

THE
BACK BADGE



The Journal of
The
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Regiment

Winter 1967

THE BACK BADGE

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Our Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duchess, with the officers, warrant officers and sergeants during their visit to the 1st Battalion on 20th July

THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. XI. No. 43 (New Series)

December 1967

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

"Ramillies," "Louisburg," "Guadeloupe, 1759," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah," "St. Lucia, 1778," "Maida," "Corunna," "Talavera," "Busaco," "Barrosa," "Albuhera," "Salamanka," "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," "Albert, 1916," "18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guillemont," "Fiers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917," "18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917," "18," "Pilckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "18," "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosières," "Avre," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Béthune," "Drocourt Quéant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epéhy," "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," "Taukyan," "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."

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EDITORIAL

In July we finally learned that our apprehensions were unjustified, when the long awaited Infantry reductions were announced. It was a great relief and very gratifying to know that once again the Regiment has survived these latest cuts.

It is indeed something to be proud of when one considers what the Regiment has come through unscathed in the past ten years. In 1957 there were 64 Infantry Regiments, and now only 11 of these Regiments retain their names. Since 1957 34 Regiments have been amalgamated, five have been disbanded in the latest cuts announced and others have lost their identity by becoming large Regiments.

With the dying of the Brigade system and the introduction of the new Divisional system, there is hope that the Regiment's future chances of survival may be better than was recently feared.

In the past year we have seen the mobility of the modern army. The 1st Battalion was flown to Cyprus in April for three weeks, thereby relieving another Battalion in Cyprus for training in North Africa. Soon after returning to this country, a full strength Company of the Battalion was flown out to the United States to take part in a three weeks' exercise with the U.S. Army.

As we go to press the 1st Battalion is again on the move—this time flying to its new station in Berlin.

It is with the deepest regret and sorrow that we announce the death of Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L. He had been editor of THE BACK BADGE since January 1965, when he took over on the death of his brother, who had been editor for many years.

His death is a sad loss to the Regiment and he will be greatly missed not only for his work at Regimental Headquarters and for THE BACK BADGE, but also as a friend of all who came in contact with him.

The two Grazebrook brothers have set a very high standard for THE BACK BADGE which will be difficult to maintain.

It is hoped that readers will not be too critical of the inexperienced staff at Regimental Headquarters who have stepped into the breach.

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, C.B.E., A.D.C.

Since World War II there have been three major re-organisations of the Infantry which have resulted in the reduction in the number of Infantry Battalions. The first, in 1948, involved the amalgamation of the 1st (28th) and 2nd (61st) Battalions. The second, in 1958, introduced the Brigade system by which the Regiment became part of the Wessex Brigade consisting of:—

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

The third will see, in 1968, the formation of The Prince of Wales's Division of which the Regiment will form part. This will consist of:—

The four Regiments of the Wessex Brigade named above.

The Cheshire Regiment.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

A Regiment to be formed from The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment.

A Regiment to be formed from The Worcestershire Regiment and The Sherwood Foresters.

The Staffordshire Regiment.

In none of these re-organisations has the Regiment lost its separate identity as The Gloucestershire Regiment, though it has lost its old front badge, which has been replaced by the Wessex Wyvern. This again may be replaced in due course by a Prince of Wales's Division front badge. The main feature of the Brigade system and even more so of the Divisional system is that it allows if and when necessary the cross posting of officers and soldiers between the Battalions of the Division in the interests of efficiency, and in order to maintain strength.

The Regiment made the Brigade system work without losing and even enhancing the traditions, prowess and achievements of the Gloucestershire Regiment. I see no reason why the Regiment should not make the Divisional system work, and I confidently expect that it will do so and at the same time move forward to even greater achievements.

The Government has warned that there may be further reductions in the number of Infantry Battalions about the mid-'70s. Whether this will affect the Regiment, no one can say. In the meantime it behoves us all to support and encourage the Regiment in every way that we can so that it may be in the strongest possible position to meet any challenge that the future may bring.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION

Because the Army as a whole is contracting, the Infantry is to be reorganised to make its organisation more flexible and able to accept reduction. At present there are 13 Brigades of Infantry or large Regiments, some of four Battalions, some of three.

Five new Divisions of Infantry are to be formed, one of which, The Prince of Wales's Division, will consist of the Wessex Brigade, the Mercian Brigade and the Welsh Brigade, creating initially a Division of 11 Battalions.

Four of the 11 Battalions will be amalgamated into two, leaving a Division of nine Battalions until at least 1971. The Brigade and the Brigade Headquarters as we now know them will be disbanded.

Those Regiments, including the Gloucestershire Regiment, that are not amalgamated or disbanded will continue very much as they do today. There will still be a distinguished officer as Colonel of the Regiment and Battalions will not change. Regimental Offices, Old Comrades' Associations, Museums and Charities will remain.

The Division will take over the functions of the present Brigade Headquarters, and will deal with recruiting, drafting of reinforcements, dress, postings, seniority rolls and promotions.

At Divisional Headquarters will be the Divisional Brigadier, with a Divisional Staff which will be basically similar to the present Brigade Headquarters, but with expanded responsibilities.

A Colonel Commandant of the Division is to be appointed, who will perform many of the day-to-day functions of the present Brigade Council of Colonels.

Soldiers will enlist into the Prince of Wales's Division instead of into the Wessex Brigade as they do now; naturally the policy of posting a recruit to his County Regiment will continue as far as it is humanly possible. It may be necessary to cross-post on promotion or when a Battalion is given an important task and must be brought up to strength.

The procedure for Officer recruitment in the foreseeable future is likely to remain unchanged. Colonels of Regiments will recruit officers as at present and candidates will be accepted for the regiments of their choice as proposed by Colonels of Regiments.

In the fullness of time one Divisional Depot will be established, but initially two at least will continue. Divisional Headquarters will be an entirely separate establishment and will not be located with the Depot. There is every likelihood that the Headquarters of the Division will be located in Wessex.

To conclude, the day-to-day life of Regiments will continue as before, but the administrative arrangements above will be partially centralised.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

Everyone will share with enthusiasm and wish to join in heartily congratulating the Colonel of the Regiment, **Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.**, on his appointment as A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen, published in the *London Gazette* on 26th September, 1967.

Mr. G. Beattie (No. 5182234) one time assistant armourer in India, before the war, is now living in Canada and enjoying life very much.

We learn that the son of **Colour-Sergeant Buxcey**, killed in Korea in 1951, has enlisted into the Glosters. We wish him every success within the Regiment his father served so loyally.

Members of the 28th/61st who were stationed in Jamaica in 1948-50 will perhaps remember **Doctor George E. Curphey, M.C.**, a local resident, who interested himself a great deal in the welfare of the garrison and was a great friend of the Regiment. Since those days Doctor Curphey became a national figure and was elected President of the Jamaican Legislative Council in 1952. He continued to interest himself in every form of military welfare, and was appointed Hon. Colonel of the Jamaica Battalion. He was knighted for his many services in 1959, but unhappily died the same year.

Mr. W. E. Hayward (No. 5179574), now living at Clacton-on-Sea, had some interesting war experiences. He was a guard on a prison ship to Australia and also whilst en route to the 1st Battalion in 1942 was disembarked at Gibraltar and posted to Somerset L.I. He is now with a T. & A.V.R. Band.

Major H. H. Holgate is Mine Host at the Savernake Forest Hotel, Marlborough, Wilts.

We extend our congratulations to the new Assistant Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, **Lieutenant I. Jackson, B.E.M.** on his commissioning. He was for many years O.R.Q.M.S.—a most delicate and diplomatic job, if ever there was one.

Mr. W. Marshall (No. 5181651), who will be remembered in the 28th before the war for his love for his dog "Spot," is now a senior Range Warden at Barton Stacey, Winchester.

Mr. W. H. Morgan of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada (5th Battalion, 1914-19) visited R.H.Q. on 30th June.

Regimental Sergeant-Major Dick Stephens has "taken the plunge" to civilian life. We wish him every success in his new venture.

Mr. H. Tilton (No. 5178369), who for many years was on the recruiting staff, is working as a senior paper keeper in the Land Registry in Gloucester.

Mr. Bob Watkins, ex-Corporal 22754655 of "C" Company, discharged from Barnard Castle in 1954, is Mine Host at Milkwall Social Club in the Forest of Dean.

We hear that a number of Officers will be retiring under the new redundancy terms. Amongst them are **Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Dillon**, **Majors D. J. Holdsworth, R. J. Martin**, and **J. C. H. Roberts**, and **Majors (Q.M.) K. F. Clark, A. J. Gillett** and **C. W. Phillips**.

Major John Gillett, after a long period of inactivity following the disbandment of the 5th Battalion, spent the last few weeks of his service at Regimental Headquarters helping with the production of THE BACK BADGE, and his work in this field was of immense value. We understand that he hopes to buy a private hotel on the South coast and we wish him success in this enterprise.



As these notes are being written the preparations for our move to Berlin are well under way and Battalion life has taken on that artificial, varified condition that always attends a major move. Advance parties are away, weapons, equipment and vehicles are largely handed over and baggage has left on its rail journey (rail strike permitting) to Berlin.

At such a time it is appropriate to let the mind wander over the many and varied

activities that have occurred during our stay these last 18 months. Chester is surely the most gracious and attractive of all Garrison towns and has, to a large extent, offset the drabness and dreariness of Saighton Camp.

We recall:—K.A.P.E. tour in 1966, when the highways and byeways of Gloucestershire and Bristol saw more of the Battalion than they had done for many years, and those who were taking part had the chance of really getting to know our beautiful County.

Regimental training at Stanford and Dartmoor. The last time the Regiment was at Stanford was just before Korea. The mellowing effect of time makes us think of them both as pleasant interludes.

The unique event of twins for our Adjutant designate.

The thrill of the chase in Operation Parkes in North Wales (see cartoon). There are *still* soldiers who are convinced that Parkes was an absentee from the Q.M.'s department.

Four weeks in Cyprus and an opportunity for the old hands to renew acquaintances with delightful places, and for those who were seeing this beautiful island for the first time a chance to see that peacetime soldiering in foreign climes does occasionally live up to the recruiting posters claims. For all of us the realisation that here was yet another part of this world of ours being torn asunder by the stupidity of man.

The impromptu midnight celebration of Guy Fawkes somewhere on Dartmoor Training Area.

A return visit to the New World, or at least a tiny part of it at Fort Carson, Colorado, U.S.A. The Regiment had last been to those shores when, during the American War of Independence, it was stationed in Washington and New York.

The pomp and majesty of the opening of the Manx Parliament for which we provided the Guard of Honour.

The theft of the R.S.M.'s car. Everyone fully expected it to put in a reappearance on the Orderly Room roof.

The privilege of receiving the Freedom of Cheltenham and of exercising our right to march through Bristol with colours flying and bayonets fixed.

A Christmas in England.

The honour of entertaining Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

Two Old Soldiers' Days and the all too rare opportunity of entertaining one's old friends. The happy and relaxed atmosphere was helped on both occasions by beautiful weather.

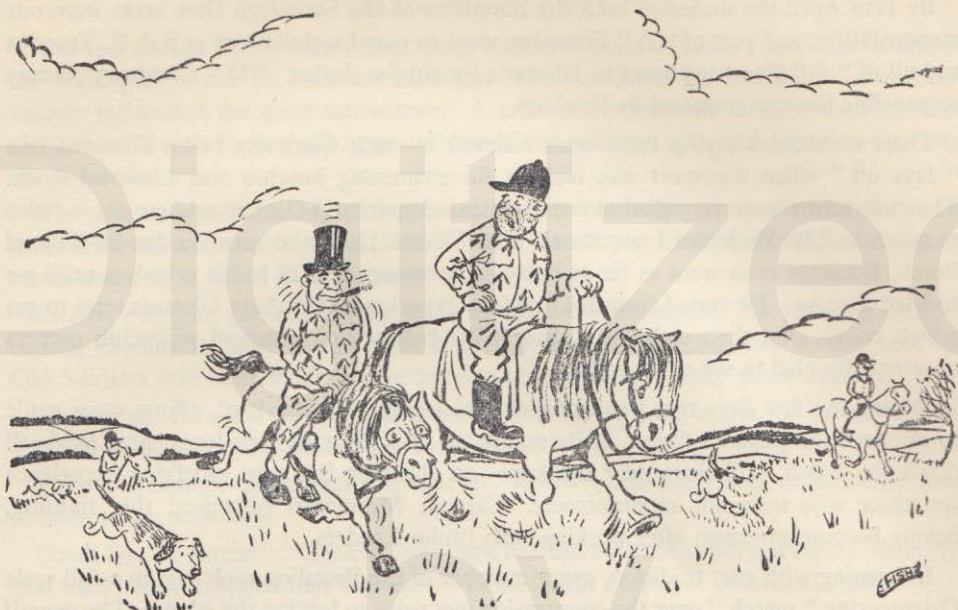
Altcar, Blackshaw Moor, Sealand Ranges, Otterburn, Sennybridge, Bickerton—all training areas well trodden by all these last 18 months.

To all those who inquire "What on earth do you find to do in U.K.?" These random memories surely provide adequate answers.

And now to a new life in Berlin with all the excitement, glamour, pomp and ceremony of this unique station.

At the back of our minds is the sobering thought that, when we next return, Wessex Brigade will be no more and we will be part of the Prince of Wales Division. That this will not effect everyone of us in some way is wishful thinking. We must be prepared for changes and accept them.

The future is uncertain, but all can rest assured that the Battalion leaves with morale at its highest and a determination to make our new station our best posting ever.



[Reproduced by kind permission of Mr. J. C. Fish]

"I have written a strong letter to the Home Secretary demanding that the Gloucestershire Regiment be posted abroad immediately"

CYPRUS 1967

The whole of the Battalion flew to Cyprus between 5th-7th April, and took over the duties of The York and Lancaster Regiment until the 26th April. The York and Lancasters had gone to Libya for their annual field training, leaving various Internal Security tasks to be done in an island still upset by the inter-communal struggle which broke out in December 1963 when 1 Glosters were stationed in Episkopi.

It was to Episkopi that we returned in April, after a smooth flight by R.A.F. Britannia aircraft from Lyneham air base. An active programme began on touchdown, with "A" Company going into the field at Evdimau for a five days exercise, to be followed by "B" and "D" Companies in rotation. This training included watermanship, organised by the Assault Pioneers under the able direction of "Admiral" Colour-Sergeant Clayden, who has recently retired after long and loyal service with the Regiment.

The weather for a Cypriot spring was decidedly cool, following a brief spell of warm weather, but was compensated for by the beautiful green vegetation which thrived on the numerous showers of rain and hail. Troodos was snow-covered and this fact was eagerly exploited by Major Guy Temple who organised a ski school at very short notice.

The various elements of Battalion H.Q. managed to maintain routine training with the task of administering the Battalion on a very small issue of Army Forms. The Recce Platoon had the challenge of converting to Ferret scout cars from Land Rovers, which they succeeded in doing before they returned to England. The useful experience gained will do them well in Berlin, where they will have an issue of Ferrets.

By 17th April the duties of both the Battalions in the Sovereign Base areas were our responsibility, and part of "A" Company went to guard installations at R.A.F. Troodos and all of "B" Company went to Dhekelia for similar duties. "D" Company became responsible for commitments in Episkopi.

These sometimes trying tasks were relieved by each Company being allocated two "days off," when transport was laid on for swimming beaches and Limassol town. The contractors were very glad to see us again. Apparently Gloster soldiers drink twice as much as The York and Lancasters! Mr. Shahab Din, who runs the bar on Tunnel Beach, Episkopi even went as far as delaying necessary repairs to his premises until we had left Cyprus. He stated from his previous experience that some Glosters tend to get a little rough after their eighth Keo beer! We believe the Limassol nightclub owners were equally glad to see us all again.

During the few days that the Battalion was together in Episkopi, efforts were made to improve the physical fitness of its members. All ranks in turn learnt how to abseil down the 200-ft. cliff faces near Episkopi—an alarming but very satisfying experience for those who were not mountaineers. Captain Mermagen organised this training, having become an expert after working with Junior Leaders.

In keeping with past tradition, every member of the Battalion took part in a full scale Orienteering "march" over the countryside just prior to leaving the island. The overall times were good for a unit straight from England, but everyone nursed stiff limbs for a few days afterwards!

On a less active note, we were able to meet members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, who were about to leave Cyprus where they had formed part of the United Nations force. Because most of the Canadians had already left, they were unfortunately only able to send a group of officers to Episkopi for a day.

Imjin Day on Sunday, 23rd April was celebrated by a Church Parade, which was broadcast over the Forces radio service. It formed a fitting end to a very active and enjoyable stay in the island. Although most thoughts for the period 24th-27th April were concentrated upon packing for our return, Captain Steggle, our Paymaster, was obliged to travel from Episkopi to Dhekelia to collect the pay. Local Army Orders insisted that he would be provided with an armed escort, and much to his alarm, there was no lack of volunteers from "A" Company to "ride shotgun." The Paymaster let it be known that he was more afraid of the escort than any Cypriot desperado!

We returned safely to England by 28th April, thanks to the high standards achieved by what is now called R.A.F. Support Command. The R.A.F. staff at Lyneham looked after us very well, and we were all impressed.

A long weekend greeted us on arrival in Chester, followed by the preparations for Exercise "Welcome Home." Everyone enjoyed the useful interlude in Cyprus, which was of particular benefit to the younger soldiers, who had not been out of England before. Those who had must have felt some nostalgia on returning, and all enjoyed the change of scenery and climate. The final impression is that an Infantry Battalion can, at remarkably short notice, move itself quickly to another part of the world in order to help "keep the peace;" and thus fulfil the claims of the recruiting posters today.

OLD SOLDIERS DAY 1967

The last annual Old Soldiers Day, for a couple of years at least, proved to be one of the high spots of the 1st Battalion calendar. The sun shone gloriously all day and obviously influenced the good attendance. A great many soldiers brought their families along to swell even further the large number of old soldiers, who had travelled up from the West Country.

The general consensus of opinion made it quite clear that everyone who did come thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the "Bill of Fare" prepared by the Battalion closely resembled a mini-Royal Tournament.

Firstly, everyone gathered in the main cookhouse to eat lunch. The Catering Staff, of course, excelled themselves and made it even more difficult than usual to convince the Old Soldiers that their modern counterparts normally eat equally good "grub."

Lunch was followed by a comprehensive and varied programme of entertainment. The following is a brief summary of the "Menu."

Band and Drums. A smooth and tuneful display of marching and counter-marching to open the proceedings.

Small Boy (to parent): "Look at those men in front with the smart red coats, Mummy, that man nearly dropped that big stick." (The Drum Major, of course, did not).

Football. Five-a-side football played at a leisurely pace, appropriate to hot, sunny conditions. Did anyone find out what the score was?

Incident in Aden. A mock battle between the invincible might of "A" Company and a few assorted rebels. At first many thought this was a continuation of five-a-side football. Lots of bangs, lots of fun, and a most amusing commentary to keep spectators (and participants) fully informed.

Mortar Race. The aim here was to get from A to B in quick time and come into action against an imaginary enemy. Just to add a little interest (and confusion) the contestants found a bridge and large wall had to be surmounted.

