

SEMPER FIDELIS



XI

The Journal of

THE

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

Vol. 1. No. 2

November 1950

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The Royal Hampshire Regiment
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The Dorsetshire Regiment
The Welch Regiment
The Essex Regiment
The Sherwood Foresters
The Loyal Regiment
The Northamptonshire Regiment
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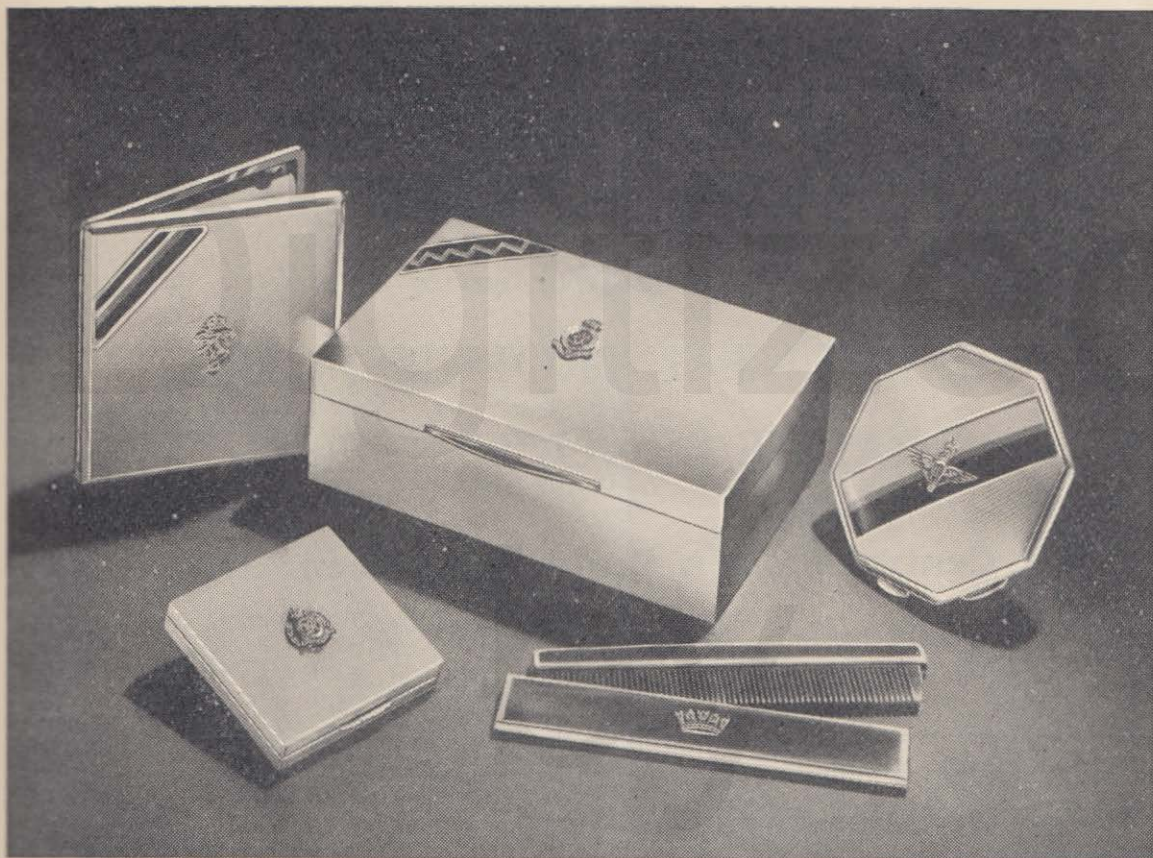
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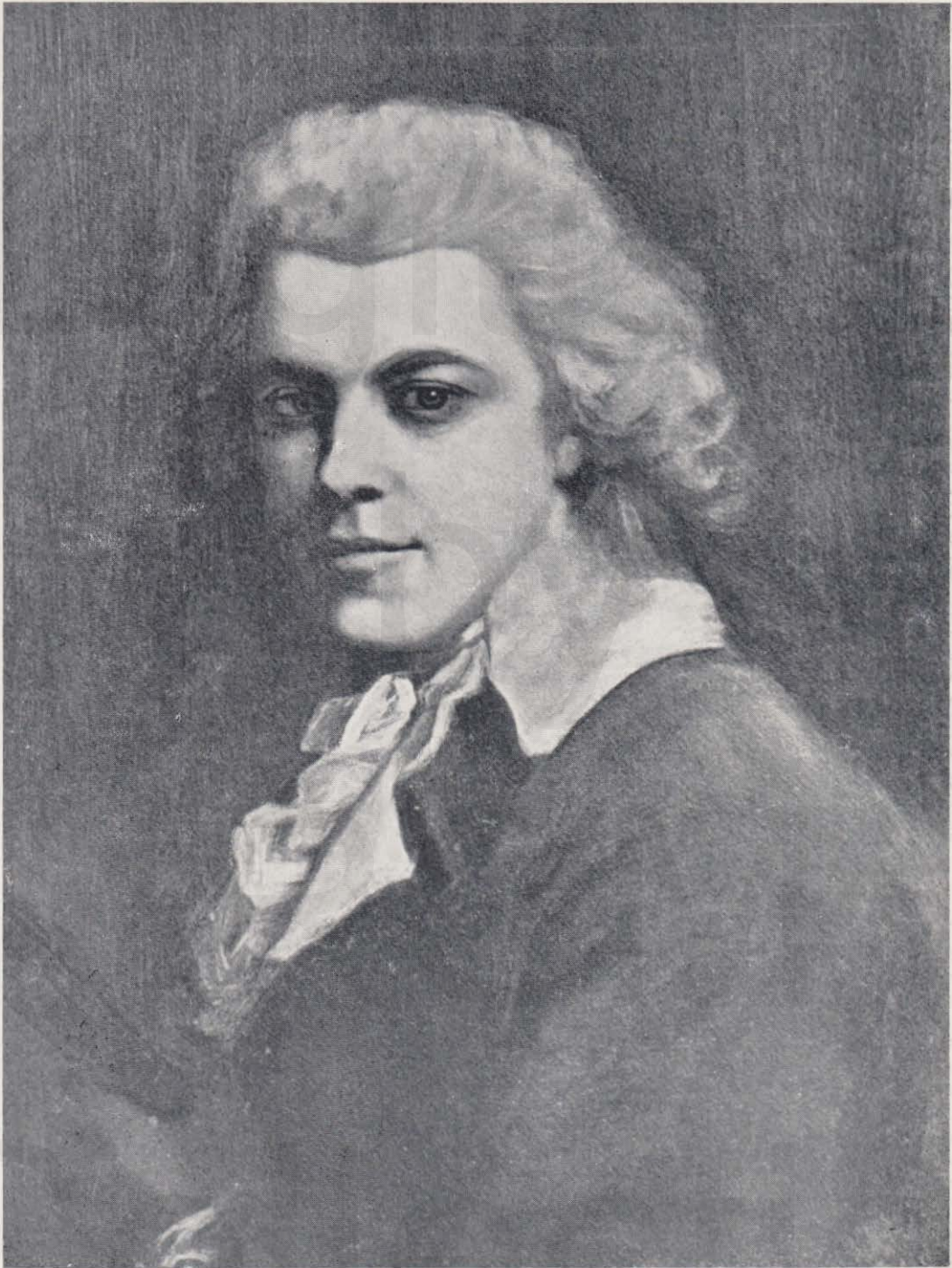
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REGIMENTAL JOURNAL OF THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

Incorporating
News of the Old Comrades' Association

SEMPER



FIDELIS

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"South Africa," 1899-1902."

The Great War—25 Battalions.—"Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve
Chapelle," "Hill 60," "Ypres, 1915, '17," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Aubers,"
"Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Deville Wood," "Guillemont," "Fers-
Courcellette," "Morval," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Bullecourt," "Pilckem,"
"Langemarck, 1917," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Rosières,"
"Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Hazebrouck," "Bois des Buttes," "Marne, 1918," "Tardenois,"
"Bapaume, 1918," "Hindenburg Line," "Havrincourt," "Epeny," "Canal du Nord," "Beaurevoir,"
"Cambrai, 1918," "Selle," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto,"
"Italy, 1917-18," "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Egypt, 1916-17," "Gaza," "Nebi-
Samwil," "Jerusalem," "Tel 'Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917,"
"Mesopotamia, 1916-18."

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Hon. Secretary—Lt. Col. R. H. Creasy,

Administrative Officer, Regimental Depot.—Major W. H. Radcliffe,

Colonel: Col. L. H. M. Westropp

VOL. 1. No. 2.

NOVEMBER, 1950.

PRICE 1/6

This Journal is published in May and November. All contributions, for the next issue should reach the Editor, Higher Barracks, Exeter, not later than March 20th, 1951.

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EDITORIAL

WE are able to introduce this second number of the Journal with less trepidation than in the case of the first, thanks to the apparent satisfaction with which the latter was received by subscribers, and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have said pleasant things and who have sent us good wishes for the future. But, at the same time, we are a little disappointed that we have had few suggestions for improving the general lay-out and "form" of the book, and we should welcome any ideas on the subject.

It is our duty and our object to please our public—our readers—and without obtaining their opinions, whether favourable or the reverse, we feel we cannot, by intuition alone, be expected to know whether we are in fact producing what they like, or, if we are not giving them what they want, in what respect we are failing to do so.

The cover of the book is a case in point. The cover of the first number was undoubtedly dull and this one came into being after several hours of thought and trial, but it need not be taken as the final choice, unless no opinions about it are forthcoming. We do suggest, however, that outside, this cover brightens the first impression of the book, and that inside, the different lay-out of headings, articles and so on, produces a less severe looking effect than in the case of the rather conventional lay-out of the first number.

Our endeavour is to produce a form and design for the book embodying certain features (when finally agreed and adopted), which are essentially those of our Regimental Journal and not a shadow picture or vague copy of some other magazine. For this reason, the suggestion that the Battle Honours of the Regiment should be put on the cover has not been adopted. The cover of the *Castle* bore them and was characteristically its own, and it would, we think, in this case, be unkindly to borrow from it.

So will readers send us, please, any suggestions or criticisms, both as to the cover and general lay-out; each one shall have due consideration.

We hope that members of the Old Comrades' Association are beginning to feel that the Journal adequately takes the place of their *News Sheet*, and we hope that, in addition to continuing their own support of the

Journal, they will endeavour to enrol more subscribers. Increased circulation cannot but serve to strengthen the bonds of Comradeship between past and present, and to keep alive and foster the traditions of the Regiment.

To touch for a moment on more mundane matters, the Colonel of the Regiment has made it clear that we cannot afford to carry a large debt in the production of the Journal, so will all readers try and make a point of paying promptly for copies received or ordered for the future, and also try to obtain more readers.

By the time this copy of the Journal is in our readers' hands we hope that we shall be preparing to welcome the 1st Battalion on their return from Malaya. Many will remember that the 1st left Blackdown in January, 1927, to join the Shanghai Defence Force. From there they went to Malta, thence to India, then the Burma Campaign and for the last two years, Malaya.

With all good wishes to our readers for Christmas and the Coming Year, and to the 1st Battalion from all of us, "Welcome Home."

NOTE

by

The Colonel of the Regiment

SINCE World War II the Regiment has lost two T.A. Battalions, the 5th (Prince of Wales's) and the 6th Battalions. We are thus reduced to one Regular and one T.A. Battalion—the 1st and the 4th.

The 6th Battalion was placed in "suspended animation" in 1946 and on the re-organisation of the Territorial Army, was converted into the 628th (Heavy) Regt. Royal Artillery.

This year the 628th Regt. amalgamated with the 296th Field Regt. R.A. (Royal Devon Yeomanry) and disappears.

The 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion was recently amalgamated with the 4th; the resulting Unit is to be called the 4th Battalion.

I am sure everyone in the Regiment deeply regrets the passing of these distinguished Battalions and hopes that one day they will be re-formed.

On behalf of the Regt. I tender our sympathy to Colonel G. C. Wycisk, O.B.E., T.D., Hon. Colonel 5th Battalion, Lieut.-

Colonel G. C. Cross, T.D., O.C. 5th Battalion, Colonel D. A. Bullock, O.B.E., Hon. Colonel 6th Battalion, and Lieut.-Colonel J. N. Oliver, C.B.E., T.D., O.C. 628th Regiment, R.A., and formerly O.C. 6th Battalion, and to all ranks of both units who have worked so hard in these last four years to re-establish their units on their pre-war lines.

NOTICES

The Regimental Chapel and War Memorial, 1939—1945

THE Regimental Chapel (The Chapel of St. Edmunds) in the Cathedral suffered considerable damage during the war, the West window being damaged beyond repair and the other two windows to a lesser extent.

In 1945 a War Memorial Committee was formed and after many enquiries and deliberations decided that the War Memorial should take the following form:

1. The replacement of the West window.
2. Provision of a Roll of Honour and case to contain it.
3. Provision of two pries dieux and kneelers embroidered in Regimental Colours with the badge worked thereon.

Subscriptions were asked for and a total of £1,889 14s. 2d. was collected.

The Design and Execution of the window was entrusted to Mr. Reginald Bell of Messrs. Clayton and Bell, the well-known stained glass workers, the cost of this being £561 0s. 6d.

A tablet in Hopton Wood Stone giving the date of erection of the window with commemorative inscription, cost £46 7s. 6d.

This was executed by Messrs. Wippell and Co. of Exeter, who also carried out all the other work, the stand, prie dieux and kneelers, at a cost of £203 17s. 6d., and the engraving and binding of the Roll of Honour for £175.

The provision of the Roll of Honour is the final part of the War Memorial. It was handed over to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral at a short service held on Saturday, 22nd July, 1950, when considerable numbers of Officers, Other Ranks and Old Comrades were present.

The restoration of the other damaged windows is primarily the work of the War Damage Commission; the Commission, how-

ever, would only undertake to repair with clear glass.

The War Memorial Committee felt that it was very desirable to retain the coloured tracery in the North window behind the altar, and they therefore agreed with the Dean and Chapter to pay the extra cost involved; this came to £43 5s. 3d.

In addition to the items enumerated above there have, of course, been administrative expenses connected with the War Memorial, e.g., postage, notices in newspapers, Cathedral fees in connection with memorial services, and printing of service papers.

Also, the Regiment were asked to subscribe to memorials in the R.M.A., Sandhurst, Malta Cathedral and Chav-rata, and it was considered right to pay these from the fund, the total being £159 11s. 2d.

The full accounts have been made up to 30th September, 1950, and audited by the Quarterly Audit Board.

The balance now remaining in the fund is £678 1s. 8½d.

It is proposed to invest £250 of this to form the capital of a Chapel Fund, the interest being used towards the upkeep of the Chapel, and the provision of wreaths on anniversaries such as Remembrance Day.

The balance will be used as a reserve to defray the cost of the Regimental History, which is dedicated in particular to those who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war. Should the sales of the History eventually cover the expenses of production the Chapel fund will be re-imbursed.

The Regimental Dinner

The Annual Regimental Dinner will be held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, on Monday, 13th June, 1951. The usual notices will be issued early in the year to all members of the Officers' Club and to all those who subscribe to the Dinner Club, and also to any others not included in these categories who attended the Dinner in 1950.

