



# CHRONICLE.

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Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.

Chronicle of  
1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd  
and  
The Oxfordshire and  
Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
1959

An Annual Record

Compiled and Edited  
by

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. B. JARVIS

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 Captain O. H. M. Sturges, Old Pound Farm, East Hanney, Wantage,  
 Berks.  
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- F. J. B. Taylor, Esq., 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd.  
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 Captain R. F. Tindell, Highfield Lodge, 21 Bath Road, Reading, Berks.  
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 bourne, Yorks.  
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 Bucks.  
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 Herts.  
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 Hants.  
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 Hants.  
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- Major M. C. Wiggins, T.D., 111 Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, Hants.  
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## CONTENTS

THE ARMY LIST — SEPTEMBER 1959	1
EXTRACTS FROM THE 'LONDON GAZETTE' 1959	3
REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT EXTRA-REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED	5
FORMER OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST	6
'THE CHRONICLE'— THE EDITOR	7
RECORDS OF THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND	8
SUMMARY OF THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND DIARY 1959	10
FIRST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND LETTER	23
ADDRESS BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TO THE 43RD AND 52ND ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE REGIMENT IN CYPRUS, 14TH MARCH 1959	29
FIRST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND, RECORDS OF SPORT AND TRAINING 1959	32
REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS LETTER	48
GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE DEPOT LETTER	51
RECORDS OF THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY (T.A.)	55
TERRITORIAL BATTALION LETTER	58
GREEN JACKETS CRICKET WEEK 1959	64
THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND MARCH THROUGH OXFORD	67
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BUGLE MAJOR'S STICK AT BICESTER	72
REGIMENTAL DINNER — 1959	73
43RD LIGHT INFANTRY DINNER (SECOND WORLD WAR)	74
43RD LIGHT INFANTRY MESOPOTAMIAN LUNCHEON (FIRST WORLD WAR)	75
52ND LIGHT INFANTRY LUNCHEON (FIRST WORLD WAR)	76
52ND LIGHT INFANTRY DINNER (SECOND WORLD WAR)	77
THE WOLFE SOCIETY DINNER, 1959	78
GROUP OF 52ND OFFICERS	79
AVE ATQUE VALE	80
VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND	86
DEMONSTRATION BATTALION AT THE SCHOOL OF INFANTRY	88
MONS O.C.S.	92
VISIT TO INDIA — DECEMBER 1957	95
TURKISH HOLIDAY	100
POLO	104
FISHING IN NOVA SCOTIA, 1958	109
SKI-ING IN SCOTLAND	117

OVERLAND FROM MALTA	120
WITH THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA	125
LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR R. G. A. LEVINGE, BT	131
OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION, 1959	133
MARRIAGES	135
OBITUARIES	136

## ILLUSTRATIONS

LIEUT.-COLONEL M. N. HARBOTTLE, O.B.E.	<i>Frontispiece</i>
A ROAD BLOCK SEARCHING A SUSPECT AND HIS CAR	<i>Facing page</i> 24
A FERRET SCOUT CAR ON PATROL IN CYPRUS	25
THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT TOURING BUCKINGHAM CAMP	26
BUGLE MAJOR'S CEREMONIAL PARADE STICK	27
LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR GERALD LATHBURY TAKING THE SALUTE AT A DEPOT	52
PASSING-OUT PARADE	52
GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE DEPOT — WINNERS OF THE UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE ALDERSHOT RIFLE MEETING	53
THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT AND THE MAJOR OF OXFORD ON THE SALUTING BASE AT ST GILES	68
THE COLOUR PARTY AND SUPPORT AND HEADQUARTER COMPANIES MARCHING UP CORNMARKE	69
INVESTITURE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE	78
GROUP OF 52ND OFFICERS	79
THE REGIMENT DEMONSTRATING AT THE SCHOOL OF INFANTRY	88
THE MASSED BUGLERS AND BANDS OF THE GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE AT WINCHESTER	89
FISHING IN NOVA SCOTIA	112

## THE ARMY LIST SEPTEMBER 1959

## 1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd and 52nd

A bugle horn strangled.

'Quebec, 1759,' 'Martinique, 1762,' 'Havannah,' 'Mysore,' 'Hindoostan,' 'Martinique, 1794,' 'Vimiera,' 'Corunna,' 'Busaco,' 'Fuentes d'Onor,' 'Ciudad Rodrigo,' 'Badajoz,' 'Salamanca,' 'Vittoria,' 'Pyrenees,' 'Nivelle,' 'Nive,' 'Orthes,' 'Toulouse,' 'Peninsula,' 'Waterloo,' 'South Africa, 1851-2-3,' 'Delhi, 1857,' 'New Zealand,' 'Relief of Kimberley,' 'Paardeberg,' 'South Africa, 1900-02.'

*The Great War—17 Battalions.*—'Mons,' 'Retreat from Mons,' 'Marne, 1914,' 'Aisne, 1914,' 'Ypres, 1914,' '17,' 'Langemarck, 1914,' '17,' 'Gheluvelt,' 'Noone Bosschen,' 'Aubers,' 'Festubert, 1915,' 'Hooge, 1915,' 'Loos,' 'Mount Sorrel,' 'Somme, 1916,' '18,' 'Albert, 1916,' '18,' 'Bazentin,' 'Delville Wood,' 'Pozières,' 'Guillemont,' 'Flers-Courcelette,' 'Morval,' 'Le Transloy,' 'Ancre Heights,' 'Ancre, 1916,' 'Bapaume, 1917,' '18,' 'Arras, 1917,' 'Vimy, 1917,' 'Scarpe, 1917,' 'Arleux,' 'Menin Road,' 'Polygon Wood,' 'Broodseinde,' 'Poelcappelle,' 'Passchendaele,' 'Cambrai, 1917,' '18,' 'St Quentin,' 'Rosières,' 'Avre,' 'Lys,' 'Hazebrouck,' 'Béthune,' 'Hindenburg Line,' 'Havrincourt,' 'Canal du Nord,' 'Selle,' 'Valenciennes,' 'France and Flanders, 1914-18,' 'Piave,' 'Vittorio Veneto,' 'Italy, 1917-18,' 'Doiran, 1917,' '18,' 'Macedonia, 1915-18,' 'Kut al Amara, 1915,' 'Ctesiphon,' 'Defence of Kut al Amara,' 'Tigris, 1916,' 'Khan Baghdadi,' 'Mesopotamia, 1914-18,' 'Archangel, 1919.'

*The Second World War—*'Defence of Escaut,' 'Cassel,' 'Ypres-Comines Canal,' 'Normandy Landing,' 'Pegasus Bridge,' 'Caen,' 'Esquay,' 'Lower Maas,' 'Ourthe,' 'Rhineland,' 'Reichswald,' 'Rhine,' 'Ibbenburen,' 'North-West Europe, 1940,' '44-45,' 'Enfidaville,' 'North Africa, 1943,' 'Salerno,' 'St Lucia,' 'Salerno Hills,' 'Teano,' 'Monte Camino,' 'Garigliano Crossing,' 'Damiano,' 'Anzio,' 'Coriano,' 'Gemmano Ridge,' 'Italy, 1943-45,' 'Arakan Beaches,' 'Tamura,' 'Burma, 1943-45.'

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Haddon, J. H. W. (T/Maj. 29/1/58) 27/9/52  
Mitchell, P. W. (T/Maj. 10/4/58) 19/1/53  
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Pennell, M. R., M.B.E. (T/Maj. 9/4/58) 14/4/54  
Chevis, W. S. C., p.s.c. (T/Maj. 3/2/59) 15/7/54  
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(Adj. 5/12/58)  
Simmons, J. St C. 9/2/57  
Leask, E. W. 11/3/57  
Stacey, G. C. 2/5/57  
Thistlethwayte, S. E. 8/7/57  
Payne, A. S. 29/11/57

## Regular Army—contd

## Captains—contd

Balls, B. W. 8/2/58  
Pascoe, R. A. 1/8/58  
Eveleigh, J. R. G. N. 1/8/58  
Simmons, C. St C. 6/2/59

## Lieutenants

Taylor, F. J. B. 7/7/56  
Massy-Beresford, M. J. 4/2/57  
Elliot, J. G. 31/5/57  
Smith, K. J. 14/10/57  
Hartley, T. M. 16/12/57  
Meade, J. M. 16/12/57  
Jones C. E. W. 27/7/58  
Pascoe, B. E. A. 15/11/58  
Watts, J. P. 21/12/58  
Draco, M. J. C. 16/6/59

## Quarter-Masters

Clay, F., M.B.E. 1/3/49  
maj. 25/1/54  
Cox, B. 26/4/51  
18/6/55  
Cox, S. A. G., M.B.E. 21/1/54  
maj. 21/11/54  
1/1/57  
Howland, A. J. Capt. 8/5/59

Regular Army Short Service Officers	Army Emergency Reserve	Territorial Army—contd
<i>Majors</i>	<i>Lieutenants</i>	<i>Captains</i>
Moffat, K. H. (Emp. List (4)) 1/5/56	Garwood, P. H. W. 29/6/52	Carpenter, R. S. (Res. of Off.) 9/4/50
Haig, O. P., T.D. (Emp. List (4)) 18/2/59	Burrell, C. H. 10/9/56	Smith, A. E., T.D. 15/8/50
		Sharp, M. E., T.D. 1/9/51
		Robinson, P. J. 2/6/53
		Long, H. A. R. (A/Maj. 19/11/57) 28/8/54
		Rowlatt, J. A. 12/11/54
		Raison, J. P. 8/3/55
		Lander, K. H. 23/5/55
		Beck, A. M. I. 10/9/55
		Simpson, C. C. 1/8/57
		Daniel, J. 1/6/59
<i>Captain</i>	<i>Lieutenants</i>	<i>Lieutenants</i>
Bennett, J. P. (Emp. List (4)) 21/3/51	Woollard, J. P. 26/4/56	Clarke, T. 20/12/53
	Stanford, E. W. B. 27/9/56	Birchall, M. D. 7/1/54
	Taylor, J. F. 27/9/56	Lloyd-Evans, D. G. (A/Capt. 1/7/59) 4/7/54
	Edwards, C. J. 28/12/56	Radcliffe, M. R. 2/9/54
	Foster, C. C. J. 4/1/57	Wynne, O. R. W. 13/2/55
	Ball, R. W. S. 1/2/57	Raymond-Barker, P. A. 20/3/55
	Tait, R. D. 8/2/57	Pasternak, C. A. 24/4/55
	Pickup, D. 25/2/57	Thomas, R. J. 9/10/55
	Thompson, M. J. 22/3/57	Sale, R. V. R. 19/6/56
	White, R. F. 29/3/57	Gardner, J. C., (Res. of Off.) 28/12/56
	Hepworth, R. A. A. 5/4/57	Adnitt, J. C. 17/10/57
	Billson, C. L. J. 20/5/57	Burton, M. St E. 26/1/58
	Shuttleworth, R. J. 13/6/57	Mitchinson, R. C. 3/4/58
	Alcock, R. E. 19/7/57	Blaker, G. P. 17/8/58
	Gompertz, C. W. 26/7/57	Thornton, A. H. 19/10/58
	Strang, J. S. 9/8/57	
	Stuart, D. 20/9/57	<i>2nd Lieutenants</i>
	Askew, A. L. 28/11/57	*Symonds, M. D. 19/6/59
	Bruce-Dick, P. 8/12/57	*Owen, N, J. 19/6/59
	Paul, R. MacF. 23/12/57	
	Day J R. 19/1/58	
	Bullock, M. W. T. 2/2/58	
	Osborn, R. J. 2/2/58	
	Barton, M. P. S. 9/2/58	
	MacDonald, J. W. S. 23/3/58	
	Whittome, G. H. 5/6/58	
	Wilson, J. J. 28/12/58	
	Formby, R. M. 1/2/59	
	Wright, W. G. 1/2/59	
	Welch, I. O. 8/2/59	
	Wheen, M. A. 8/2/59	
	James, R. H. 8/3/59	
	Denny, J. P. M. 22/3/59	
<i>Quarter-Masters</i>		
Brown, C. A. 3/11/44		
maj. 11/4/57		
Buss, L. C. (Emp. List (4)) 20/5/46		
maj. 20/5/55		
Welshman, S. F. it. 15/7/57		
Field, E. N. it. 9/2/59		
<i>Extended Service Officers</i>		
<i>Major</i>		
Peake, E. A., (Emp. List (3)) 5/11/55		
Lambert, C. J. (Emp. List (3)) 7/8/56		
<i>Captain</i>		
Morley, A. H. 1/11/49		
<i>Regular Army National Service Officers</i>	<i>Territorial Army The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry</i>	<i>Territorial Army National Service Officers</i>
<i>2nd Lieutenants</i>	<i>Lt.-Colonel</i>	<i>Lieutenants</i>
Davies, A. J. 10/5/58	Morris, D. H., T.D. 23/5/57	Bawtree, M. 14/9/58
Acton, E. J. H. 5/7/58		Senior, I. S. T. 14/9/58
Whitfield, M. 5/7/58		Stanford, M. A. F. 28/10/58
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Mansfield, M. D. 16/5/59	<i>Majors</i>	
	Montague-Jones, G., T.D. 20/12/52	
	Barnes, R. F., T.D. 23/5/54	
	Battley, R. W. 12/11/54	
	Colville, R. A., T.D. (Res. of Off.) 2/9/55	
	Hollis, J. R. 6/6/57	
	McWhirter, K. G. (Seconded to O.T.C.) 1/11/58	
	Smith, E. R. 1/12/58	

EXTRACTS FROM  
THE 'LONDON GAZETTE' 1959

REGULAR ARMY

January 2nd

Captain J. R. C. Greenlees (308178) to be Major, 4th October 1958.

January 23rd

Major F. H. G. Higgins (62630), from 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, to be Lieutenant-Colonel on the Employed List (1), 7th December 1958.

February 3rd

Lieutenant C. St C. Simmons (427004), to be Captain, 6th February 1959.

February 13th

Captain O. P. Haig (93769) (Employed List 4), to be Major, 18th February 1959.

April 10th

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Cyprus for the period 1st July to 31st December 1958.

23356336 Corporal D. N. Dukes.

14121040 Serjeant M. Naylor.

April 24th

Major J. S. Southey (114088), retires on retired pay, 29th April 1959 (Reserve Liability).

May 15th

Lieutenant (Qr Mr) A. J. Howland (452604), to be Captain (Qr Mr), 8th May 1959.

June 2nd

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve, upon the recommendation of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, that an appointment as Colonel, The West India Regiment, be instituted and that Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E. (34834), should be appointed thereto, 13th May 1959.

\*On probation

*June 12th*

2nd Lieutenant M. J. C. Draco (457150), to be Lieutenant, 16th June 1959.

*July 10th*

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished service in Cyprus for the period ending, 30th June 1959.

To be Additional Commanders of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Colonel (temporary Brigadier) John Antony Jervis Read, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. (62631).

To be additional Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Andrew St George Martin, M.B.E. (63607).

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Cyprus for the period, 1st January to 30th June 1959.

Captain G. C. Stacey (383323).

*September 25th*

Captain M. G. A. Hay-Will (330966), to be Major, 8th July 1959.

Captain J. H. W. Haddon (371026), to be Major, 27th September 1959.

*October 13th*

Major M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E. (73156), to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 12th July 1959.

*December 4th*

Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (34834), relinquishes his appointment as Director General of Military Training, The War Office, remaining on full pay, 7th December 1959.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT  
EXTRA-REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Major	G. N. A. Astley-Cooper	D.A.Q.M.G. (M), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major	J. F. Ballard	Joint Sec. of Army Board (N.A.T.O.)
Lt.-Col.	D. R. L. Bright	G.S.O. 1, B.J.S.M., Washington
Lt.-Col.	A. C. Mason	Dep. Comd. T.O. Scouts
Major	A. V. Brown	D.A.Q.M.G. (Q6), War Office
Lt.-Col.	P. R. Hayter, M.B.E., M.C.	C.O. 2 Q.O. Nigeria Regt
Major	P. K. Everett	Instr. Sch. of Tac. and Adm., Australia
Major	H. J. Sweeney, M.C.	G.S.O. 2 (MO 2), War Office
Major	P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	R.M.A. Sandhurst
Major	D. B. Fox, M.B.E.	M.A. to Governor of Cyprus
Major	H. J. W. Newton, M.B.E.	K.R.R.C.
Major	D. C. Blake	Coy Comd A.A. School, Chepstow
Major	E. F. Garcia	All Arms Trg Centre, B.A.O.R.
Major	E. R. R. Hicks	Oxf. Bucks (T.A.)
Major	D. J. Wood	D.A.A. and Q.M.G., H.Q. 39 Inf. Bde
Major	I. R. C. Greenlees	G.S.O. 2, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps, B.A.O.R.
Major	M. G. A. Hay-Will	G. J. Bde Depot
Major	J. H. W. Haddon	S.C. 'A' H.Q., 24 Inf. Bde Gp
Major	P. W. Mitchell	D.A.A. and Q.M.G., Northern District, Nigeria
Major	M. R. Pennell, M.B.E.	G.S.O. 2, H.Q., Aden Prot. Levies
Major	W. S. C. Chevis	M.A. to M.G.A., G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Major	J. D. F. Mostyn	G.S.O. 2 (SD 2), War Office
Captain	G. C. Stacey	S.C. 'A' H.Q., 3 Div.
Captain	W. M. Cracknell	Staff College
Captain	J. St C. Simons	K.R.R.C.
Captain	E. W. Leask	5 Malay
Captain	S. E. Thistlethwayte	Adj. G. J. Bde Depot
Captain	A. S. Payne	Somaliland Scouts
Captain	B. W. Balls	W.T.O. Mons O.C.S.
Captain	R. A. Pascoe	Sch. of Arabic Studies
Lt. (T/Capt.)	T. M. Hartley	A.D.C. to G.O.C.-in-C., E. Comd.
Lt. (T/Capt.)	C. E. W. Jones	Sch. of Inf. (Small Arms Wing)
Lieut.	B. E. A. Pascoe	G. J. Bde Depot
Lt. (T/Capt.)	M. J. C. Draco	Mons O.C.S. Demon. Pl.
Maj. (QM)	F. Clay, M.B.E.	G.S.O. 3, H.Q. Mid West District
Capt. (QM)	B. Cox	Oxf. Bucks (T.A.)
Maj. (QM)	C. A. Brown	(S.S.C.) H.Q. Colchester Grn
Lt. (QM)	S. F. Welchman	(S.S.C.) 4 Nigeria Regt
Lt. (QM)	E. G. Field, B.E.M.	(S.S.C.) 2 Apl. Aden Prot. Levies

FORMER OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT  
ON THE ACTIVE LIST

DECEMBER 31ST, 1959

Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E.  
G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Lieut.-General Sir Michael West, K.C.B., D.S.O.,  
G.O.C. 1 Corps, B.F.P.O. 39.

Brigadier H. J. Mogg, D.S.O.,  
Commander 28 Commonwealth Brigade, N. Malaya.

Brigadier P. G. F. Young, O.B.E.,  
Commander Northern District, Royal Nigerian Mil Forces,  
Kaduna, Nigeria.

Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,  
Commandant School of Infantry, Warminster.

Colonel A. Clerke-Brown, O.B.E.,  
Colonel Q (Qtg/Lab.), H.Q., B.A.O.R.

Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, O.B.E.,  
Brigade Colonel.

Colonel J. R. P. Montgomery, M.C.,  
A.A.G. (R) H.Q. Eastern Command, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Lieut.-Colonel F. H. G. Higgins,  
A.Q.M.G. (Plans) H.Q. Command, S.H.A.P.E.

Lieut.-Colonel R. F. E. Hill,  
Camp Commandant G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., Singapore.

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

'THE CHRONICLE'

THE EDITOR

Of the CHRONICLE's sixty-seven years' existence, sixty-one years cover the editorship of two people, Colonel A. F. Mockler-Ferryman and Brigadier-General C. G. Higgins, so it will be very obvious that the Regiment has been most fortunate to have been served by two such devoted editors. Now the latter feels that it is time for a change and the Regimental Committee has regretfully accepted his resignation.

The following tribute, proposed by the Colonel of the Regiment, was recently passed:

'The Regimental Committee wish to record their great appreciation of the untiring work of Brigadier-General Higgins as Editor of THE CHRONICLE since 1926. During this long period of thirty-three years he has been in close touch with the Regiment and has made the CHRONICLE an historical record of its activities. He has produced, annually, a volume of high literary merit greatly appreciated by contemporary readers as it will be by future generations of all who serve in the Regiment.'

RECORDS OF THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS,  
43RD AND 52ND

ROLL OF OFFICERS—31ST DECEMBER 1959

*Lieutenant-Colonel*  
M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.

*Majors*

J. M. A. Tillett  
P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.  
O. G. Pratt

R. R. W. Workman  
P. E. Gerahty

*Captains*

R. M. Colvile  
C. A. S. Hinton  
I. G. Elliott

J. D. F. Mostyn  
M. J. Massy-Beresford  
A. H. Morley

*Lieutenants*

T. M. Hartley  
F. J. B. Taylor  
K. J. Smith  
C. S. Downie  
J. G. C. Goodwyn  
J. M. Meade  
M. J. C. Draco

J. P. Watts  
J. G. Morgan  
P. G. Costley-White  
J. H. Scott  
N. M. Prideaux  
P. E. Dobbs

*Adjutant*

Captain C. St C. Simmons

*Quartermasters*

Major S. A. G. Cox, M.B.E.      Captain A. J. Howland

*Attached*

Major H. P. Patterson, R.A.P.C.  
Captain A. M. Easty, R.A.M.C.  
2nd Lieutenant G. G. Amos, R.A.E.C.

SUMMARY OF THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS,  
43RD AND 52ND

*Regimental Serjeant-Major*

A. S. Shepherd

*Bandmaster*

H. A. Kenney, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., P.S.M.

*Regimental Quartermaster Serjeant*

R. Clarke

*Orderly Room Quartermaster Serjeant*

G. W. Bayliss, M.B.E.

STRENGTH ON 31ST DECEMBER 1959

Officers	30
Warrant Officers	10
Colour Serjeants	7
Serjeants	30
Corporals	53
Other Ranks	430
Band	31
	—
	591
	—

SUMMARY OF THE  
43RD AND 52ND DIARY 1959

*January 5th* — 2nd Lieut. J. P. Watts was promoted Lieutenant with effect from 21st December 1958.

The Commander Western Area congratulated the Regiment on the excellence of the recent vehicle inspection report.

*January 7th* — Major R. C. Sharples, O.B.E., M.C., M.P., visited Buckingham Camp and saw some of the living accommodation.

*January 8th* — Headquarter Company provided a guard of honour, which was commanded by Sjt J. Price, for the following who visited the Regiment:

His Excellency The Governor of Cyprus

The Right Honourable Christopher Soames, M.P.

Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh C. Stockwell, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.

The Military Secretary

The Director of Operations Major-General K. T. Darling,

C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Brigadier-General Staff G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E.

*January 12th* — Captain C. St C. Simmons rejoined the Regiment from a Regimental Signals Officers Course at Hythe.

*January 18th* — 2nd Lieut. J. M. C. Draco and 2nd Lieut. D. Orr-Deas joined the Regiment on commissioning.

*January 24th* — The inter-company cross country competitions were held. H.Q. Coy 'A' Team won the team prize.

*January 27th* — Captain C. St C. Simmons was appointed Regimental Signal Officer.

*January 31st* — Captain B. W. Balls left the Regiment on posting to Mons Officer Cadet School as Weapon Training Officer.

*February 1st* — Regimental Serjeant Major A. S. Shepherd rejoined the Regiment from Regimental Headquarters.

*February 2nd* — Captain G. A. S. Hinton and Captain W. M. Cracknell sat for the Staff College entrance examination.

*February 3rd* — Captain W. S. C. Chevis rejoined the Regiment from the Staff College, Camberley.

*February 4th* — The Regimental football team beat the 1st Battalion The Durham Light Infantry by 3 goals to 1.

The Regimental cross country team came second in the Island Unit Championship.

*February 6th* — Captain W. S. C. Chevis took over command of Support Company.

*February 7th* — Captain S. E. Thistlethwaite left the Regiment on posting to The Green Jackets Brigade Depot, Winchester.

*February 9th* — Regimental Serjeant Major E. Field, B.E.M., was granted a quartermaster's commission as lieutenant and embarked for Aden to join 2nd Battalion The Aden Levies.

*February 10th* — Lieutenant J. P. Watts embarked for a course in England.

*February 11th* — Captain J. D. Mostyn rejoined the Regiment having completed a course at the Canadian Staff College, Kingston, Ontario.

*February 15th* — Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. Bevan, O.B.E., Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment, began a few days stay with the Regiment, whilst attending Exercise 'Forward Look' at Episkopi.

*February 16th* — Work began on surfacing the Buckingham Camp road.

*February 17th* — The Regiment was equipped with the production model of the self loading rifle. All Fabrique National type were withdrawn.

*February 19th* — The London agreement on the constitutional future of Cyprus was initialled. A police officer dining in the officers' mess was called away, due to the extensive celebration in Limassol, just as he was sitting down to dinner.

*February 20th* — The Director of Operations, Major General K. T. Darling, C.B., D.S.O., C.B.E., visited the Regiment. He inspected the quarter guard which was commanded by Serjeant Haydon, and addressed the whole Regiment in the dining hall.

2nd Lieutenant J. G. Morgan joined the Regiment on first commissioning.

*February 24th* — Major A. C. Mason left the Regiment for leave in England prior to joining the Aden Protectorate Levies.

N.A.A.F.I. Staff once again took over the running of the canteen.

Serjeant Kettle, the Regimental Canteen Manager, returned to duty with Letter 'A' Company.

*February 25th* — Lieutenant F. J. B. Taylor rejoined the Regiment from Regional Headquarters.

*February 28th* — The last men of the last draft to be trained at Cowley Barracks joined the Regiment.

*March 1st* — The Colonel Commandant arrived in Cyprus by air.

*March 2nd* — All available officers and men of the Regiment paraded to greet the Colonel Commandant. There were 261 rank and file on parade, with the colours, the band and bugles.

*March 3rd* — Letter 'D' Company was disbanded. Letter 'C' Company became Training Company and Support Company was made up to War

Establishment strength in anticipation of its duties at the School of Infantry.

*March 6th* — The Regiment was given a holiday on the orders of the Director of Operations.

*March 7th* — The Regiment won the Western Area Hockey Competition beating the 1st Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment by 5 goals to 0.

*March 8th* — The Colonel Commandant left Cyprus by air.

*March 9th* — The Regiment was defeated in the island boxing semi-final by 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers at Nicosia.

*March 12th* — The officers held a discussion on the White Paper on the future of Cyprus. The Commissioner of Limassol District and Mr Justice Cohan, the Limassol Special Justice, were guest speakers.

*March 13th* — Information was received that the Regiment would move home sailing from Limassol in H.T. *Dunera* on 20th May 1959.

A temporary affiliation (for the duration of her stay in Cyprus waters) with the frigate H.M.S. *Undaunted* was started.

*March 15th* — A number of men of the Regiment were confirmed at Episkopi by the bishop of Jerusalem.

*March 19th* — Moni and Moutayiaka guards were handed over to the 1st Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

*March 20th* — Kalavassos guard was handed over to the 1st Battalion the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

*March 21st* — The officers played the officers of 37 Field Engineer Regiment Royal Engineers at hockey and won 6—1.

*March 23rd* — All officers were given a lecture by the Public Relations Officer to the Director of Operations, on relationships with the press.

*March 24th* — The Central Police Station guard was taken off, leaving the Regiment with no static outside guard commitments.

*March 25th* — A bugle classification was held; three buglers reclassified and six classified. Cpl Mitchell retained the Commanding Officer's Bugle.

*March 26th* — Lieut. B. E. Pascoe attended and passed the practical promotion examination to Captain.

The bank and bugles sounded retreat.

*March 27th* — A four day Easter break began.

*March 31st* — Shirt sleeve order became the official form of dress.

*April 1st* — Mr John Owen of the *Oxford Mail and Oxford Times* arrived in Cyprus by air to spend a week with the Regiment.

Summer routine started.

*April 4th* — An informal dance was held in the officers' mess.

*April 7th* — Mr John Owen ended his visit to the Regiment.

18 members of the Signal Platoon classified as Regimental signallers.

*April 8th* — The Regiment won the Island semi-final hockey knock-out against 2 Wireless Regiment by 3 goals to 2 after extra time had been played.

*April 10th* — This was the first day of the Regimental Rifle Meeting which was held on Polemedhia Range.

*April 11th* — This was the last day of the Regimental Rifle Meeting. The weapons used were the self-loading rifle, the Sterling Machine Carbine, the Light Machine Gun and the .38 Revolver. Corporal Stroudley won the Commanding Officer's Watch.

*April 13th* — Serjeant Naylor and Cpl Dukes were awarded a Mention in Despatches. Corporal McGinn and Corporal Finch were awarded Commander in Chief's Certificates of Commendation.

*April 14th* — A signal exercise, Ex TRY OUT, was held for Regimental Headquarters and the whole of Support Company. The Ferret Platoon and a rifle platoon of Letter 'C' Company acted as enemy.

*April 15th* — Ex TRY OUT finished.

*April 16th* — Regimental athletics meeting held at Polemedhia.

*April 17th* — Regimental athletics meeting held at Polemedhia.

*April 18th* — Island Hockey Knock-out final played at Dhekhelia against the Suffolk Regiment. The Regiment won by 2 goals to 1 after extra time.

*April 19th* — Two teams were entered in the Western Area Six-a-Side Hockey Competition, both were beaten in the first round.

*April 20th* — Major P. E. Gerahty assumed command of the Regiment during the absence on leave of Lieut-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E. Summer dress started.

*April 22nd* — Limassol Detachment R.M.P. presented a plaque to the Regiment to mark the close co-operation that has existed between the Regiment and the Det during the last two years.

H.E. the Governor of Cyprus dined with the Officers.

*April 27th* — Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E., resumed command of the Regiment.

The Regiment was visited by Lieut.-General Sir Roger Bower, K.B.E., C.B., C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces, Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Director General of Military Training, and Brig. G. S. Knox, O.B.E., Brigadier General Staff, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., who watched Support Company field firing at Goshi and Phyla ranges, then had drinks in the sjts mess and luncheon with the officers.

*April 28th* — The Regiment was visited by Major General K. T. Darling, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Director of Operations, who watched training and had luncheon with the officers.

*April 30th* — Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E., relinquished the appointment of Military Commander, Limassol.

*May 1st* — The Regiment won the Western Area Shooting Meeting.

The officers held a farewell cocktail party in the mess garden. Over three hundred guests attended.

*May 5th* — 2nd Lieut. C. S. Downie left Cyprus by air to join the advance party in England.

*May 6th* — The Regiment's band formed part of the massed Green Jackets bands at Wembley Stadium for the England versus Italy association football match. On this occasion the incorrect Italian national anthem was played.

*May 8th* — The Commanding Officer presented Commander in Chief's Certificates to Corporals McGinn and Finch, both of Letter 'B' Company, at a company parade.

The Cyprus Pentathlon Championships finished with the Regiment in fourth place. Lieut. G. F. Metcalf was the sixth individual.

Western Area Athletics were held. The Regiment took third place.

*May 9th* — Lieut. G. F. Metcalf left Cyprus in the H.T. *Dilwara* on release from his short service commission.

The warrant officers and serjeants gave a farewell dance.

*May 10th* — The officers and their wives were entertained to a farewell curry luncheon by Shafi, Regimental contractor.

*May 12th* — The advance party of the 1st Bn Devonshire and Dorset Regiment arrived in Buckingham Camp.

*May 16th* — S.-Sjt Seldon (R.E.M.E.) was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, dated from 16th March.

*May 17th* — A Service of Thanksgiving was held in the dining hall at 1000 hours.

The officers, 1st Bn Devonshire and Dorset Regiment entertained the officers to a curry lunch at Episkopi.

*May 19th* — Major General K. T. Darling, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., took the salute at the farewell parade of the Regiment. Brigadier J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., was also present.

The ship advance party boarded H.T. *Dunera*.

*May 20th* — The Regiment sailed from Cyprus in H.T. *Dunera*. H.E. the Governor, the Commissioner of Limassol, and the Commander Western Area lunched on board the boat. The Regiment was played off by the bands of the Royal Engineers and Devonshire and Dorset Regiments.

*May 23rd* — The ship dropped anchor at Malta and shore leave was granted for four hours. Two parties who were to race home across Europe disembarked. One commanded by 2nd Lieut. M. J. C. Draco and the other by 2nd Lieut. A. J. Davies.

*May 30th* — H.T. *Dunera* docked at Southampton at 1600 hours. Light Division Assembly was sounded by the bugles, and the band of the 2nd Green Jackets, K.R.R.C., played on the dockside. The ship was met by the Colonel Commandant and the Mayor of Oxford, and also by the two parties who had disembarked at Malta. 2nd Lieut. M. J. C. Draco's party had won.

*May 31st* — The Regiment disembarked and arrived at Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, by train.

*June 2nd* — The Regiment proceeded on block leave.

*July 1st* — A detachment of twenty-four left on detachment to Support Weapons Wing, School of Infantry, Netheravon.

*July 3rd* — A fire inspection was held in Barracks by the District Fire Inspector.

*July 7th* — 2nd Lieut. J. G. Morgan was appointed Weapon Training Officer.

The band sounded Retreat at the Royal Show at Oxford in conjunction with the bands of the K.R.R.C. and R.B. for a week. This was the first time that the massed bands of the Green Jackets had been on parade together.

*July 9th.*—The Commanding Officer gave a farewell address to the Regiment on the square.

The Regimental Dinner was held in the Hyde Park Hotel.

*July 10th* — At a farewell dinner night for Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E., the officers presented him with two silver ashtrays.

*July 11th* — Regimental At Home at Oxford.

The annual cricket match v. H. Ruck-Keene's XI was played on the University College Ground.

*July 12th* — Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E.

*July 13th* — Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford rejoined the Regiment and was posted to Letter 'C' Company.

Green Jackets Week started at Winchester.

Lieut.-Colonels R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E., and M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., visited the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Camp at Castle Martin.

*July 15th* — The Regiment drew with the 60th at St Cross.

The massed bands of the Green Jackets Brigade gave a concert and sounded retreat on the square at Winchester in the evening.

*July 16th* — Brigadier J. A. J. Read, late Commanding Officer of the Regiment, was appointed C.B.E.

Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, M.B.E., late Commanding Officer of the Regiment, was appointed O.B.E.

Captain G. C. Stacey was awarded a Mention in Dispatches.

R.Q.M.S. Clarke and C.-Sjt Bailey were awarded Commander-in-Chief's certificates.

*July 17th* — 2nd Lieut. M. J. C. Draco was promoted Lieutenant, w.e.f. 16th June 1959.

The Regiment lost to the Rifle Brigade at St Cross.

*July 18th* — Green Jackets dance in the officers' mess at Bushfield.

*July 26th* — C.C.F. advance party arrived at Windmill Hill Camp.

*July 27th* — A draft of six soldiers joined the Regiment and were posted to Letter 'A' Company.

The D.G.M.T. visited the Regiment and inspected the training. He afterwards took tea with the officers.

Sjt J. Price and four men of the Regiment flew as part of the Green Jackets detachment to Corunna for the 150th anniversary of the battle of Corunna and death of Sir John Moore.

*July 29th* — A weekly church service to be held every Wednesday morning was started.

*July 31st* — The Regiment proceeded on 72 hours leave over the August bank holiday week-end.

*August 4th* — Major R. M. Colvile reassumed command of H.Q. Company.

*August 10th* — The Regiment provided a guard of honour in No. 1 Dress for the C.-in-C. Portsmouth on the occasion of his visit to G.O.C. Southern Command. The guard was provided by Sp. Company and commanded by Major W. S. C. Chevis. Lieut. I. G. Elliot carried the Regimental colour.

*August 14th* — The Somerset Light Infantry withdrew from Netheravon, their duties being taken over by a detachment from the Regiment.

*August 15th* — Lieut. C. E. W. Jones rejoined the Regiment and was posted to H.Q. Company.

Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford was transferred from Letter 'C' to Letter 'B' Company.

2nd Lieut. R. P. Radcliffe was transferred from Letter 'B' to Letter 'C' Company.

*August 17th* — C.-Sjt Stanley was transferred from H.Q. to Letter 'C' Company.

*August 18th* — Captain R. M. Colvile relinquished the temporary rank of Major.

*August 21st* — A visit to the Regiment was paid by Lieut. General Sir Nigel Poett, G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command. He watched the Regiment on training and lunched in the officers' mess.

*August 25th* — C.-Sjt Musty was transferred from Letter 'C' Company to H.Q. Company.

C.-Sjt Stanley was transferred from H.Q. to Letter 'C' Company.

A hygiene inspection of Jellalabad Barracks took place.

*August 27th* — An adjutants drill parade was held in preparation for March through Oxford.

*August 31st* — Pte Baigent (A.C.C.) was selected to represent the Army at water polo.

*September 1st* — The Regimental Recruiting Committee met.

*September 2nd* — A cricket match versus Somerset Light Infantry was won by one wicket.

*September 3rd* — A football match versus 27 Command Workshops R.E.M.E. was won 15—0.

2nd Lieut. R. P. Radcliffe was appointed officer i/c cycling.

*September 4th* — Junior Leaders Course No. 3 was completed. Fourteen Rfn were passed out and were promoted Local L.-Cpls.

*September 7th* — Capt. C. A. S. Hinton posted to Letter 'A' Company.

Lieut. J. P. Watts posted to Sp. Company.

The Regimental Sports Committee met under the Second-in-Command.

