

THE 2/5th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment was formed at Gloucester in September 1914 under Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. A. B. Bathurst, assisted by several officers sent back from the 1/5th and R.S.M. Tomlins and Q.M.S. Canavan. The rank and file comprised newly-enlisted volunteers from Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Tewkesbury and the surrounding district. The early days were spent in civvy clothes drilling on the Oxleaze, and breaking in heavy boots on route marches. After a spell at Northampton, we replaced the 1/5th Battalion at Chelmsford, where we inherited their leather equipment discarded on their departure overseas. Towards the end of our stay at Chelmsford we were inspected by Lord Kitchener. A gruelling winter on Salisbury Plain completed our training, and here we sampled weather conditions which prepared us for our later experience of winter on the Somme front.

On 5th May, 1916, the Division received the honour of being inspected by His Majesty King George V and a fortnight later we left the Plain, on Empire Day, 24th May, 1916, now alas no longer a national event, and entrained for Southampton. Having disembarked at Le Havre, we marched up the hill to Sanvic. Early the following morning we marched through the deserted streets of Le Havre to the goods yard, where we became acquainted with the usual French rail transport of the cattle truck variety (Hommes 40 Chevaux 8). Having entrained we started off at a pace affording ample opportunity of admiring the scenery, eventually reaching Berguette the next morning. Here we detrained and marched about eight miles to billets in the vicinity of Merville. We spent the next three days overhauling equipment, drawing extra ammunition, etc.

On the 29th May, we left for the line, marched through La Grogue to Riez Bailleul where the reserve billets of the Welsh Division were situated, with whom we were to go into the trenches, for instruction. In the evening the advance party left for Pont du Hem on the La Basse road, and here we left our packs behind, taking with us only fighting equipment. We left in small parties at intervals to obviate the possibility of being a target for the German Artillery.

As we wound our way up the narrow road, we began to see a little of the wastage of war. Here was land that had once been fruitful and under intensive cultivation, now a waste of long grass and weeds, the hedges overgrown and the ditch alongside full of stagnant water. We passed the empty shells of once comfortable homesteads, their owners long since fled. As dusk was falling we reached the Rue de Bacquerot and entered South Tilleloy communication trench, which was over a mile long and had a duckboard track along its entire length. Very lights and star shells were continually going up all along the front, and the frequent zip of bullets passing overhead made us realise the proximity of war in earnest. Towards midnight we finally reached the sand-bag breastworks which constituted the front line in this Sector. The line in this part of the front had been stationary for some time, the trenches were of the "Bairnsfather" type with the opportunity to brew tea and fry bacon in the front line. Our position was to the left of Neuve Chapelle where the regular battalions of our Regiment had been engaged in severe fighting earlier in the War. The following day a Trench Mortar strafe was laid on for our special benefit, to which the Germans replied with interest, and we received a number of casualties including one killed. Thus we received our baptism of fire, less than a week after we had been on Salisbury Plain.

E. H. YEEND.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE most notable addition to the Museum during the past six months is the unique row of orders, decorations and medals of the late Major-General Harry Needham, C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., sixteen in all, including Belgian, French, Russian and American decorations. Another bequest from the General was his Canadian Artillery sword: this he had before he transferred to the Regiment during the South Africa War and he took a mischievous delight in using it throughout his subsequent service in the British Army.

Major Tom Barnard has painted a portrait of the late Colonel R. M. Grazebrook and has kindly presented it to the Regimental Museum, where it now hangs in recognition of the latter's great achievements in the Museum.

Another interesting addition is a bayonet of the type used with the Brown Bess musket at the time of Alexandria and the Peninsular War. This was kindly presented by Colonel Carne who had been using it for some years as his sitting room poker!

Mr. J. F. Allaway, who has been our Museum Attendant for the past year, has left, and his place has been taken by Mr. W. E. Dovey (5175121) who served, mainly with the 2nd Battalion, from 1921 to 1928. In a worthy effort to keep down the City rates the Finance Committee has reduced the wages budget for the City Museums. This means that no substitute attendants will be found to take Mr. Dovey's place during his absence on leave, etc. and during his lunch periods, when regrettably the Regimental Museum will be closed.

We recently received a letter addressed to the "28th Foot Museum, Bristol": so it is evident that someone in the Postmaster's Department knows his Regimental history!

SPRING CLEANING A PAGE OF HISTORY

The recent redecorating of the North Ambulatory in Gloucester Cathedral presented an opportunity of taking down and dusting two old sets of Colours belonging to the Gloucestershire Regiment. Both are over 110 years old, and much of the original silk has vanished in the passage of time, but the Regimental numbers remain—the XXVIII and the LXI on their crimson shields—and the proudly-borne battle honours of the Peninsular War and Waterloo, of India and the Crimea.

Many other colours of the Glosters are hung in the Cathedral, but these two sets that have now been spring-cleaned have one peculiarity in common; they were the last to be actually taken into battle. Those of the XXVIII were carried at the battle of Alma in the Crimea War of 1854, and those of the LXI at the battle of Goojerat in the Sikh War of 1849.

The Colours of those days, each six feet square, formed such an obvious mark (which was, indeed, their original function) that as the weapons of war improved, the Colour parties of young officers and sergeants received so many casualties that the practice of carrying them into battle was abandoned.

CORRESPONDENCE

Keswick, Ontario, Canada.

10th Dec., 1965.

Dear Sir,

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to sit and write these few lines, in reply to yours of the 30th Nov. 1965. It also gives me the greatest of pleasure to be able to wear with Pride, the badges of my former Regiment and to know it is an honour to belong to a Regt. which is the only Regt. in the World to have this honour bestowed upon them.

May I say I also consider it an honour to have my letter forwarded to the Regimental Association, for it may inspire the soldiers of to-day to honour their Regt. and to hold their heads with pride.

Thanking you for all you have done on my behalf.

Yours sincerely,

L/Cpl. F. JUSTIN, Regt. No. 5045.

Gloucestershire Regiment.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Blandford Camp, Dorset.

20th Jan., 1966.

Dear Sir,

The Tie

With the streamlining of the Regular and T.A. Regiments, I feel that this is an appropriate moment to bring Our Tie up to date.

A few years ago it was very popular, as sale could prove, probably 80% of the Regiment owning the tie, but how many are worn at Battalion functions etc. now? I know that the die-hards of the Regiment would say that the tie should be worn on such occasions, but this is not the answer—to them I would quote the old proverb “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink,” especially the younger “horses,” the life-blood of the Regiment.

Now that as a Regiment we are striving to keep our individuality, I feel that we should incorporate that most individual symbol of the Gloucesters—the Back Badge—on Our Tie.

With this in mind I should like to submit the following design:—

Primrose coloured back badges, 28/61st underneath, a green diagonal line (to signify the Volunteer Regiment) on a dark ground, as in the existing Regimental tie.

I have based this on the following facts:

- (a) the larger Regiment, and
- (b) the total massacre of the T.A. Battalion.

I realise this could be a controversial subject, but would welcome comments from past and present members of the Regiment.

Yours faithfully,

R. BISHOP (No. 22462904 Sgt.).

(Readers are asked to give their views—Editor.)

From Lieut.-General Sir Wilfrid Lindsell, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., LL.D.,
Britford, Salisbury.
26th Feb., 1966.

Dear Sir,

Having been born and brought up in the 28th and my father having commanded the 61st in the South African War, may I be permitted to express my appreciation of the new Regimental History—"The Slashers."

An admirable publication, which I have read with the greatest interest; the wonderful old stories I am of course familiar with and many of the names of those taking part in the South African, 1914/18, 1939/45 wars are amongst my earliest recollections of those days and my family friends.