The Regimental Cricket Week

The Cricket Week will be held at Exeter from Monday, 23rd July, to Saturday, 28th. The Officers' "At Home" will be held on Thursday, 26th July.

It is hoped to repeat the Officers' Regi-

mental Dance, but the date has not yet been fixed. Details of all these functions will appear in the May issue.

The O.C.A. Dinner

The O.C.A. Dinner will be on Saturday, 28th July, at Higher Barracks.

Wagon Hill and the Relief of Ladysmith

January this year was the anniversary of the Battle of Wagon Hill and the Relief of Ladysmith.

The Borough of Ladysmith held a week of celebrations in honour of the occasion.

Although the Regiment had no representative from home, Major A. V. N. Bridge, late the Dorset Regiment, and formerly Brigade Major 130 Inf. Bde. (T.A.), who has gone to live in South Africa, offered to do anything he could for the Devons.

Thanks to his kind offer, we have received details of the celebrations with specimens of the invitation cards, luncheon tickets, band programmes and newspaper accounts. These have been deposited in the Museum, extra copies of the newspapers having been passed to some Old Comrades who served in the Boer War.

In connection with the South African campaign, an interesting collection has now been added to the Museum. Mr. F. S. Jacson, of Tedsmore Hall, Oswestry, recently gave to the Regiment the complete collection of South African relics made by his uncle, Brigadier-General M. J. Jacson, the author of "A Record of a Regiment of the Line," and who served with the 1st Battalion in S. Africa.

The collection is most interesting, every article having been labelled by General Jacson. Perhaps the most interesting part, at any rate to those who served in S. Africa, is General Jacson's manuscript diary of the siege and his somewhat pungent comments on higher formations and senior officers, and also four large albums of photographs.

When sending the collection, Mr. Jacson stipulated that the collection should be maintained as a Jacson collection and not scattered through the Museum. This has been adhered to as far as is possible.

We are informed that Major "Tony" Bridge went to no end of trouble, so we should like to take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of all past and present members of the Regiment for purchasing, on behalf of the Regiment, the wreath for the Memorial and for sending details of the week's ceremonies.—Ed.

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

In spite of torrential rain, several hundred people from all parts of the County went to Exeter Cathedral on July 22nd, when the Book of Remembrance, containing the names of officers and men who gave their lives in the 1939-1945 War, was handed over to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral.

Towards the end of the short, but impressive service, the Colonel of the Regiment, with Sgt.-Major F. Cann and Sgt. A. Bennett behind him, carried the volume up the centre aisle of the Nave. Before handing over the Book to the President of the Chapter (The Bishop of Crediton), the Colonel announced that on behalf of the Regiment, he was delivering it to the Cathedral authorities for safe keeping.

Led by the Head Verger, the President walked towards the choir to place the volume on the altar of St. Mary (Bratton's Altar). Later it will be placed by the side of the Roll of Honour of the 1914-18 War, in the Regimental Chapel.

The service closed with the singing of the hymn of the Devonshire Regiment. Among the many past and present members of the Regiment at the service were the O.C. and the Adjutant of the Depôt, Mr. H. Davey (also representing Lt.-Colonel R. H. Creasy, Hon. Sec., O.C.A.) and Mr. T. Alsford (also representing Captain G. White, M.B.E., M.M., Assistant Secretary, O.C.A.).

Acknowledgements

"The Light Bob"—Journal of the Somerset Light Infantry.
The Journal of the Wiltshire Regiment.
The R.E.M.E. Magazine.

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



By courtesy of the "Express and Echo"

The Colonel of the Regiment handing over the Book of Remembrance to the Bishop of Crediton

Collection

THE BALL AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL



By courtesy of the "Express and Echo"

The Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Westropp, Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs. Spencer and the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Fortescue



Street Scene, Kuala Lumpur

LOCATION OF SERVING REGULAR OFFICERS

(corrected to 1st October)

1st BATTALION

Rank	Name.	Appointments
Lieut.-Col.	R. G. Pine-Coffin, D.S.O., M.C.	Commanding Officer
Majors	D. A. D. Young ...	2nd i/c
	R. E. R. Robinson ...	Company Commander
	F. W. Harries ...	Company Commander
	G. V. O'B. Adams ...	Company Commander
Captains	D. O. Appleton ...	Adjutant
	T. Hope ...	
	R. H. Coxhead ...	Quarter-Master
	F. W. J. Norrish ...	
	P. H. Wood ...	
Lieutenants	R. E. Mackintosh ...	
	P. K. Essame ...	
2/Lieuts.	M. A. Wright ...	
	D. P. Lovejoy ...	
	P. W. R. Graystone ...	
	J. E. Hollingshead ...	

THE DEPOT

Major	G. T. Dadson ...	Commanding Officer
Major	T. Benbow ...	Quartermaster
Captain	F. K. Pyne ...	Adjutant

4th BATTALION

Major	M. C. Hastings ...	Regular Field Officer
Captain	M. F. R. Bullock ...	Adjutant

1st BN. THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

Majors	P. S. Leeper, C.B.E. ...	2 i/c.
	W. R. A. Kettle, M.C. ...	
	G. G. C. Coleridge ...	
Captain	I. H. F. Edgar ...	

1st BN. THE DORSETSHIRE REGIMENT

Majors	J. R. H. Parlyb, M.B.E. ...	
	G. J. Palmer ...	
Captains	G. D. C. Mossley ...	
	R. J. G. T. Bahin ...	

WESSEX BRIGADE TRAINING BATTALION, BULFORD

Major	G. R. Young ...	
Captains	P. B. Snowden ...	
	W. J. P. Aggett ...	
Lieutenant	P. R. B. Freeland ...	
2/Lieuts.	P. Burdick ...	
	E. H. Tremlett ...	

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier	H. A. Borradaile, D.S.O. ...	Imperial Defence, Canada
Colonel	P. Gleadell, D.S.O. ...	G.S.O. 1 (Int.), G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
Lieut.-Col.	L. G. Carpenter-Garnier, O.B.E.	G.S.O. 1, Directorate for European Inter-Allied Planning War Office
Lieut.-Col.	J. D. Kitson ...	A.Q.M.G., Western Command
Majors	D. I. Bannister, M.C. ...	School of Administration, G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
	A. F. Hanks, M.C. ...	Southern Command Travelling Recruiting Team
	G. E. Hicks ...	Q.A.A.G., Aldershot District
	F. B. Hingston ...	Chief Instructor, Method of Instruction Team, Rhine Army
	Q. D. T. Hogg ...	G.S.O. 2, R.E.M.E. Training Centre

Location of Serving Regular Officers—(Continued from previous page.)

Majors	M. Holdsworth, M.C.	2nd Bn. Para Regt., Aldershot
	C. V. King	6 Liaison H.Q., Dusseldorf B.A.O.R.
	E. Labbett, M.B.E.	D.A.A.G., Biedefeld Garrison, B.A.O.R.
	S. O. Murphy, M.B.E.	Awaiting Posting
	D. C. Nation	S.O.P.T. 7th Arm. Div., Celle B.A.O.R. 23
	T. J. Pine-Coffin	2nd Bn. Para. Regt., Aldershot
	J. M. Pyne	A.M.A., British Embassy, Italy
	J. Rogers	Staff Capt., A.G. 1 (Officers), War Office
	G. W. Small	B.M. 150 Inf. Bde. (T.A.), York
	G. N. B. Spencer	B.M. 130 Inf. Bde. (T.A.), Exeter
	T. W. Stopford	D.A.Q.M.G., British Military Mission, Greece
	E. J. Warren, D.S.O.	Chief Instructor, A/Tk. Wing, School of Infantry, Figheldean
	P. T. Willcocks, M.C.	Staff Captain, A.G. 1 D., War Office
	J. K. Windeatt, O.B.E.	G.S.O. 2 H.Q., 1 Div., Tripoli
	Captains	W. F. Barrow ... ..	H.Q., 16 Ind. Bn. Para. Bde. Group, Aldershot
G. E. T. Cope		1st. Bn., Nigerian Regt., Kaduna
P. R. W. F. Falkner		British Military Mission, Greece
D. A. Gilchrist		G.S.O. 3 War Office M.T. (1)
A. S. Harvey, M.C.		6 Gurkha Rifles
D. R. Inman		"A" Branch, G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F.
C. J. Lynch		R.M.A., Sandhurst, Sports Officer
P. V. Nepean, M.C.		B.M. 149 Inf. Brigade (T.A.), York
T. Proctor		Staff Capt. A.2 (P.S.) Main H.Q., B.T.A.
J. P. Randle, M.C.		Staff College, Camberley
J. E. F. Roberts		G.S.O., M.T. Directorate, War Office
C. D. Rouse		1st Gold Coast Regt., Accra.
C. N. Taylor		Eaton Hall, O.C.S., Chester
B. Webber		Awaiting posting
Lieutenant 2/Lieut.		W. G. Wood, M.C. ... ..	Sudan Defence Force
	J. G. Butts	A.L.O., R.A.F., Habbaniya, Iraq
	A. M. Dilleigh	Sick Leave, U.K.
	* * *	
Major Captain	P. F. Anderson, M.C.	} F.A.R.E.L.F.
	R. V. Hancock	

**1st BN.—7-A-SIDE TEAM IN
SINGAPORE**

Left to right (Back): Sgt. Notts, L./Cpl. Holmes,
Major Bannister, M.C., Lieut. Graystone
Front: 2nd/Lieuts. Wright, Kimmel and Taylor

THE ERITREAN EXILES

Attached to 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment stationed in Asmara, Eritrea, are four officers and some sixty-five other ranks of the Devonshire Regiment. The officers are Major P. S. Leeper, C.B.E. (2nd in Comd.), Major W. R. A. Kettle (O.C. "HQ" Coy.), Major G. C. C. Coleridge (O.C. "D" Coy.), and Capt. I. H. F. Edgar (2nd in Comd. "HQ" Coy). We call ourselves "The Eritrean Exiles"!

Among the other ranks are several well-known members of the Regiment, including Sgts. Till, Rees and Hill; Cpl. Cox and L./Cpl. Cole. With the exception of L./Cpl. Cole, they have all served with the 1st Battalion. L./Cpl. Cole belonged to the 2nd Battalion.

It is the custom of the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment to commemorate the principle battle honour of each Regiment in the Wessex Brigade, by granting a holiday and publishing an order of the day,

giving details of the honour. The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel H. du Pré Finch, D.S.O., therefore granted the Battalion a holiday on 27th May in commemoration of our own great battle honour of Bois-Des-Buttes. His action was deeply appreciated by all men of the 11th Foot.

support from the "Swede Bashers" on the touchline, the Rest won the day with a score of 4—0.

A photograph was taken on 26th May of all available Devons, but unfortunately, for operational reasons, a number of men out of barracks could not be included.



Officers and Other Ranks serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment

Shortly after dawn on 27th May the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment sounded reveille, heralded by our own Regimental call. (It was later rumoured that Major Leeper took the salute in a full dress uniform, which closely resembled pyjamas in design.) Our Regimental bugle calls, both those of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, were sounded throughout the day by Drummer Jenkins, a N.S. soldier of the Devonshire Regiment.

The flag of the Devonshire Regiment was then hoisted on the flagstaff below that of The Royal Berkshire Regiment, where it remained until Retreat.

Throughout the morning the men of the Devons could be seen proudly wearing their "Croix de Guerre" rosettes. These had been specially obtained from the Regimental Depot by Major Leeper, and issued the day before. Small groups of Devons could also be seen gathering around company notice boards to read the Order of the Day, giving an account of the battle of Bois-des-Buttes.

At 10.30 hours a football match between the Devons and the Rest of the Battalion took place. In spite of very enthusiastic

The officers wore Devonshire Regiment cap badges for the photograph, and Majors Leeper and Kettle donned their new Regimental lanyards.

It really was a most enjoyable day.

LADYSMITH

The events recalled by the 50th Anniversary of the Siege of Ladysmith in 1900 roused my curiosity to know more of the origin of this now spacious town, which had its beginning shortly before the Battle of Blood River (1838), when the Boers met in prayer at Danskraal, two miles distant from the centre of the present town, and vowed that, should they succeed in defeating the Zulus, they would build a church in thanksgiving to God. Later the district became sparsely settled by Boer farmers, who felt the need for a township on the Klip River.

On the 20th June, 1850, a township was proclaimed by the Governor of Natal and was known locally as Windsor, until in November of that year it was officially named "Ladysmith." "Harrysmith" had,

a short time before, been named after the Governor of the Cape, and it was thought that Ladysmith would be a suitable partner on the further side of the Drakensburg Mountains. Lady Smith was a beautiful Spanish girl, who, when she was fourteen years old, met and married de Los de Lores, on the battlefield of Badajoz (1812), in the Peninsular War.

The town developed quickly and in 1854 Bishop Colenso reported Ladysmith to be "a neat hamlet of twenty-three houses, all of them well built, besides soldiers' tents and huts." During the fifties a road, in reality a track, was established to Pietermaritzburg and a bus service started, carrying passengers and mail. Eventually, in 1886, Ladysmith became a "railhead."

Consequent upon the discovery of diamonds and gold, the town became a centre for transport riders journeying from Port Natal to Kimberley and Johannesburg, so that, at the outbreak of hostilities in 1899, Ladysmith, as the gateway to Natal, became the keypoint of the struggle for that province. When the British had fallen back from Talana and Elandsplaagte, and a force had crossed the border from the Free State at Van Reenan, Sir George White decided to hold Ladysmith, and was besieged from the 1st November, 1899, to the 28th February, 1900. In the course of the siege a large number of British troops were lost in ambush at Nicholson's Nek, and the Boer artillery firmly established itself on all vantage points overlooking the town, particularly at Pepworth Hill, Gun Hill, Lombard's Kop and on Umbulwana, from which the famous six-inch "Long-Tom" caused so much discomfort to the besieged.

The main defences were established along Wagon Hill, Caesar's Camp, Observation Hill and Cemetery Hill with dugouts built along the banks of the Klip River. The inhabitants formed themselves into the Town Guard.

Early in the siege neutral territory in the proximity of Umbulwana was established where Intombi Camp was given over for the women and children and the hospitals. It was supplied by one train from the town each day.

As the siege lengthened, conditions rapidly deteriorated. The water supply was cut and a bad outbreak of enteric followed. Rationing was severely imposed and an occasional small supply of horse flesh was the only meat

available. Prices soared as time went on till tomatoes fetched 2s. 6d. each, vegetable marrows 25s. and eggs 40s. a dozen.

The most successful sortie made from the town was directed against the Boer artillery on Gun Hill. The assaulting troops moved silently up the rocky slopes about 2 a.m. and completely surprised the Boer Gunners. Having destroyed the guns the force returned to Ladysmith unmolested.

On January 19th, 1900, under cover of darkness, a desperate attack was launched on Wagon Hill by the Boers. It developed along the length of the defences of that area and fighting continued unabated throughout the day. The result was never certain, both sides fighting desperately until the late afternoon, when a charge by the Devonshire Regiment cleared the hill and dispersed the Boer assault.

During these months, General Buller was building up his relief forces with the intention of breaking through in the Colenso area.

