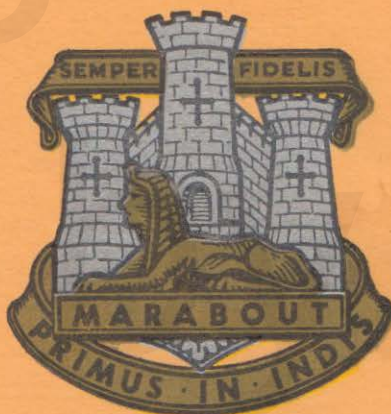


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11th, 39th and 54th of Foot

Vol. 6, No. 23

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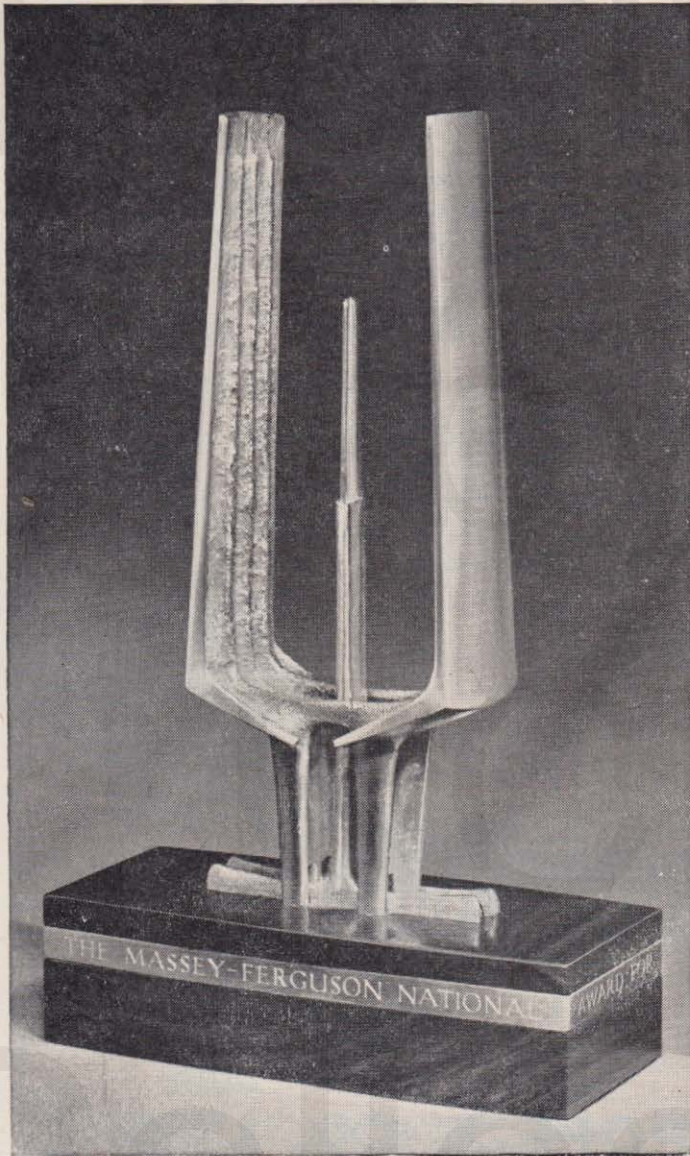
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October, 1964

THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT (11, 39 and 54)

The Sphinx superimposed upon the Castle of Exeter

The Castle and Key superscribed Gibraltar 1779-83 and with the motto
'Montis Insignia Calpe'

The Sphinx superscribed 'Egypt'

Semper Fidelis

Primus in Indis

"Dettingen," "Plassey," "Martinique, 1794," "Marabout," "Albuhera," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Ava," "Maharajpore," "Sevastopol," "Afghanistan, 1879-80," "Tirah," "Defence of Ladysmith," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1899-1902," "Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassee, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Hill 60," "Ypres, 1915, '17," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Bullecourt," "Messines, 1917," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Hazebrouck," "Bois des Buttes," "Marne, 1918," "Tarenois," "Amiens," "Bapaume, 1918," "Hindenburg Line," "Havrincourt," "Epéhy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Beaurevoir," "Cambrai, 1918," "Selle," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto," "Italy, 1917-18," "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Egypt, 1916-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Nebi Samwil," "Jerusalem," "Tell 'Asur," "Megiddo," "Sharon," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Basra," "Shaiba," "Kut al Amara, 1915, '17," "Ctesiphon," "Defence of Kut al Amara," "Tigris, 1916," "Baghdad," "Khan Baghdadi," "Mesopotamia, 1914-18," "St. Omer-La Bassee," "Normandy Landing," "Port en Bessin," "Villers Bocage," "Tilly sur Seullles," "Caen," "Mont Pincon," "St. Pierre La Vielle," "Nederrijn," "Arnhem, 1944," "Aam," "Geilenkirchen," "Roer," "Goch," "Rhine," "Ibbenburen," "Twente Canal," "North-West Europe, 1940, '44-45," "Landing in Sicily," "Agira," "Regalbuto," "Sicily, 1943," "Landing at Porto San Venere," "Italy, 1943," "Malta, 1940-42," "Imphal," "Shenam Pass," "Tamu Road," "Kohima," "Ukhrul," "Mandalay," "Myinmu Bridgehead," "Kyaukse, 1945," "Mt. Popa," "Burma, 1943-45."

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LT. (T CAPT.) J. E. A. ANDRE, 1 D & D.
MAJ. D. O. APPLETON, Wessex Bde. Depot.
BREVET (T LT.-COL.) A. J. ARCHER, M.B.E., GSO 1, HQ 3 Div,
Bulford.
LT. (L CAPT.) A. E. O. BASTYAN, ADC to HE The Governor of
South Australia.
CAPT. P. MacL. BAXTER, HQ Coy, 1 D & D.
MAJ. J. D. C. BLAKE, Adj. Dorset (TA).
MAJ. G. B. BLIGHT, 2 Malaysia Rangers, Sungei Patani, Malaya.
MAJ. A. F. BLUNDELL, Wessex Bde Depot*.
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Planning Staff, CENTO.
LT. P. G. BRUSHWOOD, RAEC, Unit Instr.
MAJ. M. F. R. BULLOCK, 2 i/c, 1 D & D.
CAPT. C. W. G. BULLOCKE, RSO, 1 D & D.
MAJ. P. BURDICK, 1st Bn, Malawi Rifles.
CAPT. F. J. CANN, PRI 1 D & D.
MAJ. A. E. CARTER, DERR, HQ Coy, 1 D & D.
CAPT. (QM) F. L. CANN, QM, HQ 19 Inf Bde.
LT.-COL. C. CHETTEL, M.C., The Muscat Regt, BFPO 63 (A).
LT. R. J. COATE, Christ Church, Oxford.
CAPT. J. COBB, School of Inf. Hythe.
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(AD).
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CAPT. R. W. CULLEN, School of Infantry, Hythe.
CAPT. J. M. DEANS, Staff College, Camberley.
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(ssc) 2/Lt. J. D. FORSTER, 1 D & D.
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MAJ. J. D. FREER-SMITH, Army Team of Lecturers, Min. of Def.
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MAJ. P. W. R. GRAYSTONE, 1 D & D.
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Operations Centre, Ministry of Defence.
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LT. (QM) T. PAY, QM 2, 1 D & D.
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LT. COL. W. G. WOOD, M.C., 2nd Bn, Malaysia Rangers,
Ramilles Camp, c/o GPO, Ipoh, Federation of Malaysia.
MAJ. R. V. WOODIWISS, 22 SAS, Bradbury Lines, Hereford.

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(The First Rifle Volunteers)

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MAJ. B. D. CASEY, C Coy.
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LT. C. P. COLLINSON, B Coy.
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MAJ. G. C. MIDDLETON, HQ Coy.
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MAJ. D. S. PHILLIPS, RAPC, Unit Pmr.
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CAPT. L. J. ROWE, C Coy.
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2 LT. J. A. TINSLEY, B Coy.
2 LT. D. R. TOWNSEND, B Coy.
LT. J. C. V. WHEATLEY, A Coy.

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14857451 RSM R. G. BATE-JONES, 4/6 R Berks (TA).
7961833 BM R. W. BENSON, 1 D & D.
LS/
5618336 RQMS A. BOLTON, HQ Cyrenaica Area, Benghazi.
22276310 RSM R. CLOUGH, DERR DORSET (TA).
5619900 CSM S. A. COLES, DORSET (TA).
LS/
5618306 CSM J. E. CRAWFORD, Camp, HQ, Southern Comd.
21045062 CSM G. L. EVANS, Federal Regular Army, Aden.
6015499 CSM A. L. FOSTER, DEVON (TA).
10632827 SQMS D. A. GALLICHAN, ACC at HQ Coy, 1 D & D.
19040562 RQMS J. E. GRANGER, Wessex Bde Depot.
LS/
14454745 CSM R. HAINES, R Hamps, DORSET (TA).
LS/
14642904 RSM V. F. HOWE, British C-in-C Mission to Soviet
Forces in Germany.
LS/
5616703 ORQMS W. R. HUNTER, B.E.M., Camp Comd, Kahawa,
E Africa.
22222376 CSM J. HUTCHISON, DEVON (TA).
LS/
CSM E. KENNY, M.M., RAF Station, Army Element,
5724166 BFPO 53.
LS/
5725792 RQMS K. V. J. LEACH, M.M., HQ British Land
Forces, Kenya,
22222392 RQMS R. C. MCGREGOR, HQ Coy, 1 D & D.
5735762 CSM I. D. MCNAUGHT, Wessex Bde Depot.
14458047 RSM W. J. PIPER, R Hamps, DEVON (TA).
19048922 CSM J. SHEARBY, 1 D & D.
21182911 CSM W. SUTHERLAND, A Coy, 1 D & D.
LS/
22557310 GSM R. THOMAS, B.E.M., HQ Colchester, Garrison.
14456139 A/RSM A. TIZZARD, 1 D & D.
19036219 CSM K. WOOD, HQ 39 Inf Bde Gp.

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23084761 SGT. N. H. CANN, DORSET (TA).
14477310 SGT. R. J. COLE, DEVON (TA).
22462909 SGT. E. J. FULLER, DEVON (TA).
22868766 SGT. D. GILBERT, DEVON (TA).
19031198 C/Sgt. R. MARSHALLSAY, GLOSTERS, DORSET
(T.A.)
14473072 C/Sgt. J. MORRIS, DORSET (TA).
22797260 SGT. E. J. MORRISON, DEVON (TA).
14468830 SGT. K. J. PENGELLY, DORSET (TA).

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Hon. Gen. Sec.: LT.-COL. J. K. WINDEATT, O.B.E.

THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT O.C.A.

Headquarters: WYVERN BARRACKS, EXETER. Telephone: Exeter 59279.
Hon. Gen. Sec.: LT.-COL. R. E. K. PAIN.
Assist. Sec.: MAJOR G. M. WHITE, M.B.E., M.M.

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2/4th Dorset MAJ. C. G. THOMAS, Audley, 45 King's Avenue, Lower Parkstone, Poole.
Tel.: Parkstone 5383.

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≡ Editorial ≡

The Large Regiment—Again

AS a result of the June Editorial, the Editorial neck received a sharp blow from an unexpected direction—Peterborough, in the *Daily Telegraph*, who misreported the facts contained in that Editorial. Although the various inaccuracies were pointed out to Peterborough no corrected version has appeared, so we publish below extracts from the Colonel of the Regiment's speech to the Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association at the Reunion Dinner on Saturday, July 11, which makes the present position crystal clear. General Borradaile stated that a misleading report had been published suggesting that there was an immediate intention to amalgamate the Wessex Brigade regiments into a "Large Regiment". This was, and is, incorrect. The Council of Colonels has set up various sub-committees to prepare a plan for the formation of a "Large Regiment" in case it should be needed. In fact, taking the normal military precaution of having a plan ready for a possible eventuality. To quote from the General's speech: "It is a big step, and we are anxious not to take this hurdle until we have to. All we have done is to try to prepare a plan in case we have to use it. At present there is no intention whatsoever of carrying it into force." The General also stated that the move to the "Large Regiment" would take place in the following circumstances: If the Army Council ordered it; if there was a demand for it from the serving members of the Regiment; and (the General's personal view only), if we were ordered to reduce by one battalion in Wessex Brigade. We hope the General's remarks will reassure the 1st Battalion that its future is not being changed whilst the Battalion remains on the other side of the world. Our object in mentioning this subject in the June Journal was to put over to retired members of our Regiments that the possibility of a further change in the organisation of the Infantry does lurk in the background. We felt this possibility should be brought out into the open now. Far better that, than for our "old and bold" first to read about it one morning in their newspapers, should the change eventually have to be made.

1st Bn. The Dorset Regiment Colours

On Friday, September 11, the last stand of Colours to be carried by the 1st Battalion The Dorset Regiment was laid up in Sherborne Abbey. With the equivalent Colours of the 1st Battalion The Devonshire Regiment, these Colours were carried by the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment from May, 1958, until the Battalion received its own Colours from our Colonel-in-Chief on Plymouth Hoe in May, 1962. The ceremony on September 11 marked the end of the final chapter in the long and honourable history of the 39th of Foot. An account of the laying-up ceremony is on page 74.

An Apology

We apologise to the Territorial Associations should any part of the article on Permanent Staff Instructors in the June number of the Journal appear to comment adversely upon the administration of the Associations. Any such unfavourable comment was entirely unintentional.

SHERBORNE ABBEY, SEPTEMBER, 1964

The ceremony at Sherborne Abbey on the evening of 11th September, 1964, was in many ways a sad occasion for it saw the Laying Up of the last known Stand of Regular Dorset Regiment Colours, those of the old 1st Battalion The Dorset Regiment (late 39th Foot). The headline in the "Dorset Evening Echo" of 12th September, was perhaps appropriate—"The last rites of a great Regiment". These Colours were presented to the Battalion at Sialkot, India (now Pakistan) on 14th November, 1936, by H.E. The Marquess of Linlithgow, Viceroy and Governor-General of India. In their 28 years of life the Colours accompanied the Battalion to Landi Kotal, Nowshera, Malta (during the war-time Seige) Germany and Austria. From 1949-1958 they were carried by the amalgamated 1st and 2nd Bns., The Dorset Regiment (39th and 54th) on the continent and in Hong Kong, and from 1958-1962 they were carried by the 1st Bn., The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, together with those of the old 1st Bn., The Devonshire Regiment, in Germany, Cyprus and England. In May, 1962, they were trooped for the last time and retired, when Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent and Colonel-in-Chief, presented new Colours to the Regiment on Plymouth Hoe. Since then they have been kept in the Keep, Dorchester. Sherborne Abbey has long been regarded as the Dorset Regiment "Cathedral" and there are now 35 Colours and one World War I Banner preserved there.

It had been hoped that the Regular Battalion would provide a Guard of Honour and Colour Party and permission had been obtained for the Guard, Colours and Branches of the Dorset Regiment Association to march through the town of Sherborne before the ceremony. However, the move to British Guiana prevented this, but we were fortunate in having the services of the Band who played outside the Abbey before the Ceremony and whose trumpeters played inside the Abbey during parts of the service. The Dorset Regiment (T.A.), rose nobly to the occasion and provided the Colour Party and a detachment of 50 N.C.O.s and men, under Capt. P. J. Robson, who lined the pathway in the Abbey Close leading up to the West Door. The Colour Party consisted of 2/Lts. John Tinsley and Michael Bull, C.S.M. Lambe and C/Sgts. Riglar and Price, with R.S.M. R. Clough in attendance. Lt.-Col. John Smith's officers and W.O.s undertook the seating of a congregation of just on 700, ably assisted by the Churchwardens and Sidesmen of the Abbey.

We were lucky to have a fine and warm evening and just after 6.40 p.m. the Colour Party marched, to "The Maid of Glenconnel", from the East end of the Abbey, along Half Moon Street and then through the ranks of the T.A. at "the Present" towards the West Door of the Abbey where a final salute came from the dipped Standards of twelve Branches of the Association, including those of London and Birmingham. Maj. J. R. H. Bolingbroke was in command of the Standard Bearers. At 6.55 p.m. the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Col. J. W. Weld, arrived at the entrance to the Close and was met by the Colonel of Regiment, Maj.-Gen. H. A. Borradaile and the Deputy Colonel, Brig. A. E. C. Bredin. At the West Door the

Lord Lieutenant was met and conducted to his pew by the Bishop of Sherborne, the Rt. Rev. Victor Pike and the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Basil Wingfield Digby, whilst a fanfare of trumpets was sounded.

The Colours were handed over to the Vicar at the Chancel steps by Brig. Bredin with the words: "Reverend Sir, on behalf of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, I beg to offer these Colours of The Dorset Regiment to be deposited in perpetuity upon the walls of our Abbey Church of Sherborne as a memorial of past services rendered to the Sovereign". Later a procession, headed by the Churchwardens (carrying the Colours) and the Clergy, and consisting of representatives of Battalions and Branches and former commanding officers of the Regiment, moved to the Lady Chapel, where a Memorial to Gen. Huddleston, presented by his widow, Lady Neven-Spence, was dedicated. Gen. Huddleston was Colonel of the Regiment from 1933-1946 and was present at Sialkot in 1936 when these Colours were presented. Also dedicated in the Lady Chapel were two pews, two priests' chairs and an altar frontal. These, together with four additional pews which had been dedicated in 1961, were presented to the Abbey by the Dorset Regiment and families of the Regiment. The Bishop of Sherborne conducted the dedication and also gave a most impressive address. The Chaplain-General to the Forces, the Ven. Archdeacon I. D. Neill, also officiated. It was a memorable ceremony, summed up in a letter from a former commanding officer of the Regiment, from which we quote: "To my mind it seemed to go like clockwork, a most moving and impressive ceremony at the Abbey befitting to such an occasion."

As there was no one place in Sherborne big enough to accommodate all those attending the Abbey ceremony for a social occasion afterwards, it was decided to hold a buffet supper party for the Officers' Club, ex-Dorset officers and official guests in Sherborne School, and for this the Headmaster, Mr. R. W. Powell, kindly lent the Big Schoolroom. Some 400 members of the Association went to the T.A. Centre, Sherborne, for supper and drinks. This party was organised by the President (Lt.-Col. F. F. Laughler and members of Sherborne Branch, with help from the T.A. It was a most successful evening enjoyed by all members and their families. Many of those present had been on the parade in 1936; mention is made of only one, Cpl. Greenup, who is still a serving member of the Dorset Regiment T.A., and who was on parade outside the Abbey.

About 270 people attended the supper and drink party in Sherborne School and there was an extremely good turn out of former officers of the Regiment and their wives. To name just a few—we were delighted to see Lady Neven-Spence, her husband, daughter and granddaughter; Gen. Wood who seldom misses a Dorset occasion, be it committee or social; Sir Mervyn and Lady Wheatley, Lady Digby, Col. and Mrs. Bannister (Brigade Colonel), Col. and Mrs. Pinney, Gen. and Miss Gifford; Mrs. Woodhouse and Anne and her husband, Mrs. Wilsey and Mary, Mrs. Highett,

(Continued on page 106)



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CRICKET WEEK—1964

The Regimental Week this year was unusual in two ways. First, as the Battalion was abroad in British Guiana it was impossible to field an exclusively Devonshire and Dorset Regimental side—"outsiders" were brought in—even to the extent of calling on a member of the Royal Navy. Second, we had the rare pleasure of entertaining the Dorset Rangers on Devon soil instead of at Dorchester, where the propinquity of a cemetery and the railway seems to wield an unfortunate influence on the cricket prowess of the Regiment! Be that as it may—on July 7 George Pinney, having won the toss for the Rangers, decided to give The Colonel of the Regiment's XI first knock. Jim Hewitt and L./Cpl. Barker (Wessex Brigade Depot) gave their side a fine start and put on 65 for the first wicket—Hewitt's share (remarkably) was 63—a splendid innings. Barker and Scrivener continued the good work and at lunch the Colonel's XI had amassed 151 for 3—Barker 43. After lunch Hurst and Spence and Dalton all found the bowling to their liking and Hayes was able to declare at 228 for 6 leaving the Rangers 3¼ hours to get the runs.

No one expected the later collapse as Pinney and Wilson, K. made their quick and easy way to 45. At this point L./Cpl. Stanbridge (R. Signals) achieved his first wicket with one of his medium-fast deliveries. Four more wickets fell in quick succession—all to Stanbridge. A stand for the sixth wicket was broken by a skilful bowling change, and the fifth ball of "Turner's teasers" was sufficient to prise out Schweir with a good caught and bowled.