Excuse me please for calling attention to a small error in the list of commanding officers on page 40. My father is there shown as "F. R. Lindsell," it should read "R. F. Lindsell." He was so very well known to all his friends and contemporaries as "R. F."

Yours sincerely,

W. G. LINDSELL.

Stoneham, Massachussetts,
U.S.A.

9th March, 1966.

Dear Sir,

I would like to order "The Slashers," and the Back Badge for 1966, and will send 3 dollars for such: if this is not enough please let me know.

I would like to see more of the stories of the battles the Gloucestershire Regiment took part in and their exploits from Quebec to Imjin, Korea. These are the battles and engagements that have made the Gloucestershire Regiment one of the best!

Yours truly,

GEORGE PARSONS.

Horfield, Bristol.

22nd March, 1966.

Dear Sir,

How nice it was to read in last night's *Evening Post* of at least one piece of the Regiment's silver being returned and especially so, as yesterday was "Back Badge Day," which so many of us still remember with pride and affection. My first husband, the late C.S.M. F. Gorwood, M.M., served 21 years and seven months in the "Glosters" and my second husband, the late Major G. F. Hardwick, after 10 years on the strength of the 2nd Battalion, transferred in 1929 to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps.

To both men, none other took Pride of Place to the Regiment (and might I add my own feelings also).

With best wishes,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(MRS.) M. A. HARDWICK.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, April 1966)

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
Colonel-in-Chief:		
Field-Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Personal Aide-de- Camp to the Queen	6/5/35	
Colonel:		
Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.	23/2/64	D.D.M. (A), M. of D.
Lieutenant-Colonels:		
A. L. W. Soames (supernumerary)	23/7/59	Administration Commandant (Exp.) Aldershot District
P. G. H. Varwell	21/1/62	A.M.S., H.Q., B.A.O.R.
P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.	9/4/64	Commanding 5th Battalion
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	28/7/64	Commanding 1st Battalion
Majors:		
T. A. K. Dillon (T/Lieutenant-Colonel)	1/7/52	G.S.O.1, M. of D. (A.D.)
W. A. Wood	1/7/52	1st Battalion
E. L. T. Capel, E.R.D.	10/7/52	G.S.O.2 (Int.), N. Army Group
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	Singapore Guard Regiment
J. E. Taylor (T/Lieutenant-Colonel)	10/8/56	School of Infantry
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	D.A.A.G. (P.S.2), H.Q., B.A.O.R.
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	10/10/59	2 i/c 1st Battalion
H. R. A. Streather	24/3/60	1/6 Gurkha Rifles
A. N. Wilson	27/10/60	Adm. Wing, School of Infantry
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/61	Brigade Major, H.Q. 56 London Bde. (T.A.)
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/62	1 Battalion
H. R. Gilliver	21/5/62	3 Malaysia Rangers
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/63	A.M.A., Rangoon
J. W. Allison	20/1/64	1st Battalion
W. A. Duguid	16/9/64	G.3. (Training) 2 Div. B.A.O.R.
J. C. H. Roberts	10/11/64	Army Air Corps Centre
D. E. Matson	8/2/65	1st Battalion
M. M. A. Gilmore	1/9/65	H.Q. F.R.A., Aden
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/66	G. (Or. & A.) H.Q. FARE.L.F.
Captains:		
J. B. Henderson	31/7/59	G.S.O.3, H.Q. Dir. of Borneo Ops.
C. P. T. Rebbeck	31/7/59	H.Q. F.R.A., Aden
M. A. Crush	4/2/61	1st Battalion
C. J. Waters	16/12/61	Instructor, School of Infantry
R. J. Bewell	24/6/62	Trucial Oman Scouts
W. J. Vicary	21/12/62	Adjutant 5th Battalion
N. C. Thompson	20/12/63	1 D. & D.
D. A. Godfrey	10/3/64	Adjutant 1st Battalion
W. R. N. Ladds	2/9/64	3 Malaysia Rangers
R. L. Giles	19/6/65	1st Battalion
S. D. A. Firth	25/7/65	1st Battalion R.C.R.
T. D. Cooper	25/7/65	A/Adjutant 1st Battalion
M. G. Smith-Rewse	18/12/65	1st Battalion
Lieutenants:		
J. W. Mermagen	27/3/61	R.S.O. 1st Battalion
R. C. Hobbs (T/Captain)	18/12/61	Fed. Regt. Army, Aden
T. B. Dutton	23/1/62	1st Battalion
D. Grist	16/6/62	Attached Army Air Corps
A. G. Hill	22/12/62	1st Battalion
C. J. Newbould	29/1/63	Malaysia Rangers
T. W. Michels	5/2/63	H.Q. Zambia Army
P. R. Roston	22/6/63	Wessex Brigade Depot.
J. G. H. Corrigan	4/2/64	Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion
A. T. Holman	4/2/64	Wessex Brigade Depot
P. A. Woodley	2/2/65	Wessex Brigade Depot
C. B. Smith-Rewse	20/6/65	25 A.Y.T. Gloucester
C. J. T. Davis	20/6/65	1st Battalion
G. E. W. R. Mirehouse	28/7/65	Wessex Brigade Depot
A. P. Arengo-Jones	31/1/66	1st Battalion
R. P. James	31/1/66	1st Battalion
Second-Lieutenants:		
P. G. Hodson	30/7/65	1st Battalion
J. Denley	17/12/65	1st Battalion
J. P. C. Hoole	17/12/65	1st Battalion
Quartermasters:		
K. F. Clark	27/5/55	Q.M. Dhekelia Admin. Unit
Major	19/11/62	
C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.	12/3/56	Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl
Major	25/2/62	
A. J. Gillett	1/1/57	5th Battalion
Major	4/4/65	

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Quartermasters (continued)</i>		
G. Boyes (Captain)	1/4/66	1st Battalion
W. J. Smyth, B.E.M. (Captain)	1/4/66	1 D.E.R.R.

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

<i>Major:</i>		
D. F. Jones	8/5/56	S.O.P.T. Northern Command
<i>Lieutenant:</i>		
R. R. Lettington	7/12/64	1st Battalion
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
D. E. Windebank	27/7/63	1 D. & D.
P. J. McNaught	10/7/65	1st Battalion

OFFICERS, LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.	9/7/62	D.D.M. (A) Ministry of Defence
Brigadier J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.	1/1/63	B.G.S. (MT) Ministry of Defence
Brigadier A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, O.B.E.	1/2/64	Commandant, School of Infantry
Colonel J. C. Robertson	2/4/64	D.A.L.S. H.Q. FAREL.F.
Colonel E. D. Harding, D.S.O.	30/7/64	Brigade Colonel Wessex Brigade
Colonel A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.	1/12/65	Principal Staff Officer, H.Q. Director of Borneo Operations
Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Fane, M.C.	20/4/62	The Life Guards, G.S.O.1, London District
Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Henn	11/11/63	11th Hussars
Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	9/1/66	G.S.O. 1 Hong Kong
Major C. G. Nuttal	2/10/50	R.A.P.C.
Major A. D. Gregory	2/6/53	R.A.O.C.
Major D. E. Whatmore	24/5/65	Intelligence Corps, H.Q. C.I. Company, Cyprus

OFFICERS OF THE 5th BATTALION (T.A.)