Boer Patriots were ranging freely as far south as Estcourt and it was a band of these marauders that trapped an armoured train between Frere and Chieveley. Mr. Winston Churchill, who was on the train, as correspondent to the "Morning Post," led a party in an attempt to clear the line. By their partial success the engine and tender got back to Frere, but Mr. Churchill and his friends were taken prisoners.

Attacks by General Buller at Colenso failed and were followed by unsuccessful battles at Vaalkranz and Spion Kop, but on 27th February, 1900, he crossed the Tugela River at Hart's Hill, and after severe fighting occupied the high ground surrounding Pieters. In the early hours the following morning the Boers withdrew, closely followed by the British cavalry, who, after several actions with the Boer rearguards, were able to raise the siege after 118 days.

Many monuments on the surrounding hills record the actions of Regiments engaged in the siege and the relief, and the 1,000 men who died in these engagements are commemorated on tablets in the transept of the Church of All Saints.

The town has seen happier days since then and has increased enormously in size since its first official foundation in 1850. It now enjoys a prosperous and prominent position in Natal as an agricultural, industrial and commercial centre.

R.H.C.

THE 1st BATTALION

"A FIRST Class effort which augurs well for the future"—this is the unanimous verdict of members of the First Battalion upon receipt of issue No. 1, and we offer our warmest congratulations to the Editor.

We must not lose sight of the fact that it is from us—the only animate regular Battalion of the Regiment—more than from anyone else that the Journal expects to receive its material; our journalists, cartoonists, photographers, humourists, etc., must not, therefore, be permitted to hide their lights under bushels. Come forth—the Regiment wants to hear from you!

We trust that those at home obtained the same amount of pleasure from reading about our doings in Malaya as we did from learning of the activities at Home. The news of "Old Comrades" is, of course, of particular interest, as each one has left his mark on the Regiment and has helped to build up the spirit of comradeship and good fellowship of which the Regiment is justly proud and jealous.

After another period of severe heart-strain caused by repeated changes in the date of our departure Home, it looks as if we shall really be emulating Drake and will be—heading West, lads—by the time this appears in print.

It was with no light heart that we transferred the major portion of the Battalion—a fair slice of regulars and almost all our National Servicemen—to the 1st Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment, and saw them depart for their unexpected destination—a last minute change caused by World events—Hong Kong. We wish them all God speed and good luck and trust that they will settle down happily in their new Battalion, whilst not forgetting the old. Many, we hope, will continue to keep in touch with us by subscribing to the Journal and we shall be delighted to receive anything they care to contribute for publication.

In keeping with the times, the First Battalion's destination in the United Kingdom is changed almost weekly as is its intended rôle. We will not tempt providence by guessing, but at the moment our one feeling is that to be home again, will compensate for most things and, has not a benign Government seen fit to increase our pay?

In this sticky climate it is a little difficult to dream of a white Christmas, but we are doing our best.

Our one regret on leaving Malaya will be that there are still a large number of bandits at large who see fit to murder and pillage and generally to disrupt the life of the peace-loving community. We think we are justified, however, in feeling that we have done our bit towards putting an end to this unhappy state of affairs and we fondly believe that the Communist terrorists can now see the writing on the wall.

In conclusion, we again set ourselves to wondering whether we shall have arrived in England before the next issue of the Journal appears. Many readers we know mirror our hopes and in saying goodbye and good luck, therefore, we ask you one and all to keep your fingers crossed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR VISITS THE 1st BN.

*By Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Pine-Coffin,
D.S.O., M.C.*

THE visit of the Secretary of State for War on 30th May was undoubtedly the high spot of the visiting season; the 1st Battalion gets a great number of visitors, but this was the first time it had entertained a member of the Cabinet. Everyone must have known that Mr. Strachey was likely to come to us as he had said that he intended to see the bad spots, and Bentong, where we are based, is certainly one of them. It is comparatively simple to prepare for a big inspection when a Battalion is together in one place and can concentrate on the job, but in Malaya it is all very different as this Battalion is not together in one place and is extremely busy anyway with its normal operations.

Although it was obviously only common-sense to try and show the Battalion off to its best advantage, it wasn't at all sound to tell everyone who was coming or, indeed, that anyone was coming. Ambushes are all too common as it is. This particular problem was overcome by pretending that someone else was coming and I hope that General

Urquhart, the G.O.C., did not mind being used as a cover plan. He was there, too, so it was not really a complete fabrication.

The party arrived in Bentong in no less than four Auster aircraft and included, in addition to Mr. Strachey, General Urquhart, General Readman from the War Office and Brigadier Stephens.

A few moments before the Austers grounded the Gentlemen of the Press arrived by road and entered Bentong some four miles from the airstrip. Despite this initial handicap most of them (and there were 18 in all) managed to get to the strip where they took numerous photos. It was noticeable that Mr. Strachey was particularly considerate to the Press throughout the day and frequently delayed his tour to give them time to take their photos.

These 18 press representatives were quite a problem in themselves as the tour unavoidably included considerable motoring, and all of it along roads very likely to be ambushed. The convoy was bound to be a long one as it included armoured cars in addition to the usual escort vehicles. At one time it seemed that at least three extra vehicles would be needed for the Press. This, of course, would merely have lengthened the column without adding to its hitting power. Fortunately a new toy in the shape of an armoured 3-tonner arrived the night before the visit and all 18 were bundled into it, where they were not only safe, but nice and compact. It was ideal from our point of view, but the Press were not so enthusiastic and said it was just like being in an oven. Swinging in the many bends made several of them sick, thus adding to the discomfort of the others, who were not feeling too good themselves.

The tour started with a visit to "B" Company at Bukit Dinding Rubber Estate. Here Major Harries conducted, and the party saw, with obvious interest, typical living conditions of troops in Malaya, 2nd/Lieut. Lovejoy briefing his platoon for an operation and Lieut. Essame returning with his platoon from another operation. Mr. Strachey was to be seen often chatting informally with the platoons and he seemed very pleased with the answers he was getting, too.

On the way back to Bentong the party stopped to see a demonstration air supply being given to the latest joined draft. This draft, incidentally, had been ambushed on

its way to join the Battalion and had suffered one fatal casualty. It proved quite difficult to drag Mr. Strachey away from this party of "recruits," as he obviously found it absorbing and much enjoyed chatting to them. This demonstration is part of the normal training of all our drafts, which is in the hands of Major Bannister, M.C.; the demonstration itself was arranged by Captain Hope and the commentator was 2nd/Lieut. Wright. Before he left Mr. Strachey spoke over the wireless to the pilot of the plane and thanked him, on behalf of the Army, for the assistance the R.A.F. were giving in the campaign.

The last item was a discussion period by the current Junior N.C.O.s Cadre, which was conducted by 2nd/Lieut. Hollingshead. Mr. Strachey and the whole party, listened carefully to the various views put forward and then Mr. Strachey himself got up and said a few words. In his short address he said that he had been very impressed with the spirit in the Battalion and with the very careful and efficient way that instruction was being given.

After lunch in the officers' mess a novelty was laid on by Captain Wood, the Signal Officer. It appeared that the Battalion's new wire recorder had been installed to record the N.C.O.'s discussion period and had, of course, also picked up Mr. Strachey's remarks, which were then played back to him. It seemed a good opportunity to stress the value of these recorders for training and to urge that an issue be made to every Battalion. Mr. Strachey and both the generals heartily agreed about their obvious value, but we are still waiting to hear that they are to become an issue.

After the visit the Battalion received a special letter of congratulation from General Urquhart on the success of the visit.

"A" COMPANY

*An Elegy written in Bentong Rest House
(with apologies to Gray)*

Since last going to press we have been located in the Rest House, Bentong, Pahang, to which we came after Singapore. Just in case you get the wrong impression, it is a Rest House only by name and the word "Rest" does NOT apply to the personnel of "A" Company.

Major Bannister, M.C., continues to com-

"A" COMPANY 1st BN.—INSTRUCTORS—JULY, 1950



Back Row : Cpl. Osborne, M.M., Cpl. Woodgate, Sgt. Davey, Cpl. Dickens, L./Cpl. Pinsent
Front Row : Sgt. Burton, Lieut. I. J. Thorning, Major D. J. Bannister, M.C., 2nd/Lieut. J. Hollingshead,
Sgt. Barfield. *Seated* : Sgt. Deane



Left to right : Sgt. Loder, Sgt. Burton, Sgt. Davey, 2nd/Lieut. J. E. Hollingshead, Major D. J. Bannister,
M.C., Cpl. Dickens

"B" COMPANY—1st BN.



(1) Football—Salamanca Day
(3) No. 5 Platoon caught resting for 10 minutes

(2) Return from OP IPPLEPEN
(4) No. 5 Platoon at rest

Collection

mand the Company with a firm but very steady hand and, by-the-way, Pte. Beaver is still "Spit and Polishing" the Major's boots.

Captain Speller, after frequent attempts to become a member of the Malayan Railway Executive—suddenly and unexpectedly transferred to "D" Company as second in command. In his place we welcome Lieut. Thorning as second in command—he has already made his mark by rendering an old Devon song on Salamanca Day. We would like to point out that Captain Speller, well known as "Al Capone of Mentakab," has lost his tommy-gun for which he was so famous and is now reported to be holding the bandits at bay with an American carbine. Any day now we expect to see "D" Company go out on patrol armed with bows and arrows and hunting knives.

The Company has carried out very few ops. as a Company due to the absence of No. 2 Platoon. However, one "Op." was carried out, i.e., Operation Oghwell on the borders of Pahang and Selangor. As a result of this operation, a very successful Squatter resettlement scheme has been carried out by No. 1 Platoon. The scheme was completed early in July and has resulted in the resettlement of approx. 400 squatters, who previously lived between the 79 and 92 M.S. Bentong-Kuala-Lumpur road. This was by no means an easy task and entailed a great deal of day and night patrolling for a period of six weeks. The zeal shown by No. 1 Platoon was rewarded by a letter of commendation from the District Officer, Bentong, to the Commanding Officer.

No. 1 Platoon

2nd/Lieut. Wright came to the Company in June and has since been commanding No. 1 Platoon. 2nd/Lieut. Wright has also made his mark by a continual flow of witty Sitreps whilst on Platoon detachment. "Please send ONE tin of Players, no name." N.F.T.R. (Nothing further to report). Sgt. Hotton is holding the post of Platoon Sgt. ably assisted by Sgt. Deane, who until a few weeks ago was well known in the Company as Cpl. "Tiger" Deane. The third tape has been well wetted! No comments, please. Cpl. Osborne, M.M., has at last received his "Gong" along with several yards of ribbon. "Very pretty! But I'm afraid it clashes with the colour of his hair." Pte.

Smith (09), incidentally, was the first man in the Battalion to win \$10.00 for accounting for a wrongdoer. Pte. Smith regrets he let the other two get away, but assures us it will NOT happen again. Pte. Lambert states that his poultry farm is coming along very nicely—thanks to the assistance of the cooks. No. 1 Platoon celebrated Salamanca Day on the 26th July; a most enjoyable time was had by all. Several of the Battalion officers visited the platoon during the course of the evening, including the Company Commander, Adjutant, M.O., M.T.O. and 2nd/Lieut. Hollingshead. The Sgts. and Cpls. served the dinner suitably attired in chef's hats and aprons. After dinner the Company Commander officially opened the new canteen and was served with the first bottle of Tiger. About mid-night the Company Commander, accompanied by several other officers, was escorted down to the swimming pool by the C.S.M., who was well armed with two full-size bottles of Tiger. What happened to the empties nobody knows!—not even the C.S.M.

No. 2 Platoon

2nd/Lieut. Pridham remains in command of No. 2 Platoon. We do not, however, see much of him since the platoon was whipped off to carry out the duties of Brigade defence platoon early in May and there they have remained. Sgt. Smith is still Platoon Sgt. and we have been informed that he now has a first-class platoon, which is due to a great deal of hard work by himself and his fellow N.C.O.s. Sgt. Young was promoted in early June and has since been with a detachment at Mentakab with Brigade Rear H.Q. Although they are stationed miles from the rest of the Battalion they still had their little Salamanca Day celebrations, in which Cpl. Bidmade played a prominent part. Sgt. Smith proved invaluable with his "tin whistle" and certainly helped to keep the party gay. The Platoon Commander proved very disappointing, he could not be persuaded to sing a little song. He kept muttering something about being "Orderly Officer."

Training

2nd/Lieut. Hollingshead has continued to run a series of scientific and up-to-date Cadres. You should hear him expounding on that well-known subject of the British

Army of to-day, "The Method of Destruction." I beg your pardon, "Instruction." We have only one complaint in Company H.Q., and that is he insists on calling on the Company Office, etc., to fool around in his playettes.

Company H.Q.

Last, but not least, we come to H.Q. There have been several changes in the staff since our last edition.

First and foremost came the departure of C.S.M. Blackmore and in his place we have C.S.M. Baker, an old stalwart of the 1st Battalion. The C.S.M. is very proud of his waxed ginger moustache; he has very good reason to be. C.Q.M.S. Bassett, ably assisted by Sgt. Loder, continues to supply all our needs. L./Cpl. Furlow (A.C.C.) is now i/c cooks and is making a very good job of it indeed. L./Cpl. Moore (M.T. Att.) has the responsibility of keeping our wheels turning. "Everything goes all right WHEN the trucks are not in the Workshops." Cpl. Foulkes has been looking after our health. "He has an everlasting supply of Tinea paint." L./Cpl. Morrell is now responsible for putting us through on the air. "Some-time next month he is being issued with a wireless set." Whilst in the Office Pte. Loughran looks after our accounts and Pte. Aylings churns out the Company "bumph."

Salamanca Day

One thing that will never be forgotten on this historical occasion is the picture of loving friendship expressed on the faces of Ptes. Hunt and Hodges when they crawled into the dining tent in the middle of the Company Commander's speech, completely sozzled. Hunt kept muttering something about "The C.S.M. wants to get some in, I did twenty-one years before he joined up." So the day went on until about 2200 hrs., when a number of our "Revellers" found themselves safe and sound in the Battalion Guardroom. So endeth a great day!

Miscellanea

During the past few months we have lost quite a few of our old members due to personnel finishing their overseas tour and releases, etc. First to go was L./Cpl. Bloomer (Sigs. attached), who was well liked by everyone in the Company. L./Cpl. Mitchell and Pte Smith (29) followed a few weeks later. Then went the "Life and Soul" of the Com-

pany, Pte. Cliefe. Our only National Serviceman who has been released so far is Pte. Gamblin and he sailed from Singapore on the 26th July.

Pte. Burns is now in Company H.Q. It's about time, too; he has been wounded twice in the legs, the second time was within six weeks of coming out of hospital.



No. 14 Jungle Course ("A" Company Trainees) on a Training Patrol in front of Sakai huts

Ptes. Watts and Talbot certainly help the Regimental Police to earn their pay. They know every little corner of the Guardroom and the surrounding area, but they never seem to lose heart.

L./Cpl. Penny, another National Serviceman, has taken his place as a front ranker in the Battalion football team. Cpl. Sheppard of this Company and other regular players say they are really proud to play with him.

"B" COMPANY

As reported in our last Notes, the order to re-form "B" Company only took effect

on 11th February, 1950, so it was a collection of strangers rather than a formed Company which, under Major F. W. Harries, moved out of Selarang barracks on 7th March to join its advance party in Karak, West Pahang.