Weld came into the picture at this point and, having clean bowled Pinney, J., proceeded to take the next three wickets—all with the aid of Stanbridge at slip. Thus the Colonel's XI achieved a handsome victory by 96 runs.

To mark Stanbridge's splendid performance of 5 wickets for 71 runs and three excellent catches, Maj. Hayes presented him with the match ball.

FOOTNOTE.—After the match Maj. Hayes took L./Cpl. Stanbridge to hospital where it was found that he had tonsillitis and a temperature of 103 degrees! A memorable day indeed!

Next day, Wednesday, July 8—could a somewhat changed Colonel of the Regiment's side repeat the performance of the day before against the Free Foresters? On this occasion Hewitt and Worlidge (Royal Navy) opened the innings and batted well against some good but not-at-first particularly penetrative bowling. The first wicket fell at 45. Worlidge batted staunchly for 31 and Stevens made a quick 17. Apart from Scrivener going in at No. 4 and still there at the end with 16 not out, no one else made double figures—not even Mr. Extras. A combination of inept batting and good bowling on the part of Frazer, Poncia and White resulted in the disappointing total of 104. The Foresters batted slowly and, indeed, lost two wickets with the score at 5, but thanks chiefly to a watchful and vintage innings of 41 by N. Bloy, the required runs were knocked off for the loss of only 4 wickets. By tea it was all over and the scratch side could slink away to lick its wounds and find solace elsewhere.

On Thursday and Friday the usual two-day match took place against the Devon Dumplings. The Dumplings batted first and by lunch were in the highly satisfactory position (from the opposition's point of view) of 4 wickets down for 30-odd runs. However—was there something about the luncheon?—the partnership between Gen. Tremlett and McEntyre blossomed and the 5th wicket only fell when the score had reached 113. McEntyre went on to complete an excellent—although not chanceless—hundred. Eventually the innings closed for 172. The bowling honours were fairly evenly divided, two bowlers (Weld and Avent) each with two wickets and Hayes and White sharing six.

Before the admiring eyes of the guests attending the "At Home"—the six who watched the cricket—the Colonel's XI began their reply. Runs came quickly but at 17 Hewitt edged one from Bentley and Tremlett held a sharp one in the slips. White did not last long but Pitts and Scrivener put on 33 for the third wicket—the latter in unusually subdued mood for his 7. Stumps were drawn with the Colonel's XI 108 behind and 7 wickets left. Next morning Pitts completed a wholly admirable 50, but just as everyone was settling back for the "same again", he walked in front of a straight one. A gloom seemed to settle on the batting, but first Weld and then Wadham struck some lusty blows—for 23 and 16 respectively—before a further slump set in. This was only arrested when Spencer and Avent "capitalised" (pace R. Benaud!) on some unorthodox running and the latter's inevitable "six" to put on 27 for the last wicket. The Dumplings started their second innings 16 to the good. Runs came easily and when Bentley was out for a well-played 41 the total stood satisfactorily at 125 for 4. Good innings in the minor key by Tremlett and Sutton took the total to 201, but time was running out. Avent and Hurst had the best bowling analyses with 3 wickets each—the latter bowling his medium pace leg-breaks most effectively.

Was 87 runs an hour a shade of a tall order for a batting list of only four established batsmen and some hopefuls of assorted ages? A brisk start was made and 30 runs were quickly on the board, but at 36, and with a cup of tea almost in his hand, Hewitt played the kind of stroke one prefers to forget and it was 36 for 1 at tea. The chase continued after tea, but Pitts fell and then White. Scrivener followed and first with Weld and then Wadham (the latter with a joyous "bash" of 26) played a splendid innings of 80, 36 of them in 4's. With Scrivener and Wadham gone, Spencer called off the hunt and the game continued peacefully towards its close with two of the Old Guard in possession—unhurried and untroubled. A draw—honours easy.

G.N.B.S.

CRICKET WEEK AT HOME—EXETER
THURSDAY, JULY 8th, 1965

Raising a Regiment—1963

by Lt.-Col. W. G. WOOD, M.C.

Since the end of the Second World War British Infantry Regiments have passed through a depressing period in which second battalions of Regiments have disappeared and many first battalions have been amalgamated. An account of the raising of a Regiment may therefore be of interest.

On September 16, 1963, the Territories of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and British North Borneo entered into the Federation of Malaysia. On the same day the formation of a new Regiment was announced—The Malaysia Rangers—of which two battalions were to be formed. The battalions were to be raised and trained under British supervision with seconded British personnel, equipped by the British Army and paid for by the Commonwealth Relations Office, and eventually handed over to the Malaysian Armed Forces for service primarily in the Borneo territories.

The 1st Battalion was to be raised on an existing unit, the Sarawak Rangers. This unit of company strength was raised in the early days of the Malayan Emergency and quickly gained renown for the skill of its Iban trackers on jungle operations. Their history in fact goes back further than this to 1862 when the Sarawak Rangers were first formed as a private army by Rajah Sir James Brooke. This battalion is to be recruited entirely from Sarawak.

The 2nd Battalion, with which this account is concerned, was to be raised absolutely from scratch with men recruited from British North Borneo—now known as Sabah, indeed soldiers have never before been recruited in Sabah. To facilitate the raising of the battalion a cadre of approximately 100 Malayan W.O.s, N.C.O.s and soldiers of the Federation Armed Forces were to be posted to the battalion, these together with the small British element of Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s would form the basis of the unit. Because of a complete lack of suitable facilities in Sabah, the battalion was to be raised and trained in Malaya.

In August, 1963, a small number of British Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s, seconded for service with the Malaysia Rangers, began to arrive in Singapore. This was the first tangible sign that the 2nd Battalion was really to be formed, and even then the final decisions had not been taken. A great deal of hard work and planning had been done by F.A.R.E.L.F. in the previous three months, but it had all been seriously hampered by the lack of firm decisions on what was required, who was to provide it, and above all, who was to pay for it. Thus the situation was still confused and fraught with uncertainty when the first officer arrived, and continued so for another five weeks. However, a start was made immediately, and subsequent developments fell into three distinct phases.

The first phase was a Malay language course for the British Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s. This was essential as the "lingua franca" of the unit was to be Malay. This lasted five weeks and took place at the Far East Training Centre, Nee Soon. Concurrently with the course, detailed planning, indenting and preparations for the actual formation of the unit went on apace.

The next phase was the merging and fusing of the Malayan and British elements of the cadre, who had not yet met, into a team, and actually forming the unit. This was done at the Jungle Warfare School, Ulu Tiram, where a very basic if adequate company camp—a relic of the Emergency—was made available. It was, of course, a vital phase, and the future efficiency of the battalion was dependent upon its success. There were two main tasks to be done, firstly, the creation of a unit and all that that implies. All the arrangements, procedures, institutions and orders taken almost for granted in a long established unit had to be laid down, initiated, set up and made to work—and in Malay! The second task was the training of the Malayan N.C.O.s as instructors for the recruits. Some, of course, were experienced in this already but the majority were not.

That this important phase was accomplished successfully was due to the hard work and enthusiasm of all, and, in great measure to the cheerfulness and good-natured adaptability of the Malay N.C.O.s and soldiers.

The battalion cadre then moved to Sungei Patani for the third phase where a large company camp was made available in the lines of the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas. It was here for a time at any rate that the real job of training the recruits and building up the battalion was to take place.

On November 1, 1963, the first 120 recruits arrived from Sabah. They had been recruited by the F.A.R.E.L.F. recruiting organisation during the battalion's time at Ulu Tiram. They were a splendid lot, comprising a dozen different races and tribes, of good physique, intelligent, cheerful and tremendously keen to learn. They were in fact more sophisticated than expected and many had given up good jobs to join up; all had had four or more years' schooling. The main racial groupings were Kadazan or Dusun, strong well built hillman; Bajaus, the pirates and horsemen of N.W. Sabah; Malays of various sorts from the coastal and riverain areas; and Chinese, intelligent and industrious as always. These and the minority groups of Muruts, Ibans, Siluks, Landaya, Bisaya and others fortunately all had one thing in common, with one or two exceptions they all spoke Malay if in varying degrees. This fact greatly facilitates the task of instruction.

The training of this first intake of recruits is now in progress, before this article is in print two more intakes of 160 each will have been received, two more will be coming, and the battalion will be 550 strong with 20 British officers. By March, 1965, the battalion will be at full strength of 740 and the first two rifle companies ready for operations.

However there is much to be done to produce a fully trained battalion by the end of 1965. Approximately 200 specialists and N.C.O.s have to be selected from these recruits and trained to complete the battalion establishment. Officers from Sabah have also to be recruited, trained and assimilated into the battalion. Two years is the

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planned time for all this, but if Indonesia Confrontation continues it is conceivable that the pace will be accelerated.

The battalion is being organised on the establishment of a battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment but with the addition of a special establishment of patrol boats with H.P. out-board motors for use on the rivers of Borneo. Equipment and weapons are of the latest types, although in some instances older versions have had to be accepted temporarily until the supply position of the planned items improves.

This matter of making do with things—in accommodation, stores and equipment all arises from the fact that there was no long term planning for the battalion. That the extent of having to “make do” is fortunately fairly limited is due to the magnificent support and assistance forthcoming from the staff at H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F. and at the Federation Ministry of Defence. Without their sympathetic understanding and willingness to stretch regulations to the limit, almost complete frustration would be the order of the day.

It is, of course, too early yet to talk of military lessons learned, but in the political sphere one thing stands out very clearly. This is that if a regiment is to be formed then the decision, a political one in the case of the Malaysia Rangers, must be a firm one, taken in good time and all the financial implications sorted out and agreed at an early stage. None of these things was done in this case and the most of the difficulties and frustrations experienced can be traced to this failure.

The idea of raising a regiment somehow conjures

up notions of designing dashing uniforms, badges, choosing colours, regimental calls and marches, and of course, all this has in fact to be done. In practice, however, staid and sober dress committees combined with stringent finances tend to take the dash out of any design, and Ordnance authorities press strongly for conformity. However, some success has been achieved and it has been ensured that the uniform of the Malaysia Rangers will be distinctive—unlike any other in the Federation Armed Forces. This has been achieved by adopting the green and black motif of rifle regiments and not without good reason. The Rangers will be essentially jungle units living and operating in the jungles and rivers of Borneo, “frontiersmen” if you like, thus green is a natural choice. Black has been adopted as a complimentary colour since it was one of the colours of the earliest Sarawak Rangers.

One of the greatest difficulties experienced in promoting the life of the battalion has been the almost complete lack of funds. Messes, canteens, welfare projects, sports trophies, corps of drums simply do not just happen, they need finances to get them going. Thus the development of these things has to be a little slower and rather less ambitious than one would like. However these are but birth pains and will pass.

The task of raising a regiment in 1963 is no doubt less glamorous and less colourful than in olden times, but in the context of S.E. Asia today no task could be more worthwhile, and to those entrusted with the task, what could be more challenging and rewarding?

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT MUSEUM

The Start of the Beginning

CHAPTER 1—CHAOS

(Being a progress report on the state of the Devonshire Regiment Museum)

After being stored in the Dunkirk Hall (a kind of Nissen hut) at Heathfield Camp, Honiton, for nearly three years, the boxes, cases and what-not containing the Museum's exhibits were moved to the new Wyvern Barracks on May 12, 1964. Two T.A. vehicles and the energetic co-operation of the two drivers, plus eight good men and true kindly supplied by the Wessex Brigade Depot were sufficient to do the trick. The Curator and his assistant were also present.

The space available and prepared for the Museum in the rebuilt barracks consists of 1,200 sq. ft. or less than a third of the area in the old building on the west side of the Square—where now stands the Junior Soldiers' block. It takes little imagination to realise that this space is the present scene of chaos. Almost no storage space exists and practically no room for the preparation of exhibits.

However, a start to bring order out of chaos is about to be made—all superfluous containers, boxes, helmet-cases, and miscellaneous bric-a-brac having no apparent connection with The Devonshire Regiment are being disposed of; re-labelling of exhibits has begun; and enquiries with a view to purchasing models for the display of uniforms have been set in motion.

By the time this report appears in print we shall, I hope, have got to the End of the Beginning; chaos will have been routed; and the first faint traces of a Museum will be discernible.

I should add that the Museum Committee at their meeting in Exeter in March decided to join the Ogilby Trust and this very fact will bring future advantage both financial and otherwise.

G.N.B.S.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday, November 13

Officers' Club Tea Party and Dinner, United Service Club, London.

Sunday, November 15

Dorset Regiment Association Annual Cenotaph Service, London. Assemble Horse Guards Parade 11.40 a.m.

Thursday, July 8, 1965

Cricket Week “At Home”, County Ground, Exeter.

Saturday, July 10, 1965

Devonshire Regiment O.C.A. Annual Reunion Service and Dinner, Exeter.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & DIARIES

Christmas Cards 1/10 each or 22/- per dozen

REGIMENTAL DIARIES:

Refills	..	..	..	3/6	each
Plexide	..	..	..	5/-	each
Wallet	..	..	..	19/6	each

(for use with refills)

Order NOW from RHQ, Exeter

“GINGER” HOOPER



Ginger Hooper receiving the presentation salver from Major General H. A. Borradaile, with Major George White in attendance.

(Photograph by permission of "Express & Echo")

On 27th May, 1964, L/Cpl. T. Hooper, alias "Ginger", "Ginge", or "Neechi", retired from the Army after 47 years' service. At the time of his going, he was the oldest soldier in the British Army.

Ginger enlisted into The Devonshire Regiment at Higher Barracks in 1917. After a short spell guarding German prisoners of war at Dorchester, he joined the 1st Battalion in France in 1918. In 1919 he went to India with the 2nd Battalion, serving in Sabathu and Delhi before returning home to the 1st Battalion in Blackdown in time to go to Shanghai with that Battalion in 1927. From then onwards, until after the Second World War, he served with the 1st Battalion in India, Burma and Malaya. In 1948 he returned to the Depot Devonshire Regiment and remained there until he retired, though during the last sixteen years the Depot changed its title to the Wessex Brigade Depot.

Ginger was a very fine athlete having represented the Regiment in athletics (sprints), cricket, hockey, rugby and soccer, though soccer and hockey were probably his best games. When the writer of this notice first knew him he was the Battalion Sports

Storeman, a job which he carried out with great keenness and efficiency for many years in the 1st Battalion and at the Depot.

He was also Post Corporal at the Wessex Brigade Depot, and except when the Depot was at Honiton, used to go to the Cathedral daily to turn over the pages of the Rolls of Honour in the Regimental Chapel. Ginger's loyalty to the Regiment was tremendous and he did much to keep alive memories of Regimental sporting achievements of the past, though perhaps, as the years went by, the sporting giants of yesterday became even more gigantic!

At the O.C.A. reunion dinner on 11th July, General Borradaile presented Ginger with a silver salver engraved with the Devonshire Regiment and Devonshire and Dorset Regiment badges, and the inscription:—"Presented by his comrades to L/Cpl. T. Hooper on his retirement after 47 years service."

We wish Ginger the very best of luck in the future, and feel sure that as long as he can put one foot in front of the other, we shall be seeing him at O.C.A. reunions, and with him win the Durand Cup once again.

REGIMENTAL NEWS

Obituary

LT.-COL. R. J. G. T. BAHIN

John Bahin was a Plymouth man educated at Kelly College, Tavistock. At the outbreak of war he was at the Edinburgh Dental College and joined up in the R. Scots as a private. He was soon given an emergency commission, in the Manchester Regiment, and early on in his career, became a weapons specialist, becoming an instructor at the Military College of Science in 1943. As a result of being a Technical Staff Officer he did not do a great deal of Regimental soldiering, and after receiving a Regular commission in The Devonshire Regiment in 1945, served in India and Pakistan until 1949 in various armament appointments.

In 1949 he served in Austria for just over a year with 1 Dorset, and in 1954 joined 1 Devon in Kenya. He remained in Kenya on the staff at G.H.Q. East Africa when the Battalion returned home, rejoining the Battalion in Germany. At the end of 1957 he became Principal Inspector of Small Arms, Woolwich, and later went to the Infantry Directorate at the War Office. He was holding the appointment of Conference Staff Officer in the Infantry Directorate at the time of his death. He was promoted to Lt.-Col. in 1959. Owing to his many staff appointments John was probably not so well known to his contemporaries as many of us who, without his technical qualifications, spent more time at Regimental duty.

The writer of this notice was fortunate to serve with John during one of his comparatively rare spells with 1 Devon and soon came to appreciate the cheerful, serene and courteous manner in which he carried out his job. He was a very kind and considerate man who will be missed by all of us who served with him. We feel most deeply for Alice and her three daughters.

Maj.-Gen. Paul Gleadell, Director of Infantry, writes:—

“ Militarily, John Bahin made a particular mark as a technical expert, and especially in regard to Infantry small arms; in this field he quite clearly excelled.

“ But to those of us who had the pleasure and privilege of serving alongside of him, this was not where the matter ended. Every development he recommended, every action he took, all he said, bore the hallmark of consideration for the individual man at arms.

“ Soldiering—with its trials, challenges, fun, and above all its personal relationship—was the spice of life to Bahin equalled only by his devotion as a family man. Underlying it all was his real affection for his own Regiment, and it was to many of us a source of wonder how much he knew about so many of us.

“ A short time before he died he was responsible, as Conference Secretary, for the general arrangements for the running of the Biennial Infantry Conference at Warminster. Knowing John, we have a feeling that it was perhaps here—in service to his

brother officers and in the very centre of the life to which he had so loyally dedicated himself—that he would have elected to fire the final volley on a term of duty well enjoyed and so well served.”

COLONEL S. P. A. ROLLS, D.S.O., M.C.

The death occurred in Massachusetts, U.S.A., on May 25, 1964, of Col. S. P. A. Rolls, D.S.O., M.C. Col. Rolls joined the Dorset Regiment in 1905. He was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in 1911 and held a variety of staff appointments during a career which embraced both World Wars.

He was Editor of the original Dorset Regiment Journal, which was first published in May, 1912, as a monthly edition. Col. Rolls at that time was seconded as Adjutant 2nd Monmouth Regiment (T.F.) and he continued to act as Editor until the last monthly edition in July, 1914. Col. Rolls retired from the Army in 1945 and emigrated to America in 1949. To his widow and family we express our deep sympathy.

R.S.M. J. B. KING, M.C., D.C.M.

The death of Mr. J. B. King, known to so many as “Jimmy King”, brings back memories of many years to the older generation of The Devonshire Regiment. His father was also a R.S.M. in The Devonshire Regiment, and lived to a very great age. Jimmy himself, by giving an incorrect age on enlistment went to the South African War at the age of 16. In 1914 he was serving with the 2nd Battalion and survived the war after lengthy and gallant service, winning the D.C.M. at the battle of Neuve Chapelle and the M.C. as R.S.M. later on. He was decorated with the M.C. by his Divisional Commander and, when the formation marched past after the ceremony, he was asked to stand beside the Divisional Commander at the saluting base—a signal honour.

An early recollection of him when we were making home-made Jam Tin bombs, in default of anything better—Jimmy was demonstrating these, in his own inimitable way, to persuade us of their efficiency and safety!

When the war ended his record of service should have gained him a commission as Quartermaster, but he went instead as R.S.M. of the Depot, where he had through his hands most of the “between wars” generation of all ranks and was held in respect and esteem by all. He was a man of complete integrity and faith in the *esprit de corps* of The Devonshire Regiment, and though strict and uncompromising in his interpretation of what was right and wrong, he was always just in his dealings. Many will remember him in his characteristic attitude, head a little tilted to one side as he gave his views and decisions, which were nearly always right.

When the late Capt. Downing, the Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion, died unexpectedly at Blackdown in 1925, everyone expected Jimmy to succeed him but, by one of those queer turns of fate, there happened to be a surplus Quartermaster in the Royal Tank Corps and the War Office insisted on his taking Downing's place in spite of every possible effort made by the Regiment to prevent this happening.

A few years later Jimmy went to the Devon T. & A.F. Association as head of the "Q" Department, where he did invaluable work until his retirement in 1955. Since then he lived quietly in Exeter.

For years he was a faithful and active member of the Old Comrades' Association, being particularly associated with the Annual Dinner at Exeter and the Benevolent Committee. In the opinion of many of his friends and contemporaries he will be remembered as one of the outstanding characters produced by The Devonshire Regiment in this century. He leaves a widow and a daughter to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

We congratulate Maj.-Gen. Sir Alec Bishop on the award of K.C.M.G., and Maj. M. J. C. H. Sanders of M.B.E.