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Joint Honorary Colonels 5th Battalion:</i>		
The Lord Mayor of Bristol	Ex-Officio	
Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P. .. .	29/8/61	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonel:</i>		
P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E. (Regular)	9/4/64	Commanding 5th Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>		
D. B. Metcalfe	21/3/56	2 i/c
D. H. Potter, T.D.	27/4/59	O.C. "B" Company
C. S. Jones, T.D.	1/5/64	H.Q. 129 Infantry Brigade (T.A.)
M. S. Lee-Browne, M.A., T.D.	1/9/64	O.C. "H.Q." Company
<i>Captains:</i>		
R. H. Jones (Acting Major 1/8/65)	1/5/61	O.C. "A" Company
D. G. Trimby (Acting Major 1/4/64)	26/10/61	O.C. "D" Company
C. F. L. Boyce (Acting Major 2/8/65)	1/2/63	O.C. "C" Company
M. Fenton	28/2/63	"C" Company
D. B. Rice	7/4/63	Recce Platoon
P. J. M. Whiteman, B.A.	1/4/64	R.S.O.
R. H. Boyle	10/10/64	"D" Company
P. R. Williams	1/11/64	"B" Company
J. H. Ridlington	28/12/64	"A" Company
<i>Lieutenants:</i>		
H. G. Jessop	23/4/61	"C" Company
B. T. Bowman	22/4/62	"B" Company
A. D. King, B.A.	15/6/62	"A" Company
A. G. E. Clarkson	31/10/62	"B" Company
P. L. Jacques	14/9/63	I.O.
A. M. Grazebrook	16/2/64	"D" Company
J. F. Reney-Smith	12/12/62	"B" Company
P. A. Lintott	12/9/65	"C" Company
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
D. L. Dryhurst	15/10/64	"D" Company
R. J. Poole	16/9/65	"A" Company
<i>Quartermaster:</i>		
L. K. J. Courtney (Captain)	3/12/65	Q.M.2/M.T.O.
<i>Medical Officer:</i> Major A. E. Wright	11/9/57	
<i>Chaplain:</i> The Rev. P. C. W. Walker, R.A., CH.D. (T.A.), C.I.I.V	29/12/60	
<i>Paymaster:</i> Captain W. G. Foreman, T.D., R.A.P.C. (T.A.)	1/9/61	
<i>Permanent Staff:</i>		
<i>Adjutant:</i> Captain W. J. Vicary		
<i>Quartermaster:</i> Major A. J. Gillett		
<i>R.S.M.:</i> W.O.1 P. Martin		
<i>P.S.I.s:</i>		
"A" Company, S/Sergeant L. Cleeve; "B" Company, W.O.2 W. B. Russell, B.E.M.; "C" Company, W.O. W. R. W. Cheater; "D" Company, Sergeant R. R. Page; "H.Q." Company, W.O.2 J. Vaughan.		

WEST OF ENGLAND BACK BADGE LUNCH

The Ninth Annual Officers' Luncheon took place on the 18th March in the Officers' Mess of the Wessex Brigade Depot at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter. We were lucky indeed to have such an exceptionally nice sunny spring day, and it was good to see over a hundred past and serving officers including members of their families gathered together. We were particularly glad to welcome Colonel and Mrs. Alec Vicary, Colonel and Mrs. Allen Knight and Major and Mrs. Stephen Farmer on what we believe was their first visit to this enjoyable function, and we hope that from now on they will be constant attenders.

We are especially grateful to Lieutenant-Colonel John Tull, the Depot Commander, and to his mess staff, including in particular the Mess Steward, Mr. Richardson, as without their help and co-operation it would be very difficult to hold the party at the present very reasonable cost.

Amongst those present, with in most cases, one or more members of their families were:

Brigadier A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. K. Bagot, Major T. H. Barnard, Colonel D. Baxter, Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Biddle, Lieutenant-Colonel M. M. A. Bryant, Major R. S. Butler, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. R. Chilton, Major C. R. Davis, Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Durant, Major S. C. S. Farmer, Major-General C. E. A. Firth, Captain S. Firth, Major A. J. Gillett, Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, Lieutenant R. D. Grist, Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Grist, Major A. W. Hardick, Colonel E. D. Harding, Colonel F. J. Harrison, Major E. J. Hobbs, Lieutenant A. J. Holman, Captain D. J. Hurford-Jones, Major J. W. C. Kirkland, Colonel A. H. Knight, Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. V. Ladds, Major H. J. Lovett, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Lovett, Major R. J. Martin, Major D. E. Matson, Major D. B. Metcalfe, Colonel G. E. Mirehouse, Captain R. C. Nash, Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, Major P. J. H. Pope, Major J. H. Ridlington, Lieutenant C. B. Smith-Rewse, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. W. Soames, Brigadier J. Vicary, Colonel A. C. Vicary, Captain W. J. Vicary, Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Vinen, Captain C. J. Waters, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, Colonel A. E. Wilkinson, Major W. A. Wood, Major R. H. S. Woodward.

Our guests included Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. E. Tull, Captain and Mrs. H. Platt, Mrs. E. M. B. Gilmore, Mrs. H. F. Hilton-Green and Mrs. J. Morton.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Mentioned in Despatches. L.G. 10th December, 1965:

No. 5577627 Sergeant Donald Large, whilst serving with the Special Air Service Regiment.

Territorial Decoration. L.G. 11th March, 1966:

Major M. S. Lee-Browne.

Cadet Force Medal. L.G. 25th March, 1966:

Lieutenant (A/Major) R. H. Kirby is awarded a Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal.

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

1965	
29th October	.. Private P. J. Poole, 5 Glosters, to be Second-Lieutenant (on probation) 16th September.
5th November	.. Major (Q.M.) J. H. Ridlington (R. of O.) to be Captain T.A. 11th August, with seniority 28th December 1954.
19th November	.. Captain P. R. Barker retires on retired pay, 22nd November.
14th December	.. Lieutenant M. G. Smith-Rewse to be Captain, 18th December. Lieutenant R. C. Hobbs to be Captain, 18th December.

THE FOLLOWING FIRMS SUPPORT SERVICE JOURNALS

BULPITT & SONS, LTD., BIRMINGHAM • ENGLAND.  ALUMINIUM HOLLOWARE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	For Your Enjoyment Callard & Bowser's Celebrated "Thistle Brand" BUTTER-SCOTCH Famous since 1837	 LONDON AND ALDERSHOT
The Walsall Electrical Co., Ltd 61 BRIDGE ST., WALSALL Electrical Measuring Instruments Switchboards, Switchgear	 O.K. THE SAUCE THAT DOES YOU GOOD	PROTECTIVE—YET SO GENTLE Wright's the best soap for all the family
The only way to find out if <i>Parker & Dobson</i> Regal Fruit Drops and Everton Mints taste as good as they look is to TRY THEM!	SAMUEL GILL & SONS Designers & Manufacturers of Jigs, Tools, Fixtures, Gauges & Special Machines Lythalls Lane, Coventry Tel. Cov. 88605 Ait Ministry Authority 707713/37 RIZLA CIGARETTE PAPERS	SMITHS have crispness in the bag! Smith's Potato Crisps Limited., Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

NOW! Up to 10% off a new car for cash or on HP

A new discount plan has been devised by Naafi to save you 5% or even up to 10% on the basic price of most popular makes of new cars bought from a dealer in the U.K.

BUY YOUR CAR THROUGH NAAFI AND SAVE £££

plus advantageous HP terms if you wish to 'spread' the payments and a unique scheme by which you can save the deposit on your car by easy instalments and which will reduce the HP cost of your car.

Can you afford to miss this opportunity?

