

THE
BACK BADGE



The Journal of
The
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Regiment

Winter 1968

THE BACK BADGE

SPERRY

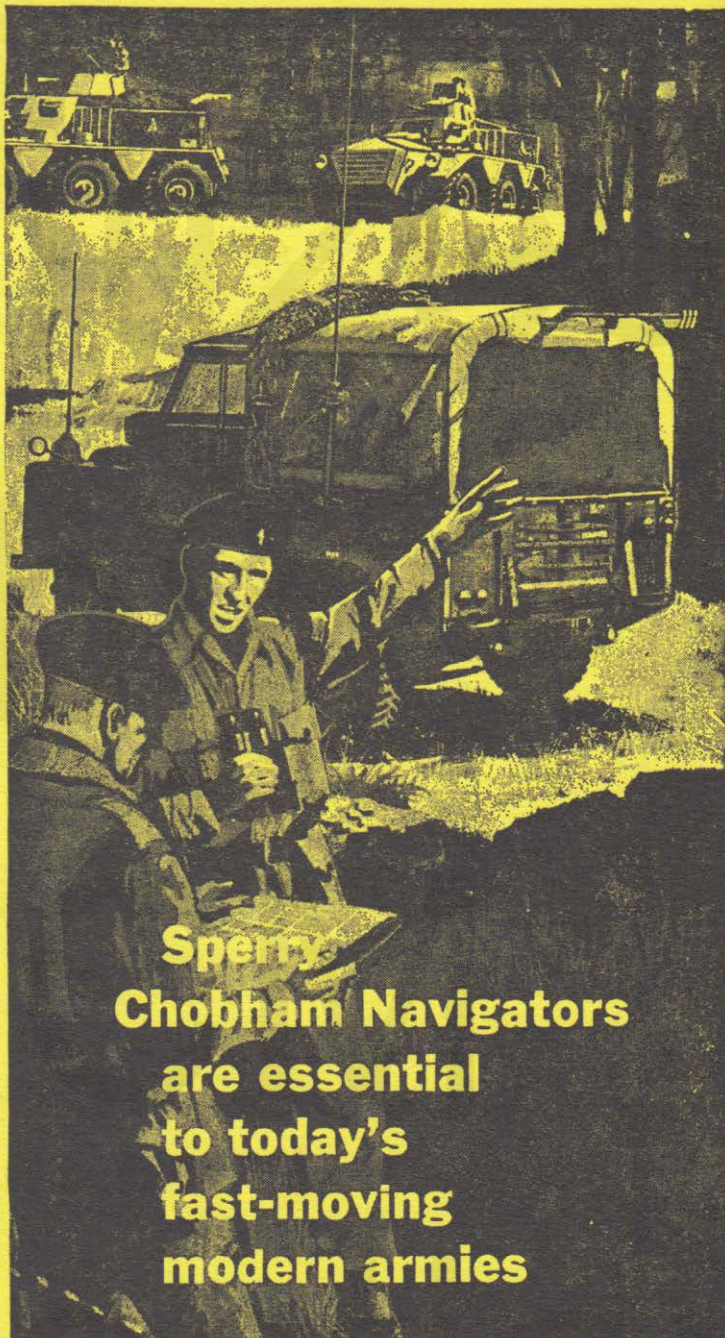
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THE 28th REGIMENT AT QUATRE BRAS, 1815 by Elizabeth Thompson (Lady Butler).

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THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. XII. No. 45 (New Series)

December 1968

The Battle Honours in heavy type are entitled to be borne on the Colours

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

"Ramillies," "Louisburg," "Guadaloupe, 1759," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah,"
"St. Lucia, 1778," "Maida," "Corunna," "Talavera," "Busaco," "Barrosa," "Albuhera," "Salamanca,"
"Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Waterloo,"
"Chillianwallah," "Goojerat," "Punjaub," "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," "18,"
"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," "Flers-Courcelette," "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," "Hazebrouck," "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,"
"Taukian," "Paungde," "Monywa, 1942," "North Arakan," "Mayu Tunnels," "Pinawe," "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."

Korean War—"Hill 327," "Imjin," "Korea, 1950-51."

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EDITORIAL

The Defence cuts, as foreshadowed in our last issue, were announced in July.

Amongst the cuts to be made was the announcement that the Gloucestershire Regiment would merge with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form a new Regiment.

It is certainly a most bitter blow that the Regiment, with nearly 275 years' history behind it, is now to lose its unique identity. It is possible that if the Regiment had applied for disbandment in preference to amalgamation, the future of the Regiment might have been secured. However, this course was not chosen as the policy in the Wessex Brigade has been for amalgamation in preference to disbandment.

Looking on the brighter side, we are most fortunate in being paired with a Regiment holding such a fine history as the Royal Hampshire Regiment. This is not the end of either Regiment; their history and best traditions will be carried forward and will undoubtedly form a very fine new Regiment.

A Joint Amalgamation Committee from the two Regiments has been set up to make recommendations on the amalgamation, the results of which will be published as soon as they are finally approved.

The life of THE BACK BADGE journal is obviously limited, as there will almost certainly be a combined journal when the new Regiment is formed. This will result in very little change in the way it is produced. The journal of the Royal Hampshire Regiment is published twice yearly by the same printers as THE BACK BADGE and almost in identical form.

AMALGAMATION—COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT—

BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, CBE, ADC

The announcement that our Regiment is to amalgamate in 1970 with the Royal Hampshire Regiment came as a shock, because it seemed inconceivable that the infantry could still further be reduced.

What should our reaction, as Glosters, be to this decision?

First. We must deplore the decision to amalgamate. I can do no better than quote a motion set down upon the Order Paper of the House of Commons on 22nd July, 1968. It reads:

"That this House deplores the proposal of the Government to bring to an end the independent existence of the Gloucestershire Regiment, because it will submerge the identity of one of the most famous regiments of the British Army, will dangerously

reduce the numbers of infantry available, and will damage the morale and recruitment of the armed forces; and takes this opportunity to record its appreciation of 274 years of unsurpassed service by the Regiment to the Crown”.

Second. We must be grateful that if amalgamation must come, that our partners could be no finer Regiment than The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Third. We must be determined to make the amalgamation work. We cannot fail to regret the passing of two famous Regiments, but nothing can rub out their history. It is on the record book and it cannot be removed. But, in forming the new Regiment, each one of us has a chance to create new traditions and to help constructively to build up a Regiment that can live up to and indeed surpass the standards of its predecessors.

There is a danger that the public will think that the Glosters are dying. This is NOT so—The Glosters are going forward confidently into the future in partnership with The Royal Hampshire Regiment, and we must make this quite clear to everyone.

P. C. S. H.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

We congratulate **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Harvey** on being awarded the Sultan of Muscat's Bravery Medal having been cited for “ignoring intense and accurate fire and directing his battalion and strike aircraft in a highly successful battle”.

Brigadier Tony Farrar-Hockley has recently gained a Defence Fellowship at Exeter College, Oxford, where he is researching for a year into “the effect of National Service on British Society”.

Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Biddle has been forced by war wound trouble to retire prematurely from his appointment at Infantry Records, Exeter, where he has been of great assistance in conducting the affairs of WOs and NCOs in the Regiment. He held this appointment for almost 12 years, and we extend our best wishes in his new retirement.

Major David Metcalfe has been selected for employment with the Corps of Queen's Messengers.

The “Back Badge Belt” welcomes the following who have recently joined, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bagot** (Painswick), **Major Gilliver** (Stonehouse), **Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey** (Winchcombe), **Captain Lapage Norris** (Nailsworth), **Mrs. Duguid** (Dursley), **Major Roberts** (Charlton Kings) and **Colonel Harding** (Slad). There are rumours that others may be attracted by the charms of the Cotswolds in the near future.

The retirement of **Major (QM) Charles Phillips** in May this year marked another passage in the long service records. Enlisted as a boy in January 1930, he retired after over 38 years of soldiering.

Major Jarman called at Regimental Headquarters recently on return from Singapore. He produced a photograph of the English Officers Mess showing a small gravestone engraved “Mina 28th Regt Nov 1878”. The 28th moved from Hong Kong to Singapore in January 1878, and some readers may recall that this stone last received a mention in the June 1947 BACK BADGE (page 93).

Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Birch (formerly Cpl. 5181538), now author of many short stories and articles, has recently become the *Surrey and Hants News* Staff Reporter for Farnborough.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Baxter (ex-5183071), who enlisted into the Regiment in 1935, is now serving with the RAOC at Bulford. He was commissioned into the RASC in July 1939.

5184116 Ex-Sergeant A. E. Gardner is now employed as a warder in the Queen's Jewel House, Tower of London.

We were very pleased to receive visits recently from **Mr. R. Grimes (5176383)** who joined the Regiment in 1921, **Ex-Company Sergeant-Major Tiger Faulks (5182092)**, **Ex-Corporal P. Burgess (23283133)**, **Mr. C. Nurdin (5181959)**, and **Mr. J. W. A. F. Scott (5182136)**.

Mr. L. G. Pulley (5176852) writes from 17 St. Martins, Arsenal, Jersey, saying that he would like to get in touch with any friends who served with him in the 61st.



Our last issue covered the period from our arrival in Berlin in October last year up to our annual "Administrative Inspection" on 23rd April; this issue covers the summer period up to October 1968.

The most important event of this period was the announcement by the Commanding Officer to the Battalion, assembled in "hollow square" on 11th July, that we are to amalgamate with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1970; this was a very moving occasion which will long be remembered by us all. The Commanding Officer expressed his firm intention and conviction that since the Battalion was to amalgamate, it should be a successful amalgamation from the outset, and that the proud and glorious traditions of the past should be carried on into the future in the new regiment. We know that these are also the feelings of our sister-regiment.

To return to the events of late April, our annual Administrative Inspection on the 23rd was taken by Brigadier D. J. St. M. Tabor, MC, Commander Berlin Infantry Brigade, who complimented the Battalion for its steadiness on parade and watched "A" Company's training and "B" Company's Alert "Turn Out" procedure before inspecting "D" Company's accommodation.

May saw the Battalion involved in the Annual Allied Forces Day Parade, for which we provided a contingent, both marching and vehicle-borne, to march past the three Allied Commanding Generals; even the torrential rain did not mar this very colourful occasion.

The Queen's Birthday Parade in June, held in the Olympic Stadium, was a climax of weeks of hard effort when the Battalion paraded with the Queen's Own Highlanders and the then King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. A large crowd of British, American, French and German spectators watched this parade.

The first Battalion rifle meeting for some years was also held in June, "D" Company eventually emerging the winners and collecting a host of prizes from the Commanding Officer's wife. Efforts by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to inebriate the Officers over lunch, prior to the Inter-Mess shoot, proved, inevitably, effective.

July started with a Documents Inspection, which we survived, before being invaded by a company from the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers from England. This was the start of the series of "Rifle Company Exchanges", which went on throughout July and August, "A" Company's place being filled by the Fusiliers, "B" Company's by a Devon and Dorset company and "D" Company's by a KOSB company. These "exchanges" are covered in more detail in the Company notes.

The Battalion sent a team to Bisley in July and obtained some valuable experience for next year; two members of the team obtained places in the "Army Hundred".

August started with a complete "Allied Turn Out" in Berlin and the early-rising Berliners found their city bristling with military activity. As a pleasant contrast, the annual Officers v. Sergeants cricket match provided a little bright relief. August also saw the departure of the Queen's Own Highlanders "from next door" and their place has been taken by 1 Staffords, with whom we already have achieved a friendly liaison. Our Free Fall Parachutists took part in "Exercise Parashot", winning a victory over other unit teams both from BAOR and UK; an article on the exercise is included in this issue.

September saw us involved in Duty Battalion, Spandau Guard and Train Guards but, somehow, left time for "Exercise Water Lark", in which we carried out a full-scale assault river crossing by night across the Havel. We also took part in the Allied Weapons Meeting on the American "Keerans Range", held a "Beating of Retreat" in spite of poor weather, and finished off the cricket season, where we were unlucky to be beaten into second place in the Major Unit Knock-Out Competition.

During the summer we have had our share of visitors, starting with the Mayor of Cheltenham and some of his Councillors. Their visit strengthened the close ties that we already have with Cheltenham. Our visitors also included General Sir John Hackett, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin, Brigadier Ballantyne, the Divisional Brigadier, a party from the French Staff College "L'Ecole Supérieure de Guerre" and a party of 15 Cheltenham Grammar School Cadets.

We recently said farewell to Regimental Sergeant-Major Masters, to whom we wish every success in the future, and we welcome in his place Regimental Sergeant-Major Chillcott. We also welcome our new padre, Robin Laird, and our new 2IC, Major G. C. Phipps, who shortly takes over from Major P. H. Wood, due for a Staff Tour in Germany.

So the summer has come and gone. As we prepare to move out for our annual Battalion

Training at Soltau, the leaves have turned and we already know that we are due to move to Honiton in October of next year. After a year in Berlin we have experienced many things, Border Patrols, Train Guards, the snow at Sennelager, a Berlin winter, the familiar Grunewald, the loneliness of Spandau Guard and the early morning "Alert Turn Outs". We have met and trained with Americans and Frenchmen, we have made friends with many Berliners and we have built up promising sports teams for the year ahead. Berlin gives all of us a very full life.

"A" COMPANY

ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	Major W. G. R. Turner, MBE
Second-in-Command	..	..	Captain T. W. Michels
Platoon Commanders	..	..	Second-Lieutenant N. W. Scott
			Second-Lieutenant C. K. Richardson
			Second-Lieutenant P. G. Jones
Company Sergeant-Major	..		WOII M. Chappell
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant			Colour/Sergeant G. Bird

Berlin is a three-gear vehicle for our soldiering, duties, ceremonial, and welcome training away from it; to which may be added an overdrive of sport and night life. Since last April the vehicle has run smoothly in all gears.

In quick succession the Company provided No 1 Guard for the Back Badge Parade on Imjin Day, a large proportion of The Guard of Honour for the retiring Commander-in-Chief, General Sir John Hackett, the Honour Guard for the Allied Forces Day Parade, and No. 3 Guard for the Brigade Queen's Birthday Parade. During the same period we came through the Annual Inspection and presented a study day on the Advance.

Sport was not forgotten, and we came a creditable third at the Battalion Athletics Meeting. The team trained hard under Second-Lieutenant Barker and good performances were put up by Major Turner, Second-Lieutenant Barker, Corporal Saunders, Lance-Corporal Bird, Privates Ellis, Coster, Joyce, and Keylock. At the Rifle Meeting we didn't do so well, but had the satisfaction of preparing the range and organising the meeting.

In May the Newman twins entertained the Company to a most enjoyable showing of all the films they have taken since joining the Company. The programme was most varied, taking us from Cyprus, to Swaziland, America, back to Cyprus and the United Kingdom. Their amusing commentary added much to the evening. Their show could be a "crowd-puller" around the Youth Clubs of Gloucestershire this coming winter.

A welcome break came in July when the Company left Berlin for Exercise Away Game. This was an adventure training exercise which found Platoons scattered between Denmark, the Kiel area of Germany, and Holland; Company Headquarters was established on a Baltic beach alongside a holiday camp. Articles by those who took part in the various activities appear beneath these general notes. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the unfailing kindness shown to us by the Danes, Dutch, Germans and British with whom we had dealings; not one failed to put at our disposal the facilities we required, and in many cases were most generous with their hospitality.

Since our return we have fought the cadets of Cheltenham Grammar School from



Fanfare trumpeters of the 1st Battalion



EXERCISE "AWAY GAME"

Members of "A" Company in the Base Camp. Privates Fitzgerald, Stone, Millman and Clements

To face page 66



Massed bands at the Queen's Birthday Parade



Part of the line-up for the Queen's Birthday Parade

To face page 67

glade to glade and done another spell at Spandau Prison which earned the Guard praise both from the Russians and the Prison Commandant.

More recently we entertained our affiliated American Company at a social evening in Barracks. The Colours and Regimental Silver were on display, the Band gave a short concert, and then the Company Commander gave a brief account of the Regiment's history. After a very good supper, the Americans were introduced to darts, shove-ha'-penny, and skittles whilst, needless to say, the bar did a roaring trade. It was a most successful evening, for which our thanks go to WOII Chappell and his team of helpers.

During the summer we have said goodbye to Captain Corrigan, Lieutenants Hoole and Barker and WO II Alderman; we thank them for all they did for the Company. Second-Lieutenants Richardson and Jones have arrived to command 1 and 2 Platoons respectively, and WO II Chappell is now the Company Sergeant-Major. We thank Sergeant England for acting as Company Sergeant-Major for nearly three months when the ceremonial "silly" season was at its height. We also wish the best of luck to the many who have left us to join specialist platoons or departments in the Battalion. Sergeant Linker attended a jungle warfare course in Malaya, and Corporal Watkins is also off there soon (he recently had a very good photograph taken of his car but the Editor declines to publish—perhaps the red blur in the top right hand corner spoilt it). Corporal Smith is at present attending the Senior NCO's Course at Brecon. Second-Lieutenant Scott and Lance-Corporal Bird have both attended an outward bound course in Norway and the former was able to put into practice his canoeing skill on the Havel when he recently ran a very good instructors course. Corporal Smith and Lance-Corporal White have both attended a parachute course. We welcome those who have joined us during the summer and hope their stay with "A" Company will be a happy one.

Now that Berlin has bared her charms to us, we face our second year with no illusions about her fickle demands. Did the scribe who wrote "love ceases to be a pleasure when it is no longer a secret" ever flirt with this city?

"EXERCISE AWAY GAME"

(The Nijmegen Marches)

Nijmegen was this year celebrating its 52nd anniversary of the Marches, which took place between 16th and 19th July. The aim of these annual Marches is to encourage participants to train to cover the set distance (in our case 50 km. daily) without impairing the individual's health.

With this aim in mind, and with only 10 days available for training, 25 volunteers from the Company took up the challenge. These 10 days proved invaluable, in spite of losing five members of the team during training. We were fortunate to be away from Berlin, thus being able to concentrate entirely on our aim.

About 100 miles was covered in our training around Kiel. Training was curtailed during the last three days to allow blisters to heal and harden. Our feet were not used to long marches over several days, consequently we suffered initially from bad blisters and stiffness. The daily training timetable was: 0645-0700 swim and PT, followed by breakfast, 0800-1500 march, 1500 medical inspection and swim on returning to camp.

We left Kiel for Nijmegen on 14th July, which gave us a day prior to the Marches

for administration and settling down. With some 800 British soldiers and airman alone, administration was understandably difficult. The Dutch Army provided food for the 10,000 or so military entrants. Feeding was a problem; breakfast consisted of two sandwiches (one cheese, one chocolate or ham), an orange, and a small carton of milk. Lunch was the same, less the milk, and the evening meal was meat, potatoes and a vegetable. For a man marching 200 km. over a four-day period this was not substantial enough and had to be subsidised. We did this by purchasing milk and fruit from stalls erected along the route.

Seventeen thousand men and women from some 25 countries participated in the Marches. Distances to be marched varied according to sex, occupation and choice. We opted to carry 30 lb. of kit and march 50 km. each day. Starting times were staggered between 0445 hrs. and 0630 hrs. each day; generally, the longer one's distance the earlier one started. We started at 0448 hrs. on each of the days and were given 11 hours to complete the distance; this proved generous as teams rarely took longer than 9½ hours. The route changed daily in the form of a clover leaf around Nijmegen.

The Red Cross erected tented camps at approximately 10 km. intervals along the route which proved invaluable. They enabled one to have blisters cared for, or if suffering from stiffness, a massage by one of the many attractive Dutch nurses. This proved a most popular pastime.

The civilian population were on holiday for the week and lined the route each day; many getting up for the start. It was a most colourful sight to see the pennants and national flags from so many countries.

On the final day teams were centralised 5 km. from the centre of Nijmegen. All changed into "No. 2 Dress" and were organised into larger contingents ready for the Final March Past. The British Army contingent led, headed by the Band of the Foresters. As we marched the crowd presented us with flowers. It was a stirring occasion. That night the famous "Blister Ball" took place in Nijmegen.

Each member of the team was awarded an individual medal, and each team was awarded a medallion. This was altogether a successful week which was enjoyed by us all. One certainly finishes with a large repertoire of songs, and we will remember the amusing moments, of which there were many, for some time to come. Let us hope that this becomes an annual event in "A" Company's calendar.

The team was: Lieutenant N. R. Barker, Corporals P. B. Smith, D. J. Watkins, K. J. Saunders, M. A. Whittall, S. N. McEvoy, A. G. White, Lance-Corporal D. J. Ford, Privates H. C. O'Flaherty, K. J. Marlow, D. J. Stone, M. J. Wheeler, M. J. Hodder, R. T. Clements, B. C. Fitzgerald, A. G. Buck, C. F. Toogood, M. A. Webb, G. A. Millman and T. J. Coster (Tent Orderly).

2PL AT BRUXER HOLZ MEADOW

On the 26th June we received the administrative instruction for Exercise "Away Game". To our dismay we saw that the word "training" appeared several times. However, unruffled by the thought of work we set about building a training programme.

The Platoon arrived at Bruxer Holz late on the evening of 4th July. At first, they thought that all had been arranged for them, but were soon relieved to learn that their "bivvies" weren't up, the No. 1 burner was out of action, and the cook had got on the

wrong truck at the station. Pleased to see that everything was following its normal, smooth course, they quickly set about erecting "bivvies" and "cooking" compo over a hastily-lit fire.

The next day Sergeant England got rid of his 2IC (Second-Lieutenant Scott) on the administrative run to Kiel and set about getting the camp organised with tents and pegs in immaculate rows, leaving a square in the middle.

Saturday, 6th July, saw the start of our training programme with a run and "hose-down" at six-thirty followed by the start of the inter-patrol competition:

"What's a compo race Corporal Kilburn?"

"Don't ask questions Glasspool, just run to the last R.V., pick up a tin of instant milk and I'll meet you back here".

"OK Corp".

After a fairly hard day we decided to get down to the real business of the whole exercise and introduced ourselves to the Bredenbeck Gasthof.

Sunday arrived and, with it, the rain. Trying to convince ourselves that we liked mud, really, we trudged around the early morning run, Corporal Woodman, usually our cross-country expert, being "encouraged" at the rear by Sergeant England, regretting with every step the previous evening's Gasthof training. Having decided that July in Kiel was not all sunshine we abandoned the Sunday's training programme and set about constructing a cookhouse with ponchos and bits and pieces from a nearby wood; Lance-Corporal Bird and Private Newman 96 built a shower—hot and cold, of course. By the end of the day the camp was looking fairly well organised, which was such a shock to most of the Platoon that they retired to the Gasthof to recover.

The rest of the week saw the training programme a little more strictly adhered to with a run at six-thirty every morning, and various other strenuous activities during the day. Tuesday proved to be the most successful day when patrols were left about five miles outside Kiel to start the initiative test. Each patrol had to collect 15 items and pieces of information including the Burgermaster's stamp, a steering wheel and a photograph of a one "pfenig" piece. Several hours later the patrols started to arrive back at camp and all had been very successful, Lance-Corporal Grey finding that the German sailor off whom he was trying to scrounge some badges was, in fact, the Officer Commanding the nearby German Naval Unit, Corporal Kilburn, having met some "interesting" ladies in a dockside cafe, whilst Lance-Corporal Willis "found" a steering wheel, although he wouldn't say where.