A.D.C. TO THE QUEEN

We congratulate Brig. P. H. W. Brind, C.B.E., D.S.O., and Col. the Lord Clifford, O.B.E., on their recent appointment as A.D.C.s to the Queen. We also congratulate Brig. Brind on his appointment next June when he becomes Chief of Staff, Northern Command.

Lord Clifford's appointment as A.D.C. recalls the fact that his great uncle, the ninth Baron Clifford, was A.D.C. (Volunteer) to the Sovereign from 1901 to 1911.

COLONEL J. W. WELD, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.

Everyone in the Regiment will have been delighted that Joe Weld, Honorary Colonel, The Dorset Regiment (T.A.) was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Dorset last June—he had been a Deputy Lieutenant since 1952.

He is well known as the owner of Lulworth Castle and, as a member of an old Roman Catholic family, was Priory Chaplain of Sword and Cape to Pope Pius XII. His very full public life in Dorset has included membership of the County Council since 1951, High Sheriff of the Courts and Chairman of the Dorset Standing Joint Committee, the West Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee, Chairman and President of the Dorset Branch County Landowners Association, Chairman and President of the South Dorset Conservative Association, Chairman of the Dorset Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and President of the Dorset Agricultural Society and the Dorset Boy Scouts' Association.

But it is Joe Weld's membership of what were the 4th and 5th Bns. of The Dorset Regiment (T.A.) that will interest us most (and it began almost immediately after his education at Stonyhurst and Balliol College, Oxford). He joined the old 4th Dorsets in 1932 and was soon commanding "C" Company. The early days of the war saw him as Adjutant of the 5th Bn. (for a brief period in the spring of 1940, the writer was Adjutant of the 4th in the same Brigade, 130), and in 1941 he went to the Staff College—to which he later returned as an instructor. His remaining war service was on the Staff, first at home and from 1943-46 as G.S.O. 1 at H.Q., South East Asia Command. He was appointed to command the 4th Dorsets in 1947 and later became Honorary Colonel. He received

the O.B.E. for his war services in 1946.

The story of Joe Weld as a Dorset soldier has been especially refreshing when so many of the young men of what in Ireland used to be called "the quality", if bound for the Army, tend to join something more fashionable and expensive than their own County Regiment—and who can gainsay the fact that our well-trying old County Regiments, whose battle honours are legion, have always been and still are the backbone of the British Army? All the more power to that loyal Dorset soldier and charming personality who has now achieved the honour of becoming Her Majesty's chief representative in his own beloved County.

A.E.C.B.

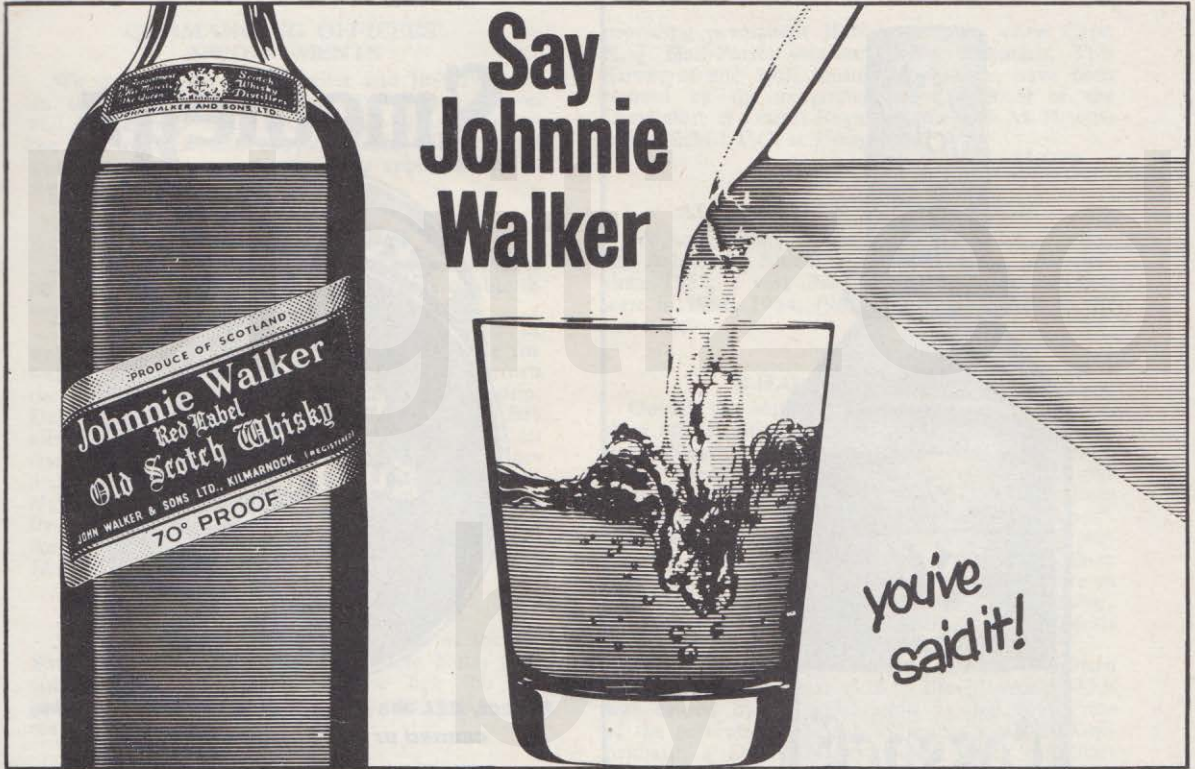
A. P. BABINGTON

Most of those who served in the 1st Dorsets in N.W. Europe in 1944, and perhaps some of the 2nd Devons also in 231 Brigade, will remember Tony Babington, who was appointed Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate (sitting at Bow Street) last spring. As the *Daily Express* had it at the time: "A man who was left crippled, and without the power of speech, by war wounds, will today take his seat as a London Magistrate."

Tony Babington comes of a County Cork family and, due to go to Oxford on the outbreak of war, initially joined the Royal Ulster Rifles, by way of the London Irish Rifles. He went to the 4th Dorsets in 1942 and then to the 9th Battalion, being for a time an instructor at the Battle School. By the middle of 1944 the 9th Battalion was supplying reinforcements to the 1st Battalion in Normandy. Tony Babington, in company with Bill Meredith and others, was given a helping hand to the front by the then Staff Captain of 231 Brigade and joined the 1st Battalion on June 18, 1944 (with Bill Martin and a draft from the 9th Battalion). He took over "A" Company after being second-in-command to Bill Meredith and was then wounded and evacuated. On his recovery, in order to get back to the Battalion from the Reinforcement Camp, he had to break out and was posted as a "deserter"! The writer was then commanding the 1st Battalion and assured Tony there would be no further trouble from the Reinforcement Camp; there wasn't! It was as second-in-command to "Skinny" Laughter ("A" Company) in Holland that Tony was wounded again, this time very seriously, and saw no more active service. On leaving hospital in 1946, he was told no study would be possible for five years. By the most amazing courage and fortitude he studied for the law on his own, succeeded, and was called to the Bar in 1948 (Middle Temple). Then occurred another setback—illness on and off with T.B. from 1948 to 1951. He eventually started practice in 1951, and in 1959 was appointed Standing Counsel to the G.P.O. in Home Counties. Last year he was appointed Temporary Deputy Chairman at County of London Sessions, and then Deputy Recorder of Gravesend.

Tony Babington's wonderful fight against adversity is told in his book "No Memorial", published in 1954 and sold out in six months. We can be proud of this one-time Dorset soldier who has indeed fought a good fight, on and off the field.

A.E.C.B.



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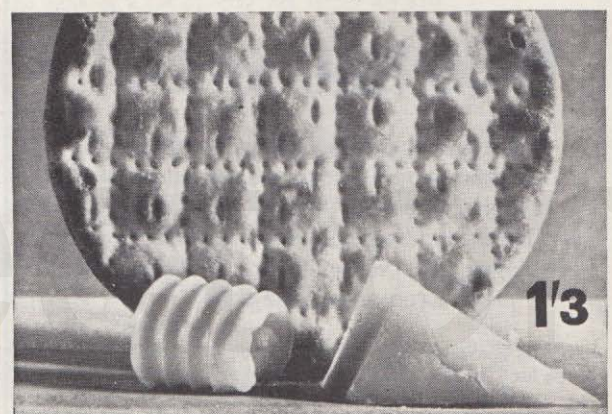
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COMMANDING OFFICERS' APPOINTMENTS

We congratulate John Archer and Bob Feltham on their "appointments-to-be" as O.C. 1 Devon and Dorset and O.C. 1 Cheshire. We wish them the best of luck and happy tenures of command when they take up their respective appointments in April and December next year.

H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE

H.M.S. Devonshire has been in Caribbean waters off Georgetown, British Guiana, but was unable to come in over the bar because of her draught.

The Commanding Officer received a letter of welcome from the Captain to which he made the following reply: "Your Regiment warmly return the good wishes from the Captain of their ship. Delighted to inform you that your detachment has already co-operated most effectively with us on an operation. Next time please pump out the bilges and come and visit us." The helicopter from *H.M.S. Devonshire* took part in an operational fly-in of a platoon of "C" Company to Mackenzie. An account of the Band's visit to Oslo on board *H.M.S. Devonshire* is on page 91.

EVENTS IN BRITISH GUIANA

Some readers may not normally look at the 1st Battalion Notes. In this number these Notes provide an excellent account of the fine job the Battalion has done out there and are well worth reading.

LINK WITH THE ROYAL MARINES

As this year marks the tercentenary of the origin of the Royal Marines, it is of interest to recall the close association which existed for more than 25 years between this famous Corps and a unit of the Devon Rifle Volunteers.

This connection started in August, 1869, when Brevet-Colonel John Elliot, Royal Marines (Retd.) was appointed officer commanding the Plymouth Corps of the 2nd Administrative Battalion Devon Rifle Volunteers which had as Battalion Commander the 4th Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. In December of 1870 the command of the Plymouth Corps became vacant and another officer of the Royal Marines accepted this position with the rank of Lt.-Col. This was Major-General J. Pickard (Retd.) who continued as O.C. until 1877. Meanwhile the job of Battalion Adjutant which also became vacant in 1870 was given to John Elliot with the rank of Major. This appointment lasted until 1876 when the following officers of the Royal Marines Light Infantry filled the post:—

Capt. H. S. Bouchier	...	1876-1881
Capt. A. E. Chapman	...	1881-1886
Capt. J. J. Quill	...	1886-1891
Capt. L. C. Peters	...	1891-1896

During this long period the permanent N.C.O. instructors were also supplied by the R.M.L.I.

Over the course of years the original Administrative Battalions of the Rifle Volunteers underwent many changes. Eventually they were reorganised on the lines of a regular infantry battalion and in 1887 the 2nd Devon Volunteers became the 2nd (Prince of Wales) Volunteer Battalion The Devonshire Regiment. Nevertheless the Devonshire Regiment did not take over the responsibility for

providing permanent staff until 1896 when Capt. R. J. Hall-Parlby was seconded as Adjutant. This liaison of the 19th century appears to have been revived by the assignment of an officer of the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment (Capt. J. M. Hewitt) to the R.M.I.T.C. at Lymington.

G.C.W.

ALLHALLOWS SCHOOL C.C.F.

We congratulate Allhallows School on winning the Ashburton Shield at Bisley for the fifth time since 1951, a very fine record. Previous victories were in 1951, 1954, 1960 and 1963. Here's to the hat-trick!

R.H.Q. DORCHESTER

Outside the Museum the B.B.C. cameras whirled, their officials stood around. Maj. Willie Hayes and Pte. "Swany" Watts (4th Bn.) were on parade. Their appearance before the cameras was to give their impressions of the Normandy D-Day landings for the B.B.C. feature "The Hour Approaches". Unfortunately they did not appear in the programme as we were told later "they were there right up to the final version when terrific pressure on time removed them". This was most disappointing: one felt that too much was seen of the Generals and not enough of the fighting soldiers.

Earlier in the year, around Easter, Southern I.T.V. paid a surprise visit to the Museum. This was caused by the publication in the local Press of the presentation to the Museum by a Mr. Kopenhagen, a Dutch National now living in Charmouth, Dorset, of a wireless set which he, as a member of the Dutch Resistance, had used to listen to B.B.C. broadcasts during the last war. As a result we had 45 seconds of shots of the Museum in the "Day by Day" programme.

The Museum continues to flourish and one is amazed at the number of visitors, in spite of the excellent weather. One sometimes prays, selfishly, for a little rain, to swell yet further the number of visitors. A recent acquisition of note, bought expensively at a London sale, were the medals of Gen. William Munro, C.B. These included the Maharajpore Star and various Crimean medals. Gen. Munro was Adjutant of the 39th from 1839-1843 and commanded from 1853-1865. It is interesting to recall that in those days of purchase of commissions the General's commissions up to the rank of Lt.-Col. cost his father £4,810.

The death, mentioned elsewhere, of Col. Rolls, who was Editor of the first Dorset Regimental Journal, caused us to have a closer look at this first and early editions. The first Journal was published on May 15, 1912, price 2d. or 2 annas. Letters conveying best wishes for its success came from Lt.-Col. A. A. Chichester commanding the 1st Battalion at Blackdown, Lt.-Col. H. L. Roshier commanding the 2nd Battalion in India, Lt.-Col. E. C. Castleman-Smith commanding the Militia Battalion, and Lt.-Col. F. G. Wheatley commanding the 4th Battalion.

Under "Rowing Notes" we notice that the 2nd Battalion team, consisting of Lt. H. D. Thwaytes, Capt. W. Clemson, Lt. C. F. Jerrard and 2/Lt. E. A. R. Gore-Brown won the Junior Fours at the Annual Regatta, Kirkee, India, in what was believed to be the Regiment's first success in rowing.

The Journal was published monthly until July, 1914. The June, 1914, copy, under 1st Battalion Notes, states that only three officers were able to leave Holywood, Northern Ireland, to attend the Regimental Dinner at Claridges in May, owing to the heavy duties of the Battalion as guardians of the peace.

The Journal recommenced publication as a Quarterly, in 1926, and the Editor was Major O. W. White, father of Lt.-Col. Geoffrey White. The foreword was written by Maj.-Gen. Sir Arlington A. Chichester, Colonel of the Regiment (mentioned above).

This first edition of the Quarterly Journal contains a letter from Thomas Hardy giving permission to publish an extract from his book "The Dynasts", which makes mention of the 39th Foot. Also in this edition is a letter from Rudyard Kipling giving permission to publish serially his account of the burning of the *Sarah Sands*. The extract and the first serial both appeared in this first edition of the Quarterly.

THE OLDEST SERVING DORSET

C.S.M. E. T. Kenny writes as follows: "Having read the report of the conversation between Maj. G. Connor and Maj. D. Vaughan, and seeing that it is now presumed one or the other is the oldest serving Dorset, I think I should break my silence. I enlisted in the Dorsets on May 14, 1931, and am still serving. It is true to say, I think, that I am the only serving Dorset who was on parade in Sialkot with the Colour Company when the Colours were presented by Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy of India."

THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT—OFFICERS' CLUB

The Annual General Meeting took place at Exeter on July 9.

The Colonel of the Regiment, three other members of the Committee, and 15 members were present.

After the reading and signature of the Minutes of the previous meeting, Maj. W. N. Hayes, M.C., was thanked for his services on the Committee as Retired Officer (formerly Dorset) and Lt.-Col. R. D. H. Radcliffe, O.B.E., was elected in his place.

The future of the Regimental Dinner and Tea Party was discussed, and it was decided to send out a further referendum to all members to ascertain their views on a buffet luncheon and dinner; the time of year for such an occasion to be held; and the desirability of alternating between London and the West Country.

It was agreed that the C.G.S. (Gen. Sir Richard Hull) and the Duke of Beaufort should be invited to this year's Regimental Dinner.

It was reaffirmed that an annual social function would continue to take place in Dorset irrespective of where the traditional Dorset Rangers cricket match was played.

It was decided that future additions of the Club Handbook would show the telephone numbers of retired officers.

2nd DIVISION (1939-45) DINNER CLUB

The 14th Annual Reunion will take place this year on Friday, November 20, at the Dorchester Hotel. General Sir Cameron Nicholson, G.C.B.,

K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., will be in the chair.

There will be no official guests this year but there will be certain business of a domestic nature requiring every member's attention, and for this reason the Committee hope all members will be there. The usual notice giving full details will be sent out in October—in the meantime make a note of the date.

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The Officers' Association was founded by Field-Marshal Earl Haig in 1920, with the primary object of assisting those who at any time held a Commission in the Army, Navy or Air Force, and their wives, widows and dependants.

The Officers' Association is not a fund raising organisation and has no membership as such, but nevertheless welcomes subscriptions and donations.

The Association has seven main functions:—

- (a) **Financial Help**—the Association is prepared to consider assistance to ex-officers and their dependants who find themselves in temporary financial difficulties.
- (b) **Education**—assistance towards school fees. This is normally restricted to the children of war disabled or deceased officers.
- (c) **Advice**—on a wide range of subjects, including legal advice.
- (d) **Service Pensions and War Disability Pensions**—advice is given on the preparation and submission to the Minister of Pensions of claims in respect of War Disabled Pensions. In addition advice is given on questions concerning Service Retired Pay and Forces Family Pensions. The Association co-operates closely with the Officers' Pensions Society on these matters.
- (e) **Homes**—the Association has its own Home in South Devon, with 35 residents, for elderly and lonely ex-officers of limited income. It also has the right of nomination to a number of other Homes where officers or their widows can possibly be accepted at low rates.
- (f) **Clothing Store**—clothing of all kinds can usually be provided from the store for those in need.
- (g) **Resettlement and Employment**—this Department whose address is 46 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, is at the disposal of any officer, male or female, at any time for advice, and when nearing retirement can give direct introductions to employers.

The Association works through a system of Honorary Representatives throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and elsewhere and it is these Representatives who find the cases of hardship or distress, or investigate cases that come to Headquarters in other ways. Adjudication on cases is done by a team of Honorary Workers who, in turn, attend at Headquarters every day of the week. This enables cases to be dealt with speedily and effectively. The help of all these Honorary Representatives and Workers is invaluable and the Association is most grateful to them.

Anyone hearing of cases of distress or hardship among ex-officers, their widows or dependants, should refer them to: The General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

WHERE BE YON BLACKBIRD TO?

We heard recently from Tony Tawney that his transfer to the R.A.P.C. took place in August. There are two other former Dorsets at the Regimental Pay Office, Devizes, Col. D. R. Morgan and Sgt. Ashton, formerly of the M.M.G. Platoon, who wishes to be remembered to all his friends. We congratulate the Tawneys on the arrival of Carolyn Margaret on June 2.

* * *

Archie Kettle and Garnett Hicks paid a visit to R.H.Q. at a most opportune moment in July as the latter was able to remove twelve bottles of beer which he had won in the O.C.A. Raffle, thus solving a tricky dispatch problem for the Raffle Committee.

* * *

John and Angela Freer-Smith are now living in their own home in the village of Sandhurst near Hawkhurst, Kent, and hope that any members of the Regiment who are in that area will look in to see them.

* * *

Robert Coate has not been wasting his time either during the terms or vacations whilst at Oxford. He has been awarded a half-blue for Pentathlon and elected President of the Oxford University Modern Pentathlon Club, 1964-65. During the vacations he has already done a four-week attachment with "Les Paras" at Pau, and a six-week attachment to 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Army, in Kentucky.

* * *

Bob Feltham, to whom we offer our congratulations on his appointment-to-be as O.C., 1 Cheshire, reports that he has met Tom Bryan (who did his National Service with 1 Dorset in Minden), when Tom was visiting his brother Eardley, a Regular Officer in the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment. Incidentally, in 1961 Eardley Bryan did his pre-R.M.A. training with 1 D. & D. Tom Bryan was on holiday in Germany and spent much of his time coaching the Cheshire Athletics team for the Army Championships which they won.

* * *

Congratulations to Malcolm and Elizabeth Pep-
low on the arrival of a second son, Paul Timothy,
born in Akrotiri on May 2. Also to Michael and
Katherine Bullock on the birth of a second daughter.

* * *

Tony Bastyan writing from Australia says that on the Anzac Parade in Adelaide he saw an officer in Dorset Regiment uniform amongst the marching men. He is endeavouring to track him down. At the time of writing he was about to go into the "real" bush up the Birdsville track and will also be visiting Lake Eyre, the scene of Donald Campbell's recent successful attempt on the land speed record. Tony hopes to set up a new record for ungoverned Landrovers! He also hopes to visit Piers Dunn, D.E.R.R., who is A.D.C. to the Governor of Western Australia.