This little Chinese village is only 27 miles by road from the Battalion's old stamping ground at Mentakab, but there the "Old Sweats" were not slow to point out, ended any connection with pre-Selarang life.

It was very soon evident that the days were past when a Company stationed in Bentong could maintain the King's Peace in the Karak area with one platoon, and the Kuala Pahad area with another.

Neither—to tell tales out of school—could a "convoy" safely consist of one 15-cwt. truck towing another. In fact, the recruits among us had the rather grim satisfaction of seeing the old soldiers' tales of operations in Pahang more than verified—to the authors' shocked surprise.

The Chinese School at Karak, which our advance party took over from a platoon of the 1st Green Howards, was, of course, quite inadequate to house a Company with all its transport and stores, so, although the schoolmaster was chased out of his temporary building across the road, most of the chaps found themselves in "tented accommodation."

It would be untrue to say that this was a popular billet, though it did have the advantage of lying on the direct route from Battalion H.Q. to "C" Company, so that "orderly room griff" could be received, garnished, and relayed on without a pause. The only other amenities were a couple of fairly good bathing places within walking distance, and a most amenable family of dhobis next door. Very favoured customers have ever been known to receive a bouquet of artificial flowers, haven't they, "Brig." Tack?

Even with a water trailer in constant use there was never enough water for cooking and ablutions, and acting C.Q.M.S. "Crash" Cox was almost reduced to dowsing and smiting of rocks. It is ironical, then, to report that on the 30th March the camp was flooded out to a depth, in some tents, of 15 inches. There was nothing to be done but pile the kit on to beds and wait for the waters to subside. In the meantime good slapstick humour was to be had for an audience strategically placed in the dining tent.

Close to this spot the rising muddy water had covered a bridge over the roadside ditch. The audience, of course, knew that the bridge had been washed away. The victims did not.

It was from the Karak Chinese school that the Company began an intimate association with those sectors of the Klau, Kemasul and Lentang Forest Reserves contained in its twelve by twenty-four mile area. During the next six months, this intimacy grew, but affection never developed beyond the platonic stage.

It was from this base, too, that the Company suffered its first serious reverse when a counter attack party hurrying to the scene of an incident was itself ambushed. 2nd/Lieut. M. O. F. Kimmel, in the leading vehicle, was mortally wounded in the first burst, and Ptes. W. Cane and B. Page wounded.

All ranks extend to the parents of Mr. Kimmel their sincere sympathy.

We are glad to record that Page has been out of hospital for some months, and that Bill Cane survived a mild relapse occasioned by being dragged into a photograph with Mr. Strachey. He has never looked back since.

After having every move, from early morning shave to evening pint, scrutinised from the road by an interested Asiatic public, it was with relief that we received the order to move to Bk. Dinding estate on the 5th May. There, through the good



The "office" at Bk. Dinding

graces of the manager, Mr. Christensson and Bob Davies, his second in command, we took over a large bungalow already de-

fended by wire and floodlights, and having its own rather erratic water supply.

It also had a rather pleasant lawn, which we covered with tents and cut up with draining ditches.

Delicacy forbids us to explore too minutely the difficulties encountered in providing latrines for a large number of men stationed outside "municipal limits" on ground containing a rocky laterite substrata. It is sufficient to say that Captain Norrish was seen several days operating with a small number of amateur sappers a digging tool shaped like a ship's propeller. It is stated on the highest authority that the worried expressions were due to nothing but lack of progress in the work.

The Company had by this time lost L./Cpl. Lawrence, Cpl. "Buddy" Carr and Sgt. Avery on Python. Although it is understood that Tuan Avery intends eventually to continue his patrols with the Police at home, he is at the moment learning to wear boots and speak English with the 1st Gloucesters.

On the 18th April occurred the second ambush of a "B" Company convoy, this time on the Bentong road. In one burst of Sten gun fire Cpl. L. Horrocks was slightly wounded, Pte. J. Parker more seriously hit and Pte. L. Yea cut by splinters.

It is good to be able to report that Len Horrocks was very nearly fit when he returned to the U.K. later on demob., and "Lofty" Parker is getting over this, his second wound.

Just before the move to Bukit Dinding, the Company was strongly reinforced by Dog Christmas from Brigade H.Q., C/Sgt. "Mike" Collins arrived at the same time; and between them they eventually managed to produce electric light in the tents—a very popular innovation.

Soon after arrival we lost 2nd/Lieut. Wright to "A" Company. We hope he had been with us long enough to pick up the form. Pte. Mason and Cpl. Floyd also left on Python. Cpl. Bill Floyd sticks to his intention of taking over a pub at home. The location had better be Top Secret or the shutters up when we get back. And no "Tiger," please.

We suffered two more set backs when, on the 6th June, Pte. Bone was killed in a road accident. To his parents we extend our sympathy. Further, on the 14th July, in a third ambush, Ptes. Venton, Bennett and Mould were all seriously wounded. Happily they

have pulled through, and the last report was that all are well on the way to recovery. Congratulations and best wishes to the three of them.

Despite our losses, "B" Company has more than held its own in operations. Lieut. Peter Essame and Sgt. "Busty" Crocker, operating with their patrol outside our area, bagged the Battalion's first bandit during the present tour of operations.

After Mr. Essame's transfer to "D" Company, his successor, 2nd/Lieut. Frank Trew, with Sgt. "Tommy" Thompson, managed to contact and probably wound several more.

2nd/Lieut. Douglas Lovejoy and Sgt. Tom Bulley, between them, have killed one and wounded five, including rather unchivalrously, a pretty Chinese girl bandit. We know that this would not have happened if Mr. Lovejoy's usual other half, Sgt. "Snowy" Winter had been present. Sgt. Winter has never been known even to look harshly at a Chinese girl, but he was in hospital at the time with another grey hair and a fine scar to remind him of the road courtesy campaign. He had previously assisted in the ambush of a domestic buffalo, so had nothing to complain of.

We are not too far from Karak to make use of the football pitch there and we have managed six games with "C" Company, one with "D" Company and three with the local Police. We have, thank Heaven, avoided reports or returns on this side of our activities, but tradition has it that we lost only one game in all, and that to the Police after "Smiler" Johns was carried off with an injured knee.

Another match between the Officers and Sergeants was played on a flooded pitch in pouring rain, Cpl. Pinsent was unable with his abacus to compete the total of goals which slipped by Major Harries and a cunning attempt by the Officers to save the situation with a resort to rugger rules—and scoring—was completely unsuccessful.

Salamanca Day was honoured by everyone but the local bandits, and even they were not able to spoil it. C.S.M. "Nobby" Overson lost a certain amount of face in the Sergeants' Mess by losing a beer-drinking competition to a young officer with a third of his service. A form of oriental Pearly King and his consort made a brief appearance in the lines. They have not been seen since, and their present address is perhaps

known only to Cpl. "Nigger" Newton, L./Cpl. "Darky" Heather and the god Bacchus.

On the domestic side we congratulate Mrs. Johnson (L./Cpl. Johnson of our M.T. Section) and Mrs. Norrish on the birth of a son to each.

We have to report that besides Dogs Christmas and Chaos, two authorised cats, half a dozen legal chickens and a duck, a litter of kittens has been illicitly produced. Disciplinary action will be taken against the parents when the father can be found.

We would like to mention by name all the National Servicemen who have arrived since we have been in Pahang, and those who have done their job and gone home. They are, however, too numerous, and we will instead wish them, and those who are shortly leaving us for the 1st Wilts, the best of luck.

"C" COMPANY

Our last two weeks at Selarang Barracks were spent hectically preparing our jungle kit for our return up-country. Rumours, as usual, were rife as to where we should go. After many changes of heart from above we were told "Bentong."

Since last writing our Notes we have had almost a complete change-over of officers. Major Wheatley, D.S.O., still commands the Company, although we are sorry to say that he is leaving us in August to become an Instructor at the Staff College (a soft number according to the Arms Kote Storeman). We congratulate him on this appointment and wish him all the best. At the end of March Major Anderson, M.C., joined us as second in command and we enjoyed his company for about two months before he left us to command "D" Company. We trust he will forgive us his extremely strenuous welcome on the day of his arrival in Kuala Pahang and his immediate introduction to an inside view of the Malayan scenery. On Major Anderson's departure the salty tang of the oceans swept in from Bentong and heralded the arrival of Captain Fayter to be our new second in command. We wish him all the best when he commands the Company on Major Wheatley's departure. 2nd/Lieuts. Graystone and Simms command the platoons, ably assisted by Sgts. Whitehouse, Wood and Hall. We are very sorry that Sgts. McKewan and Hall "stopped one" in the legs after the Salamanca Day cele-

bration. No doubt the bandits were firing a Salamanca Day Salute in the direction of one of our trucks.

Many of our members of Semantan Estate have gone home on release or repatriation amongst whom have been 2nd/Lieut. Roberts, Sgts. Avery, Lynch, Knight, Cpls. Carr, Sherrard, Brimicombe, Pym and Ptes. Lawrence, Warnham, Butler, Wakeham, Walker, Broomfield and others.

We had great difficulty in the departure and release of 2nd/Lieut. Barker, but managed, after many attempts, to fly him home to New Zealand to tend his sheep. To all who have left us we wish the best of luck.

We were very sorry to say adieu to C.S.M. Pett, who has gone to Battalion H.Q. We feel that if he can train the Battalion soccer team to win the Farelf Cup again perhaps it is worth it. We welcome C.S.M. Harris, who was with the Battalion in Selarang Barracks before the Emergency.

Kuala Pahang is a minute village 27 miles from Bentong, with our tented camp set up around the village school. When it has rained a clear river runs behind the camp, which provides good bathing.

Sport in the Company has been heavily curtailed by operational duties. We have played "B" Company at football on a few occasions and usually manage to beat them. No doubt "B" Company will deny this.

Recently, we have been busy mapping squatter areas prior to moving them to defended Resettlement areas. For the defence of these areas the Police are providing Posts.

2nd/Lieut. Horning left us rather hurriedly on compassionate leave to U.K. We extend our sincere sympathies to him on the death of his father. He has now rejoined the Battalion and is cheerfully facing the rigours of training new recruits at Bentong. We welcome to "C" Company all those of New Drafts which have joined us since our last notes.

Mrs. Wheatley carried out a brief inspection of the Company during her two weeks visit to Tuan Estate. Things at that time were pretty "hot" around these parts, and, on her arrival she was greeted by a burning bus fired by the bandits only a short while prior to her reaching Kuala Pahang.

Finally, we extend our thanks to our neighbouring Planters, especially Mr. and Mrs. Allen of Tuan Estate, for their kindness to us during our stay in Kuala Pahang.

"D" COMPANY

Before commencing our notes, we of this Company would like to congratulate the Editor and staff on the result of the very hard work which they must have put in producing the first edition of the Regimental Journal, which was first class.



2nd/Lieut. Sawyer's Patrol

Many changes have occurred since our last notes were published; we were very unfortunate to lose our Company Commander, Major R. E. R. Robinson, whom many will remember as the 1st Battalion scrum half at rugby and for his many, many fine innings at cricket for this Battalion; he has been posted to H.Q. Company as Company Commander and also as P.R.I.; our loss is another's gain, and we wish him the best of luck and hope that his stay with them will be as enjoyable as it was with us. In return we have had the good fortune to have posted to us as O.C. Major P. F. Anderson, M.C.; we extend to him a very hearty welcome.

We also lost Captain J. Fayter, much to the regret of the whole Company, who will have to find somebody else to tell them stories of the "dark days"; in return we had posted to us as 2nd i/c., Captain C. E. K. Speller. We hope his stay with us will be

long, but not too hectic. It has been reported that the 2nd i/c's office has been redecorated; the furnishings include many weird Malayan trophies, such as blow-pipes, elephants' feet, etc.

Another new arrival in the Company is 2nd/Lieut. Rendle, who joined us straight from England with Sgt. Richardson, an old member of the Battalion. Sgt. Bellamy, who was transferred to us from "B" Company, has settled down with the newly formed 10th Platoon.

2nd/Lieuts. Trew and Sawyer have left us for "B" and "C" Companies and we hope that they enjoy their stay with their respective Companies.

Salamanca Day was celebrated in true traditional style, the whole Company managing to be in for the occasion with the exception of 11th Platoon, who are billeted about five miles from Company H.Q. The P.R.I. gave each man a pint of beer, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking the C.Q.M.S. and cooks, who worked very hard to give a grand dinner under trying conditions.

We have had very little opportunity for sport, but have managed to play a game or two of football against Bentong Town and other Companies, and, as usual, won all of them except the matches against our old rivals, H.Q. Company.

There was a time when we thought we would be able to have a Company cricket team, but after the first trial game operations prevented us from carrying on.



Crossing a Stream

When our last notes were published we were living in the comparative comfort of Selarang Barracks, but all good things must

come to an end and we are now once more in Pahang. Our present Company lines are situated not far from the town of Bentong, so we can at least visit the local cinema in between operations.

Our old stager, Cpl. Chase, is still with us, but there have been persistent rumours that he has taken up riding a bullock to and from the local coffee shop.

We should like to know whether it is true that when the Dental Officer examined Cpl. Miller's (our cook) teeth, he remarked that the R.E.M.E. would make a good job of them; it has also been reported that Cpl. Miller bought a chipping hammer this week-end.

From the batman's tent it is said that whenever the Company Commander wants a clean jacket his batman always seems to find the dhobi closed; is this coincidence or is it?

The Mortar Sergeant wishes to know why it is that the Army will persist in issuing compasses that are 40 degrees out in their reading. (I smell rubber.) Is it true that two Cpls. of the 12th Platoon are deferring their Python in order to get better acquainted with the local population of Kuala Lumpur?

Why was the song "Hong Kong Blues" played on the request programme of Radio Malaya for our storeman, Pte. "Hooknose" Colgrave?

Now to finish, we would like to wish our beloved Company M.T.O., 2nd/Lieut. Taylor, the very best of luck on his return to the U.K., and we sincerely hope that he gets his regular commission.

Any person wishing to apply for the vacated post of "D" Company M.T.O. will hand in their applications to the Char Wallah in Hindustani.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Once again 'H.Q.' Company is back in "The Field." Having left Singapore and the C.R.M.P. far behind us we came to Bentong in the beginning of February, where we settled ourselves comfortably in a Chinese school. Here the Provost Staff (and occasionally their charges) went to town in red and green paint and whitewash. It is rumoured that one of them was so pleased with the new flag pole that he used to play for hours running the flag up and down.

Our sympathy goes to the M.T. and

Drums, for they have had to make their homes on the muddy banks of the Sungei Bentong. On one particular morning they woke up to find their worldly possessions floating in several inches of water and a certain member of the M.T. was seen testing the depths of the river with an oversize dipstick.

Since our return up country we have lost the services of Major G. V. O.'B. Adams as company commander, who has taken over from Captain R. Coxhead, M.B.E., on his return to England. We extend a hearty welcome to Major R. E. Robinson, our new company commander, and C.S.M. Pett, as Messing Officer. We wish them all the best of luck in their new capacities.

We were sorry to hear of the illness of Lieut. P. Mangin and also of Cpl. G. Williams, who has returned to England and whom we hope to see shortly.

Our congratulations go to Major Appleton, Captain Hope, Captain Wood and Lieut. Mangin on their recent promotions.