The competition ended on Thursday the 11th, and to celebrate we had arranged a "bier fest" for that evening; Major Turner and Company Sergeant-Major Chappel were invited along to assist in the disposal of our vast stock of beer. We also invited Herr and Frau Von Bulow, the owners of the land, and Hiendrich, the landlord of the Gasthof, whom we had come to know rather well. One's memories of the evening are rather faded; however, I do recall that at one stage Private Foran decided to take a walk through the fire before the long arm of Major Turner retrieved him, all to the backing of Private Allison's rendering of "Danny Boy" and Company Sergeant-Majors Chappel's "Be I'amshire". I was told that a good time was had by all.

We had arranged a football match against the local team for Saturday afternoon. We arrived at the Gasthof, now known as the "corner bar", at about 1230 hrs. and both

the team and spectators put in some training at the bar before the kick-off at half-past-three. Unfortunately, we lost by nine goals to one but this did little to affect the success of the occasion, as the whole village had turned out to watch. We entertained some of the locals to a "compo dinner" ("Bundespost", one of the local characters, helping it down with half-a-bottle of Scotch).

Sunday morning saw us rising early before setting out for the second half of the exercise in Denmark.

REST AND RECUPERATION IN DENMARK

On Monday, 6th July, one Officer and twenty men left "A" Company's base camp at Krusendorf, about 20 kilometres north-west of Keil, for Kolding, Denmark, some 120 km. away to the north.

In a 4½-ton vehicle, carrying sufficient kit, "compo" and "beer" for a week's stay, we travelled towards Flensburg and the Danish border. On arrival the routine documentation was carried out and our nine crates of beer proved to be of particular interest to the customs authorities who agreed to allow us to continue.

The border was approximately half-way, and we continued without a stop through the verdant, yet somewhat featureless, countryside. We arrived in Kolding after about four hours driving from Keil and, having completed an unscheduled "see Kolding" tour; our final destination was then spotted—Koldinghus Castle—perched on a hill, overlooking the town which clustered about its perimeter.

We drove into the courtyard through the main archway to find a three-sided rectangular building which was originally a stable. In the centre was a well-maintained garden area intermingled with paths and surrounded by a cobbled road.

We were met by Kaptajn Alfred Jensen, an officer in the Danish Army who is the Second-in-Command "Garrisonskommandanten of Koldinghus Staldgaard". Kaptajn Jensen showed us to our quarters which, like his own, were a part of the converted stables. These quarters are allocated to the local Home Guard, and we were to remain there for our week in Denmark; they suited our requirements admirably, even though the floor boards may have been a trifle hard.

The history of the castle itself dates back to the thirteenth century when it was built initially for defence and as a royal residence. Of the red walls that are still preserved, the west wing and smaller parts of the north wing go back to the Middle Ages. Christian III erected the two wings in the south and the east; these wings are now in a state of decay. In 1600 Christian IV completed the building by adding the big main tower. Around 1720 King Frederick IV modernised the castle, adapting it to the Baroque style and giving it, among other things, white walls and uniform windows. The castle remained in this shape until the Great Fire of 1808. This was caused through carelessness by Spanish soldiers who lit a fire for warmth during that particularly cold winter, and then lost control of it. The soldiers belonged to a corps which Napoleon, Denmark's ally, had sent to assist in the war against England. The castle has since been partly restored, and in 1890 a museum was formed which specialises in applied art and war memories.

The Platoon's only official duty was daily muster parade at 0900 hrs., held at this time in order to capture as much local interest as possible. The large bevy of visitors who graced us with their presence, included the Commanding Officer, our Company Commander,

the Paymaster and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, all of whom, I feel certain, took a memory or two away with them. The Commanding Officer very kindly took the first muster parade.

Although freedom of movement was the basis of our presence, we did have one collective operation; we visited the Kongens Jyske Fodregiment at Bloms Kaserne in Fredericia, about an hour's drive to the north. Here we spent a very wet but most interesting day seeing how a Danish regiment works from day to day. We are indebted to one of their Company Commanders, Major Borch, for an entertaining visit.

Other facilities that were put at our disposal during our stay included the Home Guard's beach house, a swimming pool, and a football pitch.

In conclusion, "a good time" was had by one and all, which would have been impossible without Kaptajn Jensen's close and unfailing attention; he was, without doubt, a host befitting the reputation of the Danes.

KIEL TO KOLDING BY SEA

Whilst we were in our camp near Kiel we were asked by our Platoon Commander if anyone would like to sail to Denmark. Only a few of us wanted to try it because of the 28-mark fee. Eventually it was decided who was to make the trip; there was Private Foran (Dobbin), Private Wallbridge (Cookie), Lance-Corporal Willis (Timex) and Private Bryan (Ginger).

We thought we could take our suitcases, but on arrival at the yacht, Sergeant Quick (The Skipper) said that we could not possibly find the room for five Army suitcases. Apart from the suitcases, we had five boxes of compo and four crates of beer to get on board. Being as the yacht was only a five-berth, you could understand The Skipper's views about the suitcases.

When we were loaded up and ready to sail The Skipper gave us a few hints on sailing, because none of us had any idea what to do. The weather for the first half of the journey was great, everybody was laughing and joking until a steamer passed us and the wash hit us broadside on; everybody was soon hanging on to cables and ropes for dear life. Cookie was cursing because he was trying to make a cup of tea in the cabin, and the tea was going everywhere except in the cups.

Our first port was Faaborg where we arrived at about nine o'clock. It was the first mooring we had done. The Skipper was shouting at me to get the fenders on the side of the yacht so that she wouldn't smash against the quay-side. We were all glad when we finally had the yacht roped to the quay. We then settled down to tea, consisting of mashed potatoes, Irish stew and fresh bread which he had bought. We didn't wash down the deck that night because it was too dark.

The start to the second day came at half-past-seven; we were all pretty tired because of the previous night out in Faaborg. The first job we did was wash the deck down while Cookie was making the breakfast. It was a pretty good morning and the wind was fair to moderate. We pulled out of the harbour at about 10.30 using the motor because there wasn't quite enough wind to catch the sails. When we got outside the harbour walls things started to change. There were white horses and I remember seeing a bird of some kind in the water, one second you could see it and then it was gone.

It took us four hours to sail to Assens, a smaller town than Faaborg although the

harbour was bigger. We found a suitable place to dock, with not too much wind coming in off the sea. We did the usual jobs on board; washed the decks down, put the jib away in the main hold which contained most of the yacht's equipment, and fetched fresh water from the nearby public house. We then went down town and bought some fresh bread, milk, potatoes, eggs, and a few other odds and ends. When we got back to the boat Ginger and myself went for a swim; we didn't know whether to get in or not, for there was some type of jelly fish in the water which didn't look very friendly. Cookie cooked us a good meal that evening. Afterwards we all gave a hand to wash up so we could all go down to town. There was one thing we all remember very well; the women are very beautiful. I think that was the best night of the voyage.

Soon it was Monday morning, the last day of our trip. The weather didn't look too bad, but there was a fresh wind which would give us plenty of headway. We left Assens at eleven o'clock for Kolding, a fairly big town with a large harbour. The skipper said it would take $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours to sail to Kolding; we all felt very miserable. We docked in Kolding at 1500 hrs.; we could see our transport waiting for us on the quay as we came up the channel. We got the fenders out for the last time, we docked, hoisted down the sails and packed them away. We thanked Skipper Mick for such a nice trip which we will never forget. Well, we all learnt something; it was a great experience.

Lance-Corporal Willis

BY BICYCLE

In the middle of July Private Bailey and I went on a "bike ride". We rode from Keil in north Germany to Kolding in Denmark. The trip took 14 hours actual cycling which, I thought, was very good. The distance was about 93 miles.

On the first day we set off at 1530 hrs.; it was a nice, bright summer's day until about 1630 hrs., then it started to rain, but we did not bother to stop for shelter; we kept on riding until 2000 hrs., then we took shelter in a barn, which was about 20 km. from the German and Danish border. It was a wet, cold night and it took us a few hours to get fairly warm; at about 2300 hrs. we fell asleep.

I was the first one to wake and I could not move for a few minutes because it was so cold. At four o'clock I woke Bailey; he was so cold he could not stop shaking, so I told him we would have a little run, but I did not realise how stiff and cold we were, until we started running. We ran for about 15 minutes until we both got warmer, then we got the bikes out of the barn and checked them to see if there were any punctures or bad brakes before we set off again.

At 0530 hrs. we had covered 17 km. and we stopped at a cafe and had breakfast. After we had breakfast we felt fitter, and stayed there for one hour. At 0630 hrs. we set off for the border. It took about 30 minutes to get to the border which we crossed after a few queries from the guards. After changing our money we set off again. We rode solidly for the next four hours and passed through a few towns; I could see that we were very tired so we stopped for lunch about 45 km. away from Kolding, staying there for two hours; the rest did us some good. It took us a long time to cover the last 45 km. but we pushed on very hard. At 1700 hrs. we could just make out a small town which we knew as Kolding, although by this time we were feeling very tired, but the sight of seeing Kolding and the



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castle tower drove us on. It did not take us long to reach the castle. We got there and reported, and after a wash and shave we handed the bikes over to Lance-Corporal Ireland for the return journey; that was the end of a very hard and rough ride for both of us.

Lance-Corporal Bird

"B" COMPANY

ORBAT

Officer Commanding	Major F. D. J. Dickenson
Second-in-Command	Captain P. R. Rostron
Platoon Commanders	Second-Lieutenant R. E. Thomas
	Second-Lieutenant D. A. W. Hardick
	Second-Lieutenant T. G. Ongley
Company Sergeant-Major	WOII N. Tuggey
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant ..	Colour-Sergeant D. Simmance

The pace of life in Berlin continues to be as hectic as ever. Another six months have flashed by and here we are with Journal Notes once more. It only seems to be last week that the last Notes were written; so what is there to be said? On examination—an awful lot!

The preparation for the Administrative Inspection went well, and on the great day we were ready for anything although we would have preferred to be inspected carrying out platoon training. In fact, we got a "good chit" for our turn-out in Battle Order, despite the heat which caused the boots of one or two of 7 Platoon to become embedded in the square.

The Queen's Birthday Parade is doubtless covered elsewhere. The drill was, of course, faultless on the day and stood us in good stead for a spell guarding Herr Hess in Spandau Prison.

Once a month we have moved out into the Grunewald for individual and platoon training. This created difficulties for Battalion HQ and some married personnel, but has improved the "corporate spirit" of the Company—to say nothing of the standard of training!

In August we went to Osnabruck for two weeks, and are now working up for our next trip out to the "FRG" (new cry!) in October.

Old hands from the Company will be pleased to hear that the sporting traditions of the Company are being upheld. Since the last notes we have won the Inter-Company Rugger Sevens twice, were third in the football and second in the hockey. We won the Inter-Company Athletics, including both weights in the Tug-of-War. In the cricket league we had the same points as HQ and Support Companies, but had to be content with third place owing to our run rate per over. Nearly 50 members of the Company did well to shoot the Company into overall runners-up position at the Battalion Rifle Meeting, and special congratulations are due here to the young soldiers.

Sergeant Goss and Lance-Corporals Hoare and Rousetty did very well as three-quarters of the successful Exercise Parashot team and Captain Rostron and Sergeant Wardle have completed basic sport parachuting courses.

The Company Office and Stores staff continue to get through an awful lot of work, but quite what "Puff" does in the end room we are not quite sure.

The Company Fund is now quite well off thanks to platoon subscriptions and careful administration by Captain Rostron, the Wall Street apprentice. We were able to entertain our affiliated American Company, "B" Company, 4/18 Infantry "on the house" and now have some very good sports kit and a washing machine. The floor-polishers were not a great success—perhaps a case of "too few, too late"?

Company Sergeant-Major Boulton has left us and gone to "C" Company and now we have Company Sergeant-Major Tuggey in his place. Perhaps the Company will now become as interested in music as it has become in fishing.

Lance-Corporal Killner has done a lot of very good work on a Cellar Bar for the Company and we hope to be able to open it soon for Company and Platoon parties. MPBW please note!

Many happy returns to Sergeants Wardle and Galley and Lance-Corporals Hoare, Richards and Mace on their recent promotion.

The Allied Forces Day parade was held in the pouring rain but, undeterred, our representatives, Private Allman and Sergeant Goss, paddled smartly on, keeping their banners high and feeling more like Bondi Beach life-savers than standard bearers. Steely-eyed and firm-jawed they did their duty in the best traditions of 5 Platoon.

Still in ceremonial mood, the Platoon provided a large part of the Guard of Honour for General Hackett on his farewell visit to Berlin. The standard was, of course, high.

Some of the Platoon also took part in a demonstration for the French GOC during which he showed great interest in the GPMG (SF) and CB clothing being worn.

Exercise Wagon Train, the Company visit to Osnabruck for training, was much appreciated, and although the trips to the Mohne See and Arnhem were the most fun the APC training and the ability to train over private land was very useful and beneficial. We were very fortunate to get the "Chopper" lift during the long advance to contact exercise. It was a great feeling to skim over hills and woods which the rest of the Company would later have to fight through so as to link up with us on the Ahsen bridge.

Our congratulations go to Private Allman for being selected for the Battalion Bisley team and to Privates Smith and Lynch on their recent marriages.

We welcome to our Platoon Mr. Ongley, Sergeant Galley and Corporal Bloor and hope that they will have a long and happy stay with 5 Platoon. Sad farewells, also, to Mr. Cangle and Sergeant Goss, both of whom have become heavily involved with parachuting pending their next appointments.

All-in-all a good year's training has been carried out and the Platoon has played a lot of sport. With some harder training for sport the Company should do even better in the coming year.

6 PLATOON

Duties, parades, training, sport and, for some, leave. The past few months have certainly been busy ones, and the Platoon has had every opportunity to display its talent in a wide variety of fields. At one stage the drill square was rarely deserted, and even the more scruffy members of the Platoon (no names mentioned) were starting to gleam.

This contrasted sharply with frequent visits to the Grunewald when the standard of turn-out required occupied a lower priority. Particularly noteworthy in this context was the exercise in which the Platoon discovered a taste for subversion, sabotage and torture, when called upon to adopt the role of a guerilla band. The only ones unimpressed were the rest of the Company and "the DS".

More recently, a further untapped talent was brought to light when 6 Platoon took major honours in the "B" Company talent show" whilst camping in the Grunewald (where else?). Some members of the Platoon have also demonstrated undiscovered abilities in less-distinguished spheres. Whilst at Osnabruck one Section Commander seemed determined to either completely sabotage the German telephone service or lose his 432 APC in a bottomless bog. He almost succeeded in doing both in rapid succession! Osnabruck also provided other lighter moments; Private Allen was overheard threatening to do unmentionable things to his GPMG whilst on an advance to contact exercise, and Private Kay demonstrated a staggering ability to maintain radio communications with only half an A41! Unfortunately, this is rather expensive, and he does not recommend it.

In sporting activities the Platoon has also made its presence felt and much of "B" Company's athletic success was due to Corporal Davies, Lance-Corporal Keeling, Lance-Corporal Rousetty, Privates Cook and Moseley. Some members of the Platoon have made good use of the opportunities which exist for sailing, fishing, and so on.

After a reasonable period with only minor adjustments to the Platoon orbat there have recently been a number of changes. Departures include Sergeant Young, to 25 AYT, Corporal (now Sergeant) Stafford, recruiting, Lance-Corporal Richards, Lance-Corporal Hoare, Privates Fennell, Machon, Humphries, and Ball, with several more likely to follow soon. Replacements have been less numerous but we welcome Privates Leek and Hughes from the Depot. Unofficial new members of the Platoon include Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Bass, "Lance-Corporal Portch, junior" and "Private Moseley, junior".

7 PLATOON

The Platoon has changed greatly since the last BACK BADGE went to press. There are four new NCOs: Corporal Bailey (ex-Signals Platoon), Corporal Evans (ex-mortars), and Lance-Corporal Kinsey (ex-Intelligence Section). Lance-Corporal Hoare is congratulated on his promotion. Privates Gawn, Sheard, Hyett, Reed and Douglas have also joined the Platoon recently.

Since Sennelager the Platoon has been kept busy with Annual Administration, Queen's Birthday Parade, Spandau Guard duties, duty Companies, many trips to the Grunewald and a very beneficial ten days in Osnabruck. Incidentally, there is a strong rumour that the Officer Commanding first met his wife at the Sports Platz in the Grunewald, hence our many nostalgic trips back there!

We have lost Private Moseley (Poit) and Allen 08 to the Dole Queue and, soon, Private Powell also goes. We wish them luck. The Signal Platoon claimed Blackmore, Hill 46 and Wildman. All three did well on their respective cadres, passing out in the top four. At the moment Corporal Bailey is having to train new radio operators.

Congratulations to Clayton 06 on his marriage; another bachelor bites the dust.

The Platoon has done well at sport and has won the Company basket-ball, cricket, and

soccer. Congratulations to Corporal Featherstone for playing BAOR rugby last year. Other Battalion players are Metcalf and Harrington (rugby), Metcalf (football) and Mr. Hardick (rugby, cricket, hockey, squash and golf). We don't often see him in the Platoon lines, and he is only ever on duty during the silent hours. The Platoon also won the Company tug-of-war competition. Altogether a very successful six months in sport.

Private Harrington attended an outward bound course at Norway but unfortunately injured his knee in the early stages and was "Returned To Unit". At the moment the Platoon Sergeant is away on a Free Fall Course; we are all praying nothing goes wrong (at least, I think that's what we are praying).

"D" COMPANY

ORBAT

Officer Commanding	Major C. W. E. Coppen-Gardner, MC
Second-in-Command	Lieutenant A. S. Hadfield
Platoon Commanders	Lieutenant J. P. O. F. Webster
	Second-Lieutenant C. S. Wakelin
Company Sergeant-Major	WOII B. Murphy
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant ..	Colour-Sergeant R. Bishop

There really *must* be something significant in the fact that we were the only Company to have its accommodation inspected by the Brigade Commander on the "Admin Inspection", and we are now told that when we get back from Soltau we *can't* "move back in" because "they" want to "modernise" our block. So, having camped at Soltau we will have to camp again in barracks, if other Companies don't mind us using their accommodation. ("Sorry, you can't use the showers *here*; you'll have to ask 'A' Company if you can use theirs. And call in on 'B' Company and get something from my locker, will you? And don't forget, tomorrow we promised Support Company we'd clean up their area for them after our stay there last week".) The CSM is still trying to work out where he will post "Company Detail"; in "Part One Orders" possibly?

There have been many changes recently. The new Company Commander seems to spend his time "on Mess Matters" or at the Canoe Club where he can't be reached. Lieutenant Hadfield, having moved up into Captain Cann's Office, is just off on his annual six months' ski-ing holiday, Mr. Webster is always "away shooting", and Mr. Wakelin, having survived a "combat survival course", tried to go parachuting but eventually opted for marriage instead. Equally dangerous.

We are down to two Platoons. Where *has* 13 Platoon gone? Unlucky for some?

We now have more Lance-Corporals in the Company than we know what to do with; no doubt we shall survive.

In more serious vein, the Company did extremely well to emerge over-all winners in the Battalion Rifle Meeting, much of our success being due to Corporal Jackson's coaching. As a result, we provided Mr. Webster and Privates Wells and Allwood for the Bisley team this year.

In July the Company gave a demonstration for a large group of French trainee Staff Officers, and whilst 15 Platoon learned a lot about Viet-Cong-type ambushes, the Com-

pany Commander was forced to learn a lot of French. The Company also gave a presentation for the Battalion of a "Company in defence" on the only available open piece of ground in the Grunewald, which was rapidly turned into a mole-hill surrounded by wire, much to the disgust of the nearby riding school and its attractive students.

August saw us off and away on "Exercise Green Belt", the first phase being spent at Osnabruck, which was merely a convenient staging post for Amsterdam, or so some people thought. "C" Company, 1 KOSB, replaced us in Berlin whilst we sampled the APCs and ranges. Every member of the company drove a "432". Private Willis will never be forgotten, for he succeeded in "pulling left" when it should have been "right" and putting his foot "down" when it should have been "up", all resulting in the quickest "abandon ship" ever as his 432 rushed up a bank at a forty-five degree angle. (Others will never be forgotten for their performances in Amsterdam.) After Osnabruck, the rigours of the Harz Mountains claimed most people's attention. An "inter-section competition", including four days cross-country navigation and marching, tested the Company to the full and Corporal Jones's section put up a great performance to win a crate of beer off the other sections. This win was duly celebrated by a party in the STC Silberhutte the night before our return.

The outstanding event of this exercise was the achievement of one of our ambitions, to take with us on training some members of our affiliated company—Company C, 4th/18th US Infantry. We all enjoyed having them with us as part of the Company, and Staff-Sergeant Siepel and his "rifle squad" will be long remembered, for many reasons, from Amsterdam to the Harz. We believe that we have set a precedent in our close ties with this Company which we hope to extend further yet. Some of our old "Comrades-in-Arms" from our Fort Carson visit in 1967 are now also in Berlin. Company "C" presented us with a trophy to mark this exchange for, in addition to taking a "squad" of theirs on exercise, we sent a section to live and train with them whilst we were away. (An article on their experiences follows.)

In conclusion, we congratulate: Second-Lieutenant Webster and Private Allwood in achieving the "Army Hundred" at Bisley, Private Cox in being picked as "skipper" of the Battalion football team, also Private Pickard and Lance-Corporal Moulder for playing for this team (Private Pickard achieving a "double first", since he played for the Battalion cricket team also), the CSM on attaining his substantive rank, Sergeant Galley and Corporal Temperton on their promotion, Corporal Hazard on achieving his Canoe Instructor qualification, and Lance-Corporal Dixon and Private Hughes on being chosen for the "Boxing Squad".

We also congratulate: Lance-Corporal Dowdswell and Private Young on the birth of their children, Private Whyton on his marriage and Privates Fisher and Wells on their recent engagements.

We say farewell to Captain Cann who, in his short stay, did a lot for the Company, to Lance-Corporal Price, who left us for the attractions of civil life, and to Sergeant Jellings who left for the more permanent attractions of the Sergeants' Mess. We congratulate half the Signal Platoon, including Corporals Macey and Scurlock, Lance-Corporals Lee and Devine for choosing to come to "D" Company, and we welcome Lance-Corporal Aston from "B" Company. We also take this chance to say farewell to Private Pickard and Private Marks who leave us shortly (did someone say "Jones 92")

really wants to go too?), and to Corporal "Jacko" Jackson whom we shall all miss for his constant cheerfulness and ability to do any of three jobs at the same time; we wish him well in civilian life.

A SECTION ATTACHMENT TO COMPANY C, 4th/18th US INFANTRY

Saturday, the 17th of September, 1968, saw a section of soldiers from Delta Company arrive at the gates of Macnair Barracks, the home of Charlie Company, 4th/18th United States Infantry. We had come to live and train with the American Company for a period of two weeks. The first week-end was spent in settling down and making friends with our hosts.

Our first shock came on Monday morning when we found ourselves on Muster parade at 0615 hrs. We then had breakfast and later departed, on foot, for a two-day exercise in the Grunewald Training Area. The remainder of the day was spent in defence but, later in the evening, we were given orders to carry out a fighting patrol. At the start of this patrol we discovered that our section had increased to a strength of 16 persons, the "extras" tagging along to find out what sort of soldiers we were.

Our first surprise for them was getting through two ambush positions unnoticed before successfully locating and assaulting our objective. We were later commended by the Company Commander for a very successful patrol.