Driving Competition. Land-Rovers careering round the square on two wheels, weaving in and out of yellow barrels, provided a hair-raising experience for onlookers and drivers alike.

Band and Drums (again). Beating the Retreat served to conclude the afternoon and surely a more suitable ending could not have been devised.

These then were the "main courses." Throughout the afternoon sideshows were in operation for those with competitive instincts, and several static displays were set up in the gymnasium. The Old Soldiers always enjoy seeing the modern clothing, equipment, weapons, and this year, parachute equipment. "Wa'n't like this in my day," more than one was heard to mutter. The display of Mess Silver led to several subalterns being enlightened about the history of some of the items they naively tried to describe.

"Something for everyone" can fairly be said in conclusion of this report of Old Soldiers Day 1967, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. (Except one or two seedy-looking officers suffering from the previous night's Summer Ball.) Next year we shall miss putting the Battalion on display in this way. We shall also miss the opportunity of meeting all the Old, and not so Old, former members of "The Glosters," to whom we send our sincerest wishes for health and happiness until we meet again.

VISIT OF DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

On Thursday, 20th July, we were fortunate enough to have a fine day for the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duchess.

The visit was designed to be a quiet farewell to the Battalion before it left for Berlin, at the Duke's request, so there was no parade or inspection to allow more time for the Duke and Duchess to meet as many members of the Regiment as possible on an informal basis. A number of soldiers, corporals and senior N.C.O.s, together with their families, were introduced to the Duke in the Sergeants' Mess. Then followed a formal photograph with the Officers and N.C.O.s, some informal press photographs, and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

After this, the party made their way to the field in front of the Mess to watch a display by members of the Battalion. This included the Corps of Drums and Band, the Battalion free-fall team and an "Incident in Aden," a typical day in the life of "A" Company.

After the display the Duke talked to some of the participants and then left by car for Hawarden Airport.

It was a great pleasure to see their Royal Highnesses after such a long absence and the whole Regiment joins in sending their loyal wishes of health and happiness and in hoping that they may find time to visit us in our new station.

"A" COMPANY

The fortunes of "A" Company during the past year or two have shifted and changed with the needs of the Battalion and taken little heed of the spirit of the individuals within the Company. Happily all that is now history and the Company consists of three full-strength rifle platoons and the Assault Pioneer Platoon who will leave us for Support Company as they step off the plane in Berlin. Our relationship with the "Chunkies" and Mr. Woodley's Support Platoon was a happy one and we thank them for the part they played in keeping the Company alive when riflemen were few.

The Battalion's visit to Cyprus in April gave the younger members of the Company their first taste of soldiering overseas and subsequently their first "old soldiers" stories. The older members took the trip in their stride; a stride that was aimed in the direction of old haunts to relive old experiences. The Support Platoon and Mr. Hoole's Platoon spent a duty period in Troodos where they were able to enjoy that delightful part of Cyprus and at the same time experience the freedom of being "on detachment." To add to the list of sports in Troodos was the tug o' war with the R.A.F. over the Company tea urn—a must for cold and tired sentries in those mountains. The R.A.F. claimed this valued piece of equipment as theirs and when the question of ownership could not be resolved by Sergeant Palmer chasing the R.A.F. cook about the camp it quickly escalated to G.O.C. level before we finally returned to Episkopi triumphantly holding it aloft.

In May a composite platoon under Mr. Scott went to America with "D" Company. The value of such an exercise probably lies in the opportunity it offers to have a look at another country's infantrymen, their weapons, their administration and so on, and from what one sees to assess one's own position. An article on this trip appears elsewhere, suffice it to say that the "A" Company Platoon thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Also in May the Company provided a detachment for the Parade which opened a

Joint Services Exhibition in Bristol. The Royal Marines and Royal Air Force each provided a band and similar detachments. On the day a few were still footsore from a 40-mile, 36 hours section test exercise in North Wales in which the Company sections did well.

In June the Company left Chester yet again to fire the annual range classification at Altcar. This was a week of splendid weather spent on good ranges although results with the newly issued G.P.M.G. were not impressive.

At the Battalion Athletics Meeting the Company came a creditable second having led the field right up to the last event. Much of this success is due to the talent displayed by the Newman brothers, Corporal Saunders, Corporal Radnedge, Private Sanderson, Private Howells, Private O'Flaherty and Company Sergeant-Major Alderman who ran a good 440 yd. and wasn't blowing too hard at the end.

Just before the summer leave a strong platoon gave a series of demonstrations for the C.C.F. at Senneybridge. The platoon's efforts were much appreciated by the cadets and their officers. Even the reserve section which was left on the start line became another sub-unit doing an invaluable task according to the adaptable commentator.

After the summer leave No. 3 Platoon undertook our last chore in England when they provided the administrative party at the Liverpool Army Display. This is the sort of task which is not popular but for which a well deserved thank you was received from the Commander North-West District.

In mid-September the Assault Pioneer Platoon and Carl Gustav teams spent an enjoyable week at Otterburn whilst the remainder of the Company handed weapons, equipment and vehicles over to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

And so we come to the end of our stay in Chester and the twilight period before Berlin. We have no illusions about the task that faces us there; but then being a soldier in Berlin is a better challenge than being a semi-labourer in North-West England.

The Company staff list now reads:—

Officer Commanding	Major W. G. R. Turner, M.B.E.
Second-in-Command	Lieutenant J. G. H. Corrigan
No. 1 Platoon Commander	Lieutenant J. A. C. Hoole
No. 2 Platoon Commander	Second-Lieutenant N. W. Scott
No. 3 Platoon Commander	Second-Lieutenant N. R. Barker
Company Sergeant-Major	W.O.II J. E. Alderman
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	Colour-Sergeant R. Marshallsay
Platoon Sergeants	Sergeant G. P. England
	Sergeant P. L. Keen
	Sergeant G. Godsall

We are waiting for the day when we see all the above on parade together. Within the ranks of the Company there have been comings and goings too numerous to mention. To those who have left we wish good luck and to the new arrivals we hope your stay in "A" Company will be a happy one.

We congratulate Lieutenant Corrigan, Corporal Bryant, Lance-Corporals White and Hale, Privates Bramley (68), Doyle, Payne, Howells, McEvoy, Sheppard and Capel on their marriages and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Smith on the birth of Denise Paula, Private and Mrs. Bramley (35), on the birth of Karen Dawn and Private and Mrs. Honeychurch on the birth of Deborah Jean.

"B" COMPANY

Scene: The side of the square

Interviewer: (to cameraman, as two soldiers approach, in assorted dress and out of step), "Here's two we can start with. Excuse me, gentlemen, can you tell me what 'B' Company has done in the last few months?"

1st Soldier: "Not much really."

2nd Soldier: "We went to Cyprus in April. That was O.K."

Interviewer: "What did you do there?"

2nd Soldier: "Bit of training, some duties in Dhekelia and we had some time off for swimming and things."

Interviewer: (to a third soldier), "Ah! Corporal, can you tell me something about Cyprus?"

Corporal: "Well, I was on a Junior Leaders Cadre most of the time, along with Corporals Stafford, Collins, Vine, Day and Knee from our Company."

Interviewer: "What happened when you got back from Cyprus?"

Corporal: "In May they sent us out to Bickerton to dig trenches so that somebody could photograph us from a plane. 'Ex-Royal Flush' they called it, I think. It certainly sent us all round the bend! Then we went off to Sennybridge for a few days for an exercise with our Sections."

Interviewer: "That's very interesting, Corporal." (To first two soldiers), "What did you think of those exercises?"

1st Soldier: "They weren't too bad, but I didn't like the one we did a bit later. About 50 miles of walking in Wales!"

2nd Soldier: "And we had to do patrols and ambushes and things. Still, 'B' Company did well. Corporal Collins' section won!"

Interviewer: "Thank you, gentlemen." (To three new arrivals), "Excuse me, I understand you've been to the Isle of Man."

1st Private: "Yes, beginning of July. We were Guard of Honour for their opening of Parliament."

2nd Private: "Some nice 'birds' there too!"

Interviewer: "Yes, quite. What happened when you got back?"

2nd Private: "Nothing. We'd told them we were in 'D' Company."

Interviewer: "No. I mean Company activities."

1st Private: "Athletics meeting on the 14th July."

Interviewer: "Did you take part?"

1st Private: "Yes, but 'B' Company didn't do very well. Only came 3rd."

2nd Private: "We won the Tug of War though."

Interviewer: (to 3rd Private), "What do you think of 'B' Company?"

3rd Private: "***!! ***!!"

2nd Private: "He's in 'D' Company."

Interviewer: (to 1st Private), "Which platoon are you in?"

1st Private: "Six. The best one."

2nd Private: "Rubbish," (or words to that effect).

1st Private: "Well, we were the best platoon in the Battalion in the Inter-Platoon competition at Altcar in July."

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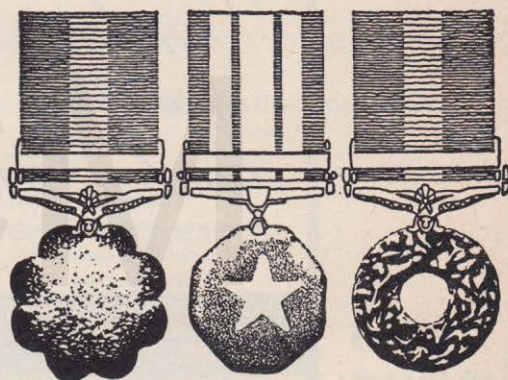
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Interviewer: "Quite so. Thank you, gentleman." (To two Junior N.C.O.s who have stopped), "What has 'B' Company done more recently?"

1st N.C.O.: "We've been on leave!"

2nd N.C.O.: "All of August! Four complete weeks."

1st N.C.O.: "Of course, we needed it to get over those B.E. tests we did."

2nd N.C.O.: "And the Annual Range Classification."

Interviewer: (to 1st N.C.O.), "I see you're in Support Platoon."

1st N.C.O.: "Yes. The platoon's been changed around a bit lately. But we've done some good training this year. Warcop in June and then Otterburn in September for live firing."

Interviewer: (to 2nd N.C.O.), "What in your opinion is the best thing that's happened recently?"

2nd N.C.O.: "I got married! It's quite popular actually. Several of the lads have fallen for it. There's Privates Moseley (52), Killner, Smith (28), Wintle and Lance-Corporal Hoult. Even one of the officers has taken the plunge! Hope it doesn't slow his football down."

1st N.C.O.: "I hear Lance-Corporals Heavens and Wafer have even gone in for children."

Interviewer: (to Senior N.C.O. doubling two young soldiers past), "Excuse me, C.S.M. Could I have a word with you?"

A C.S.M.: "By all means."

Interviewer: "Can you tell me something about recent changes in 'B' Company?"

A C.S.M.: "Well, the greatest changes have been in personnel. By the way, do you mind *not* leaning on my brand new export car with the kinky wheel flaps, white door protectors and Welsh Dolly. Quite a large number of the Company are very new, just up from the Depot. Most of them are settling down well."

Interviewer: "I expect they're looking forward to Berlin."

A C.S.M.: "Yes. By the way, you're getting near my new car again. I'll be glad when we get there. It's all paper work and packing at the moment. I may even get in a bit of abseiling—at least I can help in the harness adjustment."

(Any resemblance to actual persons in the foregoing scene is, of course, purely coincidental)!

"C" COMPANY AND TRAINING WING

The impending move to Berlin has brought about several changes within the Company. Major Turner left to command "A" Company, handing over the reins to Lieutenant Denley (Training Subaltern) who, on feeling the throb of power at his fingertips, immediately sold his mini-van for a big Cortina and started parking in front of the office instead of the back.

Congratulations are due to W.O.II Norman Tuggey on his recent marriage, and his placing as Drill Sergeant within the Battalion.

Company Sergeant-Major Brisland took over from Company Sergeant-Major Dench who is now in Bristol having relieved W.O.II Neaves as recruiter.

We welcome to the Company Corporal Semmens, Private Evans (53) and Private Smith (28), and reluctantly say farewell to Corporal Fairclough who has given good and faithful service.

Private McSweeney has taken over the Battalion sports store and is rapidly earning the name of the "Mothball Kid" having used about $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt. packing the Battalion sports kit.

All in all the Company is obviously running very well if one can go by the grinning faces that emerge from the mountains of pamphlets, amendments, sports kit and training aids that slowly but surely disappear into boxes.

Colour-Sergeant Boulton and Private Gilroy leave with the Advance Party shortly, and on arrival will have the task of arranging things for the Support Platoon, Recce and Assault Pioneers who are joining us on arrival in Berlin under the Support Company banner.

With this coming of strength our thoughts are turning to chances in the sporting and shooting world. By the spring of 1968 we shall be well established and the name of Support Company back in familiar use in the Battalion.

The Training Wing will shortly be under the Command of "H.Q." Company (their gain, our loss) and we wish them well in their training activities in the future.

"D" COMPANY

"D" Company went to Cyprus firmly convinced that they would return sun bronzed heroes. Unfortunately typically English weather followed and, apart from four days really hot sunshine when we were out on exercise, it either rained, hailed or remained a "gungy" grey.

However, we found that we were still remembered, particularly by the charwallahs, as Privates Chambers and Chilcott soon found out.

The Company training period consisted of platoon training in the morning, heavy patrolling at night and the afternoons spent swimming on the nearby beach. No. 16 Platoon will long remember No. 13 Platoon's night attack which ended with "006 $\frac{1}{2}$ " flat on his back with a cracked ankle.

Other well-known "happenings" were:—

"Ali's Bar. Again."

No. 16 Platoon ambushing one rather drunken Turkish fisherman instead of the Company Commander and Company 2IC. Talk about perpetual motion.

It was during this period that it was announced that "D" Company (God's own) would represent the Battalion in America on Exercise Wild Sunset. (Some of the earliest settlers were throw-outs as well I believe.)

However, we all had our doubts whether we would ever see America when we made our fourth attempt at landing at R.A.F. Lyneham on our return from Cyprus, particularly as the flight engineer was shining a torch out of the window to see whether the wheels were down. Even Private Wells wasn't talking, and Private Marks had a nasty personal accident.

After a short leave the Company came back to find themselves rushed off their feet. Constant kit checks, tailoring of various uniforms, packing and unpacking of kit. Everyone was glad to get on the two Britannia aircraft which were taking us to the States.

The first flight was lucky enough to stay the night in Canada. The food and hospitality of the Canadians was much appreciated, particularly by Private Purnell.

Exercise Wild Sunset II is dealt with elsewhere in these notes, but random points of interest which spring to mind were:

Private Jeffries losing weight whilst sleeping.

Corporal Whitcher, arrested by the police for walking back to camp via the Express Way.

Jelly and lettuce mixed salad.

The sudden popularity of Guard Commander after Lance-Corporal Green's success in answering the phone.

The appearance of rows of cadillacs, etc. every evening to remove the entire Company, or so it seemed, to Colorado Springs.

Private Chambers' popularity with the local Apache tribe.

The constant phone calls to the Company Office asking for "Pat," "Jeffrey" and other "quote 'English Gentlemen' end quote."

The three undefeated games Fort Carson (strength 20,000) versus "D" Company (120 strong). Particularly Corporal Fords' two wonder goals in the final game.

Blueberry pie with chocolate milk.

The weakness of American beer. And its after affects. The weakness of "D" Company in resisting American females.

The agony in the eyes of No. 16 Platoon at muster parade every morning at 0645 hrs.

The researches of several persons into the "Go—Go" girls, particularly during and after "Happy Hour" in the Officers' Club.

Private Chilcott and group launched their first single "The Brit soldier."

"Gee Major your men are sharp!"

The horrors of the Company assault by helicopters. All the seats faced out through open doors and an 800-ft. drop.

The friendliness and hospitality of everyone we all met.

We returned at the end of July for more leave. This was followed by a hectic period, in which we prepared an act for the Cheltenham Tattoo, prepared to go on leave and found time to win the Battalion Athletics. Private Llewellyn, Corporals Boon and Thorner being our leading athletes.

We are now all eagerly awaiting our flights to Berlin.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Hall, Privates Brazier, Young, Willis, Chambers Tombs on their marriages and to Colour-Sergeant Bird, Sergeant Thorne, Alexander (68), Lance-Corporal Williams, Corporal McEvoy, Corporal Tyler, Dixon and their wives on their increase on their ration roll.

The prize for the unique and most original souvenir of the visit to the United States by "D" Company must certainly go to Private Steven Brasier who, not content with ten-gallon hats and high stepping boots, decided he wanted something more permanent. As a result Miss Carolyn Sue Newby became Mrs. Brasier when she married Private Brasier at St. Edyths Church, Sea Mills, following a whirlwind courtship in America.

Carolyn, one of seven children, worked in a computer factory in Colorado Springs before her marriage.

Her hobbies are horse riding and driving and she sold her horse and car to her sister to pay for the air fare to U.K. Such is the course of true love.

She has lived with her husband in Rhyl until recently but is at present living with his parents in Bristol as she unfortunately cannot immediately join her husband in Berlin.

We take this opportunity of welcoming her to our midst, wish her every happiness, and hope that it will not be too long before she is reunited with her husband.

SIGNAL PLATOON

In the spring the platoon were busy running a Standard III Cadre to try and fill some of the gaping holes in the establishment when suddenly, almost before anyone had heard of Locums Return, Captain Mermagen was off as advance party to Cyprus. When the platoon arrived on the last flight, they found him, braised and sunburned, awaiting them. However, seeing that Captain Hobbs had managed to finish his R.S.O. Course and catch the flight, "Handover Takeover" was completed in record time and Captain Mermagen disappeared, only to be seen for brief moments as he flashed in to ask for more men or vehicles for abseiling. On returning from Cyprus Captain Mermagen departed to Minden as Adjutant 1 D.E.R.R., taking with him as batman Private Smith (53), who had previously joined his brother in the platoon.

Cyprus was much more relaxed and casual than in 1965, however, having been briefed that all the troubles were over and since we had only brought personal weapons and a very light scale of radios, no one was really surprised when, within 48 hours of us landing, shooting broke out at Mallaa on the Limassol-Nicosia road and we were "stood-to." The Signals were the only people who actually moved out—Corporal Scurlock, Lance-Corporal Gurney, Private Pitt and Private Smith (53) manning O.P. positions at each end of the S.B.A.

The flap died down and the platoon began to enjoy the Cyprus sun. The Standard III Cadre carried on with several exercises, Privates Devine and Bishop retired to the S.B.A. radio room, Lance-Corporal Gurney to the Post room, Lance-Corporal Macey to the stores and the remainder to driving or instructing the Cadre. With so little transport Lance-Corporal Smith and his six Land Rovers found himself operating a taxi rank rather than a M.T. Section, but managed to satisfy most requests. When "B" Company moved to Dhekelia, Lance-Corporal Wafer was posted to them to become Det. Commander and proceeded to astonish "B" Company by getting a firm grip on their Officers' Voice Procedure.