*September 9th* — Lieut.-Colonel P. J. A. Lucas, M.C., R. Warwicks, S.O. I (P.T.) visited the Regiment.

*September 10th* — The Regiment marched through Oxford. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Oxford, Councillor F. M. Brewer, who addressed the Regiment.

*September 14th* — The Regiment played 30 Signals Regiment at football and won 4—2.

*September 16th* — The Regiment lost a football match against the Queen's Own Hussars by 4—2.

*September 19th* — The Regiment sent a party of 3 officers and 14 soldiers to take part in an Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (T.A.) exercise at Witney.

*September 20th* — The Regiment provided a party of 3 officers and 50 soldiers for the Battle of Britain Sunday church parade. It was commanded by Major P. J. Durant, M.B.E.

The Regiment was presented with a bugle major's mace by the Bicester Urban District Council. A guard for the occasion was commanded by

Major R. M. Colville and the Regimental colour was carried by Lieut. J. P. Watts. The Colonel Commandant accepted the mace on behalf of the Regiment.

*September 21st* — Major General Woods, A.D.M.S., visited the Regiment. A guard was mounted by H.Q. Company for the occasion.

Captain A. H. Morley rejoined the Regiment and was posted to H.Q. Company as PRI and messing officer.

*September 22nd* — The Colonel Commandant attended a dinner party in the officers' mess.

A board of survey under Captain A. H. Morley checked all the Regimental sports kit.

*September 23rd* — A football match took place against 3 Royal Horse Artillery. Result, lost 4—1.

A hockey match took place against 1 Som. L.I. Result, lost 3—1.

A squash match took place against 2nd Grenadier Guards. Result, lost 3—2.

*September 24th* — The Regiment was informed that it would provide 15 officers and 300 men to line the route for the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Ironside, on Wednesday, 30th September.

*September 25th* — The barracks was inspected by the District Hygiene Representative.

*September 26th* — A dance was held in the officers' mess. All serving officers in the Regiment in England were invited and numbers attending were eighty-five.

*September 28th* — Drill parades were held all day to prepare for the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Ironside.

*September 29th* — The Regiment moved to Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich Arsenal, by double decker bus and special train.

*September 30th* — The Regiment lined the route from Millbank to Lambeth Bridge for the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Ironside.

Squash match versus 3 Royal Horse Artillery. Lost 6—0.

*October 1st* — The Regiment played 17 Battalion R.A.O.C. in the 1st round of the Army Cup and lost 2—1.

*October 5th* — The Regiment moved down to Knook Camp.

*October 7th* — A letter was received from the C.I.G.S. saying:

'I was delighted to notice the Green Jackets' contingent lining the route of the late Field Marshal Lord Ironside's funeral yesterday. I thought they looked extremely well.'

*October 8th* — The Regimental Recruiting Committee met at 1630 hours.

*October 9th* — GENERAL ELECTION DAY.

2nd Lieut. C. S. Downie promoted Lieutenant, w.e.f. 3rd October 1959.

Captain A. H. Morley assumed command of H.Q. Company.

Lieut. I. G. Elliott assumed command of Sp. Company.

*October 12th* — The Regiment lost to 1 Grenadier Guards 2—1 at soccer.

A Regimental signal cadre started.

*October 13th* — Mr Haye visited the Regiment to demonstrate C.E.F.O.

*October 14th* — The Regiment beat School of Artillery 6—1 at soccer.

The Regiment played 18 Field Regiment at hockey and won 5—3.

The Regiment 2nd XI played School of Infantry at hockey and won 3—2.

*October 15th* — An officers and sjts recruiting day was held in the School of Infantry. Five special recruiters attended and Majors Stewart-Wilson and Hanscombe from the Depot attended.

*October 16th* — The Q.M. took over duties of officer in charge of married quarters.

Major Chevis reassumed command of Sp. Company.

Major R. M. Colville reassumed command of H.Q. Company.

Sjt Price J. post to Letter 'C' Company (Int. Sec.).

*October 19th* — Company/Platoon Commanders' Courses started at the School of Infantry. This was the first full course for which the Regiment provided demonstrations.

*October 20th* — Captain J. D. F. Mostyn took over the duties of Public Relations Officer.

*October 21st* — The Regiment played against the Scots Guards at soccer and lost 5—1.

The Regiment played the Depot at hockey and drew 2—2.

*October 26th* — Winter routine came into effect.

*October 28th* — The Regiment was beaten 9—0 at soccer by the R.A.P.C. Training Centre.

The Regiment was visited by P.R.O. Southern Command and the reporters from the *Daily Sketch*.

*October 30th* — Lieut. C. E. W. Jones handed over the duties of a/adjt to Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford.

*November 2nd* — Major J. M. A. Tillett assumed command of the Regiment during the temporary absence on duty of Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.

Captain R. M. Colville relinquished the temporary rank of major.

C. S. M. Hornblower took over the duties of Fire Officer.

*November 3rd* — C.S.M. Hornblower is transferred to Letter 'C' Company.

*November 4th* — Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., reassumed command of the Regiment.

Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford was posted to H.Q. Company from 'B' Company.

*November 5th* — The officers of the Regiment were addressed by Brigadier White on the subject of service with the colonial forces.

*November 6th* — Lieut. A. M. Easty (R.A.M.C.) joined the Regiment and was posted to H.Q. Company.

*November 8th* — Remembrance Sunday.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment at Rose Hill.

*November 9th* — Major R. R. W. Workman rejoined the Regiment and was posted to Letter 'C' Company.

*November 10th* — Commandant of the School of Infantry, Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited the Regiment.

A detachment from Sp. Company left for Blackshaw Moor near Leek, Staffordshire, to partake in the making of a film entitled *Keeping the Peace*.

*November 11th* — Squash. The Regiment beat 1st Bn Grenadier Guards, 3—1.

Football. The Regiment beat 25 Field Regiment R.A., 4—1.

*November 14th* — A detachment from the Regiment took part in the recruiting week-end of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry at Oxford.

*November 16th* — The Colonel Commandant visited the Regiment; he toured barracks with the Commanding Officer, and later was present at a demonstration of the encounter battle in which 'A' and 'B' Companies with Sp. Company play a major part.

*November 17th* — Lieut. I. G. Elliott assumed command of Support Company.

*November 18th* — A recruiting team of Major R. R. W. Workman, Captain D. F. Mostyn, Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford, 2nd Lieut. R. P. Radcliffe, C.S.M. Abbott, Sjt Price, Cpl Mitchell, L.-Cpl Mitchell visited Aylesbury and presented a play on Regimental history.

*November 20th* — A half holiday was granted in commemoration of the battle of Nonne Boschen Wood 1914.

*November 23rd* — 2nd Lieut. D. Orrs-Deas rejoined the Regiment and was posted to H.Q. Company.

*November 24th* — The Regiment provided troops for exercise Night Jar. The commitment involved 285 men on the ground.

*November 25th* — 2nd Lieut. N. M. Prideaux joined the Regiment and was posted to 'A' Company.

The Regiment played 1st round Army Hockey Cup and lost to 1st Durham Light Infantry 2—0.

*December 2nd* — The same recruiting team visited Slough and presented the same play on Regimental history.

In a football match the Regiment beat 18 Field Regiment R.A. by 10—0.

*December 3rd* — Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford and Lieut. I. G. Elliott were granted temporary rank of captain.

*December 9th* — Hockey. 1st Round Salisbury Plain District Major Units Knock-out versus Depot D.E.R.R. was won 5—3.

An all ranks dance was held in the Junior Ranks Club. At 2000 hours it was learned that 2nd Lieut. D. Orr-Deas had been killed instantly in a road accident whilst driving to London from the hockey match at Devizes.

Captain C. St C. Simmons assumed the duties of adjutant.

*December 14th* — The funeral of 2nd Lieut. D. Orr-Deas took place privately at the Crematorium, Charing, near Ashford, Kent. Wreaths were laid from all ranks of the Regiment, from the officers, the warrant officers and serjeants and from the band.

*December 16th* — 2nd Lieut J. H. Scott and 2nd Lieut. P. E. Dobbs joined the Regiment on first commissioning and were posted to Letter 'A' and Letter 'B' Companies respectively.

The corporals Christmas dance was held in the corporals' room.

*December 17th* — The Regimental Carol Service was held in the Junior Ranks Club.

A large number of men of the Regiment and families were present at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

*December 18th* — Christmas dinner was served in the dining-room by the officers, warrant officers and serjeants.

*December 19th* — A Christmas party was held for the children of all ranks.

*December 21st* — The Regiment departed on 14 days block Christmas leave leaving a rear party of 40 men for security and duties.

Coy	Commander	Company Officers	Coy Sjt-Major	Coy Q.M. Sjt
Bn H.Q.	Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.	Major J. M. A. Tillet (2IC) Captain C. St C. Simmons (Adjt) Captain M. J. Massy-Beresford (IO) Captain A. M. Easty, R.A.M.C. (Med. Offr)		
A	Major P. E. Gerahy	Captain C. A. S. Hinton Lieut. M. J. C. Draco Lieut. C. S. Downie 2nd Lieut J. G. C. Goodwyn 2nd Lieut. N. M. Prideaux 2nd Lieut. J. H. Scott	J. Ball	E. Alcock
B	Major P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.	Lieut. F. J. B. Taylor 2nd Lieut. P. G. Costley-White 2nd Lieut. P. E. Dobbs	H. Gater	W. Dean
C	Major O. G. Pratt Major R. R. W. Workman	Lieut. J. M. Meade 2nd Lieut. J. G. Morgan	G. Arthurs	C. Stanley Drill W.O. D. Hornbolwer Recruiting W.O. S. Abbott
Sp	Captain I. G. Elliott	Lieut. K. J. Smith Lieut. T. M. Hartley Lieut. J. P. Watts	R. Kears	P. Bullen
HQ	Captain R. M. Colville	Major H. P. Patterson, R.A.P.C. Major (Q.M.) S. A. G. Cox, M.B.E. Captain J. D. F. Mostyn Captain A. H. Morley Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Howland	J. Scott	J. Trahearn

## 43RD AND 52ND LETTER

Dear Editor,

This has been a year of ceaseless activity in which the most important event has been, of course, our return to England for a two year tour for the first time since 1939. To attempt to record all our activities in this letter is out of the question, the reader must therefore expect to find only the main bones of our tale here, the details being recorded elsewhere in this CHRONICLE in the Summary of our Diary of Events.

The year opened with the Regiment widely deployed over S.W. Cyprus, still engaged on unspectacular but essential internal security tasks in case EOKA decided to break their unofficial truce. Letter 'A' Company was guarding a detainee camp near Larnaca. Letter 'B' Company was dispersed on protection guards on police stations and magazines throughout the considerable Limassol rural area. Letter 'C' Company was on town duties in Limassol itself, while Support Company was at a few hours notice to move to the scene of any unpleasantness. This state of affairs continued up to the signing of the London Agreement in February. Thereafter relaxation of restrictions followed and by March the whole Regiment was concentrated in its Polemidhia Camp, and a proper system of training was possible for the first time since our arrival in Cyprus in August, 1956.

The next two months were most enjoyable. We trained and played games hard, swam almost daily, ate 'kebab' in Turkish cafés, visited Greek cabarets and drank the local vino. At week-ends, parties of all ranks motored or walked over the many attractive sectors of the island which had been out of our 'parish' in the days of conflict. Everywhere Greeks and Turks of all types and ages were glad to see one and of course were eager to lighten one's pockets, and we all became aware of what fun soldiering was in the island when it was peaceful.

It was during this period that our sporting record matched even that of the 52nd during the post-war Palestine tour. We won the Island Hockey Competition, came second in the Army's cross country race, reached the semi-final Boxing Competition, were fourth in the Pentathlon and our soccer team, even, began to win matches regularly. We also raised a polo team with the help of Gerald Astley-Cooper, who arrived to serve at G.H.Q., and before leaving played a match against the Blues, the only other Regimental side in the island. We lost but were not disgraced.

A very successful rifle meeting was held with the new British production model of the Self-Loading Rifle. This was the prelude to the Western

Area Meeting which we won fairly convincingly from, amongst others, the Devon and Dorsets and the Durham Light Infantry. It was interesting to find some of the younger members of the Regiment, and in particular Brian Pascoe, coming to the fore with this new weapon, whilst several of the known good shots struggled to maintain their reputations. However, most people are now agreed that it is a great improvement on its predecessors.

During these months we were honoured to receive official visits from H.E. Governor, the C.-in-C. (Lieut.-General Sir Roger Bower), the D.G.M.T. (Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury), the Director of Operations (Major-General Darling) and many senior staff officers. From the political world we were pleased to meet Major Sharples from the Ministry of Defence, who by a telecommunication quirk was advertised before his arrival as a Mr Marples! Before the correction was received Regimental Headquarters considered with much concern how it could possibly find anything, other than the Post Corporals' leaking tent, in which to interest the Postmaster-General!

Unofficial visits to us were also made by Lieut.-General and Mrs 'Splosh' Jones, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs Ernest Whitfeld and by Mr John Owen of the *Oxford Times and Mail*, who subsequently wrote some excellent accounts of our activities for his paper.

The highlight, though, was the visit of the Colonel Commandant in February. He spent nearly a week amongst us and if he enjoyed it all as much as we enjoyed having him with us the visit can be adjudged to have been a great success.

May was a month devoted to packing and to farewell parties, but these followed the pattern of all others preceding a move, so no more need be said of them.

We must mention, though, a most unusual presentation which took place. The Limassol Detachment of the Royal Military Police gave the Regiment a plaque to commemorate the happy association between the two during the months of trouble. In return they were given by the Commanding Officer a small shield decorated with our two cap badges. A similar presentation was made to the District Commissioner and to the Assistant Chief Constable, who with the Commanding Officer had formed the District Security Committee in Limassol and who had proved good friends of the Regiment throughout.

On 19th May Major-General Darling asked the Regiment to parade for him before our departure on the next day. The music was provided by the band of the Royal Ulster Rifles, as our own band had left in April to take part in combined engagements with the other two Green Jacket bands, during one of which they were to earn publicity as 'Green Jackets



A road block searching a suspect and his car



A Ferret Scout Car on patrol in Cyprus

with red faces'—but that's another story! At the end of the parade, which we held on the square of our neighbours—37 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers—the Sappers paid us the great compliment of lining the route back to our camp, their Commanding Officer standing at the end of the line at the salute.

On the 20th we embarked in H.T. *Dunera* and were accorded a magnificent send off. The Governor and many leading civil and military officials came aboard for drinks and lunch, an aeroplane flew past and dipped in salute, a very large number of friends from all communities lined the quayside and two bands played, one on a 'Z' craft circling the troopship.

So ended another Regimental overseas tour, which had involved much hard slogging, produced a few spectacular triumphs and had given a great deal of fun and good comradeship to the many hundred of men who had served with the Regiment during the two and a half years.

On 30th May the Regiment arrived at Southampton and received a very warming reception from very many friends. We were also met by two parties who had left the ship at Malta and had engaged in a hitch-hike race across Europe. One of the parties consisted of regulars under John Draco, the other of national service men led by Tony Davies.

We moved to Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, by train and coach to find the advance party had done an excellent job. Two or three days were spent in this newly-modernised barracks before block leave started. Some people found it difficult to adjust themselves to the comfort and convenience of a barracks after months in a tent on an open hillside—however they survived, somehow.

Our three months staging period in Tidworth was spent in training whenever and wherever we could and in reorganizing the Regiment, to fit us for the rôle of demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry which we were due to take over in September.

It was in June that Lieut.-Colonel Andy Martin went off to Winchester as Brigade Colonel, but it was pleasant to realise that he and Peggy, who had been so hospitable to us all in Cyprus, were to remain so close to us. In his place we welcome Lieut.-Colonel Michael Harbottle, literary straight off the cricket field where he spent much of the take-over period captaining the Army side so successfully.

The most noteworthy event of our stay in Tidworth was our visit to Oxford on 10th September to exercise our right as Freemen of the City, to march through the streets with 'Band playing and Colours flying'. The hospitality of the Mayor and Corporation, the friendly greetings of the crowd and the temperature (over 80°F.) will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of taking part in this ceremony. Later in the

month a smaller parade took place in Bicester where we were kindly presented by the citizens with a new bugle major's parade stick.

On the day our advance party should have left for our next station, we received orders to move in two days time to London to line half the route for Field Marshal Lord Ironside's funeral. Feverish activity was visible in the area of the parade ground at Tidworth as we hurriedly learnt a hastily improvised drill for 'reversing arms' with the new self-loading rifle. However, all went well and we understood that our drill was as good as that of the Grenadiers and Coldstreams who lined the remainder of the route, even though our battledresses looked dull and drab compared to their ceremonial scarlet. It is not certain when a battalion of the Regiment last took part as a whole in any London duty, but it cannot be since 1939. Anyway it was an interesting experience for those taking part, including the V.I.P. treatment we received from the Metropolitan Police as we drove in from Woolwich where we detrained, in our coaches.

There followed the move to Knook Camp, Heytesbury, some 6 miles from Warminster, on 5th October. The camp is a hurriedly constructed early war-time hutment, built on two sides of a main road. It is ugly, badly laid out and in need of maintenance of which it received little from official sources, for to the War Office financiers it is a 'temporary' camp only. After the wonderfully high standard of accommodation in Tidworth, Knook came as rather an unpleasant shock to the Regiment.

It is perhaps appropriate to mention here the reforms of certain of the daily routine functions of Army life which have been introduced within the Regiment since we arrived in England. As we mentioned earlier, the Regiment is now home for a peacetime tour for the first time since 1939. Since that date many events have changed the face of Britain, and yet the Army still continued to run its daily routine as though nothing had changed. Many of us in the Regiment felt it was time we got up to date in our thinking and that it was time some of the restrictions on a soldier's individual freedom were removed, where these were, nowadays, of little practical value.

There is nothing revolutionary in most of the changes that have been introduced. They are mostly changes in the attitude of the official mind, based on the fact that most riflemen nowadays are sensible and responsible adults who can be relied upon to get their daily chores done properly without continuous chasing and supervision. It would be dull to list all the changes that have been made, even if it were possible to record accurately the ones which are basically but changes in attitude, but examples of the sort of thing we have done are mentioned below.



The Colonel of the Regiment touring Buckingham Camp  
Lieutenant Draco, Major Gerahy, Colonel Commandant, Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Elliott

'Reveille' is now only the time at which the Regiment is awoken. Nobody is made to get out of bed by the last note of the call. Yet the rifleman is still required to have his bed made and his room clean and tidy by first parade. The same applies to 'Lights Out', which is now little more than a time signal.

Soldiers are encouraged to regard their barrack rooms as if they were their rooms at home. Individual lay-out of the room is allowed within reason, and 'do it yourself' decoration is permitted. Many barrack rooms have their own television sets and men are helped, wherever it is practicable, to make their rooms more homely and comfortable.

Once a permanent pass has been issued, the holder can quit camp at any time he wishes, provided he is not warned for duty and it is outside working hours. This applies equally to week-ends. A pass, however, is still required for leave for administrative purposes.

We feel that these changes of attitude have in no way lowered the standards of the Regiment. Their aim was to produce a more responsible, more contented and therefore a better soldier, and we believe we are succeeding.

Our job as demonstration battalion is interesting, especially now when the demonstrations and exercises in which we take part are still novel to us. It involves much hard work and patience, and plenty of discomfort, especially to the junior rank who is required to remain in cold and wet positions for hours at a time whilst the 'students' search for and attack him. However, everyone feels they are doing a worthwhile job and each individual soon realises he has to give of his best if the team effort is not to be spoilt. So far the official view of our activities appears to be that we are carrying out our duties well.

Apart from pure demonstrations and exercises with the students, our job involves us in carrying out many trials on new equipment and has even turned Tim Hartley and the M.M.G. Platoon into film actors in a training film which is to be called *Keeping the Peace*.

Our main difficulty at present stems from a grave shortage of manpower. This is largely due to the 'Powers that Be' having miscalculated their national service intake requirements. This shortage has complicated the organisational changes forced upon us by our present rôle. Although the establishment of the Regiment is still that of the Lower (or Peace) type, we are required to maintain Support Company, and the Signal and Transport Platoons at Higher (or War) establishment. This has resulted in our being forced to operate on a two Rifle Company basis. In addition we have a large demonstration platoon at Mons Officer Cadet School, a large section at the Small Arms School at Hythe and



Bugle Major's Ceremonial Parade Stick  
Presented by the Bicester Urban District Council on behalf of the inhabitants of Bicester to the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, in recognition of the services of the Regiment at home and abroad  
Presented 28th September 1959

nearly half Support Company as a demonstration detachment at Netheravon. On top of this, Letter 'A' Company and the Assault Pioneers are resident at Warminster itself.

However, we hope this manpower shortage will be just a temporary one, and we now have a full-time recruiting staff operating within the Regiment under Riley Workman, who are already producing most successful results. We hope, though, our readers will play their part and will do all they can to encourage likely men to join the Regiment as regulars. If the Regiment is to secure attractive stations abroad when National Service ends in two years' time, we must be up to full strength with regular soldiers by then—so please help us in every way you can. For your information, our present proportionate strength is approximately two national servicemen to each regular soldier—so the problem is an acute one.

It is with the very greatest regret that we have to record in this letter two most tragic deaths within the Regiment, both due to traffic accidents. Rifleman Rickard was killed in July while riding as pillion passenger on a motor cycle, and 2nd Lieut. David Orr-Deas died instantly when the sports car he was driving came in collision with a lorry in December.

It may be of interest to record that during the year the job of checking, listing and arranging for the repair and disposal of the Regimental silver and property has been completed. Our colours have also been embossed with the battle honours of the last war. The lettering 'Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry' still remains of course in their centres.

During the year there has been a considerable changeover in our officer ranks but it would be dull reading to record them all. Mention must be made however, of the fact that Charles Mason left us last January for the Aden Protectorate Levies after serving for two years as Second-in-Command. We are delighted to hear that he has subsequently gained well-deserved promotion in the Trucial Oman Scouts.

'All things come to an end' says the Book of Common Prayer, and so must this letter, although half of what we should have said has probably been omitted. Never mind, let us remember that 'the way to be a bore', as Voltaire once said, 'is to say everything'.

Yours ever,

43RD AND 52ND.

ADDRESS BY THE COLONEL OF THE  
REGIMENT TO THE 43RD AND 52ND ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE REGIMENT  
IN CYPRUS, 14TH MARCH 1959

'Colonel Martin, officers, warrant officers, serjeants and men of the Regiment.

I want first of all to say how much I have enjoyed my visit to the Regiment and to thank you for your hospitality and the very kind way in which you have received me.

Ever since its arrival in Cyprus, I have had very good reports about the Regiment and on coming here now it is particularly gratifying to me to hear on every side of the high regard in which the Regiment is held.

I would like to congratulate the Commanding Officer and the whole Regiment on this. I, myself, have been very impressed by the turnout and alert bearing of all ranks.

Anyone who has the great honour and privilege to be Colonel of the Regiment has also the duty to reflect and, in some measure perhaps, to influence regimental opinion and this cannot be done without personal contact.

Since I was last here, about two years ago, there have been great changes in the basic organisation of the infantry. We, who were the oldest Light Infantry Regiment, have become the youngest Green Jacket Regiment, though by virtue of our age, we are the senior regiment in the Brigade.

In all the changes which have been made it has been a splendid thing to feel that the Regiment has faced them in the right spirit, recognising that in the interests of progress, changes are necessary and, while conscious of the greatness of our past, looking to the needs of the future. This is certainly in accordance with the traditions of the Regiment.

Very shortly now you will be going back to the United Kingdom, and there are two things which I suggest you will have to think about.

The first of these is settling down in the Green Jackets Brigade. This is really an easy and pleasant duty since our two sister regiments, the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade, are two of the most famous in the army and are old friends—the Rifle Brigade, ever since it formed the basis of the Light Brigade under Sir John Moore in 1801 and the Kings Royal Rifle Corps over a long period of years. But like

all marriages, the partners have to get used to each other and to live together on intimate terms, and this will be achieved mainly through the Brigade Depot at Winchester. It will be made much easier by the fact that your Commanding Officer, Colonel Martin, is to become the Brigade Colonel and is to take over command of the Green Jackets Depot in July. It is very desirable that the officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers should get to know as many of their opposite numbers in the other two regiments as possible.

The Brigade, will from henceforth, occupy a much more important position in our lives and whilst we must never waver in our determination to belong to the best regiment in the army, we must also recognise the value of co-operation and be determined to keep the Green Jackets Brigade right at the top. Within the Brigade we shall have friendly rivalry between the three regiments but to the outside world we must stand united and defend our sister regiments against all criticism.

The next major problem is the ending of national service and the change to an all-regular regiment.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to all the national service officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have passed through the ranks of the Regiment.

They have suited us and the Regiment has suited them and so we have had the best out of them. We shall miss them but, again, change is necessary, and the future lies with a regular army. We have, therefore, in the next year or two, to get a lot more regular recruits. In this matter of recruiting it is not sufficient to sit back and wait for men to enlist; we have to go out and get them. I think you should know what is being done.

First of all, on a Brigade basis, there is a Green Jackets Brigade Recruiting Committee which meets in London once a quarter under the chairmanship of General Sir Gerald Lathbury of this Regiment, who is Director General of Military Training at the War Office. This Committee considers recruiting policy for the Green Jackets Brigade as a whole. Recently it has approved a new recruiting poster, it has arranged a Green Jackets Display at the Army and Naval Stores in London, which is taking place this month and it has arranged for the massed bands of the Regiment and the Kings Royal Rifle Corps to play at Wembley on the occasion of the international soccer match between Great Britain and Italy on the 6th May.

It has also arranged for the massed bands and buglers of the whole Green Jackets Brigade to play at the Royal Show at Oxford on the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th July.

Then we have a sub-committee for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire which meets under the chairmanship of Colonel Mike Harbottle, who is succeeding Colonel Martin in command in July.

But what I want to impress on you is this :

All recruiting is largely a matter of publicity and publicity has two main divisions. There is the publicity gained through display through the press, television and radio but there is also, and this I think is very important, the propaganda which passes from person to person by word of mouth. In this you can all help—past and present members of the Regiment—regular and national service alike. You can all encourage young men who are thinking of joining the army to come into the Regiment—you can all in fact be recruiters.

I think we ought to make a lot more use of our past members; the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade fairly flog their past members and we must do the same.

That is all I have to say. I want to thank you once again for making my visit so enjoyable and to wish you all the very best of luck in the future.'

## RECORDS OF SPORT AND TRAINING 1959

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

It is difficult to believe after playing football in the mud at Knook Camp in December, that only eight months ago companies and platoons were battling in their respective Knock-out Competitions on sun-baked grounds in Cyprus, with hardly a blade of grass to be seen. Needless to say the games were just as tough and exciting as those played under the more conventional conditions in England.

Support and Headquarter Companies were firm favourites to win both these competitions, having shown the best form in league matches and the bulk of the Regimental players were in these companies. Once again, however, the favourites failed, and 'C' Company who were only at half strength ran out worthy winners. In the senior inter-company competition they defeated Support Company in the final 3—1, in a game played in a high wind which the Support Company players could not master and had the ball in the air too much. 'C' Company also won the inter-platoon competition after defeating the Assault Pioneers in the final. It was a particularly good effort on the part of these two platoons to reach the final as they were numerically the weakest in the Regiment. Corporal Budge of 'C' Company and Corporal Currey of Support were splendid captains.

The Regimental team had mixed success in the South-West Cyprus League and finished the season about the middle of the league table. The same applied to the Cyprus Major Unit Knock-out Competition, in which we were drawn against 1st Bn Durham Light Infantry in the first round. This time the Regiment rose to the occasion magnificently and were the first to score with a splendid goal by Rifleman Codling, and Rifleman Wright followed with a second one shortly afterwards. There was no further score before half-time and in the second half the Regiment had to face a stiff breeze which had got up, and were mainly on the defensive. The Durhams quickly made the score 2—1 but after missing a penalty, lost heart and the Regiment won a memorable game 3—1. Corporal Lewis, the captain and Lance-Corporal Curran deserve special praise for their dogged defence in the second half. In the second round we lost what should have been an easy match against 42 Survey Regiment. This had unfortunately been the pattern throughout the season.

The 1959-60 season opened at Tidworth in weather such as we knew in Cyprus and grounds almost as hard. We were very hopeful of doing

really very well in the East Wiltshire Services League and the Army Cup, as we had half a dozen or so players who are on the books of good civilian clubs. Our hopes were soon dashed to the ground, as we were defeated in our first league match 3—1 by the 18th Field Regiment after having much the better of the game, but goals just would not come. It has taken a long time to get this Regimental team playing a sound co-ordinated game, as training has been out of the question with the Regiment so split, but at the close of the year the position is much better and we have defeated the School of Artillery, and 18th and 25th Field Regiments soundly in our last three games.

In the Army Cup we were drawn against 17th Bn R.A.O.C. (Bicester) who are a fairly static unit and have several professional players. This match was played at the Tidworth Stadium under perfect conditions and the football was certainly equal to the setting. 17th Bn led 2—0 at half-time but Lance-Corporal Cox, the Regimental captain, scored a lovely goal to make it 2—1 soon after half-time. The Regimental team tried desperately hard to equalise but the Ordnance Corps team held on to their lead until the end. This was a great disappointment to our team but we were obviously taking on a good side as we have since heard that they defeated the R.A.P.C. Depot, who were the finalists in last year's Army Cup.

## ATHLETICS

Due to our move home from Cyprus in mid-year it was not possible for the Regiment to hold an athletic meeting of its own or to take part in any centralised meetings in 1959. We shall, however, be able to start building shortly for the 1960 season, when we will be faced with the task of training up a completely new team apart from one or two experienced performers who still serve with us. Facilities within Knook Camp are not ideal but could be a lot worse. What we do lack is a gymnasium, which makes winter indoor training impossible. All efforts to get authority for a converted Romney hut to be erected have failed; we shall therefore have to wait until outdoor training is possible.

## BOXING

The inter-company boxing competition was combined this year with the individual competition. As a result a good, strong Regimental team was formed. Results of the Company competition were :

- 1st Letter 'C' Company (22 points)
- 2nd Letter 'B' Company (21 points)
- 3rd Letter 'S' Company (21 points)
- 4th Letter H.Q. Company (16 points)
- 5th Letter 'A' Company (14 points)

#### *Individual Competition*

Bantam	Cpl Nicholls (B)
Feather	Rfn Drummond (B)
Lightweight	Rfn Glewis (A)
Light-welter (1st str)	Rfn Davidson (B)
Light-welter (2nd str)	Rfn Cleaver (C)
Welter (1st str)	L.-Cpl Cox (A)
Welter (2nd str)	L.Cpl Budge (C)
Light Middle	Rfn Davies (Sp.)
Middle	L.-Cpl Joseph (C)
Light Heavy	Rfn Harris (H.Q.)
Heavy	Rfn Carpenter (C)

#### *Cyprus Inter-Unit Championships*

The Regiment met their old opponents in the first round (37 Field Engineer Regiment). The Sappers were indeed the stronger team, however, due to a number of disqualifications their experienced boxers were unsuccessful and the Regiment qualified for the next round by two points. During the interval between the first and second round of the competition our trainer was able to give valuable instruction to the team. Consequently the bouts against 40 Marine Commando were of a much higher standard of boxing than in the 1st round. Although the final score showed a win for the Regiment by 20 points to 10, the competition was really much closer. The Commandos were unable to produce their two lightwelters and, of course, the Regiment gained four points before the opening bout; even so, our team proved beyond any measure of doubt that they were the better side. The individual boxing by both teams was superb and provided the spectators with an evening of excitement and thrills. It was very unfortunate that, owing to a heavy downpour of snow, the Commando unit could not send any spectators. However, an arrangement was soon made whereby one half of the Regiment undertook to adopt the Commando team for the occasion. By this very sporting gesture the Marines received the necessary encouragement which left them with a very high opinion of the Regiment's sporting instincts. Their team manager, on

behalf of the Marine Commando team, voiced his sincere thanks and the evening closed in an atmosphere of friendship not only between the boxers, but between the two units. The Regimental team had certainly undergone a transformation in their short training period which gives credit to the trainer. Each bout was worthy of mention but, regrettably, space will not permit this.

#### *Semi-Finals*

Again our boxers displayed courage and skill and determination that made us feel justly proud of them. Unfortunately, the more experienced team of the Royal Welch Fusiliers scraped through to victory. They had to work jolly hard however in every bout and it was, in many cases, a matter of a quarter point which gave the decision in favour of the Fusiliers. Due to the move of the Regiment to Tidworth and then to Knook Camp, and because of the colossal task of providing demonstration troops for the School of Infantry, it was not possible to field a team this year. However in the next season the Regiment will again be logging their way to the Army finals. We have some very experienced boxers now and enthusiasm runs high. We have already made a start by entering some individual boxers for the Southern Command Individual Competition to be run very shortly.

#### CRICKET

The 1959 season got off to a belated start as it was not until 14th July that the Regiment re-established itself after its return from Cyprus in May. As can be appreciated three years abroad had meant a large amount of disembarkation leave. We did, however, have enough cricketers by the 11th July to take a team to the Depot at Winchester for our first match. In all we played eight matches of which we won four, lost two and drew two.

On paper the Regiment could muster a strong team but owing to our commitments at the School of Infantry and the fact that we were split between Tidworth, Warminster, Netheravon, Hythe and Aldershot, it was never possible to field our strongest possible side. The Commanding Officer captained the Army XI this year and was therefore away leading them in their matches, which meant he was not often available for Regimental games. He was, however, better able to play towards the end of the season.

Our other star was Rifleman Hitchens, who was selected to open for Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties Championship. He played in all their matches (by kind permission of the Commanding Officer!) and did well. He was, however, away all August which limited his appearances in the Regimental matches.

Against the Depot, on 11th July, we did well to get 6 of their wickets down for 118, due to some good bowling by L.-Cpl Wilson (R.A.P.C.), at which score they declared. This left the Regiment two hours in which to make the runs, which they did for the loss of 4 wickets. Colonel Andy Martin played excellently to make an undefeated 45.

On 29th July we had our first game against 18 Fd Regt R.A. The Gunners batted strongly down to number 7, but we eventually got them out for 149. In reply the Regiment started well, and 53 runs were on the board in as many minutes for the loss of only one wicket, and with Lieut. Taylor and Rfn Hutton batting confidently. However, both were soon out for 39 and 37 respectively, and as often happens a complete collapse followed and we were all out for 102. The Gunners' captain, Boxall, bowled his off spinners most effectively to take 6 for 21.

The following Wednesday, 5th August, we played them again. This was to prove a very exciting game, although the scoring on both sides was low. The Regiment batted first and except for Lieut. Taylor, who made 31, no one else made any runs and we were all out for 66. Naturally everyone was very disappointed with this meagre score, but the unexpected always seems to happen. At 39 for 6 our tails were right up, but then 7 and 8 batsmen managed to hit off the remaining runs without further loss. Cansdale bowled excellently to take 4 for 32.

On 12th August we played 16 L.A.A. Regt R.A. This proved the only really wet day of our season. They batted first and made 190 for 3 declared, of which one of their opening bats made a quite excellent 102 not out. By the time we had had tea, less than two hours remained for play—an impossible task, but then the rain came to put us out of our misery.

Our next game was against the Queen's Own Hussars on 26th August. This was another very exciting game and we only managed to win by one wicket, in the last over, when Major Gerahty beautifully cover drove their captain for 4. Cansdale took 5 for 21 and Rfn Hutton made a very good 64.

Against the R.A.F., Boscombe Down, the opposition batted first and scored 154 for the loss of four wickets, but they took too long about it and left us just under two hours in which to make the runs against good steady bowling. However, the Colonel played quite beautifully for 69 not out, and I think a draw was really quite a fair result.

Perhaps the most interesting match was that against the Somersets on 2nd September. The Somersets boasted two Army players, Atkins and Shaw, while we had the Colonel and Hitchens. The Somersets batted first and declared at 188 for 6, of which Riste made 53 and Atkins 40. For the Regiment all the batsmen made runs; Hitchens 54, the Colonel 40, and L.-Cpl Munday 23; and we won by one wicket, which was quite an impressive win as the Somersets had had a good season. At long last a slow bowler was found. Pte Exon (A.C.C.) took 3 for 59 in 11 overs. Let us hope he will be with us in 1960.

The last match was against 1st Bn Grenadier Guards. As it was an over's match, I am not absolutely certain who won, but the Regiment batted first, and declared at 156 for 9 after 32 overs, and the Grenadiers made 144 for 8 after 30 overs.

Thus ended a short but extremely pleasant season. To win Regimental matches I am convinced a good slow bowler is essential. Military medium bowlers are only too plentiful, and besides everyone gets plenty of practice against that sort of bowling. With the Colonel, Lieut. Taylor, the Regimental Serjeant Major and Rfn Hitchens, we already have the nucleus of some solid batting. Bowlers, undoubtedly will have to be found, and all catches held, if we are to be really successful.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ground</i>	<i>Opponents</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
29th July	Durrington	18 Fd Regt R.A.	Lost by 47 runs	18 Fd 149, Cansdale 4 for 27. Regt 102, Lt. Taylor 39, Rfn Hutton 37.
1st July	St Cross	Green Jackets Depot	Won by 6 wkts	Green Jackets 118 for 6 dec., L.-Cpl Wilson 4 for 36. Rgt 119 for 4, Col. Martin 45 not out.
5th Aug.	Durrington	18 Fd Regt R.A.	Lost by 4 wkts	The Regt 66, Lt. Taylor 31. 18 Fd 67 for 6, Cansdale 4 for 32.
12th Aug.	Bulford	16 L.A.A. Regt R.A.	Drawn (rain)	16 L.A.A. 190 for 3 dec. Regt 34 for 1, Lt. Taylor 25 not out.
26th Aug.	Tidworth	Queen's Own Hussars	Won by 1 wicket	Q.O.H. 148, Cansdale 5 for 21. Regt 149 for 9, Rfn Hutton 64, L.-Cpl Wilson 27.
27th Aug.	Tidworth	Som. L.I.	Won by 1 wicket	Som. L.I. 180 for 6 dec., Exon 3 for 59. Regt 192 for 9, Rfn Hitchens 54, Col. Harbottle 40.
11th Sept.	Tidworth	1 Grenadier Guards	Won	Regt 156 for 9, Rfn Hitchens 68, R.S.M. Shepherd 46. Gren. Gds 144 for 8. (Overs match.)

## BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Hutton	28	3	131	3	43.66
Wilson	39	3	176	7	58.66
Cansdale	69	13	237	15	15.80
Richards	30	3	130	7	18.57

The above are the main bowlers, but the following should be mentioned as they have bowled extremely well on one or more occasions: Major Cox (H.Q.), Lieut. Elliott (Sp.), Rfn Hitchins ('A'), Pte Exon (H.Q.).

## BATTING AVERAGES

	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Average
Col. Harbottle	2	1	109	109.00
Rfn Hitchins	2		122	61.00
R.S.M. Shepherd	3		75	25.00
Rfn Hutton	5		115	23.00
Lieut. Taylor	6	1	114	22.80
Rfn Richards	5	1	38	9.50
L.-Cpl Munday	4		36	9.00
L.-Cpl Wilson	7	1	51	8.50

## CROSS COUNTRY

In January 1959 the cross country season in Cyprus began. The Regiment had hardly recovered from Christmas and all its festivities, when companies were asked to train their teams by 23rd January. This was the date decided for the inter-company race. It had been changed on several occasions through unforeseen commitments, which were suddenly thrust on the Regiment at the last moment. We all prayed that EOKA would be kind to us just this once and leave the 23rd free from incident. The Company teams settled down to serious training and were surprisingly fit on the day. It was decided to have the same course as the previous year of about 3½ miles.

The day was perfect, dry and cool, with the countryside almost at its best. The start and finish lay just below the officers' mess, and the course led the runners through plough, carab and olive groves, down into a river bed. Then along the river bank, a strip of road, and across playing fields to the finish. Lining up in their various colours Company teams jostled for position. Down came the flag and away they went. A mad sprint and scramble through Harding's Gate; the pace was fast and furious and so it continued down the avenue until the first field; only then did the runners relax and swing into their steady stride.

Headquarter Company in white vests were well to the front from the very beginning. Rfn Allum and Barnard, both from Headquarter Company, set a fast pace which took them well out into the lead. This they kept and finished in that order, first and second. Headquarter Company 'A' team won by a healthy margin, with Support Company coming second.

The Regimental team was selected from the first fifteen in the Inter-Company race. The training began in earnest in preparation for our first fixture on 4th February in Nicosia. The team trained hard and we were fit just in time for the Cyprus Major Units Championships. On 3rd February the team moved to Nicosia, in order to walk round the course. Altogether there were a hundred and sixty-four runners with eleven major units competing. Once again the day was perfect, making much of the course firm underfoot, although a great part of it was under plough. We were very lucky to pick the best position at the start, which raised morale considerably. When the teams lined up it was a colourful array, and as usual it was a mad scramble for the first few hundred yards. Our good position at the start gave us an enormous advantage. We were able to settle down into our stride almost immediately without being continually jostled. Rfn Allum and Barnard set the pace as usual, and it was thoroughly satisfying to see two green vests out in front.

The team kept well up in the field. However we soon saw maroon shirts moving up to the lead, and right to the finish it seemed touch and go who had the advantage. We were just beaten by the Wiltshire Regiment, who had an extremely strong team. Both Rfn Barnard and Allum finished closely, arriving together 3rd and 4th, with a further three runners coming in the first twenty.

Our team was a good one. It was a great pity we failed to win. However we felt rewarded after many hours of hard work by coming second out of eleven major units. A great deal of the team's success lay with the example set by Rfn Barnard and Allum. Their performances during the season were always outstanding and had immense moral value for the rest of the team. Cpl Tobin and L.-Cpl Godsell must also be mentioned. Their running ability was well above average and they gave tremendous support to those who were not so talented.

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

This brought to an end the cross-country season in Cyprus, which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

*Cyprus Cross-Country Season results 1959*

1. *Inter-Company Race*

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

*Individuals*

1. Rfn Allum	....	H.Q.	....	19 mins 58 secs
2. Rfn Barnard	....	H.Q.	....	20 mins 15 secs
3. Cpl Tobin	....	S.P.	....	20 mins 35 secs
4. Lieut Elliott	....	S.P.	....	20 mins 42 secs

2. *Major Units Championships*

1. The Wiltshire Regiment	....	....	130 points
2. 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd	....	....	182 "
3. 37 Field Engineer Regiment, R.E.	....	....	229 "

(Distance 5½ miles. Time 30 mins .02 secs)

*Regimental Team*

1. Rfn Barnard	....	....	....	3rd
2. Rfn Allum	....	....	....	4th
3. Cpl Tobin	....	....	....	13th
4. L.-Cpl Godsell	....	....	....	15th
5. Lieut. Elliott	....	....	....	18th
6. Rfn Clifton	....	....	....	37th
7. L.-Cpl Budge	....	....	....	41st
8. Rfn Tubb	....	....	....	52nd
9. Rfn Simmonds	....	....	....	63rd
10. Rfn Carpenter	....	....	....	75th

Reserves: Cpl Catlin, Rfn Jones

3. *The Army v. The Royal Air Force*

1. Rfn Barnard	....	....	....	8th
2. Rfn Allum	....	....	....	14th

The cross-country season in England presented all the usual problems. Luckily we were happily settled in Knook Camp before the season came upon us. In order to give us time to select and train a team we started in mid-November. It was most important that all good runners within the Regiment were recognised before Christmas. By the beginning of January the team had to be chosen, then trained by 20th January for the Salisbury Plain District Final. Unfortunately, throughout November, the Regiment was extremely busy and was fully committed demonstrating for the School of Infantry. The inter-company race was finally held on 27th November. Companies found it extremely hard to train their teams, except 'A' Company, and this was clearly brought out by the result. The day of the race turned out mild and dry for the end of November. The countryside near the village of Heytesbury is ideal for cross-country running. The course stretched in a semi-circle over undulating track, field and plough, and eventually finished down Knook Valley into camp. The course was just under four miles.

The Company teams consisted of ten runners, with seven to count. There were a varied collection of colours on the start line as each team, as usual, ran in their Company colours. At 2.30 p.m. the runners lined up on the start-line on the square outside the serjeants' mess. Down came the flag, followed by a mad sprint and scramble up the hill, through the gate, and along the track by Heytesbury Estate. Within no time the field opened out and by the top of the hill was spreading fast. After the first half mile Rfn Allum took the lead, which he held to the end. Behind him the red shirts of 'A' Company could be seen in a tight bunch. Head-quarter Company were also well to the front.

It was a beautiful day for running, and on the high ground the air was crisp and clean. Rfn Allum set a fast pace although at no time was he unduly pursued. The first half of the course was hard going. The last mile and a half ran down a slope to the finishing pen, which gave new life to all the runners. Here 'A' Company proved their fitness, as they kept together and succeeded in having seven runners in the first fifteen. This was a great achievement and was the result of Colin Downie's efforts in training over the fortnight before the race.

'A' Company won extremely easily, with 'B' Company second, but well behind on points. Rfn Allum won the race by a good 50 yards, looking comparatively fresh at the finish. This was most encouraging for the future.

Training had to begin immediately, as our first fixture was due to take place on 5th December against five regiments at Tidworth. The result was most unfortunate and we hope to be much more successful

in the future. However, experience was gained for the Salisbury Plain District Race on 20th January at Larkhill. Here we had to compete against three teams. It was a very cold day and the six mile course ran over typically Salisbury Plain country. It was a fast race, and our hopes were high as by half-way the team lay well up in the field. We found the last mile extremely hard going, and a great many valuable places were lost. George Elliott and Rfn Allum came eighth and thirteenth, with three more runners in the first twenty. Our final placing was fourth, which was disappointing. However, the Inter-Unit District Final, Southern Command, has yet to take place on 17th February, and we still have time to improve on this result, given reasonable weather and so long as training goes according to plan.

*England Cross-Country Season Results*  
*Inter-Company Race*

Position	Coy	Points
1st	'A'	55 points
2nd	'B'	121 "
3rd	H.Q. 'A'	128 "
4th	'C'	224 "
5th	H.Q. 'B'	236 "
6th	SP.	268 "

*Individuals*

	Name	Time
1st	Rfn Allum	23 mins 27 secs
2nd	Capt. Elliott	23 mins 48 secs
3rd	Rfn Callaghan	24 mins 6 secs

*Regimental Team:* which ran at Tidworth on 9th December :

Cpl Cox	'A'
Rfn Allum	'A'
„ Callaghan	'A'
„ Yates	'A'
„ Stevens	'A'
„ Power	'A'
„ Smith	'A'
„ Humphries	'B'
„ Price	H.Q.
„ Simmons	H.Q.

*Results at Tidworth*

Posn	Regiment	Points
1st	The Parachute Regiment	97 points
2nd	2nd Bn The Scots Guards	115 "
3rd	The Queen's Own Hussars	170 "
4th	1st Bn The Grenadier Guards	250 "
5th	3rd Regt of Royal Horse Artillery	290 "
6th	1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd	300 "

*Regimental Team:* which ran in the Salisbury Plain District Final at Larkhill, on 20th January 1960.

Capt. Elliott	SP.	Rfn Stevens	'A'
Cpl Cox	'A'	„ Hitchins	'A'
Rfn Allum	'A'	„ Smith	'A'
„ Callaghan	'A'	„ Humphries	'B'
„ Yates	'A'	„ Price	H.Q.

Posn	Team	Points
1st	Royal Army Pay Corps	97 points
2nd	Royal Pioneer Corps	101 "
3rd	18th Fd Regt R.A.	170 "
4th	1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd	179 "

The race was won in 31 mins 54 secs.

HOCKEY

1959 was a memorable season for the Regimental hockey team for we won in this period the S.W. Cyprus Area Knock-out Competition and followed this up by winning the Cyprus District Knock-out Trophy from a strong field of over twenty major units. We also defeated the local R.A.F. 'Champions' and could thus call ourselves the best team in the island.

We were fortunate to have the use of two excellent tarmac pitches, one in our camp at Polemedhia, which was completely resurfaced at great expense to the taxpayer six weeks before the end of the season, and the other at the G.H.Q. Base at Episkopi. These grounds enabled the team to learn to play fast and constructive hockey. However, they did prove rather a handicap in the Island semi-final and final, which we had to play on a very rough neutral ground used mainly as a motor cycle rally starting point, and we only managed to defeat technically

inferior teams after extra time and much nervous strain to the team and its supporters alike.

In Cyprus it is not unfair to the remainder of the team to single out Colonel Andy Martin (in his 46th year) and the Quartermaster, Steve Cox (in his 44th year), for special mention, as both these players inspired us all by their skill and quickness onto the ball. Of the younger players Brian Pascoe and Rfn Lloyd (our goalkeeper) always distinguished themselves, and of the more 'engineer' variety of players, Martin Cracknell scored a great number of excellent goals, George Elliott a number of his special variety while Bandmaster Kenney, until his return to England, and Corporal Warwick were always hardworking and constructive wing-halves.

Since returning to the U.K. the team has rather fallen from grace with the departure of one or two of our mainstays. Provided, however, we can find a hard shooting forward to replace Martin Cracknell, and provided we can adapt ourselves to the slowness of the grass pitches, we should once again be a force to be reckoned with once the drier weather arrives.

The Regimental team in Cyprus was:

Rfn Lloyd (goal); Capt. Mostyn and Major (QM) Cox (backs); Cpl Warwick, Major Gerahty (*Capt.*) and Lieut. Pascoe (halves); Lieut.-Colonel Martin, Lieut. Hartley, Capt. Cracknell, Lieut Elliott and Rfn Cowdy (forwards).

The Regimental team in the U.K. was:

Rfn Lloyd (goal); Major (QM) Cox and R.S.M. Shepherd (backs); Rfn Raison, Major Gerahty (*Capt.*) and W.O. I Kenney (halves); Capt. Cracknell, C.-Sjt Alcock, Sjt McCracken, Lieut. Elliott and Sjt Cowan (forwards).

#### *Results in Cyprus*

v. 1 Devonshire & Dorset Regt	Away	Won	5—0
v. 3 G.H.Q. Signals Regt	....	Away	Won 4—1
v. 42 Survey Engineers Regt	....	Home	Won 4—0
v. 1 Devonshire & Dorset Regt	Away	Won	4—0
v. 37 Field Engineer Regt	....	Home	Won 2—0
v. 1 R.W.F.	....	Home	Won 7—0
v. R.A.F. Episkopi	....	Away	Won 3—2
v. 47 G.H.Q. Survey Squadron R.E.	Home	Won	4—1
v. 1 Devonshire & Dorset Regt	Home	Won	5—1
v. 2 Wireless Regt, Royal Signals	Neutral	Won	3—2
v. 1 Suffolk	....	Neutral	Won 2—1

Total: Goals For 43, Against 8.

#### *Results in U.K.*

v. 1 Som. L.I.	....	Away	Lost	1—3
v. 18 Med. Regt R.A.	....	Away	Won	5—3
v. Green Jackets Depot	....	Away	Draw	2—2
v. 1 D.E.R.R.	....	Home	Lost	0—1
v. Depot, R.A.P.C.	....	Home	Lost	1—6
v. 1 D.L.I.	....	Away	Lost	0—2
v. Depot D.E.R.R.	....	Away	Won	5—3

#### SHOOTING

The end of the emergency in Cyprus provided us with the long awaited opportunity to initiate serious competition shooting once again, our sights of course being set on Bisley 1960.

The Regimental rifle meeting, cancelled last year owing to operational commitments, was held in glorious weather at Polemidhia ranges on 11th April. In its immediate wake came the Western Area meeting at which we showed our superiority over neighbouring units with a clear-cut victory.

Polemidhia ranges on a brilliantly sunny day were by no means ideal with the glare from the chalky white butts, and an oft-heard cry was of 'blurred foresights'. Our return to England and to the more temperate conditions of the English ranges has resulted in a marked improvement in classification scores.

As a Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry we have been called upon to perform more than one demonstration demanding a very fair degree of marksmanship. Perhaps our most impressive feat in this respect was achieved in the Battlesbury fire power demonstration, executed late in October at the beginning of our first course at the School of Infantry. One could hardly fail to be impressed by the standard of marksmanship, which was even higher than that of our predecessors, the Somerset Light Infantry. It was unanimously agreed within the Regiment that the directing staff commentators' timing of the section fire power display erred by a comfortable two seconds on the uncomplimentary side.

The provision of a miniature range here at Knook Camp has resulted in a much needed and encouraging revival in small bore shooting. We have once again instituted monthly competitions on much the same lines as existed when the regiment was serving at Osnabruck. Here too we have not been slow to seize the opportunities of gaining competition

experience. At the time of writing we are engaged in the Wiltshire Small Bore League and the Salisbury Plain District Competition.

It is pleasing to all of us that Support Company have entered a team for the Army Medium Machine Gun Cup, to be competed for in the early spring of next year, and we wish them the best of good fortune.

#### Results of Regimental Rifle Meeting:

<i>Individual Rifle</i>	Cpl D. Stroudley	'C'	273	1st
	Cpl A. Warwick	H.Q.	263	2nd
	Lieut. B. Pascoe	'C'	259	3rd
Officers Class Winner	Lieut. B. Pascoe	'C'		
W.O.s/Sjts Class Winner	Sjt H. Kettle	'A'		
Cpls/Rfn Class Winner	Rfn W. Owens	'A'		

#### *Team Rifle Cup*

Winner Letter 'C' Company

#### *L.M.G. Pairs*

Winning Pair	Cpl M. Partridge and Rfn D. Hunt (Sp.)	Total 156
Runners Up	Cpl B. B. Scott and Rfn M. Clarke (Sp.)	Total 151

#### *L.M.G. Inter-Coy Team Cup*

Winner Support Company

#### *Sterling—Individual*

Winner	Rfn C. Beasley (H.Q. 2)	113
Runner Up	Sjt J. Price (H.Q. 2)	112

#### *Sterling Team Cup*

Winner Headquarter Company 2

#### *.38 Pistol Individual*

Winner	S/Sjt R. Seldon (H.Q. 1)	95
Runner Up	Rfn C. Beasley (H.Q. 1)	82

#### *.38 Pistol Team Cup*

Winner Headquarter Company 1

#### *Falling Plate*

Winner	Letter 'A' Company No. 2 Team
Runner Up	Letter 'A' Company No. 3 Team

#### *Falling Plate Lea Cup (Officers and W.O.s and Sjts)*

Winner W.O.s and Sjts

#### *Inter-Company Winners Shield*

Winner Letter 'A' Company

The following have shot for the Regiment in the .22 Small Bore Competitions:

Major J. M. A. Tillett, S/Sjt R. Seldon, C.S.M. D. Hornblower, Sjt R. Green, Rfn C. Oakley, L.-Cpl M. Jenkins, Rfn B. Godde, Cpl P. Didcock, C.S.M. S. Abbott, Sjt H. Kettle, 2nd Lieut. G. Goodwyn, L.-Cpl C. Beasley, L.-Cpl R. Savage, Rfn Stevens, Rfn R. Boswell, Rfn S. Faris, Rfn J. Vickers.

#### TUG-OF-WAR

The Regiment's tug-of-war activities have been nil for the period in question, with the exception of the Pewsey Carnival, at which the Regiment took part in the tug-of-war competition. This was a tug-of-war with a difference, in that it was across the River Avon and the losers finished up in the water. It was a knock-out competition and some thirty-two teams took part. The prize was a barrel of beer—winner taking all.

Three days before the event was due to take place, the Regimental Serjeant Major and Serjeant Price assembled on the football pitch twelve cumbersome, bull-like chosen individuals who were known to possess the stamina that is required by a tug-of-war team. From this bunch were selected the six members who would represent the Regiment at Pewsey on 15th September 1959. There were C/Sjt Bailey, Cpl Wheeler, Cpl Boddy, L.-Cpl Cooper, L.-Cpl Burroughs, Rfn Carpenter and this team was coached by Sjt Price.

We arrived at Pewsey in the best of spirits and found that we are not involved in either of the first two contests, which were not to the liking of the Carnival crowd, as no member of either team entered into the spirit by getting wet. Our turn came next and we lost the first pull. We jumped, we swam, the crowd roared; we dragged our sodden selves up the far bank and prepared for the second pull. The pull lasted seven minutes, five without any movement at all, but at last we won. They jumped, they swam, we cheered, and so it went on until 9.30 in the evening, when we were beaten in the final by Clatford, having won four contests in the competition.

The local population of Pewsey were very impressed with the spirit of the 43rd and 52nd's team and the organiser afterwards thanked us for starting the frivolities that this particular kind of tug-of-war can, and did, lead to.

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

## LETTER

Tel. Oxford 78479

Regimental Headquarters,  
1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd,  
Cowley Barracks,  
Oxford.

*1st March 1960*

Dear Editor,

Regimental Headquarters in its new guise opened at Cowley Barracks on 1st April 1959 (All Fools Day) and is now established in the officers' mess building. The museum is housed on the ground floor which has been altered and redecorated for this purpose. The offices are on the first floor in the former 'boudoirs'.

The rôle of the new type Regimental Headquarters is to act as staff to the Colonel of the Regiment, to represent the Regiment in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and to deal with all the domestic matters of the Regiment. This last duty covers 'a multitude of sins' but includes such subjects as the museum, all matters concerning regimental property and funds, social functions such as the regimental dinner and the 'at home' day, the Old Comrades Association, the Regimental Association and the Officers Association and welfare in general. The *Journal* is edited, assistance given to the editor of the *CHRONICLE* and the secretariat provided for the Regimental Committee. Recruiting comes very high on the list of our duties and this rôle will become even more important, and an exacting task indeed, when the Regiment, which has so many facilities, again serves overseas. The affairs of aspirants for commissions in the Regiment are also handled here.

Our 'establishment' allows us two re-employed officers (one styled R.O. II and the other R.O. III—or better perhaps Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee!), a clerical officer, a typist, a storeman and a part-time cleaner (also does the garden)—all civilian—to carry out our duties.

When the new set-up became known the obvious nominations for the re-employed officers' posts were Mark Darell-Brown, who had been Civil Administrative Officer under the old regime, and Fred Clare who had been running Regimental affairs on his own for many years. However even the Adjutant General himself could not be persuaded to overlook the fact that Fred was already a considerable number of years beyond the retiring age for re-employed officers! Johnnie Granville was therefore recruited, at a cocktail party, for the minor post and he joined in May

having taken his 'golden bowler' at Christmastime. It was also agreed that Fred Clare should stay on until 31st March 1960 to advise and gradually hand over his duties. This was fortunate because in October Mark Darell-Brown returned to the bosom of his family in London. This resulted in 'rapid promotion for Granville' and no R.O. III, but fortunately the continued presence of Fred Clare who carried on running the accounts and the Old Comrades and to supervise the move of the museum. At the time of writing the second re-employed officer post is vacant and Fred Clare retires in 'thirty days and thirty nights' time! We may, however, shortly be getting temporary assistance from outside the Regiment at least until the end of the year when perhaps someone from the Regiment may offer his services. At any rate we hope that Fred Clare will continue to give us advice and help in the spare moments of his retirement.

The Depot site presents a somewhat desolate scene for the buildings, except ours, the huts occupied by the barrack officer and the garrison engineer, and the married quarters, are unoccupied. Gone is the patter of happy feet except for that of the gangs of children who of occasion delight in causing damage. The police caught one very youthful member of a gang that broke into the old museum block, for this toddler was not fleet enough of foot to escape the arm of the law with the other members of his gang. Fortunately this prisoner turned 'Queen's evidence' and we were able to recover some relics of the Boer War and to extort payment for a broken show case.

The latest rumour has it that the barracks will be taken over by the Ministry of Health, for an unknown purpose, and the land in front of the officers mess building by the Air Ministry. But we hear so many rumours that we are not in a position to be categorical about the future. However, it is evident that in due course we shall become an enclave which Mr Chambers, of dictionary fame, tells me is 'a piece of territory entirely enclosed within foreign territories'. Meanwhile Michael, our part time cleaner, tends the garden, and Wheatley Hospital has the use of the sports field.

It is not possible to report many stirring events from Cowley Barracks, but the peace and quiet of our cloistered life was broken during the year by the Regimental 'at home', the Regiment's marches through Oxford and Bicester and the Old Comrades reunions.

The first occasion was organised from here and was held on University College cricket ground. This presented us with a considerable logistical problem for we started off with no stores and no labour. However with the help of a working party from Warminster and the co-operation of Bicester Garrison almost everything was in place on the day.

The day opened with a downpour and everything was under water at 11 o'clock when cricket was supposed to start. However the weather cleared by luncheon time, we mopped up, and play started in the early afternoon. A goodly gathering of members of the Regiment, their friends and families, Old Comrades, and dignitaries from Oxford watched the cricket and 'took tea'. The Regiment lost the match to Harry Ruck Keene's side but cricket is only incidental on this day of social activity. The band and buglers, in their new uniforms, provided a background of martial music to a deal of gossip and chatter. We hope you will all come again in 1960.

This letter is very much longer than intended and, Mr Editor, I will end it on a solemn note. Events have overtaken the Depot, as we all knew it, but Regimental Headquarters is very much alive and is, indeed, the main regimental exchange with direct lines to the Regiment, to the Territorial Battalion, to the Green Jackets Brigade Depot, to all past and present members of the Regiment and to the counties of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We much look forward to visits from—or correspondence from—past and present members of the Regiment. The Museum in its new setting is well worth a visit and the garden, if not a riot of flowers, is at least neat and tidy.

Yours,

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS.

P.S. Don't visit on Tuesdays or Saturdays in the winter. I shall be out hunting!

## GREEN JACKETS BRIGADE DEPOT LETTER

The new Green Jackets Brigade Depot came into being officially on 1st January, with its main task to train approximately 250 regular recruits and 700 national servicemen, for all three Regiments of the Brigade during the year. This entailed increasing the number of training platoons in the Training Company to a total of eight. Ironically, the War Office also selected 1st January as the date on which our permanent staff establishment should be reduced to that necessary to train three platoons! However, all three Battalions responded nobly to the call for the additional instructors which were essential to train these large numbers. We are grateful to them for helping us to maintain such a good training team, particularly as the Battalions themselves are so short of N.C.O.s.

At long last the plans for the reconstruction of the barracks has been signed and sealed. Work is due to begin in mid 1961 and will probably take two years to complete. The general plan includes the building of a new warrant officers' and serjeants' mess, on the site of the old officers' mess which will be demolished, to conform in style to the existing buildings facing the square. A new officers' mess to be built in the Lower Barracks just below the existing mess, and a new dining hall and cookhouse to be built in the area of the existing M.T. yard. All other buildings to be completely modernised, including provision for the Museum above the existing dining hall and a wider entrance at the main gate. The basis of the plan is that the general appearance and character of the square should remain unchanged.

During the rebuilding period the Depot will move to Bushfield Camp—only two miles from Winchester—which is at present occupied by Medical and W.R.A.C. Records who will move into their permanent home in Lower Barracks, which is being modernised this year.

Throughout the year, Training Company under John Hanscombe, with John Mason as Training Officer, has been training an ever increasing number of trainees in an effort to get all three Battalions up to their authorised strength before the last of the national servicemen pass through the Depot in December 1960.

Eleven passing-out parades were held during the year to which the parents of all riflemen on parade were invited. On one occasion as many as 120 arrived in the special coaches from London. Lunch is provided in the gymnasium, after which all spectators take their seats for the parade at 2.30. The inspecting officer is usually a distinguished rifleman; those who have kindly accepted to take the salute at a parade during the year have included Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, Brig. Bill White,

Brig. Alec Williams and Brig. Freddie Mellor. After the parade a short service is held in the garrison church, conducted by our excellent padre, Humphrey Llewellyn, who is also the Vicar of Hursley, but who, somehow, always finds time to cope with the many demands made for his services. After the service, the riflemen join their parents for a tour of the barracks and the Museum and finally have tea together before leaving for London. Such remarks as —'Look at little Willie, Don't 'e look smart. I don't know 'e 'ad it in 'im'—and many others in similar vein, are sufficient testimony to the popularity of these parades with both parents and men. There is no doubt that they are the best possible army publicity.

In April the Depot had a very successful time at the Aldershot District Rifle Meeting; we were particularly pleased to win the Recruits match with a team of very young recruits who conducted themselves on the firing point like experienced Bisley shots and impressed everyone by their cool and calm manner. The team also won the Company Shield and the Corporals' L.M.G. match and came third in the Corporals' Machine Carbine match and also third in the L.M.G. match thereby gaining the highest aggregate to win the Coronation Cup which is the unit championship.

After these successes we competed at Bisley where Q.M.S.I. Lawrence and Bugle Major Baird scored a great victory by winning the Worcestershire Cup. Q.M.S.I. Lawrence was placed 3rd in the Whitehead and 5th in the Army Hundred and the Depot team came 4th in the Parachute Regiment Cup.

Under the energetic and enthusiastic direction of Robin Alers-Hankey and the P.T. staff, and latterly under Christopher Haines, an increased interest is being taken in boxing. Competitions are held regularly in Training Company, in which most recruits are prepared to 'have a go'. As a result a number of promising boxers have been discovered.

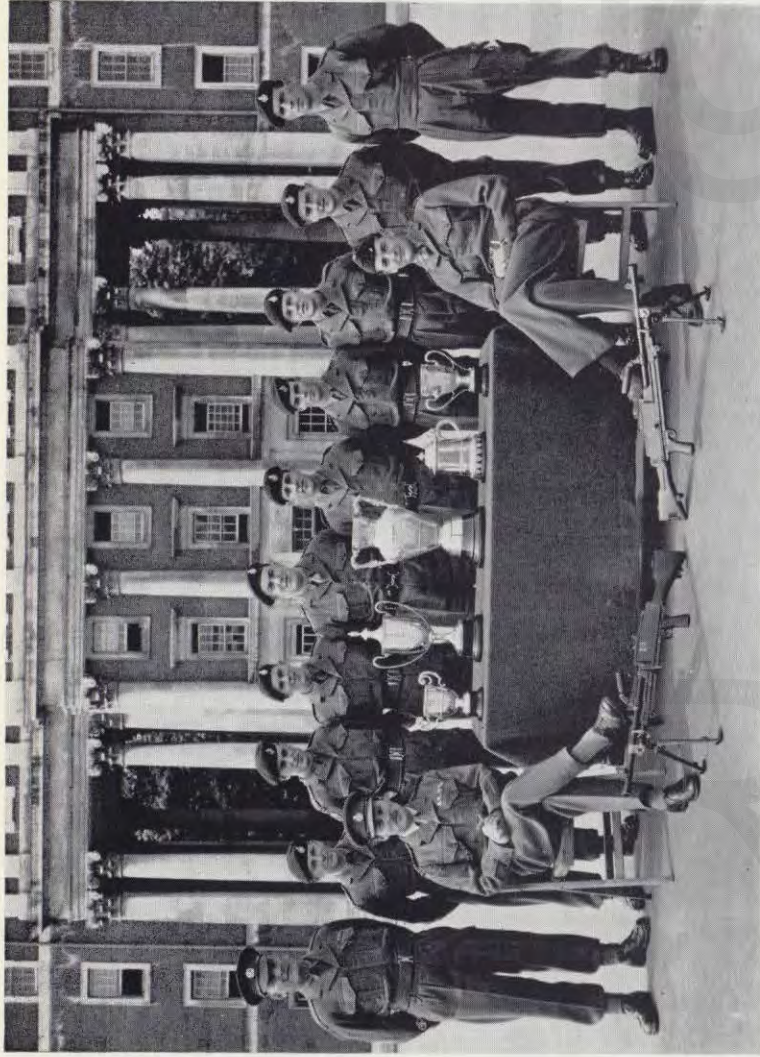
The Depot football team completed a successful season by winning the Travers Cup in competition with a large number of Service teams and civilian teams in Hampshire. Unfortunately, this season the Depot has lost most of the best players and was knocked out in the first round. However, the Junior Bandsmen and Junior Buglers team made a valiant effort to make up for this resounding defeat by getting through to the final of the Army Band Boys and Drummer Boys Challenge Cup which, unfortunately, they lost to the Lowland Brigade.

Our affiliation with H.M.S. *Victory* has continued to flourish.

In August we were delighted to welcome some of their members at Winchester for an all day cricket match and afterwards had the pleasure of entertaining some of their officers to dinner in the mess. Two officers



Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., taking the salute at a Depot Passing Out Parade in September, 1959



Green Jackets Brigade Depot

Winners of the Unit Championship at the Aldershot District Rifle Meeting, 1959

Standing: Qm. Sjt. Instr. Lawrence, Small Arms Corps.

Sitting: Lt.-Col. R. A. Flower (Rifle Brigade) and Lieut. C. E. W. Jones (43rd and 52nd)

were invited to dinner with H.M.S. *Victory* on Trafalgar Day, and subsequently a number of officers dined with them in November.

We are sorry to report that two of our oldest serving soldiers have died during the year. Rfn Bert Challis, K.R.R.C., died at the age of 63, having been a rifleman for 44 years. He was the oldest serving private soldier in the army and wore three rows of medal ribbons including the B.E.M. He was not married. 'I never seemed to have the time', he once said. The next oldest serving soldier of the 60th was L.-Cpl Jones who died in June at the age of 54 having been post corporal for many years.

Other events during the year included visits from the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Poett, Director of Infantry, Major-General D. A. Kendrew, and G.O.C. Aldershot District, Major-General R. A. Bramwell-Davis. At Easter and again during August we were pleased to have a large number of cadets from the 60th, The Rifle Brigade, City of London and the Strand School.

The year closed with a very busy but enjoyable Christmas week, which included the usual round of parties. The Depot Christmas Day was celebrated on 21st December and in addition to the usual festivities included a free cinema show at one of the local cinemas in the morning, a carol service in the garrison church, and a most successful all ranks dance in the evening. The week ended with a passing-out parade on 23rd December when the salute was taken by the Mayor of Winchester.

There have been a number of changes in the staff during the year due to the re-organisation of the Depot and the need to draw the staff equally from all three Regiments, in addition to the normal routine reliefs. Colonel Freddie Mellor was appointed commander of the Green Jackets T.A. Brigade in February and spent a very busy five months carrying out his additional duties as Brigade Colonel until Colonel Andy Martin arrived in July to take over. We were very sorry to say good-bye to Colonel Freddie Mellor who had done so much during his comparatively short tour to bring about the integration of the new Green Jackets organisation at the Depot. We were delighted to welcome Colonel Andy Martin from his command of 43rd and 52nd; with his arrival the integration was complete.

The 'retired officers' club', which, for so many years has consisted solely of Colonel Bob Macgeorge and Major Cyril Wilson has now been reinforced by Brigadier Alastair Eve, Brigadier Freddie Stephens and Colonel Pat Curtis who joined early in the year to complete the new organisation of their respective Regimental Headquarters at the Depot. Lieut.-Colonel Tony Palmer also joined as a retired officer to assist in the Brigade Colonel's office.

Teddy Phillips, 60th, left us to take up an appointment as Assistant Military Attaché in Khartoum, and Mike Hay-Will, 43rd and 52nd, arrived to take over command of H.Q. Company and the Boys' Wing, consisting of 60 junior bandsmen and junior buglers. Peter Willis-Fleming, 60th, regrettably decided to leave the army and his place as Depot Adjutant was taken by Seymour Thistlethwayte, 43rd and 52nd. Mike Tarleton, R.B., also left us to do a tour with the Parachute Regiment; his relief is David Ramsbotham who joins us in March 1960. John Mason, 60th, completed his tour in November and was replaced by Patrick Mitford-Slade as Training Officer. There has also been a considerable general post among the subalterns. However, one stalwart figure remains, John Hanscombe, who shoulders a heavy task commanding Training Company and who, somehow, also finds time to act as mess president and to do a great deal of recruiting. He is remaining at the Depot to complete a third year and thus see the last of the last national serviceman complete their training in March 1961.

A glimpse at 1960 seems to indicate that we are in for a very busy time with a training target of nearly 1,000 National servicemen and, we hope at least 300-400 regular recruits.

The need for more regular recruits is urgent; please help us in this important task.

Best wishes to all members of the Green Jackets Brigade everywhere.

RECORDS OF  
THE OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LIGHT INFANTRY (T.A.)

ROLL OF OFFICERS—DECEMBER 31ST, 1959

*Lieut.-Colonel*

D. H. Morris, T.D.

*Majors*

G. Montague Jones T.D.	R. F. Barnes, T.D.
R. W. Battley	H. A. R. Long
J. R. Hollis	H. N. Smith, M.C. (R.A.M.C.)
E. R. Smith	

*Captains*

P. J. Robinson	K. H. Lander
C. C. Simpson	J. Daniel
R. V. Sale	R. J. Thomas
J. C. Gardner	A. E. Smith, T.D.

*Lieutenants*

T. Clarke	C. A. Pasternak
J. C. Adnitt	G. P. Blaker
J. P. M. Denny	B. T. Wilde
M. D. Symonds	N. J. Owen
R. C. Mitchinson	M. Whitfeld

*Training Major and Adjutant*

Major E. R. R. Hicks

*Quartermaster*

Captain B. Cox

*The undermentioned National Service Officers are on the strength of the Battalion*

Lieut. A. H. Thornton	Lieut. I. S. T. Senior
Lieut. M. St E. Burton	Lieut. M. J. R. Miller
Lieut. C. K. Patey	Lieut. H. I. Sutherland
Lieut. M. A. F. Stanford	Lieut. N. Pullen
Lieut. M. Bawtree	

*Regimental Sergeant-Major*

L. F. Besant

*Bandmaster*

E. F. Bagwell

*Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant*

P. R. F. Cox, M.B.E.

VOLUNTEER STRENGTH ON 31ST DECEMBER 1959

Officers	26
W.O.s Class I	1
W.O.s Class II	7
Colour Sergeants	6
Sergeants	29
Corporals	35
Lance-Corporals	28
Privates	155
	<hr/>
	287

COMPANIES OF THE OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY (T.A.)—DECEMBER 1959

<i>Coy</i>	<i>Commander</i>	<i>Company Officers</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>Colour Sergeants</i>
Bn	Lieut.-Colonel D. H. Morris, T.D.	Major E. R. R. Hicks (Trg Major/Adjnt) Major G. Montague Jones, T.D. (2 i/c) Major H. N. Smith (R.A.M.C.) Captain B. Cox (Quartermaster) 2nd Lieut. M. D. Symonds	R.S.M. L. F. Besant R.Q.M.S. P.R.F. Cox, M.B.E. W.O.I E. F. Bagwell (Bandmaster)	
A	Major H. A. R. Long	Captain R. J. Thomas Lieut. J. C. Adnitt Lieut. G. P. Blaker Lieut. J. P. M. Denny	C.S.M. Belcher	C.Q.M.S. Orme
B	Captain P. J. Robinson	Lieut. Moisey (att. for trg) Lieut. D. B. Rice (att. for trg)	C.S.M. Hickman, M.B.E.	C.Q.M.S. Shirley
C	Major R. W. Battley	Captain J. C. Gardner	C.S.M. Garrett	C.Q.M.S. Aries
D	Major E. R. Smith	Captain R. V. Sale Lieut. T. Clarke	C.S.M. Goddard	C.Q.M.S. Timberlake
Sp	Major J. R. Hollis	Captain A. E. Smith, T.D. Captain C. C. Simpson Lieut. C. A. Pasternak Lieut. B. T. Wilde 2nd Lieut. Whitfeld	C.S.M. Hook	C.Q.M.S. Pearson
HQ	Major R. F. Barnes, T.D.	Captain J. Daniel Captain K. H. Lander Lieut. R. C. Mitchinson 2nd Lieut. N. J. Owen	C.S.M. Whelan	C.Q.M.S. Vokins

## TERRITORIAL BATTALION LETTER

Dear Editor,

The effects of the changes that took place in the Regiment in 1958 have now reached us. We, too, have left the Light Infantry Brigade and joined the Green Jacket Brigade. We have dropped 'Fourth' from our title, and are now 'The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Territorial Army)'. We are to adopt black buttons and Green Jackets shoulder flashes. We shall retain the cap badge and will wear white metal 'OXF BUCKS' shoulder titles. We shall adopt Green Jackets badges of rank and are busy learning Green Jackets drill. By these means we shall get the best of both worlds. Our affiliation with our new Brigade will become stronger, but we shall retain our Light Infantry identity. We are happy to accept these changes with all that the responsibility of trying to live up to a high tradition demands.