On Tuesday afternoon we started to march back to the Barracks where, once again, we found ourselves under test, as they tried to out-pace us all the way back. The remainder of the first week was spent on normal camp training, ending each day with a six- to eight-mile road run.

The first two hours on Friday morning were spent on the drill square where, again, we had our chance to shine, by putting on a 15-minute demonstration of British drill which was rewarded by a long round of applause from the onlookers. However, I am not so sure that our own CSM would have been too impressed had he been there.

Next came a very enjoyable week-end during which we were all very well looked after by our hosts. Saturday evening brought a surprise for Lance-Corporal Jones, Privates Mapp and Williams when Major-General Ferguson, Commander United States Forces in Berlin, walked into the JRC and sat with them for a drink and a chat.

On Monday morning the Company moved out from the camp to the Tegel Training Area to undergo their "Annual Training Tests" in which we were also to take part and be tested. ATT's are taken on a section level and each one goes through the phases of attack, defence and a combat patrol. We started the ATT course on Tuesday morning and spent the first hour in an assembly area doing normal battle preparation. We then crossed the start line on an advance to contact. Our first test was when our examiner yelled, "Gas", at which we immediately donned our respirators and covered all exposed parts of the body. We continued the advance like this until the all-clear was given. Our first obstacle was a mine field which was cleared to the best of our ability. The attack phase concluded with a section attack on an observation post which, having been done with speed and success, credited us with a good mark from our examiner.

We then went into the defensive phase, which included the laying of mines and the placing of wire forward of our position. At this stage we were told that we dug our

trenches like the Viet Cong. Compliment or otherwise ??? Whilst the final touches were being put to our defensive position, Sergeant Galley, Privates Wells and Cox left on a Recce Patrol to locate our objective for the night combat patrol. It was found, and enemy positions and strength noted, but the patrol returned with only 10 minutes to spare before the final phase was due to start. For an hour the patrol progressed without incident until, whilst crossing a railway line, we were hit by an ambush. However, we managed to get five men over before the ambush was sprung. The patrol then carried on and the objective was taken with ease as the enemy had not heard us until we were almost on top of them. The final phase of our ATT's now completed, we sat down to face the debrief at which we heard that our "good points had outnumbered our bad".

The following two days in the field were spent in acting as enemy to the other sections with a half-day spent on APC training.

On Friday morning, the Company returned to Macnair Barracks and we prepared for our move back to the Battalion. However, we were not dismissed until the 35 crates of beer purchased for our farewell party had been consumed. As the last dregs had now disappeared and the handshakes and farewells had been made, we finally made our way back to camp feeling somewhat merry, but a little sad that our most enjoyable, but short, stay with the Americans was over.

HQ COMPANY

ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	..	Major R. A. F. Jarman
Second-in-Command	..	..	..	Lieutenant I. H. Jackson, BEM
Families Officer	..	..	..	Major W. L. D. Morris
PRI	..	..	..	Major C. P. T. Rebbeck
RSO	..	..	..	Captain R. C. Hobbs
Quartermaster	..	..	..	Major R. G. Tomkins
MTO	..	..	..	Captain M. P. Nott
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant	..	..	..	WOII W. J. A. Brown
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	WOII L. A. Ramsden
Bandmaster	..	..	..	WOI (BM) D. Carson

There has been another change at the helm for the "engine room" of the Battalion with the arrival of Major Jarman from the Far East. We welcome both Major and Mrs. Jarman as we do our new Company Second in Command, Lieutenant Jackson. Captain Ladds has left us to take over Support Company and we wish him well in his new appointment. The change of Officers has meant yet another change-round of the office accommodation: overnight the Company Commander's office changed from a pale version of a dressing room at Lords to an offshoot of the Regimental Museum.

Company Sergeant-Major Ramsden has proved to be our most elusive member, either abseiling or "on a recce" at vital moments. At the time of writing he is attending a course to prepare him for his appointment as RQMS; we can only hope that, with his return, we will all become wiser about the "new accounting system". WOII Halstead

has been our stand-in CSM, "conducting" muster parades in an inimitable manner.

Colour-Sergeants Garland and Way, ably backed by Privates Waltham and Abdullah, continue to have the stores under control. A brand-new VW, Fiat 125 and an Opel reside outside the office. Private Waltham seems to be missing out somewhere.

Lance-Corporal March has now, with the change of Company Commanders, given up his unpaid appointment of cricket correspondent for the *Berlin Bulletin*. Congratulations to Mrs. March on providing a fine baby girl and considerably easing the office tension.

We were sorry that Corporal Walker's health made it necessary for him to be posted to the Depot. We wish both him and Mrs. Walker all the best and hope that they will visit us when the Battalion returns home.

Corporal Hutchings filled the COS appointment for a short time before leaving us for "civvy street". Corporal Woodman has now joined us on a more permanent basis, and we can only hope that the daily "perm", called a parade state, will not affect his sanity for a few months, at least.

Privates Gray and Johnson are still able to mystify the Duty Officers with the Arms Check Certificates and remained unmoved by the horde of German workers who drink "Shultheiss" at 7 a.m. while knocking down the armoury wall.

Private Phelps is progressing well in the office and realises that a cry of "Barber" from the Company Commander does not always refer to Drummer Barber.

The Company cricket team have had a full season, winning 10 out of their 12 matches. Lance-Corporal Hall, in particular, has had a most successful season scoring three 50s. Congratulations to Sergeant Miller on scoring his first century, against Support Company. WO1 Carson, Staff-Sergeant Fisher, Sergeant Cleary, Sergeant Owen, Corporal Collins, Corporal Plenderleith, and Corporal Warren have all helped us considerably on the cricket field.

The start of the soccer season saw some surprising figures amongst the 11 teams the Company fielded for the six-a-side competition. Congratulations to the "old and bold" team from the Band who lasted until the semi-finals before losing to the eventual winners.

MT PLATOON

How quickly the time passes; we find ourselves after a year in Berlin still trying to catch our breath. Since our last comments we have, in addition to everything else, turned out in force on Imjin and Queen's Birthday Parades, and also prepared vehicles for Admin and Allied Forces Day Parade. A "Good" report was obtained on the former which reflects great credit, as a lot of spare time work was put in, and who says we are not versatile!

We entered two teams of two for a driving competition held at RAF Gatow; all units had submitted teams. We didn't win, but with only a little practice we produced a good effort in particular by "Surrey Brain" who was doing well after $\frac{3}{4}$ of the obstacles. "Wheels" Allen, "Piggy" Parker and "Smiler" Smythe were the others who took part. Not being disheartened we put in a team for the Berlin M/C Trials, consisting of Corporal Bernie Wood, Biff Burford, Frank Radcliffe and Victor Sylvester. The team consisted

of three, each requiring his own motor cycle which is all the Battalion is issued with! Disaster struck on the Friday before the event when a car "ran into" Frank's machine, severely damaging it. This eliminated the team, and only two went on to try to get the individual prize, Biff and Victor. Again luck was against us; Biff, who was well set to be in the top three, blew a tyre on the furthest point of the cross-country section, and had to push his bike home. He collected a surprisingly small number of penalty points, and then had to be scratched for want of a serviceable machine. We'll have another go next year.

We held another successful party on the 24th August, when we were pleased to welcome Colonel and Mrs. Streather, Major, Mrs. and Miss Wood, the Adjutant, RSM and family, our new OC, Major Jarman, plus small parties from other unit "MTs" including MTO 1st Staffords, our new neighbours. All went down very well, especially the beer, and "Nobby" Leonard was seen to leave before the beer ran out, which is a good guide. Smiler Smyth just made it; we were glad to see him just out of hospital after breaking his leg on free fall parachuting. (You do use the parachute, Smiler.)

Some of the MT have managed to have a break out of Berlin with the Rifle Company's, which they thoroughly enjoyed; Carpet Gazey returned glassy-eyed and madly in love (again) from the Harz, with a large medallion around his neck as if elected Mayor. As usual, he's not sure what happened.

Most of the MT have had a spell of leave, and at the time of going to press the Annual UEI is on us which, of course, is a hard time. As soon as this is finished we're off to Soltau for three weeks.

Gazey excelled himself at the Battalion Beating Retreat; we will bet it is the first time the General has been "led in" by a 4½-ton with water trailer.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

This time finds a lot of the "Old Stagers" leaving, so there are quite a few changeovers. We welcome from "A" Company Privates Ron Lampard, Derek Bye, John Bailey and Derek Bale; Private Stevenson from "B" Company; Private Gaywood from Officers Mess (without tray), Privates Averies, Large and Wallace from "D" Company, and Sergeant Pace, REME, posted in from 1 KOSB. We are sorry to see Spot Allen and Biff Burford leave, particularly the latter who has been in the MT for a long time. Surrey Brain is buying his ticket for the "second" time (this must be an advertisement for pay in the services) and Farmer Whitcombe, Bert Hall, Tom Walters, Collin Paling, Smiler Smythe and Bimbo Stock are due to leave unless we can talk them into signing on; Corporal John Hazell went home on leave and finished up in Millbank and won't return before demob. To all these we say "thank you for your good and cheerful service; good luck, and we will be pleased to see you back anytime".

Whilst still on farewells, we wish Regimental Sergeant-Major and Mrs. Masters good luck and happy retirement; the RSM was "not really MT" but we were in his mind quite a lot!

Nobby Leonard is going as a driver to Warminster; we hope to see him back again in the not-too-distant future.

Congratulations to Geordie Garland, Wheels Allen, Collin Paling (and their wives, of course) on producing daughters (no recruits) and Piggy and Mrs. Parker on having a son. We wish them all health and happiness. We also congratulate Colour-Sergeant and

Mrs. Longden on either losing/gaining a daughter/son-in-law since their daughter married lance-Corporal Mahoney, Barman in the Sergeants Mess (a guarantee of future supply?).

COURSES

Corporals Ricky Smith, Stan Howse, Lance-Corporal Atherton attended "FV 432" Driver Instructors coursed at Bordon, and Lance-Corporal Ted Wells a Driver Instructors course. Another Standard I Cadre was run and Privates Bailey, Domer, Murphy and Vokins of the MT all passed.

What we want to know: WHEN are these "Quiet Periods" we all hear about, where we can catch up on all those things left undone?

SIGNAL PLATOON

We have now completed a very busy and interesting year in Berlin, during which time we carried out many and varied signalling commitments successfully.

This summer Corporals Bailey, Macey, Scurlock, Wafer, Lewis, Lee and Devine have left us to spread the signalling gospel and further their careers in other companies. Another "old 'un", Jock Cameron, has departed for duty at the School of Infantry, Warminster. His infectious laugh will be missed, particularly by the other self-styled "professionals". With the departure of Colour-Sergeant Fisher, Sergeant Tucker has moved into the stores, supported by our oldest member, Corporal Schneider. After nine years in the Platoon, mostly in the stores, his knowledge of "oo-ad-wot" (and how to get it back) is invaluable.

Because of the many changes in personnel, much of our signal training in Berlin has, of necessity, been of a basic nature, but it has been heartening to see the host of new, cherubic faces getting down to it with such enthusiasm. The more experienced signallers have accompanied the rifle companies out into Germany, and have practised skywave working on our latest-issued set, the A 13. Training has had its hazardous and lighter moments. Corporal Barton's detachment in Spandau Forest chose to establish themselves in an area infested by snakes and sent the following message to control "Snakes on and around antenna; permission to move". On another occasion a control operator thought we were being jammed by the "Reds"; it turned out to be the broad Scots accent of the attached KOSB Company operator asking for a radio check. The MT Section has also been doing its stuff with Corporal Green training the drivers, and "Playtime" Bishop anxiously counting the dents. The unsung heroes of the Post Room, Corporals Fairclough and Mansfield, have continued to dispense advice, mail and stamps to their customers. However, they would like it to be known that they are not responsible for writing letters for individual love-lorn soldiers.

On the domestic front, Corporal Gurney and Lance-Corporal Kershaw have married; Sergeant Cleary is thinking about it—still. The Mrs. Devine, Cameron, Green, Smith, Burgess and Angell have all presented their husbands with an extra mouth to feed. Corporal Bishop has given much thought to the fact that all of the husbands of this latter group are drivers, and has concluded that "it's something they put in the anti-freeze".

With Captain Hobbs now back at the helm after Bisley, UK leave, and a detachment at Brigade, and with the Platoon at almost full strength again, we look forward to the challenges of Soltau and the rest of the winter.

BAND

Scene: The Band Practice Room, Brooke Barracks, Berlin. Time: Autumn 1968 during a Band rehearsal break.

All the Band personnel are assembled and ready for a discussion.

B.M.: Well, gentlemen, its time for the next edition of the journal. Any suggestions for our article, please?

Sergeant Mann: We've had lots of engagements since the Spring. Perhaps we could devote the entire contribution to these? There's the Back Badge Parade and Ball, which went down very well. Then the Annual Admin, for which it was fine; followed by the Allied Forces Day, with all the Bands and troops from the other Berlin units, for which it was not so fine—in fact downright soaking!

Sergeant Owen: I saw it on the telly afterwards and it looked quite good despite the deluge.

(Murmurs of agreement from one and all, plus remarks like "March cards becoming like bread-and-butter pudding!", etc.)

B.M.: Yes, that's one thing about Berlin; everything we do is filmed, then televised, so we do get a chance to see ourselves afterwards.

Corporal Hinchcliffe: You must mention the Queen's Birthday Parade. It just managed to keep fine for that, but there was a good crowd to watch, even so.

Corporal McKay: Everywhere we've played there's been a good audience—in the parks, at the Bierfest, the Spandau Children's Festival, oh, and lots more.

Bandsman Ford (suddenly brought to life at the mention of beer): Don't forget the Zoo concerts. Or the Retreat Beating in September—another wet one, but appreciated nevertheless!

Bandsman Storrer: The visit of Lieutenant-Colonel Jaeger, the future Director of Music, Kneller Hall, as from next January, when he was seeing all Bands in Berlin on the 16th September, must surely be included.

Sergeant Owen: Aye, and the fact that he walked in just as we were in the throes of a sight-reading session of Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony!

Lance-Corporal Rowe (taking notes): If you all go on like this I shall fill pages with nothing but Band engagements. We could have a separate journal just on this subject.

Lance-Corporal Thomas: Well, there were other interesting happenings—like me, passing my A.I music exam.

Bandsman Wheeler: Plus James and Lance-Corporal Usher. Then there were A.II passes for Pete Owens and Alun Dunn . . .

Bandsman Elliman: Talking of James, you must mention his marriage to Sheila on the 31st of August and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them both and wish them much happiness.

Bandsman James: Thank you, John, and talking of marriages, don't forget Steve Foggs' wedding to Cristel Wessel in October.

Bandsmen Kingston: One interesting item is Wheeler's acceptance as a member to transfer to the Band of the Life Guards. I wonder how he'll look playing his piccolo on a horse?

Bandsman Wheeler: I'll write and let you know after my five weeks horse training—that is, if I'm not too saddle-sore to write!

Bandsman Jones (to Ron Britton): No one's mentioned your new twins?

Lance-Corporal Britton: You must say about Denise having twins—the two boys, Garry and Gerard. That's real news!

Sergeant Wake: Although he's going to live in South Africa, all his three boys have the initials G.B.!—Must be patriotism?

Lance-Corporal Britton: No, just musical—we shall be able to call them the three Gs.

Sergeant Mann: That's a noteworthy item—Ha, Ha! (Groans from all.)

B.M.: Bandsmen Owens and Hopes have left for next year's Kneller Hall pupils course—but we could mention the awaited new arrival in the Owens family. (General agreement from all present.)

Sergeant Owen: Being a young sporting enthusiast (ahem!)—how about the cricket match we held against the 2 LI Band and we beat 'em?

B.M.: With a score of something 56 to 80—that keeps us in the sports limelight.

Corporal Phelps: We also reached the semi-finals in the Battalion six-a-side football tournament.

Lance-Corporal Carlile: How many hockey matches have you played since the beginning of the season?

B.M.: Dozens, I should think . . . too many to highlight any particular match. Then there's basket-ball to cover, too.

Lance-Corporal Carbin: Don't forget Olly (Band Sergeant-Major Halstead).

B.M.: Do you mean the fact that he's temporarily carrying out the duties of HQ Company Sergeant-Major during the absence of Company Sergeant-Major Les Ramsden on a course, or that he's going home in December for his last six months in England before finishing his 22 years service?

Lance-Corporal Carbin: Well, both, actually.

B.M.: We must take this opportunity to thank Major Wood for his term in office as Band President which he has so ably carried out since he joined us in Chester, and to wish him and Mrs. Wood much success and happiness in the future . . . (Cries of "Hear, hear," and three rousing cheers from all.)

B.M.: And, finally, to say welcome to Major Jarman who has taken over as HQ Company Commander and is an enthusiast of Military Bands and their music . . .

(More sounds of general approval . . . everyone breaks away to carry on the normal musical curriculum . . .)

FAMILIES/PRI OFFICE

"What shall we do with the letter, Corporal?"; "I don't know, pass it to the Families Office. They will sort it out and if *they* can't, PRI will". This seems to be the fate of many letters and, somehow, we, in the Families Office, seem to find the answer. If the Families Officer can't the PRI Sgt. usually has a good idea of the best way to answer

knotty problems whether they are on the Families or PRI side.

Apart from being pestered by "Bumph" there is a diabolical machine in the office which goes by the name of "telephone". If not being kicked around the floor of the office by the Families Officer it starts ringing at about 8.15 in the morning and carries on until it gets tired at about 4.30 in the afternoon. Language used to describe this instrument of torture by the staff is unprintable.

Since May shopping trips to East Berlin have been organised either once, or, if possible, twice a month. The main aim of these trips is to see if the families can increase the number of grey hairs in the Families Officer's head and not, as many people seem to think, to purchase goods. The aim has been achieved. Buses are cancelled at the last minute—irate wives descend and blame the staff. Wives get absorbed with their shopping and forget the time. (Flap—have the East Germans or the Russians got them?) Anyway, it is all good stuff and part of the job.

The minor jobs of Marching In/Out we now take in our stride. As for the families rations scheme, named "FRIS", this is easy. It is only spoiled by another peculiar machine called a computer. If it wasn't for this computer life would certainly be easy. You can argue with people or you can change orders with a human organisation, but you cannot fight a computer. Once started it carries on to its terrible end and people have been known to get 50 pounds of potatoes because of one small slip of the pen on a Sunday night.

Colour-Sergeant Matthews and Sergeant Hodges galvanise themselves into furious action once a month and convert our Social Centre into a well-organised "Palaise de Dance". This appears to be gaining popularity, and what is more, after a slightly shaky start, it is gaining a little profit.

Mr. Carson has a well-organised "Tombola night" every Thursday and, judging by the sighs and moans, and Oohs and Ahs heard from the Social Centre on these nights, this also appears to be very popular, but it is doubtful whether all the wives will last the full tour with all the excitement that is built up when the "Snowball" is a good one.

On the PRI side Sergeant Hodges and Lance-Corporal Reynolds do not let any soldier stand still by their shop without selling them something. It has been known for a soldier to start to buy a "Berlin Bulletin" and finish up with a sidehat and a blazer badge.

Our PRI pigs continue, under their OC Private Tucker, to flourish and there is no doubt that their parade turnout is impeccable to the disgust of some Company Commanders.

As we go to press we are, of course, nearing "Guy Fawkes Night" and our Christmas activities. This, no doubt, our staff will take in its stride. Good luck to us and all our families. If we survive until the Summer issue we shall be happy and we hope everybody else will be.

SUPPORT COMPANY

ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	Captain W. R. N. Ladds
Recce Platoon Commander	..	..	Captain J. G. H. Corrigan
Mortar Platoon Commander	..	..	Lieutenant G. E. W. R. Mirehouse
Anti-Tank Platoon Commander	..	..	Lieutenant P. A. Woodley

Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander . . . Lieutenant D. R. Dixon
CSM WOII R. Page
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant . . . Sergeant Goss

Support Company Headquarters has undergone further change since the last notes. Major Rebbeck, after his long illness, has left the Company for the comparative peace of "C" (Trg) Company and PRI. Captain Hill has left to look after the Boys Wing at the Depot and, as we prepare to go to Soltau, Company Sergeant-Major Brisland is packing his bags to finish his last six months in England before retirement.

Captain Ladds has taken over the Company, Captain Corrigan the Recce Platoon, and Company Sergeant-Major R. Page is congratulated on his promotion to WOII.

Company Sergeant-Major Brisland, has, perhaps, more family connections with the Regiment than anyone and he has given a great deal to both the Regiment and latterly the Company. We wish him and Mrs. Brisland a very happy and successful future in civilian life.

The summer has been very busy, but the Company has been able to complete some training and take part in various sporting activities. The Mortar Platoon had a successful Concentration at Hönne; the Anti-Tank Platoon fired their mobats at Putlos and the Assault Pioneers trained successfully at Hameln. Most of the Company were able to spend a week of Adventure Training in the Harz mountains. The Recce Platoon continue to police the border with enthusiasm and skill.

In the sporting field the Company has won the Hobbs Cup Cricket and cross-country convincingly, and opened the football season with a good win in their first league game.

Congratulations to Private Cook, Lance-Corporal Chambers and Lance-Corporal Ironside on coming 1st, 2nd and 4th, respectively, in the cross-country.

Private Jones 36 was a team-member of the winning "Ex Parashot" team which achieved such outstanding success.

The Company have provided the nucleus of most Battalion sporting teams and it is hoped that we can retain the Hobbs Cup.

Looking ahead, we have three weeks training at Soltau, which will be a welcome break from endless "Night Guards", and will give the Platoons a chance to show their mettle in the field. It is hoped that about 25 members of the Company will be able to attend ski courses at Silbernhütte and Mittenwald later on in the winter.

MORTAR PLATOON

Having returned from a strenuous three weeks at Sennelager, where we were able to carry out a considerable amount of live firing, and after having won the Infantry Platoon Challenge Trophy in the Battalion, we were off again to join the Brigade Mortar Concentration for 10 days at Hönne.

The Concentration was of tremendous value to us, although we found it somewhat difficult to keep up with the other Battalions as we were mounted in Unimogs, whereas they were in FV 432s. However, we distinguished ourselves in the "Quick Action Competition" producing an overall fastest time, which included engaging a difficult target. Congratulations to crew and Corporal Chilcott (MFC) who both did well under difficult circumstances.

Whilst at Hönne we took the opportunity to visit the site of Belsen concentration camp

which rather depressed us, as even now no birds sing there.

Our return to Berlin, and to guards and duties, was rather a come-down after spending 10 days live firing on the ranges, although we soon settled down to our humdrum life again.

Support Company, mainly the Mortar Platoon, provided a Guard of Honour for Air Marshall Spottiswood, Commander RAF Germany, who appeared to be well pleased and congratulated us on our smart turnout and drill.

The Platoon later visited the Harz mountains. This proved to be an interesting experience involving abseiling, canoeing, map-reading and mountain walking. The Platoon Commander returned to Berlin with some grey hairs after dangling from a cliff face, and our time in the Harz soon passed, having survived some appalling weather.