Since our last notes we have said "Good-bye" to many Regulars and National Service Men who have returned to the U.K. We hope they have now settled down to the rigours of "Home Service" and expect to see them soon.

The water shortage causes us no little diversion. We have been getting practice in how to take a shower in a cigarette tinful of water. People are seen every evening frantically pouring tinfuls of water over themselves and carrying out all the more difficult feats of a contortionist in a fruitless effort to get the best out of a shortened pipe which just dribbles water. Woe betide the one who leaves it too late. Having lathered himself from head to foot in a thick coating of soap-suds, he suddenly finds the trickle of water from the pipe peters out altogether and he is left to scrape off the sticky lather, which clings like a layer of icing sugar, as best he can. The maddening thing is, just after a heavy fall of rain there is less water than after days of scorching heat, when you might expect water to be short. The shortage is also affecting the Cook Sergeant, who is finding great difficulty in keeping his cook-house up to his own high standard.

The placing of Communist-looking posters around the camp area by the Civilian Police has caused a good deal of apprehension, especially when no one is able to explain how they got there. When someone found

suspicious looking documents written in Chinese in the monsoon ditch behind the cookhouse great excitement was aroused. When translated, however, they were found to be only a schoolboy's essay.

But it required considerable impudence on the part of the bandit who hung a Communist flag from the window of the cinema next door to 'H.Q.' Company building on the eve of May Day. It was quickly spotted by the sentry, however, and gingerly retrieved, in case of booby-traps, by the Intelligence Officer, who explained to a bewildered cinema proprietor that a red flag was decorating his window.

The Company has achieved nothing outstanding in the field of sport, most soccer matches being on a friendly and inter-department basis. Very often on a sunny Sunday morning one can see a group of very energetic-looking beings armed to the teeth with cricket gear, making their way towards the padang. Later on in the day they can be seen dragging themselves and the kit back to the company lines looking as if they had been par-boiled. But doubtless they have enjoyed themselves. In July the Government school organised a sports meeting and many members of the Company were in the Battalion tug-o'-war and relay teams. The tug-o'-war team won that particular event and in the relay the Battalion team came second.

THE ORDERLY ROOM

"Six days do we labour . . ."

It was with great regret that we learnt shortly after our move to Bentong that Cpl. G. Williams had contracted Poliomyelitis. He has since returned to the U.K. and we wish him a very speedy recovery.

A casual visitor to the orderly room, hearing snatches of conversation in which the phrases "Going Home Next Week," "Boat put forward/back" (the latter, alas, all too frequently), figure prominently, might be pardoned the assumption that the orderly room was moving in bulk to the U.K. Not so, however, but it seems impossible that so few should make so much about so little—a mere boat after all!

On June 7th, we said goodbye to L./Cpl. Towriss, Ptes. Goff and Bartlett. L./Cpl. Towriss, we understand, toyed with the notion of taking the Bentong cricket team

on tour in his native country, and was dissuaded only by the realisation that the pay of even a five-star L./Cpl. would not cover expenses. One who shall be nameless departed groaning under a massive load of kit and was last seen buried under two suitcases (mammoth, expanding) and innumerable kit bags (soldiers, universal).

So much for our departures. Since our moves from Selarang we have had several additions to the elite. Cpl. Seal came in from "C" Company soon after our arrival in Bentong, followed by Pte. Charman, who took over "Release!" We confidently predict that all 1949 N.S. men will be released shortly before pensionable age—if things go according to plan. L./Cpl. Toothill joined us from "D" Company, but owing to the pressure of "local leave" has been approachable only at meal times. More recent arrivals are Ptes. Johnson and Cook, and we express the pious hope that they will follow the true traditions of the orderly room.

N.B.—Comments on this to be submitted in triplicate three days before its appearance in print.

Sgt. Hunter still presides over "those of the O. Room" by day, but apparently has taken a part-time evening job refereeing on the Bentong Football Ground. As yet the two occupations have not overlapped and we still await the day when a secret letter will go into the Adjutant bearing, underneath the orderly room stamp, to-morrow evening's practice teams.

Cpl. Kewell, our senior Cpl., is rapidly becoming known as careers-man and emerges each day with new suggestions of a post-army career. This we regard as a sure sign of an imminent engagement.

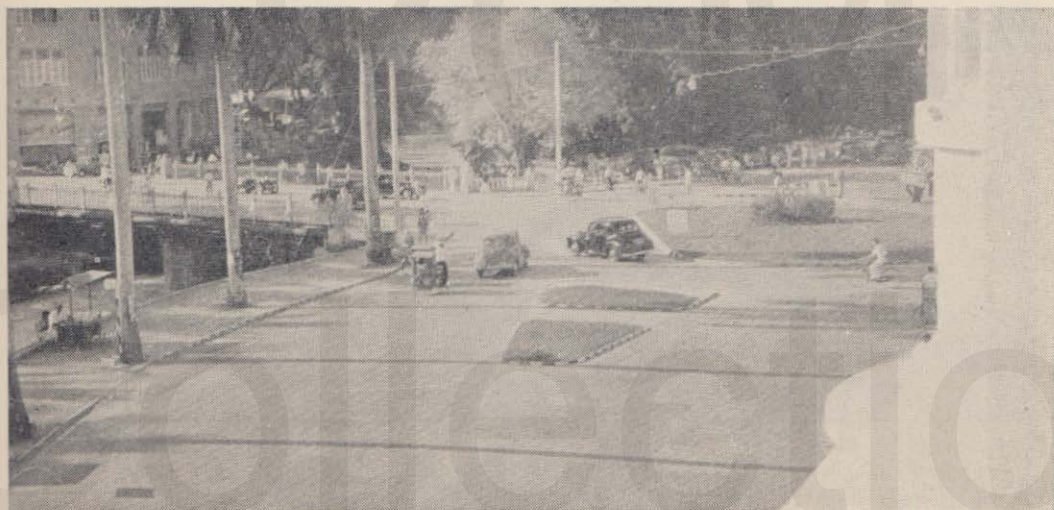
In retrospect, the orderly room at Singapore appeared to occupy only a moment of time. Scarcely, it seemed, had we arrived when we were once again packing and leaving for up country. In passing, no one who has moved with the O. Room can ever forget the experience. Fully packed and in transit, it closely resembles the retinue of an American millionaire on safari, and for weeks after, the staff have nightmares in which they dream of being pursued along corridors, up and down stairs into various rooms by boxes of every size and shape—rectangular, triangular and rhombic. However, we digress.

We all enjoyed Singapore and the welcome

**N.C.O.s OF THE M.T.
BENTONG, 1950**



*Back Row : L./Cpl. Walker. Cpl. Newton, Cpl. Ledbury, L./Cpl. Johnson, L./Cpl. Legge
Seated : Cpl. Hodge, Sgt. Sampson, 2nd/Lieut. Mackintosh, Cpl. Cawthorne, Cpl. Roberts
Seated Front : L./Cpl. Moore, Cpl. Violet, L./Cpl. Goodman*



Street Scene in Kuala Lumpur

**THE
SIGNAL
PLATOON**



Captain at foot of facing page

change of environment more than reconciled us to the notion of ceremonial parades—the first for some of us. We were sorry indeed to leave and the move to Bentong was succeeded by bigger and better nightmares than ever before.

Singapore gave us a glimpse of the sort of life to be expected back in England. It whetted the appetite, as it were, in anticipation of things to come. Let us hope that this anticipation will soon become a reality and that in the not too distant future we shall all be in our favourite local drinking to the “Good Old Days in Malaya.” Meanwhile, to all we say “Good Luck and Good Hunting!”

THE SIGNALS

We are sorry to have to report the absence from our midst of Sgt. “Jock” Hutchison, who, at the time of writing, is in hospital. When he reads this in print we trust that he will be with us again, sorting out the Exchange Operators and generally keeping a watching brief on us all.

Many have been the postings in and out in the last four months. Python has taken Cpls. Todd, Meager and Bloomer from us. We hope that they are still signalling in far off Blighty and that they are still “on net.”

L./Cpl. Evans decided that he wasn't cut out for carrying wireless sets in the Jungle so turned to trying his hand as “D” Company clerk. We hope that he has turned out some interesting Company Detail for the lads to read.

Ptes. Miles and Vosper, both Time-Ex., have left us for “civvy” street. We wonder if it has come up to their expectations. Ptes. Hunkin, Johnson, Lock, Newport and Rixon, all National Servicemen, recently departed from us. We feel sure that they will be able to tell the Territorial Units to which they go, a few things about signalling in Malaya.

The Tailor has been well employed in the noble art of sewing on stripes. L./Cpls. Asker and Sharland are to be congratulated

on promotion. Perhaps there is something in going to Catterick after all.

L./Cpl. Bill Morrell has taken his place in the Battalion again, after only a short stay in the U.K. L./Cpl. Young, who, we are told, is unable to see over two 68 sets, has distinguished himself on the Battalion Cadre by gaining first place.

We have also had a change in command in the Signal Platoon. After nearly three years in the chair, Captain Ben Webber left at the end of his Python. We wish him all the very best. Lieut. Peter Wood returned to the Battalion after successfully weathering the signals course at Catterick to become Signal Officer.

Even if we say so ourselves, we reckon that we have removed all but the odd “Gremlin” from the 68 Set. Even Sgts. and odd bodies in Rifle Companies have been known to operate the set, but “my dear! the Procedure” of these amateurs.

A week's course was run for the benefit of all Signal N.C.O.s. During the course a whole day (9½ hours) was spent in the Jungle. AND we have photographs to prove it. In official language it was a “great success.”

The Platoon having lost Bren's M.G. they have decided to bring in something new to menace the roads. D.R.s. . . It has proved quite a popular employment. The form seems to be this. Have an accident, pay for the damage, break your leg, have a month's leave in Singapore and then the Cameron Highlands, and catch the next boat home. Well done, Russell!!!

In conclusion we would like to wish all the very best to those chaps that we are leaving behind in Malaya. We are quite sure that they will acquit themselves well in the field of signalling and be able to show the new boys a thing or two about doing it in the Jungle.

Pronto.

Things We Want to Know

1. Who was the exchange operator who rang up a Senior Sunray at 0030 hours

● (1) Pte. Miles and Cpl. Asher; (2) L./Cpl. Pearce and Johns trying to puzzle it out; (3) *Back, left to right*, L./Cpl. Pearce, Ptes. Hobday, Colling, L./Cpl. Morrell, Cpl. Sharland, Pte. Miles, Cpl. Asher, *Front*, L./Cpl. Young, Pte. Johns, Lieut. P. H. Wood; (4) *Back, left to right*, L./Cpl. Pearce, Ptes. Hobday, Colling, Cpl. Sharland, L./Cpl. Morrell, Ptes. Miles, Cpl. Asher, *Front, left to right*, L./Cpl. Young, Pte. Johns, L./Cpl. Groves; (5) L./Cpl. Morrell and Pte. White; (6) L./Cpl. Young and Groves; (7) *Left to right*, L./Cpl. Morrell, Cpl. Asher, Cpl. Sharland, Ptes. Johns, Miles, Colling, Hobday, L./Cpls. Young, Groves and Pearce; (8) *Left to right*, Pte. Miles, L./Cpl. Morrell, Cpl. Asher, L./Cpls. Young, Groves, Pearce and Cpl. Sharland.

to ask him if his telephone was working? Did he receive a fitting reply?

2. Who was the wireless operator who was caught sending the 1st Division Football Results from Singapore to the Battalion advance party in Bentong?
3. Who was the Company Commander who demanded an explanation as to why his patrol were not coming up on the air and then found out that they had not taken a wireless set with them. . . .?

(H)INTS FROM THE INT. OFFICE

With the return of the Intelligence Section to the lush splendours of Pahang, we have dispensed with those highly secret activities for which we are noted in Selarang Barracks, Singapore—so secret, in fact, that no one knows what they were—and have once again taken up our proper place as the nerve centre of the Battalion. We have seen many changes of staff since our last appearance in print, so it would be as well to begin with the “goodbyes and hellos.”

Before we proceed further, however, we would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Captain Hope, our new I.O., on his recent promotion.

The first to leave our ranks was L./Cpl. Sumner, who is now a budding Education Sergeant in the U.K. It is to be hoped that by now he has regained the mental balance that was, to put it mildly, a little out of true with thoughts of his return home. Our other farewell is to Sgt. Smith, who has left us to take up the rigours of a jungle life with “D” Company. To both these we wish good luck and, to the latter, good hunting.

On the credit side we have Captain Hope, who has come to the Battalion from Germany to take over the post of Intelligence Officer; Sgt. Walker, the new “I” Sgt., who, at the same time, is still keeping up the onerous (?) task of educating the Battalion, and Ptes. Hunt and Pritchard, both recent arrivals from the U.K. These, together with Cpl. Granger, L./Cpl. Benson and Pte. Hall, the old stalwarts, form our present complement. But, wait a minute, we almost forgot to mention that most important functionary, the I.O.’s jeep driver. This position was first held by Pte. Overton, who has now forsaken his jeep for a troopship to Blighty, his place being taken by “Ditch ’em or Duck ’em”

(anything for a laugh) Burley.

The new “I” Office is situated in a one-time Chinese school in Bentong (we believe the C.O.’s and Adj’t.’s Offices are in the same building), and it is mainly notable by the notice on the door warning unwary intruders to “Knock-and-wait.” The interior, however, is something of a cross between an art gallery, by reason of the many artistically painted maps, and a Communist H.Q.—if one can judge from the prominently displayed Red Flag and the noticeable increase in bandit activity since the arrival of the new I.O. in Malaya.

However, we must not give up hope! “Music While You Work” is provided by the singing from the Chinese School temporarily housed in the Sun Cinema next door. This, to English ears, sounds more like a “honky tonk” than a place of learning—the children’s rendering of “Auld Lang Syne” brings the tears to our eyes and lumps to our throats. Nevertheless, we gallantly shut our ears and eyes (but perhaps we oughtn’t to mention the Chinese School Mistress?) to the many distractions and get on with the serious business of an operational “I” Section.

There are one or two points that we feel we ought to make for general perusal. In the first place, we regret to inform all Officers that owing to shortage of supplies we doubt very much whether we will be able to continue our important secondary function of visitors’ “char-wallah.” Secondly, much as we like to see our comrades from the Signal Office at 0200 hours, we feel that it is only fair for them to give the pleasure of their company to other departments when they receive such operationally important messages regarding “beds, iron, folding, flat,” or code signals that are already in clear. . . . Dare we risk just a slight dig at the Orderly Room clerks, we wonder? No, perhaps not. They come already under such general censure that we haven’t the heart to add further to their hard lot. Our main object in life is, of course, to please everyone.

The efficiency of L./Cpl. Benson and Pte. Hall is, we fear, seriously impaired by that all too prevalent complaint—funnel fever. No doubt, by the time this edition of the Journal comes to print, they will have realised their wishes and have rejoined the civilian populace.

This topic of conversation has had the

effect of driving Cpl. Granger into dark corners, where he can be heard muttering in a mournful tone: "I see them come and I see them go." Not to worry though, our spies assure us that the Devons really will go home in the next six months. What, then, will happen to our Section? Surely the Battalion will never be the same without us.