Our training year began with a cloth model exercise arranged by Major Astley Cooper. The exercise was designed to study the crossing of a river obstacle under conditions of nuclear warfare, and was attended by officers, warrant officers and serjeants. A presentation of the battle of Corunna was included in the week-end study—this was excellently arranged and enjoyed by all who attended. 'Noises off' were provided by tape recorders and the Regimental Serjeant-Major using a variety of fireworks.

This week-end was Major Astley Cooper's congé, and shortly afterwards Major Hicks arrived to relieve him. You were warned last year of doubts as to whether one officer could carry the combined burden of training major and adjutant. The answer is that it can be done providing the volunteer officers are prepared to accept the responsibility and extra work of carrying out routine tasks. If this does not happen then the training major/adjutant will be overwhelmed with work, with the result that he will do nothing well. In such circumstances standards will drop and frustration will be the order of the day.

Major Astley Cooper departed to Cyprus, and shortly before he left we were told that we were required to provide a guard of honour for Her Majesty The Queen on Wednesday, 8th April. This we managed to do in spite of the rather short notice, and seventy volunteers were granted, or took, the day off to perform this duty.

The guard was mounted at Ditchley Manor. The day was fine, the setting was lovely, and the guard a credit to the Regiment. The Commanding Officer had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty before the inspection; the Regimental Colour was carried by Captain R. V.

Sale, and Captain J. C. Gardner was officer of the guard. After the inspection Her Majesty congratulated Major Barnes on the drill and turnout of all ranks.

Over Easter 'A' and 'D' Companies each entered a boat in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race. The entry was the culmination of a lot of hard work during the winter spent building the canoes. Unfortunately the time spent in construction detracted from the time available for training, and our crews found the opposition hotter than they expected. A lot of valuable experience was gained by the crews—Cpl J. R. Jones, and L.-Cpl A. F. Chapman, of 'A' Company and Pte M. W. Lee and Pte W. G. Pettet, of 'D' Company—and next year we hope to do much better.

In May we ran an officers training day, designed to study the defence of a river line under conditions of nuclear war using armour and A.P.C.s. The study took the form of a TEWT, which was organised by the Second-in-Command, Major G. Montague Jones, T.D. Unfortunately only thirteen officers were able to attend out of twenty-eight, but those who turned up enjoyed a wonderful spring day by the Thames learning a little more about their chosen hobby.

Our TEWT was followed by a Brigade TEWT on the same subject on 30th/31st of the month. This was attended by all down to company commander level, and so the 1st Battalion was welcomed home by Major Hicks on behalf of all ranks of the Territorial Battalion.

During this period our rifle team had been gearing itself up for the Divisional Rifle Meeting. Unfortunately the wet weather had rained off two of its culminating practice days and this, combined with the non-appearance of some members of the team at the last minute, mitigated against good results. We were fourth in the China Cup match, sixth in the Volongdis match, and eleventh in the Stephens Rapid match. Sjt Allnutt shot well, finishing 5th in the Class 'B' Individual Championships, but our failure to muster a team for one match resulted in our getting a very low placing in the Unit Championship. The rifle team is already practising for 1960, and we hope to send you better news next year.

In June we held our Battalion Rifle Meeting. We decided to be much more ambitious this year, and so we included many more matches including an invitation match for other Brigade units. The event was blessed with fine weather, but our ambitions were limited by a regrettably poor turnout for the many routine duties that go to make a successful meeting. 'C' and 'H.Q.' Companies shared the Battalion Championship, the former winning the L.M.G. Pairs match and the latter the Stephens Rapid match. 'D' Company won the China Cup match and 'B' Company the Falling Plate Competition. Captain Sale won the Individual Championship,

and also the Class 'A' Individual award. Cpl Vickers of 'B' Company won the Class 'B' Individual award, while Pte Ward of 'A' Company won the Class 'C' competition for Young Soldiers. We ran an individual match for old comrades, which was won by Mr (ex C.S.M.) Beesley—his score put many to shame! Needless to say we were delighted to see the old comrades who came out—we hope that we shall see many more next year.

By now all our thoughts were turned to the annual camp. This year we went to Castle Martin, in Pembrokeshire, a remote but very beautiful area. Our training was designed to fit us to take part in operations as part of a brigade group. In fact our training consisted of recruits, trained soldiers, and specialist training, and only once was the Battalion turned out for a brigade group exercise.

We quickly settled down to camp routine in wonderful weather. It was uncomfortably hot in the tents at times but those who sought relief on the training areas were soon disillusioned. The hot weather was enjoyed also by the horse flies which swarmed over the moorlands and woods, biting everyone and everything in sight. Shirts were no protection, and soon the camp was populated by men with ugly swellings on various parts of their bodies.

The routine of training was broken by several welcome events and visits. We were lucky to obtain the services of two Royal Marine Commando cliff climbing instructors, who laid on a most entertaining day's training in elementary roping. On the middle Sunday we took part in the Brigade Church Service and achieved the nigh impossible aim of getting all officers dressed identically! The Brigade Exercise in the last week found us navigating over the mountains in small parties in a blinding rainstorm which soaked everyone to the skin.

Amongst our very welcome visitors was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command, General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O., who inspected our activities critically and took the opportunity to present the Territorial Decoration to Major Montague Jones. Our Divisional Commander, Major-General H. A. Borradaile, C.B., D.S.O., also came to see us and to our great delight Lieut.-Colonels Martin and Harbottle flew down to spend a day with us.

Immediately after camp our Nijmegen march team left for Holland. They completed the matches in gruelling hot weather and although two members of the team failed to complete the course the organising committee allowed the award of a team medallion, our second so far. It is unlikely that we shall enter again for a few years—our finances have been stretched to the limit and must be given time to recoup.

The post camp lull was broken in September by an escape and evasion exercise, in which about one hundred of our two hundred and fifty volunteers took part. The partisans and the task force were set the task of escaping to Oxonia assisted by the support group. The escape entailed the crossing of the River Cherwell and dodging an enemy provided by the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars and our affiliated Army Cadet Force detachments. Thanks to Captain Hinton's painstaking efforts in choosing the escape routes most of the escapers got away, although the keen and alert enemy bagged twenty-one prisoners. We took the opportunity during this exercise to try out a recruiting stunt. We distributed posters inviting any young men who thought that they were tough enough to take part. Four men appeared from Witney, did the exercise, and signed on the next day—they have since brought in five others. Our pleasure at this was capped only by the presence of a strong contingent from the 1st Battalion and four officers cadets from Sandhurst who came along to join in and to meet the Territorial Army element of the Regiment.

We were now told officially that our camp in 1960 was to be at the Army School of Civil Defence, Millom, and so we turned our minds to the subjects required to be learned in preparation for camp. In early October an officers' study day was run by Major Hicks, aimed at introducing the C.D. Training Year.

Sixteen officers out of thirty-two turned out for this day, and we were very pleased to welcome Captain Lloyd Evans from Brigade Headquarters.

Later in October all the officers down to company commander attended an exercise at Brigade Headquarters designed to examine the problems arising from the clearance of Z Zone. In November another training week-end for officers was run by Major Hicks. We devoted Saturday afternoon to an examination of recruiting problems, and on Sunday we practised appreciations and the issue of verbal orders. Although only eleven officers attended out of thirty-two, the lessons learned were valuable, and we were delighted to welcome our Brigade Commander, Brigadier D. D. Zvegintzov, O.B.E., on the Saturday afternoon.

It was over this week-end that the officers welcomed the officers from the 1st Battalion to the mess for a delayed 'welcome home' party. This function was organised and run by Major Hicks, Captain Cox and 2nd Lieut. Symonds, and fortunately a good turnout of volunteers. Officers on the day ensured that there was a host for each guest. We hope that friendships made on this occasion will be cemented on future occasions when volunteer and regular officers can join in training and relaxation either here or at Warminster.

Our last training event was a Battalion Headquarters exercise arranged by Major Hicks in December. We aimed to see that our command machinery was oiled and, although some rust was disclosed on the day, we came away satisfied that we can turn out and function if necessary.

As far as training is concerned we have had an active and varied year. The events so far described have taken place besides many successful company training week-ends. Apart from these activities there have been constant efforts to recruit new volunteers, to train specialists, to improve our standard of shooting, to play our part in county functions and, of course, prepare for and undergo various inspections. Our band under the able guidance of Mr Bagwell has been very active in showing the flag, and he has succeeded in building up its strength to twenty musicians.

We are happy to report that our strength has now approached the three hundred mark, an increase of some sixty odd during the year. We are insisting upon higher standards for entry and for extension of service, and so our increase does not represent an influx of the old or the unfit, and has been achieved in addition to continual weeding out poor attenders and unsatisfactory performers. We are convinced that the more difficult a unit is to join, then the better will be the type of man who will try to join it. We have come to the conclusion that the best recruiter is the satisfied volunteer, and that he will sell the T.A. well if his training is interesting and well organised. In fact, we could write a paper on this subject, but doubt if we have enough space here!

Our warrant officers' and serjeants' mess have enjoyed a successful year under the guidance of Regimental Serjeant-Major Besant. A well-attended Waterloo Ball was enjoyed by all, and various other events have injected new life into the mess. It is open every Tuesday evening and a ready welcome will be accorded to all serving or retired warrant officers and serjeants from the Regiment.

One of the oldest serving members—C.S.M. F. Hickman—was awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. C.S.M. Hickman has served with the Battalion for thirty years, and is still one of its most energetic and active members. 'B' Company is under his wise guidance, but his great service lies in the example that he sets to all. He is in the Territorial Army for the pleasure he gains from contributing to its effectiveness, and not merely for what he gets out of it. This spirit is rare in this materialistic age, but is the only spirit that makes a voluntary organisation successful. The award that he received for his service delighted us all.

We have seen many changes on our staff list this year. Major Colville has severed his long active connection with the Regiment and has transferred to the Reserve. Captains Patisson, Rowlatt and Raison, and

Lieuts Wynne, Radcliffe and Raymond Barker have also joined the Reserve together with Lieut. Burton, whilst Lieut Birchall has transferred to the Gunners. Captain J. Thomas, Lieuts Whitfield, Denny and Wilde 2nd Lieuts Owen and Symonds have joined us. We have also welcomed Lieut. Moisey on permanent attachment from the Manchester Regiment, and Lieut. Rice on attachment from the Australian Army.

Our permanent staff has also seen a few changes. Sjt Flannery has left us to join the Hong Kong Police, and C.S.M. Gater has returned to the 1st Battalion, having completed his second tour with the T.A.

Cpl Ward has taken over the transport, and C.S.M. Young has acquired Headquarter Company.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Mr Kitchen, the Storeman Clerk of Headquarter Company, who died on duty in September 1959. He joined us in June 1954 and was an ex-Royal Engineer. Mr Hutchings, the Storeman Clerk of 'Sp.' Company who joined us in July 1955 and was a member of the Battalion as physical training instructor in the 1914-18 war, retired on his 65th birthday in October 1959.

This report would not be complete without reference to the untiring efforts of the permanent staff. It is no exaggeration to say that they are the moving force in the Battalion. Our requirements are frequently scandalous, our planning sketchy, and our knowledge of our hobby patchy. The initiative, ingenuity, and constant hard work of our regulars and civilians seems to overcome all these shortcomings and to present a polish to the end product of our bumbling efforts. We too often take this for granted. We would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to them all.

## GREEN JACKETS CRICKET WEEK

1959

THROUGHOUT this most enjoyable week, we had the good fortune to play in perfect weather. The wickets were naturally fast, but curiously enough runs were not quite as plentiful as one would have expected, but this did not in the least spoil the extremely happy atmosphere in which all games were played. The Regiment played the 60th on the Wednesday and the Rifle Brigade on the Friday, drawing the first but losing to the Rifle Brigade for the first time in five years.

## REGIMENT v. 60TH RIFLES

The 60th won the toss and batted first on a true fast wicket. Their first four wickets fell cheaply; David McCarthy who opened with Colonel Bramall, was stumped by Ruck-Keene off Priest for 7 and Barry Read was clean bowled by an extremely good ball from Priest, when he had scored only 5. This indeed was good fortune, as Read is quite capable of making a century in as many minutes. However, all this was too good to last and soon Bramall and Symington had settled down to score quickly and attractively against some steady bowling by Priest and Robin Peppiatt. Bramall was eventually bowled by Bryan Balls for 42, and Symington was then joined by Ian McClausland. The scoring rate now dropped considerably with the result that the later batsmen had to hit out in order that a reasonable declaration could be made. In the end we were left two and a half hours in which to score 210.

The Regiment very quickly lost Harry Ruck Keen, who was bowled by Symington for 5. Then Bryan Balls and Rfn Hitchins came together and played quite beautifully. Runs were coming quickly, and they apparently found no difficulty with the bowling. Bryan was out, stumped by McCarthy, off Symington for 40, and he was quickly followed by Hitchins, who was bowled by McClausland after he had made 38. Robin Peppiatt came in and played immaculately as always, and soon a stand developed with Julian Taylor at the other end.

However, by the time these two had got their eyes in, the Regiment found themselves behind the clock, and Taylor was bowled by Symington for 17, trying to hit a full toss. Peppiatt was out soon afterwards, by which time everyone was hitting out wildly, and usually paying the penalty.

However there was some stout resistance from Colonel Andy Martin and George Elliott, and the Regiment forced an honourable draw.

60TH RIFLES		43RD AND 52ND	
E. N. W. Bramall, b Balls	42	H. W. A. Ruck-Keene, b Symington	5
D. R. M. McCarthy, c Ruck-Keene b Priest	7	R. W. Balls, st McCarthy b Symington	40
B. L. Read, b Priest	5	Rfn Hitchins, st McCarthy b McClausland	38
S. J. Symington, c Elliott b Peppiatt	38	D. R. Peppiatt, c McCarthy b Symington	21
I. H. McClausland, not out	52	F. J. B. Taylor, b Symington	17
P. R. Stephens, b Priest	11	Rfn Priest, c Read b Symington	2
M. E. K. Steward, st Ruck-Keene b Peppiatt	18	I. G. Elliott, b Bramall	18
Rfn Wells, b Peppiatt	13	R. A. St G. Martin, not out	17
E. C. Phillips, not out	2	A. L. Askew, not out	1
H. R. M. Porter, did not bat		P. G. Thompson, did not bat	
S. D. Douglas-Pennant, did not bat		P. E. Gerahy, did not bat	
Extras	21	Extras	10
Total (for 7 wkts dec.)	209	Total (for 7 wkts)	169

## REGIMENT v. RIFLE BRIGADE

The game against the Rifle Brigade was played on the Friday. Again we lost the toss, and the Rifle Brigade batted very laboriously, admittedly against steady bowling, but the ball was doing very little. Even Peter Delisle, the ex Oxford and Middlesex player, was slow, and I will mention only three innings of any consequence. Michael Worth made 43, Delisle 68 and Michael Tarleton 26. At 211, the Rifle Brigade declared for the loss of 8 wickets, leaving us very little time in which to make the runs.

Colonel Harbottle and Rfn Hitchins opened but were unfortunately soon out and consequently, from the very start, we had an uphill task. Luckily Anthony Askew and Tommy Thompson came to the rescue, and made the job look easy. One glorious straight drive over the pavilion sight screen by Askew was a wonderful shot. When these two were out, things looked very black indeed for the Regiment, and Taylor suffered the ignominy of being bowled immediately by a ball which pitched four times before hitting the wicket. The Regiment was all out for 136, losing by 76 runs. It was, however, very entertaining cricket to watch and the spectators obviously appreciated the light-hearted spirit which our later batsmen displayed.

RIFLE BRIGADE		43RD AND 52ND	
M. J. Worth, c and b Peppiatt . . .	43	M. N. Harbottle, b Bendit . . .	5
S. H. M. Bradley, run out . . .	11	Rfn Hitchins, c Worth b Bendit . . .	13
N. T. A. Fiennes, b Peppiatt . . .	3	B. Balls, st Fiennes b Tarleton . . .	12
G. P. S. Delisle, c Taylor b Peppiatt . . .	68	I. G. Elliott, b Tarleton . . .	4
M. W. M. Tarleton, c Hitchins b Peppiatt . . .	26	D. R. Peppiatt, lbw b Tarleton . . .	7
D. J. Hulbert, c Shepherd b Peppiatt . . .	19	A. L. Askew, c Fiennes b Starkey . . .	45
J. M. S. Thompson, b Peppiatt . . .	4	P. G. Thompson, c and b Starkey . . .	34
I. Evans, b Shepherd . . .	8	F. J. B. Taylor, b Starkey . . .	0
J. P. Starkey, not out . . .	15	R. A. St G. Martin, b Hulbert . . .	7
T. G. H. Jackson, not out . . .	6	P. E. Gerahty, not out . . .	0
J. D. Bendit, did not bat . . .	.	Cpl Shepherd, b Hulbert . . .	8
Extras . . .	8	Extras . . .	8
Total (for 8 wkts dec.) . . .	211	Total . . .	135

## THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND

## MARCH THROUGH OXFORD

ON 28th July a letter was received from the Secretary to the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Oxford, informing us of the City Council's decision to invite the Regiment to exercise its privilege 'to enter the City of Oxford in full panoply with Colours flying and band and bugles playing'. With the approval of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., replied that the Regiment would be 'delighted to accept and very honoured to do so'.

Initial planning for the parade was made at a meeting at the Town Hall with, in the chair, Mr H. Plowden (Town Clerk) and attended by Mr C. G. Burrows (Chief Constable), Mr A. Rooke (Secretary to the Mayor), Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, Capt. W. M. Cracknell (Adjutant), R.S.M. Shepherd and Lieut.-Colonel J. Granville (representing Regimental Headquarters). The Mayor invited those attending to lunch in the Mayor's Parlour after the meeting and perhaps it was the excellence of the meal and drinks provided, that sealed the very cordial relations that existed between the City Council and the Regiment throughout the planning stages and execution of the parade.

The Regiment arrived in Oxford on the morning of 10th September, a day typical of this year's wonderful summer and one on which for comfort it is less exhausting to be a spectator than a participant on a parade. The move was made from Tidworth and Warminster in Regimental transport under Captain A. J. Howland.

The Regiment's strength for the parade was twenty officers and 360 rank and file. On parade was every officer and soldier who could be spared from essential duties at Tidworth, Warminster, Netheravon, Hythe and Mons O.C.S. It was unfortunate that greater numbers could not be mustered but such is the present dispersion of the Regiment, O.R.Q.M.S. Bayliss was left as Orderly Officer at Tidworth for the day!

The T.A. Centre, Marston Road, was used as a base for the parade. There the Regiment de-bussed, had dinner, changed into best battle-dress and, after the parade, had the meal given by the City Council. The buildings are very convenient for this kind of affair and thanks are due to members of the permanent staff there for the excellent arrangement made for the Regiment.

Large crowds in Oxford gave a warm welcome to the Regiment during its march along the prescribed route. Particularly of interest were the

band and bugles in their new uniform. A special greeting to the Regiment, and in particular to R.S.M. Shepherd, was given by a party from 5817 National Service Group who turned out complete with a banner to cheer the Regiment in St Clement's. They had been 'demobbed' that very day!

Whilst the Regiment was making its way to St Giles, a large number of past and present members of the Regiment, including a strong contingent of Old Comrades, assembled in the enclosures by the saluting base on the terrace of St John's College. Amongst such a large and distinguished gathering it would be invidious to mention a name here and there but it is of interest to record that the last three commanding officers to precede Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, namely Brigadier P. G. F. Young, Brigadier J. A. J. Read and Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, were there to watch the parade with critical eye.

Whilst waiting for the arrival of the Regiment, spectators at St Giles were entertained with martial music from the loudspeaker van and inspired by the arrival of the Mayoral procession of the City Council, robed, with mace, headed by the Mayor, Councillor Brewer, and the Colonel of the Regiment. The sedate speed of this procession provided a remarkable contrast to that of the arrival of the Regiment at its accustomed pace.

At St Giles the salute at the march past was taken by the Mayor. With him on the saluting base was the Colonel of the Regiment. The Oxford City Council were seated in a special enclosure at the foot of the platform.

After the march past the Regiment wheeled at the War Memorial at the northern end of St Giles and formed up in a line opposite the saluting base to give the general salute. The Mayor then addressed the Regiment, and the Commanding Officer replied.

After another general salute, the Regiment marched off under the command of Major J. M. A. Tillett, to Keble Road and thence by transport back to Marston Road, where a meal was provided at the City of Oxford's expense. The officers and their wives were entertained to tea by the Mayor and City Council in the Mayor's Parlour.

Thus ended a very notable parade at which the Regiment undoubtedly created a very favourable impression on the citizens of Oxford by their drill, turnout and bearing. From a historical aspect the parade was unique in that it was the first occasion that a 'Green Jacket' Regiment has carried colours and also the first occasion on which the Regiment has carried out 'Green Jacket' drill on a public ceremonial parade.

The Regiment's thanks are due to the City of Oxford both for the honour accorded and the hospitality given.



The Colonel of the Regiment and the Mayor of Oxford on the saluting dais at St Giles during the Mayoral Address

## DETAIL OF PARADE

Commanding Officer  
 Second-in-Command  
 Adjutant  
 Regimental Serjeant-Major

Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E.  
 Major J. M. A. Tillett  
 Captain W. M. Cracknell  
 R.S.M. A. Shepherd

*The Colour Party*

Lieutenant J. P. Watts: Queen's Colour  
 2nd Lieutenant P. G. Costley-White: Regimental Colour  
 C.Q.M.S. Trahearn, C.-Sjt Bailey, Sjt Haydon: Escorts

*No. 1 Coy ('A' Coy)*

Major P. E. Gerahty  
 Captain C. A. S. Hinton  
 Lieut. M. J. C. Draco  
 2nd Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwin  
 C.S.M. Ball  
 C.Q.M.S. Alcock

*No. 2 Coy ('B' Coy)*

Major P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.  
 Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford  
 2nd Lieut. E. J. H. Acton  
 2nd Lieut. R. P. Radcliffe  
 C.S.M. Abbott  
 C.Q.M.S. Dean

*No. 3 Coy ('SP' Coy)*

Major W. S. C. Chevis  
 Lieut. J. M. Meade  
 2nd Lieut. C. S. Downie  
 2nd Lieut. M. Whitfeld  
 C.S.M. Kears  
 C.Q.M.S. Bullen

*No. 4 Coy (H.Q. Coy)*

Major R. M. Colvile  
 Captain J. D. F. Mostyn  
 2nd Lieut. A. J. Davies  
 C.S.M. Hornblower  
 C.-Sjt Musty

*Band and Buglers*

Bandmaster: H. Kenney, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.  
 Bugle Major: B. Dunwell

C.S.M. Arthurs was Right Marker for the Regiment



The Colour Party and Support and Headquarter Companies marching up Cornmarket

ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF OXFORD  
TO THE REGIMENT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
MARCH THROUGH THE CITY OF OXFORD  
ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 1959

Colonel Harbottle, Officers, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd. When, in 1948, the citizens of Oxford conferred upon the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regiment the privilege distinction of freedom of entry into the City on ceremonial occasions in full panoply with colours flying and band and buglers playing, they did so to mark in a formal manner the long and close association between the Regiment and the City and to pay tribute to the glorious and distinguished service of the Regiment over a period of two hundred years.

This afternoon as the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, you could have enjoyed that privilege of your own right but you do so on this occasion by invitation of the City of Oxford, because once again the citizens of Oxford would wish to place on record their appreciation of the services you have rendered in the defence of our Country and in the preservation of that for which we all desire—the peace of the world. They also wish you to know that, though the Regiment has again changed its name, that close association with the City still remains, not in any way diminished but rather strengthened by the respect and the affection which we hold for you in the place which has for so long been your home.

We welcome you home again this afternoon, we thank you for the services you have rendered. We admire your deportment and we wish the Regiment in all future years continued honour, glory, and success.

REPLY BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Mr Mayor, I would like to thank you on behalf of all those on parade for the very kind words with which you have greeted us. It is indeed a high honour that you have done us to-day, in inviting us to march through the streets of the City of Oxford, and so exercise those privileges which were conferred on the Regiment eleven years ago. I can assure you, Sir, that we are very pleased to be back here once more in our home City.

I know and appreciate the tremendous amount of work and planning that has gone in to making this parade possible and I would like all those who are responsible, to know how grateful we are.

I would like to echo the sentiments that you have just expressed in describing the link and close ties that exist between the City and our Regiment. Although we have changed and lost our County title, and although we may wear a new badge in our berets, fundamentally nothing has changed. The link that has been so strong in the past between us both is, I know, as strong to-day as it ever has been, and we hope that the strength of that tie will never lessen, but will grow stronger, in the years to come.

Now that national service is drawing to an end we need to build up our regular strength, and it is from this City and from these two Counties that we hope, and wish to see, the bulk of our recruits come, for as you have said, Sir, in only that way can we ensure that the close ties which have existed between us will be maintained.

It is fifteen years since this Regiment last served a home tour in this country. Except for a few transient visits it has been abroad since 1944. I am confident, Sir, when I assure you, that in all that time we have tried our utmost to give a good account of ourselves and to uphold those high traditions and standards of service, discipline and behaviour that we have always set ourselves and of which, I believe, we can be justly proud. In this respect the part played by many young men of Oxford, both regular and national service, deserve our grateful recognition and I think this an appropriate occasion to record and acknowledge the excellent service that they have given to our Regiment.

During our tour of duty at the School of Infantry, Warminster, where we shall be in the public eye most days of the week, we will strive to set an example which is second to none.

Finally, Sir, I would like you to know how deeply conscious we all are of the honour and the hospitality that you have accorded us to-day, and to thank you once again for making this parade and our presence here possible this afternoon.

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE BUGLE MAJOR'S STICK AT BICESTER

SHORTLY after the Regiment returned home from Cyprus, the Urban District Council of Bicester, on behalf of the people of the town, informed the Regiment that they wished to make some presentation to mark the long association between the town and the county Regiment, and to express their appreciation of the Regiment's service in Cyprus. This offer was most gratefully accepted, and a bugle major's stick was selected as being a most appropriate and fitting gift since the stick then in the Regiment's possession was old and rather worn.

The new bugle major's stick was shown to the Bicester Council, who thoroughly approved of the Regiment's choice, and a date was fixed for the presentation to take place.

On Sunday, 20th September, a contingent from the Regiment went to Bicester to take part in the ceremony. Before the parade started, Mr S. A. Winterborne, chairman of the Bicester Urban District Council, entertained members of the Regiment and the Town Council to tea. Among the guests were the Colonel Commandant, Major-General Sir John Winterton and his wife, Colonel and Mrs Martin, Lieut.-Colonel Harbottle, Lieut.-Colonel Morris, and Major and Mrs Colville.

After tea, the Council and the guests moved to the dais and enclosure in the Market Square. At the same time, the Regimental band, followed by the colour party with the colours carried by Lieut. Watts, and the guard of honour, found by Headquarter Company and commanded by Major Colville, left the T.A. Headquarters in Chapel Street and marched through the town to the Market Square. There the band halted, while the colour party, and guard of honour formed up facing the dais.

The Chairman of the Council then inspected the guard of honour, escorted by the Colonel Commandant and Major Colville. On completing his inspection the chairman made his address in which he spoke of the history of the Regiment and the association between the Regiment and the Town. In reply, the Colonel Commandant expressed his gratitude for the gift and said that this generous gesture of the people of Bicester would be greatly appreciated by all past and serving members of the Regiment. The stick was then handed by the Colonel Commandant to Bugle Major Dunwell.

The presentation ceremony over, Retreat was sounded and the parade ended with the playing of the evening hymn and the National Anthem. The parade dispersed, and the crowd, amongst whom were many former members of the Regiment, left the Market Square for their homes.

## REGIMENTAL DINNER—1959

THE Regimental Dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1, on 10th July. Guests were General Sir Francis Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., representing the Rifle Brigade, Lieut.-Colonel M. J. Gilliat, C.V.O., O.B.E., representing the 60th and Major P. Pearse representing the Chestnut Troop.

### Regimental Officers present were:

Ballard, Major J. F.	James, Esq., R. H.
Balls, Captain B. W.	Lathbury, Lieut.-General Sir Gerald, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E.
Bawtree, Esq., M.	Lord, Esq., J. A. D.
Bayley, Major-General K., C.B., C.B.E.	Martin, Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G., M.B.E.
Binns, Lieut.-Colonel W. L.	Massy-Beresford, Esq., M. J.
Booth, Colonel P.	Meade, Esq., J. M.
Bradshaw, Esq., R.	Meade, Major J. W.
Bright, Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L.	Metcalfe, Lieut.-Colonel P. F.
Byrne, Major T. D. R. D.	Micklem, Captain D. R.
Callingham, Major N. J., M.C.	Mitchell, Captain P. W.
Chevis, Major W. S. C.	Morgan, Esq., D. L.
Clare, Lieut.-Colonel F., M.B.E., D.C.M.	Mostyn, Captain J. D. F.
Clay, Major F., M.B.E.	Patterson, Major H. P.
Colville, Captain R. M.	Pennell, Major M. R.
Colwill, Lieut.-Colonel D. C., D.S.O., M.C.	Portal, Major J. L., D.S.O.
Costley-White, Esq., P. G.	Pulteney, Captain M. J.
Cox, Major S. A. G., M.B.E.	Radcliffe, Esq., M. R.
Cracknell, Captain W. M.	Rawlings, Captain W. S. B.
Darell-Brown, Lieut.-Colonel M., D.S.O.	Rowley, Lieut.-Colonel T. G. D.
Davies, Esq., A. J.	Simmonds, Captain C. St C.
Denny, Esq., J. P. M.	Smith, Esq., K. J.
Dowden, Major R. S. C.	Smyth, Brigadier H. E. F., M.C.
Downie, Esq., C. S.	Sweeney, Major H. J., M.C.
Doyne, Colonel R. H.	Taylor, Esq., F. J. B.
Draco, Esq., M. C. C.	Thompson, Major P. G., M.C., T.D.
Ducat-Hammersley, Colonel H. J. C.	Tillett, Major J. M. A.
Durant, Major P. J., M.B.E.	Troughton, Captain C. H. W.
Edwards, Esq., C. S.	Vansittart, Esq., D. A. N.
Elliott, Esq., J. G.	van Straubenzee, Lieut.-Colonel H. H., D.S.O., O.B.E.
Fullick, Major R. F.	van Straubenzee, Lieut.-Colonel P. T., D.S.O.
Gerahty, Major P. E.	Ward, Lieut.-Colonel C. L. C.
Giles, Lieut.-Colonel L. W., O.B.E., M.C.	Watts, Esq., J. P.
Gillespie-Hill, Major A. B.	West, Lieut.-General Sir Michael, K.C.B., D.S.O.
Goodhart, Esq., W. H.	White, Major G. J. F., M.B.E.
Goodwyn, Esq., J. G. C.	Whitfield, Lieut.-Colonel E. H., M.C.
Granville, Lieut.-Colonel J.	Whitfield, Esq., M. J.
Haddon, Major J. H. W.	Whittall, Colonel G. E., M.C.
Hamilton, Major A. B.	Winterton, Major-General Sir John, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.B.E.
Harbottle, Lieut.-Colonel M. N., O.B.E.	Wood, Major D. J.
Hartley, Esq., T. M.	Workman, Major R. R. W.
Hayes, Captain P. S.	
Hay-Will, Major M. G.	
Higgins, Lieut.-Colonel F. H. G.	
Hinton, Captain C. A. S.	
Horley, Brigadier C. R., M.C.	

## 43RD LIGHT INFANTRY

## DINNER

(SECOND WORLD WAR)

THE second annual dinner for officers, who served with the 43rd Light Infantry during the Second World War, was held at Gow's Restaurant on Friday, 17th April 1959.

The Colonel of the Regiment presided, and the following past and present officers attended:

Major E. K. Blyth, Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L. Bright, Major N. J. Callingham, Captain S. R. Cullis, The Reverend W. H. Cox, Colonel D. C. Colvill, Major J. S. R. Edmunds, Major C. W. Foster, Major W. D. Flower, Major A. B. Gillespie-Hill, Major R. H. Hasswell, Captain P. N. Janes, Captain A. H. Morley, Captain D. H. Maitland, Captain P. S. Macilwaine, Captain J. F. Nicholson, Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Nicol, Major M. H. Pulteney, Lieut.-Colonel M. A. R. Ransome, Lieut.-Colonel T. G. D. Rowley, Captain D. W. Sutherland, Major T. E. Sawyer, Major D. G. Taylor, Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Whitfeld, General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., dined as the guest of the officers.

## 43RD LIGHT INFANTRY

## MESOPOTAMIAN LUNCHEON

(FIRST WORLD WAR)

A REUNION luncheon of officers was held at the Trocadero Restaurant, on 14th October 1959.

Those present were:

Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., Majors J. W. Meade, C. T. Moody, Langton R. Watts, Captains J. Ord Pender-Smith, R.A.M.C., W. Rance, Sir James R. Brown, Messrs C. T. Davenport, B. F. Roberts, E. B. Parkinson.

## 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY

## LUNCHEON

(FIRST WORLD WAR)

THE twenty-seventh reunion of officers who served with the 52nd during the First World War took the form of a luncheon held at the Naval and Military Club on 23rd October 1959.

The chair was taken by the Colonel of the Regiment and other officers present were:

General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier C. R. Horley, M.C., Colonels P. Booth, E. Scott, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonels R. H. Coad, O.B.E., M.M., F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., D. C. Colvill, D.S.O., M.C., R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., L. W. Giles, O.B.E., M.C., P. Godsal, M.C., Sir Edmund Neville, Bart., M.C., E. C. Simmons, E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., Majors C. B. Baker, O.B.E., E. K. Blyth, J. W. Neave, F. H. Plaistowe, Captains C. T. Chevallier, N. G. Clarke, C. A. Fowke, M.B.E., M.C., L.E.W.O., Fullbrook-Leggat, M.C., L. J. Goodwyn, C. H. Sheppard, W. A. Creak, Esq., C. T. O'Neill, Esq., M.C., G. E. Pearson, Esq., H. E. Wells, Esq., The Reverend Canon E. H. Gallop, The Reverend E. M. Guilford, M.C., and the Reverend S. M. Minifie-Hawkins.

## 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY

## DINNER

(SECOND WORLD WAR)

THE thirteenth reunion of officers who served with the 52nd Light Infantry during the Second World War took place at a dinner held at the Officers' Mess, The Inns of Court Regiment, on Friday, 15th January 1960.

Lieut.-Colonel L. W. Giles, O.B.E., M.C., presided and the guest at the dinner was the Reverend E. M. Guilford, M.C.

The following were present:

Colonel J. R. P. Montgomery, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonels M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., J. Granville, T. G. D. Rowley, Majors J. F. Ballard, R. A. Colvile, R. J. B. Gentry, P. E. Gerahy, M. G. A. Hay-Will, R. Hornsby-Wright, J. L. Naimaster, H. J. Sweeney, M.C., F. S. Barrow, Esq., C. J. Cross, Esq., C. A. Hooper, Esq., M.C., E. H. Nankivell, Esq., S. F. Robin, Esq., B. C. E. Friday, Esq., T. B. Russell, Esq., S. Sebba, Esq., F. B. Scott, Esq., M.C., M. J. Thorne, Esq., H. C. Yeatman, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. C. Ward and Major J. S. R. Edmunds were prevented from attending at the last moment by the wintry weather.

### THE WOLFE SOCIETY DINNER, 1959

COLONEL P. BOOTH represented the Regiment at the annual dinner held at Westerham on the 2nd January 1959, in commemoration of the 232nd anniversary of the birth of James Wolfe at Westerham Vicarage.

The C.I.G.S., General Sir Francis Festing, was the guest of honour and the other guests included three Canadian officers, representatives from the Royal Navy, and from the regiments that served under Wolfe in North America. This year also marks the bi-centenary of the capture of Quebec and of Wolfe's death in battle.



Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, O.B.E.  
After their investiture at Buckingham Palace, 3rd November 1959

## GROUP OF 52ND OFFICERS

LIEUT.-COLONEL CROSSE identifies this photograph, sent by Miss M. M. Henley, daughter of Captain Arthur Henley, 52nd, and sister of Major F. J. Henley, as a group of 52nd officers at their Depot at Chatham in 1861 or 1862. The standing figures are Ensigns Thomas Pain Waters and W. B. W. Barwell, and the sitting ones Captains Walter J. Stopford, who was adjutant at Delhi, and Arthur Henley. The wearing of miniature medals with the frock is correct for the period: the pattern of scabbard is interesting.