On our return we at last took over six "long wheelbase" Land-Rovers, which cheered everyone who had been "ticking" about transport for some time. The Platoon is now correctly mounted, and everyone put their heads together and devised a method by which the Mortar could be carried on the bonnet of the vehicle, allowing us to come in and out of action quicker. With less kit in the back, Private Ford can now stretch out full length and sleep.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: Lance-Corporals Keay, Fry, O'Shea, Toogood, Scovell and Peart. Also to Lance-Corporal Keay on his marriage. We say welcome to Lance-Corporal Wafer and Privates. Thorne, Reid and Cook, and we hope their stay is a happy one. Goodbyes have been said to Private Williams on his return to civilian life and to Private Stephens who is residing in one of the better "Hotels" in England. Farewell was also said to Private Brasier who is now in the Company Office learning to type.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

The summer season for the Anti-Tank Platoon seemed to consist of demonstrations and equipment displays to a host of different people. Generals, Brigadiers, French Army Doctors, and all sorts of cadets have filed past our Mobats and Unimogs—all receiving the same enthusiastic "Blurb" from Lieutenant Woodley and Corporals Whitcher and Dickerson.

The Allied Forces Day parade had required a fearful "purge" on both guns and vehicles; but the paint was soon knocked off at Putlos on the West German Baltic Coast, where we went for our annual Concentration, which is organised by QMSIs from Netheravon; the comprehensive tests leave no doubt in anyone's mind where weaknesses lie!!

The Platoon is already looking forward to next year's "Putlos Week", which should be made easier for us because we shall, by then, have Land-Rovers as towing vehicles instead of the present Mercedes Unimogs.

In order to give the Platoon a necessary break from Berlin duties, we spent a week in the Harz mountains on adventure training in August. Canoeing, climbing, walking and fishing were the favourite pursuits, although Private Panting "fell in love" again—with an attractive girl from Braunleige. Hard rain during the latter half of the week caused a lot of discomfort as we were living under canvas.

On returning to Berlin, "Duty Battalion" took away many of the Platoon for duties, and several Battalion sports players, including Lance-Corporals Goss and Private Kelly,

were removed for training sessions.

One great difficulty in Berlin is the high rate of turnover in Platoons, which complicates the training of specialists. Sergeant Kibble has left to train Junior Infantrymen and Sergeant Jenkins has taken his place. Corporals Knight and Chittenden have recently returned, having been involved in "other Battalion duties" for four months! and we have lost Corporal Sanders and Privates Jones 95 and Browne to other Companies. New members of the Platoon are too numerous to mention, but all are settling down well.

Finally, we are all looking forward to training in Soltau in October and to the new cycle of the "silly season" in this remarkable city of Berlin.

RECCE PLATOON

Since the last edition the Platoon has been occupied almost totally on border patrols; consequently it is a very rare occasion for the whole Platoon to be together. This presents some problems.

Although we are 17 strong, rarely are more than 10 or 12 in camp at any one time due to leave and courses. Captain Corrigan came to us in April and almost immediately was made Company Commander. At the time of writing he has just returned from England after attending an equitation course (that's what *he* told us, anyway).

In May and June we were called upon to supply our "Ferrets" for the Allied Forces Day and Queen's Birthday Parades respectively and, although the weather was sometimes against us, the Platoon performed its tasks extremely well. It's the first time, and probably not the last, that Mansion floor polish was used on our Ferrets! But the remarks made by the OC make us think that the hard work was well worth it.

Since the last notes, the Platoon has undergone a major change in personnel. Corporal Hicks and Little "Mo" Hewitt have been demobbed and Lance-Corporal Knott has bought "£200-pounds-worth of civvy street", although there's a feeling that he'll be back. All three were extremely good members of the Platoon and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with them.

We would like to welcome to the Platoon Lance-Corporals Cooke and Palmer and Privates Jones 36, Ellis, Coster and Christian and hope they have a happy stay with us. Although Jones 36 has been with us since May we have only seen him on two or three occasions. He has spent all his time since then shooting, parachuting and on leave. There's a strong rumour going around that he may be with us for the Soltau period.

We are now preparing for the vehicle inspection with everyone cleaning and painting vehicles—not that they were dirty, anyway—and thinking up reasons why their vehicles should not be used.

During the second week in September the Battalion inter-Platoon six-a-side football competition took place. Although we only had eight available men from which to pick our team, we reached the final having beaten the Drums, 5 Platoon and 2 Platoon respectively. The final game was against the Mortar Platoon and, although they well and truly beat us, it was an enjoyable game.

The main thing is that the cup came to Support Company, and we like to think that by reaching the final, we did our bit to help get it there.

We would also like to congratulate Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Cullinane on the birth of their son, a future member of the Recce, perhaps?



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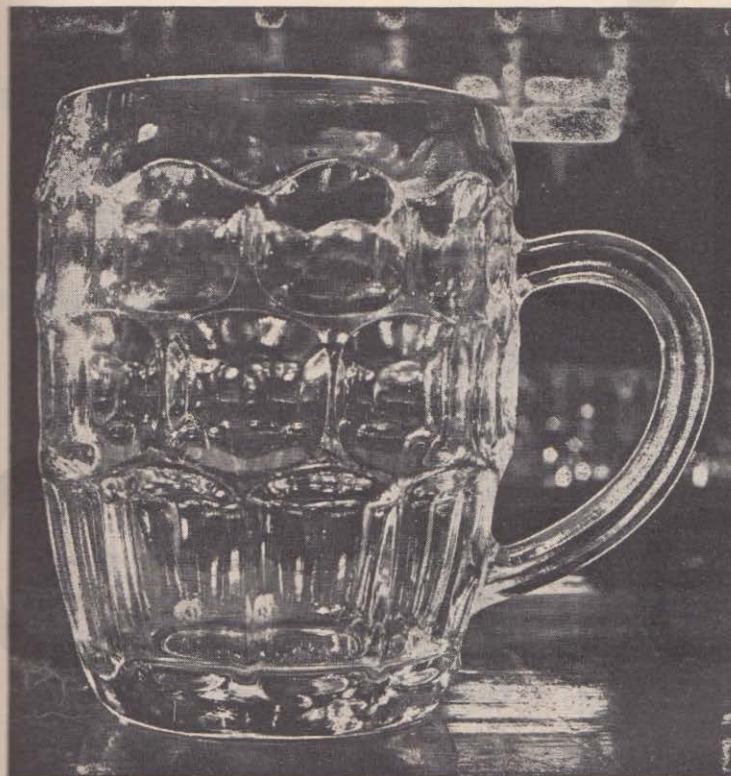


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The choice doesn't end there. You
can drink your pint from a straight
glass, or a tankard. In the Public,
Saloon, Snug or Lounge. Standing
up or sprawled in a deep armchair.
One thing's certain though. The
beer's fresh, well kept, and there's
plenty of it. (If you're not getting
your share, nip round to the pub.)

 FAMOUS DRINKS IN YOUR MESS			
 Rutherford and Miles OLD TRINITY HOUSE Bual Madeira	LEMON HART JAMAICA RUM. LAMB'S NAVY RUM. <i>Tia Maria</i> COFFEE LIQUEUR	 Bénédictine DOM <i>La Grande Liqueur Française</i>	
 NOVAL LB THE PORT matured in the wood	<i>These and all other famous drinks are obtainable through N.A.A.F.I.</i>		 Lanson BLACK LABEL CHAMPAGNE
 Drambuie THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED	 Carlsberg		 SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY <i>The Luxury you can afford</i>
 DUFF GORDON EL CÍD Amontillado Sherry	Deliciously Different CINZANO THE BIANCO		

From Holland with love

Nature sheds its love on sun-ripened apricots. Bols creates its greatest liqueur with loving care.

Your Naafi Shop has Bols in stock. Ask for Apricot Brandy, Cherry Brandy, Bolskaya Vodka, Advokaat and other delicious Bols products.

BOLS
GINS & LIQUEURS



ON THE STRATEGIC RESERVE
(of every N.A.A.F.I.)

-THE BEST YOU CAN GET



The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay
INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Many and varied activities have been undertaken by the Platoon since the last notes, and the majority of the Platoon have gained split personalities through having to be in two places at the same time.

However, worthy of note is our visit to the Harz mountains, where the invigorating air and cold mountain streams instilled new life into the Platoon by breaking the routine of Berlin life; even though our visit only lasted a few days, everyone seemed to enjoy it; even our most solemn member grudgingly admitted that "we must be mad". It was at this camp that a certain Sergeant who shall remain nameless, but not of this Platoon, whilst afloat in a canoe, requested that a bottle of beer be taken out to him; Lance-Corporal Ironside was quick to seize the opportunity and rushed forward with a bottle of beer in each hand with dramatic results. Besides capsizing the canoe and half drowning the occupant, he ended up with diluted beer, which in itself is a major crime.

Immediately after the Harz mountains we proceeded to our "Annual Bridging Camp" at Hamelin and trained with the REs. During this visit, while dismantling a class 5 raft, Corporal Cook and again Lance-Corporal (Jinx) Ironside looked skywards and observed a guided missile (the pound has been devalued but this is going too far) in flight at a height of 15 feet with a velocity of 200 feet per minute plus—in the form of a "Petters Engine", complete with mounting bracket—proceeding in their direction. Needless to say, Lance-Corporal Ironside just beat Corporal Cook to the safety of the shoreline by a short nose. Everything was eventually smoothed out (after several refusals by members to work near Lance-Corporal Ironside) by promising them free insurance cover.

Since our last write-up several staunch members have left us: Lance-Corporal Milne (Police), Private (armchair detective) Browne (PRI), Lance-Corporal Roussetty ("B" Company), Private Shellem (Arms Kote), Corporal Cook (Training Company). To them we send best wishes for the future, and at the same time we would like to welcome to our depleted ranks Private Moss who, we hope, is but the first of many to bring us up to strength.

We must mention that we hear stories that Private (Speedy) Caple, in order to fill in time while at the canoe club, has started trips round the bay twice daily.

In expectation of our last request to the 2IC being granted, namely that we be let loose on the Battalion to practise booby trapping, we wish to inform ALL ranks that these dangers can be encountered at any time; feverish activity is now taking place amongst members of the Platoon, and sadistic screams of delight are heard daily in the workshops accompanied by bigger and better bangs. Many of our mechanisms are home-made, simple devices, but very effective, and much work and thought is going into producing more sophisticated mechanisms for the future. All we need is the word "Go".

Before closing we would be grateful if any reader has photographs or news of any of the following persons, or negatives which they can loan to us for the Platoon Sergeant's Roll Book:

- (1) Sergeant (Lofty) Pickard.
- (2) Colour-Sergeant Tom (Holiday Camp) Clayden (with or without beard).

And, finally, two questions remain unanswered in the Platoon:

- (1) Who is the phantom strangler?
 - (2) Is Lieutenant Dixon really due back next month for his half-yearly visit?
- Let us hope these questions are answered by the time the next notes come round.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

We open this edition on a sad note, the departure of Paul Masters, the RSM. He is an unassuming man, but ever ready to offer help and advice when needed. In this he has been ably helped by his wife. We wish them both the best of luck in "civvy street", and, as we are in Berlin, "auf wiedersehen!" In the same breath we welcome another old Brag, Gordon Chillcott, our new "Sir". Over the next few years he will have a difficult task as the moving spirit in the amalgamation of two famous Regiments, our own and the Royal Hampshires. He may be assured of the support of the Mess in this difficult phase.

Reviewing our first 12 months in Berlin, it is safe to assume that we have taken to the Berliners at last, as they took to us from the first. Some talk of Alexander, but our Hector, ably supported by these same Berliners (and our Messing account), has announced his intention of entering for the Tour de France, and with that aim in view, is to be seen dogging up the Heer Strasse in the small hours of the morning—less traffic on the roads for a cyclist he says!

Nelson once said "I see no ships", nor did we when our boat trip was cancelled, but with wine, cheese, Alouette and Fred Thorne's magic carpet, we were transported to the Left Bank for one evening. Its success can be gauged by the singing of the Senior Citizens present. "Vive Msr. Fred".

It is noted with surprise, pleasure, and some mirth that Colonel Keith Dimple Haig Godwin has received his LS & GC. Congratulations, Godders!!!

There have been many demobs and replacements, most of which will be mentioned in other parts of this magazine. To those joining, welcome to the Mess, and happy soldiering. To those departing, God speed, and here's hoping we see you all on Old Comrades Day.

After a fairly quiet summer in the Mess, due to training, we are now looking forward to the events leading up to the Christmas celebrations.

We have deliberately left to the last our farewell to Bill Russell, as it would take a better pen than this to do justice to him, but from now on, it should be safe to leave a pail of water in the Mess. *Bon voyage* Bill and Gwen.

Finally, to any Royal Hampshire who may be reading this, here's our hand, our heart will follow.

SIMPLE ARITHMETIC GLOSTER FASHION

Scene: The teeming metropolis of Berlin.

Reason: That dreaded "Horse" that has no sense of timing. As the curtain opens, we see "D" Company lining up for their appetising breakfast of scrambled egg, one sausage, baked beans, tea and bread and marg. Sausages, being a local delicacy, are one per man. The multitude having been served, it is the turn of those above the salt.



Corporal Cooke, "C" Company, winning the Pole Vault in the Battalion athletic meeting



Corporal Price receiving his prize from Mrs. Streather at the Battalion shooting meeting

To face page 90



The winning team of 1 Glosters Parachute Club: Corporal Rousetty, Sergeant Goss, Lance-Corporal Hoare, Private Jones



The Daily Telegraph Cup for exercise Parashot



The Rotherham Trophy for parachuting accuracy

To face page 91

Dialogue :

Young Officer : Ah! Breakfast!!!

Professional Private : (in a furtive whisper) Would you like two sausages Zur?

Young Officer : Oh, yes, please!!!

Professional Private leans over mess tin, cuts sausage into halves.

Collapse of Young Officer.

GLOSTERS' PARACHUTE CLUB

The Rhine Army Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe has seen quite a number of soldiers from the Regiment this year. Most have been on basic courses but several have done continuation training as well. The club now has 18 members with eight qualified for five-second delays, and five qualified for delays of 15 seconds or more. The number qualified should be higher but, owing to administrative difficulties, most of the basic course students do not complete 15 descents.

The parachuting season has just been brought to a most successful conclusion by the Battalion team who were placed first in Exercise Parashot. This BAOR competition consists of a timed parachute descent to an RV followed by a 15-mile cross-country march visiting a series of "agents". These agents give the team various items of equipment which are later used in a demolition and SLR shoot. The exercise finishes with dressing the wounds of an injured man, carrying him about a mile on a stretcher, and then calling up a helicopter by radio to carry out the team.

The team originally consisted of Sergeant Goss, Lance-Corporal Hoare, Lance-Corporal Rousetty, Privates Jones and Cooke, and Lieutenant Dixon. The last two were injured in training, and, therefore, the four-man team picked itself.

After three weeks training the team was very fit and well prepared and this stood us in good stead in the competition itself when the team won both the "Rothmans Trophy", an annual award for parachuting accuracy, and the "Daily Telegraph Cup", a one-time trophy for the exercise as a whole.

Some great news recently received is that the Nuffield Trust has granted the Battalion nearly £600 to buy parachute equipment.

Some Para Commanders' canopies have been ordered as has one of the relatively new ascending or "kite" parachutes of the type towed by speed boats and vehicles. Once we have enough men trained, and this will not take long now, we will be in a position to give public demonstrations which should keep the Regiment in the public eye as well as providing a steady income to the Club Funds which, at the moment, are very depleted.

Lieutenant Patrick Cangle, who won a cup for the best overseas competitor at the Army Championships, has been carrying out the duties of Course Secretary at Bad Lippspringe and has been working very hard there. He is due back at the Battalion soon before going off to the Depot for a rest!

All in all this was a very successful first season in Germany, and we hope to be even more successful next season with a larger number of men trying out the sport and with our entry into a wider competitive field.

CRICKET

There has been plenty of cricket in Berlin and, as a result, 1968 has been a most successful season for the Battalion. The Battalion played 18 matches, winning 14 and losing 4. One of the losses, sadly, being the final of the Major Unit Knockout Competition to 2 LI.

The main feature of the side has been consistently good bowling and fielding. Only five sides have scored more than 100 against us, the top score being 118. On occasions the middle order batting has let the side down.

Lieutenant Mirehouse and Second-Lieutenant Hardick have been the most prolific run-getters throughout the season. Lieutenant Mirehouse has played some fine innings, including 95 not out against "A" Squadron, 1 RTR, and 70 against RAF Gatow in the 1st round of the Knockout Competition. He finished the season having scored 432 runs for an average of 54. Second-Lieutenant Hardick, after a shaky start, scored 357 runs for an average of 25. Sergeant Miller, Private Llewellyn, Captain Ladds, Corporal Plenderleith and Sergeant Cleary all scored more than a hundred runs and had some good knocks.

Lance-Corporal Goss had an excellent season and bowled consistently well and fast. Bowling 150 overs he captured 52 wickets for an average of 6. Several opening partners were tried throughout the season, and finally Private Llewellyn proved most successful, taking 43 wickets. These two were well backed up by Corporal Collins with Captain Ladds bowling slow left arm. Lieutenant Mirehouse, Second-Lieutenant Ongley, Colour-Sergeant Fisher and Private Phelps also bowled well on occasions. A very high standard of fielding was maintained throughout, and very few catches were put down.

There were some very tight finishes, but the most exciting was the 1st round of the Cup when RAF Gatow were beaten by eight runs. The final was disappointing against 2 LI, as, without Lieutenant Mirehouse, none of the batsmen was able to cope with the speed of Corporal Gooding who is "BAOR Cricketer of the Year" and a West Indian Test Trialist.

The prospects for 1969 are good and now that everyone is used to matting wickets, the team will be difficult to beat. It is hoped that 1 D & D and 1 DERR will be able to come to Berlin for a Wessex Brigade Week. A two-day game with 1 D & D in August was a great success this season.

The following have represented Berlin Combined Services: Captain Ladds, Lieutenant Mirehouse, Second-Lieutenant Hardick, Lance-Corporal Goss and Private Llewellyn.

The following played regularly for the Battalion:

Captain Ladds, Lieutenant Mirehouse, Second-Lieutenant Hardick, Second-Lieutenant Ongley, WO1 Carson, Colour-Sergeant Fisher, Sergeant Miller, Sergeant Cleary, Corporal Collins, Corporal Plenderleith, Lance-Corporal Goss, Lance-Corporal Hall (34), Private Pickard, Private Llewellyn, and Private Phelps.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

At the time of writing it is the "close season" for football in Berlin. This provided an excellent opportunity, first, to review the achievements of last season, and then to look forward to the forthcoming campaign.

Last season, our first in Berlin, was only moderately successful. The overall playing

record was: P24, W13, D2, L9, F81 and A67.

In Berlin Brigade Major League we finished in 4th position with the following record: P12, W7, D1, L4, F33, A24 and points 15.

Unfortunately, because of duties and injuries, it proved very difficult to field the same team for any two consecutive matches. This resulted in several indifferent performances by weak teams, and our form showed a general lack of consistency. There were, however, some highlights to the season. After decisively beating 1 DERR 5—1 in the previous round of the BAOR Infantry Cup competition we were drawn against 1 Queen's Own Highlanders in the semi-final. For the first time in the season the team was able to train together, and it was possible to field a fit, determined team against a side which had already defeated us three times in earlier matches. The game was one of the best seen in Berlin for a long time, and extra time had to be played before 1 Queen's Own Highlanders eventually won 1—0. Both teams played superb football and the Battalion was most unlucky to lose to the eventual Cup winners. The team gave by far their most skilled and cohesive performance of the season, and clearly demonstrated their ability to do well provided time for adequate preparations is available.

If this level of performance can be maintained in the forthcoming season the team should be in the honours at the end of the season. A determined effort is to be made to produce a fit, well-trained team, and to achieve this a new venture has been tried. The complete Battalion squad spent two weeks in the Harz Mountains in September in a pre-season training camp. This should give us a good start when the various competitions open. Unfortunately, several stars of recent seasons, including Lance-Corporal Andrews, Privates Pickard and Stock, will be leaving shortly but new talent is continually being discovered.

Leading appearances last season were: Lance-Corporal Andrews 18 games: Lance-Corporal Ireland, Privates Kelly, Sanderson and Cichy 17; Privates Keylock and Pickard 16; Private Moulder 15.

Leading scores were: Private Cichy 20 goals; Private Pickard 16; Lance-Corporal Andrews 13; Lance-Corporal Rousetty 12.

Stop press: The team showed great potential in beating St. Andreas Burg Town FC by 3 goals to win in the first game of their pre-season tour.

EQUITATION

At the end of World War II Ryan Price was a discharged junior officer with £40 and two "Selling Platers" to his name; today he is England's foremost trainer under National Hunt Rules. In similar fashion the 1st Battalion arrived in Berlin 12 months ago, to find a few broken-winded over-fed and under-worked hacks living in Stygian gloom in an outbuilding of the Olympic Stadium. This collection of highly suspect horseflesh masqueraded under the proud title of the "Berlin British Saddle Club". While its progress under new management has hardly been as spectacular as that of the gentleman referred to in my opening remarks, we can at least claim to have got the organisation on a proper footing, with bright prospects ahead. In our first year of office we have increased our string by five horses to a total of 10 horses and three ponies including a thoroughbred gelding by Acropolis; taken over the German Olympic stables; modernised and extended our winter quarters, and built up our membership to almost 60. In addition, pony club

classes are run daily except on Sundays, and lessons for soldiers have been started.

Most of this has had to be achieved by a considerable amount of tact, stubbornness and diplomacy, and the Commanding Officer has transformed himself into a one-man purchasing commission.

At present the Commanding Officer is chairman, with Captain Corrigan as stable manager, and Major Rebbeck as the Polo tournament King. The Polo week was run very successfully in September, with the CO playing for Dusseldorf! Our original grooms Lance-Corporal Andrews and Private Murphy have left us for civilian life after long and loyal service, and the stable staff is now composed of Lance-Corporal Cavey as "head lad", and Privates Aldom, Inchley and Whittaker (2nd Light Infantry).

Mrs. Rebbeck, Mrs. Jarman and Mrs. Corrigan are all involved with promoting the future stars of Badminton, and a Gymkhana and several interesting lectures and demonstrations have been held. The Commanding Officer and Captain Corrigan, with some of the ladies, participated in the Berlin German Drag Hunt on 16th October and, looking like refugees from a Snaffles print, led the field on two venerable ex-Household Cavalry troop horses.

The stable manager has returned from a course at the home of the RAVC at Melton Mowbray, and with the acquisition of boots and breeches for the grooms the Russians can be seen peering anxiously at their recognition handbooks to identify the English Cavalry Regiment with a badge in the back of its hat!

We now look forward to a winter of schooling in preparation for next year's competitive activities, and to the arrival of the 9/12 Royal Lancers when we hope to get Polo off the ground as a Berlin Sport.

EXERCISE DEEP DIVE—NORWAY

BY LIEUTENANT A. S. HADFIELD

The coastline of Norway, with its rocky outline, lends itself ideally to any form of underwater diving, and the area around Kristiansand in the south is no exception. The mountainous coastline is only broken up by numerous deep-water channels of up to 45 metres in depth. There are no beaches on this stretch of coastline, and the land drops away so steeply that depths of 15 metres next to the shoreline are not uncommon.

The expedition, led by a Warrant Officer from another Berlin unit, and consisting of 16 diving members, including Lieutenant Hadfield, Private Whyton, "D" Company, Drummer Deane, "HQ" Company, and one cook, were due to stay at 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre at Isefjaer, which is situated about 16 kilometres to the east of Kristiansand.