* * *

We have heard from both our latest Q.M.s, Phil Nott and Ron Pollard from their respective outposts, the former in Nepal and the latter in Kenya.

Ron Pollard has met Padre Ian Baillie, who was Chaplain to the 1st Battalion in Cyprus in 1960-61. Padre Baillie and his wife wish to be remembered to all ranks, both past and present. Richard Turrall is still going strong with 5 Kenya Rifles but expects to be home for good by Christmas.

* * *

Paul Freeland writes to say that he is now in Cyprus with his D.E.R.R. Company serving with 1 Gloster so he can describe himself as D. & D. with D.E.R.R. attached Glosters. How much more flexible can we get?

* * *

Jock Woodhouse, who commands 21 S.A.S., based at Hereford, must be getting tired of air travel to the Far East. Visits to the sub-unit of his Regiment fighting in Brunei have meant him being out of this country for half the year. Jock gives up command at the end of the year but his next job is not yet known. His mother, Stella Woodhouse, is now happily settled in a flat in Dorchester and her address is: 4 Linden Court, South Walks, Dorchester. She keeps very much in touch with old Dorsets.

* * *

Bob Hamblin, who is T.A. Secretary for Dorset, also devotes a lot of his time to the Scout movement. He is Dorset's County Commissioner for Scouts and was recently awarded the Silver Acorn, the second highest award which the Scout movement can offer. The Hamblins' son John was married last December to Miss Ann Peel; John is studying agriculture and botany at Reading University.

* * *

Two Dorset sons will be new boys at Sherborne School this autumn, Peter Knapp and John Bray. Lt.-Col. Oner Bray was home from Ankara, Turkey, on a course and a few days' leave this summer. Top Knapp finds the job of Bursar of a girls' school a busy one, but aided by computers and adding machines manages to work out the bills correctly.

* * *

Another prospective Sherborne Schoolboy, who hopes to go there in a year's time, is the Rev. Maisie Gay's son. We are delighted that Maisie has agreed to officiate as Chaplain at the annual Dorset Regiment Association Cenotaph Service in London each November.

* * *

Congratulations to Jill and Peter John Robson on the birth of a son in July. John commands "B" Company at Weymouth.

* * *

Steve Elvery writes from Brunei where he finds life on the gilded staff interesting and varied if a little strange after 22 years as a Regimental soldier (a record, perhaps?). As Deputy Assistant Director Public Relations on General Walker's staff, he wears many hats, looks after the Press, and is a part-time journalist as well. He lunched recently with John Speller at Kuching and sees John Moran, who was R.M.O. with 1 Dorset in Minden, and Sgt. Hale,

(Continued on page 98)

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1st BATTALION THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT



The most important event since the last issue of the Journal has been the operational move of the Battalion to British Guiana to assist in the maintenance of law and order there. After months of various degrees of readiness, of packing and unpacking, and all the resultant uncertainty, training wise and domestically, this move, with its promise of practical soldiering in a new part of the world, came as a most welcome relief.

Those concerned with Regimental History may be interested to record that for the fourth time the Battalion (or one of its preceding battalions) finds itself alongside the Buffs (or their successors). The helpfulness and general comradeship in arms shown to us by the Queen's Own Buffs has been exceptional and has greatly helped us in our shaking down period.

The Move to British Guiana. At 2 p.m. on May 22 "C" Company, the Battalion stand-by Company, was put on 24 hours' notice to move to British Guiana (B.G.).

Twenty-four hours later the company left Aldergrove Airport for Lyneham in three *Argosy* aircraft. By 10.15 that night the first of their two *Britannia* aircraft was airborne bound for B.G. with a staging stop at Gander, in Newfoundland.

The rest of the Battalion was then put at 24 hours' notice to follow "C" Company, and at 3 o'clock on the morning of May 26 we were put at immediate notice to move. By this time the Battalion was completely ready and the rest of the morning was taken up with final briefings, loading of freight and bidding farewell. Three changes in the type of aircraft we were to use nearly drove the Unit Emplaning Officers frantic, but at 2 p.m. the main body started moving out of Holywood Barracks and at 5 p.m. the first aircraft left Aldergrove for Colerne near Bath.

At Colerne the Brigade Colonel and Maj. John Reynolds met us and had a few words before we were whisked away to a transit camp at Devizes, where Col. Peter Willcocks also paid us a welcome visit. There we had a meal and sorted ourselves out into flight-loads for the long trip ahead. The first plane-load left Lyneham at midnight and the five other planes followed at two-hourly intervals.

The flight was a long and rather tedious one. The R.A.F. Transport Command crews looked after us well and we stopped at Gander and Bermuda to refuel; but it was over 30 hours from the time we left Holywood to the time we stepped on to the airfield at Atkinson Field, B.G.

All the aircraft had uneventful flights except for the second plane, with most of "A" Company aboard, which had to turn back to Lyneham with mechanical trouble. However, by 1.30 p.m. on May 28 the Battalion was complete with its kit in B.G., except for Maj. Stone and C.S.M. Sutherland, whose suitcases got left behind in U.K. and took three weeks to catch them up.

British Guiana. One of the most striking things about B.G. is the flatness of the country. It is not until you get deep into the interior, over a hundred miles from the coast, that there are appreciable highlands. The coastal belt is the main sugar and rice producing area and is intersected by rivers, creeks and canals. Inland is mainly luxuriant forest along the rivers, and rolling sparse short-covered grassland called Savanna elsewhere. Deep in the hinterland, as yet untouched by 1 D. & D., is the almost inaccessible ranching country of the Rupununi.

The rivers are the main lines of communication from south to north, and their banks are dotted with small mixed communities existing on the crops they grow in the clearings cut from the forest, and on the fish that abound at their front doors.

The climate, anyway in June and July, is hot and humid, and the rains are heavy. However, during the evening and at night there is usually a sea breeze to cool one down.

There are few big towns in B.G.; the three biggest are Georgetown the capital, Mackenzie the Bauxite mining centre south of Georgetown, and New Amsterdam at the mouth of the Berbice River.

Georgetown is laid out mathematically, with straight streets crossing each other at right angles and intersected by canals. Most of the buildings are of white weatherboard built on pillars to allow the air to circulate underneath. The roofs are mainly red and green and the gardens a riot of tropical flowers and shrubs. There are, of course, the less attractive areas such as the water-front and the shanty towns on the outskirts, but most of these are out of bounds.

Our Arrival. On arrival in B.G. we were taken care of by 1 Queen's Own Buffs, the Garrison Battalion. Although they were heavily involved operationally, the help and co-operation we received from them was unlimited and made the whole difference to our settling in period. The time and trouble they took over our problems allowed us to become operational very quickly, and by midday on May 29 the Battalion had taken over operational control of Georgetown and "C" Company, in spirit if not in body, was once again part of the Battalion.

Battalion Headquarters

On arrival, Battalion Headquarters moved into Bank House, a large building in two halves belonging to the Mercy Hospital and almost opposite B.G. Police Force Headquarters. For about six weeks half the house was used as offices and the other half as living accommodation for those working in the Headquarters. However, we have now taken over the top floor of the Y.M.C.A. building in Georgetown and most of the Headquarters staff are living there.

Members of Battalion Headquarters have done two patrols to St. Cuthbert's Mission, an Amerindian Settlement south-west of Atkinson, and also

provided a fairly high-ranking "platoon" bolstered by members of the Officers' Mess staff to do a cordon and search with "A" Company on the west coast Demerara.

43 (Lloyds Company) Medium Battery, R.A.

On July 9, 43 Battery from 20 Medium Regiment, R.A., arrived in British Guiana. We have taken them under our operational wing and they are now based in Georgetown, but will probably change over with "C" Company at Mackenzie fairly soon.

We all welcome the Gunners and hope they will enjoy their service with the Battalion.

One of the Troop Commanders is Lt. John Graham who used to be Assistant Adjutant in the Battalion in Cyprus. It is unusual to find a Gunner Battery working as infantrymen as an operational sub-unit of a battalion, but 43 Battery have taken to it like ducks to water and it does give us our third "company". Baffling the infantry with science is a favourite pastime with the more technical arms, but even the B.S.M. laughed at Capt. Tony Laurie-Chiswell's face when he was asked where he calibrated his compass.

Helicopters. One of the big features of operations in B.G. is the use of helicopters—a R.N. *Wessex* from our "chummy" ship *H.M.S. Devonshire*, which has been in Caribbean waters, and three *Alouettes*. The *Wessex* has been used on several occasions to move troops in "crash actions" and the *Alouettes* enabled the C.O. to visit Companies in a few hours—which would otherwise take days. The *Alouettes* have also, of course, been used for operational recesses, putting out stops for cordons and searches, evacuating seriously sick men and urgent mail runs.

Officers' Mess

The Officers' Mess was based in the Queen's Own Buffs Officers' Mess for about three weeks, and five Battalion Officers lived there while the rest were billeted in sundry requisitioned flats. The Queen's Own Buffs made us most welcome, and despite the inconvenience to themselves, did everything they could to make us comfortable. We now have our own Mess in a requisitioned house rented from a distinguished Guianese legal family. A brass plaque on the front door commemorates this fact. Only three officers live in the Mess, the remainder are living either in flats or on the top floor of the Georgetown Club. We came out to B.G. on "Camp Scales", but we now have most of the essentials and have held two successful curry lunch parties.

Sergeants' Mess

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is now in Sea Wall Flats in north Georgetown. With the Companies out on detachment we only have eleven Mess members living in, but this will increase when "C" Company return to the fold from Mackenzie.

We started life in B.G. boarding with the Garrison Mess, and everyone lived out of suitcases as we moved our accommodation with remarkable speed. However, we are now settled with Mess annexure accommodation next door to the Prime Minister, Dr. Jagan. Most members will soon be on nodding terms! Mess social life has been limited, but we manage to have a Saturday Social, and the sight of the R.S.M. and C.S.M. Ellis

twisting has held a B.G. audience spellbound. Sgt. Burnell is now an expert on playing the record-player and plugs the Mess song "Now is the Hour" at quarter-hour intervals.

We get the occasional visit from the out-stations: Happy Knight comes over regularly from "A" Company and Beasty Riggs appears periodically either armed with an outboard motor or a mine detector. The Mess is hoping to have a good Christmas Draw and already the Selling Sheet has appeared in the bar.

"A" Company

We started life in B.G. in north-west Georgetown with Company H.Q. and 1 Platoon in Legionaires, a large ramshackle building in the midst of playing fields; 2 Platoon in the Golf Club and Support Platoon in the East Indian Cricket Club. The buildings scarcely live up to their grandiose names, but we made ourselves as comfortable as we could and settled down to our operational task of assisting the police in maintaining law and order in the Georgetown area.

The Drums and Recce Platoon, who were under our operational command, were based on a large rum factory at Diamond on the southern outskirts of Georgetown and responsible for the main road from Georgetown to Atkinson.

We were lucky in that Georgetown was reasonably quiet during our stay, but we spent hours of the day and night patrolling on foot and by vehicle until we knew the town inside-out.

On June 22 we swapped responsibilities with "C" Company the Queen's Own Buffs, and taking the Drums and Recce Platoon with us, moved over the Demerara River to the west coast while they moved into Legionaires and took over responsibility for Georgetown.

The West Coast Demerara (W.C.D.) has been the scene of some nasty inter-racial incidents, and since we moved there we have been extremely busy operationally.

The west coast is a predominantly rice and sugar growing area with large estates and factories the length of the coast. The land is flat and intersected by canals and dykes. Almost all the population live in villages straddling the coast road, which varies between a reasonable metalled surface and a badly pot-holed track. The villages are composed of wooden houses on pillars and it is difficult to tell where one village ends and another starts. This area was originally settled by the Dutch, who colonised B.G. prior to 1814. Almost all the names are rather tongue-twisting Dutch ones, like Vergenoegen, Anna Catherina, Meten Meer Zorg and Vreed-en-Hoop.

Before the current violence began, these villages were peaceful multi-racial communities; some with an East Indian and some with an African majority. Now most of the smaller racial communities have left their villages and moved to those with a majority of their own race. Thus each violent incident leads to racial retaliation between villages, and in the few remaining multi-racial communities, within a village.

Up to date the most frequent operational task, apart from routine patrolling, has been the cordon and search. These involve a very early start and the strenuous business of maintaining an alert cordon for some hours in the rain or sun, whilst the Search Parties do their work. We have done

1st BN. THE DORSET REGIMENT COLOURS



Colour Party marching between the ranks of The Dorset Regiment, T.A. in the Abbey Close



Brigadier Bredin about to hand over the Colours to the Vicar of Sherborne



Colour Party about to enter the West Door, Sherborne Abbey

two train searches. The first one produced parts of a home-made gun and some cartridges, the second was abortive. However, we do understand the problems of the local population better now, and they also understand the military position better and trust in its impartiality. One vehicle patrol recently flagged down a car and the driver had the doors, bonnet and boot open and was standing spread-eagled ready to be searched before the patrol had dismounted.

The whole Company is living in houses provided by the big estates. Amenities vary, but in the main the local managers have tried to make us as comfortable as the sometimes cramped conditions will allow.

Company H.Q. is in the grounds of a large sugar estate called Leonora, about halfway along the W.C.D. The accommodation is quite reasonable and the Company has the use of a swimming pool for a period every day. Everyone has been busy operationally, even C.S.M. Sutherland found himself running a bus service for stranded civilians when the railway line was sabotaged.

1 Platoon have had a spell in Vergenoegen, the most westerly and the least salubrious of the platoon positions. However, there is no Police Station in Vergenoegen and the platoon found themselves acting as policemen as well as soldiers. The locals' faith in our crime investigation ability was touching, but largely unfounded. We are now at Versailles on the west bank of the River Demerara. The accommodation here is better and we have the use of the Estate Club in the evenings. We have been very busy operationally, but there is a real purpose behind our work and everyone is fit and cheerful.

2 Platoon started life on the W.C.D. under the wing of Company H.Q. at Leonora, but have now moved west to another big Estate and factory at Uitvlugt. Here we are in two houses in the managerial compound and also have the use of the Club in the evenings. Uitvlugt is a tricky area as one half of the area is completely East Indian and the other half is completely African. These racial blocs are divided by a narrow road, and a member of one race will never enter the other race's area for fear for his life. This fear is well-founded. We have done patrols and operations of every kind, but a sight to gladden the eyes of every member of the platoon was that of Sgt. Sleeman riding "shotgun" on a steamroller.

Support Platoon moved into Uitvlugt when we first took over the W.C.D., but have now moved into Vergenoegen. While we were in Uitvlugt we had a couple of successes: one when a patrol found a man actually putting a home-made bomb on the rafters of a house, and secondly, finding several bombs and some explosives hidden under the local Church of Scotland building.

The accommodation at Vergenoegen is not so good as at Uitvlugt, but it is a new area to us. There is plenty to do operationally and we are all well.

The Recce Platoon has been based at Leonora ever since we reached the W.C.D., but most of us have only seen our rooms to sleep in them. Patrolling and other operational tasks have kept us fully occupied and the platoon vehicles have done a prodigious mileage over some appalling roads. Amongst our more unusual jobs has been the macabre task of escorting a funeral cortège from

Georgetown to the W.C.D., and the arrest of a suspected murderer, who had evaded the police for three weeks, by Cpls. Colley and Dyer with their Sections. Since we have been on the W.C.D. we have been at two hours' notice to move to Georgetown or the East Coast Demerara (E.C.D.). We have in fact been over to Georgetown as a platoon to do an exercise with the Gunners and got stuck over there when the Gunners rushed off to the E.C.D. in support of the Queen's Own Buffs.

The Drums Platoon moved into Versailles when we went to the W.C.D. and acquired a small boat with an outboard motor. We did several patrols in this boat and some inhabitants of the canal banks have been astonished at the sudden appearance of our patrol in their midst. One of the family newsletters reported that the drums were beating out the news that "Barlow of the River is back". Alas, we have no drums, but perhaps the "sea tail" if and when it reaches us, will give us the opportunity to beat out something. Now we are in Leonora at the hub of Company life—we are not sure that we do not prefer being out on one of the spokes!

"C" Company

While the rest of the Battalion were chewing their nails in Holywood wondering whether they would follow us, we were heavily involved in a very nasty Internal Security situation in Mackenzie on the Demerara River about 70 miles south of Georgetown.

We had an uneventful flight out and were met by the Queen's Own Buffs at Atkinson Field. We were scheduled to move down into Georgetown, but before we could do so the situation in Mackenzie flared into bitter racial strife, with murder, rape and arson predominant.

Support Platoon flew to Mackenzie at 5 o'clock in the evening the day after we arrived, and Company H.Q. and 7 Platoon arrived by river at 4 a.m. the next morning when it became obvious that the situation was beyond the control of one platoon, and 8 Platoon joined us by air about midday the following day. Lt.-Col. John Pine-Coffin, on a visit from his H.Q. in the Batamur, actually travelled up with the Company Commander.

Mackenzie is the production centre for the Demerara Bauxite Company, known as D.E.M.B.A. This is a large £27 million Company within the Alcan group of companies and produces 5,300 tons of bauxite a day, which in turn makes 1,325 tons of aluminium.

On the east bank of the river are North Mackenzie, the main production area, plant, vast machinery workshops and a net work of railway lines which connect the production centre with the mines; and South Mackenzie, where the expatriate staff live. There are also two small shanty towns to the east called Rainbow City and Cara Cara.

On the west bank are the towns where most of the local D.E.M.B.A. employees live: Wismar, Christianburg and Silver City. The buildings in these towns are wooden, cramped together and the "streets" consist of mud tracks and paths beside open ditches.

The Mackenzie/Wismar area has always been a predominantly African population and there have been racial incidents there before in times of tension. However, never before has there been a racial clash to equal the events of the last week of May, 1964.

In retaliation for East Indian assaults on Africans elsewhere in the colony, the African population fell upon the East Indians on May 24 and proceeded to beat, burn, rape and kill.

The twelve policemen and the local company of British Guiana Volunteer Force (B.G.V.F., a form of Colony T.A.) could not contain the outbreak of violence. When we arrived there we worked flat out evacuating East Indians to a protected area, patrolling the area, dispersing crowds, putting out fires and generally attempting to produce order out of chaos. By May 29 we had succeeded. As a result of this horrifying affair, approximately 2,000 East Indians were evacuated to Georgetown, and over 200 East Indian houses were burnt. During this period we were averaging 3 hours sleep in every 24. However, once the East Indian population had gone the situation quietened, but arson and looting of unoccupied East Indian houses continued nightly. The D.E.M.B.A. African workers came out on strike in protest against alleged insulting remarks made by expatriate D.E.M.B.A. employees during disturbances, and tension rose again. However, the strike was settled after a week and our main task became the protection of abandoned East Indian property and prevention of a vague threat to the expatriate staff.

This was a phenomenal task as the East Indian houses, those that were still standing, were scattered the length and breadth of Wismar, Christianburg, Silver City, Rainbow City and Cara Cara, and the expatriate staff were scattered over a wide area in South Mackenzie.

When we arrived we occupied part of the B.G.V.F. barracks and part of the D.E.M.B.A. Trade School. Later Company H.Q. and 8 Platoon occupied the whole of the Trade School and 7 Platoon stayed in part of the B.G.V.F. barracks and Support Platoon went into the Golf Club in South Mackenzie.

When everything was quiet, East Indians started to return. Some came to take over their old jobs again, others merely to collect their belongings. This return posed a difficult security problem as once again the East Indians were scattered over the area. However, this time only four men moved back west of the river. As the threat to the expatriate staff diminished, Support Platoon moved to the Mackenzie Hotel Annexe and set up in business as census-takers, checking the East Indian population daily to find out how many had returned and where they lived.

The area was quiet. We relaxed a little and platoons went down to Atkinson for a change of air and a taste of "walking out" in Georgetown. Finally 8 Platoon went to Atkinson to stay, leaving 7 Platoon and Support Platoon, with Company H.Q., to hold the fort. The East Indian population crept up to about 180 men, women and children. East Indians were insulted and assaulted, but they stayed—until July 6.

On July 6 a river launch with approximately 60 Africans on board was travelling from Georgetown to Mackenzie when it blew up and sank about 12 miles north of Mackenzie. It seems almost certain that the explosion was caused by a quantity of explosives amongst the launch's cargo, and 34 African men, women and children died in the explosion or subsequently drowned.