Group of 52nd Officers  
 Ensign T. P. Waters  
 Ensign W. B. W. Barwell  
 Captain Walter Stopford  
 Captain Arthur Henley

## AVE ATQUE VALE

HAIL and farewell. What perhaps may go down to history as one of the saddest days in our regimental story took place on the 20th March 1959, when the last meal was served in the mess before the Depot, by which name it was known for so many years, was finally closed, and ceased for ever to be the spiritual and spirituous home of the countless thousands that have passed through it. In recent years its title has been changed into the more grandiloquent term Regimental Headquarters, but to the vast majority of past members of the Regiment the old buildings will be remembered with affection and nostalgic memories as the Depot, the sheet anchor for fifty-four years of the 43rd and 52nd. Representing the old at this morbid meal were Fred Clare and myself. Fred first poked his nose through the barrack gate in 1905 and I paid my first mess bill in 1911. My last included the price of this last meal, and the purchase of the little that remained of the champagne and port. I had planned to keep this until the doctor informs me that I have only a few hours to live when I should have hoped that the ambrosial nectar would assist me on my journey to Valhalla, but a recent inspection of the cellar discloses that it is no longer there, which is just too bad. At this farewell party, too, representing the middle aged fraternity, were Mark Darell-Brown, fortunately free from gout on this occasion, and John Ballard, the last Depot commander. Mark's father commanded the Depot from 1912 to 1914.

Cowley Barracks was built in 1876 and from that year until 1905 it accommodated in addition to the Depot the Headquarters of the 43rd Regimental District. In 1905 it became the Depot of the Regiment. The story is told that when plans were being made for its erection great exception was taken by the University to any site nearer to Oxford on the grounds that the drunken and licentious soldiery might well contaminate the genteel intelligentsia of those days. Drunk at times those old soldiers may have been with good strong ale at twopence a pint, but a shilling a day less stoppages would not carry them far. Licentious, yes of course they were, and always will be at recruit age, but how could they hope to compete with a promise of £5 on the mantelpiece as against the lure of a packet of Woodbines or a tot of gin which was roughly the same price as ale. In those days there was little for them to learn from the undergraduates, or the undergraduates from them. The erudite pundits of the university must have failed lamentably to apply their knowledge and philosophy to human nature, which affects all alike.

Since 1892 the annals of the Depot have been recorded in the pages of the CHRONICLE, but as this seems to be the last time that any mention will be made of it there may be some justification for a short historical survey of its purpose and way of life as a sort of Requiem.

We might perhaps start with the Oxfordshire Militia whose connection with the Depot dates back to 1876. Previously arms, equipment, and stores had been kept in what is now the County Constabulary headquarters in Oxford, but henceforward everything including furniture and plate belonging to the officers' and serjeants' messes was retained at the Depot, to be drawn out at the commencement of annual training and returned for safe keeping at its conclusion. In passing, it may be of interest to note that the Royal Buckinghamshire Militia, renamed in 1881 the 3rd Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry (Royal Bucks Militia), had their depot at High Wycombe, though it was staffed by the Regiment. The fact that Buckinghamshire as a county was added to the title of the Regiment as late as 1908 may account to some extent for the seeming aloofness that it displayed to its parent. In the same year the 1st Bucks Volunteers became the Buckinghamshire Battalion, Oxfordshire Light Infantry (T.A.). To return to Oxfordshire, with which we are more immediately concerned, from 1878 the Militia recruits were trained for two months at the Depot before the annual training until 1881 when they were sent to wherever the annual camp was to be held. In 1877 and 1879 this was Cowley Barracks. The permanent staff of the Militia consisted of a few warrant and non-commissioned officers who lived permanently at the Depot. There was also an adjutant from the 43rd or 52nd whose appointment was entirely separate from the Depot organisation. Until 1882 the Oxfordshire Militia was numbered the 51st, and its uniform had buff facings, but in that year its title was changed to the 4th (Militia) Battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry. From then onwards there was a much closer liaison with the County Regiment, one immediate result of which was to change from heavy to light infantry drill and the adoption of bugles instead of fifes and drums. In 1908 a further major step in reorganisation took place when the Militia was abolished as such, and it became the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion of the Regiment. The officers and permanent staff of the Depot were placed on the strength of the Battalion for annual training, and went to camp with it. At the same time the adjutant and quartermaster of the Depot held similar appointments in the 3rd Battalion, while all recruits joined and were trained at the Depot together, and were given the choice later of either joining the Regiment or remaining with the 3rd Battalion. This provided the final link needed to weld into one entity the regular army and the

special reserve, which had become all the more necessary in view of the war rôle of the latter, which was to provide the first reserve for the 43rd and the 52nd. In fact in 1914, the 3rd Battalion mobilized at Cowley Barracks, at the same drafting officers to the 52nd, and although it never went to war as a unit the next four years were spent in the Portsmouth area training and providing reinforcements for battalions of the Regiment fighting in the various theatres of operations, and providing a comfortable and happy temporary home for those who had been punctured in battle and were licking their sores before being pronounced fit to absorb a second (and sometimes third) ration of Teutonic metal in their long suffering anatomies. The Depot in peace had done a grand job in playing its part in the preparation of the Regiment for war, because quite apart from the activities of the Militia and Special Reserve its primary of training recruits for the Regiment was continuing year after year, and when war came in 1914 it would be safe to say that no regiment in the army had better material on which to work than the 43rd and 52nd, so far as reservists and young soldiers were concerned. During the first world war the Depot, under the benign command of Sir Charles Cuyler, not only became a sort of hotel for officers and soldiers of every conceivable type of temporary set up, but was also the headquarters of the regimental comforts fund, admirably administered by a devoted band of officers' wives, whose untiring efforts did much towards saving the lives of our men serving overseas during a war when welfare was not one of the army's principal claims to undying fame.

When we came to the lighter side of life at the Depot in peacetime I do not suppose that anyone will want to go much further back than fifty years, when I first knew it. During this epoch the social and economic life of the people in England has changed enormously, some say for the better others for the worse, it all depends in which light you view the industrial revolution. Nevertheless the Depot was never behind and in keeping pace with the march of progress. Activities were influenced by the varying characteristics of a long line of commanding officers and regimental serjeant-majors. A great measure of responsibility was placed on the shoulders of the members of the serjeants' mess and corporals' room in matters concerning discipline and primary training. They provided the backbone, but as ever in our army the officers were the spinal cord, which if damaged or broken through their own fault or negligence would lead inevitably to swift retribution. As long as an officer took an interested and active part in the men's games and pastimes the rest of his spare time was his own, which may have given rise to the veiled rebuke of the more serious minded that a tour of duty at the Depot was a sinecure.

In a sense it was, at any rate until the commencement of the second world war, unless the battle conditions of a Hunt dinner party can be excepted. It was possible for an officer to be posted to the Depot for a tour of duty once in each rank that he held, up to and including that of major. In a few cases this was actually achieved, but needless to say those who took all the opportunities offered did not go very far in their profession. Nor did they wish to.

Among all the admirable warrant and non-commissioned officers who staked their claim for immortality at the Depot many will agree that Regimental Serjeant-Major Lay reigned supreme. During the days of his stewardship never did the prestige of the serjeants' mess stand higher in the Oxford area and well beyond its boundaries. It is probably true to say that his efficiency, geniality, and sterling qualities were largely responsible for the continuous allegiance of the old comrades, and the affection to the Regiment of members of other corps domiciled in, or attached to, Cowley Barracks. Nor must one ever forget the long and devoted service of Teddy Beare, formerly Regimental Quartermaster-Serjeant, and for many years custodian of all the secrets hidden in the Tower.

Between the periods preceding the first world war and the beginning of the second the theme song as far as the officers were concerned dealt with hunting. Shooting came a bad second when there may have been a frost, and I never heard of anyone trying to fish in the sewage laden waters of the Thames. The South Oxfordshire was the local pack, which a cynic was once heard to remark should be called the B.O.H. rather than the S.O.H., because in the morning followers came out brimful of hope and by luncheon were to seen to be . . . off home. This was a little unkind because over the years, and before wire became ubiquitous, as good a hunt could be enjoyed by those who were prepared to leave the road and have a crack at the Haseley or Holton brooks as any provincial pack in the country. Alternatives were the Bicester in their Thursday country which took a bit of riding even on a good horse, and the Heythrop which was a long way away and usually entailed boxing on the railway. In those days there were no horse trailers, and the normal procedure was to hack out and home, often entailing long journeys in each direction, and arrival back in barracks long after dark. I would not do it to-day on our local roads for a King's ransom, and hounds now have their van, which is the only possible way of getting them home safely at night. One of the major disasters of the second world war, comparable to the loss of Calais in the reign of bloody Mary, was the disappearance of the Depot hunting diary, which had been entered up faithfully at the

end of each day by a long line of enthusiasts, among whom might be mentioned Lancie Ruck Keene, Pony Morland, Sandy Sanderson, and Jimmie Meade. As things have turned out in the last fifteen years it is unlikely that anybody will have its loss engraved upon his heart.

During Sandy's reign at the Depot (1924 to 1926) the hunting community was swelled by the annual influx of Johnnie Crosbie of the Rifle Brigade and Watty Wynter of the Chestnut Troop, the trio perpetuating the traditional alliance of the Light Division dating from 1810. Alas, none are alive to-day, which perhaps in some ways is fortunate because they belonged properly to the Edwardian era when preference for a motor bicycle to a horse would have been considered heresy and high treason.

Dogs of high and low life were always a feature of Depot life. One commander went so far as to banish them from the mess, but that did not last long. Hound puppies were given to us to walk, and the Depot could hardly have been a more unsuitable choice. They got little exercise, except to and from the cookhouse swill bins. As far as numbers count for anything they were at their zenith in Pony Morland's reign (1920 to 1922). Few days and nights passed when a fight did not boil up, usually after dinner, and the miscreants were hurled by the scruff of their necks through the anteroom window. Whether or not it happened to be open or shut at the time was a matter of complete indifference. The mess paid for the damage, if any, and miraculously no dog suffered anything but temporary inconvenience.

Before we leave the mess I must refer to just a few of the staff who did so much towards the making of a visit to the Depot a thing of joy both in anticipation and reality. For many years it was the hub of social activity all the year round. Between the wars Mr Jones, our civilian caterer, and his wife performed miracles of gastronomic excellence at an absurdly low cost by modern standards. After the second world war we were lucky enough to secure the services of Serjeant Wall, a worthy successor to Mr Jones. In spite of the fact that the civilian element had been superseded by the Army Catering Corps, the standard of living remained nearly as high as ever, though the ever mounting costs of almost every commodity from wine to winkles would have made even Mr Jones shudder had he been faced with Serjeant Wall's problems. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his steadfastness of purpose and the results that he achieved.

Finally, we must make special mention of the Regimental Association, the last of the Regiment to remain in Cowley Barracks. In the period under review we need go no further back than our last two secretaries,

'Bobs' Roberts and Fred Clare. Both 'Bobs' and Fred started on the lower deck, but each rose to the bridge through their own efforts, and the Regiment has been immeasurably fortunate to secure their services, at a salary that would shock modern unskilled industrial workers. 'Bobs' whose recollections especially of Bareely [*sic.*] caused so much entertainment had to retire hurt for old age after the second world war. He is still alive (January 1960), and he has our sincere thanks for all he did during his stewardship, a particularly difficult time during the years that the finding of jobs for our old soldiers was of primary importance, and there were very few jobs going. Fred took over in 1946, and in spite of the passing of the years and the reorganisation of our regimental affairs is still in the saddle. His was the primary job to reorganise after a world war, never an easy task. This he accomplished admirably in spite of the changing scene. Under his direction the Old Comrades Association has never been in a more healthy state, and from the Regimental Association angle, our old soldiers and their dependants will I am sure, agree they have received nothing but kindness and sympathy in times of trouble from both Fred and 'Bobs'. But, though it may in a sense have been a side line, perhaps Fred's lasting claim to fame will be the establishment of the Museum, which started in the early '20s in one room in the mess, and now occupies the whole of a misappropriated barrack room in Cowley Barracks. Apart from the intrinsic value of the contents it can, if properly applied, be of immense value in the teaching of regimental history. High ranking visitors to the Depot have expressed it as their opinion that it is probably the best of its kind in the country. This is almost entirely due to Fred's efforts, which it is hoped, when its final destination is decided, will be found not to have been in vain.

This is probably the last time I shall write for the CHRONICLE, which no doubt will come as a profound relief to readers. I am in my 70th year, and I have little left of interest to communicate to younger generations. It is high time that the young or younger are coerced into producing articles more palatable to the age in which they live. If this is not done, interest in the CHRONICLE may well cease altogether, and this would be a pity. In its pages will be found the missing links of regimental history that have not appeared in book form. But past history by itself can become a boring bedfellow if taken in too large doses and a lighter strain is required to perpetuate enthusiasm. In future let us hear more of the frivolities of the Regiment in similar strain, as an antidote to which company beat which in the final of the hockey tournament.

R.J.B.

(Another article on the Depot is in the 1911 CHRONICLE, at page 205.)

## VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

BY BRIGADIER H. J. MOGG

My trip to New Zealand was one of the most fascinating things I have ever done for a long time. Being a guest of the Government, everything was arranged in the most magnificent manner. I toured from the north of the North Island in a Government Jaguar with chauffeur and a senior member of the Internal Affairs Department, staying at all the best hotels and with every comfort.

I first visited the Hauraki Regiment about which I will tell you later, then visited the Geo-Thermal station at Rotorua where the geysers have been harnessed to the hydro electric scheme. Then two wonderful days fishing on the Tongariro River near Lake Taupo and grassed five of the eighteen fish I caught during my tour. The best 5½ lb. rainbow and nothing under 3 lbs!

Then on to Waiouru Camp to see the battalion which is now with me in Malaya, then to Wellington for talks with the Military Board and Chief of Staff, followed by talks with the Minister of Defence and Walter Nash. A Cabinet luncheon at which I had to speak for twenty minutes! I completed a tour of the South Island and Christchurch, Dunedin, and Queenstown and then back to Wellington. I gave eight lectures and have no idea how many speeches I had to make. Speech making is the local sport on every occasion.

I stayed with the Governor General and had a week's leave fishing at Lake Taupo. They were all unbelievably kind and hospitable. The Hauraki Regiment was the first port of call at a place called Tauranga on the east coast. A lovely seaside port in beautiful surroundings and delightful summer weather. I was met by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Capamagian, and the present commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Balzer, a Maori.

They took me off to the best hotel in Tauranga where, without time to change, I went straight into a regimental dinner party of some thirty officers. We had a wonderful dinner—oysters, the famous Toheroa soup and about eight courses. I sat between the present commanding officer and Sir Stephen Allen, who had commanded the battalion in 1913, is now eighty years old and had driven himself 90 miles in for dinner and was driving 90 miles back after the dinner. A wonderful old man. After dinner several speeches were made and there was no doubt that the Haurakis were thrilled that a representative of the Regiment had come to see them. As far as I can gather, I am the only officer of the Regiment

they have seen at Tauranga since the war. I made, I think a suitable reply on behalf of the Regiment.

As soon as dinner was over I was taken outside and made to march behind the regimental band through the streets of Tauranga to the Bay of Plenty Club where all ex-members of the Regiment had assembled and also certain local dignitaries, such as the mayor and others. After a few drinks there was an ominous silence and then several more speeches were made including a presentation of the picture to the Regiment and an embroidered regimental badge in a frame for myself. Again I hope I made a convincing and suitable reply. The party then developed and I eventually left at 5.30 in the morning still on my feet. This seemed to impress them somewhat as there was obviously a plot to carry me away on a stretcher!

The next morning at my hotel I was met by a party of rather bleary-eyed officers who had decided to fill in the two hours I had left in Tauranga. I was driven to a redoubt situated north of the town where the 43rd had fought their battle with the Maoris in 1864. The redoubt was still preserved, the guns in position and a plaque set in concrete commemorates the officers and soldiers of the 43rd who had so nobly assisted the inhabitants of Tauranga. I was then taken to the cemetery to see the graves of the members of the Regiment and the monument to the officers, which included Lieut.-Colonel H. J. P. Booth and five others. They very kindly had some photographs taken and I will send the album with Tod Sweeny. I have also some historical records from their museum which, when I have time, I will try and piece together for an article for the CHRONICLE.

The whole visit was memorable and they were so obviously very proud of their association with the Regiment. The silver bugle presented to them is placed in a conspicuous position in the officers' club and cap badges, and correspondence with the Regiment are placed round the walls.

## DEMONSTRATION BATTALION AT THE SCHOOL OF INFANTRY

BY MAJOR J. M. A. TILLET

‘All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players . . .  
Each man in his time plays many parts . . .’

At the conclusion of our first ‘term’ here at Warminster many riflemen have already played many parts and it is quite obvious that they have many more to play in future. Already in the short space of three months Rifleman ‘Smith’ has found himself crawling, doubling, jumping, shooting, attacking, defending; sometimes as a Warminster Rifleman and sometimes as a Fantasian. He has been asked to perform his daily military duties, and sometimes even to pretend to die, under the critical eyes of our ever present audience. (‘Do it again, never seen a chap die like that.’) He has been every sort of ‘human target’ including representing a dissident ‘mob’ in internal security exercises. He has done all this by day and by night and in almost every sort of weather. He has had long periods of waiting for his ‘act’ during which time he has been very cold and wet.

It is satisfactory to record that Rifleman ‘Smith’, by using the qualities of adaptability, versatility, bequeathed to him by generations of Riflemen, has acquitted himself well. It seems to be generally accepted among our critics here that the first three months have passed off well.

In the remainder of this article I will try to convey some idea of what being the Demonstration Battalion means and the backcloth before which Rifleman ‘Smith’ performs.

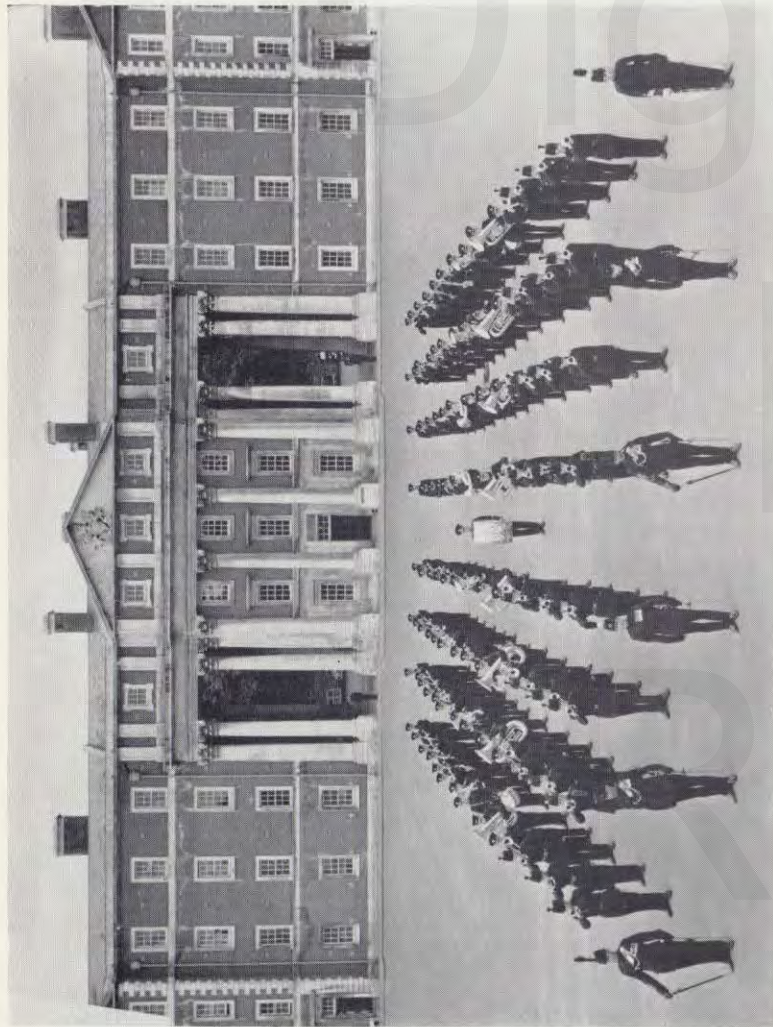
At the present time the School of Infantry is divided into three main Wings. The Small Arms/Signal Wing is at Hythe in Kent and the Support Weapons Wing and Tactical Wing are respectively at Netheravon and Warminster in Wiltshire. The Demonstration Battalion is committed to providing troops at these three places as follows:

Hythe	Approximately one section.
Netheravon	One section of medium machine guns. One section of 3 inch mortars. Two detachments of anti-tank guns.
Warminster	Battalion less the above.

In addition we find a large platoon of about fifty for demonstrations at Mons Officer Cadet Training Unit at Aldershot. The activities of



The Regiment demonstrating at the School of Infantry  
‘Infantry carried into battle on tanks’



The massed buglers and bands of the Green Jackets Brigade at Winchester

this detachment will form the subject of a separate article at a later date and I will not mention them further here.

I will not say very much at this stage about the detachments at Never-avon and Hythe. As both these Wings of the School are concerned with teaching specific weapons, the duties of their demonstration detachments are directly concerned with the technical and tactical handling of specific individual weapons. This involves demonstrations in actual weapon handling and taking part in a variety of students' mutual training periods and exercises. A considerable amount of time is taken up with preparation and rehearsal for specific periods and the remaining working hours are fitted with the great variety of trials, experiments and fatigues which are the constant chore of a weapon school. Naturally a very high standard of efficiency is demanded, and achieved, in these establishments and our detachments resident there benefit from this. These undoubted benefits compensate for the disadvantages of having small parties detached from the Regiment, living in the rather impersonal conditions which exist in any combined establishment. Personnel of these detachments are changed over at intervals, either through necessity or to provide a change of environment. A more detailed account of their activities will be given later in our tour of duty.

Our major commitment concerns training carried out at the Tactical Wing at Warminster and this I will deal with in rather more detail.

Located at Warminster is the headquarters of all Wings of the School and also the Tactical Wing. Resident also at Warminster are a tank squadron (at present 'A' Squadron, The Queen's Own Hussars) and an A.P.C. troop. In addition our own Letter 'A' Company is living in the School at Warminster while the remainder of the Regiment is stationed at Knook Camp, Heytesbury, about five miles away.

Headquarters of the School of Infantry acts as our senior headquarters in a number of training and administrative matters. In particular we come directly under the command of the Commandant of the School (at present Brigadier Tony Read, D.S.O., C.B.E.). We deal with School Headquarters staff on all matters affecting trials and commitments which arise in addition to normal duties connected with the courses run at the Tactical Wing. Miscellaneous tasks which have come our way so far during our short stay here have ranged from trials with new types of waterbottles to the making of a War Office film on internal security operations (most appropriate in view of our recent return from Cyprus).

Our daily 'bread and butter' is provided by Tactical Wing. This Wing runs two main tactical courses; one for company commanders and the other for platoon commanders. The courses, which overlap in time,

each run for approximately eight weeks and there are normally four such courses a year. Both levels of course lay particular stress on the co-operation of all arms and this factor adds considerably to the interest of our demonstrations and training. In addition to these four long courses each year there are additional commitments entailing an annual demonstration in June, courses for Territorial Army officers in September, pre-Staff College course, etc. These can be better covered in the next issue of the CHRONICLE when we shall have had the experience of a full year here.

For those concerned in Tactical Wing Courses the 'Term' commences about a week before the students assemble, with preparations and rehearsals for the opening demonstrations. From then until the end of the course nine weeks later, the demonstration rifle companies, Letter 'A' (three platoons) and Letter 'B' (two platoons) are kept fairly consistently employed on demonstrations and exercises and the numerous preparations and rehearsals which precede both. Support Company also take part in a number of actual support weapon demonstrations or in exercises, in addition to acting as riflemen and enemy on numerous other occasions. Headquarters Company's specialist platoons are naturally involved in almost all activities but in addition almost the whole of the company, clerks, storemen, cooks, etc. are required to turn out as riflemen on major exercises which involve the whole Regiment.

In outline the programme for Tactical Wing courses is in the following general sequence. First, a short period of 'familiarisation' with details of establishments, organisation and equipment of the infantry and other 'teeth' arms; armoured corps, artillery, signals and engineers. This is followed by consideration of tactical problems in the main phases of war; defence, attack, advance and withdrawal in a conventional setting. This involves indoor and outdoor discussions, demonstrations and exercises at different levels for the platoon and company commander; the last phase of the programme is devoted to consideration of nuclear warfare. This primarily concerns the company commanders' course rather than the platoon commanders but again involves demonstrations and exercises.

Without going into detail I have listed below some of the major rôles which we play as demonstration troops in the above programme. In the 'familiarisation' phase of the first two weeks we demonstrate:

- All types of weapons and equipment.
- Fire power of infantry weapons by day and night.
- Basic drills used in co-operation with tanks and armoured personnel carriers.
- Basic fieldcraft and battlecraft drills by day and night.
- Types of field defences.

Laying of mines and breaching obstacles.

Patrol activities.

In addition at this time we supply small parties and individuals to assist in minor tactical exercises as enemy, targets, fire representation, communicators and general fatigue men.

In the second and main part of the course we demonstrate such things as:

Attack drills by company groups.

Village fighting technique.

Advance action with tanks and A.P.C.s.

Internal security operations.

And we take part in a number of exercises including a battalion night attack and advance to contact. In the major exercises many riflemen find themselves with officer students as section, platoon and company commanders to the mutual astonishment of all. In addition we find enemy parties from a section to a company group strength.

In the final nuclear stage of the present course our activities are limited to a major operation involving defence and counter attack and two exercises which involve the whole Regiment. At the same time we send a platoon away to Dartmoor to act as enemy to the platoon commanders' course during their final test exercises.

I think from the above few paragraphs it will be obvious that we are kept busy during the course period. To this may be added the many additional items which invariably come the way of the demonstration battalion, i.e. trials, visits by ministers and foreign potentates, etc. not to mention the normal domestic chores such as guards, audit boards, administrative inspections. Owing to the fact that at present our total strength is very low, everyone is very heavily committed and there is very little spare time for the normal cycle of training or even for sports and recreation. We hope however that this situation will cease in the coming year.

I have tried in the preceding paragraphs to outline something of our activities here at Warminster. I have tried to avoid too much detail as our experience so far is only based on one 'term'. One of the advantages of being stationed here is that there is always something new happening and we are kept on our toes and up to date. There is a constant accumulation of items both social and military to write about. I hope that a more interesting account of our activities over a longer period of time here can be included in the next issue of the CHRONICLE. With this in mind I hope I have provided a background against which these events can be recorded and have given some idea of the scope of our present task as Demonstration Battalion.

## MONS O.C.S.

MAY—NOVEMBER 1959

BY 2ND LIEUTENANT N. M. PRIDEAUX

'THE Happiest Days of one's life' . . . Mons? It all depends on the individual, and of course, the time of year at which you do your training. Busy, hard work and amusing would be a more apt description, and I count myself among those who enjoy it and I am not the only one.

I was a pioneer, not of the assault type, but of the War Office guinea pig type, pioneering a new scheme named the Direct Short Commission. This scheme is yet another back door into the army, and for those who used the front door or who are uninitiated, I will briefly explain. It is quite simple in form but immensely complicated on paper. By this method, one is able to go Mons as a civilian, having passed the War Office Selection Board and gained the approval of the colonel of your future regiment. On arrival a cadet does six weeks basic training common to all arms, then on completion of these six weeks, he goes to his specialized wing, be it infantry, artillery, cavalry or engineers, to do a further sixteen weeks until at the end of five and a half months he is commissioned. That in essence is the new scheme but space does not permit a more lengthy and detailed account. There was a certain amount of doubt among the N.C.O.s as to how we should be treated, and it proved difficult for both sides. In fact on joining one is promoted to officer cadet status but it is quickly pointed out that this is the lowest form of rank in the army. However with the addition of 'Sir' on the end of certain well-coined and well-used army phrases, they managed to sound quite polite—at times! Like all army schools, every regiment seemed to be represented on the permanent staff, and of course there were some you learnt to avoid and some with whom you became great friends.

Thus as a rough and raw civilian, I went to Mons and joined the army, with little idea of what lay ahead. The first six weeks was very à la Carterham; drill and weapon training until proficiency was reached in both and route marches round the delightful surroundings of any Aldershot barracks. It all passed very quickly and looking back I enjoyed it. On passing out of Basic, I joined 'A' Company in the Infantry Wing, and training began in earnest. A succession of exams, P.E. Tests, defence exercises, platoon attacks, drill parades, weapon training and numerous other activities occupied the next sixteen weeks and in glorious weather which made it more fun.

From the start I met Regimental officers. Major J. P. Bennet, who commanded my basic intake and generally supervised the 'teething stage' and Captain B. W. Balls, who is Weapon Training Officer and Regimental representative. His lectures became proverbial throughout Mons as being splendid cabaret but lest he loses his job, I hasten to add that we all learnt something and passed our exam. Captain J. R. G. N. Eveleigh commanded the demonstration platoon, and he and the platoon were splendid value for money on demonstrations and exercises. Both Colonel Martin and the Commanding Officer came and visited us and it was always a splendid excuse for a party, and we enjoyed seeing them before our commissioning date.

To record all the various incidents in which Green Jackets were involved would be tedious but there are two which stick in my memory.

The Regimental Serjeant-Major used to stand on a table and cast a beady eye over the commissioning parade prior to marching on the square. On this day while demonstrating some intricate piece of Guard's drill, he took one pace too many, and fell off the table. Silence, except for the uncontrollable laughter of someone from the back of the parade. Anxious drill-serjeants went in search of the culprit, and brought him before an enraged and bruised R.S.M., whose Guard's bearing had been unruffled. Such a 'dressing down' I have never heard, and the culprit? A Green Jacket!

The second incident was on an adjutant's inspection. The Company had been formed up for a very long time and some began to feel a bit odd, the result of late nights in London and early parades the next day. The adjutant began his inspection, and suddenly one excited Green Jacket rushed up and asked permission to carry off an officer cadet who was fainting. The former gave a nod of assent, and the latter returned to his victim. However he discovered that the unfortunate person had recovered, but so as not to appear a fool or be done out of his heroic attitude, said in much too loud a voice, 'For God's sake faint man—and make it look good! the man obliged and exit one triumphant Green Jacket—bearing one pseudo—fainting cadet. He collected three extra drills for the commendable feat!

At the end of fourteen weeks, when exams had finished, the whole company moved down to that Gunner's holiday resort of Sennybridge in Wales to do final battle training. It decided to rain for the first time for three months while we were there and so most days were amphibious. At the end of the fortnight, when everyone had got bored of trying to shoot sheep for the black market, came an exercise appropriately called Climax. Due to the weather and the disturbing news that the S.A.S.

were in the area, the exercise was quickly nicknamed Anti-Climax and by day we dug trenches and by night we shivered in six inches of water, expecting to be attacked at any moment by some desperate men.

It was no small relief that Mons once more became our home for the last ten days of the course. These days were spent in parade rehearsals, dinner parties and other parties of no fixed name or limit, and of course putting the final lick on those immaculate boots.

Then dawned the day that so many of and some even reach, though wondering how it all happened. The commissioning parade, the final curtain on the sixteen weeks course and so with mixed feelings and with memories, mostly happy ones, and with the band playing 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'Will ye ne'er come back again', one slow march out of one life into another full of new experiences.

The Direct Short Commission in my opinion, is a good scheme though it is a scheme that very much depends on individual effort, and if you are not suited to absorbing the vast amount that has to be learnt in a short time, then it is rather difficult. There are certain disadvantages, among which is the fact that at Mons you do not do enough in your first six weeks to be able to hold your own against the man coming from ten or twelve weeks basic training at his regimental depot; however there are many advantages and these outweigh the disadvantages. It is not my job to criticise and I can only say that I am very glad I had the opportunity to be one of the early pioneers of the scheme, even if it does mean going in through the back door.

## VISIT TO INDIA—DECEMBER 1957

BY MAJOR O. G. PRATT

WHILE stationed in Singapore in December 1957, I visited the British Gurkhas in India accompanied by an officer from the Cheshire Regiment, Douglas Donnelly. We saw the whole of their lines of communication from Nepal to Calcutta.

We travelled by Quantas from Singapore to Calcutta, the plane being just late enough at Singapore to ensure that we arrived at our destination in the middle of the night. After some delay we were ushered into a small, dirty, and uncomfortable waiting room occupied by an ancient snoring beggar whose clothes left much to the imagination. Again there was a prolonged pause before we straggled into a bleak customs hall. We had been warned that the Indian Customs at Calcutta were inclined to assert their independence by being difficult to British Army officers. Certainly our first reaction to the attitude of our official was an overwhelming desire to kick him through his own window. Fortunately saner counsels prevailed, and our faces assumed and maintained a benevolent mask. At this juncture a flood of passengers poured into the customs hall with which the officials were quite unable to cope, and we found ourselves swept by a tide of gesticulating humanity through the exit into the arms of a British Gurkha officer, and two Gurkha riflemen, who had come to meet us. In a trice we were bundled into a vehicle and were on the road to Barrackpore, the Gurkha Transit Camp just outside Calcutta. We found the cool dry night air a great relief after the sweltering humidity of Singapore.

We spent the next day at Barrackpore. It was a model of quiet efficiency. In fact throughout our tour we moved from oasis to oasis of Gurkha efficiency through the pandemonium of Behar.

Accompanied by the senior medical officer to the Gurkhas in India we left for the depot at Lehra, twenty-five miles south of the Nepalese frontier on the evening of our first day. The journey was to take two days. We were to stage a day at Benares and change at Gorakhpur. As we drove to the station after sunset our first impression of Calcutta was of people; thousands and thousands of people. We had allowed plenty of time to reach the station and needed all of it. The pace of the vehicle was reduced to an average of 5 m.p.h. by the swirling mass of humanity. The station was a comparative haven after the chaos outside and we had time to buy oranges, and order a meal from the carriage attendant,

who made arrangements with the next station up the line as there was no restaurant car on the train.

We had quite a good journey. The carriage was air conditioned and consequently sealed. We were therefore able to sleep without much risk of our belongings being stolen out of the windows. As we crossed the bridge over the Ganges to enter Benares, the brilliant colours of the dawn were reflected in the water, and the temples and glittering spires of the city peeped above the rose tinted morning mist. It was very beautiful. We were taken to a good hotel by the British Q Movements representative, a young lance corporal in the Royal Engineers. Both of us were greatly impressed by him. He was in civilian clothes because uniform is not allowed in India. He was the only Englishman in Benares, and had been there six months. His suit and shirt were immaculate. He was a model of efficiency and politeness. From his conversation it was clear that he had a difficult job. In India it seemed that all arrangements were paid for, and the arrangements which worked were those made by a man who offered the biggest bribe. Unfortunately the army, unlike all civilian firms, refused to recognize this, and so arranging Gurkha troop movements was an unenviable task.

The weather was glorious. After breakfast an Anglo Indian ex-serjeant-major attached himself to us and we embarked in an ancient boat for a trip on the Ganges. The water was the colour of pea soup. Along the bank at the 'Ghats', people bathed in, and drank the sacred water. We never discovered why they didn't die from cholera on the spot. Benares reflected past glories. Neglect and decay in beautiful buildings was evident everywhere. When we disembarked and saw the sights on foot, squalor and beggars abounded. Only the temple with a dome of beaten gold was reasonably clean and in a decent state of repair. We found that silk embroidered with gold and silver thread, and elaborate brass work, were the only worthwhile products of the city. They were quite lovely.

After a most interesting morning we returned to our hotel where luncheon was enlivened by the antics of a large rat on the floor of the dining-room. We then slept until it was time to catch the train to Gorakhpur. Accompanied by our major-domo, the ex-serjeant-major, who was going to see us on the train, we made our way to the station. It became clear, after a visit by our henchman to the station master, that our sleeping compartment bookings had gone horribly wrong. Even ten rupees could effect no improvement in the situation. The normal emergency drill for such occasions was promptly implemented. This simply consisted of ripping the booking label from the window of any compartment, getting in and bolting the door and window shutters.

This was accomplished with such dispatch that Douglas Donnelly, who was looking the other way at the time, was left outside. This was quickly rectified, and apart from some passionate rattling of the door handle we were left in peace.

Our arrival at Gorakhpur was precipitous. We piled on the platform at 6 a.m. in pyjamas amid a chaotic clutter of luggage, under themisapprehension that the train was about to leave for some unpronounceable destination. It didn't. It remained where it was until 7.30 a.m. when it retired to a siding. The first-class waiting room was first class in name only. As we struggled in to dress and shave it seemed as though the entire population of Gorakhpur was sleeping in it. One tap dribbled miserably into a basin smeared with grease, and the smell from the latrines was penetrating and individual. The restaurant was a pleasing contrast and the breakfast was plentiful and well served.

Our train for Lehra left at 8.15 a.m. It had square wheels, but by some miracle was on time at Lehra. Here the Gurkha efficiency swept into action. Ourselves and luggage were hustled into two landrovers. Protestations on the amount of largesse issued to the urchins who carried our luggage were silenced by a terrible glance from a Gurkha corporal, and we were off. I won't go into the details of our stay in Lehra. Sufficient to say that great hospitality extended to us and that our two and a half days there were extremely enjoyable. Leaving the doctor at Lehra, Douglas and I left by landrover for Gorakhpur after lunch on our last day, to catch the train for Siliguri some three hundred miles to the East. We were on our way to visit the Gurkha Depot at Jalapahar which is one mile south of, and one thousand feet above, Darjeeling.