Naafi's Credit Manager will be delighted to send you full details. Fill in and post the enquiry form today

To: CREDIT MANAGER, NAAFI HQ, LONDON SE11

1. I wish to purchase the following new car under the Naafi scheme providing a substantial discount on the basic price

Make: _____

Model: _____

Extras and accessories required: _____

2. Delivery date requested _____

3. Address for delivery _____

4. The Car is for Home use
The Car is for Export use in _____ (state country) } Delete whichever is NOT required

5. I wish to pay for the car by cash in full
I wish to use the Naafi Car HP Scheme
I wish to trade-in my present car if possible

6. (a) Rank: _____
Name (Block Letters) _____
(b) Address for reply (Block Letters) _____

7. Date _____

CSP



THE FINEST SCOTCH WHEREVER YOU ARE

THE FINEST SCOTCH WHEREVER YOU ARE • THE FINEST SCOTCH WHEREVER YOU ARE



One glass and your friends will agree that yours is the finest Scotch in the world. Don't disappoint them. Place an order for more today.

QUEEN ANNE
rare scotch whisky

THE FINEST SCOTCH WHEREVER YOU ARE • THE FINEST SCOTCH WHEREVER YOU ARE



ONYX FOR MEN by LENTHÉRIC 17-18 OLD BOND STREET LONDON



Abroad
BAOR enjoy
SKOL

International
LAGER BEER

It's available in cans, too!

At home
the beer the
men drink is
DOUBLE DIAMOND

Bottled and on Draught



- 31st December .. Lieutenant J. F. Renny-Smith, T.A., from Cheshire Regiment, to be Lieutenant 5 Glosters, 9th November, with seniority 12th December, 1962.
- 1966
- 14th January .. Lieutenant (Q.M.) L. K. C. Courtney to be Captain (Q.M.), 3rd December, 1965.
- 28th January .. Second-Lieutenant A. P. Arengo-Jones to be Lieutenant, 31st January. Second-Lieutenant R. P. James to be Lieutenant, 31st January.
- 4th February .. Second-Lieutenant P. A. Lintott, T.A., to be Lieutenant, 12th September, 1965.
- 25th March .. Major E. Jones, M.B.E., retires on retired pay on account of a disability, 27th March, 1966.
- 29th March .. Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. Boyes to be Captain (Q.M.), 1st April, 1966. Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. J. Smyth, B.E.M. to be Captain (Q.M.), 1st April, 1966.



THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters:
Robinswood Barracks,
Gloucester

President:
BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, C.B.E.

Secretary:
MAJOR C. R. DAVIS

BRANCHES:

Branch and Chairman:
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT:
Major P. R. Burton, M.C., T.D.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. L. A. Rayner, 360 Rednal Road,
West Heath, Birmingham 31.

Meeting Places and Dates:

Third Thursday except July and
August, Limbley Ex-Service Associa-
tion, 64 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham 16, 8 p.m.

BRISTOL:
Brigadier M. A. James, V.C.,
D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., T.D.

Mr. P. R. Brown, D.C.M., 3 Milton Park,
Redfield, Bristol 5.

Second Saturday in each month, T.A.
Centre, Horfield Common, 8 p.m.

CHELTEMHAM:
Mr. F. Finch, M.M.

Mr. D. J. Pack, 61 New Street, Cheltem-
ham.

Third Saturday except August, T.A.
Centre, Arle Road, 8 p.m.

GLOUCESTER:
Major D. B. Metcalfe

Mr. P. O. Masters, 3 Lonsdale Road,
Gloucester.

First Monday except August, T.A.
Centre, Painswick Road, 8 p.m.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES:
Colonel C. S. R. Campbell,
O.B.E., M.C.

As arranged.

STROUD:
Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R.
Chalmers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.

Mr. R. Close, 123 Stratford Road,
Stroud.

First Monday except August, "The
Rose Inn," Paganhill, Stroud, 8 p.m.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE:
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C.
Milner, M.A., LL.B., T.D.

Mr. O. Mills, 23-25 Church Street,
Wotton-under-Edge.

Second Monday except August, "The
White Lion," Wotton-under-Edge,
8 p.m.

DURING the year ended 31st December, 1965 financial aid was given to 143 ex-members of the Regiment, which is about the average for the past six years. A significant feature, however, was the increase in the average size of the grants made to individuals, made possible by the increased income of the Regimental Association from the proceeds of the Regimental Sweepstake and the Day's Pay scheme operating in the 1st Battalion. Thus the total of grants made during the past year from Regimental

Association and other Regimental benevolent funds was £1,815, an increase of nearly £600 on the previous year.

During the year 81 new members joined the Regimental Association, and this brought the total number of those who have joined since it was first founded in 1913 to over 10,000. Many of these have, of course, passed on, but there are many members with whom it is impossible to communicate because they fail to notify the Secretary of their changes of address: at present less than 3,000 up-to-date addresses are known at Regimental Headquarters.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION DINNER

The Annual General Meeting took place at 6.30 p.m. at the T.A. Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol, on 30th April: about 52 members attended. The Secretary reported that owing to the imminent disbandment of the T.A. the Painswick Road T.A. Centre would not be available for next year's gathering at Gloucester, and he also reported that so far he had been unable to find any other suitable accommodation either in Gloucester or Cheltenham which would seat 200. The meeting decided that if further efforts to do so failed next year's and subsequent Dinners would have to take place at Bristol.

An outline of the programme of the Regimental Reunion to be held in the Barracks of the 1st Battalion at Saighton Camp, Chester, on Sunday, 26th June was given. All ex-members of the Regiment and their wives and families will be welcome, and Association Branches agreed to arrange coaches. These will be timed to arrive at Chester at 1 p.m. when lunch will be provided, followed by a number of displays, showing of the Regimental films of recent overseas tours, side shows and the Beating of Retreat. A bar will be open throughout and guests will be given tea before departure. Inclusive cost for those travelling by coach will be 10s. per person, and 3s. will be charged to those attending by private transport. All agreed that this should prove a very cheap and agreeable day's outing.

Branch Chairmen reported briefly on their year's activities, and after the names of those members who were known to have died during the past year had been read over the meeting was closed.

The Dinner which followed was again a great success. About 210 attended, coming from all parts of the country, and probably the oldest member present was Mr. T. W. Gale, who enlisted into the Regiment in 1897. It was a pleasure to see a number of serving members of the 1st Battalion who had returned from overseas only a few days before, and also to welcome three members of the London Branch of the Royal Canadian Regiment's Old Comrades' Association.

The Colonel of the Regiment in his speech congratulated the 1st Battalion on the very excellent reports he had received of their bearing, behaviour and activities in the many countries in which they had recently served, and he expressed his thanks for the excellent response to the Day's Pay scheme for the benefit of Association Funds. He also expressed his sympathy to all members of the 5th Battalion which was due for disbandment in April next.

In responding to the toast of the City and County of Bristol and the Guests, the Sheriff of Bristol recalled the long connection between the City and the Regiment, and expressed the opinion that this would continue in spite of the end of the Territorial

Battalion. Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. T. Radice, commanding the 1st Battalion, responded to the toast of the Regiment and gave further details of the Reunion to be held at Chester on 26th June.

A very happy gathering continued for many hours around the bar.

OLD COMRADES MEET AGAIN

FIFTY-ONE years after they enlisted for the "duration" old comrades in arms of several battalions of the Regiment are still holding their annual reunions. Indeed at some of these meetings the attendance actually seems to increase, a wonderful example of loyalty and comradeship. The following are brief accounts of some of these successful gatherings.

THE 1/4th (CITY OF BRISTOL) BATTALION

Following last year's successful reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the battalion sailing for France on 31st March, 1915, a similar dinner was held on the corresponding date this year.