The centre lies at the head of a wide fjord and consists of three huts, where the staff live, and some eight or nine large tents, for the members of courses, in the woods above the huts. Cooking is carried out in a lean-to next to the huts and this facility was made use of by both the expedition and courses passing through Isefjaer. Whereas courses existed solely on "compo" rations, the divers subscribed to a rations fund, which kept us very well supplied with a varied supply of fresh rations bought in Kristiansand.

The Advance Party of the course, consisting of a Unimog truck and trailer, left Berlin with all the stores and equipment for the expedition on the 28th June. The remainder of the course travelled up in a convoy of privately-owned vehicles on the 29th. The

route took us through Denmark and involved a crossing by ship from Hirtshals to Kristiansand. The journey was not without its moments, as one car burned out a valve and limped into Kristiansand late, having missed the boat taken by the other three. The ample supply of transport proved invaluable for taking the expedition to the various inlets where they wished to dive.

The first three days of the diving were taken up with re-acclimatisation with aqualungs in open water, since the only two occasions that "open water dives" had been carried out earlier this year were at Kiel over Whitsun, and in the Tegelsee, Berlin, on Easter Sunday. Approximately half the club had never carried out an open water dive before, so the first few days were profitably employed. These first few dives were carried out on our doorstep in the same fjord as the Centre is situated. This area did not provide us with much satisfactory training, since the water was murky and the bottom covered in a thick, spongy, mass of mud and leaves.

Later on the club was very fortunate in being able to hire from a group of Oslo University students, a 30-foot diving boat which was permanently manned by the students. The students, all of whom were proficient divers, lived on the boat complete with their local entourage and were remarkably friendly towards us. The club would move down to the boat at its mooring in the harbour at either Kristiansand or Lillesand, which is a small fishing village some 30 kilometres from the former, at about 0830 every morning, with all the equipment, and then set sail at 0900 hrs.

There was never any great necessity to venture far from port in order to find a good diving spot, since the underwater terrain was so deep and rugged near the harbours that every small cove or inlet had something of interest to see. Once a suitable spot had been reached, the boat would be anchored, the air compressor would be started in order to refill bottles as they were returned to the ship, and the first dive would be under way in a very short space of time.

The weather was brilliant for the whole of the stay with hardly a cloud in the sky, so off-duty divers would row ashore to sun-bathe. The water, however, was very cold, necessitating the wearing of rubber diving suits which, even then, did not help much to keep one warm after half-an-hour down at a depth of about 30 metres.

Dives would consist of either three or four divers from the club with, occasionally, one or other of the crew members, and the length of time spent underwater varied from anything up to about 45 minutes. Although no wrecks were located, the visibility of about 30 feet allowed the divers to observe fish and plant life, and divers brandishing spear guns and knives, whilst chasing fish, were a common sight. Sea anemones were a very colourful prize and the Outward Bound Centre resembled a fish market in a very short space of time. The only form of underwater life that was at all troublesome was the jelly-fish which abounded in many shapes and sizes, the most fearsome being the Portuguese Man-o-War, from which quite a few divers suffered minor stings.

The boat would return to harbour at about 1700 hrs. each day and, after the equipment had been cleaned and checked, the majority of the club would head into one of the nearby towns to sample the night life until the early hours of the morning.

It was with great reluctance that the expedition had to return to Berlin on the 14th July. In the space of two weeks they had accomplished a great deal in the way of diving, and everyone present was able to gain a certain amount of experience from the training

and from the general maintenance of equipment which took up quite a few evenings. The novice divers managed to average about a dozen dives, and the more proficient people about 18, which said a great deal for the club's small air compressor which was kept going most hours of both day and night despite its frequent stoppages.

A Farewell Party was held on board the diving boat on our last night and then, the next day, the expedition caught the afternoon ferry back to Denmark and undertook the long overnight drive back to Berlin. The civilisation of Regimental life again, after two weeks of living in tents and on board a boat, seemed a great anti-climax and we were just left with memories of Norway 1968 and thoughts of where the next Exercise Deep Dive would be.



"A" COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) THE WESSEX VOLUNTEERS

"All is back to normal now though, and we shortly classify on the range prior to a rather early camp, in May, at Sennybridge. More of that next time". (BACK BADGE, Vol XII, No. 44 (New Series) p. 34.)

Well, we shot straightish, camp was wet, and all is still normal (whatever that means in the Army Volunteer Reserve). We look forward to another normal half-year.

What? You want to know more? What about? Our career in entertainment? No, I mean, dash it all . . . Oh, well, all right.

There is, Cole Porter or someone is on record as having said, no business like show business. Cole Porter or someone was absolutely spot on.

It all began when Standish Hospital, Stonehouse, needed a hydrotherapy unit, which needed money from public subscription, which needed fund-raising, which needed a committee, which needed an event, which, in its turn, needed a clean, wholesome, all-the-family, quick-fire, sock-it-to-them type of entertainment. Who better to provide this, thought burly, blue-eyed, flaxen-haired, building-contractor, cook-corporal, committee-member John Deuten; who better than those experts in conjuring tricks and knock-about farce, "A" (never a dull moment) Company, Wessex Volunteers? After protracted haggling, the price was agreed, and we were in business.

The 20th April dawned, if not bright and clear, at least moderately warm and passably sunny. Preceded by 17th Area Band, the soldiery strode through Stonehouse at the head of a column of vehicles, stripped right down and cammed up to the eyebrows, all radiating an aura of immense efficiency.

Arriving at the recreation ground, static weapon displays were manned and immediately besieged by a swarm of small boys. If the minimum age for entry into the Army were lowered by 10 years, any recruiting difficulties would be relics of the past.

Meanwhile, the Company cooks sold fried chicken *militaire* and the newly-formed Company Rod and Gun Club ran a shoot in an adjoining field, where the locals could terrify a few clay pigeons.

After a certain amount of nervous nail-biting by the Company power group came the high-spot of the afternoon—"A display by 'A' Company, Wessex Vounteers". The Anti-tank and Mörta detachments rumbled around the arena, erupted into spasmodic fits of shouting and explosions, and left. Immediately a seemingly impregnable fortress of six-foot tables and cam-nets arose at one end of the ring and was manned by a detachment of what might be identified by a devotee of the silver screen as Arabo-Mexican militia, fresh on this occasion from a murky encounter with one or two of the local populace.

Meanwhile, a section of infantry advanced from the other end of the arena and battle commenced. Almost at once, as the corpse of a recently-ignited thunderflash fizzed inches from the feet of an elderly spectator on one side of the ground, a dense fog of green smoke enveloped the VIP stand on the other. The record books will show that Corporal Hatton and his section won and the forces of evil were routed. Those on hand will recall only small boys emerging from the gloom with hard-won handfuls of steaming empty cases.

There was a lot of room for improvement, but the unsophisticated crowd had gone home happy, satisfied with merely explosions and activity, and unconcerned to know why. Stonehouse had been introduced to the Volunteers.

An impression had clearly been made, for soon conversations in the Company office would have seemed more suited to the administrative caravan of a travelling circus, as enquiries for bookings flooded in. Eventually we supplied static displays for Bath Tattoo and Dursley Festival, as well as accepting the kind invitation of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars to fill out their ranks at the Cheltenham Tattoo. Our only other performance was to be at Stratford Park, Stroud, on 20th July. (We decided that, despite our obvious duty to our public, we ought to fit in a little conventional training every now and then.)

In Stroud the march was headed by a City Band, which had better be nameless. It is not the job of these columns to be rude or unkind (except, sometimes, to members of the Company), so we shall not allude to the playing of the Band, nor to their drill, and we hope we shall forget them.

The column included cadets, scouts, girl pipers (piping) and floats of every shape and size. Eventually the whole lot arrived at the Park and the displays commenced. "A" Company were billed to follow the international brick and rolling-pin throwing contests against the towns of Stroud in Australia, Canada and the USA. We hoped our thunder had not been stolen when it appeared that we had to compete for attention with a British and United Kingdom All-Comers Women's Rolling-Pin Throwing Record. (Your correspondent did not dare watch too closely; he feared his life might be in danger if one of these Amazons over-reached herself.)

Our time came, and the show went on. What can one say, after the full description accorded to the Stonehouse event? Only that this time we had a rifle platoon and the supporting weapons in the arena at the same time, everyone saw what was happening, and it went splendidly. Although we set out in the first instance to introduce ourselves to the public by these events, and maybe to acquire a few recruits, there is no doubt

that, as a vehicle for the instruction of basic battle drills, they are excellent. The incentive to do a good job in the public eye and the atmosphere of performance produced a little of the tenseness which must be necessary to determine whether a basic drill has really been committed to the automatic subconscious.

Meanwhile, in another part of the woods, we had been to camp.

Breconshire is doubtless a charming spot when a watery spring sun is peering inquisitively through the morning mist, and only the busy chattering of the starlings interrupts the placid permanence of the moor. No doubt even the gaunt Beacons melt into benevolence when they reach into a clear blue sunny sky. Early in May, 1968, Breconshire was, for the most part, windy and wet. When it is windy and wet, Breconshire is foul.

"B" Company, from Hampshire, had earlier spent a fortnight sampling the delights of Hamburg, so that only three rifle companies came to Sennybridge. The first week-and-a-bit of the camp was to be given over to cadre instruction, and a duplicated exercise was to be attempted by companies on successive days at the end.

Of the cadres there is little to say; camp is the most important part of the training year, and plenty of basic training got done. Sennybridge is a camp with a wide range of local training facilities and, as a result, it is nearly always full. This meant that while on some days shooting was due to start at six a.m., on other occasions it could not start until the afternoon and was due to continue until nine at night. These hours were not as bad as they sound, however, and training was enlivened by a trip to Castlemartin to see and learn about tanks (for many people, for the first time), and a visit from Captain Grist, 1 Glosters, attached to Army Air Corps, accompanied by his helicopter.

The exercise at the end of the fortnight was a complicated and lifelike advance to contact affair, although, as all such exercises must, it took place in a bit of a vacuum. The weather got worse and worse, and, as dusk was closing in, the last few hours were abandoned, so that the success of the following day's field firing should not be prejudiced. The exercise had been fairly successful, though conditions were appalling—they did help to convey the air of chaos and devastation which is probably characteristic of any "real" battlefield. (Your correspondent is sure he has left half his belongings in the mud of Smelly Jam, or was it Ribald Aunt?)

Camp had to be concluded on a Friday night, instead of Saturday morning. The lack of accommodation appears to be such, nowadays, that not only is every camp bursting, but there is a queue of units waiting at the gate as soon as others leave.

It was a good fortnight, based on the principle that you must walk before you can hope to run, and everyone must have learnt something (except, perhaps, the soldier who thinks it is high time Sergeant Hyde was pregnant).

In June, a remarkable battle took place on Salisbury Plain. Exercise Sharp End was to have taken place in March, but it was, as a result of the Great Gas Stoppage, adjourned to a date to be fixed.

This was a sort of calculated fratricide, where the two rifle platoon commanders sat down and devised a plan whereby each could decimate his colleague's ranks. In the end, it is understood that this did not happen, for the warring factions were largely kept apart by some mercenaries from the Mortar Section. Eventually, some judicious umpiring was required to point out to the attacking forces where the defenders might

be found, and a clash took place. Whatever the outcome, you will be relieved to hear that the parties later appeared fit and well and Private Parkes had enjoyed a good night's sleep.

More recently we have been on Salisbury Plain again, doing a variety of training with an eye to the Battalion Support Weapons Concentration and Inter-Company Platoon Competition in October. The week-end was highlighted, if that is the right word, by the almost total loss of Corporal Neaves and two companions on a night compass march. We had got through a considerable number of Verey lights and were on the point of searching the Plain for any large hole into which the patrol might conceivably have fallen, when they appeared.

The Battalion week-end comes next, and there seems no reason why we should not do well.

This unit has been in existence for 18 months now, and its ageing has had two effects in the last six months.

Throughout the period, particularly at camp, we have seen the disappearance of a number of the items of sartorial difference between the various units from which the Wessex Volunteers were drawn. In their place we have "Wessex" flashes and "Wyvern" collardogs, as well as a stable-belt designed by and for the Wessex Volunteers (about which feelings are somewhat mixed—your correspondent has always had a greater admiration for leather than chrome-plating, if, indeed, the two materials are comparable).

When 5 Glosters (TA) closed down, most of the sporting activity with which the Battalion had been associated came to an abrupt end. Gradually, various elements of the new unit have taken up again what they did before and new ideas have come forward. You will already have seen mention of the Rod and Gun Club, and there are moves afoot to raise football and hockey teams.

Small-bore shooting was made into a big thing by WO1 Martin (as he then was) a couple of years ago, and more recently a team made up of WO1 Keitley, Corporal Clapham, Corporal Sadler, Lance-Corporal Base, and Private Loftus, J. (arms-storeman extraordinary) shot in 22 rounds of the Gloucester City Winter League (1967/68), of which 14 were won, the average score being 465 ex 500. WO1 Keitley (to whom, incidentally, your correspondent is deeply indebted for this feast of information) captured the medal for the Highest Individual Average (96.52) in Division 4 of the League.

The TA Small-bore Match is an annual event, and in 1968 over 100 company teams from all over Great Britain were in competition. The League team, plus Sergeant Marriott achieved for the Company the remarkable placings of 1st and 4th in the two stages of the match, with scores of 1,162 and 1,157 ex 1,200. There are high hopes of representation in the T & AVR team to shoot in the Inter-Services Match next year.

It was not certain until a few days beforehand that there would be a T & AVR meeting at Bisley this year, but after a flurry of practise a team of nine attended. No signal honours were won, but the team reached the semi-final of the falling-plates shoot and were in the top four in the China Cup. Lance-Corporal Stevens surpassed himself, and everyone's expectations, by shooting his way into the last 20 for the Queen's Medal, on his first visit to Bisley.

One field in which a few members of 5 Glosters achieved success was that of motor-rallying. This activity was renewed in April, when two vehicles were entered in the Fast

Lady Rally, a civilian event with a class for Land-Rovers. Lance-Corporal Base and partner excelled themselves by beating the whole field, Mini-Coopers, Lotus Cortinas and all, while Corporal Sadler and Lieutenant Jacques (borrowed for the occasion from RGH) came third in the Land-Rover class. (Lieutenant Jacques is now Captain, but the rumour attributing his promotion to success in the event has not yet been confirmed). Much of the credit for the three-seconds margin which the winning vehicle had over the second must go to craftsman Davis (REME), who recited a few magic spells over the motors beforehand.

So we end the period covered by another edition of THE BACK BADGE. By the time this is read, a number of people will have failed to collect their training bounty, but the commitment is clear and not excessive. Even those who do get their money will not be happier than the Mortar Section, however, who are like Children on Christmas morning with their new 81 mm mortars.

We have had a change of personnel in that Major Lee-Browne has left the Company to be second-in-command of the Battalion, in which job we wish him his customary success. We hope we shall see him from time to time. In his place stands Captain White-man, while Lieutenant Ryan moves into the 2IC spot. If we make as much progress in the next 18 months as we have in the first, we shall be all right.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

Readers might have been excused for thinking that the A.C.F. in Gloucestershire had gone underground or been disbanded, for we note that it is two years since our last notes appeared in the BACK BADGE. May I assure our readers, therefore, that we have not been buried nor disbanded and are, in fact, very much in being and face the future with enthusiasm. The County strength at this moment of writing numbers 625 all ranks spread over the City of Bristol and Gloucestershire, organised into five areas and 30 detachments. In the training year just ended over 30 cadets have joined the Regular Army as apprentices or Junior Leaders, representing 6% of our Cadet strength. Due to the reduction in the old Territorial Army a major upheaval was caused in our affiliations and to a lesser extent our accommodation. We now have 16 detachments in the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud areas and three detachments in Bristol affiliated to the Gloucestershire Regiment, and all now wear the Wessex Regiment Cap Badge but, sadly, not the Back Badge. The remaining 11 detachments are affiliated to either R.C.T., R. Signals or R.E.M.E. Since our last notes we have formed new detachments at Newent in the Youth Centre, at Thornbury in the Community Centre, at Leyhill in the Parish Hall, Cromhall and at Brislington where we share accommodation with the Air Training Corps. All four detachments are flourishing.

As stated earlier in the notes, the reduction in the T.A. meant that many of our detachments lost their homes. As a result, there has been much change and many detachments have had to move. The Old Market Detachment is now located in the Pavilion at Patchway and has been re-named Patchway. Winterstoke have moved out of the old T.A.C. and now have a luxurious hut nearby. Headley Park has had its hut extended. Nailsworth is now beautifully housed in the old Eastington hut re-erected on the K.G. VI Playing Fields. Falcondale will soon have a new hut in the grounds of the old T.A.C.

The Deolali Cup:

For the best record of passes in Cert.

"A" in the Training Year Leyhill, Det. 3/5th Regt.

The Jeans Cup:

For the most improved Detachment of

the year Horfield, 6th Regt.

Commandant's Trophy:

For the best Detachment of the year .. Nailsworth, 3/5th Regt.

The Centenary Trophy:

For the best Cadet of the year .. C/Sgt. King, Nailsworth, 3/5th Regt.

Padre White Cup:

For the best percentage of attendance

at Camp Malmesbury Rd. Det., 2/4th Regt.

Football Shield:

Winners of the inter-Regt. Competition 3/5th Regt.

The County Cadet Commandant promoted Colour-Sergeant King to Cadet Under Officer on presenting him with the Centenary Trophy.

In 1969 the County will Camp at Wyke Regis, 10th-24th August.

Having read these rather lengthy notes our readers will gather that Colonel F. J. Harrison has handed over his duties after nearly five years as Commandant. He will continue to be a member of the County Cadet Committee. Our new Commandant, Colonel P. C. Sanders, O.B.E., T.D., is a Cirencester solicitor and a past president of the Cirencester Rotary Club. Colonel Sanders was commissioned into the 5th Glosters T.A. and served with them for 10 years. At the end of his T.A. service he was Officer Commanding the Southern Command Intelligence Unit. Latterly he served with the Gloucestershire Civil Defence.

In conclusion, may we extend an invitation to all ex-Officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of the Gloucestershire Regiment to visit our detachments at any time during parade nights. They will be given a warm welcome by the Detachment Commanders.

DATES TO REMEMBER

22nd March	Officers' West of England Back Badge Day lunch, Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham.
25th to 27th April	Regimental Reunion with 1st Battalion in Berlin.
10th May	Regimental Association Dinner.
4th October	Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Reunion in Gloucester.
24th October	Officers' Regimental Dinner, United Service Club, London, S.W.1.

LOYAL GREETINGS

The following message of loyal greetings was sent to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of the formation of the Division:

"The Colonel Commandant, Officers and Soldiers of The Prince of Wales's Division present their Humble Duty and Loyal Greetings on the occasion of the formation of the Division".



Some of the Gloucestershire ACF Cadets on a Centurion tank during their visit to Berlin



Allied Forces Day parade in Berlin with the 1st Battalion in the foreground



Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., inspecting Imjin Platoon on its passing out in August. Platoon Commander Lieutenant R. P. James and Corporal D. Skinner on right



Captain S. D. A. Firth, The Gloucestershire Regiment, getting a jumpmaster's check before a training jump with 1st Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment

The following reply has been received:

"I sincerely thank you, the Officers and Soldiers of The Prince of Wales's Division for your kind Loyal Message on the occasion of the formation of the Division."



WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT

With the new Divisional Headquarters now stationed at Lichfield a lot of the importance of the Wessex Brigade Depot has been transferred. The Brigade Colonel and the Staff Captain have had the officer planning taken out of their hands, and this is now done at the Divisional H.Q. Each new recruit is now badged Prince of Wales Division, Wessex Brigade, and from October onwards each recruit from the Southern Command recruiting area will first of all go to Corsham, Wilts. There he will be tested medically and physically, and generally have everything done that is normally done in the old forming-up period at the Depot. We thus hope that the end product will be fit enough to start training in earnest at the start of Week 1. The only disadvantage of this trial system is that the better type of recruit with the higher Selected Staff Grading will probably get snapped up by the faster-talking, smoother-operating Corps representatives. However, we hope that we get the recruit who has the strength of character to say, "I want to join the Wessex Brigade". We, of course, will still be getting recruits from the other areas.

On 22nd August, Colonel Carne, v.c., very kindly came down to inspect Imjin Platoon on its passing out parade. The Platoon was commanded by Lieutenant R. P. James, and contained 10 recruits who were badged Glosters. The weather was kind, and Colonel Carne, no doubt, attracted a lot of parents and friends to the parade as there were approximately 170 watching it. We hope that Colonel Carne enjoyed the parade as much as the spectators did. During the parade Sergeant K. Godwin, B.E.M., was presented with the L.S. & G.C. medal. He had come back for the parade from the School of Infantry where he is stationed at the moment. He is in good company there as W.O.2 "Busty" Walker is also with him.

Since the last edition of the BACK BADGE the amalgamation of the Gloucestershire Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment has been announced. The whole Depot was shaken by the news, but also glad that the Regiment had not been disbanded completely. Since then amalgamation committees have been meeting in both Battalions and at the

Depot. The joint committee met for the first time on 18th September at the Brigade Information Room, and we were pleased to see Lieutenant-Colonel Streather over from the Battalion for the meeting. The Committee was chaired by Colonel Harding. It will be meeting again fairly soon.

As usual the Depot has been visited by various members of the Regiment. Only recently Captains Firth, Grist and Michels have all visited prior to being posted back to the Battalion in the new year. Lieutenant Woodley passed through on a short visit before taking up the post of Y.L.O. in Plymouth. New faces around the Depot and Exeter are Major Gilmore, who has taken over the job of Training Major with the Wessex Volunteers, Captain Hill, who has taken over command of Junior Soldiers Company, and also Lieutenant Barker who is in the same company. Drum-Major Simmonds, who spent a short time in Berlin, has obviously decided that he likes the Depot better and is now serving another year here. R.S.M. Preece is now fully settled into his job as Depot R.S.M., and no doubt finds it a little different from his previous jobs. R.Q.M.S. Chillcott has now left and returned to the Battalion as R.S.M. W.O.2 Cook has filled his place as R.Q.M.S. Corporal Skinner has now left the Depot to go on a drill course at Caterham prior to being posted back to the Battalion.

We congratulate the following on their promotion to Sergeant: Corporals Dalton and Shaw.

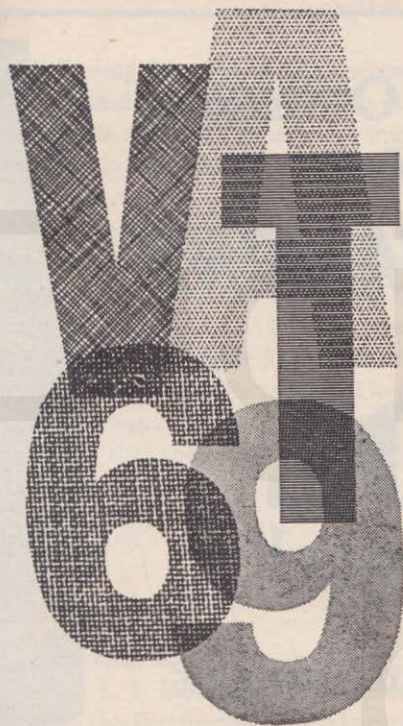


THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

DEPOT NOTES

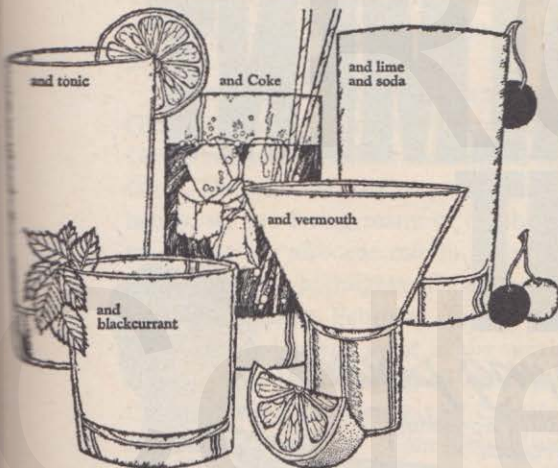
The year opened in anticipation of a grand reunion planned for June. In co-operation with both units of the Regiment at the Home Station and the Old Comrades Association, planning and preparations continued until all was in readiness for the Reunion Weekend 21st-23rd June.