The survivors reached Wismar and went straight

to the market. Before the Police or Military even knew about the explosion the Africans had crossed the river and set upon the East Indians. In the first onslaught 3 men and a child were killed and numerous others beaten and slashed. Thanks to our detailed knowledge of where the East Indians were living the Police, B.G.V.F. and ourselves were able to round up the majority and put them in a protected area around Mackenzie Police Station. A curfew was imposed and the area gradually quietened down. For the next few days we were fully extended: keeping the area quiet, feeding and looking after the East Indian refugees and dispersing the hysterical crowds which greeted every body recovered from the launch disaster. Everyone was involved, the Company cooks, the Colour Sergeant, the Company clerk. Everyone manned road blocks, patrolled or watched over the refugees. Finally the refugees were again evacuated by river to Georgetown. Now there are only four East Indian men, three women and seventeen children left in the area. They are either brave or foolish, but the evacuation of the rest of the East Indian population has removed the tension from the area and allowed us to sort ourselves out after a pretty hectic few days.

8 Platoon missed this last crisis as we were at Atkinson, but we lay claim to being the most travelled platoon in the Battalion. We have been to Mackenzie, Atkinson, two trips to the W.C.D. for operations with "A" Company and are now at Diamond on the outskirts of Georgetown, where we are under the operational command of 43 Battery. We recently did an interesting night operation up a creek of the Demerara River in two small local boats, and for several days we "stood to" to go down to the E.C.D. in support of "B" Company The Queen's Own Buffs. This trip never materialised, but would certainly have clinched our travelling claim.

Headquarter Company

Headquarter Company is based at Atkinson. This is the only place in B.G. which is really designed for military occupation. It lies on the Demerara River about 28 miles south of Georgetown and contains the main airport, Atkinson Field. The Camp is an old American Hospital built during World War II and has good facilities including playing fields and a swimming pool.

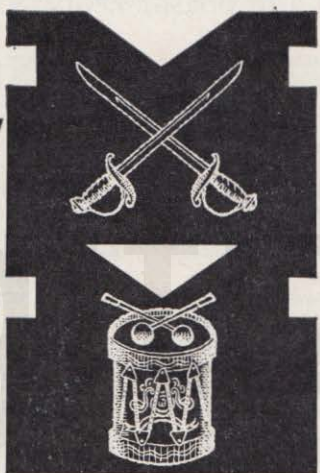
Company H.Q., the M.T. and the Q.M.'s Department are based here. The Officers' Mess, which is run by the Queen's Own Buffs, has a most varied membership including Army Air Corps, Navy, and R.A.F.; the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is much the same and has a membership of about 60.

Apart from our normal task of administering the Battalion in its far-flung locations, we have in fact taken part in several operations. We have taken part in cordons and searches, in snap patrols, and C.S.M. Allen with Cpls. Murdock and Christian did a sixteen-hour clandestine patrol looking for a gang of thugs thought to be in the area.

The Company Commander and a party of drivers and cooks have done helicopter patrols to Bartica, an up-river port on the vast Essequibo River and to the islands in the river mouth, which is seven miles across.

These patrols were done to reassure the local population of the vigilance and availability of British

A MILITARY



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soldiers. Another small patrol including C/Sgt. Violet and Cpl. McFeeters has visited Winiperu, a lumber camp on the Essequibo, where it is hoped to establish a garrison rest centre where people can swim, play tennis and shoot alligators and game. The first party are due to go in August.

We are all fit and well, and morning P.T., swimming, volley ball and football during off duty hours all helped to produce some impressive tans and a distinct reduction in waist measurements.

Conclusion

Life in B.G. is hot, and for many tough and arduous. It is nevertheless most rewarding since all the months of training in England and Northern Ireland are bearing fruit and we have the knowledge that we are doing a practical job of soldiering, that is bringing relief to the people of this unfortunate country.

Rear Party

After the departure of the Battalion for British Guiana at the end of May, the task of looking after the barracks and the families devolved upon the Rear Party. This consisted of Training Company Headquarters with C.S.M. Hill and C/Sgt. Alderman, the R.Q.M.S., the Band, and about forty other souls who were either unfit or in administrative appointments.

The barracks get no smaller and guards still have to be mounted, so most members of the Rear Party do double duty as a matter of course. The Band contributed nobly towards the guard roster, which eased the burden for the others.

The organisation of the Band Tour produced many interesting problems as the original concept of playing along the route of the 1914 Retreat from Mons progressed through a series of alternative engagements in Belgium dreamt up by the Ministry of Defence (Army) to the final solution of sailing to Norway in *H.M.S. Devonshire* under the auspices of Ministry of Defence (Navy). When the new-look Ministry of Defence becomes really co-ordinated the Band may be giving airborne concerts in the Belfast Freighter, too, sponsored by M.O.D. (Air).

Mrs. Randle and the Wives' Club Committee now hold their Club meetings each week and C.S.M. Hill and team run a thriving Tombola session in the N.A.A.F.I. every Friday. The Wives' Committee also organised a successful coffee morning on Salamanca Day with sideshows and trips round the barracks in the "Kinnegar Flyer" for what appeared to be about 500 children, although we understand the numbers were in fact less.

A team from A.A.T.D.C. Boscombe Down spent two weeks with us while taking part in the loading trials of the Belfast Freighter. We lent them some vehicles and can now say the first 3-tonner to drive into the Belfast belonged to 1 D. & D. S/Sgt. Barrett and a few others seized the opportunity to go over the Freighter and examine the cockpit.

A platoon of 1 King's from Ballykinlar arrives shortly to help us cope with the guards while the Band is away, and in addition we have parties of T.A. in as well, doing a week's training instead of Annual Camp. There was the impressive spectacle the other night of Sgt. Small A.C.C. as Orderly Officer inspecting a guard drawn from 1 D. & D., 6 R.U.R. and 5 R. Irish Fusiliers.

We hope our comrades in British Guiana continue their successful efforts in keeping the peace, and maintaining the right proportion of rum to the appropriate leavening liquid.

Band

Our contribution for this Journal issue is being compiled at sea as we head northwards between Portsmouth and Norway en route for Oslo. The Band was recently favoured with an invitation from *H.M.S. Devonshire* to accompany the ship to Norway, and approval was eventually received from the Ministry of Defence, so we are now on our way, and naturally we are all very delighted. Immediately before our departure from Portsmouth we were visited by the Brigade Colonel and the interest of Colonel Bannister in the Band was very much appreciated by us all.

The opportunity to take this trip with our nautical colleagues marks the belated start to our engagement season for 1964, and on our return to Plymouth on July 31 we shall once again be dashing from place to place providing entertainment for our ever enthusiastic public. Although our 1964 Tour will in no way compare with that of 1963, we shall however be concentrating a large number of engagements into a comparatively short period. During our U.K. tour we shall be lodging with the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) at Higher Barracks, Exeter, such an arrangement being very pleasantly received by all the Bandsmen, needless to say.

Looking back, the events of the past few months within the 1st Battalion have created a situation which we could never have anticipated when our last contribution was written. With the sudden departure of the Battalion for British Guiana, we were called upon to step into the breach and to help in providing the Guards at Palace Barracks, Holywood, and also in manning the telephone exchange there. Here once again we were able to boast that we were quite capable of taking it all in our stride.

Acknowledging the necessity for our being employed mainly outside our normal activities, we accepted the task quite cheerfully, although we must admit that the situation lasted much longer than we had ever expected. We found this particularly harassing when we were required to carry out the occasional musical performance with so little time available for preparation and practice. Fortunately, however, I think it quite safe to say that we did not let ourselves down, and the good name of the Band has not been impaired. One notable occasion was playing at Government House, Hillsborough, for the last Garden Party to be held by Lord Wakehurst, who retires shortly. Another was at Belfast Docks speeding the Devonshire Regiment (T.A.) on its way home from Camp, which was kept as a little surprise for Mr. Staddon and his stalwarts.

The 1st Battalion returns to Holywood in January, 1965

RETIREMENT

During the past six months the following officers have retired: Capt. J. W. Tong and Lt. C. R. J. H. Willes.

To Oslo in H.M.S. "Devonshire."

The journey to Oslo aboard *H.M.S. Devonshire* was certainly very interesting, and a great deal of thanks must be passed to the ship's company as a whole for all their efforts and the many gestures of hospitality which we experienced throughout our entire stay with our nautical friends.

I'm sure the majority of us were particularly impressed by the scenic beauty of the Oslo Fjord, and as we approached Oslo we were formed up with the ship's company, playing for the full ceremonial entry into the harbour, complete with the Royal Salute of 21 guns and the appropriate replies from the shore batteries. Within a matter of a few minutes of our arrival at Hjortens Quay a large number of people had gathered—I must admit we couldn't decide whether it was the ship they were interested in or those strange "Pongoes" on board. Maybe we should compromise and agree that the interest was in favour of both.

Our first musical contribution after arrival was on Friday morning (July 24) when King Olaf V came alongside in the Royal Barge and took the salute, prior to embarking on the nearby Royal Yacht which was to take him to Denmark on a state visit. Then on Saturday the Band gave a concert in the park at Karl Johann's Gata. This adjoins the largest street in the centre of Oslo, and a large Norwegian audience were present and showed obvious delight at the performance. This was followed by the Band "Beating Retreat" on Sunday evening in the University Square. Situated on the opposite side of the roadway of Karl Johann's Gata, and close to the Royal Palace, the setting was most impressive, with the public packing three sides of the square and a background of the main University building with its huge gothic pillars. The Band marching on in full dress completed a perfect picture, and the large audience really expressed their appreciation.

With the exception of members of the Dance Orchestra, Monday was a free day and the Norwegian Navy made a very kind gesture by providing a local luxury touring coach to take us on a sight-seeing tour of the district, enabling us to see the ski slopes, Kon Tiki Museum and the Viking Ship Museum. Another sight to be appreciated was the very attractive lady courier, and one could not fail to be attentive to her "details". On the same day the Dance Orchestra played for a children's party on board the *Devonshire* provided by the ship's company for children from local orphanages, and during the evening the Dance section played for dancing at the Allied Forces Northern Europe Headquarters. This performance was very much enjoyed by the mixed nationalities present, and by the Bandsmen themselves.

Throughout our stay in Oslo one could not fail to notice the interest of the Norwegians in our uniforms. Our Bandsmen were frequently stopped in the street and asked: "British soldier?" and the affirmative reply really provided warm handshaking. On the whole the local people were most hospitable towards us.

After a ceremonial departure on Tuesday, July 28, we had the misfortune to run into a severe gale

on entering the Skaggerak, which seemed to put many of the Band (and actually a number of the ship's company) "out of action" for about 18 hours, but fortunately we were fit and well in time to present a colourful entry into Plymouth.

In conclusion, we all agree that the trip was a very successful one, and the inter-services co-operation was much appreciated by both sides. We now hope that the future may hold further combined efforts of this nature with a continued association with *H.M.S. Devonshire*.

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WESSEX BRIGADE NEWS

At the request of the Brigade Colonel we include under this new heading a very brief account of the doings of the other three Wessex Brigade Regiments. Limited space does not allow more than a very brief reference to their activities; however, if nothing else is achieved, this will at least keep everyone posted as to the whereabouts of our fellow Regiments.

The Depot

Since our arrival in Wyvern Barracks Passing Out Parades have been taken by Maj.-Gen. J. R. Holden, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 43 Wessex Div/Dist.; Maj.-Gen. R. H. Batten, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Colonel of the Royal Hampshire Regiment; Brig. S. N. Floyer-Acland, Comd. 130 Inf. Bde. (T.A.) and by Brig. K. R. S. Trevor, C.B.E., D.S.O., Comd. Devon and Cornwall Sub-District, and after an inspection of the Barracks they have lunched in the Officers' Mess.

Another important visitor has been Lt.-Gen. Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Southern Command, who spent the afternoon of July 28 with us.

The departure of L/Cpl. Hooper cannot go unmentioned, and all those still serving at the Depot wish him the best of luck in his well-earned retirement.

Junior Soldiers' Company. The Band and Drums have made two public appearances, once when the Drums performed on the Hoe at Plymouth Army Week, and again when the Band and Drums gave a Display for Parents' Day. The Plymouth Army Week performance was the swan song of Drum-Major Choules, who has now joined the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment. As usual he produced a first-class Corps of Drums. In his place we welcome Drum-Major Simmonds who has recently returned from a tour with The Trinidad and Tobago Regiment.

In the Ten Tors expedition the team of under 16's romped home, arriving at the finishing line just after the recorders had set up shop and before most of the spectators had arrived.

The term was rounded off by the Juniors soundly beating the permanent staff at cricket, a result that appeared to be very popular with the spectators.

The Gloucestershire Regiment, Cyprus

Cyprus, at the date of writing, is from our point of view reasonably quiet. (This was written before the August flare-up.) There are still police road blocks on all the main roads, which are manned more and more by the new National Guard, who look quite smart in their British-type K.D. On a journey from Episkopi to Larnaca, some 60 miles, one has to go through the infuriating procedure of being searched about five times en route. We continue to remain in the Sovereign Base Area, being mainly concerned with the safety of our families in Limassol.

We have two operational tasks. The first is the defence of the Base if necessary, and the second is

to look after two R.A.F. sites at the top of Troodos. This necessitates a certain number of men always being up at Troodos and the Companies rotate the duty.

In the Army Individual Athletics Championships our representatives proved very successful, the outstanding performance being that of Sgt. S. Smeath, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, who won both the 3 miles and the Steeplechase in the same afternoon! *Well done, that veteran.—Editor.*

On July 28 Lt.-Col. P. G. H. Varwell handed over command to Lt.-Col. H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Germany

Hardly had the Battalion recovered from the festivities of Christmas and the New Year when the possibility of a move to some distant part of the world to combat rebellion and civil disorder was thrust upon us.

The soldiers packed their kits, the Band prepared the Air Movement Control Centre, drivers packed and lashed their Landrovers and everyone stood by, eagerly awaiting news. Platoons practiced riot drills, ambushes, security duties, and all the other tasks relating especially to our expected task. The whole Battalion practiced an air move from the nearby R.A.F. station, where the newer soldiers experienced the unpleasantness of a bumpy flight. However, we also continue to maintain our role as part of the British Army of the Rhine. The Rifle Companies spent a valuable week in the training area at Haltern practicing patrolling, map-reading by night, working with helicopters, live-firing and the routine of administration in the field. Everyone was glad to emerge from the German winter and get down to real soldiering out of barracks. Meanwhile we look forward to an exciting training season and, who knows, a possible move to some other part of the globe to help meet another of Britain's many commitments.

D.E.R.R., Malta

No excitements to report other than the provision of one Company for service under command 1 Gloster in Cyprus. As a matter of interest to Devon and Dorsets, the Company in Cyprus at the moment is commanded by Paul Freeland. The Battalion was looking forward to the arrival of the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, who represented Her Majesty at the Independence Day celebrations on September 22. As this Journal went to press before that date we shall have to wait until our February issue for a report on events. The Colonel of the Regiment, Maj.-Gen. B. A. Coad, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., hands over his appointment to Col. R. B. G. Bromhead, O.B.E., in November. The Sovereign's approval has recently been received for the affiliation of the 13th Battalion Frontier Force Regiment, Pakistan Army, with the Regiment.

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THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT (T.A.)

(THE FIRST RIFLE VOLUNTEERS)

Annual Camp

As mentioned in a previous Journal the Battalion got permission to go to Northern Ireland for Annual Camp this year. The main reason for going there was the presence of the 1st Battalion at Holywood Barracks, Belfast. However, when all arrangements had been made and planning completed the 1st Battalion was ordered to British Guiana as an emergency measure and flew off only a week before our camp was due to begin. We were extremely lucky in having Lt.-Col. Gilchrist at H.Q., Northern Ireland Command; he did a great deal to make satisfactory alternative arrangements for our reception. Maj. Bullock, too, as O.C. 1 D. & D. Rear Details, gave us all the help he could, mostly in the provision of equipment for training, but not least in sending the Band of the 1st Battalion down to the quay at Belfast to play us away.

We travelled as a Battalion from Devon by train, the only three vehicles we were allowed to take having gone ahead with the advance party. The train journey was long and wearying, starting as it did from Plymouth at 1000 hours and arriving at Heysham at 2230 hours that night. Detraining and embarking was completed by 2300 hours, leaving the unfortunate baggage party still working until 2330 hours. After an uneventful voyage we docked at Belfast and travelled in special buses to Ballykinler, arriving at 0930 hours, and by 1000 hours all ranks were having their first hot meal since leaving home 26 hours before.

Ballykinler is beautifully situated on the edge of Dundrum Bay "where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea"—when you can see them! A generous allocation of very good training areas and ranges together with the willing and efficient help given by the 1st Battalion 3rd East Anglian Regiment enabled us to put through during the first week a comprehensive programme of basic training. In the second week we were originally to have taken part in an exercise set by H.Q., 39 Infantry Brigade, for their own regular units. However, in the absence of H.Q., 39 Brigade—flown to Aden a few days before we arrived—and of 1 D. & D.—flown to British Guiana—there was no exercise. In place of it we set and ran our own exercise, "Ballymena Blister". This took the form of a two-sided exercise designed chiefly to practice and test our patrolling.

The following are extracts of a report by some West Country press reporters who visited the Battalion whilst in camp:—

"Early on Monday troop-laden trucks left Ballykinler for the exercise area, about 30 square miles of bleak moorland in County Antrim, where neighbours can be anything up to half a mile apart. The weather began to decline on the 60-mile journey. It was more like November than June as the men from Devon marched the eight miles to the imaginary radar station it was their task to guard from a squad of Ever Readies (T.A.E.R.). Patrols through-

out the night covered anything up to 20 miles and compo rations, prepared on tiny but efficient Heximine burners, had never tasted better. The problem of getting some sleep was not easily solved when the bedding consisted of only a blanket and a groundsheet to each man and with rain sweeping across the glens. All agreed the wet going and rough countryside had made patrolling far tougher than usual but the men were still far more cheerful than might have been expected. As I walked away groundsheets and blankets were re-adjusted and a call went out for a medical orderly when it was learned a man had collapsed on patrol. He was soon taken to a local hospital suffering from complete exhaustion. This was the sort of toll being taken by the conditions. The cold and the rain led to a rum ration being issued; no one was sorry when the exercise was over. With a vengeance it had achieved its purpose of training men for the battlefield."

During the week-end in the middle of camp we organised coach trips to many resorts and places of interest. A good half of the Battalion went to Dublin and a good half came back. The Band and Drums Beat Retreat in camp on the Friday of the first week prior to a cocktail party and buffet supper in the Officers' Mess, to which many local officials and people were invited. Amongst those present were the Chief of Staff, Northern Ireland Command, Brig. Green; the Deputy Commander, 43 Wessex Division, Brig. Loder; Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Gilchrist; Mrs. Randle, wife of the C.O. of the 1st Battalion; Maj. and Mrs. Bullock from 1 D. & D. Rear Details; C.O. of 1st Bn., 3rd East Anglian Regiment and Mrs. Norbury; and two retired regular officers of the Regiment, Lt.-Col. Guy Browne and Maj. Gerald Hickey. On the previous Wednesday the officers held a Regimental Guest Night in honour of the Chairman of the Devon Territorial Association, Brig. P. B. E. Acland, the Secretary, Lt.-Col. E. J. Hatfield, and the Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, Col. A. W. Anstey, all of whom had flown from Exeter on Tuesday, and who spent three days with us. Other guests at dinner on this occasion were Col. Hugh Jobson, Deputy Commander 130 Inf. Bde., Lt.-Col. F. E. Nangle, Secretary of the Armagh and Co. Down Territorial Association, Col. The Hon. L. H. Clifford our previous Commanding Officer, Maj. David Dunn, Brigade Major 130 Inf. Bde., and officers of H.Q. 130 Inf. Bde.

On our last day we had a most welcome visit from the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Ireland Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Anderson. We also had a fleeting but nonetheless appreciated visit from Brig. Bredin, representing the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Band and Drums gave an excellent performance of the Ceremony of Beating Retreat in the nearby town of Newcastle on our last night of camp, and the local inhabitants were full of praise for it.

And so we journeyed back, tired but pleased, to England. Sorry that we had missed the 1st Battalion but pleased with the success of our camp.

Officers' Mess

In May the ladies again dined in the Mess, and the unanimous opinion was that the evening was a most enjoyable one.

The Mess in Ballykinler Camp was adequate without being luxurious, with the exception of the kitchen itself, which could only be described as highly mechanized.

Once the cooks had overcome their initial suspicion of the various "power tools" provided, the standard of cooking was first-class.