On return from Cyprus the Standard III Cadre was completed and Privates Kershaw, Smith (19), Wadley, Wright, Barton, Lewis, Bosquet, Hughes and Humphries (62) joined the platoon whilst Privates Lee and Jones (87) joined "A" Company as Signals Det. At the same time Corporal Scurlock was moved to "A" Company to command their Signals Det. and Corporal Cleary, Lance-Corporal Macey and Private Pitt went to provide communications for "D" Company in America.

During the summer the Battalion has been very busy but we managed some signalling. Using the 62 sets a triangular link was worked between Chester, the Isle of Man, and the Lake District, but at the same time we failed to get a Radio Relay link on V.H.F. working despite Lance-Corporal Hall's enormous Y.A.G.I. antennae.

Later Corporal Scurlock took some C42 and A41 radios to Bristol to provide communications for the Bristol—Weston-super-Mare road race and helped to ensure its success.

On 14th June the long awaited A13 radios arrived to replace our ageing WS62 and both the Signal and Recce Platoons got in some training on this very good new manpack H.F. set eventually working a link between the Isle of Man, Chester and Stanford.

Suddenly the Duke of Gloucester's visit and Old Soldiers Day were on top of us keeping everyone occupied, and then it was only a short time to Block Leave.

Since returning from leave we have handed over all our radios and vehicles to 1 Inniskillings and now await Berlin. In Berlin all the Signals will once again be concentrated in one platoon in "H.Q." Company and we hope to be made up to establishment. Initial reports indicate that we will have almost more radios and vehicles than men and a large number of commitments, so we are expecting to be kept busy but interested.

Despite the busy summer Corporal Green, Lance-Corporal Featherstone, Privates Cameron and Smith (19) have got married whilst Mrs. Cavill and Mrs. Devine have had babies. Sergeant Cleary, Corporal Green, Corporal Watkins and Corporal Schneider have all been promoted. Lance-Corporal Smith did well to get a "C" grading at Borden on an Instructors Course on Saracens despite his never having seen one before and Corporal Lambie has also attended a Driving Instructors Course. Corporal Green has taught Privates Humphries, Devine, Bishop and Wadley to drive and they have passed their tests. Corporal Green and Lance-Corporal Hall are now at the Signals Wing at Hythe, and Lance-Corporal Gurney and Lance-Corporal Wafer are about to go.

Since the last BACK BADGE Captain Mermagen has left for 1 D.E.R.R., Sergeant Cavill, after completing a Recruiting Course, has gone as Chief (and only) Signals Instructor for the new N.C.O.s Tactics Course at Brecon, Corporal Watkins to the Regimental Police and Private Phipp to civilian life. In the Post Room Corporal Wratten briefly replaced Corporal Laffoley who will soon be off to 1 Royal Hampshires, when we hope Corporal Fairclough will be taking over.

M.T. PLATOON

On the return of the M.T. Platoon from Cyprus it seemed that the priority job was to stop a person or persons unknown beating Jim's petrol tax by helping himself from the Battalion's vehicles. Anyone with a length of rubber tube was highly suspect but, despite all efforts, the culprit has not yet been caught. The only description of the man was that he could jump off the garage roof and run at high speed with a jerrycan in each hand.

We have welcomed Privates Gregory and Hall from "waiting" in the Officers' Mess to waiting around the M.T. office, and we said goodbye to Sergeant Chismon and Corporal Smith of the R.E.M.E. section. Farewell it was to Private Pay in August and he must have broken all records by completing a very swift nine-day unaccompanied tour in Gibraltar, following which he is back with us.

At the time of writing we are in the middle of a vehicle inspection in readiness for handing over all the transport. For the second time this year one can see complaining, oil-stained drivers staggering back to work from the N.A.A.F.I. trying to figure out the excuses for any faults found by the inspection team. On the subject of the inspection, the M.T.O. is congratulated on a well executed withdrawal to Berlin a week before the inspection started. Was he just getting his own back on Colour-Sergeant Page for going off to the Welsh hills on the eve of the last C.I.V.?

Corporal Wood, Private Read, Private Allen and Private Leonard have all had additions to their families and so congratulations to them all. Gone now is the excuse for not doing night duties.

BAND

A fanfare resounded round Lewis's from seven newly acquired fanfare trumpets just prior to a concert by our band in the Bristol store--the Glosters band had opened its concert season.

Towards the end of May the Band and Drums headed a procession at Kinver for the annual carnival. The weather unfortunately did not take too kindly to this and found us beating a very muddy retreat.

On the following Saturday we joined 11 bands and led 72 floats along a giant-sized carnival procession at Nuneaton. This was remembered chiefly because the procession took three hours to circle the town.

The Three Counties Show at Malvern also proved interesting even to non-farmers, by the fact that the bars were open all day! We played a varied programme, over three days, of nine concerts and three retreats with the Corps of Drums. Returning from leave in early July the band played a concert for the Bishop of Chester's garden party to mark the opening of the Chester International Art Festival.

While working at Exeter with the bands of the 2nd Para, Royal Hampshire Regiment and Junior Soldiers Wing band we rushed up to Bristol to play at a big Police Inspection, and, having been escorted in and out of the city, arrived back at Exeter for a full dress rehearsal under Captain Aubrey Jackman.

To close the Chester Arts Festival we beat a splendid retreat at Chester Castle Yard.

Many familiar faces were to be seen on "Old Soldiers Day," and the Regimental Association presented us with a silver fanfare trumpet and banner.

Whilst all these jobs were busily being played, four of the band gained their A1 music examination. These clever people were Lance-Corporal Pearce, Bandsmen Noel Wheeler, Francis Carlile, Sam Bolton: and four passed their A2 exam, being Bandsmen Ron Britton (who rejoined us, having been demobbed in Swaziland), Bob Ford, "Legs" Elliman and Mick Usher.

July ended with a band concert at Butlins, Pwllheli, that was very well received by the inmates.

Joining up with the bands of the Coldstream Guards, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the Staffords and the 11th Hussars, we, together with our own Corps of Drums, did a marching display for the Cheltenham Tattoo during two days at the beginning of August.

On 10th August the Band Social Club, complete with families, went on a day's outing to Prestatyn. A grand time was had by all and the weather stayed fine.

We visited Cheltenham once more in mid-August, for the first day of the Cricket Festival, which Gloucester lost by 10 wickets to Worcester. On this day we also marched through the town to the cricket ground.

Currently at the School of Music and soon to return after a year's course Bandsmen "Tom" Thomas, "Thin" Usher and "Black" James. Embarking on a course in October, and so not going to Berlin, are Bandsmen "Sac" Sandells and Bob MacDonald.

Our next edition will be from Berlin when we hope to give you some idea of our musical engagements there.

CORPS OF DRUMS

Hail! Tub Thumpers past, present and future. Since the last scribings more crochets have passed under the Mace.

First things first. The matrimonial agency has been working overtime again. Congratulations to Roger Mullin, Sam Watts and Mick Little, all of whom have taken the plunge. The best of luck to you all.

The Drums are now increasing in strength, on paper anyway. Private Fenwick has rejoined us along with new members Privates Gallagher (13) and McGrath. We hope their stay is long and pleasant.

We are now packing instruments ready for Berlin and wondering what sort of engagements await us (musically that is).

A small note for the "Carnaby Street" fashion boys. We get our "Red Jackets" free! The Drums will be doing ceremonial parades in scarlet shortly after arrival in Berlin.

Last, but not least, welcome back to Corporal Bostock and "Au Revoir" to Lance-Corporal Atkinson.

That's your lot! We leave you with this thought:—

People who want by the yard,
But try by the inch,
Should be kicked by the foot.

"WHISTLETAP"

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

I am happy to be able to say that the flying around at subsonic speeds is coming to an end—we are moving at *supersonic* speeds. The Concord is already out of date as far as we are concerned! The Mess members continued to orbit around the country with Chester as the re-fuelling, re-fagging and re-watering point with a quick "shuft" at the missus and children, if one is lucky. It is said that there is a resemblance between certain people and the "oo-me-gooly" bird.

Two good social evenings have been held in the Mess. The first was a "Hawaiian nite" with befitting music plentifully supplied by Drill Sergeant Norman Tuggey. The ladies turned out in Hawaiian dress and the men were seen to shake a very snakey hip indeed. The result of this night produced a new member—"Snake hips" Westaway.

The second evening, in the form of a "Western nite," was the better of the two from the point of view of dress. There were enough soldiers of the 11th U.S. Cavalry (General Custers Own) to take on "Sitting Bull" himself. A lynch mob was formed under the verbal furiosity of certain members and the Orderly Officer was dragged from the Officers' Mess having committed an offence against the Union. He was ably prosecuted by "Tomahawk" Westaway, supported by the defending officer (Hic)! The trial was conducted by "Hanging Judge" Bishop. At one stage all present were a bit apprehensive about Sergeant Westaway's wild gesticulations with a "Choppers Meat 4½ lb." Eventually the Orderly Officer—Lieutenant Denley—was hung by the neck and, with arms pinioned, taunted with a glass of beer, but not allowed to drink. I am happy to report that Lieutenant Denley took it all very well and was eventually released.

The comings and goings have been fast and furious and the Mess has said its best wishes for retirement in Civvy Street to Drum Major Bob Norsworthy, Colour-Sergeant Tom Clayden and "Muscles" Tom Lunt who has been a very popular member of the Mess during his short stay with us. New members welcomed into the Mess since our last notes are Sergeants Godsall, Cleary, Cokayne, Kibble, Palmer and Miller. Other members have left for duties elsewhere in U.K., but we hope to see them again on completion of their detachments.

The Colonel-in-Chief and the Duchess of Gloucester paid a private visit to the Battalion and visited the Mess where some members and their wives, together with Junior N.C.O.s, soldiers and their wives were presented to him. Following this, the Duke and Duchess joined us for a combined Officers' and Sergeants' photograph—a precedent, I am sure, in Regimental photographs.

The highlight of the summer season was the visit to Chester by Old Soldiers and their families. The weather was very kind and the sun shone for the whole of the visit. It was good to see such a splendid attendance. We look forward to seeing some ex-Mess members on charter flights to Berlin!

News, factual and rumoured, has been filtering to us from our new station in Berlin. The R.Q.M.S. has applied for a "Works Service" in the Sergeants' Mess for a "lift" (or is it "elevator" these days?) to be installed from the ground floor bar and ante-room to his room on the 3rd floor. It seems likely that the R.Q.M.S. is in for an enforced loss of weight or a strengthening of leg muscles. The C.O. returned with information that there are 4,000 night clubs in the city. There have been many enquiries as to which are which—if you get my meaning. Much conversation has been devoted to comparison between Continental and British cars. Suffice it to say that some members have seen enough good points in British cars to buy them and drive them to Berlin.

The Mess has seen quite a bit of "Taffy" Jones, Joe Ponting and Ken Walker, the latter turned out to play cricket for us against the officers—we lost! The last we heard of "Taffy" Jones was that he was away from his employment, sick. We hope he has fully recovered and is hale and hearty again.

The Mess dining room being too small, we dined the Colonel and Mrs. Streather at a local restaurant. On this night we retired to the Mess in Saighton Camp where Company Sergeant Major Bill Russell was presented with his L.S. and G.C. by Colonel Streather. The C.O. found room for it somewhere along the end of the line, and Company Sergeant Major Russell now walks around with a distinct list to Port.

L. P. Y. M.

RUGBY FOOTBALL PROSPECTS

With a strong fixture list ahead of us in Berlin and several stalwarts of former years departed, the season opened with no clear idea of what mother fortune had in store for us. Early doubts as to numerical strength were soon dispelled when good numbers turned out for coaching and training sessions. Several newcomers with potential were noted and have improved vastly from regular attendance; it is worth pointing out that to achieve the results we aim at all members of the Club must make an endeavour to turn up for training every day.

After two weeks of daily training an inter-Company seven-a-side tournament was held from which further names were obtained and the potential of some players became a reality.

Two days later the 1st XV played the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Rhyl and notched up a good win by 19 points to nil. The first half contained extremely good pure rugby with the whole team playing as a unit in support of the ball; this resulted in a 14 points advantage at the interval. The second half became scrappy, simple drills were forgotten and there were too many chiefs; only one goal was added to the score without reply.

The second match was against a strong Shrewsbury Town Wednesday XV. In the first minute our inexperienced outsiders were found wanting in defence when the opposition found a prairie-like expanse in the three-quarter line and gave themselves an easy conversion from the inevitable try. From that moment our ranks closed, although it was once again inexperience which gave Shrewsbury their second goal. Just before half-time the policy of the complete team supporting the ball at all times brought a splendid goal; wing forward from line-out to scrum-half, scrum-half to outside-half, a half break, back inside to Number 8 who, with great panache, scored between the posts thus giving the full back an easy conversion. In the second half the team continued to play excellent attacking rugby with flowing movements bringing in every member of the team. With such pressure it came as no surprise to those who believe in this type of rugby that the Battalion was able to score a goal, a try and a penalty goal to end worthy winners 16 points to 10. At moments one's imagination wandered back to the glories of the '30s when the Regiment's rugger prowess was perhaps at its zenith.

There are no more fixtures until the end of October when the Battalion takes on the winners of the Berlin competition for the right to go forward to the B.A.O.R. section of the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup. In Berlin we hope to construct our own Club House and obtain regular fixtures for a 2nd XV.

The following represented the Battalion in the two matches outlined above: Captain Dutton (Captain); Lieutenant Holman; Second-Lieutenants McNaught, Scott, Barker; Sergeants England, Young; Corporals Burge, Knight, Thorner; Lance-Corporals Davies, Featherstone, Hall; Privates Thorpe, Ford, Lewis, Attwell and Metcalf.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL NOTES

As the 1966/67 season enters its final stages the Battalion soccer team looks back on a memorable and successful season. Continuity of training and match play has been difficult because of other Battalion activities. Nevertheless we feel we have established soccer as the most popular and successful of the major sports played by the Battalion.

A good cup run in the Army F.A. Cup has undoubtedly been the focal point of the season. The 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders eventually proved too good for us on a frost-bound pitch at Plymouth, in a replay tie. The first game had been a real thriller and the Battalion was unlucky not to win in extra time. Among the teams which were defeated in the Cup were The School of Artillery, Manorbier and 37 H.Y. A.D. Regiment R.A. However, we won the Western Command Senior Competition Challenge Trophy for 1966/67. After the presentation on Wednesday, 25th January by

the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Antony Read, the team sat for an official photograph. They were joined by General Read who is also the Chairman of the Football Association.

Standing, left to right:—

Corporal Patrick Burge, 27, of 14 Dorset Avenue, Rowanfield Estate, Cheltenham ("B" Company); Private Brian Howting, 22, of 31 Lorne Street, Chester ("H.Q." Company); Corporal Reg. Ford, 27, of 16 Windmill Road, Kemble, Cirencester ("D" Company); Private John Featherstone, 22, of 9 Durley Road, Gosport, Hants ("H.Q." Company); Private John Stock, 26, of 19 Tiledown, Temple Cloud, Bristol ("B" Company); Lance-Corporal Alec Hall, 20, of Glencarn, 60 Western Road, Gloucester ("D" Company).

Sitting, left to right:—

Lance-Corporal Leslie Radnedge, 24, of 9 Napiers Way, Huntingdon, Chester ("A" Company); Lance-Corporal Arthur Wintle, 24 (Captain, of 149 Matson Avenue, Matson, Gloucester ("B" Company); Lieutenant-General Sir Antony Read; Second-Lieutenant Roger Thomas, 24 (Officer IC Soccer), of 33 Goffenton Drive, Oldbury Court, Fishponds, Bristol; Private John Andrews, 27, of 38 West Pafford Avenue, Watcombe, Torquay ("B" Company); and Corporal Chris Boulton, 23, of 13 Married Quarters, Hightown Barracks, Wrexham ("B" Company).

Other players who have played in the Battalion 1st XI include Private "Para" Chambers and Lance-Corporal "Gunge" Green ("D" Company); and Corporal Dave Collins, Private Mick Moulder and Private Charlie Goldsmith, all of "B" Company.

Friendly matches during the latter part of the season have provided a good opportunity to experiment and rebuild the team for next season in Berlin. The 2nd XI has proved an asset and several promising players have emerged, among them Private Cichy ("A" Company), Private Ireland ("A" Company), Private Crouch ("B" Company) and Private Wadley ("B" Company).

Much of the success of a team depends on team spirit and the ability to fight back when struggling. The former has become firmly established recently and the latter has amazed our supporters all season. The number of games eventually won when all seemed lost have been numerous.

Mention must be made in these notes of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Brown who, in spite of the pressure of "work" (what's that?), has provided both practical and moral support, and also the many others whose assistance in various roles has been invaluable.

GLOSTERS' PARACHUTE CLUB

Trumpets were muted when the club was formed in Spring 1967, and some doubted the stability of one who had recently spent three sun-scorched years in Arabian sands. Perseverance has led to a class win in the Army Parachute Association Novice Championships, to two members completing more than 100 jumps each in a season and to three members sufficiently experienced to be potential instructors. Battalion colours have been awarded to Lance-Corporal Cook, Private Parker and Captain Bewell.



Corporal M. Bryant briefs a section of "D" Company before going into action on exercise "Wild Sunset" at Fort Carson, Colorado, where the Company trained with the U.S. 5th Infantry Division



The G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, with the 1st Battalion team who won the Western Command Senior Competition Challenge Trophy for 1966-7



Private Parker, 2,000 feet up and two seconds before the parachute opens



[Reproduced by courtesy of Lieut. G. C. P. Shea-Simonds]
Lance-Corporal Cook in a good stable position 8,000 feet up

Members of the club have in this first season completed more than 500 descents of which nearly 400 were free-fall descents with delays ranging from 5 to 50 seconds in free-fall. Most of this parachuting was done at the Army Parachute Association Centre at Netheravon. This centre is run on a "shoe string" and all efforts are devoted to parachuting, about 8,000 descents being made in a year. Facilities at the centre include two aircraft, instructors, many parachutes and a bar; it is also possible to eat and sleep there. The Rhine Army Parachute Association Centre near Detmold is run on similar lines.

Few people experience the thrill of parachuting until after their first few jumps, then they discover the exhilaration of falling free through space. In free-fall the parachutist is in full control of his body and does not tumble out of control. The normal position is to fall spreadeagled face to earth but he can turn to right or left, do barrel rolls and do both forward and backward loops. Loops are not unlike doing a forward or backward somersault on a trampoline but the exhilaration of doing the movement at 120 m.p.h. in free air far surpasses bouncing at ground level on a trampoline. The trained free-faller can also "track," that is to make ground forward as well as falling vertically to earth, in effect he flies. In a 30-second delay the free-faller drops over a mile before opening his parachute and in a good track he should be able to fly forward half-a-mile.

A team was entered for Exercise Parashoot in July this year. This is an S.A.S. type patrol competition for a four-man patrol. Entry was by free-fall descent, the patrol then infiltrated into the enemy area on foot, contacted an agent, destroyed an arms cache, repulsed an ambush and escaped by helicopter. The competition was won by a team from 22 S.A.S. It is hoped that next year we will be able to enter two teams and, profiting from the experience of this year's competition, will be able to wrest the Infantry cup from 3 R.G.J.