At Gorakhpur we made the station master admit that we had in fact booked two berths in a sleeper and we also 'persuaded' him to tell us where our coach would stop when the train arrived from Lucknow. As luck would have it our compartment stopped immediately opposite us. I leaped inside while Douglas guarded the booking label. There were fifteen people in the compartment, all shouting. I threw my luggage on to our two bunks and awaited developments. This attacking approach had its effect and four people got out. I sat down on my bunk and unpacked a few things. A further thinning out of the opposition took place. A ten rupee note fluttered dangerously under the nose of the assistant station master. Douglas gave him the eye and the day was ours. We settled down to an uneventful journey apart from severe stomach-ache produced by our curry supper.

It is perhaps worth mentioning here the method of boarding third class carriages. It appears that in India, for some reason, very few third

class passengers go through the formality of obtaining a ticket. As a result all stations are a seething mass of people. On the arrival of a train those catching it detach themselves from the crowd and hurl themselves on the coaches like creditors on a bankrupt. Entrance is forced anywhere. No apertures are wasted and one can go in head first or feet first as one chooses. The final result is a coach literally bursting at the joints. One feels that if someone sneezes the whole thing will collapse and leave its load of tightly packed humanity sitting on the bogies.

We were met at Siliguri Junction by a taxi driven by a cheerful Nepalese, and in a short time we were on our way to Talapahar via the road to Darjeeling. This road (together with the narrow gauge railway) is on a ledge carved from the hillside. The railway crosses and recrosses the road as the spirit moves it, and as we drove into the hills in thick fog the ensuing game of hide and seek with the trains was exciting. Jalapahar lies at eight thousand feet. We arrived in the afternoon in thick mist. It was freezing; and any violent movement caused exhaustion owing to the rarified atmosphere. As usual the Gurkhas had anticipated our wants and we were met with large glasses of hot run and lemon and shown into a room where a log fire blazed cheerfully.

The next day the clouds rolled away to reveal Kinchinjunga standing like a wall to the north west. The snows glittered in the sun. To the north east the snow-covered mountains of Tibet were clearly visible although over a hundred miles away. Around us the foothills rose to thirteen thousand feet. Here gradual slopes were unknown. Hills and valleys were of a violent steepness. I could visualize the cataclysm which created them. It was breathtaking. A hill was not a mountain until it was high enough to qualify for inclusion in the Himalayan range. Bears and other game roamed the rugged pine covered hillsides and over all loomed the vast dominating bulk of Kinchinjunga rising terrace by terrace and crag by crag to over twenty-eight thousand feet. I have never seen scenery like it before and I will probably never see anything like it again.

As usual our stay was organised with the normal Gurkha efficiency and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Throughout our tour our hosts seemed pleased to have some junior officers visiting them with whom they could do business, as opposed to entertaining a lot of senior officers 'swanning'. After two days we were again on our travels and after driving down the hill caught the plane to Calcutta. Here we were met and taken once again to Barrackpore.

The next day was our last in India and we spent a lot of time looking round Calcutta. It was a depressing sight. What was obviously once a

magnificent city was now a mass of buildings gradually decaying through lack of repair and paint. Squatters shacks straggled in a three mile belt around the city. A lot of people lived on the streets, cooking on the pavements, washing from fire hydrants and sleeping in doorways or under cinema canopies. Vultures perched on the railway bridges and public buildings. The central park was a sea of refuse and progress on foot down a street was unpleasant because of the unwelcome attendance of urchins pestering one for 'backsheesh'. Only one building remained in first class order apart from the odd museum. This was the European Club. We couldn't discover why it was allowed to exist, but it was. It was a haven of peace. It had both an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, and a first class restaurant. It was clean, orderly and the service was impeccable. It reflected the Calcutta that was. As we returned to Barrackpore our Gurkha guide said that on running down someone you didn't stop for fear of being mobbed, but drove on as fast as possible to the nearest police station. The story of a bus driver was told, who ran down someone wandering aimlessly about in the middle of the road. Very sensibly he punched the accelerator peddle through the floor thus making good his escape. This caught the mob by surprise, but not to be outdone, it ambushed the next bus, ejected the astonished passengers, beat the driver, and burnt the vehicle. Honour was then considered to be satisfied.

Our departure from Calcutta was fitting. We drove to the airport to find our B.O.A.C. Britannia was three hours late, this ensured that we would take off in the early hours of the morning. The jackels howled on the other side of the runway. They summed up the situation admirably.

## TURKISH HOLIDAY

BY MAJOR R. R. W. WORKMAN

I ONCE wrote a true saga which started: 'There's a hole in the brim of my best black hat which was pecked by a parrot in Regent's Park'. This was the beginning of a romantic story about my acquaintance with the girl who was feeding the parrot peanuts.

There are also holes in my best black umbrella, but these have a suitable service connection, since they were made by sparks from the Bosphorus Ferry on which I was travelling on leave from Cyprus. It was not raining at the time but there was a shower of smuts on the only part of the boat which gave one a view of the domed skyline of Istanbul.

Charles Mason and I had come there by air from Limassol in Cyprus. We intended to be comfortable and to see the sights and to eat and drink as excessively well as possible. As insurance for drinking we had brought a large supply of N.A.A.F.I. gin, which put our baggage overweight to the tune of some £5 sterling.

Istanbul is full of good hotels, but I had picked one long before. Have you ever read E. Phillips Oppenheim or John Buchan's *Greenmantle*? If so, you will know that *everyone* stayed at Pera Palace. I imagined it full of red plush and mother-of-pearl and kiosks, with a beautiful Irma lurking in the shadows. There it is to-day, except for Irma, just as I imagined it, even though a little drab now and unfashionable. Our bathroom was typical of the faded and brassy magnificence, for there were twenty-two taps on it, including a battery on the bidet which, at full blast, gave a display worthy of the fountains at Versailles.

The first morning in a great city is the most memorable one. The magic of the place must be found quickly or it may never be found at all. In Istanbul we found magic of a kind a little way off the main shopping street, in a market where the fish were arranged like flowers on a stall—sprays of red mullet and posies of shrimps. Nearby was a small restaurant with pieces of something on skewers in the window. It was obviously some form of kebab. A Turk came by and saw that we were perplexed; he pointed to the skewers and then started pointing vigorously with the forefinger of one hand on the end of his nose while with the other hand he flapped fishily. It was sword-fish kebab and just the thing for 'elevenses'.

The next attempt at sign-language was not so successful, for, to go with the fish, the waiter brought not two glasses but a whole bottle of the local liquor—a form of arak, tasting of aniseed and not unlike pernod.

Much later and quite at peace with Turkey and even Grivas, we found our way to Abdullah's, which is neither an opium den nor a cigarette shop, but one of the great restaurants of the world. I expect it provides an enormous variety of dishes but I remember two. The first starts when a small boy, not much more than table height, brings a great board covered with lobsters from which you choose; it comes back to you cooked over charcoal, with no sauce but flavoured with herbs.

After this, lamb. Now lamb in Turkey in the spring is a special delight. The killing at so tender age is only excused by the result—chops the size of half-crowns, a leg that is only generous for one and a saddle like a small hare's. On this first occasion I ate chops, six of them. I have eaten 'agneau be lait' in France and 'abacchio' in Italy but they were old mutton compared with this.

Thus fortified, we started to see the sights.

Istanbul has been a city for some 3,000 years, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Turkish. It is magnificently situated above the Bosphorus and Golden Horn and each age of its existence has added to its glory, in walls, castles, palaces, mosques, even that most modern place, the Istanbul Hilton Hotel. I had ten days in the city and saw, I suppose, a little of the lot; out of it all I would return and return to the great covered market, the Sultan's collection of jewels, his china, some statuary in the palace museum and, of course, Saint Sophia's.

St Sophia's was built in the sixth century; thus it had existed five hundred years before the Norman conquest and was the great church of the east for a thousand years. The last Roman Emperor of Byzantium worshipped, where I stood, on the day of the city's fall in 1453 and the Turkish conqueror, Suleiman, rode into it on his great white charger and struck down Christianity from its most glorious temple. You can still see the imprint of his sword, inches deep and high on a granite pillar, such is the legend of his power and magnificence.

To-day it is a museum; from the outside it seems somewhat hunched, with half domes rising like sawn-off tennis balls to support the central domes. Inside, however, one sees the genius of this method of building. The interior is quite empty; the only apparent decoration are four great painted seraphim, folding their wings under the dome which seems to lie unsupported, like the heavens, above them. I just stood and looked and tried to fathom its age, its size, its history imperial purple, moslem conqueror and modern tourist.

Not far from St Sophia's and the great mosques which were patterned on it, is the old Sultan's palace, the Seragho. Here the atmosphere changes from that of the Suleiman, the Magnificent, to that of Abdul the Damned.

The palace is a mass of low buildings with small windows and occasional small tiled pavilions of rather decadent charm, but the whole impression is of gloom and suspicion.

Down one side of an outer courtyard is a series of buildings that look like a dozen oast-houses in a semi-detached row. These were the kitchens, each the size of a squash court with a great central chimney. A few are equipped as they were in the old days, but the majority contain a collection of Chinese porcelain, said to have been given by an Emperor of China to the Sultan in the eighteenth century and to have remained in packing cases until thirty years ago. It is said, also, to be the finest collection outside Peking: it must be the largest.

It is difficult to give an impression of the amount and the quality. There are many single plates worth hours of examination for the beauty of their colour and design. There is one glass case, however, which contrasts with all the rest, for it contains only a set of rice bowls; these are of imperial yellow and for imperial use. The bowls are plain but translucent and amongst the luxuriance of the rest, outstandingly lovely, such is their glow.

Deeper in the palace is another treasure house containing the jewel collection. There is nothing delicately beautiful here, but diamonds by the bucketful, all uncut, have their special attraction. I have never seen such a display of crude wealth.

In the centre of the main room is a throne, captured on campaign from a Shah of Persia—his camp kit in fact. It's of a size to be covered in cushions and squatted on by a very large Shah and it's all gold and studded with ten thousand emeralds. Above it, a fist sized diamond is suspended on brass wire.

All this, of course, can be looked at for days on end until one becomes glutted. There is more and more to be seen. For instance, below the palace is a museum of antique statuary, containing amongst hundreds of exhibits, three wonderful pieces, each the centre of the hall in which it stands. The first is a Greek shepherd boy, leaning on a post. You approach him from behind and cannot help walking quietly lest you intrude on his thoughts.

There is a contrast next door, however, in the Great God Baal, ten foot high and half as broad, strangling a ram with one hand. Beyond that is Alexander's tomb. The great coffin is from one piece of marble and the size of a box-car. It is carved with thousands of figures, hunts, battles, feasts, the whole history of Alexander's life; yet a tiny spear wound in a horse's flank runs blood-red because the sculptor has so planned the whole, that at that spot there is a red marble speck.

There are more mundane things to do in Istanbul than rhapsodying over treasures on which I have exhausted my superlatives and probably my readers. Try, for a change, a tunny steak, cooked on a brazier by the Galata bridge, during the tunny run; eat chestnuts in the spice market; or the best of all, spend a day or a week in the Great Bazaar, which is the market of all markets. It consists of many covered streets lined with small shops, and contains the junk of Europe and Asia and some of their better pieces too. It is also a kind of church bazaar, for the rent of the shops was intended for the upkeep of the mosques.

One very minor treasure came my way there, in old Solomon's antique shop. In skull-cap and pebble glasses he bent over his show cases and trays telling the story of this illuminated Koran or that diamond ring. I wanted a brooch made in the form of a double-headed Russian eagle, golden-crowned and ruby-eyed and glittering with semi-precious stones. It took four visits and several hours to buy and all my spare cash.

Fortunately there was no excess weight to pay for on the return journey, because the gin was all gone.

## POLO

(a) BY COLONEL R. A. ST G. MARTIN

IN last year's CHRONICLE the writer expressed the hope that there would be more polo played by members of the Regiment in the coming year, and that the Regiment would have a Regimental team. Both hopes were fulfilled but due to the Regiment's return to England in late May, the season for 1959 was a short one.

All active operations against the terrorists in Cyprus ceased in February and at the same time the weather began to improve which meant that more polo could be played at Episkopi.

The following officers played: The Commanding Officer, Christopher Hinton, John Meade, Tim Hartley, Ken Smith and David Mostyn.

David had never played before but he very soon picked up the game and showed great promise. Christopher continued to improve and our hopes of raising a Regimental team rose rapidly. In March Gerald Astley-Cooper arrived in G.H.Q. at Episkopi which added a most welcome and experienced player to our list. He appeared on the polo ground regularly and very soon showed himself to be one of the best players in the club. This gave us seven players and the opportunity was taken by all players to get in as much practice as training, shooting, games and other commitments allowed, most of them playing three days each fortnight and practising at week-ends.

Then one evening the Commanding Officer was visited by Richard Abel-Smith, Royal Horse Guards, who asked how polo was going in the Regiment. The Commanding Officer light heartedly suggested to Richard that his Regiment might like to take us on one day to find out, little thinking that Richard would do any more about such a suggestion. He was wrong. In about a fortnight the challenge was accepted much to everyone's delight.

Meanwhile the Regiment had been told to send an advance party to England and that the Regiment would probably sail for home in late May or early June. There was no alternative to sending Christopher Hinton and Ken Smith on the advance party which was a bitter blow to the prospective team. The Blues were told what had happened but it was agreed to go ahead with the match despite the obvious disparity between the teams which there would now be.

So in May the match took place at Episkopi. The teams were as follows:

<i>The Regiment</i>	<i>The Blues</i>
John Meade. No. 1	Capt. Sir Nicholas Nuttall. No. 1
Commanding Officer. No. 2	Major Harry Hopkinson. No. 2
Gerald Astley-Cooper. No. 3	Capt. Lord Patrick Beresford. No. 3
David Mostyn. Back	Capt. George Coombs. Back

The match consisted of four chukkas, each player being personally allotted two ponies by the Polo Club Committee in accordance with the player's ability and horsemanship, and a fair allotment of good and bad ponies to each team. There was no allowance for handicap.

In the first chukka the Regiment very nearly scored in the first two minutes through a long shot by Gerald Astley-Cooper which the Commanding Officer just failed to put through. This shook the Blues who then got going and through Patrick Beresford, a Hurlingham 2 handicap, they scored three goals. In the second chukka they scored another three goals and the Regiment, despite the efforts of all concerned had a job to hold them. Early in the third chukka Gerald Astley-Cooper received a severe blow on the jaw which made matters worse but he continued to play with the same vigour and the Blues scored only once, honours being much more even the Regiment attacking hard with two very near misses and the ball once hitting the outside of a goal post instead of the inside. The last Chukka was much the same. The Blues scored once more despite some very fine work by David Mostyn, who rode off his opposing No. 1, making several good clearances.

So ended our one and only match but it was great fun and much enjoyed by both teams. We are most grateful to the Committee and members of the Episkopi Polo Club for all their help and encouragement, and to the Blues for an excellent and instructive game.

On arrival in England tentative enquiries were made about polo at Tidworth. We were told that a trained pony would cost between £300 and £400, but unmade ponies could be procured for about £150. This was well beyond the means of any of our players so reluctantly the matter was not pursued.

So for the present polo in the Regiment is in abeyance but there is a nucleus of young players who it is hoped in the future will be able to build on this early experience.

Polo is still played in Cyprus, Malaya, Kenya, West Africa and other stations throughout the world. It is hoped that members of the Regiment will again be able to play abroad in one of those stations and that another team will rise to the occasion in the future. The seed has been sown, may it continue to flourish.

(b) BY MAJOR G. N. ASTLEY-COOPER

THE G.H.Q. Middle East Land Forces Garden City at Episkopi boasts a small, fast, boarded polo ground squeezed into the upper end of a deep valley running down to the sea. In the days of ancient Greece, olive trees were exempt from destruction, even in time of war, and we have kept to this custom although it prevents us from extending the ground to a more orthodox size. The sandy surface has been compressed by means of much rolling and watering but unfortunately only scanty grass has appeared after the winter rains.

The twenty-five ponies collected from all over the Mediterranean in the last three years have intriguing origins. One of the best, a large Arab stallion served in the Lebanese Cavalry; another excellent pony was bought for £5 in Tripoli to save him from the knackers' yard. Baghdad Race Course, Cairo Turf Club, Cyprus Police, and the pony traps of North Africa have all produced their quota. A number of well bred ponies were bought in Cyprus for the Canal Zone Polo Clubs, and have since returned to the land of their birth. In most cases their sires were imported thoroughbreds, though their half-brothers may have been mules.

We play twice a week for most of the year, but give the ponies a break during the summer holidays when the Pony Club activities are at their peak, and during January when the winter rains make the ground too slippery for safety. Players come and go, but we usually have about twenty on the books, which is sufficient for the number of ponies available.

Station polo is normally aimed at practice for tournaments in various parts of the country concerned. In Cyprus the problem of arranging tournaments is rather more complex and apart from our local club tournaments we are reduced to playing matches within and without the Island. Thanks to the co-operation of the R.A.F., transport to neighbouring countries presents little difficulty, though of course ponies cannot be moved and the host team has to produce ponies for the visitors. This system is sometimes rather a bone of contention and undoubtedly gives the home team an advantage however fairly the allocation is made.

In June the Persian Army accepted an invitation for a match and sent over a large contingent which included a venerable ex-cavalry officer who claimed to have played the game for fifty years. He acted as non-playing captain and exerted considerable influence behind the scenes. The actual captain was the Under Secretary of State for War, Major-General Afkhani, a good player and an amusing character.

The first match resulted in a comparatively easy victory for our 'B' team. Before the second match the Persians were given any pony they asked for and so had a very distinct advantage. However, at the end of the fourth chukka the score was five goals all. They scored a quick goal early on in the extra chukka, giving the match a most diplomatic result. Handsome cups were exchanged and the Persians presented each of our team with a silver cigarette case. The social part of the visit was a tremendous success after a slightly sticky start when we were struggling with our schoolboy French, and they were struggling with their consciences about the consumption of alcohol. At one party given by the Chief of Staff towards the end of the visit, English, French, German and Urdu all contributed to a hilarious evening.

In September our gunners' team went to Malta and were defeated by the Malta gunners. Jim Ashton, 3rd Carabiniers, is being posted to Malta shortly so doubtless they will defeat us again when they visit us in May.

The final of the Inter-Regimental between the 12th Royal Lancers and G.H.Q. Royal Artillery was played at Episkopi in November. The Lancers won the Inniskilling Cup after a close game and an extra chukka. Our Novice team was beaten by their captain and subalterns at Nicosia on a Sunday morning shortly afterwards. A mammoth luncheon party on the ground after the match served to mellow our double defeat.

Our local Christmas tournament was unfinished as rain made the ground unplayable for the traditional Boxing Day final, and the season then ended.

We were invited to visit Khartoum to play a return match against the Sudanese Army in February 1960. After an interminable exchange of signals with the Green Jacket Military Attachè, Teddy Phillips, our team of five with two wives left Nicosia Airport in a R.A.F. Hastings, staged at El Adem, and were ushered into the V.I.P.'s lounge at Khartoum Airport twenty-four hours later. A most memorable four days followed, during which we were guests of the Government. The programme included at least two parties a day, a cruise up the Nile in the President's launch, two excellent mornings sandgrouse shooting, and on the last evening a reception at the Sudanese Officers' Club where we were each presented with a splendid parting gift by the Deputy Chief of Staff. The ladies received leopard skin handbags and the rest of us beautifully carved ivory cigarette boxes.

Unfortunately we only played one match owing to shortage of ponies. We found the ponies and ground strange and took time to settle down, which allowed our opponents to score four goals in the first chukka. Thereafter we settled down and were only beaten 5—2 after a good,

fast, clean game. The ground in the centre of the racecourse was softish sand which made one 'press' in an effort to get length on the ball. Again a diplomatic defeat, as before we left the Sudanese were discussing where and when the deciding game should be played. At one time Cowdray Park this summer seemed popular!

Our programme for the rest of the year includes another match against the 12th Royal Lancers, a game against the Military Attachés led by Teddy Phillips during the Military Attachés Conference in early May, a visit from Malta and one from the Turkish Army. We also hope to have return matches against the Jordan and Persian Armies.

Polo on an island cannot be very high class owing to lack of opponents and facilities, but we have tremendous fun at a very low cost. The 'international' games and the social activities that go with them make up for the more serious polo of the 'good old days'.

## FISHING IN NOVA SCOTIA, 1958

CAPTAIN J. D. F. MOSTYN

PERHAPS the greatest advantage in attending a Commonwealth Staff College, as opposed to going to Camberley, is the opportunity that it affords one of meeting interesting people, seeing places that one would otherwise be unable to afford to visit, and doing things that are out of the ordinary run of life for an Englishman.

Certainly Diana and I took full advantage of this opportunity when we were at Kingston last year, and one or both of us got as far as the Rockies in the West, as far as Virginia and Washington in the South, as far as Fort Churchill on Hudson Bay in the North and as far as the wilds of Nova Scotia in the East, not to mention visits to the New England States, Montreal, Toronto, Niagara and New York. However, it is of a fishing holiday in Nova Scotia that I particularly want to write, because it is a holiday that I will remember to my dying day.

Like most large countries Canada can only be seen superficially unless one has a knowledgeable guide. I was very fortunate in meeting just such a man soon after joining the course in January 1959 when I discovered that Peter Hall-Humpherson, a fellow student, was a man after my own heart who longed for nothing more than to get out into the wilds after game or fish. Peter is an expatriate Englishman who was brought up in the wilds of Nova Scotia which he knows so well that he has qualified as a guide thereto. A feat achieved by few 'foreigners', for it requires a knowledge of the woods and woodlore, probably greater than the total combined knowledge of two first-class Highland ghillies.

It took me a long time to persuade Peter to take me into his 'territory', for like all woodsmen he is an individualist at heart, and is very wary of taking anyone 'in' who whilst professing a love of the wilds, is possibly one of the large fraternity who whilst there, do nothing but grumble at the discomfort. However, after hours of talking, and not a few drinks, I eventually persuaded him and we began to hatch our plans.

We settled for the first week in September, primarily because it was a week's 'Private Study', and secondly because it was the penultimate week of the trout season and perennially the best week on the river we intended to fish. Our leave started at lunchtime on Friday, 29th August, and ended at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 8th September; but I might add that during this week we had to prepare a paper to be handed in on the Monday morning, so in fact we had to be back in Kingston by the Friday evening at the latest.

At first sight the whole venture seemed quite impossible for it is 680 miles from Kingston to St Johns, New Brunswick, where one catches a channel steamer to Digby N.S. and from there it was a further twenty-four hours hard travelling to the West River, in the real backwoods of central Nova Scotia. However enthusiasm can overcome most obstacles and so at 2 p.m. on 29th August, we set off in my old 1952 vintage Chrysler Plymouth.

Our route lay mainly through the New England States, crossing the '1000 Island' bridge over the St Lawrence 29 miles north-east of Kingston, thence through the Adirondack mountain country of northern New York State, over Lake Champlain by ferry and through beautiful Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, re-entering Canada just short of the Atlantic seaboard in New Brunswick.

The first hours went well and by 5.30 p.m. we had covered 150 miles, when suddenly there was an ominous crack and the car developed an alarming list to starboard. We discovered on investigation that the right rear spring had broken into two pieces! This was not at all good for we had only allowed ourselves twenty hours to cover the 680 miles, and had to be in St Johns, New Brunswick, to catch the ferry by 9 a.m. the next morning (10 a.m. discounting the loss of an hour going eastwards). Here we were with a major breakdown just four hours after starting.

Despite the time of day, we found a service station who were prepared to undertake the job for us immediately, providing they could get hold of a new spring—a part they themselves did not stock. So ensued a frantic half-hour's telephoning; however we were in luck, and true to their promise we were on the road again by 7 p.m. This left us 530 miles to drive in fourteen hours, which seemed quite hopeless as it means averaging little short of 38 m.p.h. through the night. The alternative, if we missed the ferry, was a further 400 miles drive round the isthmus which joins New Brunswick to Nova Scotia, and the resultant loss of a day's fishing—not an acceptable alternative!

So we drove on through the night, stopping only to refuel, change over in the driving seat, and drink interminable cups of strong black coffee. We drove through the most desolate part of the journey as dawn was breaking, for the last lap through north-eastern Maine, before re-entering Canada, lies for exactly 100 miles through completely wild and uninhabited scrub and woods, through which roam moose, deer, bear and wildcat—all of which except deer, can be most aggressive. However all we saw was skunk, literally thousands of which walked the road, where they are a perfect nuisance, because if one is unfortunate enough to run over one, the smell will remain with the car to the breakers yard!

On recrossing the border into Canada shortly after dawn on the Saturday, we realised we still had a faint chance of catching the ferry, if we could average 50 m.p.h. for two hours, including the last lap through St Johns itself! This is the one and only part of the entire trip that I vow that I will never repeat! Suffice it to say that we caught the boat with six minutes to spare but were too late to get the car aboard.

Luckily the Bay of Fundy, which is reputedly the roughest piece of water in the world—being a cul de sac for that part of the Gulf Stream known as the North Atlantic Current—was kind to us and after an all too short four hours sleep we reached Digby at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Here we were met by Peter's brother-in-law who drove us out to the little village of Bear River—12 miles to the north-east of Digby—where we picked up Les Rice, the third member of the party.

Les Rice is a retired trapper and guide, who was the man who had taught Peter much of his woodmanship and who was coming on the trip, not in any official capacity, but merely as a friend, because to a man like Les no opportunity of going 'in' is ever passed over; despite the fact that at the time he was convalescing from a serious illness having literally burnt himself out carrying heavy loads over long distances in the woods, and was under doctor's orders not to do any carrying.

We rearranged the kit at Les' house, loaded the packs which consisted of wicker Indian baskets each holding about sixty pounds of food, clothing, sleeping bags and tackle, and then boarded Les' van in which he drove us to 'roadhead'. In this case, roadhead was the end of a track, about ten miles from Bear River, where it peters out into 'Tenth Lake' and where the real journey into the woods began, although from Bear River onwards there were few, if any, signs of habitation. Here we uncovered Peter's aluminium canoe—hidden in some bushes months before—immobilised the van, transferred our loads to the canoe and set off on a long water journey. The delights of this part of the journey are really quite beyond description—suffice it to say that for me it contained every bit as much of the element of adventure as must have accompanied the first settlers who covered the string of lakes we covered, in much the same sort of canoe, with much the same sort of food and equipment and with much the same feeling of expectancy, except that ours was perhaps centred a little more on the fishing than theirs!

We canoed the length of 10th Lake, about three miles, and portaged to 9th Lake which involved carrying all our kit and canoe across a half mile strip of land which was in fact the watershed between two series of lakes. Even with an aluminium canoe the weight of the heaviest load was about 150 pounds, which over rough going and through woods, was not

easy. For the rest of the afternoon and until long after dark our journey progressed—across 9th, 8th, 7th and 6th Lakes, and except for navigating one minor rapid between 8th and 7th Lakes, portaging between them.

I cannot describe the beauty of that evening or the feeling of contentment and expectancy I experienced. Expectancy because we travelled stealthily so that we should not disturb or miss the wonderful sights of game, fowl and fish that can be caught by surprise.

Late in the evening, Peter and Les who were paddling in the bow and stern respectively, leaving me cramped with the baskets athwart ships to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of my first day in the woods, stopped paddling, and noiselessly we drifted into a little bay half way down 6th Lake Stream—a beautiful piece of dry fly water that joined 6th and 7th Lakes. We had arrived at Les' log cabin camp which subsequently I liked to call base camp.

We spent the night at Les' camp which although it was in the depths of the woods was still six miles from our destination at West River. At 7.30 a.m. we breakfasted, again sorted our kit leaving such unnecessary items as shaving kit behind, loaded up and set off on our six mile walk. This time we were to cross the grain of the country and so did not take a canoe, there was one (called 'Lightning') already hidden on the banks of West River and we were to patch her up and use her for fishing.

That walk was most exhilarating. To accompany two such expert woodsmen through their own country, following what to me was an unidentifiable trail, was a great experience. They showed me tracks of bear, fox, moose, deer and wildcat, the shyest and yet one of the most vicious of animals. We heard moose moving through the woods some way off, and saw the most magnificent deer. The going was comparatively easy because the trail lay along a gravel ridge which was the remains of an ice age glacier, and only when we had to cross to the opposite moraine down through the extinct glacier was the going heavy, for here it was marshy. Even this part of the trek had its fascinations however, for in this marsh the only trees that grow are swamp or marsh spruce—little dwarf or miniature gnarled trees literally hundreds of years old. Around mid afternoon we reached the West River which at that point was only some four yards wide, but very deep, as its peaty coloured water flowed through 'water meadows' in the woods. Les immediately took us to 'Lightning's' hide, lashed to the boughs of two trees about ten feet off the ground, and out of the way of all marauding animals, except porcupines who for the past year had obviously used her upturned hull as a home.

We got 'Lightning' down—I had better explain that she was so



Les Rice and self loading up the canoe on 9th Lake after the portage — typical country



Self holding a nice 'two pounder'. Les Rice in background



Peter Hall Humpherson and Les Rice



In 'Lightning' on West River

christened because of the speed with which she would turn turtle when treated badly!—and quickly patched her with tar, canvas and nails, carried in by us for the purpose. She herself had been carried into West River by Les some fifteen years previously—no mean 'carry' across six miles of rough going.

By the time she was afloat and loaded it was about 5 p.m. and as we still had some five or six miles canoeing downstream to do before getting to our camping spot for the night—a tarpaulin hidden some time previously in the woods by the river—and wanted to get there by daylight, there was not a great deal of time to fish. However Les and Peter insisted that I put up my rod and cast gently as we paddled downstream. Here I must say a few words about the method of fishing and casting that we used. 'Lightning's' maximum beam was only about 18", she was about 13' long and about 10" deep at her centre point with a freeboard of about 6". The fisherman sat, or rather knelt in the bow, bracing his back against the thwart. Behind him came the three baskets of kit which just wedged in leaving leg space at either side. Immediately behind them, sitting on the floor with his legs astride the baggage and his back braced against the centre thwart, travelled the passenger. Les himself travelled in the stern, kneeling like the bowman, bracing his back against the stern piece and gently paddling. The slightest shifting of weight by any of the three would turn the canoe over, and casting and playing a fish from the bow position was indeed a fine art. Only one's arms and wrists could move, and it is not easy to make a 15–20 yard cast without shifting one's weight at all. When there was no wind I used a very light 8' 6" rod of Diana's, with a light line, but I found that when the slightest wind was blowing I had to use a much stouter 9' 6" rod with a fairly heavy line.

On both, I used an 8' cast tapered to 4<sup>3</sup> with either a tail fly alone, or more usually both a dropper and a tail fly. We used both wet and dry fly, and oddly enough caught most fish on a combination of a dry fly on the dropper and a wet fly on the tail. This was however not such a curious combination because the 'method' of fishing that both Les and Peter advised, was to cast ahead of the canoe as far as one could, and as she slowly drifted downstream to play the flies back towards one keeping the 'dropper' hopping on the surface with as much movement as possible. In this way the fish rose and took the fly clear of the water, and thus one had control of them before they got into the thick weed beds about a foot below the surface. At least that was the theory, but I must admit that we lost about thirty fish who disengaged themselves in the weeds! This however was usually unavoidable when one was playing two fish at a time—a frequent occurrence.

That first evening I got my foretaste of what was to come, for without trying very hard I landed eleven fish for supper. Their average weight was just under a pound but they played most ferociously. At about 6 p.m. we landed, erected a bivouac with the tarpaulin that we found hidden in its winter resting place, made down our communal mattress of spruce boughs (the softest yet most resilient form of woodsman's mattress) and by 8 p.m. were cooking our meal and sipping hot rum and lemon in the moonlight.

That night, through my own fault, I suffered agonies. Due to the danger of bear, Peter had brought along a revolver which I discovered had been stuck barrel downwards and fully loaded, into the top of my pack basket so as to be easily accessible. I felt distinctly uncomfortable during the walk at the thought of this gun pointing at my spine the whole time, so at the first opportunity I surreptitiously emptied the chambers. In the middle of the night I awoke to find Peter climbing out of his sleeping bag next to mine and reaching for the revolver from my pack basket. I had no need to ask him what it was all about for I soon became aware of a snuffling, and a stirring around our camp which was undoubtedly a bear! Ashamed of my earlier fear of the revolver, I could not at this stage tell Peter that it was unloaded and whilst he spent a comfortable night with a supposedly loaded revolver under his pillow I lay awake hoping he would not have to use it! However the rest of the night passed peacefully and by 8 a.m. we were up fishing for our breakfast.

The whole of that day we spent fishing downstream in the canoe. It was a perfect day and by the end of it Peter and I had each caught thirty-five fish. Their average weight was I suppose around the one pound mark, but there were many up to and over two pound mark. We kept only the smaller ones—the more tasty ones—for our meals and the remainder were returned to the water. This perhaps is the secret of the West River because it's so far 'in the blue', that only about five per cent of all the fish caught are in fact killed, the rest being returned again for future sport.

The reader might say—was not it very dull fishing after the first few were landed and it was obvious that the fish were really on the take. I can only say that these speckled trout are great adversaries, they are extremely quick, light in the mouth, cunning, fierce and sustained fighters, and you never get bored of fishing for them because it requires as much skill, concentration and resourcefulness to land the seventieth of the day as it does the first. Nor must it be thought that they were 'on the take' the entire time. On the contrary, there were long periods each day when it was a real triumph of the fly—fisherman's art to land a fish at all and

a two pounder coaxed into the canoe during one of these periods left nothing to be desired. By evening we had covered about seven miles of stream as the crow flies but about ten miles as the stream flowed. The river alternated from a rushing forest stream to a quiet 'chalk stream' through open water meadows. The latter was comparatively easy fishing but the former, through virgin forest, made casting very difficult as fallen trees and overhanging bows effectively bridged the stream. Here it was essential to use the shortest of rods and to keep one's line moving parallel and as close to the canoe as possible, about three feet above the water. Even then I lost numerous flies, and not a few fish who seemed to delight in taking a 'dropper' dangling on the water when one's tail fly was hooked fast in the overhanging spruce.

We camped that night in a tent—again one of Les' hidden caches which had been carried into West River years before and used once a year on the fishing trips—and it was the only night of the holiday that it rained. Next morning the water was considerably higher and we feared that the fish would not take; indeed they did not until mid-morning when the flood subsided and a terrific rise ensued. We were anticipating this and were perfectly situated when it began, lying at the head of the river's best pool. The next two hours were quite fabulous and between the two of us we caught fifty good sized fish, the biggest being well up to the three pound mark. When this rise was on it was immaterial what fly one used, and I was successful with at least half a dozen, both wet and dry. Les even produced a little woolly 'mouse' from his pocket, and this, played along the top of the water, just as a mouse might swim, brought up the real whales from the depths. On several occasions we were playing and landing two fish at a time, and at one stage when both of us were casting simultaneously (we only tried this once while Les held the canoe firmly to the bank), we got hopelessly entangled with four fish, but landed them all! At about 2 p.m. just as suddenly as it had begun, the rise ended. It was a suitable moment however because we had reached our farthest point of the trip and now sadly had to turn back.

As we paddled upstream that afternoon and evening, making for the tarpaulin where we had spent our first night on West River, we landed and further twenty fish and so again our day's total was seventy. Going upstream was hard work and took considerably longer than coming down, not only because of the current but also because of having to negotiate the numerous beavers' dams which on our way down we had managed to 'shoot' but which on the way up had to be portaged over. It is these same beavers' dams that over the centuries have caused these 'water meadows' in the otherwise dense coniferous forests.

The next morning we fished to fill our creel to bring out with us, as we paddled from our night's camp to 'Lightning's' hiding place, however, we had only landed eleven fish by the time we reached it. There we tied her up in the boughs of a couple of trees to weather the winter and await whoever ventured 'in' in 1959.

We saw no more game on our walk back from West River to Les' cabin, although wildcat must have been in the vicinity, for we came across their warm stools.

That night we had a farewell party in Les' cabin—a wonderful stew after living on trout for four days—and having had a tot or two of rum, we persuaded Les to call a moose. This is a fascinating game and consisted of Les making an incredible eerie and echoing bellow, the call of a cow moose, through his nose, mouth and cupped hands which reverberated away through the woods, to be answered by the deeper bellow of a bull moose somewhere out in the wilds, perhaps a mile away. Again he called, and again the bull moose answered, this time a little closer, however the third time produced no answering bellow and so I never saw a moose. It was, however, the experience of a lifetime to have heard one called by an expert like Les.

The holiday was nearly over and we eventually set out at dawn the next morning for civilisation and the long drive back to Kingston. By mid-afternoon we were back in Bear River having canoed and portaged our way out as we had come in, and incidentally catching one more fish on the way. We caught the afternoon ferry from Digby back to St Johns N.B. and again drove through the night the 680 miles back to Kingston arriving at tea-time on Friday, 5th September.

By the Monday morning I had somehow done my homework but how, I just do not know, for my thoughts were 700 miles away on the West River, reliving a unique experience and savouring again the thrill of each one of those 162 trout caught in four days.

## SKI-ING IN SCOTLAND

BY CAPTAIN M. J. MASSY-BERESFORD

A GREAT many people who ski enthusiastically in the Alps each year do not realise that there can be excellent snow for a large proportion of the winter in the Scottish Highlands. Ski-ing in Scotland is rapidly expanding year by year as more people learn of the facilities available. I was introduced to the idea quite casually about two years ago and at once resolved to try it out in practice.