There was rather more than the usual amount of "poodle faking" at the Cocktail Party, but in fairness, this was confined to those young officers entitled so to do by virtue of their single state. Tony Brogan appeared to be the most successful, with admittedly the joint advantages of his recent success in winning the T.A. Heavyweight Boxing Championship and a Mini-Cooper. All officers found the lack of personal transport in N. Ireland somewhat restricting.

The Rev. John Parkinson of Plymouth, the recently appointed Chaplain, was present for the whole of Camp and quickly became very popular with all ranks. His pedestrian efforts across the Ballymena Bog were particularly appreciated.

Soon after returning from N. Ireland the Band and Drums Beat Retreat on the new Coach Station, Exeter. (They also just beat the rain, which descended just as they were marching off.) The assembled company was honoured, and slightly shattered, by the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Collinson, married in Torquay that afternoon. Malcolm's time and space appreciation: 1230 Wedding in Torquay; 1430 Reception at the Imperial; 1800 Beating Retreat, Exeter, was masterly indeed. However, it is rumoured that his arrangement for overnight accommodation at the Clarence was sabotaged.

At Bisley Michael Anstey shot for the T.A., in the Inter-Services S.R. (b) Match, whilst Sam Phillips shot for the T.A., in the Inter-Services .22 Match, and won the Knott Cup in the R.A.P.C. (T.A.) .22 Championship. George Simey had planned to go to Bisley on his own but his wife and Mrs. Simey had other ideas. Eventually Penny spent three days in Bullet Lodge, whilst George roughed it in a tent.

Sergeants' Mess

The W.O.s' and Sgts.' Mess has progressed over the past months; we went to Camp at Ballykinler, Northern Ireland, in early June but were most disappointed at not being able to carry out our various social engagements with the W.O.s' and Sgts.' Mess of the 1st Battalion, The Devon and Dorset Regiment, the major part of the Battalion having been whisked off suddenly to British Guiana. However, we were able to entertain R.Q.M.S. McGregor and a few members of the Rear Party, after a short course of instruction in "Bomb Aiming" and "Hook" given by C.S.M. Gareth Evans, we proceeded to have a very entertaining hour's earnest competition ending in a draw at "Bomb Aiming" and as the 1st Battalion were our guests we thought we would boost their ego and let them win at "Hook".

I would like to thank all the Rear Party for introducing two new games which I'm sure will be played at Mess functions for years to come, and for helping to make the evening a most enjoyable one. This year was the turn of the Officers' Mess to entertain us to a social evening—an excellent time was had by all, the Sgts.' Mess winning the "Boat Race Pot" from the officers.

The weather was not too kind to us at Camp, especially on exercise "Ballymena Blister", which was very aptly named—ask Fred Kent!

Several of our members spent five days at Bisley; we have done better there in the past, but some members individually got amongst the honours and awards.

We understand we are losing Bandmaster Staddon shortly; he has served us long and well. We will miss you, Vic.

We must congratulate the P.S.I.s' Falling Plate team on winning the Divisional Rifle Meeting Tile Shoot; Sgt. and Mrs. Dave Diggle on the birth of twins; Sgt. Greed, R.A.P.C., on his promotion to Sergeant (and we take this opportunity of welcoming him to the Sgts.' Mess, may your stay with us be a happy one).

"A" Company

A tremendous transformation has taken place in the O.R.s' canteen here at Mutley Barracks. For many years it has had a coat of emulsion paint on the walls and one or two pictures; now, what a change. Thanks to some really hard graft by "A" Coy. Decorators Inc., there has been a tremendous transformation.

Bright paper covers the walls, matching curtains cover the windows, and a really "sleazy" bar occupies a place of honour. It is no longer a canteen, but "The Prince of Wales's Club". No praise could be too high for the team: Sgt. Kent, Cpl. Smith, Cpl. Higgins and Cpl. Lamerton, to name a few of the most regular "work gang". My main worry was the giving of evidence in divorce cases after three weeks of almost every night away from home, but the grand opening, with wives present, quashed all the cases pending.

Col. Harrison performed the official opening, drank the first pint, and wished the new Club every success. Now the ladies are frequent visitors and feel that they can let husbands off the leash with, maybe, not such hard feelings.

Cpl. Olds and Cpl. New have taken over as joint barmen, and a fine job they are doing. The men feel they now have somewhere where they can be really at ease after drill night is over.

The G.O.C. visited Mutley Barracks on May 11. Although he was not present very long, he managed to speak to a great number of people. His manner soon had the men at their ease and they showed him their skills, confident that there was someone who knew what he wanted to see.

I wish I had been able to tape the disagreement between the General and Cpl. Farley on the target selected by the Anti-Tank Pl. on a landscape target. It was quite a sight, the General and the Cpl. changing places at the sights of the B.A.T., and the telescope. I believe the G.O.C.'s actual time allowed at Mutley was nearly all spent with this platoon.

One great laugh came from the G.O.C. when he looked up into the cab and asked the driver—who shall be nameless—"How is she?" Back came the

reply "First-class, Sir." "Switch your lights on," said the G.O.C.—and one side light didn't! Mind you, it did before the General left this Barracks.

Congratulations to those who did well at Bisley. Although the China Cup did not return with them, there were compensations in the form of prizes, monetary and medals. Cpl. Hooper did particularly well in winning over £5 in money prizes and being the Company's only representative in the T.A. fifty. Lt. J. Myall gained a silver bar and Sgt. Trude three bronze bars, a good show.

Out of the blue came an offer to participate in a demonstration on the use of the helicopter in troop drops. The weather was perfect on Saturday, July 4 as Maj. John Edward-Collins and *thirteen* of the Battalion were first briefed, and then demonstrated before quite a considerable audience at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Plymouth. As one of those who took part, I can assure you that it is quite an experience. On a signal the "Stick" dashed crouching into the "chopper" and were whisked away, and then as the "green" flashed, belts were unclipped and from about 30 feet we went down the rope and flung ourselves down in the true military fashion, taking up defensive positions until the "bird" had flown. Another signal, and we were off again in formation to mop up any resistance.

The drill took place twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday, and I feel that I speak for everyone when I say that we would do it again any time, if the opportunity offered itself.

It has come to my ears that a request is forthcoming from those who took part that they be allowed to wear wings, full wings for Saturday and Sunday, half wings for Sunday only.

"B" Company

Much water has passed 'neath the bridge since our last publication, the main event being Annual Camp. We welcome Mr. Lambert to 5 Pl. (Newton Abbot) and also a large contingent of recruits to all platoons.

On the training side, a very wet T.A.E.R. week-end prepared the "ever readies" for exercise "Red Biddy", which was cancelled. The training was not wasted. The "Falkner Cup" shoot was a little disappointing from our point of view, but Cpl. Pockett was quite satisfied with the money.

With Annual Camp behind us we can look back and congratulate ourselves on having once again upheld the good name of the Regiment and County. Congratulations to our recruits on passing their "test"; also to Pte. Southwick on his recommendation for promotion to R.S.M. (unpaid). I gather that Pte. Staniforth found the outlook rather black on one occasion. The Battalion exercise left many sore feet and wet behinds and a very jubilant T.A.E.R. element who were very ably led by Mr. Lambert. Of their social activities, however, the less said the better. Many weeping coloons on the quayside! "Come back to Erin", etc. Back to the mundane existence of drills and week-end exercises again we can only hope that the impetus gained at Camp will carry us over the "low period".

Puzzle Corner. A prize of one packet of "instant elephant powder" will be sent to the first reader to find an elephant in a box of smarties!

"C" Company

"If you ever go across the sea to Ireland" so the

song goes. We did, and encountered or rather endured "Ballymena Blister" a rare one indeed, soonest forgotten, soonest mended. The camp as a whole went down very well with everyone: good training areas and ranges, and to wake up in the morning and be able to look up at the mountains of Mourne made it all worth while, that and the draught Guinness.

Our biggest achievement to date has been finding someone who can write; our only hope now is that the rest of the Regiment can read equally as well.

The training during the summer months has been varied and interesting, having been blessed with exceptionally good weather we have grabbed every opportunity to get out and about with the emphasis on shooting in preparation for the Battalion shoot at which we hope to do well.

We were pleased to report, however, that the Drill Hall at Barnstaple has at last been decorated. This has made a great improvement in the appearance of the place although it is widely held (by the P.S.I. and C.S.M.) that the work done does not come up to the standard of that at the Ilfracombe Drill Hall. We should, of course, explain that the worthy Sergeant-Majors have devoted a good deal of their spare time to the redecoration in modern style of the bar and lounge there. Now any other work just fades into insignificance by comparison.

A competition is under way to find a new Company song. Several entries have been received with one or two more to come in. Choir practice—Wednesdays! No doubt the Regiment will be hearing quite a lot of the winning song at next Annual Camp—Joy to Come!

Finally we congratulate Lt. Phillips and W.O.2 Woods on their respective promotions, and also send congratulations to Pte. Found on his marriage. And of course to our heavyweight champ for winning the T.A. Championship for the second year. At last we have found a good Fitter in Cfn. S. Hill, and hope his stay with us will be a long one.

"D" Company

(By courtesy of the Adult Education Authority).

One exercise on Willsworthy in conjunction with the T.A.E.R. and Junior N.C.O.s provided an interesting and instructive, if damp, week-end. This training was to have culminated in "Red Biddy" at Annual Camp; this unfortunately did not materialise, instead we had something which has become known as the "Death March", the writer was unfortunately prevented from taking part in this.

Camp as a whole seems to have been enjoyed, apart from the disappointment at not being able to meet old friends from the D. & D.s. Most of us were able to avail ourselves of the Recreational facilities offered, preference being shown for the Dublin trip.

After the usual post-camp settling down period, we again got down to serious training. One W/E in July was notable for three reasons: (1) the Company Commander was prevented (for the first time in living memory) from attending by a germ—some germ! (2) Sgt. Maer was to be seen tramping the moors in battle order all night; (3) the Company enjoyed a midnight snack of black coffee and chicken noodle soup with tinned milk. (Which P.S.I. put the milk in the soup?)

Saturday, July 25, saw us at Exmouth with a light-hearted assault course on behalf of the Oxfam

appeal. Our performance was well received by a large crowd.

Personalia. This period seems to have been a prolific one progenywise, Cpl. Littlejohn, L/Cpl. Stringer, Pte. Slade have all been presented with recruits, and Sgt. Diggle, twins (W.R.A.C. type). Our congratulations to them all.

Mr. Symonds and Sgt. Baker have left the district but still return for training at present. Mr. Lambert and W.O.2 Hutchison have left us for "B" Company. Our loss is "B" Company's gain. Cpl. Norman, L/Cpls. German, Garland, Woolley and Hawkins have left us on completion of their engagements, and we welcome Ptes. Merrick, Burnett, Chillcot and Hawke, the latter from the D.C.L.I.

We must also congratulate, belatedly, Capt. Speller on his election to the Exeter City Council. (Next stop Westminster?)

Finally, good luck to Sgt. Fuller, who has taken over as P.S.I. *vice* W.O.2 Hutchison.

Headquarters Company

Camp. This has, of course, been the highlight since the last notes. From the Company point of view it was most excellent and in particular the opportunity given to the Signal Platoon for concentrated training on up-to-date sets was taken full advantage of. It was good to learn that Cpls. Vodden and Tomlinson and L/Cpl. Jacobs classified and are now entitled to wear crossed flags. The help given to us by the 3rd East Anglian Regiment was invaluable and very much appreciated.

The keenness and general behaviour of the recruits was most encouraging as was the way that some of the older hands looked after them. C.S.M. Wiles was heard to say more than once that he had never had an easier camp, which speaks well for the support he received from all ranks, but it is also understood that he was touring the Mountains of Mourne when most of us were out on "Ballymena Blister"!

The Company party in Newcastle was a great success and the presentation of a birthday cake to Pte. Quaintance, subscribed for and made in secret, was typical of the spirit of the Company.

Congratulations to Capt. Simey on his most deserved promotion; to Ptes. Austin, Green and Williams, F. M., on passing the Recruits' Test; to the soccer team who gave the Drums a real fright in the soccer competition; to Dunn, R., and Dunn, D. (and wives) on the birth of twin daughters and a daughter respectively; to C/Sgt. Midson and the M.T. personnel on the excellent result of the C.I.V. Inspection.

Welcome to Pte. Bufton, who is joining the Intelligence Section.

Postscript

What a nice surprise to be played aboard ship by the Band of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on the return journey. The tossing of pennies to them by our Band was a delightful answer to their striking up "Colonel Bogey" as we filed past.

Band

We were very fortunate this year in having a representative number of Bandsmen in camp at Ballylinker, Northern Ireland. Several could not manage a fortnight, but the instrumentation was enough to enable us to keep up our usual high standard.

The camp was rather isolated, but we all enjoyed the change of scenery, and full advantage was taken of the various trips that were arranged.

We did two "Retreats", one in camp and one at Newcastle, a little seaside town literally "Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the Sea". (Incidentally, there is a memorial fountain to Percy French, the composer of the song, in the garden by the sea front.) The ceremony of "Beating the Retreat" took place on the football ground behind which the mountains rise with the great Donard towering above the rest. For this inspiring setting a new sequence of movement had been worked out and received its first public performance there. It is now an integral part of the ceremony. We found the Northern Irish very friendly and we were really sorry to leave so soon.

A pleasant surprise at the dock was the Band of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, who played the Regiment on board. They began with our own Regimental March and as we passed them they played the immortal "Colonel Bogey", a compliment that was truly appreciated and returned in an original and somewhat unorthodox way. Thank you, Mr. Benson. Before leaving the subject of camp, may I add a word of thanks on behalf of the Band to those responsible for the excellent catering arrangements on both the outward and homeward journeys.

Since our return, our services have been in great demand, especially for the "Retreat" ceremony; it has been performed twice at Plymouth and once at Tavistock and Exeter. The ceremony at Exeter was performed at the new Bus Station prior to its opening, in the presence of the Mayor and Civic Heads. From our angle it was a most important engagement and in view of what was considered a poor report in the local press, perhaps I may be forgiven for quoting (with the writer's permission) the following letter which was received by our Bandmaster, Mr. V. Staddon, M.B.E.:—

"Dear Sir,

"I was present at the ceremony of 'Beating the Retreat' at Exeter on Saturday last, and wish to say how well it was carried out. The precision of movement, the absence of word of command and the music, rendered with fine expression, combined to make the occasion memorable.

"I watched the parade on the Horse Guards in London on June 10 when the ceremony was performed by the massed bands of the Royal Marines in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh. The only difference was the number of bandsmen engaged (400) and the incomparable setting of the Horse Guards Parade.

"All credit is due to you, Sir, and the men under your command for a splendid display.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) (3578) C. J. POSLETT
(Enlisted Dec. 10, 1914)."

A compliment such as this is very gratifying as much thought and hard work had gone into the rehearsals. Thank you, Mr. Poslett.

The O.C.A. Parade on July 11 kept us busy with the march to the Cathedral, music for the service, and music for the dinner. It is sad to know that this is the last one that Mr. Staddon, M.B.E., will direct; we shall miss him when he retires.



THE DORSET REGIMENT (T.A.)

Major E. D. Elford, T.D.

Eric Elford was awarded the Territorial Decoration just before the Battalion went to camp. At the end of June, after a meeting of a selection board, it was announced that he had been chosen to command The Dorset Regiment from June 1, 1965. This splendid news is welcomed by everybody. It is right and proper for a Battalion of Volunteers to be commanded by a volunteer officer, and only in the unusual circumstance of there being none available of the right age and experience should a regular be given the appointment. So after a seven-year regular interregnum the command of the Battalion returns to its proper place.

Fourth Clasp to the Territorial Decoration

Maj. Bill Pritchard, M.B.E., T.D., is congratulated on the award of the fourth clasp to his Territorial Decoration. Maj. Pritchard joined the 4th Battalion as 2/Lt. in August, 1932, and apart from war time service with the Indian Army and on the staff he has served with the Dorset Regiment ever since. In 1961, on reaching the age limit for Infantry, he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps but continued to serve with the Regiment as Battalion Paymaster. He is a keen shot and for many years captained the shooting team, including the last occasion that the China Cup was won.

Annual Camp

Two hundred and fifty officers and soldiers of The Dorset Regiment attended their annual camp on the Stanford tactical training area in Norfolk. The men were housed in a renovated permanent camp site at East Wretham and enjoyed facilities not usually found in T.A. camps. Hot water was plentiful, living huts were clean and of a convenient size, the cookhouse was first-class and the whole site was compact so there were no long treks for washing or food.

The weather was very good, the only real rain coming on the last Friday when the programme was washed out. For the first week there was not a drop of rain and clouds were rare visitors, so a very full programme of outdoor practical training got an excellent start. With this the tempo was maintained and some valuable and on occasions exhausting training was completed. In the second week the sun deserted Norfolk temporarily but still the Battalion was able to train as planned, building up to an exercise against the 4/6th Royal Berkshire Regiment on the Tuesday and Wednesday. For this the use of helicopters for quick troop movements had been planned but low cloud prevented their use.

On Thursday the Battalion Sports Day was held. "B" Company from Weymouth winning the six-a-side football and the Assault Course competitions, and the Sergeants with a grossly overweight team withstanding all comers in the Tug-of-War. Maj.-Gen. Jock Holden, G.O.C. of 43 Wessex Division

presented the prizes and also the Territorial Efficiency Medal to C.S.M. H. M. R. Lamb from Sherborne, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sgt. K. Pengelly of Weymouth.

The Battalion camped with other units of 128 Infantry Brigade under the command of Brig. Graham Mills. This camp is voted to be one of the best attended for many years. The training was plentiful, various and exacting. Officers and N.C.O.s had opportunities to practise techniques of command which had grown rusty, and all have come away with a clearer knowledge of their jobs in war. In particular the Reconnaissance Platoon from Gillingham under Sgt. Lowrie, in their stripped down Champs and black waterproof Penguin suits, became a familiar sight moving across the training areas and became really proficient in their job.

The cooks, as always, have had a busy time, spending almost as much time on the training area as the riflemen. The meals cooked in the field were of a high standard and this contributed much to the satisfaction of the soldiers. This year C.S.M. Skevington of Bridport was in charge of the cooks having succeeded C.S.M. Pugh, who was the head cook for 16 years. This has been a testing camp for the cooks and they have done splendidly.

The small Assault Pioneer section under C.S.M. Goodwin from Wareham had a varied camp, including a day on demolitions, a day learning and teaching the use of recce and assault boats, and days out adding noises to the enemy on exercises.

The social side always most important was not neglected, and most soldiers got to know which local produced the right beer and the right atmosphere. Some of the younger soldiers—and there were still fifty under twenty—went dancing in Bury St. Edmunds, which does not really explain five black eyes the following morning. Visitors included Col. J. W. Weld, the Honorary Colonel, and all ranks were delighted at the news of his appointment as Lord Lieutenant. He has been closely associated with the Battalion ever since he joined at Wareham in 1935. He was the Commanding Officer from 1948-1950 and Honorary Colonel from 1955.

The Sergeants' Mess were pleased to see the members of the Halstead Branch of the Regimental Association in the Mess and enjoyed the return visit to the Bell Hotel.

This is the last camp that will be attended by C.S.M. Felton, the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. He joined the Dorsets in 1933 and served in India, Malta, N.W. Europe before and during the war, and with the T.A. since 1947. He will be greatly missed, but such a staunch member of the Regiment will undoubtedly be often seen at Dorchester. This was also the last camp for both Capt. John Ives the Adjutant, and Capt. Ken Marquis the Quartermaster. The former has gone

to a staff job in Minden and the latter has joined the 1st Battalion in British Guiana. Much of the success of this year's camp is due to their hard and detailed work, and they are wished all success in their new jobs.

While much of the success was due to the preparatory planning and work, the bulk of it was due to the enthusiasm and willingness with which the soldiers tackled their jobs. Even those who cultivate an unemotional aspect and to whom overt enthusiasm is square, managed to smile sometimes and enjoyed themselves. This is the criterion for part-time soldiering. Once it ceases to be fun for any man then he should stop doing it.

1964 has seen many changes in the regular staff of the Battalion. In January we welcomed R.S.M. Clough from the Duke of Edinburgh's as R.S.M. An odd coincidence that one Yorkshireman should relieve another in a Dorset battalion. In June Capt. Tom Coombe arrived to become Quartermaster—although this is his first tour with the T.A. in Dorset he is a well known Regimental figure. In August Maj. Jerry Blake, who found difficulty in escaping hot spots, took over as Adjutant and will become Training Major on the change of command next year.