Lance-Corporal Cook, Private Parker and Captain Bewell entered the accuracy event in the Army Parachute Association Novices Championships in August and the Novices section of the British National Parachute Championships in September. In an accuracy event the competitor opens his parachute at about 2,000 ft. and, gliding to earth steers it so that he lands in the target, a circle of soft gravel of 10 m. radius. The aim is to hit the centre disc which has a radius of 3 in. The competitor himself decides where to leave the aircraft, normally exiting upwind of the target. His spotting must be accurate so that the glidepath of the parachute takes him into the target area.

It had been hoped to enter a team in the Nationals but at the last minute the fourth man failed and deserted. In the Army Novices Lance-Corporal Cook and Private Parker came first and second in their class and Lance-Corporal Cook was fifth overall. In the Nationals we were outclassed, mainly because all other competitors were using the American Para Commander Parachute. This is a high performance canopy essential for serious competition and, using it, a skilled parachutist can steer himself onto the centre disc of the target. Using the standard canopy one should be able to hit the target area but greater precision is difficult. Unfortunately a Para-Commander chute costs a little over £100 in England and Germany.

Tentative plans for next year include an instructors course for Lance-Corporal Cook and Private Parker and as many vacancies as we can obtain on basic and continuation courses at the Rhine Army Parachute Association. We hope to enter a team in the Army

Parachute Association Championships in May and in the Nationals in the Autumn of 1968.

Exercise Parashoot is a challenging competition with great value as military training and we should be able to enter two teams. Last but not least it will be an exciting diversion to hold our own individual and inter-Company team accuracy competitions in the latter part of the year.

THE "SAVAGE AGE" BEAT GROUP

This group, formerly and more widely known as "The Strangers," has been in existence since 1963 when the Battalion was stationed in Cyprus. It was there that they played themselves from beginners into the most popular group on the Island.

It was from the end of this tour that luck seemed to desert them completely. Their drummer, who was a member of the Royal Signals, had to remain in Cyprus so they were unable to continue their progress in England. After a short stay in the U.K. the Battalion went to Swaziland and so did "The Strangers" but minus a drummer and, most important of all, amplification equipment. Nevertheless, within a period of nine months they had found another drummer from the Corps of Drums, ordered and paid for over £600-worth of equipment and replaced a bass guitarist for reasons of "internal morale."

During this tour Private Bobby Cox, the lead singer, was posted to Aden to win medals and another three members, all of whom were in "Delta" Company, were detached to Bechuanaland. Even this gigantic split in the group did not stop those in Bechuanaland entertaining the lads and playing at a few private parties. If the bad luck had finished there and then it would, at least, have been a change but it didn't. Shortly after returning to England their new-found bass player joined the ranks of "civvy street."

After trying various bass players, Private "Pip" Ambury of the Corps of Drums was selected for his potential both in the field of playing and singing. Now that they were "back up to establishment" it was decided to rename the group "The Savage Age" and to spend all possible spare time in practising. As it happened this turned out to be the best policy because, in March of this year, they won their way through to the final of the Army Beat Group Competition and came second out of six. As a direct result of this the Battalion obtained £700-worth of brand new equipment for them on the understanding that the cash would be paid back whilst the Battalion was in Germany.

In September they were auditioned and accepted to appear on B.B.C.'s television programme "Look North." This was their first experience before the cameras but once they had overcome their nerves they gave a good account of themselves.

All that the group requires now is continuing good fortune and they will be as popular in Berlin as they have been everywhere else. They would also like to take this opportunity to thank those persons in the Battalion who have given their help and support.

The current members of the group are as follows:—

- Private Bobby Cox (lead singer).
- Private Ron Thorpe (lead guitar).
- Private "Pip" Ambury (bass guitar).
- Sergeant Brian Hazzard (rhythm guitar).
- Private Alan Aspinwall (drummer)

EXERCISE "WILD SUNSET II"

The Regiment was told that it would be sending a company group to America immediately on its return from Easter leave. The exercise was to be known as Exercise "Wild Sunset II" and the party was to consist of 130 all ranks from 1 Glosters and 20 all ranks from the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers, stationed at Tidworth. This was to be a repeat performance of Exercise "Wild Sunset I," undertaken last year by a company from the Cheshire Regiment.

The Exercise was to consist of a three-week attachment to the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanised) at Fort Carson, Colorado, and would include a Divisional Exercise. The only guidance we received was a vague directive from M.O.D. stating that details would follow in due course. Our first problem was to ensure that everyone realised that we were "Beetle Crushers," and not mechanised, in any sense of the word, as had been the company last year. In addition, it was arranged that we should carry on a hectic 48 hours training with the troop from the 16th/5th on Salisbury Plain, in order that we should at least pay lip service to Infantry Tank co-operation, a feature of training that we had not indulged in since our B.A.O.R. days in Osnabruck nine or so years ago. The value of this was limited, but at least we got to know our armoured friends who were to accompany us.

Hectic packing, kit exchanges, documentation and general preparations were eventually completed and the main body finally arrived on 23rd May at Colorado Springs Military airfield, Peterson Field, at the end of a long but uneventful journey in Britannias of R.A.F. Command, via Gander. It was preceded by a small advance party by some ten days which included the Company Commander, Major Allison, and an administrative detachment headed by Company Sergeant-Major Tuggey.

A traditional U.S. welcome awaited us, complete with Military Band, National Colours and an honour guard together with a "posse" of senior U.S. officers. Our brief formal welcome over we were soon on our way to the Camp.

Fort Carson, in spite of its romantic name, cannot claim a place in history. It was built in 1942 and at present is the home of the 5th Infantry (Mechanised) Division. Some 20,000 men are housed in its vast hutted camp, for the most part consisting of wooden buildings. The whole military reservation covers some 138,500 acres and the adjoining training area stretches for 20 miles. It has its own airfield from which the organic helicopters and light aircraft squadrons operate. There are some 30 miles of tarmac roads in the camp itself, two swimming pools, five cinemas, a small towns' worth of shops, no hard parade grounds and an M.T. park that stretches continuously for some three miles, packed tight with armour, guns, vehicles and all forms of mobile equipment. To our ideas a vast military complex, but in practice one of the smallest of American military camps. We were soon installed in our warm, well ventilated two-storey wooden blocks, each with its own automatic, coin-operated washing machine, spin drier and coke machine.

Feeding in the U.S. Army is by Company Mess Halls, there being no central cookhouse. We were assigned our Mess Hall and were quickly introduced to U.S. Army catering. Our first preconceived idea was soon shattered when we realised that the American soldier eats no better, if as well as we do. He has no choice of food and what he has is adequate but unimaginative and certainly not designed to give him that blown out feeling that one can usually get in a British cookhouse, if one wishes. Certain items

caused immediate problems, sweet potatoes were universally disliked, as were the raw salads of chopped new cabbage covered with weird dressings and a peculiar dish of creamed beef served for breakfast and reminding one of a particularly difficult channel crossing. However, hunger soon overcame many prejudices and everyone got into the swing of things. One first-class item was unlimited supplies of chilled milk and chocolate milk. The Americans viewed with awe our ability to shift about half a gallon per head per day of the stuff.

The U.S. Army working day is much longer than its British counterpart, and 7 a.m. found us at formal muster with our Battalion, 2nd/10th Battalion, Saturdays included. We then worked through until 12.45, had lunch until 1.45 and on until a formal Battalion retreat parade at 17.00 hours. At these parades the Americans play reveille and retreat and we asked, and received permission to blow our own reveille and retreat, ably done by our tame bugler, Lance-Corporal McEvoy. These parades are taken very seriously and the National and Battalion Colours are on parade. Whilst complying with the general format of the parades, we maintained our own drill movements which naturally impressed the Americans greatly. They, of course, have dropped all forms of ceremonial drill and every movement is strictly functional.

Training consisted initially of familiarisation with U.S. weapons and equipment and soon another preconceived idea had to be corrected. The U.S. Infantry weapons and the basic equipment of the soldier is no better than our own, and in many cases everyone agreed that ours definitely had the edge. At a later date we ran our own familiarisation day for our U.S. hosts covering S.L.R. and G.P.M.G. (both weapons we took with us), and they were genuinely most impressed and outspoken in their praise for what many thought were superior weapons to their own.

About midway we took part in a three-day brigade exercise. By this time we had become an integral part of the 2nd/10th and were fully accepted as just another company. We were put into A.P.C.s and proceeded to take part in a very mobile exercise, with no particular incidents. We were using U.S. signal procedure which presented no particular problems under the expert guidance of Corporal Cleery. Some "short cuts" and general Americanisation, brought about by operational familiarity in Vietnam, would have caused the R.S.O. to ulcerate, but communications were always "through." The U.S. range of radios is excellent and superior to our own, in particular the A41 (Company/Battalion Net) their equipment being just as reliable and half the weight.

We received a good insight into current U.S. tactics in Vietnam when we attended a study day on this subject, followed by a most realistic and excellently organised exercise to clear a "Vietnam Village" built down to the last detail with typical American thoroughness, even to the smell.

The helicopter training we received proved the highlight of our training programme. We had the exclusive use of some 20 "Huey" helicopters, each capable of lifting a section and therefore able to transport the whole Company at once. We were able to plan and execute our exercise as we liked and the Americans were only too pleased to give us unlimited use of these very efficient machines. One could not help but be impressed with their justified enthusiasm in the rigours of the Vietnam War. I regret the opportunity to train with three Wessex "choppers" (one a non-starter) will never raise any real enthusiasm after this. The sight of the whole Company in the air at once, being

fussed over by six "gun ships" (helicopters with multi-barrelled machine guns on the Gatling principle) will remain vivid in our memories for a long time to come.

Discipline in the U.S. Army is, in many respects, much stricter than ours. Dropping a cigarette end or scrap of paper results in an immediate 20-dollar fine (£8). Speeding in camp, i.e. over 15 m.p.h., means three months ban on driving and a 100-dollar fine. Any civilian conviction, no matter what civilian punishment was meted out, meant a military three months ban.

The U.S. soldier was very smart and his personal turnout was of a higher standard than ours, aided by having many more uniforms and efficient means of cleaning and pressing them. He was cheerful, and very ready to talk to us.

Whilst we were unable to arrange a game of baseball we were inundated with invitations to play football by the Divisional side, which also included the U.S. Air Force Academy, a total of some 2,500 men. We won all our matches but none were a walkover. Great interest is being taken in football in the U.S. at present, and our opponents were largely made up of players of European extraction.

Extra-mural activities included official trips to the United States Air Force Academy, Cripple Creek, at one time centre of the Gold Rush and the world's biggest gold ore producing area, Pikes Peak, the highest mountain in the Cheyenne Mountain Range in the area, some 15,000 ft., and Central City, a "genuine" all singing, swinging Western Town and one of the major tourist traps in the area.

Private hospitality was overwhelming and, after about ten days of non-stop visits to local families in Colorado Springs, one looked forward to the three-day exercise as a chance to catch up on sleep.

All too soon our stay drew to a close. The final event was a formal farewell parade. In spite of inclement weather, it took place without incident in front of a large and very appreciative U.S. audience.

A long, weary but uneventful flight back to Lyneham via Gander and we were home. How wonderful this Island looked after the parched, sandy countryside of Colorado. We established that a British Company Group can fully integrate into a United States Battalion and that there is no real problem in the joint operation of U.S. and British Forces at battalion level and below. We had made many friends and had been able to see the world's mightiest military machine at close quarters and had sampled the "American Way of Life."

AN AMERICAN PHENOMENON

BY MAJOR J. W. ALLISON

One of the many new experiences during my trip to the States was a visit to the drive-in open air cinema. Drive-in cinemas are a part of everyday life over there but, to my knowledge, are at present only a dream in the mind of some speculators in this country. It is inevitable that they will arrive in our midst before very long and a few facts and impressions may be of use in preparation for this staggering event.

The drive-in cinema consists of a disused and otherwise useless plot of open ground, more or less flat, to hold about 250 cars, a rubbish dump would be excellent, preferably disused. The aroma would provide great background atmosphere at the showing of some turgid tale of passion, set in Naples. At one end of this plot stands a giant, white-

washed concrete screen some 60 ft. high. Placed in orderly rows are stands like parking meters, each with a clip-on loudspeaker on a flexible lead. The aim is to clip the speaker on the window or inside the car, switch on and listen to the sound track. The first problem is to remember to remove the speaker at the end of the performance. It is normal to see a large number of cars making for the exit at the end of the show with broken and frayed leads dangling out of tightly closed windows. Doubtless many of these stray loudspeakers are put to excellent use as that long overdue extension from the radio to the "loo." The next problem is the exit itself. As the film grinds to its finale one is suddenly involved in a "Le Mans" start with some 250 large and powerful cars trying to beat each other to the exit, designed to accommodate one car at a time. To many this provides the real climax to the whole evening and great skill is required.

To the rear of the open space is the projection room, the hot dog stands, coffee and coke machines. These provide the strong characteristic fumes which overhang the whole proceedings, fine if there is showing a scene of Roman gastronomic debauchery. Not so attractive if in competition with Sophia Loren.

A quick look around the other cars assembling for the film reveals that about one-third consist of families with at least 12 children who evidently cannot afford baby sitters. These kids continually move about the cars like tropical fish in a tank and have to be continually plied with hotdogs, popcorn and soft drinks, so that each parent sees roughly half of any film, spending the rest of the time foraging for their young. The remaining two-thirds are occupied with young couples, with only one obvious aim in mind. Some don't even bother to attach the loudspeakers. As soon as they arrive they commence operations, the windows quickly steam up, effectively cutting them off from view. One's imagination then takes over. An involuntary sounding of the horn, an accidental switching on of headlights, even a sudden turning over of the starting motor, the mind boggles at what must be going on behind those windows. And all this whilst the main feature is trying to compete.

On the night I decided to attend, the main feature was a new style Western, "A Fistful of Dollars" starring a certain Clint Eastwood. He tended to mumble his lines and the action takes place exclusively at night so the screen isn't exactly a blaze of light to start with and the sound is fighting a losing battle. About 15 minutes after the start a rainstorm broke with such violence that the car windows had to be shut. This immediately created our own steaming up problems, so on went the blower. Soon after this I lost all interest in the film and began to surreptitiously try and pierce the mist of the adjoining car windows, both occupied by the young couple brigade. No joy there, so all I had to fall back on was to gaze at the foraging parents who still sludged their weary way to and fro transporting soggy hotdogs to their young. It was about this time that my companion complained himself of acute hunger. I dissuaded him from hotdogs with onions but he insisted on popcorn. American popcorn is not sweet as ours is but is smothered in a butter spray. The car was soon smelling like a bakehouse and the final disturbance came when the bottom of the popcorn bag gave way, depositing about a quarter of a pound of hot liquid butter in his lap. Nasty!

The film finished, the "Le Mans" start left us totally unprepared so we just sat it out for 20 minutes before making our way to the exit. Altogether an unusual educational experience, as the plenty of side interests to occupy one during a dull performance. But give me the cosy intimacy of the local Odeon any day.



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WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT

Training continues steadily at the Depot, and recruits keep drifting in through the gate. The intakes vary with the months, May, June and July being bad recruiting ones. However, August and September brought in a large number of potential soldiers.

We are gradually being equipped to scale as far as weapons are concerned, but transport is our main headache. We are lucky in having the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Honiton, and they are very helpful in lending us transport when needed. Battle training is now fully established, and every month training platoons change over prior to passing out two weeks later. We have not yet moved from Plasterdown to Okehampton, and now it looks as though we shall be firmly based at Plasterdown.

Since the last issue of THE BACK BADGE a number of the permanent staff have moved. Lieutenant Rostron has gone on a six month posting to Aden. Sergeant Matthews has returned to the 1st Battalion as Intelligence Sergeant after two years at the Depot—he will surely be missed in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. He is replaced by Sergeant Edwards. We congratulate Corporal Miller on his promotion to Sergeant, and wish both he and Corporals Linker, Summers and Bostock a successful return to the Battalion. We welcome as their replacements Corporals Shas and Attwood from Hythe and Corporals Evans, Dalton, and Lance-Corporal Franklin from the Battalion.

Corporal Skinner has left the Depot temporarily to go to the Small Arms School at Hythe, and we were also pleased to see Sergeant Keen, Corporals Beach and Wardle at the Depot for a short time on pre-Hythe training.

Corporal Wise has just left on an American Ranger course, and we also congratulate him on getting into the Army 100 at Bisley.

W.O.II Cook and Lance-Corporal Cole have just completed a Boxing Referees Course and the former just missed getting into the Army 100 at Bisley.

Lieutenant Mirehouse has got married since the last issue and is firmly established as a "married pad." We were all very pleased to see Mrs. Streather at the wedding. Lieutenant-Colonel Streather was unable to attend, but was present at the Depot for a short time during the Council of Colonels' Conference.

Last but not least we were pleased to see a detachment of the Battalion down in Exeter putting on a demonstration during the Exeter Army Week. We wish them and all ranks of the Battalion a happy stay in Berlin.



"A" COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) THE WESSEX VOLUNTEERS (T. & A.V.R. II)

"A" Company has now been in existence for a little under six months, but already there is a feeling of permanence and enthusiasm that was frequently lacking in the old T.A.

The Wessex Volunteers as a Battalion has, of course, been far harder to knit together, stretching as it does from Reading to Exeter, but by the end of Camp the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, at least, had got to know each other beyond the stage of being mere names on a nominal roll, and much had been done to foster the idea of a unit.

The pattern of the life we lead has been much the same as that to which territorials have been used, with a fortnight's annual camp, weekend exercises roughly once a month, a range course to fire and regular drill nights. It has been possible, however, to make the Company and platoon training much more imaginative and realistic, with numbers approaching full strength and a more abundant supply of kit. In the latter connection would-be Quarter-Masters, inspired by the news in our last notes, will be impressed to learn that the withdrawn cap-comforters have now been re-issued, accompanied by three pairs of assorted underpants for every man. We are now equipped (next to the skin and below the waist) for the land battle in all parts.

After a couple of weekends on Salisbury Plain to get TsOET and some elementary platoon training under our belts, we went to camp on the 1st July at Stanford P.T.A., Norfolk. At once we found that the administrators, used to being able to accommodate a T.A. Battalion comfortably with enough beds for about one-third of the paper strength, had been left behind the times. Very soon the Companies were overflowing into haphazard and hastily erected tents littered about the camp area. Luckily the weather was on our side, however, and everyone accepted the makeshift conditions with tolerable good grace, although the dining hall still left a number of square feet to be desired.

Camp training was built around two 48-hour schemes, one in each week, and the first of these was designed to practise the Battalion in the occupation of a defensive position and the establishment and attacking of demolition guards. Much time was spent digging, repairing and discussion of slit-trenches and gun-pits, but in between we found time for some patrolling and an attack on the enemy's guarded bridge. We were pleased to be told that the former was generally rather competent, but the latter, founded on a very subtle pincer movement, was frustrated somewhat by the amputation of one of the arms before it reached the objective. The other stormed the bridge with magnificent panache amidst a holocaust of pyrotechnics and saved the prize from destruction; unfortunately the umpires ruled that only two or three would have made it alive, so a certain amount of weight had to be given to the enemy's fanciful boast that he had succeeded in withstanding the onslaught.