The Chair was taken by Colonel G. S. Castle supported by Captain H. Trapnell, with a total attendance of 53, which considering the date coincided with polling day, which may have kept one or two away, and also taking into account the average age of those eligible to attend, was thought to be an excellent turn-out.

The general opinion appeared to be a desire for a repeat performance next year.

Among the Roll of those known to have died since their last meeting was Mr. H. N. Jefferies who had been acting as Hon. Secretary, but a volunteer to take his place was found in the person of Sergeant H. Derrick, 12 Turtlegate Walk, Withywood, Bristol 3.

THE 1/5th BATTALION

The annual reunion dinner of our Old Comrades was held at Gupshill Manor Hotel, Tewkesbury, on Saturday, 2nd April when nearly 100 (including guests) sat down to what proved a very satisfactory meal, well served and appreciated by all who attended. Among the guests were the Rector of Tewkesbury and Colonel P. J. E. Durant, Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment (T.A.) and members of the 2/5th Old Comrades' Association.

The Chair was taken by Captain D. P. Morgan, M.C., J.P., in the unavoidable absence of the Vice-President of the Association, Air Commodore W. Wynter-Morgan, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., due to a serious accident to his wife, and expressions of regret were given for her speedy recovery.

The main speech of the evening ("The Gloucestershire Regiment and the Fifth Battalion") was proposed by the Deputy Mayor of Tewkesbury, Councillor C. S. Brown, and was replied to by Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, who informed the company of the future arrangements of the T.A. which was due to be disbanded at some future date. He also referred to the fact that the Regiment would receive the "Freedom of the City" in Cheltenham at a date to be agreed upon and asked as many who could, to attend on this occasion to show that the "old sweats" were not yet done for. To the delight of everyone the speeches were short and interesting, and this allowed for a general "get together" to talk over old times, episodes of which will never be forgotten.

Giving the toast to "Absent Comrades" the Chairman read the names of nine who had died since the last reunion, and all stood in silence for a few moments. "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by buglers of the 5th Gloucestershire Regiment.

So after 51 years, another reunion ended with the hope that more were to come.

The annual Church Parade will be held at Dursley on Sunday, 17th July at 6.30 p.m.

THE 6th BATTALION

There was the usual good turn-out for the "Sixth's" annual dinner, the 47th of the series, which was held at the Assize Court Hotel, Bristol, on 23rd April. Colonel E. N. Gardner, the President, was again in the Chair, and everyone was particularly happy to see the familiar face of Jim Bousfield who once more made the journey from his home in Cumberland to attend this annual gathering. Both he and Bob Harper, the Secretary of the Association, can claim that they remained with the battalion for the whole period of the First World War from 1914 to 1920.

THE 8th (SERVICE) BATTALION

Once again the Old Comrades of the 8th met at the Fleece Hotel, Gloucester, on 26th March. Colonel W. Parkes, who commanded the battalion during the war, was in the Chair and in his speech said: "Although our numbers will get smaller, we must keep alive the memory of our comrades—men who performed a great service for mankind." Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Durant was the principal guest and, proposing the toast to the Battalion, spoke of the fine tradition, war record and honours which it achieved, second only to the 1st Battalion of the Regiment. Four members of the Association who had died during the past year were mentioned, and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were played by a bugler from the 5th Battalion.

THE 9th (SERVICE) BATTALION

Unknown to the Editor of THE BACK BADGE the officers of the 9th Battalion have been meeting together for a Reunion Dinner every year since 1919, with the exception of the Second World War years; and on 7th May this year they will be holding their 41st annual dinner. The 9th Battalion, which was raised in 1914 from all over the county, was initially billeted and trained at Cheltenham, and the townsfolk extended great kindness to the men and adopted both the 9th and its sister battalion, the 10th, as "Cheltenham's Own."

Early reunions naturally took place in that town, but subsequently the dinners were moved to London as being more suitable to the majority of the members.

In 1928 the King's Colour of the Battalion was laid up in Cheltenham Parish Church in the presence of a great gathering of ex-members of the 9th, and on that occasion an All Ranks' Association was formed, and thereafter a few very well attended reunion dinners were held in Cheltenham. Unfortunately many attempts to stage more reunions after the last war failed to get the necessary response, and the Association was formally closed, the surplus funds being handed over to the Regimental Association.

Attendance at the Officers' Reunions throughout the years has averaged 15, which speaks very highly of the spirit that animated them under the benevolent command of Colonel Julian Fane, D.S.O.

THE 12th (BRISTOL'S OWN) BATTALION

Unfortunately Mr. H. F. Allen, who has been Hon. Secretary for many years, has had to give up the work owing to ill health, but Mr. E. S. Street, who has been on the committee since 1919 in various capacities, has nobly taken on the work as well as that of Hon. Treasurer. He reports that the 65 members who met together on 26th March for the 48th Annual Dinner enjoyed themselves greatly, for the wonderful friendship born out of war service still exists between them. Their memories of the Somme and other battles were interspersed with singing together all the old songs of the 1914-18 days.

The principal guest was Alderman G. G. Adams, former Lord Mayor of Bristol, himself an "Old Contemptible" and the possessor of a great fund of witty reminiscences of the first world war.

THE STAR AND GARTER HOME FOR DISABLED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN, RICHMOND, SURREY

A GOLDEN JUBILEE APPEAL

There is one thing certain that, if you ever have the opportunity to come and visit any of your former comrades here at Richmond, you could not feel that you are in an institute or a hospital. You will be bound to notice at once the spirit of comradeship, which only those who have served in the Forces will understand.

There is little doubt that your Regiment will know of this wonderful place, as, ever since it opened its doors in 1916, both Regulars and Territorials from all over the United Kingdom have been cared for here. Private Frank Edward Taylor of the Gloucestershire Regiment is at present one of our patients. He remembers his former regiment with great pride.

In such a short article it is only possible to give a brief picture of the Home and its atmosphere. Many who motor every day from the South to make their way onto the M1 pass this truly remarkable building crowning Richmond Hill, which most motoring maps show as a landmark and wonderful viewpoint. But few perhaps realise that it is a home in all senses for 200 grievously disabled ex-Servicemen.

Designed by a well-known architect of the day especially for the wheel chair, it was completed in 1924 and opened by Their Majesties King George and Queen Mary. A temporary use of a former hotel on the site had permitted the care of a limited number of patients to be undertaken as from 1916; hence 1966 is the Golden Jubilee Year.

The more seriously disabled here live in open wards, but most of the others, who can largely look after themselves, get around in wheel chairs and live in their own well-furnished rooms. As one would expect in such a place, there is plenty to occupy time in the form of billiards, archery, music club, library, table tennis, cinema, and a patients' canteen to entertain relatives. There is also a fine Memorial Chapel, where regular services for various denominations are held by visiting Chaplains. And of course there are wonderful workshops to encourage vital occupational therapy.

On this very special occasion of Golden Jubilee Year, why not help your grievously disabled comrades by a generous donation, remembering that the Home is not part of the

National Health Service, and largely depends on contributions from the Services, and a generous public, to fill the ever-widening gap which exists between dependable income and expenditure.

THE REGIMENTAL PENSIONERS

Apart from the funds of the Regimental Association there are two small Regimental Pension Funds which were raised after the Boer War and the First World War respectively, and from these we are able to pay modest pensions to three ex-members of the Regiment varying from £20 to £30 per annum.

One of our pensioners has recently died, and the Trustees of the Pension Funds have now selected a new Pensioner to replace him. This was done after consultation with all the branches of the Regimental Association and by very careful scrutiny of all the cases of assistance to ex-members of the Regiment over the past three or four years.