Battalion Rifle Meeting

All ranks and their families gathered at Sydling Range on Sunday, June 21, for the Annual Rifle Meeting. Brig. and Mrs. Mills were able to be with

us on this occasion and we were very grateful to Mrs. Mills for presenting the prizes. The results of the meeting are given below:—

Highest Individual Rifle

Cpl. Goodwin, R.

Runner-up

Sgt. Lowrie, P.

Highest Individual (Young Soldier)

Pte. Stainer, D.

Runner-up

Pte. Walkey, R.

China Cup

Support Platoons.

L.M.G.

"C" Company.

Highest Pair

Cpl. Morgan, J., L/Cpl. March, D.

Runner-up

Cpl. Foxwell, W., Cpl. Boggust, H.

S.M.C.

Support Platoons.

Champion Company

H.Q. Company.

Falling Plate

Permanent Staff.

Ladies .22

Mrs. Saunders.

Girls .22

Miss Marshallsay.

Boys .22

Master Coles.

LADY GROVER'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR OFFICERS' FAMILIES

We have been asked to draw the attention of officers to this Fund. Its aim is to help officers who may be confronted by unexpected and possibly heavy calls upon their pockets arising from illness of a dependant member of the family. New scales of subscription, and benefit have recently been announced in Army Council Instruction No. 133 of 1963. These new scales are intended to bring the rates of financial benefit into closer relationship with present-day charges for private nursing, while keeping the annual subscription at a very low rate—within the means of any married officer, and graduated in favour of the junior officer. Retired officers are also eligible for membership. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London S.W.3.

PREBENDARY D. OWEN, M.A.

It is with great regret we record the death of Douglas Owen, who, as Vicar of St. Peter-Upon-Cornhill, was a very good friend to The Devonshire Regiment, particularly the London Branch of the Old Comrades Association. It was the normal custom for the London Branch to hold a service in St. Peter-Upon-Cornhill on the Sunday after the Branch Reunion Dinner. At the funeral, the O.C.A. was represented by Brig. C. Greenslade, C.B.E., Maj. W. J. P. Aggett, Mr. J. J. O'Loughlin and Mr. Walter Golding.

(Blackbird, continued from page 83)

both now serving with the Brunei Malay Regiment. Micky Elvery is now living at "Waters Edge", White Lackington, Piddletrenthide, Dorchester.

* * *

Martin Hastings has returned from his American tour with the U.S. Strike Command but was not best pleased to find himself booked for another Whitehall job. However, the Hastings have a very nice quarter at 10 Sutcliffe Close, Bushey, Herts, with which they are very pleased.

* * *

The R.O.s at Exeter regret to say that they lost their Veterans' Doubles title at the S.W. District Tournament; however, the blow was softened by the fact that the winners were Guy Young and partner.

* * *

Paul Mangin, on leave from Libya, called in at R.H.Q. in August. However, we were unable to discover from him what the future of the various British bases is to be, though perhaps this will be public knowledge by the time this number is published.

* * *

Peter Burdick, now a Company Commander in the 1st Bn. Malawi Rifles (formerly Nyasaland) writes to say that three out of four of the rifle company commanders are Wessex Brigade. He has been busy along the border with N. Rhodesia on the look out for any of "Alice's" religious extremists.

OFFICERS CLUB TEA PARTY & DINNER
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th



THE CADET FORCES



The Combined Cadet Force

CANFORD SCHOOL C.C.F.

Two terms have passed since the last notes were submitted and in that time we have organised two whole day exercises, experienced one Annual Inspection, and had time to see more clearly how the new organisation is going to affect us.

The whole day exercise in the Easter Term consisted of special to-arm visits and exercises by the Post-Proficiency cadets, a map-reading, escape and evasion scheme for the Army Proficiency platoons carried out in the country north of Wimborne, and a visit to the Dorchester Military Museum by the junior members of the Army Proficiency Company.

This term we laid on "Hercules 14", the 14th Inter-House Competition, and some interesting new tests were devised, including one in which camp had to be pitched, water boiled in a mess tin, camp struck and equipment handed in and checked, all in about 20 minutes. There was also an interesting trial of initiative, in which was an imaginary river across which various objects had to be carried, the initial rope being thrown over the limb of a high tree, by no means an easy feat. We must thank Capt. Ives, Adjutant of the Dorset Regiment (T.A.) for running the map-reading leg of the exercise.

We were inspected by Air Commodore I. J. Spencer, C.B., D.F.C., R.A.F., who arrived by helicopter, and from the tone of his report seemed pleased with what he saw. Despite arguments to the contrary, I feel that an occasional ceremonial parade is good for morale, and that time spent in preparation and rehearsal is by no means wasted.

We have now been given our new establishment by the Ministry of Defence, and it involves a reduction of over 100 in our total numbers. However, with the abolition of the Basic Section, and the possibility for volunteers to serve on after nine terms, it seems that we shall be able to carry on in our present pattern, though some of the specialist platoons will be short in numbers. In order to keep boys in the C.C.F. until they are old enough really to benefit from it, we have raised the age of joining to about 14.6, and this has left about 100 junior boys to be catered for before they join the C.C.F. A pre-C.C.F. Section has been formed, and we are lucky to have Lt. T. S. Penny, who has had much experience of the same type of work at Clifton. With the help of two other masters, cadets and N.C.O.s of the Commando Platoon and senior boys who have left the C.C.F., he has been running training in First Aid, obstacle training, elementary map-reading and field craft. This has proved an interesting and worthwhile part of school routine.

We shall look forward to recording in our next notes how the various sections have done at camps.

DEVON ARMY CADET FORCE

We had our Annual Camp early this year, in fact

just after Easter, with two objects in view. Firstly to see if we could persuade more cadets to come at that time than at the height of the summer season. Secondly as a pioneering project, the full effects of which would not be apparent until about September, when it was thought that many might be able to look back on an uninterrupted summer holiday.

Neither of these objects was achieved in full measure. Our numbers at Camp were much the same as those for previous summer camps. We are now also finding that with no annual summer camp to look forward to, many of our cadets are drifting away, even in the face of almost frenzied efforts to use every possible week-end for detachment and Company camps. These do not draw apparently in the same way as the annual summer camp. It is sad that this experiment has not proved the success hoped for, as available camps at the peak period are getting fewer and fewer as the years go by.

Since we last went to print we have had a very full programme of sports fixtures and competitions with our own Inter-Battalion Pentathlon, and Athletics, at which our teams were chosen for the Southern Command and National Meetings. We did not win anything but were well placed in every event for which we entered. We also held a swimming gala in Plymouth which was a success despite transport difficulties during one of the most crowded Saturdays on the roads.

One of the highlights was a canoeing week-end kindly laid on for some 40 of our cadets by the Devon County Education Committee which introduced many to a most exciting and enjoyable sport. We hope this will be the forerunner of many more.

Our new County Cadet Commandant, Brig. A. E. C. Bredin, D.S.O., M.C., who is well known to many of your readers, is now in the process of visiting all Battalions and Detachments when he can fit them in between the many other calls on his time. He is gradually building up a picture of his new Command.

We hope in the very near future to start up our New County Cadet Training Centre in a corner of Heathfield Camp at Honiton, which will provide good accommodation, and some of the best nearby training areas and ranges in Devon outside Dartmoor itself, and without some of the snags of that wonderful and unpredictable moorland.

DORSET ARMY CADET FORCE

Over the last two years the Parkstone Detachment has gone from success to success thanks to leadership, team spirit and application. Their latest triumph is the winning of the *News of the World* small bore shooting trophy. This achievement is no mean feat when it is realised that another 330 teams equally keen were also seeking after that dream. The success of this team was in the main due to the hard work put in not only by the cadets but also

(Continued on page 106)



THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

Annual Reunion, Exeter

The Reunion Dinner was held this year in Wyvern Barracks, formerly Topsham Barracks, for the first time since the Depot moved out to Honiton. This year the Dinner Committee ran into a number of difficulties owing to the changing circumstances. With all four Regular battalions of Wessex Brigade overseas, calling out for reinforcements, Wessex Brigade Depot could not afford to disrupt recruit training in order to provide men for our fatigue parties. This to some extent put us on the spot; however, the 1st Rifle Volunteers came to the rescue, particularly by providing a fatigue party to draw the tentage, chairs and tables from Coypool, and bringing them up to Wyvern Barracks. The layout of tents was similar to that at Higher Barracks last year, with W.D. store tents grouped round the main marquee forming what has proved to be an excellent layout. The pitching of the W.D. tentage would not have been possible without the assistance of thirty boys from Northbrook School, who did a good job under the direction of C.S.M. Hutchison and C.S.M. Wiles. We therefore owe a great deal to the efforts of the 1st R.V. and the Headmaster of Northbrook School. The other big problem was the provision of accommodation for the "over-night stoppers". There is no longer accommodation in the barracks, so once again the 1st R.V. came to the rescue. We hope all those who stayed will appreciate the fact that the Battalion H.Q. of the 1st R.V. was not designed to provide accommodation for over fifty people, so if things were a bit rough it could not be helped. Even our plan for using stretchers as beds was thwarted as the local Field Ambulance was in Camp.

The Dinner was very successful, just under 400 sitting down to the meal. Numbers will inevitably drop as the years pass, but as long as those who come enjoy themselves, we feel our efforts are well worthwhile. Owing to the fact that we were able to make certain economies this year, we are glad to say that we made a small profit. We are also glad to say that over the years the price of the ticket has remained the same—unlike the purchasing power of a pound note! There was one notable event during the Dinner and that was the presentation of a silver salver to Ginger Hooper by our President, Maj.-Gen. Hugh Borradaile. A photograph of the presentation appears elsewhere in the Journal. We were also pleased to entertain one of the staff and five boys from Northbrook School in recognition of the valuable services rendered to the Association by the School fatigue party. The Band of the 1st R.V. played during dinner though it was sad to

hear that Mr. Vic Staddon was wielding his baton for the last time at a Reunion Dinner; however, we hope he will be with us next year watching the efforts of his successor with critical eye. In his speech Gen. Borradaile paid a tribute to Mr. Staddon's valuable services to the Devonshire Regiment since he was appointed Bandmaster of the 2nd Battalion in 1931.

The march to the Cathedral went according to plan, the column being headed by the Band and Drums of the 1st R.V. We thank them all for their efforts on our behalf on the march, in the Cathedral, and at the Dinner. The familiar figure of our old Chelsea Pensioner, Jock Buchanan was unfortunately missing as he had died not long before. As Ginger Hooper is leading a life of leisure in Teignmouth and not in Chelsea Hospital, it is doubtful whether we shall ever again have a Chelsea Pensioner on the march. At a very rough estimate there were about 180 on the march and the Standards from London, Torquay and the 4th Devons. We thank Canon Percy Gay for his stirring address from the pulpit.

We also thank Lt.-Col. J. E. Tull, O.C. Wessex Brigade Depot, for allowing us to pitch our tents on the football field, and R.S.M. Smythe, the Depot R.S.M., for allowing many Old Comrades to use his Mess, a privilege which was much appreciated.

Note the date for next year—SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1965.

OBITUARY

Jimmy King

It was with great regret that we heard of the death of Jimmy King in July. An obituary notice appears on page 79.

"Daisy" Bell

"Daisy" Bell was known to all members of the Regiment who served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions when stationed in Quetta.

His military career was interesting. While serving with the 2nd Battalion in India in the early twenties he deserted and found his way to the U.K. in a Troopship, where he remained free for some considerable time. After his arrest he was brought back to the Depot at Higher Barracks. Later he joined the 1st Battalion, where he immediately became a Company cook; he was also a good footballer. Eventually he returned to India, and at the end of his service took his discharge.

His career for several years leaves a gap, but from 1946 to 1964 he visited the O.C.A. Office every year. His occupation—TRAMP; a real Tramp, one who lived the life in every respect.

(Continued on page 105)

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THE DORSET REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

By over-running our Printer's dead-line date, it has been possible to include accounts of the Laying-up of the Colours, page 74, and the Reunion, page 106. A word of thanks is due to Branch Secretaries who have co-operated so well in replying to all the bump emanating from H.Q. in connection with the Colour ceremony and the Reunion, and indeed other matters. But please let us have more Branch notes for the Journal. We will be asking for notes for the first News Letter at the end of the year; a letter on the subject will be sent to Branches.

On another page appears an account of the Normandy D-Day Pilgrimage. We are indebted to Mr. Arthur Savage, Chairman of the Dorchester/Bayeux Society whom some may remember as Mayor of Dorchester in 1959-60, for the organisation of this very successful visit. The Dorchester/Bayeux Society is a "twin town" organisation whose aims are to foster international relations and a common language between the two countries. It was at Mr. Savage's suggestion that a party of Dorset Regiment Association members should join the Society on this, the 20th anniversary of D-Day. It will be recalled that the 1st Battalion together with 2nd Devons and 1st Royal Hampshires, composed the Brigade of assault troops which landed near Le Hamel early on June 6, 1944. The 4th and 5th Battalions followed a few weeks later.

The Association party, after some unavoidable last minute abstentions, eventually comprised six members from Halstead Branch, four from Bridport, one from Dorchester and one from Manchester, accompanied in some cases by wives and sons.

Regrettably the pilgrimage to Mons, planned for early September, had to be cancelled owing to the move to British Guiana of the Regiment. On the 50th anniversary of the Retreat from Mons a platoon led by Capt. John Wilsey, was to have undertaken the actual march of 220 miles in sixteen days carried out by their forbears. At the conclusion of the march at Gagnes they were to have been met by a party of Dorset "Old Contemptibles", who themselves had taken part in the Retreat. War Office approval for this project had been obtained by the C.O., Col. Randle, and the Band would have been in attendance also. It was hoped that the party would have included Gen Ransome, Lt.-Col. Ball and Maj. Fraser.

The death occurred at Poole in July of Mr. George de Lara, at the age of 92. Mr. de Lara was R.S.M. of the 2nd Dorsets in World War I prior to being taken prisoner at Kut in April, 1916. He was the immediate predecessor as R.S.M. of Major Bolingbroke, who was appointed R.S.M. of the reconstituted 2nd Battalion in July, 1916. Mr. Lara was a former licensee of the Crown Hotel, Poole,

and tyler of the Amity Lodge of Freemasons. The Regiment and the Association were represented at the cremation by Maj. F. Castaldini (himself a P.W. at Kut) and W. C. J. Rogers, T.D.

BATH BRANCH

The Branch Secretary and four members and their wives took part in the Pilgrimage to Dunkirk in May organised by the Dunkirk Veterans' Association. This was a most successful and interesting visit bringing back old memories. A wreath was laid by Mr. Griffin at the British Memorial where the plaque shows the names of members of the Regiment who lost their lives at Dunkirk. It is hoped that more members of the old 2nd Battalion will join the Pilgrimage next year.

We have no other news to report but are looking forward to the Abbey Ceremony and Reunion in September.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

We are settling down after the bad news of the last quarter, and I am pleased to inform you that only one of us is going through a sticky period, i.e. Jack Hawkins of the 1st Battalion Dorsets, 1934. He underwent a serious internal operation, but with the usual Dorset grit and determination he has weathered the reaction extremely well and I believe he will be returning to his good lady at home this week. Well done, Jack, no more fatigues in future, so I'll lay on a couple of magazine guards; this will be quiet for you at 2 a.m. in the morning.

Our Reunion Dinner was to say the least one of the best attended in the history of the Branch. Capt. Bullard's good lady came up from the beautiful South, together with Gen. Wood and Maj. Bolingbroke. She was in fine spirits at seeing so many of her husband's old Company of the early 30's in India. She was introduced to the wives of the Branch and also the children, who are themselves 26 years old and over. We thank her and Col. Collins for their lovely gesture in the form of donations to the Branch Funds.

Thirteen members and wives attended the Devons Dinner at Bristol which, though of lesser strength, was of the true family spirit. We stayed the weekend and spent Sunday at Clevedon—a lovely change from the "Smokeless Zones" of Brum.

The film "Zulu" happens to be a wonderful page in the history of the South Wales Borderers, who showed such wonderful gallantry in the African Campaigns, so all Birmingham Branches in the Federation of O.C.A. were invited to attend with their Standards at a showing of this film. A parade of 16-strong, together with a ceremonial detachment of the famous Royal Hussars was inspected by the Brigadier of this Regiment and the Mayor of

Solihull. He was interested in the Regiment's present, but was amazed to find "Nicklin" was Dorsets and not "Northants". A fine show was had by all, together with a buffet. Good work, Mr. Williams!

Wally Whitehead and Charlie Shaw continued their summer holidays immediately after the Bristol affair, and I believe a good time was experienced by both families. Charlie visited Dorchester and bumped into "Chota" Sears—he does not change much.

We shall be changing our venue for future social events from the "Crown & Cushion" to the Victoria Rooms, nearer the City. It promises to be of excellent quality, and substantially nearer the strength of your pocket. More information on this in the future.

I heard that "Sonny" Griffiths of "A" Company (India, 1930) passed away recently, and "Wagga" Haynes, 12 Platoon "C" Company (India, 1926) has been paralysed for the last seven years—he has to be carried about. We at H.Q. "Brum" are only too pleased to visit old comrades when they are less fortunate than ourselves, but could do more for them, no doubt, if we saw them at the meetings. Hence our position as it is, we cannot help if they cannot help themselves.

We respect H.Q. Dorchester for their prompt response in allowing a little financial help to the "White Eyed Kaffirs" funeral early this year, which proves our point in the Association, viz: "Comrades are never forgotten".

Dusty Miller appeared at the June meeting—it's getting a little warmer for these old soldiers (74), also Jones (72) with Alf Brinkman. They really do the Branch credit. They inform me that Brinkman still possesses an orange that he brought home in 1919 from Wellington Barracks, India. Age has made it impossible to "masticate".

H. NICHOLLS.

DORCHESTER BRANCH

Readers will no doubt be surprised to see notes in the Journal from the H.Q. Branch; it must be over four years ago that the activities of this Branch were last recorded. It was true that the Branch was gradually declining into a state of suspended animation, but since the election, in March, of a new President, Col. "Joe" Symonds, Vice-President Maj. "Jimmy" Foot, Chairman Stan Taylor, Secretary Sid Avery, Treasurer Maj. "Slick" Smithers, together with a new Committee, a happy band of pilgrims in "Snowy" Mullins, Vic Culver, "Legs" Thorne, Chris Colmer, etc., we have found there are still plenty of interested ex-Dorsets living in this locality, and with good recruiting tactics we now number 141 paid-up members of which 43 are new members who had never bothered about the Association previously.

We held a very successful social evening at the T.A. Drill Hall in April, when we were pleased to welcome 63 members of the Sherborne Branch; in all 132 members, their wives and children were entertained. The old familiar cry of "Eyes down, look in" from "Snowy" Mullins had everyone glued to their cards during the Housey Schools. A darts tournament for ladies and gents provided some very high scores, considering each person threw nine darts, each being a different size and weight ranging from a midget 1-in, in length to a very clumsy

heavyweight. "Edgy" Burton won the gents prize and Mrs. Clough, wife of the T.A. R.S.M., won the ladies. Music was provided by a young rock and roll group who gave their services free. Some very funny hippy hippy shakes were being performed when the older less agile members showed the youngsters that the heart was still willing even if the bones were creaking a little. No casualties were reported so we presume there is still life in the old ones yet, unless plenty of embrocation was used to ease away any signs of stiffness afterwards. We hope this social is the beginning of renewed activities between members of the Sherborne and Dorchester Branches.

It's a true saying: "The early bird catches the worm", at least it proved so when we ran a Derby Draw for the first time. Before other organisers thought about it we had our tickets on the market and had little difficulty in disposing of nearly 3,000. After paying out over £22 in prizes and expenses we were pleased to learn from our Treasurer that over £41 had been added to our Branch Funds from the profits of this draw.

HALSTEAD BRANCH

This has been a period crammed with events, and we are very pleased to report a flourishing and enthusiastic membership. We have now exceeded our original two dozen, though a number of these are from the far corners of Essex and even farther.

Earlier this year there was a change in the composition of the Committee, and Christ Portway took over as Secretary from Arthur Kelson, who had held the position for nearly eight years. He put all his heart into the somewhat thankless task (particularly so when a small and scattered membership such as ours is involved) and his efforts are very greatly appreciated. He states his willingness to accept more punishment at a later date. Brave words!

The wettest day of March saw the visit of the London Branch to Halstead, where a hilarious evening ensued. The wives of Halstead members supplied the "eats" which proved most luxurious "blotting paper" and, well fortified against the elements outside, the London members returned from whence they came.