"A" Company (Gloucestershire), The Wessex Volunteers (A.V.R. II) at Annual Camp, Stanford, 1967



Annual Camp, Stanford, 1967. Members of "A" Company (Gloucestershire), The Wessex Volunteers



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In the second week we turned to the Internal Security scene, and after a widely acclaimed road-block demonstration the Company was pitched into the rebellious kingdom of Tottinvar on Exercise Mush Tamaam. We were allotted the role of reserve Company, which led to a frustrating time dashing to scenes of unrest to find that either someone had got there first or that the enemy (provided by our own ferocious Support Platoon and those of the rest of the Battalion, aided by mercenaries from the 1st Battalion Recce Platoon) had given up waiting and gone somewhere else. The whole thing was much enlivened, however, by the loan by the R.A.F. of a couple of helicopters, which dashed hither and thither dropping packets of troops to quell the unruly arabs. Unfortunately W.O.II Keitley was dropped to such effect that he had to retire with a damaged ankle, and another casualty was Sergeant Marriott of the Mortar Section, who became so ferocious in an ill-controlled riot that his arm went home in plaster.

Camp over, training which had become somewhat routine, was enlivened by a scheme in September involving a night landing on the Isle of Wight and the snatch of a piece of enemy radar equipment. All went well until our arrival at Portsmouth Dockyard where we found that the Navy had succeeded in ramming a buoy not half an hour before with the very boat which was to have taken us across the Solent. It had not actually sunk (luckily, for there was another Company aboard at the time) but had been forced to retire hurt and a long delay ensued whilst a replacement was found.

At length, we embarked on a R.C.T. General Service Launch, which would have looked quite at home in a fishing fleet. Unfortunately, the Gemini which were to have been used for a beach landing, were no longer available and we had to tie up at a jetty to disembark, much to the chagrin of the beach party who had spent hours cutting down undergrowth to provide a route from the landing area to the road.

When eventually, we reached the objective, the enemy were still there and night was turning into day in a battle of classic proportions, much to the delight, no doubt, of the inhabitants of Ventnor. The attack was triumphant, the snatch was made, and Lieutenant Lintott and his platoon came careering down the road, flushed with success, only to find that they had left the enemy with his radar equipment and captured his dinner instead. After a short parley, however, the matter was set to rights and a formal exchange took place, for it transpired that the enemy had feloniously hidden his prize far from the appointed spot and where he could hardly expect it to be captured. The radar equipment turned out to be a television set of indeterminate age and doubtful effectiveness, but was transported to a hide on Salisbury Plain where all attempts to recapture it were withstood.

And so up to date—now we look forward during the rest of the year to, among other things, a Support Platoon shoot (the first time many will have seen their weapons in action) and some adventure training in Wales (for which we understand No. 2 Platoon have already been secretly training). Who knows, we may even be given the opportunity to go abroad for camp next year, and will certainly look forward to more training of the variety that we have experienced so far.

Finally our thanks must go to the permanent staff, who have successfully guided us round most of the pitfalls, and we extend our welcome to our new P.S.I., Colour-Sergeant Metcalfe, who has just joined us from the D.E.R.R. and, we must confess, still looks faintly bewildered by the whole thing.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion returned to the Home Station from Cyprus in April. Captain Simon Firth (Glosters) was as happy as the waiting wives and families since he had been holding the fort as Rear Party Commander.

In July, the reins of the 1st Battalion were handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Barrett, C.D., by Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Labelle, C.D., who left for England on 27th July to take up his new duties at Canadian Defence Liaison Staff, London, England. In addition to a new Commanding Officer, Major G. F. B. Ritchie, C.D., returned from C.D.L.S. to fill the appointment of Second-in-Command; Major J. E. Knox being posted to C.F.H.Q., Ottawa. W.O.II R. W. Craig, C.D., was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 in August and appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 1st Battalion. Regimental Sergeant-Major K. D. MacKenzie, C.D., after 21 years' continuous service through the ranks with the 1st Battalion, has been posted to E.R.E. duty.

In early August Lieutenant Larry Costello, of the 1st Battalion, won the Province of Ontario Free-Fall Parachute Competition. He now looks forward to competing for the national championship to be held in late August.

The 2nd Battalion continues to serve in Germany under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel B. Baile, C.D. Regimental Sergeant-Major C. E. Hill, C.D., of the 2nd Battalion, recently received his commission and will be returning to the London area. W.O.II J. Juteau, C.D., who has been the Drill Sergeant-Major at the Regimental Depot was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and will assume the duties of Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 2nd Battalion in mid-August.

The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. MacIntosh, has been very busy of late practising and presenting a company precision drill display which included a *feu-de-joie*. This has been their participation in Canada's Centennial Celebrations, and was presented in cities and towns throughout south-western Ontario. This was a most energetic programme for our Militia Battalion which they executed splendidly.

The Regimental Band have been away from Wolseley Barracks since April and will return in October. The Band has been completely committed, along with all other Regular Force Bands, to Centennial Celebrations. To date they have travelled to, and played in, the major cities of Western Canada, and also for a period of two weeks at EXPO in Montreal. Twelve members of the Band and two drummers from the Battalions have been permanent members of Canada's Centennial Tattoo. During the Band's tour of Western Canada they took part in presentation ceremonies of a plaque presented by The Regiment to the city of Dawson, North-west Territories. The plaque commemorates the services of members of The Regiment who served in that city during the "Klondyke Gold Rush" in 1898-1900.

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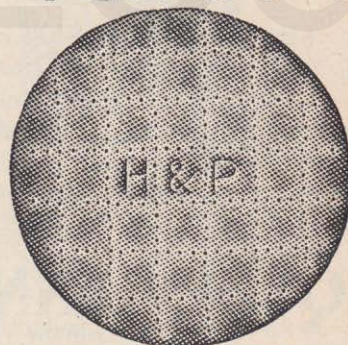
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The Depot has been working to maximum. For the first time since its inception, a group of recruits were despatched to another Depot for recruit training. Our Depot instructors could not possibly have handled the additional load.

Captain R. R. Britton, Curator of our Regimental Museum, has been in contact with an ex-Gloster who fought with the Glosters in the South Africa War. He is Mr. William Bishop, of 149 Home Street, Stratford, Ontario. At the age of 92, Mr. Bishop recalls vividly his service with the Glosters, and enjoyed immensely the reading of past copies of THE BACK BADGE which were loaned to him from the Museum.

The Colonel of The Regiment, Major-General D. C. Spry, C.B.E., D.S.O., C.D., paid an informal visit to another of our Allied Regiments in July, the Jamaica Regiment. An alliance with the Jamaica Regiment was authorised in 1965.

During July, Major F. M. Vine renewed old friendships while attending the 1967 Bisley Competitions as a member of the Canadian team. Other "Royals" on the team were Major R. W. Hampton, C.D., (winner of the 1966 Queen's Prize) and ex-Corporal F. Sonier.

FREE-FALL PARACHUTING

A Personal View by Captain R. J. Bewell

It takes a little time to gain the confidence to leap lightheartedly from an aircraft thousands of feet above the ground and to plummet earthwards supported only by a cushion of air beneath the outstretched body until pulling the ripcord and deploying the parachute 2,000 ft. above the ground. The experience is exhilarating and sexual in its satisfaction. On landing the first desire is to go up again, to fly higher and higher and so fall free for longer and longer.

Fear is a natural partner for the first few descents and in truth it is a little unnatural to leap out of a safe aircraft far above the earth and to fall unsupported most of the way to the ground. There is, however, nothing deviate in the satisfaction from free-falling except perhaps the desire for excess. Gross and almost overpowering fear is soon tempered by confidence in the equipment, the parachute will open and anyway there is a second parachute in reserve, and in one's ability to move and manoeuvre in full control of the body in the freedom of space.

In most descents the time in free-fall is less than one minute but it is rarely possible to make more than one jump in an hour. A quarter hour before the plane takes off the parachutist will dress and put on his equipment. On his feet are French paraboos, calf-length, heavily padded especially round the ankles and with 2-in. thick rubber soles enclosing pockets of air to reduce the shock of landing. He wears a one piece jumpsuit, probably brightly coloured red, white or sometimes yellow, over his everyday clothes. It is made of cotton and wool so as to produce the maximum friction against the air as he falls. On his head a helmet, goggles to protect his eyes and he wears leather gloves which give better control over the air than do bare hands. He wears the main parachute on his back with the ripcord handle against the right or left breast according to his personal preference. The reserve parachute is against his belly and mounted on its pack is an altimeter and a stopwatch.

The instructor or an experienced parachutist checks each man before he boards the aircraft to see that his equipment is correctly assembled and fitted. For the parachutist

the next 15 or 30 minutes are dull while the aircraft, probably a 30-year-old DH Rapide, popular for its economy, which carries nine parachutists, chugs slowly to its ceiling to give the parachutist the longest time in free-fall. Exit from the aircraft can be stable and steady leaping backwards from the wing or more normally the experienced parachutist dives straight out through the door.

Terminal velocity in a spread and stable position is 194 ft./second or about 120 m.p.h. and it takes 10 to 12 seconds to reach this speed. This period can be regarded just as preparation for the descent proper as one is travelling too slowly to do any manoeuvres well. I normally dive straight out of the aircraft and do three or four somersaults before taking up a stable position shortly before reaching terminal velocity. One can also drop from the aircraft and lie on one's back watching it fly away and the other parachutists exit or occasionally take up a stable position straight away.

Once he has reached terminal velocity the parachutist can manoeuvre easily and quickly remaining throughout in full control of his movements and able to change his heading or the attitude of his body at will. People have fallen standing upright and marching down through the sky, in a ball their arms clasping their knees or resting, relaxed on their back. The standard manoeuvres are flat turns, face to earth, to right or left and forward or backward loops. A good backloop, smooth, progressive with a final thrust over the top is climatic in its satisfaction. There is little sensation of falling, and floating in space with the pull of gravity apparently absent, loops, somersaults and turns are easy.

For me the most exhilarating manoeuvre is "tracking." Instead of falling in a stable position one forms an aerofoil with the body and flies forward. Head up and reaching forward, shoulders hunched, legs straight and toes pointed, arms reaching down towards the feet and the body is bent at the waist. One is conscious of flying forward very quickly like an arrow towards the target, in a good track speeds of 200 m.p.h. can be reached. In the exhilaration of flying and with the reality of great speed it is easy to understand how F.G.A. pilots sometimes suffer from a fatal target fixation.

As a sport free-falling has the spice of danger and the exhilaration of successfully overcoming one's fears and the elements. It should appeal to all virile males.

A SECONDED TOUR IN SOUTH ARABIA

BY MAJOR M. A. GILMORE

I have been asked to write about South Arabia. To do this in general terms would get me involved in the history and politics of the area, both of which are complicated and, to my mind probably very difficult to understand fully. I will therefore tell a little of my personal experiences outside Aden in the other Federated States, as they were.

After completing two months on a language course in Aden I was sent as British Major to the 4th Battalion of the Federal Regular Army for training at Ataq which is in the Upper Aulaqu Sheikdom, about 180 miles from Aden in a north-easterly direction. The camp is just outside the town and, I found, well within earshot of the loudspeakers of the town mosque which were used at 4 a.m. for the call to prayer. I arrived there at the beginning of April. The weather was very comfortable at night, and I slept under two blankets. I was the only British Officer and, as such, resided in state in one half of a typical Arab fort. The rest was used for the Battalion headquarters, above which

lived the Arab commanding officer. My bedroom was in one turret and I had an office in another. Between these was a bath-house built against the ramparts while on the ground floor was my ante-room and dining room. Close by was a small kitchen.

Ataq itself is a small town in the middle of a sandy plain. There is a rough airstrip which runs up to the edge of the camp and most of our supplies and men came up on Dakotas of Aden Airways (now deceased) or R.A.F. Beverley, though the latter were then rare.

After only four days at Ataq I left with the Battalion's advance party for Mukeiras. A few of those who were in Aden in 1956 may remember Mukeiras and some of "B" Company managed to visit it in 1966. Here the comfort was much improved. As the Mukeiras plateau is at about 7,000 ft. the weather is never too hot and in winter frosts are not unknown. The camp which the 28th/61st used in 1956 was still the British Camp, mostly tented, but the F.R.A. had a new one rather nearer the town. A lot of building had been done, and there were three Company sized, two-storey buildings.

The British F.R.A. other ranks had a building for a Mess, though when we arrived there was a troop of R.H.A. guns in the camp and the stone buildings was a Sergeants' Mess only. Later, as a result of grenades being thrown into British Messes in the Beiha area, the R.H.A. moved into the British camp and we got the stone building to ourselves.

I took over the British Officers' Mess which had been the government rest house. The gunner troop officers also lived there. This building was built round three sides of a small courtyard, which contained an ever-flowering garden tended by the Arab Sergeant Mess Steward, a local man, who was also a first-class cook. The C.O. of 1st R.H.A. considered this the best hotel east of Suez. The garrison command post had been built on the roof of the Mess so when things happened in the middle of the night one had not far to go.

Although Mukeiras is only four miles from the Yemen frontier and only ten from the regional Yemini capital of Bayda we did not have much trouble while I was there. The previous January, the Russian guns in Bayda had fired on Mukeiras but our own artillery had retaliated and I heard that, due to the success of this retaliation, the Yemini gunners refused to fire on Mukeiras a second time when later ordered to do so by the Governor of Bayda on some pretext. During the revolt in the Bayda district in June 1966 we could hear the guns and small arms in Bayda, and Mukeiras was used as the rest centre by anti-government faction.

In May I accompanied a Company group patrol to a place called Martah, about 20 miles north-east along the frontier. The road through the mountains was extremely poor and the journey out took about three hours. On the way back we had to stop my Land Rover, which was halfway down the column, to re-lay the road before we could pass. The previous vehicles in the convoy had pulled out the stones laid to make a rough track passable. On this trip we had steering trouble with the 105 mm. artillery gun which had to finish the journey being towed.

This patrol was good practice for an operation we carried out in July. We were all set for another patrol, more for training than anything else, when we had a warning order in the evening to cancel the patrol and set off at 4 a.m. to a point about 40 miles away in Fadhli State. The exact purpose was not then clear. The first problem was the descent of the escarpment to the Lodar Plain. This meant using the Thirra Pass which we reached while it was still dark. The pass is a road only about five years old

and is unsurfaced and mainly of single vehicle width. It drops 3,000 ft. in a horizontal distance of two miles, with some 52 bends, most of which are hairpins. Our first hazard was meeting some civilian vehicles coming up. However, all got down safely, though the soldiers who rode in 3-tonners got out and walked.

We arrived at the site of the incident around 10 a.m. to find the excitement about over. Two sub-tribes had been fighting, over a girl I was told, and the final score was a total of 22 dead and some 19 wounded. This was the highest casualty list for one battle ever recorded in South Arabia up to that date. We arranged the evacuation of casualties by helicopter to Aden and then stayed on till next morning until both sides had given the Sultan hostages against their good behaviour. While talks were going on to persuade one side to bring in its hostages, I was asked if I could do any demolitions, thinking of 2-in. mortar bombs and grenades, I said I could. However, fortunately, I was not called upon, for I discovered that the task would have been to blow up the houses of those who delayed in sending hostages.

While at Mukeiras we had one or two vehicles blown up on mines. Unfortunately, in one case, two British soldiers were killed in one incident. The mine had been very well placed in a pool of water in a rut made at a point where a Land Rover's wheels had to go over it due to the surrounding rocks.

By September I was posted out of the Battalion and finished my tour in a variety of jobs as a staff officer in the Army Headquarters, British Major with a Federal Guard Battalion while it retrained as an Infantry unit because of the expansion of the army, and Liaison Staff Officer with a new area headquarters. This last job was most interesting, as the headquarters had to be started from nothing, I found myself writing 400 indents for stores, negotiating for ground and arguing with Records for soldiers and works departments for buildings. However, with help from a very good Arab Staff Sergeant and my Corporal clerk from The Queen's Own Hussars, we opened our doors for business on time.

In conclusion, I would say that it is a great pity that jobs such as those with Arab Battalions are disappearing. The majority of N.C.O.s, of all Regiments, who served with me up country enjoyed themselves immensely. They had a great deal more responsibility than they would have normally had and gained a great deal of experience.

BROWNE AT BAROSSA

At one stage during the Peninsular War when the French were besieging Cadiz it was decided to attack the besiegers from the rear, and an allied force of British and Spanish set out from Algeciras, near Gibraltar, to do so. Unhappily command of this enterprise was given to a Spanish general, and he, being utterly incompetent, not only succeeded in alerting the French as to his intentions, but also thoroughly tired out the column under his command by senseless marching across country under the most fatiguing conditions.

At dawn on the 5th March, 1811, the head of his column had reached a lonely feature known as Barossa hill on the coastal track and only four miles from the defences of Cadiz. But the men had been on the march for seventeen hours without food or rest, and the baggage column was spread out over many miles. General Graham, the Commander of the two British brigades in the column, was anxious to hold the Barossa feature in strength to cover the passing of the baggage and the subsequent operations, but the Spaniard

insisted that they should press on leaving only a temporary rearguard on Barossa hill.

The British element of this rearguard consisted of Colonel Browne's battalion of flankers, the grenadier and light companies of the 9th, 28th, and 82nd Regiments, and a squadron of Hanoverian cavalry, while on his left were a number of Spanish battalions and cavalry. Hardly had the tail of the main column disappeared into the woods behind them when the German Hussars reported that a whole French division was advancing towards Barossa hill from the far side and that a regiment of French cavalry was also advancing along the coastal road.

No sooner had the commander of the Spanish rearguard learnt this than he began to withdraw his troops from the feature, leaving Browne indignantly remonstrating at this decision. To the Spaniard's question what did he propose to do he replied "What do I intend to do, Sir? I intend to fight the French. I shall stop where I am, for it shall never be said that John Frederick Browne ran away from the post which his General ordered him to defend."

By this time the French cavalry had turned directly towards the flank battalion and Browne formed his companies into square. Riding round them he called out "Be steady my boys: reserve your fire until they are within ten paces, and they will never penetrate you." Almost exactly ten years earlier he had been with the 28th at Alexandria and remembered the effect on cavalry of a well timed volley.

But just before the French horsemen closed on the square, the German Hussars swept by and gallantly took them on although vastly superior in numbers, charging them through and through till they were dispersed. The dark blue mass of French infantry was now coming up the far side of the hill and a second mass was visible beyond it, a second division. Browne, realising he couldn't remain for long in his present position, now withdrew his battalion down to the bottom of the hill and across a ravine, where he thought he would be more secure from attack. At the same time he sent an urgent message back to General Graham for help.

As soon as the latter had received Browne's news he counter-marched his tired division back along the track towards Barossa, and sent Browne's messenger galloping back to him. "What did the General say?" called Browne as he arrived. "Fight!" was the laconic reply "just fight!" This the Colonel was perfectly happy to do, and when a little later he saw the General emerging from the woods in rear he called out "Hurrah, flankers: here comes Graham and the Guards. I will insure you all now for half a dollar, by God!"