There are several great advantages in ski-ing in Great Britain. First of all there is no need to worry about passports, currencies or phrase-books and all the other items connected with a continental journey. Secondly, one can get there and back on a leave warrant for the cost of a sleeper, which is very reasonable; and by eliminating the sea crossing one can leave London one evening and be ski-ing on the slopes by the middle of the following morning. Finally there is one great advantage for those in the services and that is the Rothiemurchus ski hut, which, sited on the edge of the Cairngorm mountains, can offer accommodation for any soldier and his family at the cost of 3/6 per day. This hut has been built by the Nuffield Trust, which also provides a warden, a vehicle and a considerable grant towards other maintenance costs.

In the middle of March, I was asked to join a party who intended to go for some five days to the Highlands and stay in the Rothiemurchus hut. Travelling up from London by the overnight express to Aviemore in Inverness, we were taken up the very rough track to the hut together with skis, and food for the duration of our stay. Once the truck had turned around, there was no way out except on foot, and our nearest neighbours were at Glenmore Lodge four miles away. The hut is built to hold forty people, but it so happened that it was empty except for the three of us. It is equipped with calor gas for cooking, lighting and hot-water, and the hearth burns wood which lies plentifully around. We found it a cosy enough home for the time we were there.

As soon as possible after arrival we set off to the snow. It was a very early spring which meant we had a long walk to the snow-slopes of about three miles involving a climb of about 1,500 feet. Snow in Scotland tends to fall frequently but in small quantities, and the majority is blown away from the bare exposed faces and collects in the gullies to a depth of several feet which gives an excellent ski-ing surface from December until May or June. This first day was fantastically warm for March, more like mid-summer, and it was hard work tramping across the heather

and granite towards the distant patches of white carrying in addition to skis and sticks, one's boots, lunch, spare clothing and probably a camera. The extra clothing was an insurance against the unpredictable Highland weather, and it is most strongly recommended that compass, map and food are always taken on similar expeditions. The ski-ing was well worth the effort once one was there; most days we were on the slopes by 1100, and carried through until 1600 before setting off for home. The principal run was nearly a mile long, from the summit of Cairngorm at over 4,000 feet to Jeans Hut some 1,200 feet below. One rarely made the full run more than once a day. There was surprisingly large attendances on the slopes each day, considering that everyone had that long walk up to start with, the majority coming from the district, and a few like ourselves from the south. The hotels in Aviemore run buses to the end of the road at Glenmore Lodge, and sometimes have an instructor for their classes. The view of the surrounding country was always breathtaking, as the colours changed from hour to hour. It was quite a wrench to leave those wild and lovely parts to take the train back to London. I knew I would be back.

So successful had that holiday been that we resolved to return as soon as possible. This second time the party grew to five and we planned to reconnoitre a wider variety of places by using a Dormobile for both home and transport. We collected this vehicle which was supposed to sleep four from Glasgow on 27th December 1959. We drove at once to Glencoe in Argyll where the slopes of Clachleathad rise to 3,600 feet on the south side of the glen. To reach the snow involved a very steep climb and the snow when one got there was soft and wet. Furthermore it was misty and rained and the lift worked only at week-ends, still it would be a good place to know of were one to be ever posted to Glasgow. There was an old inn at the head of the glen which seemed used to wet visitors coming in to dry out. It commanded an extensive view of the glen which must be one of the most sinister places in the country. The hills are steep and appear black with the rock and heather. They tower over the glen which narrows into a gloomy tunnel. Small wonder it has been the scene of so many dark deeds during the course of the centuries.

From Glencoe we drove by night east and north heading for Glenshee which was reputed to be one of the best places in the Highlands for snow. We reached the place the following morning but found there was a full gale blowing and the clouds were down to the level of the road. Nevertheless we gave it a try and set off for the snow which is relatively close by. After about an hour the visibility decreased and within minutes a full blizzard was raging over the hills. One could see no further than

twenty-five yards and the blown snow came with such violence that it was quite impossible to look anywhere but downwind. It was most fortunate that the car was no more than half a mile away and that one member had brought a pocket compass. We drove the car down into Braemar just before the road was blocked with snow.

The following day was bright and sunny with the fresh snow gleaming on all sides. The wind was still there and blew the snow into fantastic shapes. We returned to Glas Moal, as the best slope is called, and stayed there all day. Once again the ski-lift worked only at week-ends but with a gale blowing up the slope we found we could fix our skis like sails and almost run up. One gust was so strong I found myself ski-ing backwards uphill.

The next day was 31st December and we decided to move on to Cairngorm for our last two days. Although only a few miles from Braemar, it was a full forty miles by road, and the majority of the distance was on steep narrow roads originally built after the 1745 rebellion and not widened since. We passed Balmoral Castle on the way. We had heard before we left London that a road had been built from Glenmore to Jean's Hut and on arrival at the bottom of Cairngorm we found this to be true enough. The trouble was that it still was closed to motor traffic. However, it made the walk up to Corrie Cas a relatively easy proposition, although the first time up the wind was well over gale force and the snow on arrival was wet and soft. That night we went into Aviemore to celebrate the New Year, as usual; I did far more damage to myself during a Duke of Perth than I ever succeed in doing on skis.

By morning the wind had dropped completely and after a rather late start we arrived on the snow and skied hard until dark. The weather had changed and so also the snow conditions. The temperature fell steadily all day and by late afternoon the snow was hard and fast. I had never encountered better conditions anywhere. We walked down the road to Glenmore for the last time. By next year the road will be finished, a lift will carry one up Corrie Cas, and there will be a chalet by Jean's Hut. It is nice perhaps to have been there before the advent of these great improvements.

On the train to London, I talked to an officer who has been to the Cairngorms many times with parties of men on leave, and I have every intention of repeating my two journeys as soon as possible.

## OVERLAND FROM MALTA

BY LIEUTENANT JOHN DRACO

It was a good dinner. It must have been for I can remember nothing about it. And after it we strolled in the dusty garden behind the mess. We had just heard that we were to leave Cyprus in only a few weeks, and I was very sad at the thought of going so soon. I had not been there very long, and yet I had grown to love this island with its strange and friendly people.

All that day we had listened to explosions echoing from the town, as surrendered explosives and weapons were destroyed where they had been left by young 'terrorist' boys and girls.

As we stood looking out over the barbed perimeter wire we could see the lights of Limassol reflecting in the waters of the bay, and nearby in the village of Aya Phylla the donkeys laughed at us with their raucous whinney, as if they were glad we were going.

I must have been very sad, or very stupid, or both, because I challenged Tony Davies to a race home. I think I told him national service officers were useless, and quite rightly he disagreed. Anyway you know how that sort of thing happens, and someone else made the conditions, and everyone said it was all fixed and that was that.

I had not really meant it of course, but no one would listen to my protests and they all seemed to think it very funny. So with the laughter of officers and donkeys still jarring in my ears, I made my way slowly through the maze of guy ropes and Carab trees, and crawled into my tent.

I awoke knowing something was wrong, and then remembered my bet with Tony, but of course everyone would have forgotten about it. At breakfast all seemed well; apart from a few cracks about 'last night' no one mentioned it. I must remember not to take risks like that again I thought. And then I heard it all had been fixed, someone had approached the Commanding Officer and final approval was only required from Middle East Headquarters!

I was to take all regular soldiers, and Tony all national servicemen. Neither of us lacked volunteers and I decided to take only people in my platoon. I had a draw to decide who should go, and in the end picked L.-Cpl Scott, Rfn Harrison, Jacob and Davies.

The last few days before we sailed, amid the rush and bustle of the packing and clearing up, both parties were photographed from all angles, packing clothing and rations and holding maps of distant European countries we thought we might never reach.

The final conditions laid down were that we should sail to Malta and there be dropped, the troopship *Dunera* sailing home via Gibraltar, while our two parties raced each other and the ship, to Southampton. I believe the Commanding Officer had said that we would be absent without leave unless we beat the ship. I never discovered if this was just a threat or was really meant. Both parties were to take £10 per head.

It was a sad day when we sailed, but we were given a tremendous send off and the Governor had lunch on board before we put to sea. The band of the Royal Engineers circled us on a 'Z' craft while two other bands played on the quayside as we embarked in the little launches.

We had only two days on board, and we made the best of them. I was a little sorry, as we put in to Valetta harbour, that we would be missing the rest of the fun on board.

The Captain and the Ship's Commandant were very helpful and we were put ashore with a mass of introductions.

We were soon to discover that Malta is not an easy island to get off. It was a week-end; an American minesweeper Flotilla had just sailed for Cannes, a destroyer had left for Naples the night before and the R.A.F. expected their next plane on Tuesday. The Americans had nothing and the only suggestion was that we should hire a yacht or swim. One bright Maltese shipping agent did have a brainwave—that we should travel on a boat just leaving. We rushed outside to see—it was *Dunera*. For a moment I wished I had the face to go back on board.

As *Dunera* glided past us, through the narrow harbour entrance to the sea—and home, the Regiment lined the rails and cheered—or jeered us, and I felt my morale start sinking. We piled into a cab—one of those buggy type vehicles drawn by a moth eaten mule or horse, and were dragged in bounds, as the poor animal jerked away from its master's whip, up the steep hill to the fascinating sun baked city of Valetta. At the top we paused for a moment to watch *Dunera* sail gracefully into the haze; and I perhaps to dream of home, or at least of Naples, of shame; disgrace; dishonour!

We drove round the city and after haggling about the fare we paid half that was asked, and strode off amidst a torrent of abuse, though albeit in Maltese.

A soft drink in the sun, a stale sandwich of black bread and a Cadbury snack that smelt of garlic, and we tossed a coin. I won and was in a taxi—fare fixed first this time—en route for Hal Far, the Royal and American Naval Air Force base on the south east corner of the island. An interview followed with the Commandant in a room with three Stars and Stripes and Lincoln and Eisenhower frowning down from

opposite walls, and I learnt that a U.S. Marine Corps plane might be putting down that night, but only the pilot could decide if he would take us. Back to Valetta, and this time we all moved up to the Hal Far base.

We had an introduction to the Royal Navy, and a Commander Gray and Lieutenant Lickfield showed us that the Navy's hospitality is unsurpassed, by putting up both our parties in their barracks, and ourselves in their wardroom.

Watching the American plane land we waited hopefully as the two pilots looking about sixteen (the captain was in fact nineteen) climbed down from their flying box-car. We rushed at them before they were even on the ground. Could they take us? No, he was sorry, they had a 'Red Label' (Secret) cargo on board and could take no passengers. My heart now really sank, and we made our way silently back to the barracks to tell the waiting soldiers.

On returning to the wardroom the two Americans were waiting for us to say that a packing case on the plane had broken open and the pilot had decided that as the cargo was only 'dangerous' and not really secret, they could take us after all. Take-off was at 'eight hundred' and we were to bring our 'blood chits'.

I slept that night.

At 'eight hundred' we were waiting on the tarmac with our blood chits made out in triplicate. We took off, and as I watched the island of Malta, a golden shape below us, fade into the horizon I felt a feeling of immense relief.

I slept again.

At Naples two seven foot U.S. negro policemen tried to remove my camera, and we passed in a bus by the cloud clad might of Vesuvius, down to the city below.

We had no money, Italian money that is—because we had forgotten it would be Sunday in Naples as well as in Malta. But a dark grey man in a fake 'tourist agency' hat said he liked the English, and he found us a bureau de change and some spaghetti cheap—or rather cheap spaghetti. He wanted no reward, he did it for his love of the English, but would we give him the odd hundred lira!

We sat in the blazing sun gazing over the haze of the bay of Naples and tussled with our tangles of spaghetti. L.-Cpl Scott used scissors, and very effective they were too. A young boy of about nine sang to the crowd in the square, and his parents took round a hat for the money. We drank from large bottles of Chianti and felt sleepy.

Well, we had to get on; but how?

I tried the police station, and we all sat in a cell-like room and played cards (we had left the other party by now) while someone found a policeman who spoke English, but he had learnt it in a British prisoner-of-war camp and did not want to help. So we left. An American navy shore patrol gave us a lift, and we were held up for an hour while he took evidence in a car accident, and I held in my lap the bottles found in the drunk's car.

Five days to go and Vesuvius still peered down at us from the clouds. But eventually as night fell the Americans were again able to help us, and we were on our way to Rome.

We reached Rome in the dark, a dry and misty evening, and saw nothing but the misty outlines of huge buildings and felt around us all the massive grandeur of the city. We left by train on reduced rate tickets someone managed to produce for us.

Passing by Pisa in the dark the floodlights left the leaning tower poised as if to fall.

We found hitch-hiking most difficult, for unlike the national servicemen none of my party had travelled anywhere before and we could not therefore split up.

But at last we came to Genoa, a long white city on the sea with a wide swept beach and brightly coloured houses and everywhere with washing hanging out, and here we found the people much more helpful, they were kind and offered us advice and stared.

A policeman spoke French and I tried mine and he replied in Italian, which I do not understand, so we started all over again and got nowhere. Jacob and Harrison bought rolls and coffee and again we drank Chianti in the sun and watched the sea and felt sleepy.

A bus then brought us to Milan and someone gave us coffee. It was here that we had a meal on the fourth floor of a little tenement in the centre of the city. We paid three shillings each and waited. Suddenly in front of each of us was placed a bowl of steaming spaghetti, and the sauce was wonderful. We just sat and ate, each with a half bottle of chianti, and when two other courses were served and finally fruit salad with fresh mangoes and cream, I waited for another bill. But no, it was only three shillings—for the English.

We visited the Cathedral which is most majestic and although it stands in the middle of this grand and massive city still seems large. Outside the children and the street hawkers stand shouting on the steps but inside is a mystic quiet, a humbling vaulted peace.

For a second time we took a train and slept, for we had nowhere else to sleep. But we chose the wrong stage, for we were cooking with some of

us sleeping on the racks, when the guard or conductor came in. He did not like the cooking or the sleeping (on the racks, that is) and kept muttering 'politzei' or 'Carabinieri', and only went away when I found some cigarettes.

On again, for time flies, and we passed by the road through the Alps. The sun sets early here, hidden by the massive snowcapped peaks on either side. The wind was cold and the glaciers glanced down on us as we moved down to the Lake of Geneva. Geneva was fresh, clean and cold. And we were lucky and managed to move into France that same night.

Paris, and we arrived in the morning after a short train journey, was clouded in a heavy mist as we took a bus from the Gare de Lyon over the river and up to the Eiffel Tower. As we stood shivering slightly in the cold morning mist, watching the waters of the Seine, I tried to remember my history and to answer the many questions of my party. We spent two hours walking in the gardens of the Tuilleries and under Notre Dame—and we had an English breakfast by the river.

I was happy, for at last I knew we could be home in time.

Our last few coins were spent on food and wine and our train and boat fare to Dover. We have been accused of cheating here, but no one has suggested an alternative method of getting five people across the Channel, and we had little money for food and nowhere to sleep.

We left Paris in the same cold morning and wished that we could have spent more time and seen it better.

A smooth and hungry crossing of the Channel and we were home. We had all enjoyed ourselves but were greatly relieved to be back at last. At Dover we made our own ways home for three days well-earned leave, and I sent a cable to the ship.

We met on the dockside as *Dunera* sailed in. The national servicemen had only just arrived, so the regulars won, and no one would believe it, for we had made it in just three and a half days.

## WITH THE FRENCH IN ALGERIA

BY 2ND LIEUTENANT N. C. BENNETT

WHILE I was still at Sandhurst I was invited by a former French liaison officer to spend a fortnight in Algeria with a battalion of a French Metropolitan Infantry Regiment, stationed near Oran. I accepted and left for Paris on the 27th December to obtain a visa for Algeria from the Prefecture de la Police. I spent an extremely harassing afternoon here filling in countless forms in triplicate and passing from office to office arguing with the female harridans who formed the staff. Eventually I arrived in the office of the chief harridan who eyed my various documents sceptically and sent for an interpreter to translate the adjutant's letter granting me leave to visit Algeria. Here at last was my chance for the interpreter, ignorant and bewildered, could only translate if I explained the difficult parts. The chief harridan smiled, wrote out a visa, and two days later I arrived at Oran in perfect weather.

A national service second lieutenant had been sent to meet me with a jeep to take me a hundred miles south to Bedeau where the battalion had its headquarters. Until one reaches Sidi-bel-Abbes the countryside is almost European. Mingled with the characteristic low stone houses and dusty streets of Southern France are smart new buildings standing in walled formal gardens and large ultra modern blocks of flats and offices. South of Sidi-bel-Abbes the countryside becomes dryer and interspersed with rocky hills and woods of stunted trees and south of Bedeau the countryside is barren, sandy plain, broken up by forbidding looking ranges of mountains. Between Sidi-bel-Abbes and Bedeau the road is guarded by hussars in tanks (M 48) and half tracks.

The garrison of Bedeau includes elements of a Metropolitan infantry battalion and a battalion of Zouaves. The remainder of the two battalions are spread over an area of 2,000 square miles around Bedeau. Zouaves are mixed colonial troops. European and Arab; they wear scarlet field service caps and dark blue cummerbands and the unit in camp had several half tracks mounting Beza machine guns and searchlights. The camp consisted of several stone buildings and tents surrounded by a low uncemented stone wall which was reinforced with an apron of barbed wire which would certainly offer an easy way over the wall to an agile and determined man. An incomplete outer cattle fence was sited thirty feet outside the main defences.

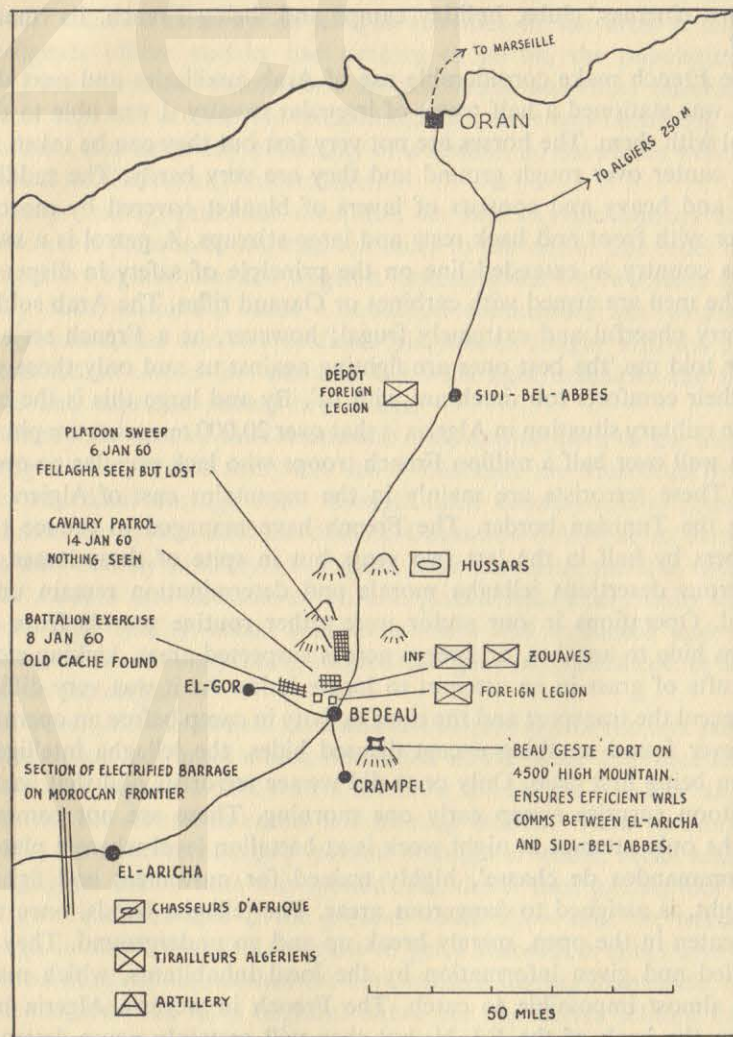
The atmosphere in the mess was friendly enough but Christian names were not used and there were several small tables instead of a communal

one. I found that French officers could be divided into three categories. Firstly there is the regular officer, usually from St Cyr, who is much the same as his British counterpart except that he is probably older; one finds few young regular subalterns. The second category comprises the national service and short service officers. I was surprised to find that many of them are almost thirty years old and have already made their mark in civilian life; they comprised the larger proportion of officers. The third category, the backbone of the army, consisted of the warrant officers and the platoon and company commanders who have risen from the ranks. These officers have had tremendous war experience, in World War II, Indo-China, Algeria and often in Morocco, Tunisia, Korea and Suez as well. They are very competent soldiers and I had a great respect for them as such. However they are political extremists with a great contempt for all politicians, except de Gaulle, and are intensely chauvinistic. By and large they think that the Anglo-Saxons are 'salauds qui nous tirent toujours aux jambes' and for the rest of the world they feel either dislike or contempt.

The garrison fed incredibly well but the hygiene was sketchy. There were no showers, and I was obliged to wash in the mess kitchen in company with the washing up from the previous meal.

The French soldiers were a very cheerful and likeable lot but they do not shave regularly and they are inclined to be casual with their officers. After seeing them in operations I came to the conclusion that they were competent and fairly tough but, unless inspired, it was difficult to keep their interest. They are not as well paid as British soldiers.

However, across the valley, quartered in a modernised Beau Geste fort, were soldiers of a very different calibre. Here was an N.C.O.'s cadre unit of the Foreign Legion. Their officers are almost all regulars and the top few from St Cyr always go to the Legion; some of the senior N.C.O.s have been through so much that they are exempt from going into action again. The men are as tough, self-confident and practised soldiers as I have seen anywhere. About half of them were hard looking young Germans, while most of the rest were Spaniards and Italians; there were also a considerable number of east Europeans, notably Hungarians. I saw an Englishman, a Canadian and a Scot, from whom I learnt a great deal about the Legion. I was able to accompany them training, marching and on operations which I found most interesting. Their barracks are just as clean, polished and whitewashed as any British barracks and the soldiers' rooms are very smart. There is a vigorous and compelling moral about the Legion. It is a wonderful sight to watch the platoons marching back in the red evening light with their kepis and rifles correctly aligned



singing in unison and marching at eighty paces to the minute, kicking their feet high in the air. The excellent food, amenities and pay—more than twice as much as the French conscript—and the hard but not unattractive life makes recruiting no problem at all. The Legion also has its own cinemas, clubs, holiday camps and, being French, its 'maison close'.

The French make considerable use of Arab auxiliaries and next door to us was stationed a half troop of irregular cavalry. I was able to do a patrol with them. The horses are not very fast but they can be taken at a brisk canter over rough ground and they are very hardy. The saddle is large and heavy and consists of layers of blanket covered by morocco leather with front and back rests and large stirrups. A patrol is a sweep across country in extended line on the principle of safety in dispersion and the men are armed with carbines or Garand rifles. The Arab soldiers are very cheerful and extremely frugal; however, as a French serjeant-major told me 'the best ones are fighting against us and only those who like their comforts too much are with us'. By and large this is the case.

The military situation in Algeria is that over 20,000 terrorists are pinning down well over half a million French troops who lack popular co-operation. These terrorists are mainly in the mountains east of Algiers and along the Tunisian border. The French have managed to reduce their numbers by half in the last two years but in spite of these losses and numerous desertions jellagha morale and determination remain unimpaired. Operations in our sector were either routine patrols from one known hide to another, or sweeps across suspected areas, kicking stones and tufts of grass in an attempt to locate hides. As it was very difficult to conceal the transport and the extra activity in camp before an operation we never found anything except disused hides, the jellagha intelligence system being first class. Only once did we see terrorists and that was on a platoon surprise sweep early one morning. These are not common, and the only attempt at night work is at battalion level where a platoon of 'commandos de chasse', highly trained for movement and fighting by night, is assigned to dangerous areas. The jellagha bands, once they are beaten in the open, merely break up and go underground. They are supplied and given information by the local inhabitants, which makes them almost impossible to catch. The French in western Algeria have broken the back of the F.L.N. but they will certainly never destroy it entirely while there is such an efficient auxiliary movement. If they try to reduce their garrisons, the terrorists will simply begin their activities once more as they have recently done south of Algiers. It is important to remember that these are the hard core of active jellagha. Then there are

the auxiliaries who supply, inform and support them whilst invariably possessing French papers, and a population, passive for the most part, but sympathising more with the rebels. Out of seven principal headmen in Bedeau only two at the most were 100 per cent loyal to France and the rest turned a blind eye to jellagha activities in the area. A harassed intelligence officer said he had nothing to go on, the population was very passive and any information he did receive was either unreliable or several days out of date. He complained that there was no money to pay informers and never any possibility of a reward, so the Arabs were never tempted to disclose any information.

The prevailing quiet was deceptive, for one day the hussars clashed with a rebel platoon in the hills ten miles to the north. The rebel leader, a legendary figure, who had waged a successful war for two years against heavy odds, cornered, killed a squadron commander and wounded a troop commander and two soldiers. His platoon fought with the utmost determination and a few escaped, but with light casualties the French killed and captured twenty-two rebels.

To stop the flow of reinforcements, arms and supplies to the terrorists in Algeria, the French army has had to blockade the Moroccan frontier. This electrified barrage runs through open country and is constantly patrolled by spotter aircraft, dashing Chasseurs d'Afrique in armoured cars and also by infantry. At regular intervals along the line there are radar stations and batteries of H.A.A. guns. The artillery units were of a very high quality, clean, well-trained and well organised and within four minutes of enemy being located the gunners guaranteed to land a shell on the target.

However, life was not all work and as dusk fell one of the best pastimes was shooting the hares which abounded in the area. The practice was to use two jeeps, the first with a driver, a searchlight operator and two guns and the second as escort and homing beacon. When we reached a suitable area the second jeep parked among the wadis, rocks and tufts of alfa grass until a hare was spotted. The driver then put his foot down and gave chase as fast as the ground would allow until we were close enough to slow down for the guns to get a reasonable shot; afterwards one could taxi up and collect the hare without leaving the vehicle. Sometimes the hare led us a frightful dance but the driver seldom braked. There were also hyenas, jackals and gazelles but they were not so common.

Before I left I was invited to lunch in company with some French officers at the tent of a 'regroupment' leader. These 'regroupments' are tented villages peopled by former nomads, who for military reasons were

concentrated and settled in areas where they could live permanently instead of wandering. The leader is an Arab of considerable importance. We solemnly shook hands with the town council and went into the leader's tent where we sat very comfortably on rugs and cushions with a large brass tray acting as a table in the middle. The first course was a kind of fried cake made with millets and not unlike Yorkshire pudding, and there were heavily sugared glasses of green tea to drink with it. Next came sheep's offal roasted on wires over a wood fire and tasting delicious and then, in steaming appetizing glory, a whole spitted roast sheep. One eats it with the left three digits of one's right hand only and, although I burnt my fingers on the first sally, we all managed to have a first class main meal. Again more green tea and heavy spiced bread. Then grinning from ear to ear the headman appeared staggering under a basin of couss-couss, which is a kind of granulated flour, eaten with red hot sauce. Lastly, oranges and coffee, drunk with peppers and sugar and a very drawn out conversation.

Before I left the bright sunny weather turned to a fierce wind which first blew up a sandstorm and blew down tents, ripped the tiles from the roofs and blocked every pipe in the camp, later this turned to a blizzard. The temperature dropped alarmingly and there were several inches of snow on the ground and a continual snow storm. The car I was travelling in to Sidi-bel-Abbes nearly got snowed in and it was only the timely arrival of a snow plough which got us there. Here the Legion has its main depot with vast, palatial barracks, its fascinating museum and a sumptuous central mess. I left Oran, a super modern town and very European, after spending two days there and I arrived home without incident.

The total cost of the trip was something over forty pounds for any would-be visitor to Algeria, but I certainly think this is worth it and I would always be glad to render any assistance to anyone wishing to visit French North Africa. I should like to express my sincere thanks to all the French soldiers and officers I met in Algeria for their friendliness and willing co-operation throughout my visit.

### LIEUT.-COL. SIR R. G. A. LEVINGE, BT

LEVINGE was a man of many parts, soldier, sportsman, author, artist, and member of parliament, but of his actual service in the Regiment only the dates of ensigncy, promotion, and retirement survive. In his history of the Regiment he remains anonymous, nor is he mentioned in the Digest of Services.

He was born on the 1st November 1811, the eldest son of Sir Richard Levinge, 6th baronet of Knockdrin Castle, Westmeath. His mother was Elizabeth Anne, eldest daughter and eventually co-heiress of Thomas Boothby, 1st Lord Rancliffe. He was proud of his Saxon origin and of the Kentish roots of his family which had settled there in pre-Conquest times: in fact, one of his ancestors of the same name, Lyfing, was archbishop of Canterbury from 1013 to 1020 and crowned Canute King of England in 1017. Another was bishop of Worcester in 1040.

Sir Walter Levinge, of Baddesley Ensore and Hatton, was a soldier of the Cross and fought under Richard I at the battle of Ascalm or Arsuf in 1191. He returned a palmer from the Holy Land and assumed the three escallops, which his descendants have borne ever since: the ancient coat of Levinge being Vert, a chevron or.

The first baronet, who was created in 1704, held among many appointments that of speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and it was he, who bought the Westmeath estates and died in 1744.

Richard Levinge purchased an ensigncy in the 43rd on the 25th November 1828 and joined at Gibraltar, when the Regiment had been there five years. In 1831 in consequence of the unrest in Lancashire due to the industrial revolution, the Regiment arrived hurriedly in England and was stationed at Wigan and Newcastle under Lyme. Some three years were then spent in southern Ireland during where on the 8th April 1834 he was promoted a lieutenant.

He sailed with the left-wing of the Regiment in H.T. *Parmelia* from the Cove of Cork, on the 5th June 1835 for St Johns, New Brunswick, where he arrived on 22nd July. He marched across the Portage of the Madawaska to Quebec in December 1837, a feat which earned for the Regiment the not easily won praise of the Duke of Wellington. It is interesting to note that the movements of the 43rd were directed by Sir John Colborne, commander-in-chief in Canada.

On the 15th May 1840 he was promoted captain on the unattached list, and three years later appointed to the 5th Dragoon Guards, whereon the very same day he retired.

On the 3rd January 1846, he became a lieutenant-colonel in the Westmeath Rifles, and two years later on the death of his father he succeeded as 7th baronet. By now he must have been a well-known local figure as he was appointed high sheriff for his county in 1851: he was already a magistrate and later deputy lieutenant.

In the two general elections of 1857 and 1859 he successfully contested the Westmeath constituency. He died at Brussels on the 28th September 1884: he was twice married but leaving no heir he was succeeded by his brother. His descendants still own estates in southern Ireland.

His skill as an artist is represented in the 43rd Mess by two original water colours, 'The 43rd Light Infantry as They Turn Out in Their Sleighs at The Falls of Niagra 1839', and 'The Meeting of the Sleigh Club at the Right Wing of the 43rd Light Infantry, St Johns, New Brunswick'. Both these were engraved by Alken, the famous sporting artist, and published by Maclean some ten years later. These two coloured lithographs are now collectors pieces, due to the prestige of the engraver and their popularity by visitors from North America.

He had a straightforward style of painting with a good sense of colour and a happy knack of positioning his figures to the best advantage. These works are so similar to that of William Robert Herries, a brother officer, who fell at Moodkee, and to those of H.S. Davis, 52nd, that it can be presumed that that was the popular style of the day.

His published books as listed in the British Museum Library are:

1. *Echoes from the Backwoods or Sketches of Transatlantic Life*. Two volumes—London 1846. New edition with illustrations by the author—London, 1859.

2. *A Day with the Brookside Harriers at Brighton*.—London 1858. (This copy not available: destroyed by German bombs.)

3. *Historical Records of the Forty-Third Regiment*.—London 1868. (The great value of this book is the list of officers with their services: it is a great pity Moorsom did not do the same.)

4. *Jottings for an Early History of the Levinge Family*. Part I—Dublin 1873. Printed for private circulation.

(Authorities—Levinge's own Works, Burke's Peerage, D.N.B., and *The Times* of the 30th September 1884.)

J.B.J.

## OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION 1959

THE attendance of Old Comrades at the Regimental 'At Home' day on Saturday, 11th July, was slightly less than in previous years and it probably was because it was held at the University College Cricket Ground on the Abingdon Road instead of at Cowley Barracks. But as the Depot has left the barracks the cricket ground cannot be maintained, hence the reason for holding the 'At Home' on the College ground which is pleasantly situated and cars can be parked there. Permission has been obtained for the 'At Home' to take place there next year.

The weather during the morning was not very promising and there was some doubt whether cricket could be played as there was a steady drizzle. At midday however, the sky cleared, the sun came out and cricket started just before lunch.

Eighty-two Old Comrades and wives sat down to an excellent tea and all agreed that it had been a very pleasant afternoon. The day ended with a marching display by the Regimental Band and Buglers.

The London Reunion took place at the Headquarters of the 21st S.A.S. Regiment (Artists) T.A., Dukes Road, Euston, on Saturday, 10th October. Ninety-three members attended and the following officers were present:

The Colonel of the Regiment (Chairman), Lieut.-General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Colonels P. Booth and R. A. St G. Martin, O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonels F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M. (Vice-Chairman), R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., and M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., Majors C. A. Brown, P. J. Durant, M.B.E., J. W. Meade, J. L. Naimaster and R. H. L. Philpin, Captains F. S. Barrow, A. H. Morley and R. O. Scott, O. T. O'Neill, Esq.

Major D. O. Dixon, late of the Royal Army Educational Corps was the guest of the members.

A small string orchestra from the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) played during the evening.

The Colonel of the Regiment spoke to the gathering and gave the latest news of the Regiment. He asked all Old Comrades to do anything they could to encourage young men of the right type to enlist in the Regiment as recruits were urgently needed in view of the ending of national service in 1962.

The oldest Old Comrade present was Mr A. W. Slaymaker who is aged 82. He was a member of the old 4th Militia Battalion and volunteered for active service with the contingent of that Battalion that served with the 43rd in the South African War. He received the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps. On the disbandment

of the Militia in 1908 he transferred to the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion. Early in 1915 he was drafted to the 52nd in France and served with it throughout the war.

The next oldest member was R.S.M. Alfred Clare, brother of the Vice-Chairman. He served with the Regiment from 1896 to 1918 and saw service with the 52nd in the Indian Frontier Campaign of 1897-98, and with the 43rd in the South Africa War.

During the evening a telegram of good wishes was received from General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

The Oxford Reunion was held on Saturday, 7th November, and as Cowley Barracks was no longer available the Officer Commanding the Territorial Battalion kindly gave permission for the reunion to take place at the new T.A. Headquarters, Marston Road. This very modern building was ideal for the function and every assistance was given by Major B. Cox, the Quartermaster and the permanent staff to make it the great success it was. The newly-formed Battalion Band, under its Bandmaster, Mr F. Bagwell, played during the evening.

The Annual General Meeting was held immediately before the reunion, Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., Vice-Chairman, presided.

This year again the attendance was three hundred and it was gratifying to see very many more of the younger generation present, and also a number of serving members from Warminster. Unfortunately there was a fog that night which prevented some from attending, including Lieut.-Colonel E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., who seldom misses a reunion.

Officers present were: The Colonel of the Regiment, Colonels H. J. C. Ducat-Hammersley and R. A. St G. Martin, O.B.E., Lieut.-Colonels F. Clare, M.B.E., D.C.M., R. B. Crosse, D.S.O., J. Granville, M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., D. H. Morris, T.D., W. A. Ramsay and J. H. Lawton Smith, M.B.E., T.D., Majors A. V. Brown, R. A. Colvile, T.D., F. J. Connell, S. A. G. Cox, M.B.E., P. J. Durant, M.B.E., M. G. A. Hay-Will, G. Montagu-Jones, T.D., R. H. L. Philpin, J. R. Ruck Keene, Captains W. M. Cracknell, B. Cox, B. Dudley, P. J. Palmer and N. L. Smith, W. T. Aldworth, Esq. Majors P. N. Janes, D. C. Taylor and Captain D. W. Sutherland started out by car from London, but had to turn back because of the fog.

During the evening the Colonel of the Regiment presented Lieut.-Colonel F. Clare with a writing desk, which was a gift from the members in recognition of the work he has done for the Association over the past fourteen years. The Colonel then gave an address and spoke of the activities of the Regiment, including the Territorial Battalion, during the year.

This was quite the best reunion held at Oxford since the war and the attendance next year will most likely be much greater.

## MARRIAGES

THISTLETHWAYTE—HERRIDGE, at St Margaret's, Westminster, Captain Seymour Evelyn Thistlethwayte, 1st Green Jackets 43rd and 52nd, eldest son of the late Mr A. D. C. T. and the Hon. Mrs Thistlethwayte, to Nana Christina, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. H. Herridge, of West Byfleet, Surrey.

SMITH—RUSH, at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton Road, London, Mr Kenneth James Smith, 1st Green Jackets 43rd and 52nd, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Smith, to Julitha Margaret, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs L. H. Rush, of Perth, Western Australia.

## OBITUARIES

COLONEL JOHN ARTHUR BALLARD, D.L., of Over Worton House, Middle Barton, Oxon, died on the 2nd November 1959, after a short illness. He was born at Plymouth, on the 10th March 1878, the son of Major John Fane Ballard, 32nd (Cornwall) Light Infantry, and Mary Clerke Brown. He was educated at Eton College, and was gazetted to the Regiment from the Militia on the 1st December 1897, joining the 1st Battalion at the Curragh: he became a lieutenant on the 4th January 1899, and sailed with the 1st Battalion for South Africa at the end of the year.

He saw active service with the mounted infantry from May to November 1900 in the Orange River Colony, where he was slightly wounded: then in the Transvaal from December 1900 to July 1901, and finally in the Orange River Colony again in December 1900 and from July 1901 to May 1902. For these services he received the Queen's medal with three clasps and the King's with two.