Previous to this event a visit had been made to Wivenhoe by half a dozen members and their wives to swell the congregation of Padre Gaye's church and afterwards to partake of refreshments at the vicarage where Mrs. Gaye laid on a fine spread. Our visits to the Gaye's helped us to maintain contact with a very valued member who would otherwise be unable to attend meetings in Halstead.

With the welcome arrival of summer we called on the 4th Battalion at Camp in Norfolk. Strictly speaking we called twice because of a *faux pas* by our new Secretary. However, it was a very worthwhile mistake and two very pleasant Saturday nights in the Sergeants' Mess and with the officers in the "Thetford Bell" resulted.

The 20th anniversary of the Normandy landings provided the next event, and Halstead was to provide the biggest contingent of "ex-liberateurs" to join the pilgrimage run by the Dorchester/Bayeux Society. Alan Corben, Chris Portway, Bill Petty and Len Gould were amongst those who took part on this memorable week-end, a detailed description of which will appear within the covers of this Journal. Paddy Smythe was our representative at the London

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Branch Dinner on June 6, which also no doubt will be mentioned on another page.

The Reunion at Dorchester and ceremony at Sherborne Abbey are fast coming attractions and the Halstead Branch is aiming to break more attendance records.

In between times our humble meetings continue and the business of organising carried out over a tankard of ale. Next week we hold one at Earls Colne for the benefit of two members living in that village, for in our community it is necessary for our small mountain to go to Mohammed.

JERSEY BRANCH

Jersey Branch held their annual dinner and social at the Hotel Savoy early in April. The principal guests among the 60 or so present were the Chairman of the Old Contemptibles' Association, Maj. C. P. Rumfitt, and Mrs. Rumfitt; Mrs. B. Wilsey; Mr. H. des Vaux, representing the St. Ouen's Ex-Service Association; Mr. J. Fitzgerald, Vice-President of the R.A.S.C. Association Jersey Branch; Mr. F. Dobin, the Treasurer of the Original Jersey Overseas Contingent Association; and the Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Guille-Marrett.

With the company standing at their places, the President of the Association, Jurat F. R. Billot entered the dining room headed by Mr. C. Dawson carrying the Branch Standard, while the Regimental March was played on the piano by Mr. Alwyn Fitch. Grace was said by the Rev. Mr. Guille-Marrett and an excellent meal was served.

The first two toasts—the loyal toast and the toast to the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. the Princess Marina—were proposed by the President.

Maj. Rumfitt proposed the toast of the Dorset Regiment Association and Mr. E. A. Audrain, Vice-President of the Association, replied. Mr. Audrain recalled that the Jersey Branch was formed in the 1930's and much of the success of the Branch was due to their President, Jurat Billot. Socials were run each week to raise funds, and last year £45 had been paid out to held old comrades. He thanked their Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. J. Seager, for all the hard work he had put in. After speeches a very pleasant social evening was enjoyed by all.

A few days before the annual dinner a special meeting was held in the Branch's Club Room at the Dorset Tavern to welcome Brig. Bredin, who was paying a short visit to the Island but who could not stay for the dinner.

LONDON BRANCH

Since our last publication we have had yet another dinner and dance, which again proved very successful. The Hon. General Secretary, Lt.-Col. D. V. W. Wakely, honoured us with his presence and proposed the toast of the Association. He recalled the good old days in India, when to obtain a drink one had only to sign a chit, but unfortunately the chits eventually caught up, bringing them back to reality that they were not so well off as they thought.

The inimitable "Bolly" was again his boisterous self, although a little subdued. He gave his usual crack before proposing the toast to the Regiment.

It was very nice to have the company of Mrs. Bullard, and we sincerely hope all three had a very enjoyable evening.

The Branch is flourishing well, and at the August meeting, in the peak of the holiday period, 32 members attended the meeting. We had a very special visitor at the July and August meeting, Mr. C. Popkin, ex-2nd Battalion, 1916. Mr. Popkin was on holiday in this country from Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., and it was whilst visiting the Tower of London that he met John Webber and happened to mention that he had served with the Dorsets, so John persuaded him to attend the Branch meeting. Mr. Popkin related to the meeting how he organised a parade of all British ex-Servicemen on November 11, 1963, and that they marched through the streets of Denver. A lapel badge and Association tie were presented from the Branch to Mr. Popkin, and he said he would wear the tie with his uniform on all occasions.

By the time these notes are published we shall have another Reunion behind us, also the laying-up of the old 1st Battalion Colours. We are hoping that a large contingent from the Branch will attend both functions.

There is a whisper that we shall have a new Branch Secretary after the October meeting, Snowy, our present Secretary, is vacating the office after four years.

The Cenotaph parade this year will be held on November 15 and it is hoped that we exceed the number that attended last year. This year the parade will be headed by the Military Band of the Essex Regiment (T.A.) and the march to the Cenotaph will be of a longer duration, approaching the Cenotaph from Parliament Square. So now you Branch Secretaries, get your members interested and let us have the finest parade to date. To all our fellow Branches we wish continued success.

"YOUNG 'UN".

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Old Comrades will be interested to know that Jack Scott has recently contacted Herby Drew, D.C.M., after a lapse of 42 years.

He was a very keen and well known sportsman in the 2nd Battalion; his Regimental No. was 6591 and he was awarded the D.C.M. on April 1, 1915, and was Mentioned in Dispatches on April 5, 1916; he is a Kut survivor. In Bangalore he was C.Q.M.S. of "D" Company, commanded by Capt. T. S. Rendall.

Herby lives at 57 Moorland Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, is reasonably well and fairly active. Having lost his wife some time ago he lives alone, but manages to care for himself in every way. Owing to an accident some years ago, which damaged his eyes, his vision is not too good; in consequence he does not go out much but, like Old Sweats of our famous Regiment, he is always cheerful and bright.

He has two sons, one at Guildford University, the other in Portsmouth, both doing very well. News of Herby was passed to Old Comrades and recently he has been visited by John Lee of Shillingstone, Dorset, Jim Wright of Winchester and Jack Dowdell of Portsmouth. They had a most interesting and happy time together, looking at photographs and recalling many memories of by-gone happy service days. Especially was this so for Jim Wright who, when serving with the 2nd Battalion in

(Continued on page 106)

NORMANDY REUNION—1964

At dawn on June 6, 1944, men of the 1st Battalion landed on the Normandy coast to an accompaniment of sound seldom equalled in the annals of war.

At dawn on June 6, 1964, a party of men from the 1st, 4th and 5th Battalions landed on the same shore to a silence that was almost ominous in its intensity. It was this great quiet that made the first impression. As they proceeded by bus from the darkened sleeping streets of Cherbourg and up the winding road that climbed the heights behind the town, ghosts of the past flitted through the thin veil of imagination. But the shattered broken houses were gone. The shell-blasted trees no longer displayed their splintered branches. The road displayed no craters, the verges no threat of hidden death. All was exasperatingly normal, the heavily wooded countryside oddly like rural stretches of Hampshire, or Essex, or Dorset. Contented cows munched the lush grass, and only the overstrained imagination saw them, bloated and grotesque, lying stiff and dead. An abandoned car by the roadside drew curious stares but the wildest fancy was unable to transform it into a brewed-up Tiger tank.

The bus rumbled through the rebuilt township of St. Mere Eglise, scene of the American 82nd Airborne Division landings and Carentan, hub of another American battle. And suddenly we were at Bayeux, ancient, unchanged, still wondering at the miracle of preservation, and it was like returning home after a long long absence. And a home from home Bayeux again became for the three eventful days that were to follow. Gloriously happy days tinged with bitter-sweet memories and the quiet presence of former comrades who once laughed with us. This 20th anniversary pilgrimage was arranged and conducted by the Dorchester/Bayeux Society and superbly organised by Mr. Savage from Dorchester and M. Hebert from Bayeux. The participants included the Mayor and Mayoress of Dorchester, members of the Casterbridge Choir, and a dozen members of the Dorset Regimental Association.

The morning was still very much in its infancy when we arrived in the town, but even so, many of the French hosts who had undertaken to look after one or more of the British visitors, were ready to receive us, and several startled men from Dorset and Essex were ushered off the bus into the welcoming presence of a dressing-gown attired housewife. The rest of us retired to a small bar where we awaited our turn for "disposal" by devouring a breakfast which, certainly by French standards, was hearty. Gradually, like the ten little nigger boys, the party shrunk until finally one lone Halstead Dorset, Chris Portway, sat reflecting dismally upon the prospect of a night on the tiles. But rescue was at hand in the shapely presence of the gorgeous Madame Yvernat, who was to whisk him off in her little sports car to regions unknown.

Attendance at the Bayeux liberation monument constituted "first parade", and the party was given the status of privileged spectators at the impressive ceremony. Mixing with a bevy of British, American, French and Russian Generals, a squad of Air Marshals and a lone Admiral, the humble soldiers

of Dorset, recovering from a moment of stage fright, watched at close quarters the colourful spectacle. With the jets roaring overhead, a French military band playing the invigorating "Marseillaise" and Navy and Army detachments presenting arms with a series of satisfying crashes, it was not surprising that the inspecting Minister of the Government should miss out an unfortunate General and pump the hand of one ex-private William Petty of the 5th Battalion who stood, medals gleaming, at the end of the line!

Throughout this ceremony, and the one that followed it in the Bayeux military cemetery, Reg Wilson of the Bridport Branch gave a stalwart performance with his Branch Standard. With the host of martial airs it was raised and lowered a score of times and since neither he nor any of us were certain of all the anthems played, it was solemnly lowered for every tune lest anyone's feelings be hurt. Because the French Standard bearers remained stiffly immobile, as is their custom, Reg's solo feat drew favourable comment, though an astute observer might have noticed a salute for a little-known hymn and, through sheer exhaustion, not even the suspicion of a dip for the Belgium national anthem! It was fortunate for Reg that he was then not to know that there were thirteen more ceremonies to come!

From Bayeux the party went to Asnelles-Hamel, the small resort where the 1st Battalion came ashore those twenty years ago. Here, in the company of Brig. Sir Alexander Stanier, a simple little tribute before the 50th Divisional memorial was enacted. Its very simplicity made the ceremony deeply impressive as the twelve ex-Dorset soldiers were presented in turn by the local school children with a certificate, designed by the children themselves, making each a citizen of honour of the village of Asnelles. A stroll on the beaches, silent again but for the tinkle of laughter from the week-end trippers, preceded a visit to Arromanches where yet another, but more formal, ceremony was to await us.

Many a weary eye was closing as we returned to Bayeux, but the fact that one night's sleep had already been lost was obviously going to be no excuse for non-attendance at still another ceremony that night in Bayeux. However, fortified with gigantic repasts supplied by our generous hosts and protected "from the cold" by many a glass of wine and "calvados" the party met again at the memorial, where the Mayor of Dorchester rekindled the flame of remembrance before many thousands of the inhabitants. There followed a band concert and spectacular firework display in the town stadium and then, at last, the final event of the day.

This took place at the town hall and, in the grand Salon, the party were the guests of the Municipality. It was morning before the proceedings ended but, notwithstanding, a few of the younger spirits as well as the not so young, still found enough energy to sample the more basic pleasures of a Saturday night dance.

Sunday blossomed into another fine day and, rested, we were launched into a long series of receptions, drum-head services, ceremonies and pre-

sentations throughout the length and breadth of Calvados.

The series started at the tiny hamlet of Chouain, the villagers of which had steadfastly refused to allow the War Graves Commission to move the 48 graves there to a central cemetery. The Mayor of Dorchester spoke for us all, and most eloquently, when he said that he was very content to leave our comrades in the loving care of this noble little village. It was a very humbled party that stood in the morning sunshine within the little glade. At Tilly-Sur-Seules the mood changed once more. Following a short service in the cemetery the party marched back into the town. Yes, town! Many will remember Tilly as nothing but a few fire-blackened walls around a scarred and pitted cross-roads. But from the tortured earth has arisen a fine new township and in the bright modern "hotel de ville" we were received by the Mayor and the French Minister of Co-operation. Again the twelve dazed "liberateurs" were presented with the "freedom of the borough" and the champagne flowed once more. The Casterbridge Choir, many of whom were ex-servicemen themselves, really let themselves go for this occasion, and as a break from the "Marseillaise", which was becoming decidedly monotonous to our ears, swept into a series of war songs, going back to pre-1914, before kissing all the girls in the hall!

Lunch was a stupendous affair which continued intermittently for a number of hours before Mr. Savage could round up his bewildered but extremely happy charges and gently shepherd them back to the waiting coach.

Deep and welcome sleep was but minutes away—but so was Hottot-les-Bains and another ceremony. The band of the Bayeux Fire Brigade, who were accompanying us on the tour, succeeded in keeping awake those who all but succumbed to slumber at the 231 Brigade memorial, where a short service was held.

A pleasant incident here was the meeting between Alan Corben of the 1st Battalion and the Mayor, whose wife was given first aid by him in the battle for the village. They recognised each other immediately and returned to his home for a toast in "calvados".

In swift succession the party performed their little piece at Maltot and Hill 112, scene of battles involving all three battalions, and then on to Creully for a different type of performance altogether.

In the grounds of the historic chateau which the B.B.C. used as their first headquarters, the choir contributed a programme of rousing Dorset airs to a large gathering of the local populace, whilst the military element of the party, who "had heard it all before", escaped unobserved into a nearby fair-ground. But the final champagne "issue" of the day was enough to lure the escapees back from the attractions of the dodge 'em cars. And for Chris Portway the day was made when the wife of the Mayor of Creully approached him, on learning that he was one of her humble liberators, and announced to the distinguished company with tears in her eyes: "But he is so young, so young." And this notwithstanding the fact that Chris Portway was not supposed to be at the strictly civil ceremony in the first place!

The good hosts of Bayeux claimed us for their own the second night, though visitors were mostly asleep before they reached their beds!

A warm Monday morning found the party in the sombre presence of 10,000 American graves at St. Laurent, overlooking Omaha Beach, to whence it proceeded after bidding *au revoir* to Bayeux with an inspection of its tapestry. But the day would not have been complete without a ceremony, and lo and behold, one was produced out of the hat at Isigny-Sur-Mer. It differed in that this was a civil ceremony to commemorate the many French people killed in the bombing received at the time of the landings. Again the reception, the speeches, the "Marseillaise" and, best of all, the abrupt ending of the formalities, as the nationals of both countries got together in a welter of reminiscence carried out in a mixture of English, French, and waving arms.

Lunch in a local restaurant and, all too soon, we were homeward bound. No, "Blighty bound", for the memories we carried, old and new, made soldiers of us again. As we boarded the *S.S. Viking* at Cherbourg the routine of tomorrow loomed depressingly close. It was as if we were returning from leave. . . .

C.P.

(O.C.A. continued from page 100)

He travelled from Devon to Yorkshire and Cornwall continuously. He walked all the way, and true to tradition, never hitch-hiked. He was always present at Bury Meadow before the Cathedral march, and together with his stick, suitcase and black hat, was quite a character. He was always fond of his Regiment and will be missed by many of us Old Comrades.
G.M.W.

LONDON BRANCH

Since I wrote my last report for the Journal the Branch has been saddened by the death, on the very eve of the Annual Reunion, of that splendid soldier and most loyal comrade, Jim Buchanan. One of the last of a long line of Devon pensioners at Chelsea he was, in the words of the Regimental Sergeant-Major at the Hospital, "a credit to his Regiment". It is unfortunately true that with the passing of our Regiment from the active list he must be among the last of that "Old Guard". May he rest in peace.

Things have been quiet at our Branch meetings. The annual "Games Night" with our friends of the Wiltshire Regiment came and went in a flood of beer and ribaldry and the Darts Cup went to the Moonrakers. Walter is of course enjoying a few months of quiet retirement and his caustic comments have been absent from our meetings. I feel it will not be long however before his very large cat is placed among our currently cooing pigeons!

Arrangements for the London Dinner are proceeding well and we can promise all members who make the journey to London a memorable occasion. There will be one departure from the time-honoured custom. It will unfortunately not be possible for us to have St. Peter-upon-Cornhill for our church parade in the morning following the Dinner. Every seven years or so the date of the R.T.R. Annual Service and our own service clash, and 1964 is one of these times. Arrangements are being made for another church to be available for our use and details will be given at the Dinner.

Annual Reunion and Cenotaph Service

The above took place at Dorchester on Saturday, 12 September, 1964. Although further reinforcements from London and Birmingham arrived by coach many of those attending had been at Sherborne the evening before.

The .22 shoot was won by Southampton Branch with London runners-up and the cup was presented to Mr. Holland, team captain, by Brig. Bredin at the dinner. Tea was followed by a band concert and some 350 members then marched through the town to the Cenotaph. A short, impressive ceremony was conducted by the Rev. R. H. Wheeler, the new Rector of Holy Trinity and wreaths were laid by the President and Branch Presidents.

Two hundred and seventy members sat down to dinner at p.m. Brig. Bredin read messages from H.M. The Queen and Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, and also a telegram of good wishes from the 1st Battalion in British Guiana; he also spoke of Association matters. We were fortunate in having

as our chief guest, Col. Bannister (Colonel of the Wessex Brigade) who had recently paid a visit to British Guiana and was able to give a first-hand account of the doing of the Battalion.

The Band of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment played Retreat in the Square at 9.15 p.m. illuminated by vehicle lights and watched by many of the general public in addition to our own members. And then to the Yeomanry Drill Hall in Poundbury which became full to overflowing until the early hours of Sunday morning.

A very special word of praise is due to those many members of The Dorset Regiment T.A. without whose help the reunion could not take place. In addition to their efforts at Sherborne the evening before they ran the bars, served the beer at dinner, organised meals and accommodation for those staying at Dorchester on Friday and Saturday nights and carried out a host of other behind the scenes tasks.

(Sherbourne Abbey, continued from page 74)

Mrs. Smellie, Mrs. Stehr, Mrs. Dutot. Amongst former commanding officers of the Regiment present were Col. Stephenson; Lt.-Cols. Ray, Radcliffe, White, Nicoll, Barrett, Symonds, Roper and their wives. Maj. Peter Graystone, back from British Guiana, represented the Regular Battalion.

In November, 1936, four subalterns were concerned in the carrying of Colours on the parade. Lts. Symes and Hamblin received the new Colours, 2/Lts. Wakely and Worrall trooped the old Colours in farewell. These subalterns, now retired Lt.-Cols.,

live within 15 miles of each other in Dorset. They attended the ceremony, as also did Lt.-Cols. Ball, Hill, Knapp and Nicoll, who were also on the parade in 1936.

EDITOR'S NOTE

We wish to place on record that the excellent arrangements made for the Colour Laying Up Ceremony and the Reunion were planned by a small committee consisting of Brig. "Speedy" Bredin, Lt.-Cols. Desmond Wakely and John Smith.

(Dorset Army Cadet Force, continued from page 99)

their Sgt.-Maj. instructor, Mr. Jack Scott, himself a keen marksman, and the enthusiastic management of their Detachment Commander, Capt. D. Jacobs.

The climax came on Saturday, May 30, when in the lovely surroundings of Poole Park, Maj.-Gen. M. W. Prynne, C.B.E., Chief of Staff, Southern Command, came and presented the Trophy and Replicas to the winning team: C/Sgt. Christopher Long; C/Sgt. Steven Richmond; C/Sgt. Allan Andow; Cadet John Barrett; Bdr. Alexander Gracie; L/Bdr. Clifford Long; L/Bdr. Geoffrey Walsh and L/Bdr. Terence Cannings, in the presence of over 180 parents, friends and guests. John Barrett nearly missed the presentation because of having joined the Regular Army two weeks earlier, but special leave was granted to him and he made an outstanding picture in his scarlet uniform of the Grenadier Guards.

Amongst the distinguished guests were: the Mayor and Mayoress of Poole, Councillor and Mrs. T. W. Sherrin; the Sheriff of Poole, Alderman R. Hart, and Mrs. Hart; the County Commandant, Col. K. du B. Ferguson, and Mrs. Ferguson; with other Local and County dignitaries representing both Youth and T.A. Associations, also Col. and Mrs. D. Goldie, and Col. D. Standage representing the A.C.F.A.

Dorset Regiment Assn. continued from page 103)

India, used to play in the same hockey team as Herby; they had not met since 1912 which was when Jim came home on the Reserve. In Poona in 1913 the Regimental hockey team won the Aga Khan and Anderson hockey tournaments.

If any Old Comrades are in Portsmouth do give Herby a look up! He will be glad to see you.

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