Meanwhile one of Graham's staff officers had spotted something red amongst the trees, and recognised it as Browne's Battalion: Graham came galloping up and said: "Browne! did I not give you orders to defend Barossa hill?" "Yes, sir, but you would not have me fight the whole French army with 470 men?" and went on to tell the General of the rapid withdrawal of the Spaniards.

"It's a bad business, Browne, you must instantly turn round and attack." "Very well," said the Colonel, "am I to attack in extended order as flankers or as a close battalion?" "In open order," was the reply, and the General turned away to give orders to his Brigades.

But in a moment he was back again: he had decided to sacrifice his flank battalion in order to make time to deploy his division. "I must show something more serious than skirmishing," he said, "close the men into compact order." "That I will do with

pleasure," said Browne, "for it is more in my line than light-bobbing." The order to close was immediately blown out on the bugle and Colonel Browne rode in front of his battalion, and taking off his hat said in a loud clear voice: "Gentlemen, I am happy to be the bearer of good news! General Graham has done you the honour of being the first to attack those fellows. Now follow me, you bare-arsed blackguards (an allusion to the tattered uniforms which they all wore). If you don't kill them they will kill you."

He pointed to the enemy now clearly visible on the skyline, and giving the order to advance he led the way on his large Spanish horse, humming his favourite tune—a sea-shanty, "Now cheer up my brave lads! to glory we steer."

Browne's orders to his companies were that they should not fire a shot but were to get to work as soon as possible with the bayonet, but as soon as they crossed the ravine close to the base of the hill and formed on the opposite side they were greeted with a tremendous roar of cannon from a battery of eight guns and by the musketry of a whole French division. Nearly 200 men and more than half his officers went down at the first volley. Whilst steadily closing the gaps they received a second volley which dropped another 50 men and the survivors then took cover behind trees and rocks and began to return the enemy's fire. Colonel Browne and his horse miraculously were unharmed by this hail of lead.

Meanwhile Graham's division was rapidly deploying after it emerged from the woods and advanced in two lines of battalions, for the second French division was now visible on the crest of the Barrosa ridge.

There was nothing more that Browne could do to influence the battle, for what were left of his flankers were now rooted to the ground firing, so he rode off to join the Guards who were about to attack on his right flank.

A little later the 28th came into action on the extreme left of the British line and were soon heavily engaged with the advancing French. An amusing story is told by Lieutenant Hope of the 92nd: some officers of another corps expressed doubts as to the 28th being able to repel the assault of so superior a force of enemy. "Major Browne, who so well knew what the Bragg Slashers could do, offered to bet 30 dollars to one that the 28th would thrash the rascals soundly," but the bet was declined. Soon after, the situation seemed to get worse, but Browne pulled out his purse and holding it up cried, "This purse of gold to a doubloon—the Bragg Slashers will lick them yet." The bet being taken and the 28th having seen off their enemy, he coolly collected his bet.

Browne was already established in the Army as a "character" and his exploits on Barossa hill must have gone the rounds in army messes for some time to come, for all the above-quoted conversation pieces are recorded in one or other officer's journals of the Peninsular War.

A year earlier Browne, who was the Regimental Major of the 28th, had been appointed to command a detached force in the Moorish town of Tarifa, about 25 miles west of Gibraltar, where his task was to harry the foraging parties of the French army besieging Cadiz. There at Tarifa he gained the nickname of "Il Commandante Loco," the Mad Major, because of his unusual habits. The signoras of the town had a justified reputation of great beauty, but they had the annoying habit of covering their faces, Moorish fashion, with their mantillas when they walked in the streets, so that only one provocative eye was visible to the passer by.

Naturally enough this intrigued the gallant Major and he conceived the rather un-

gentlemanly habit of pulling aside the ladies' mantillas with the crook of his stick as he rode by them. It was soon all taken in good part however, and after a time the fair ladies unveiled at his approach as a mark of exclusive favour to Il Commandante.

John Frederick Browne was first commissioned into the 28th in 1781 at the remarkably early age of 14, but it was not for another 14 years that he first saw action, and from then on for the next 20 years he experienced little else. In 1795 he served with the Regiment in the Duke of York's disastrous campaign in the Low Countries: within a year he was in the West Indies at the capture of St. Lucia and Granada. Two years later he was mentioned in Naval despatches for "spirited conduct" when the ship in which he happened to be travelling in the Mediterranean was attacked by a privateer, and in the same year he was present at the capture of Minorca.

When the 28th sailed for Egypt in 1801 Browne was commanding the Grenadier Company, and he distinguished himself at the landing at Aboukir by successfully charging two guns which were greatly troubling the Regiment.

On return to England from Egypt the 28th was sent on expeditions to north Germany, Denmark and Sweden, in all of which our gallant Major was involved.

In 1809, when the 28th fought as rearguard throughout the fearful winter retreat to Corunna, Browne was already a character in the Regiment and Lieutenant Cadell records in his journal that when the evacuation took place, all the horses and mules had to be left behind as there was no means of getting them onto the transports; but Major Browne, with characteristic initiative, traded his horse with a Spaniard in exchange for a pig.

Unhappily his forethought was not rewarded for the pig was taken on board one ship and he found himself on another.

Following the return from Corunna came the disastrous expedition to Walcheren in the Low Countries where the Regiment was decimated with fever; then in 1810 Browne, still the Regimental Major, accompanied it to Gibraltar where he received brevet rank to command at Tarifa. In 1812 he transferred to the 56th Foot, but came back to command the 28th after Waterloo and continued in command for 11 years, serving in the Ionian Islands, off Greece, and in Australia.

He was of course hard drinking, hard swearing and hard living in the fashion of those turbulent times, and on the evidence of Sergeant Teesdale of the 28th, he was a merciless flogger, also according to the fashion of those days. But he had his soft side too, as we hear in the story of a soldier's wife accompanying the Regiment during the Corunna retreat, when he intervened to save her sick child from death.

But if he was all these things he was above all a great and gallant fighter, and to quote from an article which appeared in the *United Service Journal* in 1844. "In the 28th they used familiarly to call him 'Mad John Browne' from his volatility and lively temper. Though not without a dash of the eccentric, a braver soldier never un-sheathed a sword. If he was 'mad' it had been well if some amongst our valiants had been bitten by him."

SERVICE MEMORIES BY MAJOR A. H. D. WALLACE

This is my first attempt at writing anything for publication, therefore I shall have to tread carefully. This is going to be the lighter side of my memories and if any readers recall and were involved in any incident, I hope you will forgive me and take it in good part.

I enlisted at Bristol on 30th September, 1920. The Depot training was fairly tough as so much had to be covered in 12 weeks. It did not come too hard with me, however, since I had previously gained experience in drill and weapon training as a cadet. My Squad Sergeant had served in France in the 1914-18 War. He was a tough, knowledgeable N.C.O. His favourite subject was bayonet fighting—he loved the “training stick.” I remember receiving the wet, muddy, padded end of the stick in my left eye during one instructional period; what a lovely black eye I had next day.

At the end of training, I joined the 1st Battalion at Kilworth, Co. Cork, in Ireland. Those were days of trouble with I.R.A. I remember being turned out fully armed on the first night of my arrival. It was my luck to be in the leading section of the Advanced Guard Platoon. I was scared to hell. We moved through the night and took up positions. At first light I looked to see who was on my right. It was an old soldier, due for discharge and known as a March man. He asked me my name, and to my reply “Wallace,” he said, “Oh!—another Granny,” and this nickname is still sticking to this day. I was later transferred to duty guarding prisoners and was issued with a Webley revolver and 12 rounds of ammunition, and then shown how to handle it. For safety’s sake—mine, or theirs I wonder?—a piece of cardboard was put under the hammer. When escorting prisoners on the move, I often wondered what would happen if they made a break. Luckily no attempt was ever made. The Battalion now moved to an even more active area around Kanturk and here we were billeted in the workhouse. On the alarm sounding, it was a matter of dashing out with your rifle, ammunition and bicycle and joining up with whoever was already on the square. No equipment and no question of correct dress here.

Following a truce with I.R.A. I was posted back to the Depot and became third waiting man for a draft to India. On our “ready” day we were inspected by a Guards General who asked me if I would like to transfer to the Guards (I was 6 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in.). I replied that I would rather stay with my County Regiment.

I was not required to proceed overseas in the end, and joined the 1st Battalion at Tidworth. Here I was made Sergeants’ Mess cook (I couldn’t even boil an egg). I learned fast under the expert supervision of the caterer’s wife, and thanks to her teaching can still serve up a good cooked meal.

After a short stay in Tidworth we moved to Upper Silesia. Here we were turned out late one night, and did a long march to Brobeck. Tanks were moving with us and I slipped and fell in front of one but was rescued in the nick of time.

The Battalion later moved to Cologne, where I became Sergeants’ Mess barman. Here we were rich because the German mark was so low in value. We received about 1,200 marks to the pound. Taxis lined up each night to take us to the best hotels where we wine and dined well. All good things must come to an end, however, and we left Cologne for Aldershot. I was now unpaid Lance-Corporal, and successfully completed a N.C.O.s training Cadre, following which I was sent back to the Depot for a tour of duty. I enjoyed the next five years instructing recruits. It was a busy period, but there was a lot of variety including sports. It was during this time that the first Old Soldiers’ Reunion was organised by our C.O. What a day that was—plenty of food and drink for everyone, and I believe some Old Soldiers made it last two or three days.

My tour at the Depot ended, I rejoined the Battalion at Portland as a Corporal. From here I attended a Referees and Judges course at the A.P.T.S., Aldershot, and passed.

Back at the Battalion I took over the gym, but this was really not my line at all. I volunteered for and was sent on an M.G. Course at Netheravon. I really had a good slice of luck here. One day I was No. 2 on an exercise watched by staff officers and other spectators. We had to cross from a hedgerow over a piece of open country and get the gun in action behind a small ridge. Following my No. 1 and on going through the hedge, the muzzle of the gun was caught in brambles and pulled down against my left leg, the traversing handle against my left shoulder. I managed to grab the piece where the cross-head-joint pin passed through, and galloped on. From this "accident" I believe the method was later taught at the M.G. school.

My next posting was to Egypt, land of sand, flies and dirty streets. I was still with M.G. and it was here I learned that mules were harder to come by than soldiers. It was not permitted to run them in the heat. I learned a lot in Egypt, but was not sorry some time later to move to Singapore. What a change this city was with its clean streets, green trees, grass and jungle. By this time I was a full Sergeant and my stay was brief. I returned to the Depot for a tour of duty and then two years later joined the Battalion in India.

Following a successful small arms course at Pachmari I was appointed Sergeant Instructor of Musketry and became also A/C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company. We worked hard to improve the standard of shooting. The miniature range was opened almost every evening, and firing occurred daily on the open ranges. At the end of the Normal Range Course that year, shooting had improved tremendously, and for the first time in years everyone was a 2nd Class shot or better.

The Small Arms School now applied for me and I took up duties as Staff Sergeant Instructor, having obtained a "Distinguished." This continued for three years.

I rejoined the Battalion at Wellington where I gained promotion to C.S.M. We trained hard and played hard and my company won the boxing and rugby shields and did very well at cricket, hockey and in Battalion sports days. In November 1938 we moved to Rangoon, Burma, and here my company was on detachment at Sale Barracks in the city whilst the main body of the Battalion was at Mingaladon, some 12 miles north. One incident worthy of note was that my company was selected to carry out a raid on a pagoda in collaboration with the police. This was completely successful and unique in that they were the first British troops to enter a pagoda for over a hundred years.

I was nearing the end of my service, and the C.O. decided that I should be sent back to the Depot to fill a W.O.II vacancy. I had just settled in when war was declared. General mobilisation followed, and we were kept very busy.

Some time later I was selected as a potential officer and concluded a course at Bulford Camp. On commissioning I joined the Worcestershire Regiment, where during the war I went from Lieutenant to Major in 18 months.

I am still a "Gloster" at heart and enjoy very much the reunions. I have no regrets. My thanks are due to many Officers, W.O.s and Other Ranks for their many kindnesses and help. Mine were happy days, never to be forgotten.

GRANNY

EXTRACTS FROM 61st REGIMENTAL ORDER BOOKS

2nd June, 1800. Cape Town.

The following prisoners have been tried by a General Court Martial of which Captain Bowyer is president, viz., David Robinson, private 61st confined by Captain Smith, 81st, for neglect of duty. The Court having found the prisoner guilty of the crime laid to his charge sentence him to receive 500 in the usual manner.

William Johnstone and Benjamin Green, privates 61st, confined by Sergeant Millward 61st for being drunk on the slave Lodge Guard. The Court having found the prisoners guilty of the crime laid to their charge sentence them to receive 500 lashes each.

Major General Dundas approves the foregoing sentences and directs them to be put in execution tomorrow morning at Nine o'clock, at which hour the Guards will parade in the Great Barrack Square. The Surgeon of the 61st and Drummers of the Garrison to attend.

21st July, 1800. Cape Town.

Lieutenant-Colonel Barlow was much surprised to see Ensign Eliot when the Regiment was under Arms at the evening parade yesterday, sitting under the archway, and still more so to find Ensign Eliot was Subaltern of the day.

Such very unmilitary conduct Lieutenant-Colonel Barlow attributes to the youth and inexperience of the Ensign, but he cannot refrain from expressing his marked disapprobation of the disrespectful and improper behaviour of Ensign Eliot when spoken to by the Commanding Officer. This he inclined to impute to the causes already assigned, of the Ensign's unmilitary conduct, and although no officer can hold himself exempted from falling in with his Company when he is literally on parade, still the Commanding Officer will not fully explain this subject.

In order to accommodate the Officers as far as appeared to him possible the attendance of one only per Company was admitted at the evening parade, but that indulgence could never for a moment be supposed to extend to any gentleman who had not some engagement or business to occasion his absence. Lieutenant-Colonel Barlow concludes this Order by again expressing his disapprobation of the whole of Ensign Eliot's conduct, and seriously cautions him against a repetition of it.

11th March, 1829. Chatham.

Officers Commanding Companies are held responsible that no more women are permitted in their Barrack Rooms than the regulations authorize, viz. six women to every 100 men, or, one woman to each room of 16 men.

In selecting their women, the officers will take care that they are such as will be most useful for the comfort and cleanliness of their companies, changing them as often as they may find it necessary.

14th December, 1843. Dublin.

The Commanding Officer calls attention to the Horse Guards Memorandum on the subject of wearing long hair and whiskers; he more particularly directs Lieutenant

Dobson's attention to it with the view of his immediately complying with the instructions therein contained.

24th December, 1844. Cork.

Every article of a soldier's necessaries, which is capable of receiving a mark, is to be marked with indelible ink, with the owner's name, etc., number, the date of issue, the letter of the Company, number of the Regiment, thus:—

1064
T. ATKINS
k.61st Regt. 3/44.

"OH, TO BE IN ENGLAND"

Dear Sir,

I read your latest White Paper with great interest as did, no doubt, many others, and all of us "got the message." You want us all to soldier in England with the occasional trip abroad, and as I understand it, the object of the exercise is to save money. You may not realise that your proposals will aggravate an already unsatisfactory situation and, I thought you may be interested to know, from a very low level, what soldiering in England is like *now*, and leave you to guess what it will be like when your proposals take effect.

In my Battalion H.Q., which I am sure is typical of most, we have had dealings with no less than 17 superior Headquarters since January this year. This may not sound impressive to you but, unfortunately for us, each of these Headquarters thought that the job it was asking us to do was just what we had been waiting for. In fact, after we had experienced a few examples of these "plums," we were just sitting around hoping—no: praying—that Graham Bell's infernal invention would remain dormant on its hook.

Now, let me say right from the start that some of the jobs *have* been interesting, for example we were called upon to find a 9-in. steel bolt in a 50-ton batch of self-raising flour with a mine detector. Some careless employee had inadvertently dropped it and the firm felt that their image would suffer if Mrs. Higginbottom in Wigan found the object in her half pound bag of "finest ground, non-lumpy, self-raising flour." Other jobs have not been so interesting or worthwhile, for instance, the T.A. job. You may remember that you saw fit to dispense with this splendid body of men: they finally went in April and you thought that was that. For us this was not the case. A group of those "splendid chaps" in our area disbanded rather untidily and we were invited to send a large body of Regular soldiers to their last known position and clear up, as they had not only failed to clean up their drill hall but they had inadvertently left a large supply of live ammunition lying around for the kiddie-winkies to amuse themselves with when they got bored with their bicycles and dolls. Later on in the year, a similar job of cleaning up after the great British public had attended one of our army displays, employed a whole Company for a week. We certainly made our contribution to the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign.

In addition to the sort of jobs I have mentioned above we have cooked and driven for the Army Cadet Force, we have supplied "enemy" for the T. & A.V.R. and, as a final insult to our pride, we now find ourselves marking targets and running ranges for the

local T. & A.V.R. rifle meeting. We were invited to compete ourselves but the Headquarters concerned had overlooked the minor fact that we had handed over all our rifles to another unit. Then there was that fellow who was ingenious enough to escape from one of Her Majesty's Prisons. We soon found ourselves chasing our own shadows over the steep and wet hills of Wales, to the accompaniment of wild, unintelligible cries from the natives.

And what of the implications in the White Paper of means of employing the Army on suitable civil projects which are being actively investigated? Are we to provide a cheap labour force for further extensions to the M6? Or perhaps act as a litter collection squad after a hectic August Bank Holiday at Blackpool?

Mind you, it's not like this all the year. We had a six weeks Battalion training period at the end of last year and we went to Cyprus to caretake for a Battalion when they went to North Africa for three weeks training. One of our Companies went to America and another opened the Isle of Man Parliament so there have been whole days when we really thought it was a "man's life" of "travel and adventure."

Now, what you propose in your White Paper is that *more* time will be spent in England providing a convenient pool of uncomplaining labour for anybody who wants a dirty job done and I'm sure that you will agree with me that this is precisely what an Infantry Battalion is in England today—a pool of uncomplaining labour. Whether by design or accident I know not.

May I suggest some alternatives to your White Paper, which, although they may be not acceptable on the grounds of expense (just tell yourself "the days of the great spenders aren't over yet")—would be far more acceptable to us in the army, and incidentally would make those public spirited members of the public who don't like the "army" living next door much happier.

I would most humbly suggest that you retain our bases in Cyprus, Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and Germany and station all British troops in those places. You would have to keep a skeleton staff at the Ministry of Defence I suppose, but for those of us who want to be soldiers we would prefer to move around the bases about once every six years. We would be quite reconciled to finding ourselves on a nine month unaccompanied tour in England.

I would ask you to give this proposal your most serious attention.

Yours most sincerely,

A FEATHERED FRIEND.

6 impasse Voisin,
76 Moromm,
France.

4th July, 1967.

Dear Sir,

Just a line or two to let you know I am still going strong, and often think of all the many great friends I had in the 61st and the many happy years spent amongst them.