But let us not dwell on so sorrowful a prospect as the Section's disbandment. We are far from extinct yet, in spite of the vicious remarks which some unkind visitors are in the habit of making—after all, a fellow has to get some rest sometime. There are still some months left to show our mettle, so, meanwhile, "Nil Desperandum Intelligentes!"

THE "Q" SIDE

Since last going to press there have been no drastic changes in the "Q" Department. Being at Selarang Barracks for two months was no holiday for us and it was with gladness in our hearts that we sallied forth to the rigours of Jungle Life, knowing that at last we should get a respite from the eternal work that goes with a refit period. Instead of working 24 hours a day we now only work 23½. So here we are at Bentong in Pahang surrounded by the local population and local stinks. As no gas respirators are available we stick it, and spray our offices and stores with D.D.T. and other stink removers.

On arrival the usual headaches were presented to us by the Rifle Companies and were surmounted with a couple of aspirins and the usual efficiency ??? of the "Q" Staff. Among the many oddities that we are asked to supply was a Battle Dress for the 2 i/c.; a tents Marquee was sent to meet our first demand. It was only after much conniving we managed to obtain a cast-off suit used by C./Sgt. Sidney Leverton of Bristol (Depôt in '41).

An officer with a big head came to us for a blue beret and after trying the whole of our stock in store found none to fit him. We finally sent him away with a Pails IG 13in. and a transfer to the Household Cavalry. (We never send our customers away empty handed, we aim to please them all—well, nearly all.)

Another job we had to do was to fill a hammer full of lead for Captain Strange of

the Army Dental Corps; it would appear that instead of pulling them out, he's going to knock them out. Watch out, chaps, you've been warned.

Everyone is now settled in, and all are looking forward to our final move, which we hope will be in the near future. Many rumours have floated into the Office, but we refuse to be ruffled, we've heard them all before.

After two years of operations the "Chair Shiners of G.H.Q." have decided that we may now go over to operational accounting; there are, of course, a long list of exceptions, so that, when we size the situation up it appears that we are back where we started. Still, as they say in Malay, "Tid Apa" (Not to Worry).

The Q.M., Captain Coxhead, M.B.E., who for six months and a dozen rumours had been hanging on to go home with the Battalion, decided he had had enough and took his Python. We trust he had a good leave and thought about us hard-worked blokes. He should be now taking over the Barracks at Bulford and all its snags. (Don't forget the Ghost.) We hope the R.E. fixtures are in good order, also the live fixtures to be taken over.

The vacant chair has now been taken over by none other than Major G. V. O'B. Adams, late of the P.R.I. After only one month as Q.M. he has made enough to afford a leave to the U.K., for which he departed on the 5th August. We hope he comes back refreshed and tells us the secret of his success.

The R.Q.M.S. is now in the chair and, with the able assistance of Sgt. Nutty Reading, things are running smoothly.

The staff will shortly be depleted by the loss of Sgt. Hyde, Python, L./Cpl. Palfrey, Python and Cpl. Radford, advance party. We shall be left to struggle along without their noble efforts. Cpl. Radford was recently ordered three days' rest and was to do nothing; this he did with his usual efficiency, but on the fourth morning came to the R.Q.M.S. for another day off because having to breathe for the past three days had made him tired. Well, Blow us Down!

The "Three In Argument," Ptes. Hart, Crook and Jennings, are still with us and will shortly be returning to the U.K., and we hope they will never get together again, it's worse than an Irish Parliament when they start.

Pte. (Why wasn't I told) Pilcher, our clothing storeman, recently went on leave and rang us up every day to see if his stores were O.K. What a geezer. We recommend he takes them with him next time.

Our two Armourers, Sgt. Chandler and Cpl. Barton, have now been relieved of their defensive position behind the latrines. They now command a monsoon ditch. Well-earned promotion!

The Pioneer Platoon is doing well. Cpl. Asplin makes more trips than ever to K.L.; he says he's after timber—or is it black ebony? Pte. Carsell is brushing up his painting prior to our move to Singapore; we fancy he will be sick of Devon-U.K. by the time he has painted all our boxes.

OFFICERS' MESS

It is with the very deepest regret that we have to record the death of 2nd/Lieut. Michael Kimmel, who sustained a mortal wound in an ambush on the Bentong-Mentakab Road. Michael was an extremely popular officer and one who showed the greatest promise. He had led his platoon on many anti-bandit patrols and had at all times displayed the greatest cheerfulness and complete disregard for his personal safety. He was hit whilst taking a party to investigate a bandit incident. He was rushed to hospital very speedily and was operated upon, but, unfortunately, loss of blood had lowered his resistance and he passed away. His funeral took place at Kuala Lumpur and was attended by the Commanding Officer and every available officer of the Battalion. He is sadly mourned and our very deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives.

To leave the palatial Mess in Singapore and return to the jungle was not such a blow as one might imagine, for our unhealthy bank balances reminded us very forcibly that civilisation has its drawbacks.

Early March saw us back in Pahang with Battalion headquarters at Bentong, a small Malayan village, with an incredible population—incredible both by virtue of its numbers and its apparent indifference toward the bandit activity very prevalent in the area.

In Bentong, the Commanding Officer and several senior officers took up residence in a nicely situated bungalow which rejoiced in the name, "The Castle." The remaining

Officers lived in a less palatial dwelling known as "The Mess," and the acute shortage of water necessitated several officers taking the same bath; considerable tactical ability was displayed by certain officers in their endeavours to be first in the queue. The junior officers occupied a room on the ground floor commonly referred to as the rat pit or the sewer; after an occupation of several months one of these officers, suffering no doubt from a touch of the sun, thought it might be a good idea to clean out the rat pit—the modern batman considers it *infra dig* to clean out a room occupied by mere subalterns—and as a result it was discovered that a complete kit of a private soldier, regarding the loss of which a Court of Enquiry had long ago been held, was nestling snugly beneath the bed of a subaltern who shall be nameless.

The complete lack of privacy in the Mess proved a little embarrassing at times, particularly when married officers made their nightly 'phone calls to their spouses in Kuala Lumpur or Singapore; with studied delicacy officers drank their beer with noisy relish or blew their noses in organised reliefs in their efforts to drown the sweet nothings which were apt to create nostalgia and despondency among the not-so-blessed.

Just prior to leaving Singapore we were joined by Captain Hope and 2nd/Lieuts. Trew and Sims both of whom have settled down in our midst. The former's ability to shoot a line was suitably rewarded. He was duly appointed Intelligence Officer.

2nd/Lieut Jim Barker had Movement Control dizzy trying to arrange his passage back to New Zealand; he repeatedly arranged on the "old boy net" a passage by air, only to find that a V.I.P. had claimed his promised seat. As a result Jim kept turning up in the jungle and was promptly sent out on patrol. We are not yet quite certain whether he finally left by sea or air or whether he is, in fact, still in Singapore.

A notable occasion was created by the visit of the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Strachey, an account of which is contained elsewhere. He lunched in the Mess and chatted informally with every Officer. General Briggs, the recently appointed "Supremo," also paid us a visit and honoured us by staying to lunch.

We lost a personality with the departure of Captain Ben Webber. It was true to say that there was never a dull moment when

he was about, but he transferred his affections to the local police force during his latter period with us and consequently succeeded in avoiding the hectic send-off which would otherwise have been his lot. His departure from Bentong in an ancient car which was, we understand, propelled by the fumes breathed into the bonnet by Captain Webber and his companion (Colin Parkes of the Malayan Forestry Department) was a sight for sore eyes, but even more entertaining, was the sight of him at Singapore marching with complete abandon up the gangway of the ship with his light automatic strapped around his middle and his jungle hat at a jaunty angle upon his head. We shall undoubtedly miss him, but nevertheless we feel that his departure was not a day too soon.

Captain Webber was succeeded in his appointment as P.M.C. by Captain Coxhead, who asserted his charm to such good effect that we voluntarily and unanimously voted to increase our Mess subscriptions to an extent which later caused some of us to contemplate suicide. Our increase in pay came just in time. Having done this he promptly reminded us that he was long overdue for Python and in due course departed for the United Kingdom. Unless he talks himself into the Cabinet we hope to find him awaiting us upon arrival Home, and we are relying upon him to find for us a home where there will be one bathroom per one, or possibly two, officers with an unlimited supply of hot and cold.

2nd/Lieuts. Roberts and Eames have also recently left us, having completed their periods of service. They have our best wishes for their success as civilians.

Major Anderson joined us whilst at Bentong, as also did Lieut. Rendle. Both of these officers, in consequence of their recent arrival, are being turned over to the 1st Wiltshires because of our impending return to the U.K. We wish them the very best of luck and hope that we may meet again.

Major Wheatly, who is leaving for Home to take up an appointment at the Staff College, will be sadly missed—the instructional staff at Camberly will be enriched by his arrival. Our best wishes go with both him and Mrs. Wheatly.

Captain Wood, having returned from the Signal School, has entertained us with a short series of easy lessons as a result of which several officers have the effrontery to sug-

gest that they now know a thing or two about "procedure." Since his return Captain Wood has received the glad tidings of the birth of a daughter—our heartiest congratulations.

Our congratulations, too, to Captain and Mrs. J. Norrish, to whom a son was born recently at Singapore.

On Salamanca Day the members of the Sergeants' Mess paid us their customary visit. In honour of the occasion Captain Speller fired a salute from his recently acquired cannon and we are happy to report no casualties. If we leave Malaya before Captain Speller succeeds in blowing up the Mess, himself, or one of us, we shall indeed consider ourselves fortunate.

In conclusion we would extend to Bandmaster V. Staddon our very warmest wishes on his return to the U.K. with a view to becoming a civilian. During his long term of service—over thirty-eight years—Mr. Staddon has served the Battalion most loyally and conscientiously and we in the Officers' Mess are very aware of our indebtedness to him. May his remaining years be spent in the manner which he would wish—happy and contented.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

The months which have elapsed since the last issue of the Journal have seen a constant change of face in the Mess. Though many members are scattered throughout the Battalion Area, "Uncle Tom Cobley's" hostelry still flourishes vigorously, and if many Devonians bear the name of Cobley in the county of its birth, especially in the Crediton district, then we would hasten to assure them that the name is upheld and revered in the far away country of Malaya. The move from Selarang to Bentong naturally disrupted the unity which was achieved amidst the fleshpots; nevertheless,

*"We are not divided,
All one body we."*

Whether it be in the H.Q. Mess or in Messes of the outlying Companies.

Included in this issue are a few notes from one of the distant Companies, Charlie Coy.

Periodically all the members congregate beneath the yellow parachute which forms a secondary roof to the Mess, and few are the weeks in which we do not all see one another.

The main "trysting" hour is the mid-morning break for tea in H.Q. Company and it is over "Char" that greetings are made, problems solved and questions answered.

Depending on which way you choose to look at life the location of H.Q. Mess is either fortunate or unfortunate. All meals are taken on the verandah which overlooks the street. To the Sociologists amongst us it is fortunate, for it offers the opportunity of studying the habits and customs of the East in close detail. It is unfortunate to the remainder for exactly the same reason. However, no matter which stand is taken, there can be no doubt that the verandah of the Sgts.' Mess is one of the most carefully chosen O.P.s in the battle of/for life.

From it one can view most of the actions physical of the human race as a whole or the human frame in particular. Eating, drinking, the ultimate results of these two, marriages, funerals, the emotions betrayed at these and all the idiosyncracies of human existence. Many of the functions take place to the accompaniment of a comment both loud and unmistakable in meaning.

But sights across the street are not our sole source of entertainment. We exist by making our own. This is more apparent in the outlying Companies and the contribution that "C" Company's Mess has made to these notes is symbolical of the attitude in which they, and, in fact, all of us, regard our present position. We have just disregarded its overpowering dreariness and discovered the humour. For that reason we give "C" Company's notes their own setting. They are in two parts. Firstly:

"High Lights"

On Sunday, 23rd July, 1950, at the 78th Mile Stone, Bentong-Karak road a Five Star Bandit scored two outers out of three hits, when he hit two "Out and Out Outers"—Buffalo Hall and Tiger MacEwan. Sgt. Hall, being known as the "Pertang Buffalo," was most annoyed at being struck in the lower portion. We can make no comment on the third hit until we receive some Heavy Ack Ack from U.K. to enable us to get C./Sgt. Standish Smith down from 90,000 ft.

Farewell to Major R. H. Wheatly,
D.S.O.

In August, 1950, "C" Company suffered a severe blow in the loss of their Company

Commander Major Wheatly, D.S.O., who had been Commanding the Company since September, 1949. Major Wheatly left for U.K. to take up an appointment at the Staff College, Camberly.

On 21st July, 1950, "-C" Company Sgts.' Mess put on a dinner and social evening as a farewell party to Major Wheatly. All Company Officers were invited, and very fortunately all were able to attend. This was the first time for many weeks owing to operations that all Officers and Sgts. were in camp together.

The dinner consisted of Soup, Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes, Peas, Batter Pudding, Apple Sauce and a Sweet, which drew compliments from all. The catering was supervised by C./Sgt. Standish Smith (flying at ground level).

A Farewell Toast was proposed by Sgt. Wood, after which Major Wheatly thanked all Sgts.' Mess members for the way they supported him during his term of office and said how sorry he was to be saying good-bye.

Music during the evening was supplied by Sgt. "Pop" Hingston and Sgt. "Brum" Whitehouse and after much singing and story telling the party broke up at some early hour.

That is how we live and look at life in our separated Messes. What happens when, on rare occasions, we all get together? That is what happened on Saturday, 22nd July, 1950. At last we were all together.

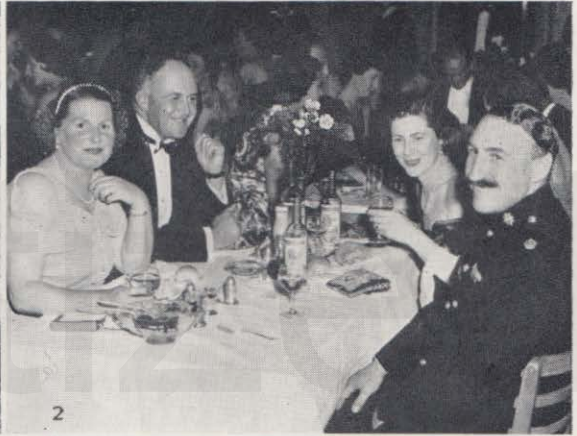
It eventually came round—the 138th anniversary of the Battle of Salamanca. And who should celebrate it in greater style than the 1st Battalion?

The usual preliminaries had been made and at 12 noon as many W.O.s and Sergeants as operations permitted, found their own way to the Officers' Mess, where, over a glass or two of beer, gossip and opinions were discussed to the accompaniment of the cannon's roar. A sort of Salamanca Day Salute fired with the aid of thunder flashes and an old cannon, which, if the truth be known, has its rightful home in Mentakab. Captain Speller told us that it was captured at the battle of Hari Raya, and who is to doubt Captain Speller?

About three o'clock, as a result of the approaching dinner and the unnatural vitality of many of that company, it was decided to withdraw to our respective camps.