On his promotion to captain on the 23rd June 1903, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion with whom he served till 1909 when he was appointed adjutant of the Special Reserve Battalion for three years. In May 1914 he became adjutant of the 4th Battalion and went to France with it in March 1915, becoming a major on the 1st September. He commanded the 17th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers from 15th November 1915 to March 1917, with the rank of temp. lieut.-colonel, and the 2/4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment from April 1917 to February 1918: he was twice mentioned in Despatches. On the 22nd May 1918 he became second-in-command of an officer cadet battalion and rejoined the 2nd Battalion after the war in Cork. He retired on the 13th January 1921 with the rank lieut.-colonel.

On the 17th February 1922 he joined the 4th Battalion as a major, succeeding to command on the 7th October 1928: four years later he was appointed brevet-colonel in the T.A. Reserve of Officers on his second retirement. On the 14th July 1914 he married Pearl Audrey Lenore Mitchell, sister of Major C. J. Mitchell, D.S.O., a brother officer; their son, Major J. F. Ballard, is in the Regiment.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Bertram Long, M.C., T.D., writes: 'There can hardly be a town or village in Oxfordshire where his name will not be recalled with respect and affection. Equally it may well be that at times his eloquent acerbity will be remembered—with unholy joy—by many men who came to know and appreciate his unselfish devotion to duty and his

unfailing regard for the welfare of the men under his command. It would be difficult to imagine a harder taskmaster, or a more exacting trainer of young troops, men and officers: and no one who served in the 4th Battalion in the first year or more of the Kaiser's war is likely to have forgotten the astringent quality of his tongue: equally no one who was present at the first reunion after the war in Keble Hall of the old comrades of that battalion is ever likely to forget the overwhelming reception he got when he rose to speak. For years thereafter he was a member of the T.A. Association, and for years also the most popular and dearly loved figure at the annual reunion of the old comrades of the 4th Battalion.

He had many other activities as chairman of the Chipping Norton R.D.C., as a magistrate, as an officer of the Home Guard during Hitler's war, to say nothing of his hunting and shooting interests both in north and south Oxfordshire.

The writer ventures to think that throughout Oxfordshire he will be chiefly remembered for his obvious and sincere devotion to the territorial battalion, so peculiarly representative of Oxfordshire, that he had trained and that has always freely acknowledged that whatever merit they exhibited, whatever distinction they achieved in the Kaiser's war, were mainly due to his endeavours and unselfish service.'

CAPTAIN SIR THOMAS COSPATRICK HAMILTON-SPENCER-SMITH, BARONET, died very suddenly on the 14th October 1959 at his home, Little Suttons, Stapleford Tawnay, Essex. He was the elder son of Sir Drummond Cospatrick Hamilton-Spencer-Smith, O.B.E., fifth baronet, and his first wife, Roma, daughter of Anthony Hope of Timaru, New Zealand, and was born the 8th December 1917. He was educated at Eton College, and after passing through Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Regiment on the 27th January 1938: after a year with the 1st Battalion, he joined the 2nd in India on the 17th January 1939.

He saw active service in north western Europe in 1944 and 1945, and was promoted captain on the 27th January 1946. From the 28th June to the 10th August 1947 he was Staff Captain, H.Q. Gold Coast Area, going on half-pay on the 24th February the next year: three days later he retired on account of a disability. He was in possession of the 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, and War Medal 1939-45.

On the 15th June 1944 he married Lucy Ashton, daughter of Thomas Ashton Ingram: the baronetcy now passes to their only son born on the 18th March 1947.

MAJOR FRANCIS JOSEPH HENLEY died on the 6th September 1959, at his home in Dunkeld, Johannesburg, in his 91st year and was, as his father, the oldest officer in the Regiment at the time of his death. His father also reached the age of 90 and his obituary notice is in the 1923 CHRONICLE. Francis Joseph was born at Brighton on the 28th November 1869, the eldest son of Captain Arthur Henley, late 52nd, and Margaret, only daughter of Joseph John Gore, of Derrymore, Co. Clare.

After Winchester and Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Regiment on the 18th February 1891 and joined the 1st Battalion at Gosport. Promoted Lieutenant on the 27th July 1892, he served at the Regimental Depot for two years before receiving his captaincy on the 21st September 1899. In December of the same year he sailed with the Regiment for South Africa and first saw active service in Cape Colony till February 1901. He fought in the Transvaal from March to May and again from September to May 1902. He was A.D.C. to Lord Milner, High Commissioner for South Africa, from 1901 to 1903 and was appointed brevet major on the 22nd August 1902. Three times mentioned in despatches, he also received the Queen's Medal with four clasps. Repatriated in 1902, he resigned on the 9th March 1904.

On the transfer of the headquarters of the Jockey Club of South Africa to Johannesburg in 1904, he became its first secretary, a position he held till 1931. In 1904 he was also appointed secretary to the Johannesburg Turf Club and the Johannesburg Pony and Galloway Club, now the Transvaal Racing Club, these positions he held till 1946. He also acted as agent to the British Bloodstock Agency.

One South African newspaper said of him that he was a racing administrator of outstanding ability and that he played a big part in moulding the Jockey Club of South Africa into the efficient organization it was to-day. He was more than the secretary to the Jockey Club he was an integral part of it and his services to South Africa would long be remembered.

After his retirement he kept in touch with all his former racing activities. He was a great frequenter of the Rand Club and his usual wearing of a Regimental tie made him easily spotted. For many years he invariably swam two lengths of the bath every day. Whenever he was in England he attended the Regimental dinner, and always evinced great interest in those much, much younger than himself.

He married on the 18th November 1902, at Dunlavin church, Rose, youngest daughter of the late Captain C. G. Rochfort, Rochfort Bridge, Westmeath, and stepdaughter of Colonel Tynte, C.B., Tynte Park, Dunlavin. She died in 1951. They are survived by a son and daughter.

2ND LIEUT. DAVID ORR-DEAS died instantly on 9th December 1959, when his car was in collision with a lorry near Devizes. He was the son of A. T. Orr-Deas of Seal Chart, near Sevenoaks, Kent. He was born on 21st December 1937 and was educated at Gordonstown. After passing through Mons O.C.S., he was commissioned into the Regiment, joining in Cyprus on 18th January 1959.

David was a very enthusiastic person with a pleasant sense of humour. He lived and played hard, and climbing held a particular interest for him. He was a very good hockey player, who gave of his best the whole time, and who could always be relied upon to produce that little extra bit when it was needed. He was very popular amongst all ranks. He will be greatly missed as an officer and as a very good friend.

He was cremated at the Crematorium, Charing, Kent, on 14th December 1959. The Commanding Officer, representing the Regiment, laid a wreath on behalf of all ranks of 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of Letter 'A' Company and the band. The School of Infantry was represented by Captain Edward Jones from Hythe. Lieut.-Colonel Dick Flower, Rifle Brigade, represented the Brigade Colonel who was unable to be present.

MAJOR GEOFFREY KEITH ROSE, M.C., died in harness at his home at Ipsden, Oxon, on the 2nd June 1959 in his 70th year. He was a barrister by profession and a distinguished front line soldier in the Kaiser's War.

He was born on the 27th October 1889, the younger son of T. H. Rose of Oxford. He had a fine academic career which began at the Dragon School and was followed by a scholarship at Harrow, and another at Kings, Cambridge. He went down with a first in history and a second in the Law Tripos in 1911. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple the next year with a first class and certificate of honour in the examination, and joined the Oxford Circuit.

Commissioned in the 4th Bn on the 6th August 1914, he went to France with them in the spring of the following year and was promoted Captain in October. A mention in despatches on New Year's Day 1916 was followed a fortnight later by the award of the Military Cross for his services at Ploegsteert (Plugstreet).

In the summer of 1916 he was cross-posted to the 2/4th Bn at Laventie. On the 28th February 1917, German storm troops raided his battalion position at Ablaincourt using poison gas and Rose was trapped in his Company H.Q. dug-out. He fought his way out, killing three Germans

with four shots from his pistol: after an hour's struggle through the mud and darkness he joined two of his platoons.

His revenge came exactly two months later when he planned and led a raid at Fayet for which he won a bar to his Military Cross, and Company Serjeant-Major E. Brooks, formally of the Grenadier Guards, won the first Victoria Cross for the Regiment in that war. The enemy they fought that night were the same battalion of Jaegers, who had attacked them on the 28th February.

He finished the war as second-in-command, and in 1920 published a very readable story of the 2/4th, in which his share in the fighting is most modestly told.

In January 1934, he was appointed a Metropolitan Police Magistrate and most of his career in that field was spent at the Lambeth Court. He was a competent water colour artist and some of his work is to be seen in the Imperial War Museum. He had always been a regular subscriber to Regimental Funds.

Several tributes were paid to his humanity and ability, and at Bow Street, Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, said of him, 'We, who knew him, knew him as a magistrate of great experience, completely conscientious, equable, and always fair'.

Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Wetherall, his old commanding officer, writes; 'I took over command of the 2/4th during April 1914 when it was holding a sector of the front line trenches during the battle of Arras. It is a long time ago—I have forgotten many but I remember Rose very well, not only because he was one of my company commanders but because he was the sort of person one does remember. A battle inevitably leads to some confusion but I recollect that Major Rose had things well under control, in fact his qualities that I remember were his tidiness of mind and his steadfastness in action.'

He was buried at his home and his old battalion provided a bearer party, their adjutant, Major E. R. R. Hicks, representing the Regiment.

COLONEL WILLIAM EDWARD CECIL TERRY died on the 24th May 1959, at his home at Brockenhurst: he was born on the 6th July 1887, the son of Colonel William Terry, J.P., of Lullworth, Aylesbury, and Laura Barbarie, daughter of C. L. Throckmorton of New Jersey. His father served in the Royal Bucks Militia from 1884 to its disbandment in 1908: he commanded for the last five years, and died on the 8th May 1925.

He was at Winchester in 1901 before going to the R.M.C. Sandhurst in 1905. Gazetted into the Regiment on the 4th May 1907, he joined the

2nd Battalion in June pending posting to the 1st Battalion, with whom he arrived in March the next year. He became a lieutenant in 1910 and two years later left Burma for England on leave. He joined the 2nd Battalion in 1913 on cross-posting, and was one of the first officers to own a motor car. On the outbreak of the war he went to France as staff captain of the 5th Inf. Bde, being promoted captain in 1915.

He was G.S.O. 3 with the Expeditionary Force for six months from May 1915, and a staff captain again for the first six months of 1916. In October he joined the 1st Battalion at Amara in Mesopotamia and took over command of Letter 'C' Company in which capacity he remained till February 1918 when he became D.A.Q.M.C. at Hillah Hindiyah District. He was repatriated in November and mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of the 21st February 1919.

In the summer of 1919 he joined the 2nd Battalion at Cork and later became president of the quartering committee with the temporary rank of major. From this appointment he became D.A.Q.M.G. 6th Division, and two years later was specially employed as a brigade major under the government of Northern Ireland. 1923 saw him adjutant of the Buckinghamshire Battalion, where he remained till the end of the year. He retired in 1924, but commanded the Queen's Westminster Civil Service Rifles for four years from November 1930: on relinquishment of this command he was appointed a brevet colonel in the Territorial Army and joined the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers.

He served as a King's Messenger from May 1942 to 1950 when ill health caused his resignation. In the 1930's he was on the committee of the Naval and Military Club during a period when many improvements were carried out. He was of the quiet type and spent the latter years of his service on the staff.

On the 30th September 1919 he married Edith N. F. Palmer, who survives him.

MAJOR WILLIAM PATRICK WARNOCK died at Newport, Monmouthshire, on the 22nd March 1959. He was born on the 26th April 1897 and enlisted in the Dragoons of the Line on his eighteenth birthday: some six weeks later he transferred to the Shropshire Light Infantry. On the 16th March 1917 he transferred to the Regiment and embarked for Mesopotamia where he fought till the end of the war: so started a connection with the 1st Battalion that was to last thirty-two years.

He was in North Russia from May to September 1919, and ten years after his enlistment was promoted to warrant rank and appointed company serjeant-major to the late Major G. F. Plowden. Three years later

he succeeded C. T. Moody as regimental quartermaster-serjeant and served under E. Smith, the quartermaster, for ten years. In 1938 he became quartermaster on 21st August, a post he held with the 1st Battalion for eleven years.

During Hitler's War he was in Flanders 1939-40 and in north west Europe in 1944-45. After service in Trieste and the British Army of the Rhine 1946-49, he was appointed to the 4th Battalion where he stayed till his retirement at the age of 55, after thirty-seven years service.

He received the British War and Victory Medals and on the 19th September 1919 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of the 10th May 1945 and awarded the M.B.E. on the 24th January 1946.

Subsequently he was employed as a retired officer at the Army Apprentices School at Chepstow until his death. The funeral took place at Newport and Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L. Bright represented the Regiment, and Major D. C. Blake of the Regiment represented the Commandant of the Army Apprentices School. Among those present was Major D. Bonar, late The Highland Light Infantry; Major Bonar was quartermaster of his regiment in the 71st Brigade when Warnock was quartermaster of the 1st Battalion in that formation. They served in action together in 1944-45 and were close friends.

Lieut.-Colonel D. R. L. Bright, who had known Major Warnock since 1938, pays him the following tribute: those who knew Major Warnock before this date will agree it is well deserved.

'In the death of "Popeye" Warnock many of us have lost an old and valued friend, and the Regiment one of its finest soldiers. His total continuous service with the 1st Battalion was far longer than that of anyone else, now living, and it is worth recording that he was quartermaster to no less than nine different commanding officers. I will not speak here of his technical ability as a quartermaster, excellent though that was. It is for his influence in the Regiment that he should be remembered. In the officers' mess, the serjeants' mess, and with the soldiers, that influence was always felt, his advice often asked, and the selfless service which he gave was an example to us all. He was one of those rare individuals against whom I never heard a word spoken, by anyone of any rank. He had the gift of friendship for everyone, and we were all proud to accept it. He took a keen interest in sport and for several years ran the Regimental football team: he also ran the hockey and played for the Regiment regularly until shortly before his retirement.

In recent years he had rather dropped out of Regimental affairs but the year before his death he was among the party from the Regiment

who was present at the dedication of the Memorial to those killed in action of the 53rd (Welch) Division, and he also attended the reunion dinner for officers who served with the 1st Battalion in Hitler's War. Just before his death, when he was seriously ill, he sent a message that he would attend the 1959 dinner if he was well enough. Unfortunately it was not to be.'

BRIGADIER HENRY WALTER WYNTER, D.S.O., late Royal Horse Artillery, died on the 31st July 1959, aged 77 years. He was commissioned in 1900 and retired thirty-six years later: during his long service he commanded the Chestnut Troop, and later a Regiment of Horse Artillery. For many years he had been a close friend of the Regiment's and several times hunted from our Depot, spending his winter leave there: in India too he liked to go out with the Bareilly Pig Sticking Club to which many of the 2nd Battalion belonged. He was the personification of an era, which, unfortunately, we shall not see again. His nephew is Colonel R. A. St G. Martin.

The Regiment sent a wreath to his funeral, and there was a numerous and representative body of officers of the Regiment at his memorial service.

## INDEX

- Abbott, C.S.M., S. E., 20, 47, 69  
 Abel-Smith, Colonel, R., 104  
 Adnitt, Lieut., J. C., 55, 57  
 Alcock, C.Q.M.S., A., 44, 69  
 Aldworth, Lieut., W. T., 134  
 Algeria, 125  
 Alus-Hankey, Lieut., R., 52  
 Allum, Rfn., 39, 40, 41, 42, 43  
 Amos, Lieut., G. G., 8  
 Aries, C.Q.M.S., L. G., 57  
 Arthurs, C.S.M., A. L., 69  
 Askew, Lieut., A. L., 65, 66  
 Astley-Cooper, Major G. N. A., 5, 23, 58, 104, 105, 106
- Bagwell, Bandmaster, 56, 57, 62  
 Bargent, Pte., 17  
 Bailey, C/Sjt., J., 16, 47, 69  
 Baird, Bugle-Major, 52  
 Baker, Major C. B., 76  
 Ball, C.S.M., J., 69  
 Ballard, Colonel, J. A., 136  
 Ballard, Major J. F., 5, 73, 77, 80, 93  
 Balls, Captain, B. W., 5, 10, 64, 65, 66, 73  
 Barnard, Rfn., S., 39, 40  
 Barnes, Major, R. F., 55, 57  
 Barrow, Captain, F. S., 77, 133  
 Barwell, Ensign, W. B. W., 79  
 Battley, Major, R. W., 55, 57  
 Bawtree, Lieut., M., 56, 73  
 Bayley, Maj.-Gen., K., 73  
 Bayliss, O.R.Q.M.S., G. W., 9, 67  
 Beare, R.Q.M.S., T., 83  
 Beasley, L.-Cpl., C., 46, 47  
 Belcher, C.S.M., S., 57  
 Bennett, Major J. P., 93  
 Bennett, Lieut., N. C., 125  
 Besant, R.S.M., L. F., 56, 57, 62  
 Bevan, Lieut.-Col., W. S., 11  
 Binns, Lieut., W. L., 73  
 Birchall, Lieut., M. D., 63  
 Blake, Major, D. C., 5  
 Blaker, Lieut., G. P., 55, 57  
 Blyth, Major, E. K., 74, 76  
 Boddy, Cpl., 47  
 Booth, Colonel, P., 73, 76, 78, 133  
 Borradaile, Maj.-Gen., H. A., 60  
 Boswell, Rfn., R., 47  
 Bower, Lieut.-Gen., Sir R., 13, 24  
 Bradshaw, Lieut., R. G., 73  
 Bramwell-Davis, Maj.-Gen., R. A., 53  
 Bright, Lieut.-Col., D. R. L., 5, 73, 74, 142  
 Brown, Major, A. V., 5, 134  
 Brown, Major, C. A., 5, 133  
 Brown, Sir J. R., 73  
 Budge, Cpl., 32, 40  
 Bullen, C.Q.M.S., P., 69  
 Burroughs, L.-Cpl., 47  
 Burton, Lieut., M. St E., 56, 63  
 Byrne, Captain T. D. R. D., 73
- Callaghan, Rfn., 42, 43  
 Callingham, Major, N. J., 63, 74  
 Cansdale, Rfn., 38  
 Carpenter, Rfn., 34, 47  
 Carter, C.S.M., 40  
 Catlin, Rfn., 40  
 Chevallier, Captain, C. T., 76  
 Chevis, Capt., W. S. C., 5, 10, 16, 19, 69, 73  
 Clare, R.S.M., A., 134  
 Clare, Lieut.-Col., F., 48, 49, 73, 76, 80, 85, 133, 134  
 Clarke, Captain N. G., 76  
 Clarke, R.Q.M.S., R., 9, 16  
 Clarke, Lieut., T., 55, 57  
 Clay, Major, F., 73  
 Cleaver, Rfn., 34  
 Clerke Brown, Colonel A., 6  
 Clifton, Rfn., 40  
 Coad, Lieut.-Col., R. H., 76  
 Cohan, Mr Justice, 12  
 Colours, 28  
 Colville, Major, R. A., 62, 77, 134  
 Colville, Major, R. M., 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 69, 72, 73  
 Colvill, Lieut.-Col., D. C., 73, 74, 76  
 Connell, Major, F. J., 134  
 Cooper, L.-Cpl., 47  
 Costley-White, Lieut., P. G., 8, 22, 69, 73  
 Corunna, 16  
 Cowan, Sjt., 44  
 Cox, Captain, B., 5, 55, 57, 61, 134  
 Cox, R.Q.M.S., P. R. F., 56, 67  
 Cox, Major, S. A. G., 8, 22, 38, 44, 73, 134  
 Cox, Rev., W. H., 74  
 Cox, L.-Cpl., 33, 34, 42, 43  
 Cracknell, Captain, W. M., 5, 10, 44, 67, 69, 73, 134  
 Creak, Lieut., W. A., 76  
 Crosbie, Colonel, J., 84  
 Cross, Lieut., C. J., 77  
 Crosse, Lieut.-Col., R. B., 76, 79, 133, 134  
 Cullis, Captain, S. R., 74  
 Curran, L.-Cpl., 32  
 Currey, Cpl., 32  
 Curtis, Colonel, P., 53  
 Cuyler, Colonel, Sir C., 82
- Daniel, Lieut., J., 55, 57  
 Darrell-Brown, Lieut.-Col., M., 48, 49, 73, 77, 80  
 Darling, Maj.-Gen., K. T., 10, 11, 14, 24  
 Davies, Lieut., A. J., 14, 25, 69, 73, 120  
 Davis, Rfn., 34, 120  
 Davenport, Lieut., C. T., 75  
 Davidson, Rfn., 34  
 Dean, C.Q.M.S., W., 69  
 Denny, Lieut., J. P. M., 55, 57, 63, 73  
 Didcock, Cpl., P., 47  
 Dixon, Major, D. O., 133  
 Dobbs, Lieut., P. E., 8, 21, 22

- Dowden, Major, R. S. C., 73  
 Downie, Lieut., C. S., 8, 14, 19, 22, 41, 69, 73  
 Doyne, Colonel, R. H., 73  
 Draco, Lieut., M. J. C., 4, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 22, 25, 69, 73, 120  
 Drummond, Rfn., 34  
 Ducat-Hamersley, Colonel, H. J. C., 73, 134  
 Dudley, Captain, B., 134  
 Dukes, Cpl., 13  
 Dunwell, Bugle Major, 69, 72  
 Durant, Major, P. J. E., 8, 17, 69, 73, 133, 134
- Easty, Captain, A. M., 8, 20, 22  
 Edmunds, Major, J. S. R., 74, 77  
 Elliott, Lieut., I. G., 8, 16, 19, 20, 21, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 65, 66, 73  
 Eve, Brigadier, R. A., 53  
 Eveleigh, Captain, J. R. G. N., 93  
 Everett, Major, P. K., 5  
 Exon, Pte., 37, 38
- Faris, Rfn., S., 47  
 Festing, General, Sir F., 73, 78  
 Field, R.S.M., E. G., 5, 11  
 Finch, Cp., 13, 14  
 Flower, Captain, W. A., 74  
 Foster, Captain, C. W., 74  
 Fowke, Captain, C. A. F., 76  
 Fox, Major, D. B., 5  
 Fullbrook-Leggett, Captain, L. E. O. W., 76  
 Fullick, Major, R. F., 73
- Gallop, Rev. Canon, E. H., 76  
 Garcia, Major, E. F., 5  
 Gardner, Lieut., J. C., 55, 57, 59  
 Garrett, C.S.M., W. E., 57  
 Gentry, Captain, R. J. B., 77  
 Gerahy, Major, P. E., 8, 13, 36, 44, 65, 66, 69, 73, 77  
 Giles, Lieut.-Col., L. W., 73, 76  
 Gillespie-Hill, Major, A. B., 73, 74  
 Gilliat, Lieut.-Col. M. J., 73  
 Glewis, Rfn., 34  
 Goddard, C.S.M., 57  
 Godde, Rfn., B., 47  
 Godsall, Major, P. H., 76  
 Godsell, L.-Cpl., 39, 40  
 Goodhart, Lieut., W. H., 47, 73  
 Goodwyn, Lieut., J. G. C., 8, 22, 69, 73  
 Goodwyn, Captain, L. J., 76  
 Granville, Lieut.-Col., J., 48, 67, 73, 77, 134  
 Greenlees, Captain, I. R. C., 3, 5  
 Guilford, Rev., E. M., 76
- Haddon, Major, J. H. W., 173  
 Haig, Captain, O. P., 3  
 Haines, Lieut., C., 52  
 Hamilton, Major, A. B., 73  
 Hanscombe, Major, 19
- Harbottle, Lieut.-Col., M. N., 4, 8, 15, 20, 22, 25, 37, 38, 60, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 133, 134  
 Harris, Rfn., 34  
 Harrison, Rfn., 120  
 Hartley, Lieut., T. M., 5, 8, 22, 27, 44, 73, 104  
 Hauraki Regt., 86  
 Haswell, Major, R. H., 74  
 Hay-Will, Major, M. G. A., 4, 5, 54, 73, 77, 134  
 Haydon, Sjt., 11, 69  
 Hayes, Captain, P. S., 73  
 Henley, Captain, A., 79, 138  
 Henley, Major, F. J., 138  
 Hickman, C.S.M., F. E., 57, 62  
 Hicks, Major E. R. R., 5, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62  
 Higgins, Brig.-Gen., C. G., 7  
 Higgins, Lieut.-Col., F. H. G., 3, 6, 73  
 Hill, Lieut.-Col., R. F. E., 6, 73  
 Hinton, Captain, C. A. S., 8, 10, 17, 22, 61, 69, 104  
 H.T. *Dilwara*, 12, 14, 15  
 H.T. *Dunera*, 14, 124  
 H.M.S. *Undaunted*, 12  
 H.M.S. *Victory*, 52, 53  
 Hitchens, Rfn, 34, 37, 38, 43, 64, 65  
 Hollis, Major, J. R., 55, 57  
 Hook, C.Q.M.S., W. H., 57  
 Hooper, Lieut., C. A., 77  
 Horley, Brig., C. R., 73, 76  
 Hornblower, C.S.M., D., 19, 20, 47, 69  
 Hornsby-Wright, Major, R., 77  
 Howland, Lieut., A. J., 3, 8, 22, 67  
 Humphries, Rfn., 42, 43  
 Hunt, Rfn., D., 46  
 Hutton, Rfn., 36, 37, 38
- Ironside, Lord, 18, 26
- Jacob, Rfn., 120  
 James, Lieut., R. H., 73  
 Jenkins, L.-Cpl., M., 47  
 Jones, Mr., 84  
 Jones, Rfn., 40  
 Jones, Lieut.-Gen., 24  
 Jones, L.-Cpl., 53
- Kears, C.S.M., R., 69  
 Kendrew, Maj.-Gen., D. A., 53  
 Kenney, Bandmaster, H. A., 9, 44, 69  
 Kettle, Sjt., H., 11, 46, 47  
 Knox, Brig., G. S., 10, 13
- Lander, Captain, K. H., 55, 57  
 Lathbury, Lieut.-Gen., Sir G., 3, 4, 6, 13, 24, 30, 51, 73, 133  
 Lawrence, Q.M.S.I., 83  
 Lawton-Smith, Lieut.-Col., J. H., 134  
 Lay, R.S.M., H., 83  
 Leask, Captain, E. W., 5

- Levinge, Colonel, Sir R. G. A., 134  
 Lewis, Cpl., 32  
 Llewellyn, Rev., H., 52  
 Lloyd, Rfn., 44  
 Lloyd-Evans, Captain, 61  
 Long, Lieut.-Col., Sir B., 136  
 Long, Major, H. A. R., 55, 57  
 Lord, Lieut., J. A. D., 73
- MacCracken, Sjt., 44  
 MacGeorge, Colonel, R., 54  
 Machine Carbine, Stirling, 13  
 MacGuin, Cpl., 13, 14  
 MacIlwaine, Captain, P. S., 74  
 Maitland, Captain, D. H., 74  
 Martin, Colonel, R. A. St G., 4, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 44, 53, 60, 65, 66, 68, 72, 73, 93, 104, 133, 134  
 Mason, Major, A. C., 5, 11, 28, 100  
 Mason, J., 54  
 Massy-Beresford, Lieut., M. J., 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 69, 73, 117  
 Meade, Lieut., J. M., 8, 22, 69, 73, 104, 105  
 Meade, Major, J. W., 73, 75, 84, 133  
 Mellor, Brigadier, F., 52, 53  
 Metcalfe, Lieut., G. F., 14  
 Metcalfe, Lieut.-Col., P. F., 73  
 Meynell, Brigadier, D., 73  
 Militia, Oxfordshire, 81  
 Militia, Royal Buckinghamshire, 81  
 Miller, Lieut., M. J. R., 56  
 Minifie-Hawkins, Rev., S. M., 76  
 Mitchell, Major, C. J., 136  
 Mitchell, Major, P. W., 5, 73  
 Mitchell, Cpl., D., 12, 20  
 Mitchell, L.-Cpl., 20  
 Mitchinson, Lieut., R. C., 55, 57  
 Mitford-Slade, P., 54  
 Mockler-Ferryman, Colonel, A. F., 7  
 Mogg, Colonel, H. J., 6, 86  
 Moisey, Lieut., 57, 63  
 Montague-Jones, Major, G., 55, 57, 58, 60, 134  
 Montgomery, Lieut.-Col., J. R. P., 6, 77  
 Moody, Major, C. T., 75  
 Morland, Major, W. E. T., 84  
 Morgan, Lieut., D. L., 73  
 Morgan, Lieut., J. G., 8, 11, 15, 22  
 Morley, Captain, A. H., 8, 18, 19, 22, 74, 133  
 Morris, Lieut.-Col., D. H., 55, 57, 72, 134  
 Mostyn, Captain, J. D. F., 5, 8, 11, 19, 20, 22, 44, 69, 73, 104, 105, 109  
 Mundy, L.Cpl., 37, 38  
 Musty, C.Q.M.S., P., 17, 69
- Naimaster, Major, J. L., 77, 133  
 Nankivell, Major, E. H., 77  
 Naylor, Sjt., M., 3, 13  
 Neave, Major, J. W., 75  
 Neville, Lieut.-Col., Sir E., 76  
 Newton, Major, H. J. W., 5
- New Zealand, 86  
 Nicholls, Cpl., 34  
 Nicol, Lieut.-Col., J. W., 74  
 Nova Scotia, 109
- Oakley, Rfn., 47  
 O'Neill, Major, C. T., 76, 133  
 Orme, C.Q.M.S., A., 57  
 Orr-Deas, Lieut., D., 10, 20, 21, 28, 138  
 Owen, Lieut., N. J., 55, 57, 63  
 Owens, Rfn., 46  
 Oxford, Mayor of, 15, 17, 25  
 Oxlade, Major, R., 67, 68, 69
- Paget, Gen., Sir B., 74, 76  
 Palmer, Lieut.-Col., A., 53  
 Palmer, Captain, C. J., 134  
 Partridge, Cpl., 46  
 Parkinson, Lieut., E. B., 75  
 Pascoe, Captain, B. E. A., 5, 12, 24, 44, 46  
 Pascoe, Captain, R. A., 5  
 Pastenak, Lieut., C. A., 55, 57  
 Patey, Lieut., C. K., 56  
 Patterson, Major, H. P., 6, 8, 22, 73  
 Pattisson, Captain, J. H., 62  
 Pearce, Major, P., 73  
 Pearson, Lieut., G. E., 76  
 Pearson, C.Q.M.S., 57  
 Penden-Smith, Captain, J. O., 76  
 Pennell, Major, M. R., 5, 73  
 Peppiatt, Captain, D. R., 64, 65, 66  
 Phillips, E., 54  
 Philpin, Major, R. H. L., 133, 134  
 Plaistowe, Major, F. H., 76  
 Poett, Lieut.-Gen., Sir N., 17, 60  
 Portal, Major, J. L., 73  
 Power, Rfn., 42  
 Pratt, Major, O. G., 8, 95  
 Price, Sjt., J., 10, 16, 19, 20, 46, 47  
 Price, Rfn., 43  
 Friday, Lieut., B. C. E., 77  
 Prideaux, Lieut., N. M., 21, 22  
 Priest, Rfn., 65  
 Pullen, Lieut., N., 56  
 Pulteney, Captain, M. J., 73, 74
- Radcliffe, Lieut., M. T., 63, 69, 73  
 Radcliffe, Lieut., R. P., 16, 17, 20  
 Raison, Captain, J. P., 62  
 Raison, Rfn., 44  
 Ramsay, Lieut.-Col., W. A., 134  
 Ramsbotham, M., 54  
 Rance, Captain, W., 75  
 Ranson, Captain, M. A. R., 74  
 Rawlings, Captain, W. S. B., 73  
 Read, Brigadier, J. A. J., 4, 6, 14, 16, 20, 68, 89  
 Rice, Lieut., D. B., 57  
 Richards, Rfn., 38  
 Rickard, Rfn., 28  
 Rifle, Fabrique National, 11  
 Rifle, Self Loading, 23

- Roberts, Lieut., B. F., 75  
 Roberts, Captain, F. M., 85  
 Robin, Captain, S. F., 77  
 Robinson, Captain, P. J., 55, 57  
 Rose, Major, G. K., 139  
 Rowlatt, Captain, J. A., 62  
 Rowley, Lieut.-Col., T. G. D., 73, 74, 77  
 Ruck-Keene, Major, H. L., 84  
 Ruck-Keene, Major, H. W. A., 15, 64, 65  
 Ruck-Keene, Major, J. R., 134  
 Russell, Captain, T. B., 77
- Sale, Lieut., R. V. R., 55, 57, 59  
 Sanderson, Lieut.-Col., A. E., 84  
 Savage, L.-Cpl, R., 47  
 Sawyer, Major, T. E., 74  
 Scott, Cpl., B., 46  
 Scott, Lieut., F. B., 77  
 Scott, Lieut., J. H., 8, 21, 22  
 Scott, Colonel, E., 76  
 Scott, Captain, R. O., 133  
 Scott, L.-Cpl., 120  
 Sebba, Lieut., S., 77  
 Seldon, S.-Sjt, R., 56  
 Sharples, Major, R. C., 10  
 Shepherd, R.S.M., A. S., 9, 10, 37, 38, 44, 67, 68, 69  
 Shepherd, Cpl., 66  
 Shirley, C.Q.M.S., 57  
 Simmonds, Rfn., 40  
 Simmons, Captain, C. St C., 3, 8, 10, 21, 73  
 Simmons, Captain, J. St C., 5, 22  
 Simmons, Rfn., 42  
 Slaymaker, A. W., 133  
 Smith, Captain, A. E., 55, 57  
 Smith, Major, E., 55, 57  
 Smith, Captain, E. R., 55, 57  
 Smith, Lieut., M. K. J., 8, 22, 73, 104, 135  
 Smith, Captain, N. L., 134  
 Smith, Rfn., 42, 43  
 Smyth, Brigadier, H. E. F., 73  
 Soames, Rt Hon., C., 10  
 Southey, Major J. S., 3  
 Spencer-Smith, Captain, Sir T. C. Hamilton-137  
 Stanford, Lieut., M. A. F., 55  
 Stanley, C.Q.M.S., C., 16, 17  
 Stevens, Brigadier, F., 53  
 Stevens, Rfn., 42, 43, 47  
 Stewart-Wilson, Major, 19  
 Stockwell, Lieut.-Gen., H. C., 10  
 Stopford, Captain, W. J., 79  
 Strength at 31 Dec. 1959:  
   4th Bn, 55  
   1st Green Jackets, 9  
 Stroudley, Cpl. D., 13, 46  
 Sutherland, Captain, D. W., 74, 134  
 Sutherland, Lieut., H. I., 56  
 Sweeney, Major, H. J., 5, 73, 77  
 Symonds, Lieut., M. D., 55, 57, 61, 63
- Tarleton, M. W. H., 54  
 Tauranga, 87  
 Taylor, Major, D. C., 74, 134  
 Taylor, Lieut., F. J. B., 8, 11, 22, 36, 37, 38, 64, 65, 66, 73  
 Terry, Colonel, W. E. C., 140  
 Thistlethwaite, Captain, S. E., 5, 10, 54, 135  
 Thomas, Captain, R. J., 55, 57  
 Thompson, Major, P. G., 5, 65, 66, 73  
 Thorne, Lieut., M. J., 63, 77  
 Thornton, Lieut., A. H., 56  
 Tillett, Major, J. M. A., 8, 19, 22, 47, 68, 69  
 Timberlake, C.S.M., 57  
 Tobin, Cpl., 39, 40  
 Trehearne, C.Q.M.S., J., 69  
 Tubbe, Rfn., 40
- Van Straubenzee, Lieut.-Col., H. H., 73  
 Van Straubenzee, Lieut.-Col., P. T., 73  
 Vickers, Rfn., J., 47  
 Vokins, C.Q.M.S., D. J., 57
- Wall, Sjt., 84  
 Ward, Lieut.-Col., C. L. C., 73, 77  
 Warnock, Major, W. P., 142  
 Warwick, Cpl, 44, 46  
 Waters, Ensign, T. P., 79  
 Watts, Lieut, J. P., 8, 10, 18, 22, 69, 73  
 Watts, Major, L. R., 11, 75  
 Wells, Lieut., H. E., 76  
 Welchman, Lieut., S. F., 5  
 West, Lieut.-Gen., Sir M. M. A. R., 6, 73  
 Wheeler, Cpl., 47  
 Whelan, C.S.M., J.P., 57  
 White, Major G. J. F., 73  
 White, Brigadier, W., 51  
 Whitfeld, Lieut.-Col., E. H., 73, 74, 76, 134  
 Whitfeld, Lieut., M., 55, 57, 63, 69, 73  
 Whittall, Colonel, G. E., 73, 75  
 Wilde, Lieut., B. T., 55, 57, 63  
 Williams, Brigadier, A., 52  
 Willis-Fleming, P., 54  
 Wilson, Major, C., 53  
 Wilson, L.-Cpl., 36, 37, 38  
 Winterton, Maj.-Gen., Sir J., 72, 73  
 Wood, Major, D. J., 5, 73  
 Woods, Maj.-Gen., 18  
 Wright, Rfn., 32  
 Workman, Major, R. R. W., 8, 20, 28, 73, 100  
 Wynne, Lieut., O. R. W., 63  
 Wynter, Brigadier, H. W., 84, 143
- Yates, Rfn., 42, 43  
 Yeatman, Lieut., H. C., 77  
 Young, C.S.M., K., 63  
 Young, Brigadier, P. G. F., 6, 67
- Zvegnitzov, Brigadier, D. D., 61

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