Perhaps it would be a little invidious to name our Pensioners, but it may be of general interest to know their circumstances, and why they need this help so badly.

- A. is a veteran of the Boer War and the Siege of Ladysmith. He is aged 91, blind and stone deaf, and lives in a condemned cottage, looked after by a devoted daughter.
- B. served with the Regiment between the wars and is now aged 62. He suffers grievously from Parkinson's Disease, which has prevented him from working since 1959. His wife has had two strokes which have left her almost entirely incapacitated.
- C. The newly elected pensioner served with the Regiment from 1932 to 1949. He was taken prisoner by the Germans when serving with the 2nd Battalion at Cassel in 1940. He suffers from empyema, lungs and heart, and is unlikely to be able to work again. His wife suffers from chronic bronchitis and is also unable to work. They have two children, one of school age.

During 1965 the Regular Forces Employment Association found employment for 27 ex-members of the Regiment. Any big Post Office is able to supply the address of the nearest branch of the Association.

RETIRED OFFICERS RE-EMPLOYED

Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E., R.O. III Army Department (M.O.D.)
 Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Biddle, D.S.O., R.O. III Infantry Records, Exeter
 Major J. Biddulph, R.O. III Ox. & Bucks. Sub District
 Lieutenant-Colonel M. M. A. Bryant, R.O. II Infantry Records, Exeter
 Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C., R.O. II Army Department (M.O.D.)
 Brigadier R. G. T. Collins, C.B.E., R.O. III Army Department (M.O.D.)
 Major C. R. Davis, Assistant Regimental Secretary, R.H.Q. Gloucester
 Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., Regimental Secretary, R.H.Q. Gloucester
 Major A. W. Hardick, R.O. III H.Q. Adv. Base, B.A.O.R.
 Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Percy-Hardman, M.C. R.O. III Combined Records, Bournemouth
 Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, R.O. III 54 (E.A.) Div./Dist.
 Major P. W. Weller, M.B.E., Army Recruiting and Careers Officer, Gloucester

Obituary

LIEUTENANT/Q.M. F. W. SAUNDERS, M.S.M.

Mr. F. W. Saunders, a grand old soldier of the Regiment, died at his home in Jersey on 27th December, 1965, at the age of 87. Born in 1878 he enlisted into the Regiment (No. 4861) at the age of 17 and was posted to the 61st at the beginning of a tour of duty in the Channel Isles.

He fought through the South African War, in the later stages of which he served with the 5th Battalion Mounted Infantry, a unit which greatly distinguished itself in the rounding-up of Boer Commandos.

In 1909 he was posted to the Permanent Staff of the Royal Jersey Militia with the rank of Sergeant, and it was not until 1917 that he rejoined the Regiment. Almost immediately after, he received a Quartermaster's commission in the York and Lancaster Regiment, but in 1919 he was invalided out of the Regular Army as a result of gas poisoning received during the war.

In the same year he retired to Jersey and was Secretary to the Governor of Jersey until 1929 when he returned to Gloucester and became Recruiting Officer to the 5th Battalion where he remained until 1946, when he finally retired to Jersey. During the war period of German occupation he rendered considerable help to Jersey evacuees.

It is perhaps as a sportsman and a rifle shot that Fred Saunders was best known in the Regiment. He was in the 61st Rugby team that reached the final of the Army Cup in 1909, and the leader of the 61st Bayonet-fighting team which did so well at Aldershot in the previous year. He was best shot in the 61st in 1907 at a period when the standard of rifle shooting was superlatively high. He won eleven cups and innumerable medals for shooting, and for many years after his retirement coached the members of the Jersey Rifle Association and Cadets at Victoria College. In 1924 he represented Jersey in the Kolapore Cup against the U.K., Canada, Australia and the Gold Coast, added to which on two occasions he won the Gloucestershire County Rifle Championship.

In his keenness to pass on to others his vast shooting knowledge and experience he interested himself in his eldest grandson, Lieutenant Patrick Saunders of the Royal Marines, with the result that he was in the No. 40 Commando Team which won the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy in 1959, whilst in 1965 he was 30th in the Queen's Hundred out of an entry of 1,500, and was placed 3rd within the Royal Navy, Army and R.A.F. entry. His second grandson, Captain David Saunders, is in the Scots Guards and has represented the Army at Squash and Tennis, winning the Far East Land Forces Squash Championships in 1965.

His third grandson, Iain Saunders, hopes to obtain a Commission in the Gloucestershire Regiment in due course.

Mr. Saunders was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and at the age of 80 received the annuity for the award. An ardent Freemason, he became a Past Grand Master of St. Aubyns Lodge, Jersey.

His son, Brigadier F. L. Saunders, who was born in the 61st in 1904, transferred to the 28th at Aldershot, after doing boy's service with the R.A.S.C. But he did not remain long with the Regiment, for he was one of the first "Y" Cadets (direct entry from the ranks) to Sandhurst, and obtaining a commission into the R.A.S.C., rose to the rank of Brigadier.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

BIRTHS

GODFREY.—To Joanna, wife of Captain David Godfrey, on 7th January, 1966 at Almondsbury, a daughter, Lucille Melissa.

REBBECK.—On 20th January at 1 The Firs, Newton, Chester, to Sheila (née Hall-Parlby) and Captain Claud Rebeck, a son, Thomas.

BOYCE.—On 9th April at Cheltenham Maternity Hospital, to Elizabeth and Captain Charles Boyce, a daughter, Kathryn.

ENGAGEMENT

PARKER-ANGIER.—The engagement is announced between Alan John Parker, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Parker, of Perth, and Rosalind Mary Angier, elder daughter of the late Major Patrick Angier, the Gloucestershire Regiment, and Mrs. Fielden.

MARRIAGE

CROSS—DE DEMKO.—At Mbabane, Swaziland on 24th March, 1966, Captain Michael Cross, M.A., R.A.E.C. (attached to 1st Battalion) and Baroness June De Demko.

DEATHS

SHORT.—On 22nd September, 1965, Mr. W. C. Short (No. 5178970), of White-way Road, Matson, Gloucester.

ROACH.—On 15th October, 1965, Mr. E. G. Roach, late the Gloucestershire Regiment, aged 86, of Kingswood, Bristol. Badly wounded in the first world war he had been in receipt of a Regimental pension for nearly 20 years.

FURLEY.—On 5th November, 1965, Mr. C. P. Furley, at Cheltenham; a well-known member of the 5th Battalion Band from 1913 to 1919.

PORTER.—On 10th November, 1965, Mr. A. Porter (No. 5183185), late 1st Battalion, of Yanworth, near Cheltenham.

LANE.—On 17th November, 1965, Mr. J. D. Lane, at Cheltenham; won a D.C.M. with the 5th Battalion on the Somme and was later commissioned into the Machine Gun Corps. Well known latterly as Coroner for North Gloucestershire.

VINSON-THOMAS.—On 17th November, 1965, Captain H. Vinson-Thomas, of Hurtis Hill, Crowborough, Sussex.

BARCLAY.—On 9th December, 1965, Mr. W. S. Barclay, late 1st Battalion, of Doone Road, Horfield, Bristol.

BROWN.—In December 1965, Mr. R. M. Brown (No. 5177117) of 28 Sandwich Road, Brislington, who served from 1922 to 1930.

MARRIOTT.—On 10th December, 1965, Mr. H. Marriott, for many years Regimental Tailor at Horfield Barracks, and subsequently at the Gloucestershire T. & A.F. Assn.