At present I am occupying myself as Vice-Chairman and Delegate of the British Legion amongst the French and Belgian ex-service associations. I am a Committee member also of the Comité de la Fêtes de La Victorie, and again on the Committee of the Inter-Allies. You will be able to judge I am pretty busy with all this. On the 26th

August the landing of Lord Lovat's Commando will be celebrated at St. Marguerite-Sur-Mer (near Dieppe). Colonel Furby is organising this with Le Havre, Dieppe and Rouen Branches assisting. I also have the pleasure to announce to you that to my great surprise, on the 11th June at a big Allied ex-Servicemen's assembly, the French authorities once again decorated me with the Chevalier e l'Orde de Merite (Valeur Militaire). Naturally I feel proud of this not only for myself, but for my old Regiment. You may rely on me to send you a photo copy of both Medal and Diploma as soon as I can. I would like to have a copy of the June BACK BADGE.

Once again wishing you Dear Sir and all members of the glorious Regimental Association my very Best Wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

LOUIS ROUX,

ex-4972 Bandsman (61st).

AN OLD SOLDIER REMEMBERS

It is with pleasure I refer to your treasured letter of 22nd November, 1966, and to let you know I am as fit and as well as ever, and that is how I trust you and all your staff are.

I guess this will interest you: I happened to be in Bedfordshire with my daughter and her family when the Summer 1967 edition of THE BACK BADGE reached me and with it arrived a letter which to my great delight came from Mr. Frank Halliday, Regimental number 9177. Frank was one of my brother's pals in "B" Company, 2nd Glosters from 1908 and throughout the First World War until both of them and I were drafted to the 1st Battalion in 1915. Frank came into my Company, "D" Company, in the 1st Battalion.

So on Sunday last the wife and I took a trip from Ware in Hertfordshire to Eltham in Kent to spend a surprise afternoon and evening with Frank and his dear wife, now 80 years of age, but who, thank God, is very alert and active for her age. It was indeed a most encouraging and delightful time spent together, and oh, what a "refresher" almost like being back in the old "Mob"—but—what a mob! I'd be back with them tomorrow if I could. Unfortunately Frank is a little on the frail side at present owing to a shock but let's hope that will pass away.

Maybe readers of THE BACK BADGE will remember my brother Perce (Corporal Purton Gibbs, 8528, "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, and Machine Gun Section the 1st Battalion). I have tried to find Jim Price, clarinet player, Band 2nd Battalion 1908 onward, also Fred Rapkins (clarinet player), "Fatty" Lowe (trombone) and Charlie Shorter (euphonium player). I had all letters returned—Fred Rapkins has passed on, but I know not the whereabouts of the other lads. We were all on boys' service together.

Whilst I think of it, I took my own son and daughter to an "Open Day" at what was the Artillery Barracks in our time at Portsmouth some time back, and to my surprise I noticed the brass buttonstick. I do not know who patented that, but whoever he was, he was not the rightful originator. If Mr. Bert Peters reads this he could soon prove whose idea that was. We were at Clepon Camp, Belgium, awaiting the day to board those "little monitors" lying in the Channel, to do the Zeebrugge stunt, but owing to a

Sergeant of a certain mob absconding to the other side, we had to move on. Whilst there Bert and I were clearing up and tidying our equipment and it was then I planned and imagined a buttonstick and Bert suggested I get the Armourer Sergeant to cut one out in brass or metal and send it in. Owing to the quick move on, I saw no more and remembered no more of that "copy" until I actually handled it on that "open day" so many years later. Like life—strange, isn't it?

Well now, I'm more than sure many of the "lads" are still "knocking about," so maybe we will have other contacts. Maybe if "Tug" Wilson, who was a schoolmaster at Gravesend reads this he will recall me giving him a few helping hands whilst I was awaiting Draft to 1st Battalion. "Tug" later came into "D" Company with Captain Seldon and no doubt will remember "Laughy" Mayton and I as Company "Runner." When the Battalion finally landed at Palmersheim, Germany, I was chosen to become batman to Colonel Tweedie. Lance-Corporal Evans and I had selected digs together at Oddendorf, the next village. Should L.C. read this, he will remember quite well how the "ole boy" pulled the sides of bacon out of that oven down the back yard. He'll also remember Barbara Eichen who lived next door, whose mother was the tailoress. I do not know, but it would be interesting to learn how many English lads married German lassies. My messenger, whom I had attached at Keil many years later, certainly married one.

Well, I wish you, the staff and all "Back Badgers" the very best of health and good luck. God bless one and all.

JOHNNIE GIBBS, ex-9132

2 New Parade,
Worthing,
Sussex.

25th July, 1967.

Dear Sir,

As one who was not allowed to fight—I could not pass the doctor in 1914, though at my seventh effort in 1917 I talked a medical board over—I hesitate to take up your time, even though this letter is not intended for publication.

The passing of the 5th Battalion, T.A. and particularly the deaths of W. A. Tibbles and R. M. Armstrong make somewhat sad reading, yet call for pride and thanks. The "Milestones" article is excellent, though I must join issue with the writer who suggests (top of Page 419) that "we firmly retained our rifle drill and rate of march." We dressed as "riflemen" and were nicknamed "rifles," but that was all. We did not march at 140 with rifles at the trail. We moved as Glosters at the slope, and we were Glosters except for the back badge to which we were not entitled. I joined "E" Company, 2nd V.B.G.R. in 1906 and was on parade at the unveiling of the South African War Memorial in Cheltenham Promenade (1907 or early 1908). In 1908 I was picked for the Guard of Honour to Lord Roberts at Pittville, Cheltenham. I was one of those lining the route for H.M. King Edward VII in Bristol when he opened the Avonmouth dock, and on Salisbury Plain we marched past Sir Ian Hamilton at the slope (and were complimented by him).

Personally I owe much to the two or three years training I had before I left Cheltenham. In 1917 even Caterham held no terrors for me, and I was gazetted to the Glosters just before the end of World War I.

In this issue of THE BACK BADGE I was also delighted to see a photo which I do not remember seeing before. It faces Page 423 and I recognise Billy Tibbles and my late brother S. C. A. Dix, when they were Sergeants in "L" (the cyclist) Company in 1906.

Forgive my having bothered you, Sir, but I had to thank you for that photo, and I'm sure my late brother would have wished me to make the remarks I made about the old drill.

Do not trouble to answer, either, because I've already taken too much of your time.

Finally, Sir, my best wishes to you and all Glosters, and I hope the Regiment somehow maintains its identity in spite of any new legislation.

Yours very sincerely,
W. L. DIX.

10 Montroy Close,
Henleaze,
Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol.
6th August, 1967.

Dear Sir,

It will interest you to know that my grandfather, Mr. R. J. Walker, a very old member of the Association has recently moved house.

His 87th birthday is this week (11th August) and he tells me he would like to attend the "do's" you arrange, but getting there and back is his difficulty.

His Association No. is probably 817 and he now lives at 9 Dickens Close, Horfield, Bristol 7, with his wife.

Yours faithfully,
RICK BONATHAN.

ENGLISH AS SHE WAS ROTE

Topoth (top of the) Knot Herwood,
June 11th,
1849

Mr. Benson,

I take the oportuanety of riting these fue linese to you i wish to in forme you that I am a man that has purches (purchased) my discharge from the 28th regment my name his Robert Haslam and i got my Discharge on the 24th of April and I lefte som money in the Regmental Saving Bank you tolde me ser that you wod remit the money after me in a wek or a fornite and I hav not resaved (received) aney and i whod be verely much a bliched (obliged) to you ser if you whod take plesor of send it to me for I ham very much of whate (want) of hit.

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The Officers' Association was formed by the late Field-Marshal Earl Haig in 1919 for the purpose of promoting the welfare of all those who have, at any time, held a Commission in our Naval, Military and Air Forces and of the wives, widows, children and dependants of such persons. On the formation of the British Legion in 1921 the Officers' Association adopted the additional title of "The Officers' Benevolent Department of the British Legion" but continued to operate under its own Royal Charter, with the Monarch as Patron and with its own Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Council and Committees.

The Association's activities are four-fold:—

- (a) *Relief of distress.* The Association gives financial help to needy ex-officers and their dependants including the provision of clothing. In the financial year 1965/66 it made 7,947 awards at a cost of £129,060, of which £26,184 was provided by other charities.
- (b) *Homes.* The Association maintains a Country Home in South Devon for 35 elderly ex-officers of limited means and, near Watford in Hertfordshire, it has a Garden Homes Estate of 12 bungalows for needy disabled ex-officers and their families.

The Association holds the right of nomination in some other Homes for the elderly and will assist generally in finding suitable permanent and Convalescent Homes for elderly applicants. In the financial year 1965/66 it placed 154 individuals in Homes and also gave financial assistance to a further 61 who found places in Homes for themselves.

- (c) *Pensions.* The Association advises on all matters concerning Service Retired Pay and Pensions, assists in the preparation of disability and war widows pension appeals and arranges representation at the hearings of the Pensions Appeal Tribunals. In its general work on pension questions the Association co-ordinates its activities with all the other ex-Service organisations interested in the welfare of ex-Service officers and their dependants. In the financial year 1965/66 912 cases were handled.
- (d) *Resettlement and Employment.* The Association assists ex-officers to re-settle in civilian life and to find employment. It is available for advice to serving officers at any time but will not register them for employment until they are within three months of leaving the Service. It works in close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and with other Service Employment agencies and is linked with the Regular Forces Resettlement Service administered by the Ministry of Labour.

Many thousands of ex-officers have been placed in employment by this Department. In the financial year 1965/66 it directly placed 563 ex-officers in employment and helped a further 697 to place themselves.

The Association is greatly assisted by Honorary Representatives throughout the United Kingdom, in Commonwealth countries and in many foreign countries where there are sizeable British communities, and these representatives investigate cases and recommend appropriate action to the Association's Headquarters. Members of the Relief Committee visit the Association's Headquarters every working day to decide what assistance should be given. Under this system help is swift and effective. Over £100,000 a year is distributed in this way on the relief of distress.

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Name (Block Letters):
(b) Address for reply (Block Letters):
7. Date:

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Funds to carry on the Association's work come mainly from the Annual Poppy Day collection, the British Legion, the King George's Fund for Sailors, the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and from legacies and private donations which are greatly welcomed. It works in close co-operation with all the Service charities and with Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds. The Association has special working arrangements with the Officers' Families Fund, the Housing Association for Officers' Families and the ex-Services War Disabled Help Department of the Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society.

The Association also works very closely with other national charities and benevolent funds from whom it obtains assistance in cases of ex-officers who have had a professional or other civilian career.

Calls on the Association for financial help have been so heavy that expenditure has exceeded income for many years resulting in considerable depletion of the Association's funds.

Anyone hearing of cases of distress among ex-officers or their widows or dependants, or any ex-officer requiring help, is invited to contact the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. (Tel.: 01-235 8112). The Association also has branches in Scotland at 223 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, 3. (Tel.: 031 6684) and at 1 Fitzroy Place, Glasgow, C.3. (Tel.: 041 CDN 8141) and the Scottish Branch runs a Nursing Home for male ex-officers in Edinburgh. It also has branches in Northern Ireland at the War Memorial Building, 5 Waring Street, Belfast 1. (Tel.: 0232 24025) and in Eire at 2 Martello Terrace, Sandycove, Co. Dublin. (Tel.: 801673).

THE ROYAL VICTORIA PATRIOTIC SCHOOL

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All applications should be addressed to:—

The Secretary, Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, October 1967)

	<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
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., A.D.C.	23/2/64	Commandant Officers Cadet School, Mons.
Lieutenant-Colonels:		
A. L. W. Soames (supernumerary)	23/7/59	T/SR. (C) M. of D.
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	G.S.O.1, Yorks. Dist.
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	28/7/64	A.A.G., H.Q. Land Forces Gulf
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	1/10/66	Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat
T. A. K. Dillon	31/12/66	G.S.O.1, M.O.D. (A.D.)
J. E. Taylor	31/12/66	School of Infantry
H. R. A. Streather, M.B.E.	1/3/67	Commanding 1st Battalion
Majors:		
E. L. T. Capel, E.R.D.	10/7/52	Project Officer, M.O.D.
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	Wessex Bde. Depot H.S.
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	G.S.O.2 (Ops. and Plan.) B.A.O.R.
A. N. Wilson	27/10/60	1st Battalion Jamaica Regiment
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/61	21C.D. and D., B.A.O.R.
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/62	1st Battalion
H. R. Gilliver	20/5/62	Wessex Bde. Depot W.S.
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/63	Special Duties M.O.D.
J. W. Allison	20/1/64	1st Battalion
J. C. H. Roberts	10/11/64	Army Air Corps Centre
M. M. A. Gilmore	1/9/65	H.Q. F.R.A., Aden
D. E. Matson	8/2/65	1st Battalion
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/66	G.S.O.2, H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
C. P. T. Rebbeck	31/7/66	H.Q. F.R.A., Aden
Captains:		
M. A. Crush	4/2/61	4 Communication Unit
C. J. Waters	16/12/61	Instructor, School of Infantry
R. J. Bewell	24/6/62	Wessex Bde. Depot
N. C. Thomson	20/12/63	6 Inf. Bde. B.A.O.R.
D. A. Godfrey	10/3/64	1/6 G.R. (Jan. 68)
W. R. N. Ladds	2/8/64	1st Battalion
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	H.Q. Lond. Dist.
M. G. Smith-Rewse	18/12/65	H.Q. Carrier Borne Liaison Group
J. W. Mermagen	14/8/66	1 D.E.R.R.
R. C. Hobbs	18/12/61	1st Battalion
T. B. Dutton	23/7/66	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
R. D. Grist	16/12/66	Attached Army Air Corps
A. G. Hill	22/12/66	1st Battalion
C. J. Newbould	29/7/67	Royal Military College, Malaysia
T. W. Michels	6/2/67	School of Military Training, Zambia
Lieutenants:		
P. R. Roston	22/6/63	C.I. Coy., M.E.L.F.
J. G. H. Corrigan	4/2/64	1st Battalion
A. T. Holman	4/2/64	1st Battalion
P. A. Woodley	2/2/65	1st Battalion
C. B. Smith-Rewse	20/6/65	Wessex Brigade Depot
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	25 A.Y.T. Gloucester
R. P. James	31/1/66	Wessex Brigade Depot
P. G. Hodson	30/1/67	Oxford University
J. Denley	17/6/67	1st Battalion
J. P. C. Hoole	17/6/67	1st Battalion
Second-Lieutenants:		
D. P. Cangle	29/7/66	1st Battalion
D. R. Dixon	16/12/66	1st Battalion
N. R. Barker	16/12/66	1st Battalion
J. P. O'F. Webster	7/67	For 1st Battalion
C. S. Wakelin	7/67	For 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	Wessex Brigade Depot
	Major 4/4/65	
G. Boyes (Captain)	1/4/66	Staff Capt. Q., H.Q. West Midland Dist.
W. J. Smyth, B.E.M. (Captain)	1/4/66	I.D.E.R.R.

Date of
Substantive
Rank

How Employed

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Major:
D. F. Jones 8/5/56 S.O.P.T. Northern Command

Lieutenants:

R. R. Lettington 7/12/64 1st Battalion
P. J. McNaught 10/7/65 1st Battalion
I. H. Jackson, B.E.M. (S.S.C.C.) 26/6/67 A/Adj. 1st Battalion

Second-Lieutenants:

R. E. Thomas 4/6/66 1st Battalion
N. W. Scott 2/12/66 1st Battalion
A. S. Hadfield 19/1/67 1st Battalion
D. A. W. Hardick 14/4/67 1st Battalion

OFFICERS, LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E., A.D.C. .. 9/7/62 Commandant, Mons
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 Deputy Commandant, Gibraltar
Brigadier A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. .. 1/12/65 16 Para Brigade
Colonel J. C. Robertson 2/4/64 D.A.L.S. H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
Colonel E. D. Harding, D.S.O. 30/7/64 Brigade Colonel Wessex Brigade
Colonel J. P. Fane, M.C. 1/7/64
Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Henn 11/11/63 11th Hussars
Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker 9/1/66 G.S.O.I, Hong Kong
Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Nuttal
Major A. D. Gregory 2/6/53 R.A.P.C.
Major D. E. Whatmore 24/5/65 R.A.O.C.
Major R. A. Maby 22/7/66 Intelligence Corps
R.A.O.C.

"A" COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)

Officers:

Commanding Officer Major M. S. Lee-Browne, T.D.
Second-in-Command Captain P. J. M. Whiteman
Lieutenant A. M. Grazebrook
Lieutenant P. A. Lintott
Lieutenant D. C. Ryan
Second-Lieutenant R. J. Poole

Warrant Officers and Sergeants:

W.O.2 R. Keitley
Colour Sergeant D. J. Pack
Sergeant M. A. Miller
Sergeant J. J. Cross
Sergeant H. W. Marriott
Sergeant D. A. Mears
Sergeant R. G. Murphy

Permanent Staff Instructors:

W.O.2 M. J. W. Chappell
Staff-Sergeant C. D. L. Metcalfe
Sergeant J. W. Hyde
Civilian Clerk Mr. T. Hier, M.B.E.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Major C. R. Davis (Ret'd) Regimental Secretary
Mr. R. Panting (5182070) Chief Clerk
Mr. W. E. Dovey (5175121) Museum Attendant
Mr. H. Powell (17866) Storeman
Mrs. J. M. Cox Typist

RETIRED OFFICERS RE-EMPLOYED

Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E., R.O. II Army Department (M.O.D.)
Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Biddle, D.S.O., R.O. III Infantry Records, Exeter.
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, R.O. III, R.H.Q., The Gloucestershire Regiment
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., R.O. II Army Careers Officer, Gloucester.