As the hour grew later heavily lidded figures could be observed crawling, not quite

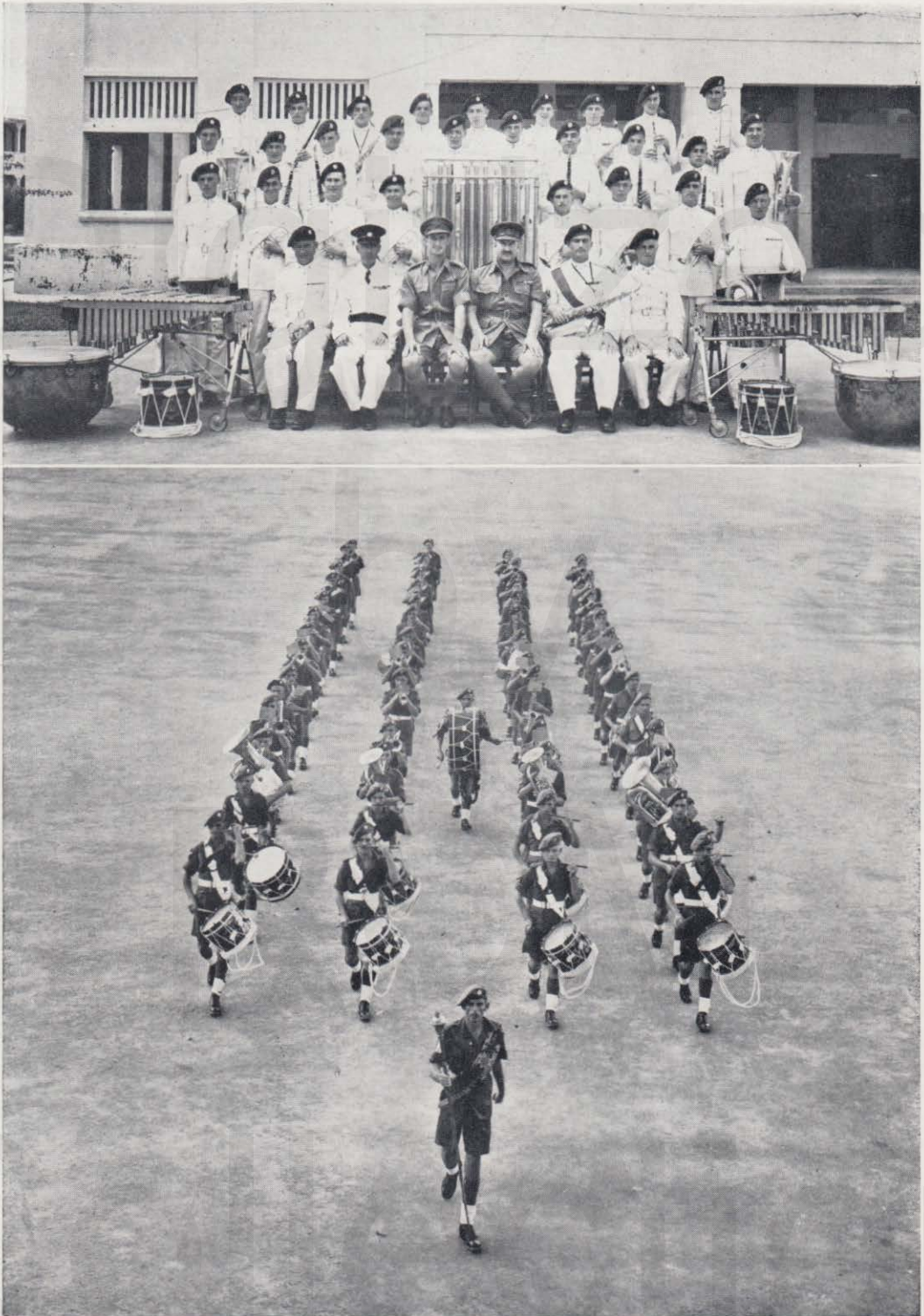
REGIMENTAL BALL—July 28th, 1950



(1) Lieut. Colonel Teddy Hatfield Mrs. Sutton
 Mrs. Bill Anstey Lieut.-Colonel Bill Anstey
 (3) Brigadier C. H. Gotto and
 Mrs. Roger Curry
 (5) The Colonel of the Regiment
 and Lady Evelyn Anstey

Photographs by courtesy of Gainsborough, Tiverton
 (2) Mr. Tom and Major and Mrs. Graham
 Lady Evelyn Anstey Dadson
 (4) Lieut. Colonel Creasy Brigadier Harry Gibbons
 and Mrs. Creasy
 (6) Mrs. Willcocks Colonel Percy Worrall
 Mrs. Worrall and Mrs. Paul D'Oyly

1st BN.—THE BAND & DRUMS



(Sitting)—Cpl. A. Turner, B.M. V. Staddon, Lt.-Colonel R. G. Pine-Coffin, D.S.O., M.C.
Major D. A. D. Young, Sgt. C. Knowles

on all fours, towards the showers. Duty was leading her followers to the Salamanca Day Dinner.

All but four members were present, these, unfortunately, were experiencing "the exigencies of the service." The Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, Quarter-Master and Adjutant arrived and the dinner was served. While it progressed C.S.M. Overson kept the diners fully aware of the fact that they were members of "The Bloody Eleventh," by repeating this phrase over and over again in rather strident tones. However, after the fish course a significant discovery was made . . . "Nobby" was missing! But as the entree was due to be served, everyone decided to deal with first things first. Later he was discovered fast asleep on the verandah outside.

After the dinner was over we were entertained by Sgt. MacEwan, the Battalion's champion "Spoon-Basher," and by Sgt. John Haynes on the greatest musical instrument to be invented in Bentong. This is "Cookie's" own invention: simply an empty cigarette tin encompassed by an elastic band, which, when strummed expertly, provides suitable accompaniment to hill-billy songs.

Nearly everyone in the Mess, from the Commanding Officer downwards, contributed to the evening's entertainment by singing the only song that they knew or reciting the only piece of "poetry" that they had ever bothered to remember.

Nobody can remember the exact time that the party broke up, some say the next morning, but break up it did and everyone went to sleep after a most satisfying day.

Commendation

The C.S.M. would like to draw the attention of the Company to the fine example set by C./Sgt. N. Bidgeway the other day. Whilst working he observed a movement in the lallang. Immediately he picked up his rifle and (st)uttered a challenge; the third time he cried, "Halt or I fire," and, as no answer came he fired.

The pig was enjoyed by the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

Promotions, arrivals and departures usually appear either at the beginning or the end of a set of notes and we make no exception this time. Thus we congratulate the following on their promotion, and to those who are entering the Sergeants' Mess for the first time we extend a cordial

welcome:

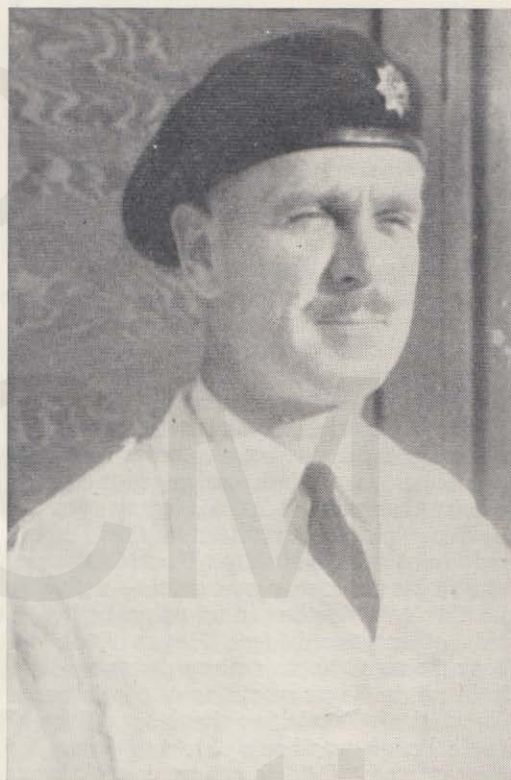
To be C./Sgt.: Sgt. N. Bidgeway and Sgt. P. Knott.

To be Sgt.: Cpls. Bellamy, Davey, Deane, Whitehouse, Wood and Young. We also extend a welcome to the following members who have recently joined us from the U.K. Most of them being old Devons, are well known:

B./M. R. House, C.S.M. Baker, C.S.M. Lee, Sgts. N. Bidgeway, Richardson, Lewis, Crocker, Thompson, Burton and T. Bulley.

We have, through reasons of Python, said farewell to the following members and trust that they have settled down in their Blighty jobs (Reserve service permitting):

B/M. Staddon, C./Sgt. E. Clark, Sgts. T. Sayers, W. Lynch, Hinchliffe, D.C.M., Avery, J. Stafford, Knight and W. Foote.



Bandmaster House

Detail

C./Sgt. N. Bidgeway, H.Q. Company, will report to the miniature range for extra practice. This will teach him to waste the first round when firing at a sitting target, such as a crippled pig.

MOVEMENT ORDER FROM THE M.I. ROOM

WHEN Captain Sinton left Selarang suddenly, having given a visiting General an honest answer to the question "How have you enjoyed doing Medicine in the Army?" Lieut. H. A. J. Reay took over. Lieut. Reay had been around for a week or two with Captain Sinton, but henceforth he had to turn up to the 07.30 hrs. Sick Parade at 07.40 hrs., instead of at 08.10 hrs. as had been his custom.

As the glad day of liberation from Selarang Barracks drew near, the whole Battalion was stuck several times in the arm, to keep statistics at bay. Sgt. "Pop" Hings-ton mopped up pockets of resistance in the Sergeants' Mess by charging each member one large bottle of Tiger for each day he failed to turn up for his jabs. Lieut. Reay was less successful in dealing with the Officers' Mess. In fact his task was never completed until he came across a "B" Company O-Group which had suddenly been summoned behind the latrines in Karak, while the rest of the Company were being gathered for inoculation by Ptes. Bolger, Mayhew and O'Brien.

The move to Bentong was accomplished without incident. Indeed, the M.I. Room Sergeant was so anxious not to miss his place on the road convoy that he sat up in the Sergeants' Mess the whole of the previous night—just to make sure.

In the knowledge that the "first aid at the sharp end is the most important factor," Sgt. Hings-ton was dispatched to the most distant Company, "C" Company, and he took L./Cpl. McDermott and Ptes. Fraser and Greenwood with him. The M.O. based himself nearer the nerve centre—sitting in the C.R.S. at Bentong in an odour of T.C.P. and other germicides. However, Lieut. Reay managed to maintain a pretty constant drain on the Tiger resources of the detached Companies. A visiting hygiene officer at Kuala Padah was heard to ask whether the Sergeants of "C" Company could always get cold beer when they wanted it—and it was noted that that was the *one* question that Lieut. Reay *did* know the answer to.

Sgt. Sweeney, our attached R.A.M.C. sergeant, soon showed that he intended that his staff should help out L./Cpl. Foulkes and Ptes. Bottomly and Bradshaw with their jungle patrols.

When Pte. Burns of "A" Company developed the first of a series of perforations of the leg, within 48 hours of the Battalion's arrival at Bentong, the Adjutant was heard to say that this was typical, and there would be no more battle casualties for months. Well, Dame Fortune can resist anything except temptation, and Captain Appleton's words proved to be ill-fated. During April and May, we were to find the Field Surgical Team at Mentakab a very present help in trouble.

Baker Company's move to Bukit Dinding at first confounded the medical sections, and the attempts of the M.O. and M.I. Room Sergeants to meet en route often resulted in the latter enduring empty hours at Karak Police Station. They finally found a system, despite all attempts by the M.T. Platoon to help them out.

May was followed as usual by June, and also by the arrival of our fifth or sixth R.M.O. in two years. However, on learning that Lieut. Davison also suffered from a thirst, the Battalion heaved a sigh of relief and battled on.

Lieut. Reay then became a "Base Wallah" at Field Ambulance H.Q.—but re-appeared to treat some of the casualties at the Battle of Salamanca.

After being with the Battalion for a short time Lieut. Davison received a visit from the base hygiene wallahs who stated that the fly-proofing was not up to standard. After haunting the Q.M.'s stores for weeks trying to get material for the jobs, Bentong was eventually fly-proofed. The M.O. then found that the old story to the effect that getting stuff out of the Q.M. is like getting blood out of a stone was quite true.

We were extremely sorry to have to call upon the services of the Field Surgical Team at Mentakab twice in a very short time. The first time for Pte. Stainer of "C" Company, and the second for Ptes. Mould, Bennett and Venton of "B" Company. Lieut. Rowlings did a very good job of work on these last three and two of them may even be well enough to go to Hong Kong with the 1st Wiltshires; that's one of the disadvantages of having a good surgeon.

Along with most other people who have sampled its hospitality, Bennett did not seem to like Kinrara—Kuala Lumpur's Military Hospital. He was heard to say that at the C.R.S. (Camp Reception Station for the uninitiated) one did at least receive one's

ration of "Tiger" even though at times it seemed to have been diluted.

The arrival of the new Medical Officer automatically produced the habitual 'skivers' but after seeing several of their number depart for the 'trick cyclist' their enthusiasm showed a marked downward trend.

After the usual number of rumours and false alarms the Battalion is now moving to where the odour of T.C.P. is extremely strong. There is a last minute rush to get the jabs up-to-date and the M.O. produces a fully-loaded syringe from his pocket at the most inopportune moments.

Before we conclude we must place on record the consternation which was caused in Baker Company when Major Harries contracted an attack of scrub typhus. We understand that he received a severe reprimand for not applying his two ounces of D.B.P.

REMARKS FROM THE ROAD HOGS

"THIS humid air is heavy with tobacco smoke. The 'phone is disconnected, giving the R.S.O. a long awaited opportunity to dive into the innards of the exchange and tie pretty reef knots in all the loose wires. The war-weary typewriter (born 1917—still going strong!) is pecking away fretfully, sending fearful shudders through the worm-eaten G.S. table, a table liberally bestrewn with pamphlets on journalism, hypnotism and Pelmanism, to say nothing of an assortment of work tickets, tyre levers, old boots destined for repair and an empty fire bucket doing sterling service as a waste basket, or in the vernacular of the day, "garbage can."

Here in the heart of this carefully created atmosphere — tended with all the care afforded to the rarest hothouse orchid, the M.T. chronicles are being brought up to date, whipped into shape and generally gingered up for presentation to the public. Following which little modest build up we submit the latest jottings of our unworthy scribe.

Going (with our sceptical reader's kind permission) back to March, when the Battalion became "operational" again, we will touch but lightly on our journey up, which was uneventful save the haphazard manner in which the N.C.O.s larked around on their motor cycles. Two of them overdid it, and turned a friendly meeting into a full-blown

collision. Taken all round, motor cycles have proved to be a very mixed blessing; those which we can't wreck comfortably by ourselves we can always hand over to the Sigs.

On our arrival at Bentong, we rapidly adapted ourselves to the primitive conditions offered, and after four months of agitating, procured a shower bath, and we are now into the third month of a further period of agitation which we hope will result in a supply of water to go with it.

Before long we were introduced to the airstrip, which has since become such a vital factor in our life here, and the sole cause—or so we believe, of that dread disease diagnosed as "Airstrip-itis" (Doc', please note!) The sufferers are those unfortunate people (not all MT by a long chalk) who, when they hear a faraway drone in the air, dash from their respective domiciles and shout, telephone or dispatch a runner for: "TWO VEHICLES RIGHT AWAY—AVIATION SPIRIT—AND DON'T FORGET THE STEP LADDER!" The really serious cases open their mouth in readiness at the sound of an angry gnat, and if a couple of hornets venture past, there's a full-scale false alarm in no time!