TREVELYAN.—On 21st December, 1965, Captain E. W. Trevelyan, at Bristol. Served with the 28th and 61st from 1910 to 1928, and well known as a P.S.I. to the 5th. Was commissioned into the 8th Battalion in 1940 and later served as Adjutant in the Home Guard. Son of a Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 61st.

LUCY.—On 31st December, 1965, Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. H. Lucy, late 5th Battalion T.A. (1927-35), of Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

WOODWARD.—In January 1966, Mr. A. Woodward (No. 5172229), of 32 Marlborough Road, Gloucester. An ex-Drum Major of the 61st, who later became Company Sergeant-Major.

HERBERT.—On 15th January, 1966, Mr. E. Herbert (No. 5179796), of Stow-on-the-Wold.

WEAVER.—On 17th January, 1966, Mr. A. Weaver (No. 5177267), of 37 Hinton Road, Greenbank, Bristol.

WELCH.—On 21st January, 1966, Mr. B. J. Welch (No. 23124), late the Gloucestershire Regiment, of Ely, Cardiff.

BOORMAN.—In January 1966, Mr. W. Boorman (No. 9078), of 15 Chapel Close, Maidstone, who served with the 61st from 1908 to 1917.

MATSON.—On 1st February, 1966, Major C. Matson, M.C., of Pern's Cottage, Crawley, nr. Winchester. Colin Matson was transferred to the Regiment from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1922, and retired in 1930.

GADSBY.—On 5th February, 1966, Mr. W. H. Gadsby (No. 3891), late the 4th and 8th Battalions, and for many years Standard Bearer of the British Legion in Bristol.

GARDNER.—On 22nd February, 1966, Mr. Stephen Gardner, of Cleeve Quarry Caravan Site, Downend, at the age of 80.

BAKER.—On 27th February, 1966, Mr. H. W. Baker, at Beckford, Gloucestershire; a Company Quartermaster-Sergeant in the 2/5th Battalion until commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers. A schoolmaster by profession, and a prominent Freemason, well known in the Tewkesbury area.

BIRD.—On 14th March, 1966, Mr. Frank Bird (No. 5174801), of 45 Stockwood Drive, Mangotsfield, Bristol.

LEAR.—On 25th March, 1966, Mr. R. A. Lear, M.M. (No. 11101), of 2 Lewes Road, Bristol 3.

HARRIS.—On 30th March, 1966, Mr. E. Harris, D.C.M. (No. 7787), of 57 Kit-

chener Avenue, Gloucester, at the age of 80. He joined the Militia first in 1902 and then the Regular Army in 1905. Recalled from the Reserve, he fought through the first world war and won a D.C.M. He was for many years attendant at the Regimental Museum.

BOWN.—On 9th April, 1966, Major J. H. E. Bown, M.B.E., of Battle, Sussex. John Bown enlisted into the Regiment in 1937 and obtained an emergency commission in 1941. After the war he spent most of his service with Colonial Forces in various parts of the Commonwealth, and since his retirement in 1961 he had been working as a full-time Civil Defence Officer.

DONATIONS TO THE BACK BADGE

The Editor is, as ever, most grateful to the numerous subscribers listed below, who have made an additional payment or gift to the cost of production of this Journal (complete to 12th April).

£	s.	d.	
2	2	6	—Mr. C. A. Elliott
2	0	0	—Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. K. Bagot, Captain H. G. F. Chapman
1	1	0	—Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Vinen
1	0	0	—Tewkesbury Detachment A.C.F., Major C. E. W. Lavender
17			6—Major Drinkwater
13			6—Mr. W. J. Lovesey, Mr. D. J. P. Griffith
12			6—Mr. J. J. Bousfield, Mr. H. J. Hale, Mr. J. C. Lavender, Mr. T. Lediard, Mr. S. Long, Mr. H. F. M. Metcalfe, Mr. W. Stenner, Mr. W. Vizard, Mr. W. H. Washbrook, Mr. H. W. Whittern, Mr. E. H. Yeend
10			0—Mr. L. Charter, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, Mr. A. Lukins, Mr. G. Parsons, Mr. G. C. W. Wallis
7			6—Major A. P. Cholmondeley, Mr. J. Hibberd, Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. R. Morton, Mr. G. Walkley, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. B. Walwyn
6			0—Captain J. H. Christensen
5			6—Mr. K. F. Clark
5			0—Mrs. A. R. Grazebrook, Colonel V. N. Johnson, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Kinnersley, Mr. B. G. Light, Mr. A. C. Nash, Mr. C. R. Prescott, Captain J. C. H. Roberts
4			0—Mr. J. R. Scholey
3			0—Mr. W. L. Dix, Sir Ian Parkin, Mr. W. G. Roots
2			6—Mrs. D. E. Baker, Mr. C. Bassett, Mrs. R. E. D. Brasington, Mr. B. G. Crang, Mr. W. T. Danahay, Mr. F. C. Drissell, Mr. E. E. Harris, Mr. H. C. W. Harris, Mr. A. E. Holder, Mr. C. F. Ley, Mr. W. H. Morgan, Mr. R. W. Osborne, Mr. C. H. E. Owens, Captain/Q.M. W. J. Smyth, Mr. H. Townsend, Mr. F. S. Wagland, Mr. W. J. Wakefield
1			3—Mr. C. Essex
1			0—Mr. A. L. Morris

EDITORIAL NOTICES

1. PUBLICATION

THE BACK BADGE is published half-yearly, in June and December. All articles, etc., in THE BACK BADGE are copyright.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- The subscription is 7s. per annum, or 3s. 6d. for a single copy. Postage 3d. extra per copy. **It will be appreciated if subscribers will order at least two issues at a time, and as early as possible.** An order form will be found on a later page, and also a banker's order for those wishing to place a more permanent order.
- Officers who pay through the Central Fund will receive their copies without further demand.
- Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to "The Editor, THE BACK BADGE." (In future, receipts will only be sent on request. Donations will be acknowledged in the Journal as before.)
- The Editor has a limited number of post-war back numbers for disposal at 3s. 6d. each, post free.

3. ADDRESSES

Subscribers are asked to keep the Editor informed as to any change of address.

- Hon. Editor: BRIGADIER T. N. GRAZEBROOK, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., Regimental Headquarters, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester.

Order Form

for "THE BACK BADGE"

THE JOURNAL OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

To THE EDITOR, "THE BACK BADGE,"

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT, ROBINSWOOD
BARRACKS, GLOUCESTER

Please send me:

.....copies of the Winter, 1966, issue } at 3s. 9d. per copy post free
.....copies of the Summer, 1967, issue }

of THE BACK BADGE, for which I enclose postal order/cheque for.....
(Strike out what is not applicable)

Cheques should be made payable to THE BACK BADGE

Name
(BLOCK LETTERS. State rank, Mr., Mrs., etc.)

Address
(BLOCK LETTERS)

.....
.....

For record purposes, if you have served in The Gloucestershire Regiment kindly give

Regtl. No..... Battalion.... Dates of Service. From.....to.....

Date..... Rank on discharge.....

BANKER'S ORDER

To MESSRS.....

.....

On receipt of this order please pay to Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Winchcombe, Glos., for the credit of THE BACK BADGE account, the sum of seven shillings and sixpence, and the same sum annually on the 1st of.....until further notice.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Date.....

2d. Stamp

NOTE.—Please send this form when completed to the Editor, "The Back Badge."

Over a Century-old Partnership...



PARSONS AND PRINTING

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals.