Grand! It was a glorious and memorable occasion; a most fitting and successful event to celebrate the Regiment's 85th anniversary. To the young recruits it was moments of awe—for the old sweats, it was long overdue. For all of the nearly 2,600 attending it was, indeed, a resounding success. A weekend of strained memory banks, recalling faces from the past; strained eyes, from reading name tags; half-finished sentences and questions due to interruptions by recognition of, or by, an old comrade; sore hands from friendly and cherished handclaps and aching backs, from more exuberant recognition by comrades of long ago.



FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

Bacardi and what?



Bacardi, the best-selling light rum in Britain and the world, and now in 40-ounce bottles too.

Bacardi is a registered trade mark of Bacardi and Company Limited.
Coke is a registered trade mark of The Coca-Cola Company.



He's got a lighter his dad made out of a spent .303 cartridge. Spent is the word.

He's got another that never lights before the tenth attempt. Slowest flame in the West.

He's also got a lighter from somewhere east of Suez that is supposed to be the smallest in the world. It can light up to eight cigarettes without refuelling.

He's got three suits and a sports jacket that all smell of lighter fuel.

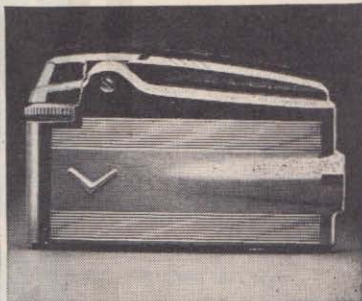
What he needs is a gas lighter.

Give him a Ronson

—and why not get one yourself too?



Windshield Comet gas lighter



Premier top-selling gas lighter

These are just two of the wide range of models for men and women on sale at your Services Shop.

To givers of Ronson Varafame gas lighters. A filling lasts for months. Refuelling lasts 5 seconds. The lighter, with its adjustable flame, could easily last forever.

RONSON



At Home and Overseas
enjoy

DOUBLE DIAMOND
and

SKOL
International

In bottle and on draught



use **NAAFI** **INSTALMENT** **CREDIT**

and stretch your buying power

It gives you a wide choice from Naafi's wonderful
variety of household and personal goods
costing £5 or more



Details from
any Naafi shop

Following this exhilarating weekend, the Depot restored itself to its task of producing well-trained recruits. As the days of the Depot reduce in number it looks, in retrospect, with pride and satisfaction at the number of qualified recruits it has trained for not only the Battalions of the Regiment but also for all Corps of the Army and a number for the Air Force.

In November, the final recruit Platoon will finish its training and the Depot, as well as all other Infantry Regiment Depots, will be disbanded. The recruit training of all recruits for Canada's integrated forces will then be the responsibility of C.F.B. Cornwallis for English-speaking and C.F.B. St. Jean for French-speaking recruits.

On the closing of the Depot the majority of its staff will be posted to the 1st Battalion and a few to the 2nd Battalion in Germany. During its 15 years of service, it is estimated that the Depot has processed in excess of 10,000 recruits, of which over 80% graduated. A record that speaks well for the many "Royals" who served at various times on the Depot staff.

1st BATTALION NOTES

Soon after our return from Cyprus to the Home Station in London, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Barrett took command and began an intensive training programme to prepare the Battalion for several new and varied commitments. As well as the Airborne role within the Defence of Canada Force, we were required to be able to reinforce the N.A.T.O. stand-by group, and maintain our United Nations peace-keeping skills. One Company Group continued its A.P.C. role. The preparation for these tasks led to interesting training in the Caribbean and many parts of Canada.

Our Arctic training exercise in Northern Ontario provided experience in long-range air deployment, the use of helicopters to position Platoons in inaccessible areas, and provide an excellent opportunity for Forward Air Controllers and fighter pilots to work together. The exercise began in a stimulating fifty degrees of frost and two feet of snow. However, the weatherman stopped co-operating and the remainder of the exercise was carried out in slush.

One of the better-travelled members of the Battalion was Captain Simon Firth, the Gloucestershire Regiment, who commanded the Airborne Company. His "B" Company Group received excellent training on many drop zones throughout Ontario using the Otter, Hercules and the new short take-off and landing aircraft, the Buffalo. Unfortunately, we are losing many of our best jumpers to the new Airborne Regiment which takes over our airborne role in November.

Several other highlights of the year's training included a peace-keeping exercise in the Caribbean during February, jungle warfare courses in Australia for several members, and a moose-hunting jaunt in the north. Two heroes of the year were Captain Larry Costello, who led the National Free Fall Parachute Team to a fourth place at the World Championships in Austria, and Captain Tom deFaye, whose small arms team won the Brigade Competition. Tom himself won a position in next summer's Bisley Team.

The past year has been very rewarding in training experience and travel. We look forward to a year which, we hope, will be as productive and interesting.

FIFTY YEARS SERVICE

BY EX-R.S.M. G. PEARCE

"And one man, in his time, plays many parts"

This is a quotation from Shakespeare that readily comes to my mind when I think over my 50 years of soldiering "apprenticeship" in the Army and attached to it. The major part of that apprenticeship was served in the Glosters.

I joined the re-formed 1st Battalion at Catterick Camp in 1919 from the 3rd Battalion in Maidstone. In Maidstone the 3rd Battalion were in civilian billets, 6d. per head per night—accommodation only provided—some good—some not so good. I touched for one in the not-so-good category, six of us in the front room of a house with four blankets and a straw filled palliasse on the floor for a bed—however, training was so hard that at night, as youngsters, we were so tired and beaten, that anything was good enough. We left our billets at 6.30 a.m., full marching order, and returned about 6 p.m.—all meals were taken in a disused factory. My word, what a difference in the day's food then to the present meals for the troops—today it reads more like a four-star hotel. I have just been over to the R. & F. Dining Hall and this is what they can choose from, May 1968.

Breakfast—Sausages, bacon and eggs.

Dinner—Main dishes—Roast Pork and Apple Sauce—Roast Chicken—Fried Fish—Cold Ham and Salad or Meat Pie.

Tea—Cutlets—Curried Pasties—Sausage rolls—Chips.

Makes an old soldier's mouth water, eh!

In Catterick, now that the war was over, the Battalion was soon on a peace-time footing and the full pre-war discipline appeared, and what discipline, spelled with a capital "D," and you were not allowed to put a foot out of place, and old soldiers will well remember the Friday afternoons of hand-scrubbing of floors and bedboards and the re-filling of your straw palliasse and pillow—now its lino on the floors, foam mattresses and feather pillows, plus nice cotton sheets—what a change! For the better, of course!

It was early in 1919 that I received my first chevron and, as young, enthusiastic N.C.O.s we were kept on our toes from Rev to lights out—and weren't there some tough old soldiers to deal with—many wearing the South African War medals. Being detailed for wet canteen duty in those days was a young N.C.O.'s nightmare, those old lads could sink enough beer to launch a battleship.

I was very proud of my first Course at Catterick where, as a very junior Lance-Corporal I came top of a School of Instruction and was recommended for promotion to Corporal at once.

It was at Catterick on the day that Peace was signed that riots broke out in the Garrison, and many will remember the burnings at Richmond. The trouble started by the troops called up during the war, and not on a regular engagement, who were waiting their discharge, suddenly being detailed for service in Russia. However, in about a week it was all over—order was restored and the parties still sailed away to Russia, and I remember every person in the Garrison lost one day's pay to make good the damage—I think the Private soldier was on 1s. per day, later this was increased to 2s. From Catterick we moved to Tidworth—a very pleasant change, moving into an established barracks, but our stay was cut short and, in 1920, we mobilised and moved to Ireland, and took charge

of the hostage camp at Kilworth. Here, our duties consisted mostly of guards and picquets and the ferreting out of the I.R.A. personnel—this was most enjoyable, particularly to the young bloods—me being one. Most Corporals on the move to Ireland were promoted Sergeants, so I became a Sergeant at the age of 20, and I well remember trembling at the knees at the thought of having to enter the exalted Sergeants Mess—however, my guide and teacher all through my early stages of soldiering was the late C.S.M. Biddle, M.C., D.C.M., M.M., and, my word, what a man to be apprenticed under—I would class him as the finest soldier O.R. I have ever met.

It was in Ireland that I took part in the raid which led to the capture of Sean Moylan, M.P., and I was part of the escort which took him to Cork for trial, and we all thought he was to be shot—however, he received a term of imprisonment and, on release, sat for many years in the Free State Parliament as a Cabinet Minister.

After the signing of the Treaty with Ireland in 1921 the Battalion returned to Tidworth. This was a most pleasant station—plenty of dances in the Messes and a Military Hospital nearby packed with Nurses and plenty of young Sergeants ready as escorts. Our stay in Tidworth, however, was very short-lived as the Battalion was ordered to Germany, Cologne, and then on to Upper Silesia to maintain order during the Plebiscite. From Germany I came to the Depot for a tour of duty and then on to India. Once again, in 1927 the Battalion mobilised and was sent to Shanghai to stem the tide of the South Cantonese Army who were pushing the North China forces towards the city. On completion of the tour in China the Battalion returned to India to complete its 18 years tour abroad and eventually returned to U.K. at Gravesend. It was from Gravesend that the Battalion was selected to take part in the Olympic Tournament—this was a great success in the capable hands of the late Colonel Grazebrook. From Gravesend the Battalion moved again to Catterick and after a short spell, I was posted as R.S.M. to the 4th Battalion where I stayed for about 18 months, then proceeded to Mersa Matruh to take over R.S.M. of the LXI. The Battalion then moved to Sidi Bishr and came home to Plymouth in 1937.

Whilst at Plymouth, the Battalion took part in the Coronation Ceremony of the late King George VI. It was at Plymouth that the Battalion mobilised in September 1939, and moved in four days to the concentration area at Lyme Regis and moved to France as part of the 3 Division under the then Major-General Montgomery.

At Lyme Regis I was offered a T/Commission, which I turned down in favour of waiting on a Q Commission.

In France the Battalion was employed on preparing the Gort Line of defence in the area east of Lille. In January 1940 the Battalion was sent on duty to hold outpost positions forward of the Maginot Line. Whilst here, one morning I was with the C.O. visiting the Line when three strange officers were seen in the area—I was sent to investigate and one of these officers turned out to be the late Richard Dimpleby, who told the C.O. that his job was to get a broadcast from troops in the front line. The C.O., myself and three others were picked, and as there was to be no naming of the unit concerned, the C.O. had picked us all for our Gloucester accent—and so on the 27th January, 1940, the Battalion became the first in history to broadcast from the front line—and as I came over first, I claim the distinction of being the first soldier ever to broadcast from the front line. Later, I wrote to the B.B.C. hoping I would be able to get the tape for the Museum, but I received a letter from Dimpleby stating that he well remembered the occasion but was

sorry the tape was unobtainable. The Battalion later moved to the area of Tourmignies and here I was interviewed by Field-Marshal Sir Edmond Ironside, who was C.I.G.S., who promised to take my case for Commission, this he did, very much to my surprise, and signals were passed and I was to await orders for return to the U.K. to take up Q.M. of one of the newly-formed units; however, this was not to be as I was taken prisoner. The time that I spent as a P.O.W. was quite a hectic time for me as I organised and ran what must have been the largest Escape Club in Germany in regards to the numbers being dealt with. Life was getting a bit too hot so I decided it was time to say goodbye to the Fatherland. After quite a lot of narrow shaves, I was back in England well before D Day. I immediately took up my case with reference to my Commission, but got nowhere—everyone was far too busy with the preparations for D Day, so it was decided that I be discharged—or, as I thought, thrown out. I was terribly disappointed to have my career chopped off so suddenly as I was convinced, which has since proved right, that I had many more years soldiering in me. On discharge, after a very short spell, whilst the essential works order was in force, I was detailed for factory work. I entered the Civil Service and was for a time at the Recruiting Office, Bristol, from there I was posted as Chief Clerk to H.Q. Bristol Garrison in Horfield Barracks.

I spent a very pleasant eight years there working in close contact with Paddy Saville and Jack Scaife who were also in the Barracks as B.S.A./B.I.A.s. The Barracks were used for staging particularly with T.A. Units passing through and just staying for bed and breakfast. It was at the Barracks that Spot Townsend and I thought out the idea of the monthly "get-togethers" as we were often meeting old friends who wanted to have a chat, so we arranged that we all meet on the first Saturday of each month in the Black Swan at Eastville—this we had published in the local papers and it was heartening to see the numbers that turned up. Now, of course, this idea has spread—hence the monthly meetings in the various towns. Whilst at the Barracks it was surprising the number of old Glosters that came in for a chat and a loving look around, then the sad day came for the close down after its 150 years of sheltering the soldiers. The R.Q.M.S., Jack Scaife, and myself had the job of backloading all items to ORD. and we were the last to leave the Barracks and hand the keys over to the R.E. for maintenance. As many may know, it has now been taken over by the G.P.O. and many of the old buildings are down. From Horfield I was posted to 15 Company R.A.O.C. at Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham, here I met Edie Parker and the late Baggy Cook, both S/Inspectors in the W.D.C. Here I became clerk to the Q.M. until Corsham closed down as an Ammunition Depot. The Barracks was then taken over by the School of Preliminary Education and I was transferred, still as Clerk in the Q.M.'s office, the work I am still carrying out—so, going into my fiftieth year, I am still with the troops and going strong. To all old soldiers I would say, having witnessed the change, that the Army today is a vastly different one to our day of soldiering. I personally think the following would be immediately seen by the Old Soldier coming back:

A totally different kind of discipline—the "D" is now missing, but I think this is now true in all walks of life; life in the barrack rooms which are now wonderfully laid out and mostly centrally heated; the food; also the long, slogging route marches; and, of course, the pay must not be forgotten. However, all these are to the good. As a soldier and civilian I have served under 14 C.O.s, four Garrison Adjutants, and I am now with my ninth Q.M., so I think I have just about served my apprenticeship.

ON LOAN TO ZAMBIA

BY CAPTAIN T. W. MICHELS

The Country

Before joining the Glosters I had spent three years with the Federal Army in Southern Rhodesia and had always hoped I might see the area again.

Thus, I left England in March 1966, by no means ignorant of what to expect, but obviously wondering what awaited me. I had driven through Northern Rhodesia in 1958 but remembered little other than endless dirt roads, trees and dust.

As the aeroplane circled Ndola airport eight hours later, my memories of the country came rather too sharply into focus. For, as far as one could see, there stretched an endless flatness of trees. The only variation appeared to be the odd dirt road or vlei. This was rather depressing and I could only hope not true of all the country.

Zambia is a vast country of 288,130 square miles, with borders stretching for over 3,500 miles. Formerly part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, it achieved independence on 24th October, 1964. It lies to the south of the Congo and Tanzania and to the north of Rhodesia. To the west is the Portuguese territory of Angola; to the east the other Portuguese territory, Mozambique. To further complicate matters, Zambia also touches on South West Africa.

Many areas of the country are uncultivated, undeveloped and some even uninhabited. With a population of only 3.8 million, Zambia has one of the lowest population densities in the world. The majority of the population is Bantu with only 73,000 Europeans and Asians. There are no truly indigenous African tribes, most of them having arrived well after the sixteenth century as a result of pressure from other parts of South and Central Africa. This has resulted in the extraordinary number of 72 different tribes. This could well be a deciding factor in Zambia's future, as no tribe can really be considered dominant, and on its own have any great influence on the present state of affairs.

Zambia is part of the Central African plateau and for the most part lies between 3,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level. This makes for an excellent climate and, apart from the Zambezi and Luangwa valleys, the temperature seldom rises above 90°F. The greater part of the country is flat and featureless making Zambia a dull country to travel in, whether by air or land. One seldom has a clear view of the countryside, due to either the lack of high ground or the innumerable trees which cover the greater part of the country. Only 1,000 of the 22,200 miles of road are tarmac. This, allied with the great distances, makes travel to anywhere but the major towns difficult, except in the dry season. However, to a person who enjoys the bush and primitive surroundings, this is ideal.

Travel to anywhere outside the country is not as simple a matter as I had hoped. Apart from causing great hardships to Zambia, the present Rhodesia crisis resulted in considerable disappointment to the British loaned officers. At one stage we were not allowed to travel in Rhodesia, Tanzania or the Congo. Restrictions on the two latter countries were only temporary, but at no time were we allowed into Rhodesia. This was particularly galling because, apart from the fact that we could not drive to South Africa, the Zambian and European contract officers were under no restriction whatsoever. This left us with no alternative but to see as much of Zambia as possible.

Possibly our most interesting leave was spent in the Luangwa Valley Game Reserve. This Reserve has one of the greatest concentrations of game in Africa. It lies in a wide but steep valley which, by the middle of the dry season, results in very little water remaining anywhere but by the Luangwa river itself. This forces huge concentrations of game on to the river, and by October one only has to travel comparatively small distances to see a considerable variety of animals. The temperature in the valley at this time of year is normally between 110°F and 120°F.

This intense concentration of game in the Luangwa Valley has caused an almost unique problem. In an age when game preservation in Africa has world-wide publicity, it has been found necessary to shoot out, or crop, three of the largest animals. The elephant, buffalo and hippopotamus are causing such devastation to the trees and other vegetation, that it is estimated only a few years remain before the animals no longer have enough food.

The cropping scheme is well organised and humane. Hyperdermic syringe guns are used, which kill the animals quickly and painlessly. This is not, however, a job for the amateur, as this method requires the cropping rangers to approach to within 20 yards of elephant and buffalo herds. A processing factory has been established which prepares the meat for African markets on the Copperbelt. The bones and ivory are also sold, and this money goes towards the upkeep and improvement of game reserves all over the country.

Many people feel that cropping is not the answer, and that surely the animals can be transferred to other game reserves. Zambia has only two large reserves and to move the animals anywhere else makes even more certain of their eventual death—at the hands of poaching gangs.

Large areas of Zambia are shot out of game now and, unlike Kenya, one seldom sees animals, even on the most remote roads. This is partly the result of the Boers moving up from South Africa in the past. However, the main problem now is the poaching gangs who find an ever-increasing market, particularly in the Copperbelt.

Zambia lacks the variety of countries such as Kenya and South Africa, but it is by no means lacking in colour. With a good car and a willingness to travel long distances, one discovers a country with much more to offer than was at first apparent.

The Zambian Army

During the years of Federation the only regular infantry units were the four African Battalions; one in Southern Rhodesia, one in Nyasaland and two in Northern Rhodesia. After the break-up of the Federation, and consequent independence for Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, these Battalions remained where they were and formed the basis of the Zambia and Malawi armies.

On Zambia's independence, in 1964, the 1st Battalion the Northern Rhodesia Regiment and the 2nd Battalion The King's African Rifles became the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Zambia Regiment respectively. These Battalions were formed into a Brigade which also included an Armoured Car Squadron, one Light Battery and an Engineer Squadron. In addition was an Army Headquarters, commanded by a General, and with attached units such as a signals squadron and transport troops, making up the remainder of the Army.

In 1964 all the officers were European, either ex-Federal Army or British seconded. Apart from specialists, most of the non-commissioned officers were Africans.

When I arrived in early 1966 as a Company 2IC, the first African officers had been commissioned about one year. Some had been commissioned from the ranks; the majority were the first Zambians to come back from overseas training.

The African soldiers were interesting to work with, extremely smart and possessing great stamina. Most of them were recruited from the bush and took hardship as a matter of course. They seldom complained about conditions unless it rained, which caused an immediate drop in morale. Their greatest fault was their shooting. I trained shooting teams for three years and even now am at a loss as to why they are so bad. They have excellent eyesight, are normally very fit, but with a few exceptions are inaccurate beyond belief.

Sport was of great importance in the Battalions, particularly football, athletics and cross-country. The standard of running was extremely high and to my horror I found I could not even get into the Battalion cross-country team.

My second year was spent as training officer of the Officer Cadet Wing at the School of Military Training. The cadets came straight from school and were under training for up to six months. Their stay was dependent on overseas vacancies, the better cadets being sent first. At present the cadets are trained in England, Canada and Ireland.

What made the tour particularly worth while was the training. One had the choice of thousands of square miles of bush and could use a different area on each occasion. Apart from this, one's spare time could so easily be filled with either shooting or fishing, making the whole concept of training so much more pleasant.

I left Zambia on 5th August, 1968. The Army has now expanded by another infantry Battalion and more increases are expected. The African officers I had first met as Second-Lieutenants are now commanding Companies. Britain has ceased to loan officers to Zambia, but with more and more companies being commanded by Zambians, few appointments for infantry officers now exist.

What will happen to Zambia in the future is a question which, no doubt, interests many people, apart from myself. The first elections since independence are due soon and feelings are already running high.

As a newly-independent African country, recent history would seem to be against Zambia achieving a settled and peaceful future. I hope this proves to be untrue, as the country has great potential and I found my two-and-a-half years there both enjoyable and very well worth while.

A PERSONAL VIEW OF VIETNAM

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. G. H. VARWELL

My job in this benighted country is to find out how the American Forces, their weapons, equipment and tactics are operating and standing up to the trials of this peculiar war. My grandiose title on the M.S. books is G.S.O. 1 Chief of Defence Staff's Operational Study Group Vietnam. Out here I find I am called simply the Assistant Defence Attache. Whatever it is, it's a nice vague appointment which enables me to do almost exactly what I like, a very satisfactory state of affairs.

On arriving here in March I found everyone was still getting over the Tet offensive, when several Viet Cong (V.C.) Battalions had infiltrated into the middle of Saigon and it had taken two or three weeks, hard fighting to get them out. Some of you will have seen lurid pictures of it on the television. I drove round with my predecessor (Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Hill whom some will remember as D.A.A.G. in Cyprus) to look at the devastated areas. There are two or three large blocks which have been completely flattened but most of them were only tin huts or shanties to start with. The inhabitants have been re-housed in large refugee centres in rather better accommodation than they were in before. Perhaps one-twentieth of the city has been destroyed or damaged in the two attacks in February and May this year.

The May attack started in the middle of the night, as usual. I heard nothing of it until I was rung up during breakfast by the Head of Chancery (the embassy equivalent of the Chief of Staff). He said there had been a lot of noise and shooting during the night and would I check my "flock" to see if they were all intact! My flock consists of those members of the embassy staff who live near me. Each officer of the Defence Section has a flock to look after in times of strife. Mine consisted of four rather pretty young female secretaries, and several older, not-so-pretty married couples, all living in the flats next door.

It was quite early on Saturday morning, and most of them had just got to sleep, having been kept awake all night by the bangs. So they weren't very pleased when I woke them up. However, they were quite glad to know that someone was thinking about them, and I was able to tell them there was no shooting in the streets near our houses.