REGULAR WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS IN THE REGIMENT

(Corrected to September 1967)

	Date of Promotion	Location
<i>Warrant Officers Class I:</i>		
W. Lucas	28/11/65	R.S.M. 1 D. & D.
L. Masters	21/4/66	R.S.M. 1 Glosters
I. Dee	10/1/67	R.S.M. Wx. Bde. Depot
<i>Warrant Officers Class I—Bandmaster:</i>		
D. Carson	31/12/63	Band 1 Glosters
<i>Warrant Officers Class II:</i>		
W. Brown	1/9/61	R.Q.M.S. 1 Glosters
G. Thomas (A/W.O.1)	5/11/61	R.S.M. 1 R. Hamps.
R. Preece	11/4/62	R.Q.M.S. 1 D. & D.
G. Chillcott	27/5/63	R.Q.M.S. Wx. Bde. Depot
J. Vaughan	21/2/64	1 Glosters
W. Russell, B.E.M.	2/4/65	1 Glosters
J. Cook	3/4/65	Wx. Bde. Depot
D. Neaves	4/8/65	Bristol Univ. O.T.C.
L. Ramsden	16/6/66	1 Glosters
<i>Band Warrant Officer II:</i>		
W. Halstead	1/11/63	Band 1 Glosters
<i>Colour Sergeants:</i>		
F. Brisland (A/W.O.2)	1/4/64	1 Glosters
J. Boulton	1/4/64	1 Glosters
M. Chappel (A/W.O.2)	11/4/65	"A" Company (Glos.) Wx. Vol.
<i>Sergeants:</i>		
R. Marshallsay (A/C/Sgt.)	26/11/55	1 Glosters
W. Ludiman	23/12/55	Birmingham Univ. O.T.C.
K. Dowler (A/C/Sgt.)	14/9/57	1 Glosters
H. Mann	22/10/57	Band 1 Glosters
K. Godwin, B.E.M.	20/1/58	South Arabian Army
G. Bird	19/2/58	A.I.O. Bristol
P. Garland (A/C/Sgt.)	18/12/60	1 Glosters
D. Way (A/C/Sgt.)	4/7/61	1 Glosters
R. Dench (A/W.O.2)	10/7/61	A.I.O. Bristol
D. Simmance (A/C/Sgt.)	24/7/61	1 Glosters
R. Page	24/7/61	Cadet Trg. Team
N. Tuggey (A W.O.2)	29/3/62	1 Glosters
B. Murphy (A/W.O.2)	2/4/62	1 Glosters
I. Roberts	15/6/61	1 Glosters
J. Longden (A/C/Sgt.)	5/4/64	1 Glosters
R. Bishop (A/C/Sgt.)	6/4/64	1 Glosters
K. Fisher (A/C/Sgt.)	8/4/64	1 Glosters
E. McCue	28/8/64	"A" Company (Glos.) Wx. Vol.
I. Matthews	10/9/64	1 Glosters
D. Palmer	22/9/64	1 Glosters
<i>A Sergeants:</i>		
G. Perrier	22/10/64	1 Glosters
P. Goss	26/10/64	Inf. Junr. Ldrs. Bn.
M. Marchant	20/10/64	1 Glosters
M. Quail	5/2/66	1 Glosters
M. Nash	10/2/66	1 Glosters
P. Edwards	3/3/66	1 Glosters
H. Wake	24/2/67	Band 1 Glosters
D. Bidgeway	5/3/67	A.A.C. Arborfield
W. Tucker	21/3/67	1 Glosters
H. Maber	27/3/67	1 Glosters
P. Weaving	29/3/67	1 Glosters
M. Hunt	15/5/67	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.

LONG SERVICE LIST

<i>Warrant Officers Class II:</i>		
J. Holden .. .. .	.. .. .	A.I.O. Liverpool
A. Walker, M.M. .. .. .	.. .. .	43 Move Control Sqn., R.C.T.
<i>Sergeants:</i>		
G. Havelock-Allen .. .. .	.. .. .	Reg. Commissions Board
G. Moore .. .. .	.. .. .	A.I.O. Wolverhampton

THE LONDON GAZETTE

22nd April, 1966	..	Colonel A. H. Knight, M.B.E., retired on retired pay, 7th April, 1966 (belated entry).
5th May, 1967	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant P. G. Russell relinquishes his commission, 9th May, 1967.
26th May	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant A. S. Hadfield confirmed in appointment Second-Lieutenant, 19th January, 1967.
16th June	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant J. A. C. Hoole to be Lieutenant, 17th June, 1967.
16th June	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant J. Denley to be Lieutenant, 17th June, 1967.
16th June	.. ..	D. A. W. Hardick to be Second-Lieutenant, 15th April, 1967.
4th July	.. ..	Major R. H. A. Streather, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 30th June, 1967.
14th July	.. ..	Major H. H. Holgate ceases to belong Reserve of Officers, 4th July, 1967.
1st August	.. ..	W.O.1 I. H. Jackson, B.E.M., to be Lieutenant, 26th June, 1967.
11th August	.. ..	Lieutenant C. J. Newbould to be Captain, 29th July, 1967.
22nd September	.. ..	Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam appointed A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen, 12th September, 1967.

REGIMENTAL DINNER, 1967

Another very successful Regimental Dinner was held at the United Services Club, Pall Mall, on the 27th October. The date for future dinners has now been fixed for the 43rd Friday of the year.

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, Colonel of the Regiment, presided and a total of 53 were present.

We were delighted to have Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Labelle and Captain J. G. Allen from the Royal Canadian Regiment as our Regimental guests. In addition we were very pleased once again to have with us Lieutenant D. S. Morkem also from the Royal Canadian Regiment. He has been serving with our 1st Battalion but was unable to accompany the Battalion to Berlin.

It was unfortunate that the departure of the 1st Battalion from the country just before the date of the dinner prevented officers from the Battalion from attending. The exception was Lieutenant-Colonel Streather, who had returned to attend the Regimental Council meeting.



THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters:
Robinswood Barracks,
Gloucester

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

Secretary:
MAJOR C. R. DAVIS

BRANCHES

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

Hon. Secretary:

Meeting Places each Month:

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

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

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

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.

CHELTHENHAM:
Mr. F. Finch, M.M.

Mr. D. J. Pack, 61 New Street, Cheltenham.

Last Monday except August, United
Services' Club, North Place, 8 p.m.

GLOUCESTER:
Major D. B. Metcalfe

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

First Monday, except August, United
Services' Club, College Green, 8 p.m.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES:
Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A.
Bath, O.B.E.

Mr. S. A. Mercer, 99 Heybridge Avenue,
London, S.W.16.

As arranged at The London Yeomanry
and Territorials R.H.Q., 59 Buckingham
Gate, S.W.1.

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.

As arranged.

Regimental Reunion

Once again this year a most successful Regimental Reunion was held by the 1st Battalion at Saughton Camp, Chester, on Sunday, 23rd July.

Two coach loads of Old Soldiers and their families came from Bristol, two more from the Gloucester and Cheltenham area and in addition a minibus load from Birmingham as well as individuals from all parts of the country.

All arrived in time for an excellent lunch in the soldiers' dining hall. Following this there were demonstrations, sideshows and displays of all types, which must have entailed a great deal of planning and work. There was something of interest to everyone including the children who queued up for rides on the Noddy train.

It was a glorious day from all aspects and one of the hottest of the year.

To end the programme the Band and Drums beat retreat and they played magnificently in spite of the heat. During this part of the programme the Colonel of the Regiment presented, on behalf of the Regimental Association, a silver fanfare trumpet and banner to the 1st Battalion. This was accepted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Streather, M.B.E.

London Branch

Thanks to the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Nickirk, the Commanding Officer of The London Yeomanry and Territorials, the London Branch have obtained the use for their meetings of 59 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. The Annual General Meeting will be held there on 21st October, at 6.30 p.m.

Subject to agreement at the A.G.M., it is proposed to hold a Back Badge Dinner on Friday, 22nd March, 1968.

Will anyone who reads this and who would like to attend the meetings of the London Branch please get in touch with the Secretary, Mr. S. A. Mercer.

Two other branches of the Regimental Association have changed their meeting places since the last BACK BADGE was published. The new meeting places are given at the head of these notes.

Regimental Sweepstake

The Regimental Sweepstake held this year for the third successive year gave the best results we have had to date, and due to the splendid effort of members, a total of 12,178 tickets was sold. After expenses had been taken into account, £204 was paid out in prize money, and the balance of £355 was paid to the Regimental Association. Some £71 of the above money was used to balance the overexpenditure on the dinner account, and £75 given to branches of the Association.

Donations

We are most grateful to the splendid response of All Ranks of the 1st Battalion to the Day's Pay Scheme. As a result £583 has been paid into the Benevolent Fund in the course of the last year. We are also deeply grateful to those officers who regularly subscribe more than their normal annual subscription and to the following who kindly made donations:—H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Mr. A. E. Amess, Mr. J. J. Baverstock, Mr. N. Bennett, Mr. G. P. Fricelli, Mr. J. Jagger, Mr. S. Pitts, Mr. W. A. Provis, Mrs. W. G. Tibbles and Mr. G. Todd.

THE 2/5th BATTALION REUNION

The 39th reunion of the Association was held on Saturday, 14th October at the Doris Restaurant, Cheltenham, when 50 members and guests attended.

The chief guest was His Worship the Mayor of Cheltenham, Alderman H. F. W. Bishop, who proposed the toast to the Gloucestershire Regiment and the old Battalion.

The President, Mr. E. H. Yeend responded.

Mr. S. C. Hobbs proposed the toast to absent comrades after reading the names of those who had died since the last reunion.

The Chairman, Mr. F. H. Edwards, read letters from those unable to attend.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' REUNION

The 20th Annual Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Reunion was held in "A" Company (Glos.) The Wessex Volunteers Reserve Army Centre in Eastern Avenue, Gloucester, on the 7th October, 1967. With between 250 and 275 there this was the largest attendance on record.

There were many who travelled long distances to be present—"Dinah" Bishop from Scotland, "Drummy" Buss from Dover, Jack Betterton, Jack Hattersley and Jack Hobbs from Yorkshire, "Skeeter" Jones from Cardiff and many others too numerous to mention.

The evening was a great success, the 12 ex- and present R.S.M.'s whilst having their photograph taken were actually smiling.

It was good to see so many old faces, and I am sure the three senior officers present had their hands shaken many times during the evening. One member asked if his name could be entered on the waiting list so that he could have a few words with his ex-Commanding Officer. It was also good to see so many wives present. We sincerely trust they enjoyed the evening and we do look forward to seeing many more next year.

A special mention must be made for the hard work put in by the bar staff and the excellent buffet put on by the two A.C.C. members.

DATES TO REMEMBER

23rd March

West of England Back Badge
Lunch, Officers' Mess,
Wyvern Barracks, Exeter,
subject to agreement of the
Officer Commanding Depot.

4th May

Regimental Association
A.G.M. and Dinner, A.V.R.
Centre, Horfield Common,
Bristol.

5th October

Warrant Officers' and Ser-
geants' Reunion, A.V.R.
Centre, Eastern Avenue,
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25th October

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Part of the large gathering at the W.O.'s and Sgt.'s re-union



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A group of ex and serving R.S.M.'s of The Regiment. Standing L. to R.: Mr. D. Stephens, Mr. J. Loftus, Mr. S. Stubbs, Mr. H. Walker, R.S.M. I. Dee, and R.S.M. G. Thomas. Sitting, L. to R.: Mr. R. Caldicott, Mr. J. Scaife, Mr. G. Pearce, Mr. W. Murphy, Major E. Hobbs, M.B.E., and Major A. Gillett



To face page 511

The late Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., taking over as first Regimental Secretary on the formation of Regimental Headquarters and closing of the Regimental Depot on 12th March, 1959

Obituary

BRIGADIER T. N. GRAZEBROOK, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.

It must have come as a considerable shock to his many friends both within and outside the Regiment to hear of the death of Neville Grazebrook. Many of us knew that he had been seriously ill for some time, but there had seemed good reason to hope for his complete recovery when his condition suddenly deteriorated and he died at Hammersmith Hospital on 24th August, aged 63.

Neville's military career was particularly distinguished. Joining the 28th in 1924, he became Adjutant of the Regimental Depot in 1928 and was seconded to the West African Frontier Force four years later. His next job was as Adjutant to the 28th in Mhow. He went on to the Staff College at Quetta, whence illness forced him to return home. The outbreak of war found him at the Staff College at Camberley; and was then appointed G.S.O. at G.H.Q., B.E.F. At the time of Dunkirk he was Brigade Major to 5 Inf. Bde., afterwards going to the War Office as G.S.O., S.D.

Having served as second-in-command of 11 Glosters, Neville assumed command of 6 Inniskilling Fusiliers and saw active service in North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Various staff appointments followed, and in March 1945 he became B.G.S. Plans G.3 Division, S.H.A.E.F.

For two years after the war he served in Germany in the Deputy Military Secretariat, Control Commission. Then he went to Malaya to command 25 Inf. Bde. and, on the latter's disbandment, he was appointed Colonel, G.S. Intelligence, to Far East Land Forces.

Home again in 1949, Neville returned to the War Office, thence to the command of 159 Inf. Bde., T.A. His final appointment was Brigadier A./Q. Western Command. He retired in 1958, was our first Regimental Secretary at Robinswood Barracks and succeeded his late brother "Nap" as Editor of THE BACK BADGE. In addition he did an immense amount of research and writing in connection with Regimental History, the results of which are now preserved in the Regimental Archives. He was also entirely responsible for the production of THE SLASHERS, the new short history of the Regiment.

He won a D.S.O. in 1943, was made C.B.E. in 1945, and was mentioned in Despatches on several occasions; being also awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer). At the time of his death he was a Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

It would be unthinkable to close this brief summary of Neville's military career without some personal reference to the man himself. None of us who served with him is likely to forget his kindness, gaiety and imperturbable good humour. There must be many members of the Regiment, of all ranks, who feel that with the passing of Neville Grazebrook they have lost not only a distinguished comrade, but also a personal friend. Our sympathy for Betty Grazebrook and for their three children must be both deep and sincere.

E.H.L.-A.

MAJOR W. A. DUGUID

It was with a great sense of personal loss that all who knew Major Duguid heard of his untimely death at the early age of 37. Bill was a Gloucestershire man who lived at Berkeley as a boy, and was educated at Wycliffe College, Stroud. He was commissioned as a National Service Officer in April 1950 and joined the Regiment in Colchester. Later, in February 1952 he was granted a Regular Commission in the Regiment. He joined the Wessex Brigade, prior to the Regiment moving to Korea. While with the Wessex Brigade he was closely involved with the continuation training of recruits which he did with his usual enthusiasm and efficiency. He served again in 1956 with the Regiment when they were Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry. It was there that he met and married Janet. He was with the Regiment in the Persian Gulf in 1956, when he served with "A" Company in H.M.S. *Superb*, awaiting possible trouble as a result of the Suez operations, and with them also on operations in Cyprus. In 1962 he was a member of the "A" Company team which climbed Mount Kenya. He also served with the Regiment in Germany, and later with 12 Brigade there.

In 1963 Bill became Adjutant of the 5th Battalion. He was an outstanding success in this appointment. He showed clear understanding of the problems of the Territorial Officers and Soldiers with whom he served, and was their champion on all occasions. They all liked him, and he worked hard for them. A large number of Officers, N.C.O.s and Soldiers of the 5th Battalion considered that Bill was one of the best Adjutants they had ever had. He carried out his duties with firmness, tact, and understanding.

His carefree and cheerful attitude to life, and his kindly and sympathetic approach to all who came in contact with him, endeared him to all who knew him. Whether on parade, in the field, or in the Mess, he was a good Adjutant and a good comrade. He did a great deal for the 5th Battalion in every way. His worth was well known and appreciated.

In 1965 Bill returned to B.A.O.R., where he was appointed G.S.O. III Training at Headquarters 2nd Division. He was serving in this appointment when he died so suddenly. Our sympathy goes out to Janet and her children in their tragic loss. All of us who knew Bill will always remember his good cheer, his friendliness, and his devotion to the Regiment. He will be sadly missed.

BRIGADIER J. VICARY, M.C.

It was with very great regret that we learned of the death of Brigadier John Vicary at Bath on 11th September, 1967, at the age of 73. His heart had been giving trouble for some time but he had enjoyed reasonably good health until the end which came quite suddenly and peacefully.

After leaving Sherborne, John Vicary was destined for the Law and was articled to a firm of solicitors in Exeter. He also served in the 5th Devons T.F. and in 1914 was commanding a platoon of the Signal Company. In November 1914 he went as Signal Officer to the 81st Brigade of which his brother, Colonel A. C. Vicary, was then Brigade Major and in May 1915 obtained a regular commission in the 61st which formed part of the Brigade.

He went to France with the Brigade and was awarded the Military Cross during the second battle of Ypres. The Brigade subsequently went to Salonika and at the Bala in

1916 he gained a bar to his M.C. and a further bar during the capture of the Roche Noire salient in 1918 after which he was wounded and was sent home. He was also mentioned three times in despatches.

After serving in the 61st as Adjutant to Colonel "Dicky" Jordan he was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force in 1923 where he rose to the command of the Eastern Arab Corps.

Returning to the Regiment in 1931 he served with the 28th in Singapore and India where he met his wife Nora. He came home in 1938 and commanded the Depot until the outbreak of World War II.

In 1940 he left the Depot to command the 7th Battalion and in 1942 was appointed Commander 184 Bde., in 61 Div. He was, however, unable to persuade the authorities to allow him to see active service and was in Ireland for the greater part of the war.

He retired in 1946 and was then employed as a Regional Controller in Germany for some years.

Apart from his profession John's great love was for the countryside and he excelled at most sports and games. He was a brilliant shot with both rifle and gun and in the Sudan shot a great variety of big game. No matter where he was stationed it was usually not long before he had found some shooting and fishing and was encouraging the young officers to come out with him to enjoy it. He was also an excellent horseman and a good polo player and was one of the mainstays of the 28th team in Singapore and India.

Possessed of tireless energy his doctrine was one of "work hard and play hard" and it was indeed hard to keep up with him. He was, however, always ready to go to endless pains to help any young officer who showed an interest in sport.

One of his sons, Captain W. J. Vicary, served in the Regiment until he retired in 1966.

N. L.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

MARRIAGES

HISCOCK—BURTON.—Edgbaston on 3rd June, 1967, Roger Frederick, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Hiscock of Halesowen, to Jennifer, only daughter of Major and Mrs. Peter Burton of Selly Park.

DEATHS

BISHOP.—On 26th August, ex-Private W. J. Bishop (5181505).

DAVIS.—On 30th August, ex-Private A. Davis, M.M. (8553).

DEVEREUX.—On 17th July at his home, Mr. F. Stedman Devereux, M.M., aged 79. During the First World War he served with the 9th Battalion of the Regiment in France and the Balkans and was awarded the Military Medal.

DUGUID.—On 14th July, suddenly at Lubbecke, Germany, Major W. A. Duguid, aged 36 (see Obituary notice).

FORD.—On 1st February, ex-Private A. E. Ford (5176683).

GODFREY.—On 13th July, Major T. S. Godfrey, T.D., after a long illness.

GRAZEBROOK.—On 24th August, Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., in

Hammersmith Hospital, London, aged 63 (see Obituary notice).

MAYSEY.—On 15th July, at his home, ex-Corporal W. T. Maysey (5181254).

NORRISH.—On 25th July, at Ranby Camp, Nottingham, Major and Mrs. A. R. Norrish and daughter Joanna. Major Norrish was originally commissioned in the Regiment in 1950. He was serving in the Royal Corps of Transport at the time of his death.

PACKER.—On 16th May, ex-Private W. Packer (5177340).

PROUTING.—Ex-Company Sergeant-Major F. Prouting (5179729). He served with the 28th in the Far East before the War, was on the Second Front and also served with the 28th/61st in Jamaica 1947-49.

SABATELLA.—On 22nd May, at his home, aged 82, Mr. F. Sabatella, D.C.M., joined the 7th Battalion of the Regiment in 1905. He served during the First World War and was at Gallipoli. Awarded the D.C.M., he was commissioned in the field, and ended his service as a Captain.

VICARY.—On 11th September at Bath, Brigadier J. Vicary, M.C., aged 73 (see Obituary notice).

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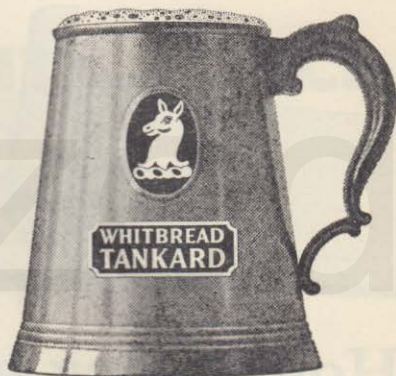
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