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London, W.C.2 · Trafalgar 7151
Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill, Lewes and Seaford

By Appointment to



Her Majesty The Queen

Hatters

Tradition in the modern manner

H. J. are well known to all regiments as makers of fine Service caps, but not everyone may know that we also offer a range of quality soft felt hats. In fact, we are very proud of our "softs", and for many years they have been the choice of discerning gentlemen who like to feel as correctly—yet comfortably—dressed off parade as on. We supply hats to suit *every* occasion and taste. Why not call and see the full range? Or write for an illustrated brochure.

H. J. OFF PARADE



Dual-purpose hat, in brown, green or grey. Style 6153

**REGIMENTAL CAPMAKERS
TO:
THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
REGIMENT**

Herbert Johnson
(BOND STREET) LTD.



Civil and Military Hatters

40a LONDON RD., CAMBERLEY (Wednesday afternoons only)

38 NEW BOND ST., LONDON, W.1. Tel: MAYfair 7177

DRESSED TO KILL ... *Cutting Tales from the History of Hawkes, the Military and Civil Tailors. Estd. 1771.*



THE GENERAL WHO NEARLY LOST HIS HEAD

War was killing off Mr. Hawkes' first customers in 1771. So he invented the shako. In consequence the general and his troops kept their heads. Instead of being slashed to ribbons, they collected ribbons galore. Hawkes was handsomely rewarded . . . so many customers returned to settle their accounts.

NO HEADACHES FOR THE FIGHTING LORD

The customers of Hawkes' successors were browned off by the Abyssinian campaign. Hawkes produced, out of a hat, a corking idea which worked like magic, against sun. Lord Napier, Commander in Abyssinia, suffered no headaches in his Hawkes' helmet and captured Magdala in 1867.

IN THE WARS AGAIN

The British have regularly gone into battle with glory and Hawkes' uniforms. Enough have survived to keep the firm going . . . and on victory parades and ceremonial occasions their splendid Hawkes' uniforms have always lent colour to the occasion.

A PEACEFUL ENDING

As well as uniforms, Hawkes now cut city suits and country-wear for more peaceful pursuits . . . and match jet-age speed with immediate-wear service. But there still remains the same military precision of cutting, the same traditional pride in a first-class job, and the same air of style. As history has proved, Hawkes can always rise to the occasion in suitable style.

Send for an illustrated catalogue and subscription account booklet

HAWKES OF SAVILE ROW

1 SAVILE ROW, LONDON, W.1. REGent 0186. and at
12a LONDON ROAD, CAMBERLEY. Tel.: Camberley 3829
OPEN SATURDAYS 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY POLICE

offer you

A WORTHWHILE CAREER

with

GOOD PROMOTION PROSPECTS

and

AN EXCELLENT PENSION

For full particulars write to:

**The Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, Police Headquarters,
Holland House, Cheltenham**

ESTABLISHED 1879

Telephone

334, 335, 336 & 337

Telegrams

Chamberlain, Nailsworth 334

E. A. CHAMBERLAIN, LTD.

Fibre Board Manufacturers

COUNTER BOARDS

SHANK BOARDS

FIBRE BOARDS

SPLIT BACKED BOARDS

INSOLE BOARDS

INSULATION BOARDS

NAILSWORTH, Glos., ENGLAND



Maintain your
service to

Queen and Country

in civilian life

Join the British Legion



*The Legion co-operates with your regi-
mental association and speaks for all
ex-service men and women*

BRITISH LEGION, 49 PALL MALL, S.W.1

TRANSPORT DELAYS?

***DON'T LET FLY
GET FRY!***

Express delivery of bulk loads

and parcel traffic in

Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

S. FRY & SONS LTD

TOWER ROAD, WARMLEY, BRISTOL

Telephone: Bristol 673523



BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
GOLDSMITHS & CROWN JEWELLERS

The badge of your Regiment . .

GARRARD & CO. LTD.
(formerly The Goldsmiths &
Silversmiths Company Ltd.) have
for many years specialised
in the production of
badge jewellery.



Gold and Enamel



The Gloucester Regiment
Gold and Enamel

Here is illustrated the badge
of your Regiment,
fashioned into a brooch, and
produced in gold and enamel.
If desired, these very attractive
brooches can be set with
diamonds or other precious stones
for which designs and estimates
are submitted without charge.
Great care is taken to ensure
correctness of detail, and expert
workmanship is assured.

GARRARD & CO. LTD.

Crown Jewellers

formerly THE GOLDSMITHS &
SILVERSMITHS COMPANY LTD.

112 REGENT STREET · LONDON · W.1

TELEPHONE: REGENT 7020

Hiorns & Miller

*Renowned throughout the world
for QUALITY*

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARDS
INVITATION CARDS
CRESTED STATIONERY
ACCOUNT BOOKS
PRINTING OF
ANY DESCRIPTION
OFFICE EQUIPMENT

*Brochures and Catalogue on application
Estimates and samples sent on request*

HIORNS & MILLER LTD

MARLBOROUGH STREET

DEVONPORT

Telephone: Plymouth 51373

Fishers

at

The Cross, Gloucester

FASHIONS FURS

FURNISHINGS

A Business old in experience but ever modern
in its ideas. A store where quality receives
as much consideration as price. A Pro-
prietary Firm with a reputation for Service
and Personal Attention.



How paying by cheque helps your pay go further

Lloyds Bank offers full banking services to all ranks of Her Majesty's Forces.

When you have a bank account, you'll find that paying by cheque, automatically having a record of your outgoings, never carrying unnecessary amounts of cash on you—all help you to have a clear view of what you're doing with your money. Help it to go much further.

Lloyds Bank has a long tradition of service to the army, so you'll be welcomed at any branch. Ask for our *free* booklet which explains how Lloyds Bank can help members of Her Majesty's Forces, or, if you like, write to Mr. E. S. Keyworth, Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. He is specially concerned with liaison between the services and the Bank.



LLOYDS BANK

FOR GOOD AND HELPFUL SERVICE

For the outdoor man!

*You will find a wide range
of clothing and equipment at*

The Outdoor Centre

Joseph Bryant Ltd

COLSTON STREET, BRISTOL 1

Telephone 23166

The West of England Specialists for—

CAMPING, CLIMBING
SKI-ING & CAVING

Makers of—

'POULARD' BRAND
SUNBLINDS AND CARAVAN AWNINGS.
CORDAGE AND CANVAS GOODS

REGIMENTAL BADGE

BROOCHES

in Silver and Paste Set

QUALITY WATCHES

Vacheron et Constantin
Tissot · Longines · Cyma

*

PRESENTATION PIECES

Cigarette & Cigar Boxes, Salvers
Tankards, Trophies and other items of
Silver suitable for Presentations

*

*Members of the Regiment will always
receive preferential treatment*

Scott Cooper Ltd

THE PROMENADE · CHELTENHAM

Telephone 22580

STROUD BUILDING SOCIETY

Established 1850

Secure your future
by investing
in this Society

TERM SHARES

4½%

PAID UP SHARES

3¼%

INCOME TAX PAID BY THE SOCIETY.

Investments in this Society are Trustee Securities.

Full Particulars from Head Office

4, ROWCROFT, STROUD, GLOS. Telephone: Stroud 1599



CLEANERS LTD

**Head Office: Ashley Vale,
Bristol 2. Telephone: 57093**

**for dry cleaning
and laundry in**

**BRISTOL, CIRENCESTER,
BATH, WESTON-SUPER-MARE,
BRIDGWATER, TAUNTON,
STROUD, GLOUCESTER,
CHELTENHAM AND SWINDON**

Digitized
by
RCM
Collection

Digitized



by

RCM

Collection