Later that morning I had an appointment at United States Army Republic of Vietnam (U.S.A.R.V.) Headquarters which is an enormous military compound about 15 miles out of Saigon on Highway 1 the main road to the north-east. As I drove through the streets things seemed fairly quiet and there was as much traffic as ever. However, on approaching the bridge crossing the river at the start of Highway 1, I was stopped by a local policeman and a road barrier. The bridge and the road beyond were quite deserted except for a few steel helmets just visible over the top of some sandbag bunkers guarding the bridge, and the rattle of small arms fire from the other side of the river was almost continuous. I stopped to have a look but could see nothing of the opposition over the river, and as there were a few stray bullets whistling overhead I conducted a tactical withdrawal. I rang up Army Headquarters to tell them that I would see them some other time and they were quite surprised to hear their communications with Saigon were cut.

I then went to Saigon District Headquarters to find out what was happening. As a frequent visitor to this Headquarters, on the pretext of finding out if it is safe for our British Medical Team (10 doctors and 16 nurses) to operate at the Children's Hospital in the centre of Saigon, I was allowed in. There was the usual clutter of harassed staff officers, loud telephones and crackling radios, but I eventually got hold of a copy of the previous night's log which showed a largish V.C. infiltration into the south-west of the city, and the battle of the bridge which I had already discovered.

The fighting went on sporadically for several days. The bridge was soon cleared and the main road opened, but there was fighting to the north of it and in the south-west. At one stage an alarmist report from a passing U.S. Military Policeman to our British

M.P. guarding the embassy gate, said the V.C. were pouring into the Southern edge of the city and attacking the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. A personal recce soon dispelled this rumour. In fact, refugees were pouring over the southern bridge near the bank, driven out of their homes largely by American helicopters rocketing suspected pockets of V.C. in the Suburbs. The only shots near the bank were coming from the local Vietnamese Police trying to control the crowds by firing over their heads.

The V.C. in the city were eventually eliminated and a very large number were killed, in this May offensive, all over the country. In fact, it was a definite victory for the Free World Forces. Since then there have been a few rockets and mortars scattered piecemeal throughout the city during the night, but no one in the embassy has been damaged though a few windows have been blown in. In the last two months there has been practically no excitement in Saigon.

Luckily, I am able to get out quite a lot to visit U.S. and Australian units around the country. One of the most amusing trips was a visit to the 1st Air Cavalry Division commanded by Major General Jack Tolson who had been a student with me at the Staff College, Camberley, in 1951. Though I hadn't seen him since then, he gave me a great welcome at his Headquarters near Hue in the north of the country. After a hurried lunch at which there was no liquid refreshment except "Coke" or the U.S. equivalent "Jungle Juice" (a sickly green or purple) I was pushed into his personal chopper which he drove himself at rather less than tree-top height.

We hurried off to a Battalion change of command ceremony. As C.O.s only last six months in this country these ceremonies are fairly common. On the parade ground (a bit of sand in front of the Battalion Headquarters tents) detachments of about 10 men from each Company were drawn up in line. In front of these were some buglers and the current C.O. As the General appeared on parade the buglers "sounded off" a lengthy general salute. Then the C.O. marched up and stood in front and to one side of the General. The new C.O. then appeared from the crowd and came up on the other flank. The Regimental Flag (about the same size as our saluting base markers) was produced by the R.S.M. who handed it to the old C.O., who handed it to the General, who handed it to the new C.O., who passed it back to the R.S.M. Command had changed! The General then made a short speech saying what a splendid chap the old C.O. had been and what an even more splendid chap the new C.O. was going to be. A flurry of saluting, another fanfare and we all fell out to a nearby marquee where we were plied with more Coke and thick slabs of cake. Luckily, this did not last long, as the General was anxious to get on round his units.

We shot off in the chopper to the nearest Battalion fire support base about 10 miles away into the hills. This consisted of a long hill-top completely cleared of all jungle and vegetation containing a Battalion tactical headquarters, a Rifle Company, a Battery of 105 mm. howitzers and a Platoon of 81 mm. mortars, the whole surrounded by a mass of concertina wire and a good many sandbag bunkers. We landed in the middle of this, beside the guns which were engaging a target to the west. The C.O. led us to his Command Post and showed us on the map where his other three companies were operating and how many enemy he had contacted and killed in the last 24 hours. It reminded me of our operations in Kenya, except that here the patrols were generally Company size

as they were liable to bump into much stronger and more heavily-armed opposition than in Kenya.

About 1,000 yards away we could see an airstrike by Phantom F 4s going in on a jungle hill. The General decided to go and look at it. We circled round in the chopper while the two aircraft dropped small bombs and napalm into the trees. All we could see was clouds of smoke and a few tongues of flame here and there. Remarkably close, about 200 yards away, was a puff of green smoke denoting friendly troops. An infantry Company had had a few enemy rounds fired at it, pulled back a hundred yards and called for an airstrike, the inevitable reaction to any contact.

We flew on to the next Battalion base, remarkably like the first one, and altogether visited about six of the 10 Battalions in the division. The Brigade Commanders occasionally appeared but; generally, orders were given direct to the Battalion C.O. Everyone seemed to take this as a matter of course.

On the way back the General flew down the coast to see how the rice harvest was getting on. I heard over the intercom the General ask his aide, who was fiddling with a wireless set, if there was any firing going on in that area. The aide had just said "No" when I saw a U.S. destroyer out at sea with a puff of smoke appearing from its guns. A few seconds later there was a loud thump and the chopper seemed to shoot up about 50 feet, leaving my stomach well behind. "That guy's firing right through us" from the General as he trod on the gas and shot off to one side, tearing an enormous strip off the aide at the same time. However, we landed in good order and even got a beer or two for supper that evening.

After a friendly farewell the next morning I was taken to the nearest airport in the Divisional Chief of Staff's chopper. This was piloted by a dark-skinned young officer who delighted in driving at ground level whether there were any trees or bushes in the way or not. As I sat behind him clutching my seat, I saw painted on the back of his helmet the arresting words "I may look dumb, but I'm a bold lover"! Presumably this was meant to reassure us as we hopped over the paddy bunds.

This rather flippant account is not meant to denigrate the American soldiers. Having made a number of similar visits to units and formations all over the country I now have a great respect for them and their efforts in this very difficult type of warfare. They patrol, and fight when necessary, day and night seven days a week. They are always at it, and get very little time off. Even the Headquarters and base wallahs here in Saigon work 12 hours a day every day, although often this is just sitting in their offices waiting for the telephone to ring or something else to happen. In fact this is my main criticism, they take life far too seriously and can never relax. However, they have achieved a great deal and killed an awful lot of communists, at the expense of some 27,704 of their own soldiers killed, including five Generals. It is a thankless task and whether they will ever achieve a favourable result is still very doubtful. For a British officer it is a most interesting place to be. I only wish there were a few more of us here, in fact a Commonwealth Division, to back up the Australians and New Zealanders who are doing a splendid job. Then we could lead the way as we did in Korea.

WASHY-WASHY. A CHRISTMAS STORY.

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. B. A. GRIST, O.B.E.

At Christmas 1950, the Battalion was in position in a village area some seven miles west of Seoul on the north bank of the River Han. There were still some village houses standing among our entrenched positions, but they were in poor shape and gave less protection against the intense cold than a "pup" tent sited over a good dry hole in the ground. We had been in the position about three weeks when a few of the villagers began to filter back from their hiding places, but they, poor devils, were in even worse shape than their houses. Only the children still had any life in them, and I think that it was their chatter and laughter that made us remember Christmas at all.

The operational rule was that 150-odd men should be ready for action at any time, whether there was a Christmas truce or not, and so it suited that Support Company, nearly twice the strength of a Rifle Company should be on duty over Christmas and have their celebrations on New Year's Eve. The other Companies told us we would never have our Christmas; as the Chinese would attack as soon as Christmas was over, and as things turned out they were very nearly right, but in our minds was the resolve to have a bigger and better Christmas than any of them.

Sam Weller was second in command of Support and this was just the sort of challenge which he enjoyed, while C.S.M. Courtney was the type who would appreciate how much a good Christmas party would mean to these Gloucestershire boys dumped by fortune in the ice and mud of a Korean winter.

The three of us met after Christmas in the battered Korean house which served as a ration store for the Company, and examined the extra luxuries which Sam had managed to collect from the N.A.A.F.I. and the American P.X. As we talked and planned I heard the door rattle and a plaintive voice call "Washy-washy."

"Find out what that is, Serjeant-Major," I said.

"It will be Washy-washy, sir, the Korean girl that does some of the soldiers' washing."

"Well open the door, and let's see what she wants."

He opened the door and there stood a thin, hungry, ragged Korean girl of about 12. She looked frightened when she saw Sam and me, but she stood her ground and whispered again to Courtney the only English word she knew, "Washy-washy."

"Not now," said the Serjeant-Major, "later, later," and waved her away. When the door was shut I said to the others, "In a few days time we will have taught Washy-Washy the meaning of Christmas!" and I think she put new heart into our plans.

Sam had done well with the extra rations. Every man would have a fresh Australian steak and tinned Christmas pudding; the cooks had promised iced cakes and there were crystallised fruits from the P.X.

The Serjeant-Major was saving up the Company rum ration for the week, and there would be beer. But I felt that this wasn't Christmas—this was just heavy eating—and now that I had seen Washy-Washy I wanted all the trimmings—a proper Father Christmas, a tree, a sack of presents, a good wide chimney—and I told them so.

There are a lot of things lacking in Korea, but you would have thought Christmas trees grew there by the million. Don't you believe it, there isn't one. At least, there isn't one now. Sam found the only one in the country—a beauty—in what remained

of the Seoul arboreteum. Courtney got enough cotton wool from the medical staff to shroud Bill Bartlett's big red face, and Bill, with a gay pink cloak that he had unearthed from somewhere, made a fine Father Christmas. I had a word with Spike, my Pioneer officer about chimneys. "There are plenty of bricks lying around in battered Seoul and what is needed is a chimney which Father Christmas can come down. There is no need for smoke to go up it."

When the soldiers heard what our plans were, it was surprising how many little gifts from home found themselves hung on the Christmas tree. The N.A.A.F.I. and P.X. had plenty of shiny things to decorate the tree, and the signallers fixed up lights that would make them flash and glitter. Courtney realised that it wouldn't be much fun if we were cold and sent soldiers out to collect wood for a huge fire.

But none of these preparations had any point unless the real guests were there to enjoy it. We wanted lots of children like Washy-Washy. Somehow, through that amazing international language of the soldier, Courtney had got the message through to Washy-Washy that the tree and its presents were for Korean children. "But how will they know when to come, Serjeant-Major, and how many will there be, for goodness sake?" "When we light the bonfire, Sir, they will come, and there will be between 40 and 50 of them, and Captain Weller has gone off to get five dozen packets of chocolate, so that all the children will get something."

Well, there we were, a 150-odd Gloucesters, our Christmas dinner eaten on New Year's Eve, standing around a gay Christmas tree, with Bill Bartlett hidden up a chimney with a huge white beard and a sack of chocolate, and Courtney putting a match to the bonfire. All of us waiting and thinking about our kids at home and thinking about these Korean kids and whether they would really come and whether we weren't all a bit mad; and then they came.

They came stumbling and slipping over the ruins of what had once been their happy village—ragged little boys and girls with, perhaps, a dozen pairs of shoes between them, huddled in old sacks to keep out some of the bitter cold. Washy-Washy, carrying a baby on her back, led the way to the tree. Bill clambered out of his chimney scarlet in the face and all the soldiers laughed and all the children got over their fright and laughed too. The bonfire burned merrily, we took the soldiers' presents off the tree and Bill dived in his sack, and Washy-Washy saw to it that no child got more than a fair share, and the light flickered on the grubby Korean faces, but the real light in those faces came from inside—the true delight of children to whom a kindness had been done. They stood by the fire, clutching their presents and mingling with the soldiers' and the last to come to the tree was Washy-Washy. When she had been given her present, she still stood there and shyly held up two fingers. It was Sam who realized, "We haven't given her a present for the baby on her back" he said, and handed her another bar of chocolate.

The early dark of a Korean winter night had crept up on us as we laughed and chatted. Looking to the north we saw flashes in the night sky which we hadn't seen since before Christmas—the Chinese attack had started, and the party was over. The lights went out, the bonfire was doused, drivers started kicking some life into the cold engines of their trucks, soldiers moved quietly and quickly about their preparations for their fighting task, and the children vanished; even the reason for their presence was forgotten in the reality of the coming battle.

The main thrust of the Chinese on our front struck a little to our left, where the Royal Ulster Rifles had a long and bloody losing battle to fight while the major strength of the U.N. forces withdrew over the frozen Han river. In three days time it was our turn to disengage and slip back over the ice to a new position 13 miles to the south. Seoul was left to the communists once more. It was burning when we left, and the flames showed up the long lines of refugees, loaded like pack animals, picking their hazardous way across the shell-cracked ice of the frozen river. One day we would give them Seoul back again, but how many would live to come and claim it!

Our new position was even more desolate, ice-bound and windswept than the last, but Support Company were in good heart when I went round the positions on the first morning after our arrival. When my round was done I found my way to the inevitable shack with a door, which Courtney always found for himself in the midst of desolation. We were warming our hands and bellies with a life-giving cup of tea when there was a knock at the door and before we had it open the plaintive voice said "Washy-Washy." There she was, our little laundry lady; the only loot that Support Company had smuggled out of Seoul, but worth a bag of gold to our spirits.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Re-published from "The Gloucestershire Regiment in the War, 1914-18"
by Everard Wyrall.

In his despatch describing the Advance to Victory, Lord Haig paid this tribute to the troops under his command:

"In our admiration for this outstanding achievement" (he referred to the three months' epic fighting which finally brought the war to an end) "the long years of patient and heroic struggles by which the spirit and strength of the enemy were gradually broken down cannot be forgotten. The strain of those years was never ceasing, the demands they made upon the best of the Empire's manhood are now known. Yet throughout all those years; and amid all the hopes and disappointments they brought with them, the confidence of our troops in final victory never wavered. Their courage and resolution rose superior to every test, their cheerfulness never failing however terrible the conditions in which they lived and fought. By the long road they trod with so much faith and with such devoted and self-sacrificing bravery we have arrived at victory and to-day they have their reward."

The most wonderful thing when the Armistice came into force and all ranks "stood to" was the silence of the battlefields. Here and there along the long line of battle-worn and weary troops a cheer broke the stillness, but the records show that when hostilities ceased Peace fell amidst a hush almost painful in its coming. If, far away from the line of muddy, dirty trenches in France and Flanders, across the Channel, in every city, town and village throughout the United Kingdom (even throughout the world) people went mad with joy and forgot everything but that the black pall of war had been lifted and the sun shone once more, as if bursting through the dark clouds after a violent storm; no such happenings took place in the front line. It was impossible to forget in a moment the four long years and more of "the terrible conditions in which they had lived and

fought." Impossible, also, to forget those brave messmates who had not come through, who, in a soldier's grave somewhere between the Aisne and the tortured Ypres Salient, lay silent for ever, asleep until the Judgment Day. To them the joy of living had been just as sweet; they, too, had left behind homes and wives and little children or aged parents to whom they one day hoped to return: and in the hour of victory the thoughts of all ranks turned first to those gallant dead who had given their lives:

" That WE might live "

In Fresnoy-le-Grand the " Old Brags " stood to at 11 a.m. In their ranks there was but a handful of those who had landed in France in August 1914: who had known the tortuous retreat from Mons, the terrific struggles of " Ypres '14," the bloody fighting at Givenchy and then at Loos, by which time the Old Army had largely disappeared. Truly and well the 28th had given of their best, and when the time came for the march into Germany to begin, it was but right that the 1st Division should be one of those elected to occupy the Rhine Provinces. In Cologne the 1st Gloucesters spent many months before they returned to England.

The 25th Division did not march into Germany and the 1/5th Gloucesters, therefore, remained in France until they returned to Gloucester and were demobilised.

From Salonika the 61st, as already stated, with few regrets at leaving that uncomfortable country, went on to Batoum and Tiflis and did not return to the United Kingdom until 1919.

Of the 1/4th and 1/6th Gloucesters, the former moved to Cornedo via Malo on the 15th November and remained in that place until March 1919, by which date the Battalion had been reduced to cadre strength, i.e. seven officers and 63 other ranks. The date of the return of the cadre to Bristol is unknown.

The 1/6th re-crossed the frontier into Italy on the 11th November and proceeded to demobilisation camps. Further service was, however, in store for the Battalion, for when the remainder of the 48th Division proceeded homewards the 1/6th Gloucesters stayed behind for garrison duty in Albania and Montenegro. On the 8th May, 1919, they embarked for Egypt and soon afterwards were encamped within a short distance of the spot where, in 1801, the 28th won the Regiment's famous back badge.

It was only on the 25th March, 1920, that the cadre and the Colours reached Bristol, the 1/6th having been abroad on active service for five years seven months—surely a record for a Territorial Battalion.*

*The 1/6th Gloucesters lost in killed 824 all ranks, including 40 officers, during the war.

APPENDIX

During the war, 1914-18, 24 Battalions of the Gloucestershire Regiment existed. These were:

1st Battalion	France	1st Division
2nd Battalion	France and Macedonia	27th Division
3rd Battalion		
1/4th Battalion	France and Italy	48th Division



The fields of France, 1918



OFFICERS OF 1st BATTALION SHORTLY AFTER THE ARMISTICE, NOVEMBER 1918

Lieutenant (QM) Dalley, —, RASC Officer, —, Lieutenant Stotesbury, Captain Morris, Lieutenant Pullen, RASC Officer
 Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Hague, Lieutenant Ford, —, Second-Lieutenant Mayell, Lieutenant Forbes, Captain Davis, —MO,
 Regimental Sergeant-Major Brain
 Captain Chaney, —, Major Chamier (Lincolns), Lieutenant-Colonel Guild, Captain Jarvis, Captain King, —

1/5th Battalion	..	..	France and Italy	..	..	..	48th Division
" "	..	..	France	..	..	..	25th Division
1/6th Battalion	..	..	France and Italy	..	..	..	48th Division
2/4th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	61st Division
2/5th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	61st Division
2/6th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	61st Division
3/4th Battalion							
3/5th Battalion							
3/6th Battalion							
7th Battalion ..	..	..	Gallipoli, Egypt	..	..	..	13th Division
" "	..	..	Mesopotamia, Persia	..	..	..	"
8th Battalion ..	..	..	France	..	..	..	19th Division
9th Battalion ..	..	..	France and Macedonia	..	..	..	26th Division
" "	..	..	France	..	..	..	66th Division
10th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	1st Division
11th Battalion							
12th Battalion	..	..	France and Italy	..	..	..	5th Division
13th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	39th Division
14th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	35th Division
15th Battalion							
16th Battalion							
17th Battalion							
18th Battalion	..	..	France	..	..	..	16th Division

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Beaundesert Park School,
Minchinhampton,
Gloucestershire.
June 1968.

Dear Sir,

Our school, as you know, has just celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, and we here are justly proud of our association with the County Regiment.

The following Glosters Officers, holding either Regular, National Service, Territorial or Emergency Commissions have had sons educated at Beaundesert: Pat Angier, Denis Biddle, Cecil Davis, Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Ted Firth, Frank Gooderham, Vincent Keyte, David Metcalfe, Alan Norrish, Arthur Soames. And these Old Boys of the School were later commissioned into the Regiment: Giles Atherton, Ronald Brown, Digby Grist, Peter Lintott, David Metcalfe, Dick Munden, Tim Norris, Peter Whiteman.

Nor do we forget Alec Chalmers, for long a senior member of our teaching staff, who served with distinction in the Regiment during the war years and afterwards.

Yours sincerely,

VINCENT KEYTE.

Hyden's Cottage,
Brook,
Godalming,
Surrey.
1st July, 1968.

The Editor,
THE BACK BADGE.
Sir,

Some of your older readers may be interested to hear that I recently had the honour of dining with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry in Milton Barracks, Gravesend, where the Sixty-First were stationed when I joined them in 1929.

I took a Green Line Bus as the surest form of transport in a railway go slow and proceeded on a somewhat nostalgic journey through such half-forgotten places as The Old Kent Road, New Cross, Blackheath, Shooters Hill, and Bexleyheath. A great deal of the route had changed beyond recognition, no doubt due to the bombing, but some parts looked much the same as in those far away days when young subalterns motored to London after their Saturday afternoon games of rugger and hockey.

The Barracks hardly seemed to have altered at all; certainly not in outward appearance. There was the guardroom and orderly room bungalow on the left of the main gate, though I was told the orderly room is now in a barrack room block. Beyond the orderly room still stood the gym, parade ground, quartermaster stores and the rows of single-storey barrack blocks.

The Officers Mess appeared to be almost exactly the same except that the main entrance was situated in what used to be the billiards room, which had been converted into a modern ante room and entrance hall. The ante room we used is now the ladies room in which the Band played during dinner. It was amazing what a difference to the appearance of the rooms wallpaper made in place of the dreary distemper of yesteryear.

The single officers quarters and batmen's cleaning rooms had not changed at all from the outside but I did not see inside them. Even the grass tennis court outside the Mess was still in operation.

The Rector of Milton Church who was also dining with the Regiment told me that there were now no ex-members of the Sixty-First living in Gravesend, the last having died recently.

Yours faithfully,
Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. BATH.

(The information in the last paragraph is not correct. There are still a number of ex-members of the 61st living in Gravesend—Ed.)



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London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex.

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Headquarters :
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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 :
Mr. H. L. Standen, 736
Walsall Road, Great Barr,
Birmingham 22A.

Meeting place each month :
Third Thursday except July
and August, Limbless 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, Bristol, BS5,
9HQ.

Second Saturday, T.A.
Centre, Horfield Com-
mon, 8 p.m.

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

Mr. D. J. Pack, 61 New
Street, Cheltenham.
GL50 3LY

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

GLOUCESTER:
Major D. B. Metcalfe.

Mr. P. O. Masters, 3 Lons-
dale Road, Gloucester.
GL2 OTA

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

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES:

Lieut.-Colonel C. W. A.
Bath, O.B.E.

Mr. S. A. Mercer, 99 Hey-
bridge Avenue, London,
S.W.16.

As arranged, at The Victory
Club, 63-79, Seymour
Street, W.2.

STROUD:

Lieut.-Colonel A. H. R.
Chalmers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.

Mr. R. Close, 123 Stratford
Road, Stroud.
GL5 4AN

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

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE:

Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Milner,
M.A., LL.B., T.D.

Mr. O. Mills, 23-25 Church
Street, Wotton-under-
Edge.
GL12 7HB

As arranged.

**MINUTES OF THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE T. &
A.V.R. CENTRE, HORFIELD COMMON, BRISTOL, AT 6.40 P.M. ON SATUR-
DAY, 4TH MAY, 1968**

PRESENT: President—Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E., A.D.C.

Secretary—Major C. R. Davis.

Members—In addition, 89 Committee and other members attended.

1. The Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed, and signed by the president.

2. Points arising from previous minutes.

Item 10, Fanfare Trumpet.

The president said that the Silver Fanfare Trumpet from the Regimental Association had been presented to the 1st Battalion last year and it made a fine addition in the set of seven trumpets now in the Battalion's possession. It had the Regimental Association badge on one side of the Banner.

Item 12. Chelsea Pensioners.

The president confirmed that our Chelsea Pensioner had been asked to attend the Dinner with all expenses paid by the Regimental Association, but he had been unable to attend. He had, however, attended the London Branch dinner on 29th March.

3. Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1967

The president said that the accounts had been audited by Messrs. Kingscott Dix & Co. and had been approved by the Trustees of the Regimental Association. He asked the secretary to explain the account, details of which were given on the agenda paper. The secretary drew attention to the following points:

On the receipt side there had been an increase of £80 on the interest from dividends and an increase of £110 on the Day's Pay subscription. The £78 received from the Army Benevolent Fund had been for payment to two new Regimental Pensioners.

On the payment side grants had increased by £90. The sundry expenses total of £235 included payment for the Fanfare Trumpet which had been just under £200.

Members had no points to raise on the accounts.

It was proposed by Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, and seconded by Captain Dean, that the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1967, should be approved. Carried.

4. Details of A.G.M. and Reunion Dinner for 1969 and Visit to 1st Battalion 1969

(a) The president said he would discuss these two items together as they were closely linked with each other.

He said that the Dinner would normally take place on the last Saturday of April but that next year this might not be possible due to the proposed visit to the 1st Battalion by Association members which was due to take place about then. He thought that the dinner might well have to take place on the 1st Saturday in May. The Hall was no longer under our control and, anyhow, we would have to accept dates allotted to us.

This was the reason for having the dinner a week later this year.

It was pointed out by one member that the last Saturday in April next year would be the Burma Star reunion in London which a number of our members would like to attend and this date should be avoided if possible.

(b) As regards the visit to the 1st Battalion the president said that the C.O. of the Battalion was very anxious to have members visit them next year.

He said that investigations on the cost were proceeding. At present we had received a quotation of £24 10s. a head, if all seats were filled, for a 70-seater aircraft leaving Bristol on a Friday and returning on Sunday. Other methods of travel were discussed.

On a show of hands, over 20 of those present said they would be interested at the above-quoted rates.

The president said that the cost over there would depend on the individual and that those going would be accommodated in Barrack blocks. He saw no reason why women should not go.

A circular would be sent out on this matter when more was known and he urged members to answer this promptly.

5. Day's Pay Subscription

The President said that from 1st April the 1st Battalion had changed from half-a-day's pay subscription to a full-day's-pay subscription which should bring in over £1,000 a year. He said that we had received from this subscription £494 in 1966 and £604 in 1967, and that he would have more to say about this during the dinner.

6. Regimental Sweepstake

Up to present over £300 had been received from sale of tickets, which was rather better than at the same time last year. The total profit paid into the funds from this source had been £1,026 in the first three years.

7. Reports from the Branches:

Bristol

Brigadier James said that their monthly meetings were continuing in this room where we were now holding this meeting. He said that the meetings were well attended chiefly due to the secretary, Mr. Brown, and the Treasurer, Mr. Rattenbury, who were both doing a splendid job of work.

The president thanked these two for their work.

London

Mr. Mercer said that since the Branch had been re-formed various meeting places had been tried. They had held a joint Dinner on 29th March with the R.C.R. Old Comrades Assn., U.K. Branch, at the Victory Club, which had been attended by 47 people. He said that they hoped to keep the Victory Club as their meeting place.

Stroud

Lieutenant-Colonel Chalmers said that their meetings were attended by a few hard-core members, and that they were always ready to welcome other members of the Regiment.

Birmingham

Mr. Salter said that they had not been getting many attending their meetings. He hoped that some other Branches might pay them a visit at their meeting place in the H.Q. of the Limbless Ex-Service Association.

Gloucester

Major Metcalfe reported that the Branch meetings had been well attended since their move to the United Services Club. They had 36 paid up members. They were due to have a trip to London in June, and planned to have a social evening on 20th September.

Cheltenham

The Cheltenham coach had not arrived at this stage but the president gave the meeting details of the excellent Back Badge Dance organised by the Branch and he congratulated Mr. Pack, the secretary, on his excellent work.

8. Church Parade

Mr. Masters of the Gloucester Branch suggested that the Regimental Association should hold a Church Parade once a year based on one of the Branches. This was discussed and it was left with the secretary to find out what support would be available from other Branches in the county.

9. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

The arrangements for the visit to the 1st Battalion in Berlin next year are proceeding well. The dates have been fixed as Friday, 25th April, to Sunday, 27th April. Already over 100 applications have been received to attend. At the time of writing negotiations are being made for the hire of aircraft.

The latest news from Regimental Association Branches is as follows:

Cheltenham Branch

Since our last BACK BADGE notes the Cheltenham Branch has continued to expand its activities. Members are kept informed of events by means of a monthly Newsletter, which gives details of events past, present and future. Its effect is most gratifying in the ever-increasing numbers of members attending our functions. Regular attenders are now coming from Stonehouse, Gloucester, Tewesbury and Broadway in addition to the main body from Cheltenham.

During April we ran a Bingo night which helped to boost Branch funds, possibly because the number 77 was missing.

Forty-three members and ladies visited Dumbleton village club during June. Unfortunately ex-R.S.M. George Biggs arrived on the wrong night (so much for the Newsletter).

A skittles match with the Cheltenham Branch of the Burma Star Association in July resulted in a defeat for us. Having now lost at both darts and skittles we are either going to draw up an intensive training programme, or find some fiendish game we cannot lose (suggestions, please).

After a brief pause in activities during August we start our winter programme with a visit to the Gloucester Branch and later to the Stroud Branch. A grand Christmas social has been arranged for 18th December.

Finally, all members are reminded that we shall be running a "Back Badge" ball again next March at which we will be pleased to see as many serving and ex-members of the Regiment as possible.

London Branch

Ex-members of the Regiment who could attend our meetings are far-flung and numerous, but we do seem to have got together a small nucleus who regularly attend our meetings. Meetings at the Victory Club are few and rather far between.

It is hoped to have the Branch firmly represented next April in Berlin.

Stroud Branch

On Friday, 12th July, the Stroud Branch ran an excellent Dinner. This was a most popular entertainment and was very well attended.

Donations

We are most grateful to the splendid response from all ranks of the 1st Battalion who are now subscribing a full day's pay to the Regimental Association; before April the subscription had been half-a-day's pay.

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. H. T. Beacham, Mr. N. Bennett, Mr. W. C. Burnett, Mr. D. Cahalane, Colonel J. P. Carne, Mr. W. Cole, Major T. J. Dutton, Mr. J. Head, Mr. D. E. Hicks, Major E. J. Hobbs, Major G. M. Hughes-Games, Major R. A. F. Jarman, Mr. T. Lediard, Mr. H. F. M. Metcalfe, Mr. A. L. Morris, Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. R. Morton, Mr. S. Pitts, Mr. C. A. Preece, Mr. S. F. Ranger, Mr. W. Salter, Mr. P. R. Saxton, Mr. J. W. Talbot, Major J. M. Tydall, Mr. L. E. D. Wateridge.

THE 2/5th BATTALION REUNION

The 40th reunion of the Association was held on Saturday, 19th October, at the "Doris's" Restaurant, Cheltenham, when 34 members attended. Unfortunately illness had prevented many members from attending this year including Mr. F. H. Edwards for many years Chairman of the Committee.

A very warm welcome was given by the President, Mr. J. H. Gurney, to Colonel Sir Geoffrey Christie-Miller, KCB, DSO, MC, who commanded the Battalion from June to October 1918. Alderman W. E. Lane, a member of the Association, proposed the toast to the "Regiment and the Old Battalion" and the President, in his reply, informed members that the original documents in connection with the Battalion history would be deposited with the County Records Office.

Mr. N. A. Davis, MM, proposed the toast to "Fallen Comrades" after reading the names of those who had died since the last reunion.

It was the unanimous wish of the members that we continue with the reunions as long as possible in spite of dwindling numbers.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' REUNION

The twenty-first annual Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Reunion took place at the T. & A.V.R. Centre of "A" Company (Glos.) Wessex Volunteers on Saturday, 5th October, 1968.

A very successful evening was held with an all-time record of approximately 275, including wives, being present.

We were very pleased to have with us Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, Major-General C. E. A. and Mrs. Firth, Colonel and Mrs. A. H. Knight, Colonel E. D. Harding, Colonel A. E. Wilkinson and many other senior officers.

There were many who travelled long distances—a special mention must be made of Dinah Bishop from Scotland, also Taff Rees (Liverpool), Jack Hobbs (Yorkshire), Jack Betterton and Don Iles (Sheffield), Ron Dabbs (Leicester), Mr. Jones (Cardiff) and many others too numerous to mention.

A special "thank you" to George Biggs who brought flowers and vegetables for the raffle, also to all members of the Band who played Regimental music.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

1968

5th April	..	..	Second-Lieutenant A. S. Hadfield (SSC) to be Lieutenant 6th April, 1968.
30th April	..	..	Colonel T. K. Lacey, having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to Reserve of Officers 4th April, 1968.
28th May	..	..	Major (QM) C. W. Phillips, MBE, retires on retired pay 27th May, 1968.
28th May	..	..	WOI (RSM) W. Lucas (SSC) to be Lieutenant 16th April, 1968.
7th June	..	..	Major (QM) E. J. Hobbs, MBE, having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers 9th April, 1964.
14th June	..	..	C. K. Richardson (SSC) to be Second-Lieutenant 12th April, 1968.
14th June	..	..	Second-Lieutenant D. R. Dixon to be Lieutenant 16th June, 1968.
14th June	..	..	Second-Lieutenant N. R. Barker to be Lieutenant 16th June, 1968.
14th June	..	..	Captain (Hon. Major) K. G. Rea, having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to Reserve of Officers, 27th March, 1968.
5th July	..	..	Second-Lieutenant P. J. McNaught (SSC) to be Lieutenant 10th July, 1968.
19th July	..	..	Major D. F. Jones (SSC) relinquishes his commission on completion of service 19th July, 1968.
2nd August	..	..	Lieutenant J. G. H. Corrigan to be Captain 4th August, 1968.
2nd August	..	..	Lieutenant A. T. Holman to be Captain 4th August, 1968.
27th August	..	..	P. G. Jones (SSC) to be Lieutenant 15th June, 1968.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, October 1968)

					Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
Colonel-in-Chief:						
Field-Marshal HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, KG, KT, KP, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, Personal Aide-de-Camp to the Queen					6/5/35	
Colonel:						
Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, CBE, ADC					23/2/64	Commandant Officers Cadet School, Mons
Lieutenant-Colonels:						
A. L. W. Soames (special list)					23/7/59	For Cadet Admin Officer Mons OCS, Jan 69
P. G. H. Varwell					21/1/62	GSO1, Study Team, Vietnam
P. J. E. Durant, MBE					9/4/64	GSO1, Yorks. Dist.
H. L. T. Radice, MBE					28/7/64	GSO1, Ops(SD) Northern Command
M. G. Harvey, MC					1/10/66	Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat
J. E. Taylor					31/12/66	School of Infantry
H. R. A. Streather, MBE					1/3/67	Commanding 1st Battalion
Majors:						
W. L. D. Morris					6/4/55	1st Battalion
T. R. Littlewood					25/11/57	GSO2, (Ops and Plan) BAOR
A. N. Wilson					27/10/60	1st Battalion Jamaica Regiment
G. F. B. Temple, MC					10/4/62	DAQMG (MOV) HQ Southern Command
H. R. Gilliver					20/5/62	For GSO2 (Trg) HQ Eastern Dist., Jan 69
J. W. Allison					20/1/64	Royal Armament Research Establishment
M. M. A. Gilmore					1/9/65	Training Major, Wessex Volunteers. For Retirement, March 69
D. E. Matson					8/2/65	GSO3, Hong Kong Garrison
R. A. F. Jarman					4/4/66	1st Battalion
C. P. T. Rebbeck					31/7/66	1st Battalion
C. J. Walters					31/12/67	Staff College
Captains:						
M. A. Crush					4/2/61	Language Course, c/o D & MA, Lisbon
R. J. Bewell					24/6/62	1 R Hamps
N. C. Thomson					21/12/63	6 Inf Bde BAOR
D. A. Godfrey					10/3/64	1/6 GR
W. R. N. Ladds					2/8/64	1st Battalion
R. L. Giles					19/6/65	BRIXMIS
S. D. A. Firth					25/7/65	1st Battalion
T. D. Cooper					25/7/65	Adj. Inf. Junior Ldrs. Battalion, Oswestry
M. G. Smith-Rewse					18/12/65	For 1 DERR Jan 69
J. W. Mermagen					14/8/66	1 DERR
R. C. Hobbs					18/12/65	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	Wessex Brigade Depot, PS
C. J. Newbould					29/7/67	1st Battalion
T. W. Michels					6/2/67	1st Battalion
P. R. Rostrom					22/12/67	1st Battalion
T. G. H. Corrigan					4/8/68	1st Battalion
A. T. Holman					4/8/68	1st Battalion
Lieutenants:						
P. A. Woodley					2/2/65	1st Battalion
C. B. Smith-Rewse					20/6/65	2 Gurkha Rifles
C. J. T. Davis					20/6/65	for HQ UNFICYP
G. E. W. R. Mirehouse					28/7/65	1st Battalion
A. P. Arengo-Jones					31/1/66	ADC to Comdr, British Forces, Near East
R. P. James					31/1/66	For Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat, Jan 69
P. G. Hodson					30/1/67	Oxford University
J. Denley					17/6/67	25 Army Youth Team
J. P. C. Hoole					17/6/67	1st Battalion
N. C. Richardson					17/10/67	1st Battalion
D. P. Cangle					29/12/67	Wessex Brigade Depot, PS
D. R. Dixon					16/6/68	1st Battalion
N. R. Barker					16/6/68	1st Battalion
Second-Lieutenants:						
I. P. O'F. Webster					28/7/67	1st Battalion
C. S. Wakelin					28/7/67	1st Battalion
T. C. Ongley					15/12/67	1st Battalion
P. J. Cable						1st Battalion
Quartermasters:						
G. Boyes (Captain)					1/4/66	1st Battalion
W. J. Smyth, BEM (Captain)					1/4/66	Wessex Volunteers

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

		<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
<i>Lieutenants:</i>			
I. H. Jackson, BEM	.. .. .	26/6/67	A/Adjt. 1st Battalion
W. R. Lucas, (A/Captain)	.. .. .	16/4/68	Wessex Bde. Depot
P. J. McNaught	.. .. .	10/7/68	1 R. Hamps.
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>			
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
C. K. Richardson	.. .. .	12/4/68	1st Battalion
P. G. Jones	.. .. .	15/6/68	1st Battalion

OFFICERS, LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, CBE, ADC	.. .. .	9/7/62	Commandant, Mons Officer Cadet School
Brigadier J. A. Mackenzie, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC	.. .. .	1/1/63	Commandant Inspector of Intelligence
Brigadier A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, OBE, ADC	.. .. .	1/2/64	Deputy Fortress Commander Gibraltar
Brigadier A. H. Farrar-Hockley, DSO, MBE, MC	.. .. .	1/12/65	Oxford University
Colonel J. C. Robertson	.. .. .	2/4/64	DALS HQ FARELF
Colonel E. D. Harding, DSO	.. .. .	30/7/64	Brigade Colonel Wessex Brigade
Colonel J. P. Fane, MC	.. .. .	1/7/64	
Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Henn	.. .. .	11/11/63	11th Hussars
Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	.. .. .	9/1/66	Staff College, Camberley
Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Nuttall	.. .. .	31/12/66	RAPC
Major A. D. Gregory	.. .. .	2/6/53	RAOC
Major D. E. Whatmore	.. .. .	24/5/65	Intelligence Corps
Major R. A. Maby	.. .. .	22/7/66	RAOC

"A" COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) WESSEX VOLUNTEERS

<i>Officers:</i>			
Company Commander	.. .. .	.. .. .	Major P. J. M. Whiteman
Second-in-Command	.. .. .	.. .. .	Captain D. C. Ryan
Lieutenant	.. .. .	.. .. .	A. M. Grazebrook
Lieutenant	.. .. .	.. .. .	P. A. Lintott
Lieutenant	.. .. .	.. .. .	R. J. Poole

Warrant Officers and Sergeants:

WOII	.. .. .	.. .. .	R. Keitley
Colour Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	D. J. Pack
Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	M. A. Miller
Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	H. W. Marriott
Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	D. A. Mears
Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	K. M. Reade

Permanent Staff Instructors:

WOII	.. .. .	.. .. .	J. Alderman
Staff-Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	C. D. L. Metcalfe
Sergeant	.. .. .	.. .. .	J. W. Hyde
Civilian Clerk	.. .. .	.. .. .	Mr. T. Hier, MBE

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF

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

RETIRED OFFICERS RE-EMPLOYED

Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath, OBE, RO II Army Department (MOD)
 Lieutenant-Colonel M. M. A. Bryant, RO II Infantry Records, Exeter.
 Major E. L. T. Capel, ERD, RO III HQ Prince of Wales's Division.
 Brigadier R. G. T. Collins, CBE, ROIII Army Department (MOD)
 Major C. R. Davis, RO III, RHQ, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
 Major A. W. Hardick, RO III, HQ 1 (BR) Corps BAOR.
 Colonel T. K. Lacey, RO III, MS (CR).
 Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Percy-Hardman, MC, RO III Combined Records, Bournemouth.
 Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, ROIII, HQ Eastern District, Colchester.
 Major P. W. Weller, MBE, Army Careers Officer, Gloucester.

REGULAR WARRANT OFFICERS, COLOUR SERGEANTS AND SERGEANTS IN THE REGIMENT

	Date of Promotion	Location
<i>Warrant Officers Class I:</i>		
L. Masters	21/4/66	HS Wx Bde Depot
I. Dee	10/1/67	Singapore/HQ FARELF
R. Preece	9/4/68	RSM, Wx Bde Depot
G. Thomas	6/7/67	RSM, 1 R. Hamps
<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	RQMS 1 Glosters
G. Chilcott (Acting WO1)	27/5/63	RSM 1 Glosters
J. Cook	3/4/65	RQMS, Wx Bde Depot
L. Ramsden	16/6/66	1 Glosters
F. Brisland	1/1/68	HS Wx Bde Depot
M. Chappell	13/1/68	1 Glosters
N. Tuggey	30/6/68	1 Glosters
B. Murphy	1/7/68	1 Glosters
<i>Band Warrant Officer II:</i>		
W. Halstead	1/11/63	Band 1 Glosters
<i>Colour Sergeants:</i>		
J. Boulton (Acting WOII)	1/4/64	1 Glosters
G. Bird	10/1/68	1 Glosters
P. Garland	20/1/68	1 Glosters
D. Way	25/6/68	1 Glosters
R. Dench (Acting WOII)	29/6/68	1 Glosters
R. Page (Acting WOII)	30/6/68	1 Glosters
D. Simmance	1/7/68	1 Glosters
<i>Orderly Room Sergeant—Colour Sergeant:</i>		
A. Collis	25/1/68	1 D & D
<i>Sergeants:</i>		
W. Ludiman	23/12/55	ACIO
H. Mann	20/1/58	Band 1 Glosters
K. Godwin, BEM	20/1/58	School of Inf
J. W. Hyde	3/4/64	"A" Coy Wessex Vounteers
J. Longden (Acting C/Sgt.)	5/4/64	1 Glosters
K. Fisher (Acting WOII)	6/8/64	1 Glosters
I. Matthews (Acting C/Sgt.)	10/9/64	1 Glosters
D. Palmer (Acting C/Sgt.)	22/9/64	1 Glosters
G. Perrior	22/10/64	1 Glosters
P. Goss (Acting C/Sgt.)	26/10/64	1 Glosters
M. Merchant	30/10/64	1 Glosters
M. Quail	5/2/66	1 Glosters
M. Nash	10/2/66	1 Glosters
P. Edwards	3/3/66	Wx Bde Depot
H. Wake	24/2/67	Band 1 Glosters
D. Bidgeway	5/3/67	AAC Arborfield
A. Walker	19/3/67	1 Glosters
W. Tucker (Acting C/Sgt.)	21/3/67	1 Glosters
H. Maber	27/3/67	1 Glosters
P. Weaving	29/3/67	1 Glosters
D. Palmer	5/5/67	1 Glosters
M. Hunt	15/5/67	1 Glosters
C. Lock	17/5/67	22 SAS
P. Ballands	21/5/67	ACIO Cheltenham
G. England	2/12/67	1 Glosters
W. Hodges	3/12/67	1 Glosters
G. Godsall	5/12/67	ACIO Bristol
R. Watkins	11/12/67	1 Glosters
C. Moss	15/12/67	1 R. Hamps
J. Miller	17/12/67	1 Glosters
B. Hazzard	19/12/67	1 Glosters
D. Cavill	20/12/67	1 Glosters
A. Westaway	1/1/68	1 R. Hamps
R. Kibble	10/1/68	Junior Inf Bn
K. Cleary	12/1/68	1 Glosters
G. Shaw	21/6/68	Wx Bde Depot
J. Dalton	23/6/68	Wx Bde Depot
J. Lambie	24/6/68	1 Glosters
D. Thorne	25/6/68	1 Glosters
M. Young	27/6/68	1 Glosters
M. Jenkins	29/6/68	1 Glosters
D. Humphries	1/7/68	ACIO Gloucester
<i>Drum Major—Sergeant:</i>		
J. Bassett	26/6/68	1 Glosters
LONG SERVICE LIST		
<i>Warrant Officers Class II:</i>		
J. Holden		AIO Liverpool
A. Walker, MM		MQAS Warminster

REGIMENTAL DINNER, 1968

Another very successful Regimental Dinner was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on 25th October. The 1st Battalion, being in Berlin, were unable to send any officers to the dinner, but in spite of this 66 accepted the invitation to attend.

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, Colonel of the Regiment, presided, and regimental guests for the occasion were Major-General R. H. Batten, Colonel of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, Major R. P. Hickey, Medical Officer to the 1st Battalion in Korea, and Captain H. Platt from Headquarters The Wessex Brigade. In addition The Venerable S. M. F. Woodhouse, Archdeacon of London, attended as a private guest.

The following other members of the Dinner Club attended:

Major T. H. Barnard, Major J. Biddulph, Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, Colonel J. P. Carne, Major C. R. Davis, Lieutenant J. Denley, Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Dillon, Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. E. Durant, Captain J. W. Ellis, Major-General C. E. A. Firth, Captain S. D. A. Firth, Major R. D. French, Major H. R. Gilliver, Major M. M. A. Gilmore, A. N. de C. Glen, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, Colonel E. D. Harding, Major A. W. Hardick, Captain A. G. Hill, Major E. J. Hobbs, Lieutenant P. G. Hodson, Captain D. C. Hooton, Lieutenant R. P. James, Major R. F. Kettle, Colonel T. K. Lacey, Major M. S. Lee-Browne, Major E. H. Lynn-Allen, Captain R. S. Mardell, Major R. J. Martin, Major D. B. Metcalfe, Captain R. C. Nash, Brigadier, A. L. W. Newth, Major H. J. Pike, Major P. J. H. Pope, Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. T. Radice, J. W. G. Rudd, Esq., A. G. L. Shore, Esq., Lieutenant C. B. Smith-Rewse, Captain M. G. Smith-Rewse, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. W. Soames, Major R. L. Turner, Brigadier J. G. C. Waldron, Major C. J. Waters, Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, Major P. W. Weller, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, Captain P. J. M. Whiteman, Colonel A. E. Wilkinson, Major W. A. Wood.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

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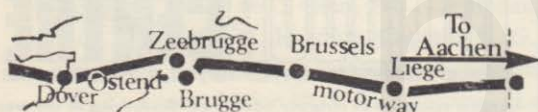
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