To touch on individuals in the platoon (though to touch any of them for the price of a stamp is a sheer impossibility) we will start with the shortest and work upwards; we would mention that our M.T.O. is putting into practice his avowed belief that Infantry should walk now and again. Everyone else carefully conserves His Majesty's shoe leather, and 'tis no uncommon sight to see "Lieut.-Colonel Goodman" being driven to lunch by a distinguished looking driver. The M.T.O. has recently secured—or, rather, been handed, the appointment of Unit Fire Officer, and our life since then has been a full and foamy one. At the first sign of smoke, even if it be rising from some innocent driver's heated brakes, a 'phone call issues the heroic command, "Stand By." Should the blaze develop in intensity to the equivalent of a Charwallah's cooking fire, then it's a dead cert that the U.F.O. will dash in from the wings with a fire extinguisher under each arm and Kukri at the high port, ready, willing and able to quell the struggling flames.

Save for the departure of Lieut. Essame, the gallant M.T.O. who shepherded our weary flock from Temerloh to Singapore

without loss of life, limb or spare wheel, the key positions of the platoon are still held by the same people, although the tech. stores, which, believe it or not, IS something to do with the M.T., has been taken over lock, stock and tow chain, by Cpl. Janner Violet, complete with false teeth (a gift from the former Tech. Sgt.).

It has recently been noticed by our peculiar fraternity of ace drivers that one of their number, to wit, Pte. Hammond, is of a slightly darker hue than the rest of them. Brer. Hammond, respected by all, is now referred to as the M.O.R. L.E.P. or, more often—the Wog! and is occasionally made to wash in the river instead of—er—well, wherever the others wash. Ample recompense is made, however, when “Jungle Haines” decides to try his hand at native food, for all drivers automatically slide their plate Wog-wards, which worthy then gets stuck in to a right regal repast.

Acknowledgements are hereby made to our many friends and accomplices in the Battalion. To Sgt. Reading, who has so often saved the tech. stores from disgrace and bankruptcy, to the Regimental Police, for the humane manner they employ when remonstrating us for minor evils, and the Sgt. Major, for shutting his eyes to the necessary stowing away of buckshee clobber on Saturday morning inspections.

Sincere thanks are extended to the fitters, as they have, as usual, had to work hard and long to prevent our ancient crocs from putting all four wheels in the grave, though this statement of gratitude is not to be taken as an invitation to go into honourable retirement.

Sgt. Stafford, one of our late departed, is hereby wished a comfortable period of unemployment, and Messrs. Gill and Coates are mourned for the grand idlers they were. New drivers are welcomed to the somewhat jaded pride of H.Q. Company, though it is hoped that no more will be forthcoming for a while, as no sooner is a fresh driver received than a signal arrives post haste from the Company's office: “In view of increased strength of your platoon due to influx of new drivers, request that you raise number of M.T. personnel for guard to sixteen per night.”

We trust that rifle companies will find a corner in which to report the hard and valiant work done by the M.T. detachments, as we see them only when they want leave or

spare parts. To the detachment N.C.O.s who have the unenviable task of keeping half a dozen different departmental chiefs happy all at the same time, best wishes and a request to “BRACE UP” each month when visiting Battalion H.Q.

SPORT IN THE 1st BN.

SINCE we moved north again after our very enjoyable “rest and refit” in Singapore we have had very little opportunity to indulge in Sport, as our time has been taken up with the far more important task of Bandit Chasing.

As you will read in the following notes, our Rugger team, although not what one might term a brilliant fifteen, had a very hectic time during January and February, and they were really chased from morn till night by 2nd/Lieut. Graystone.

The Soccer team had a fairly quiet time in the big city as the official Soccer Season had closed when we arrived, but since our return north we have played several matches.

And now we pass on to the notes of our doings in Malaya and Singapore; we all look forward to the day when we shall be playing in England 1951. I wonder?

SOCCKER NOTES

On our return to the Bentong area of Pahang we looked forward to some matches with teams that we had met before. The civilians in Bentong are very keen soccer players and, apart from their keenness, they are also extremely good.

The football pitch, or to give it its correct name, the Padang, is situated in the centre of the town and almost every evening you will find two teams playing with hundreds of Chinese children shouting their heads off in support of their favourites.

Shortly after coming up here our minds turned to the F.A.R.E.L.F. Challenge Cup, which we had won in 1949, and had high hopes of winning again this year. However, our dreams were shattered by the 2nd Scots Guards, who beat us 2—1 in the quarter final in Kuala Lumpur.

The first round found us drawn against the 4th Battalion of the Malay Regiment, a new team among our opponents. Our team on this day was as follows: In goal we had L./Cpl. “Jock” Johnston; our two backs were the old stalwarts, Ptes. Gill and Smith,

so there was no need to worry about that department. Our halves were the same as last year, Pte. Coates at right half. The captain and centre half was C.S.M. Pett, and our right half was Cpl. Jimmy Radford. Our forward line was a new one, and we had very high hopes for them. From Right to Left they were: Pte. Stockwell (the curly-headed baby of the team), Cpl. Kisby, Pte. Asher (our star performer, who has played for Portsmouth Reserves), Pte. Pennat, inside left, and on the left wing our old friend, Cpl. "Abdul" Sheppard.

The Malays won the toss and with the famous cry of "Up the D.s.," Asher kicked off. Within ten minutes we were one goal up and from then on there was never any doubt as to who was going to win. It is enough to say that every member of the team played extremely well and we ran out the winners by 10 goals to nil.

Our next "victims" were a team from 48th Gurkha Brigade H.Q., and this time, due to sickness, we were forced to make one or two changes. Penny played at centre forward, Sheppard came in to inside left and Pte. Ryan came in as left wing. Once again our supremacy was never in doubt and once again we won by the clear margin of nine goals to one (they were the first to score). Pte. Penny really gave a grand performance and scored five goals himself.

By virtue of this win we were matched against the 2nd Scots Guards. The match was to be played at Kuala Lumpur and everyone eagerly awaited the day. Our team had changed quite a lot by this time as both Gill and Coates had left the country for home and their places were taken by Sgt. Knowles of the Band and Pte. Wheeler of the M.T. Platoon.

The Great Day arrived and a convoy of eleven 3-tonners made its way through the mountains to Kuala Lumpur, carrying the loyal supporters of the "Bloody Eleventh."

About an hour before the game was due to commence down came the rain and unfortunately continued right up until half-time. Promptly at five-fifteen the whistle blew to start and Asher kicked off. After about ten minutes of play it was obvious that this was not going to be a repeat performance of the last two matches, and when the match was about twenty minutes old Drill Sgt. Gibson, the Scots Guards' left winger, slammed a terrific shot past L./Cpl. Johnston, giving him no chance at all. About

five minutes after this Gibson again got his head to the ball and nodded home a second.

We were still two down when we changed over and the second half continued at a cracking pace with the Guards always appearing the more dangerous, especially in front of goal, where Johnston was playing a great game and time after time saved what seemed to be certain goals. Then, with about ten minutes' play left, the Devons really "had a go," and quick, slick passing movements soon found us threatening the Guards' Goal. Our reward came when Pte. Penny snatched up a pass from Stockwell, ran about three paces into the Guards' Penalty Area and sent the ball rocketing into the net. It was the best goal of the match.

The crowd was now wild with excitement. Could our team get the equaliser? Well, they tried hard, but the final whistle blew with our forwards still trying hard, and the score stood at Scots Guards 2, Devons 1.

It was a very hard fought game and the best team won, on that point everyone agreed.

And that rounded off our football for this year. Roll on 1951, when we hope the colours of the First Devons will be seen in England for the first time since 1927!!

RUGBY FOOTBALL

In the last edition of the Journal we said that the team was rapidly taking shape and that we hoped for a successful termination to the season. Unfortunately, owing to injuries and the lack of time and facilities to train new players, we did not really improve. We tried our hardest each game, but found that something more than just the will to win was necessary. We tackled most of the strongest teams on the Island and were not disgraced by some of the results.

We played Nee Soon Garrison on the 23rd January and, on our play that day, deservedly lost 3—16. Nothing went right for us the whole game and we feel that we have said enough.

Our next match was against the Chasers' R.F.C. on 25th January. It was the nearest that the team came to winning in this latter half of the season. We had been trailing behind, until, with the score at 6—11, we scored a try in front of the posts. There was barely a minute to go for the final whistle as 2nd/Lieut. Thorning ran up for the kick. A hush descended on the ground,

which was broken by loud cheering as the ball passed beautifully between the posts. The final score was 11—11.

On the 1st February we travelled to Seletar to play the R.A.F. stationed there. We played them, the strongest Services' side in the Colony, after a period of torrential rain. However, although the ground was almost entirely covered by water, the game was played. The Battalion put up a great fight but eventually went down 0—6. Pte. Woodgate, who was playing for the Battalion for the first time, played superbly and saved the day on numerous occasions. The whole team attacked, defended and handled the sodden greasy ball extremely well. After the game we were highly praised by the R.A.F. for our performance. In the return match on 23rd February, we lost 0—26, after playing a very mediocre game against an even stronger team than they produced on the previous occasion.

On the 6th February we visited the Naval Base to play H.M.S. Terror, the Shore Establishment. Again the field was under water. After being down 0—12 at half-time, the final whistle went with the score at 3—15. In the first half we played abominably and deserved to have been down double that number of points. However, the team changed beyond recognition in the second half and H.M.S. Terror were lucky not to have had more than three points scored against them.

February 16th saw us visiting G.H.Q. to play their "A" Team. In a very scrappy and uninteresting game we emerged the losers, 0—3. We should have won, but have only ourselves to blame for our poor display.

Our last match came on the 25th February, when we crossed the Causeway into Johore Bahru to play the South Johore R.F.C. As it was now late in the season, the grounds were becoming extremely hard and our team, by virtue of the concentrated programme, were tiring. As was our custom of late we lost 5—12. With the end of this game, our disappointing but thoroughly enjoyable season came to a close. We were entertained to a grand social evening in the Club House, where many of our past opponents appeared.

In addition to the Battalion fixtures, there have been other matches in which members of the team played. A triangular competition for the Fraser and Neave Cup was com-

peted for by teams representing Malaya District, Singapore District and Hong Kong. The Malaya District team was built around the Battalion team owing to the difficulty of getting players away from their units in Malaya. The losing strain was apparently passed on from the Battalion to the Malayan District team as we lost 9—16 to Singapore and 9—14 to Hong Kong. A great mental and physical effort was required to raise even 15 players. The team, consisting of players who had never seen each other until they met on the field, did as well as could be expected. The Battalion players in the team in no way let the side down, although some were included at the last moment. The following played in these two matches: Major Bannister, M.C., 2nd/Lieuts. Thorning, Barker, Taylor, Wright, Graystone and Sgt. Foote.

Major Bannister and 2nd/Lieut. Graystone were also selected and played in the last of the big representative matches, for the Far East Land Forces against the Far East Air Forces, which was unfortunately lost.

Throughout the season the Battalion had gained a reputation for fast and open play. This is, indeed, high praise, considering the depressing effect of being mainly on the defensive game after game.

Summary.

Played 10, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 8; Pts. For 42, Pts. Against 131.

The Battalion Team was: Pte. Woodgate, 2nd/Lieut. Thorning, Pte. Dunkley, Pte. Bradfield, 2nd/Lieut. Graystone, 2nd/Lieut. Kimmel, L./Cpl. Holmes, Sgt. Foote, 2nd/Lieut. Wright, 2nd/Lieut. Barker, Major Bannister, M.C., Pte. Loughran, 2nd/Lieut. Taylor, Captain Sinton, C.S.M. Welch.

The following also played: Major Robinson, 2nd/Lieuts. Pridam and Mackintosh, Sgts. Summerfield, Nott, Cox, M.M., Cpls. Turner and Holmes, Ptes. Loughran, Crook, Kirk, Pearse and Colman.

PENNY A QUART!

Shades of the NAAFI: Round about 1400 the best Ale was sold at 1½d. a gallon. And in 1600 the Justices directed that Ale or Beer must not be sold at more than a penny a quart.

REGIMENTAL DEPOT NOTES

MY first contribution to the second edition of the Journal must be to congratulate the Editor on the very excellent first issue. It made very good reading and I have heard its praises sung by many with whom I have come in contact. In producing the Journal the Editor had no easy job in finding a magazine to take the place of the *Castle* and the *News Sheet* of the O.C.A., but difficult as the job was, he has surpassed himself, and has set himself a very high standard to maintain, but we feel he will do this without much trouble. (If you only knew.—Ed.)

Since I last wrote the Depôt Notes we have had some very busy times, on the social side, Bois des Buttes, O.C.A. Dinner and Cricket Week; and on the official side, the firing of the Annual Course (Rifle and Bren), Sponsor Unit to the Summer Camp of the T.A. and A.C.F., and accommodating the Coldstream Guards for the laying up of their old Colours. Then, of course, on top of those duties we have been receiving those of the 1st Battalion who have come home on Python, or, in the case of the LUCKY??? ones, for release.

At the moment, however, our minds are filled with the probable arrival in the U.K. in the near future of the 1st Battalion. It will be nice to see a lot of the old faces, and, from their point of view, it will be nice to be back in Blighty.

There have been one or two changes since I last wrote: Major G. T. Dadson (ex 1st Battalion) has assumed command in succession to Major W. P. Symonds; Captain F. K. Pyne has taken over Adjutant from Captain P. V. Nepean, M.C., who has departed to the north of England to take over Brigade Major of a T.A. Infantry Brigade. We would like to wish him well in his new job. R.S.M. Gale (well known in the old 12th) has become our R.S.M. in succession to R.S.M. (Reg) Bollam, M.B.E., D.C.M., who has departed to civvy street and is now Mine Host at the Warren Golf Club, Dawlish Warren. C./Sgt. (Ken) Rooke is now the C.Q.M.S. vice C./Sgt. G. Burnell, who has forsaken the Army uniform for the uniform of the War Department Police at Woolwich Arsenal. He has no doubt drawn his truncheon and whistle by now, and signed for it on a 108???

Our job here carries on in its own quiet way; there is still the sound of the four typewriters banging away at the same time, and the number of Army Forms becomes greater and greater.

The first shock that greets the new arrivals here, especially if they should arrive on a Tuesday or Thursday, is the sound of the R.S.M.'s voice, with his R I G H T W H E E L-L L L or some such other order. When they regain consciousness they realize that we do do drill here at the Depôt. That is only their first shock. No-one is here long before they realize they are still very much in the Army, and, providing they are still soldiers, life can be a very happy one. The first big social event since the last edition of the Journal was the Bois des Buttes Ball, which was held in the Sgts.' Mess, Higher Barracks, on the evening of May 27th. It was attended by over 200 guests, among whom were The Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Westropp, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Davidson, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Hatfield, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Creasy, Major and Mrs. Dadson, Captain and Mrs. Nepean, and, of course, many other notables, but far too numerous to mention in the space allotted to us by the Editor.

The Mess was very tastefully decorated and the Silver Drums were on view. The buffet was a credit to those ladies who worked so hard all the afternoon preparing the host of nice things with which the table was covered. It certainly was well laid out and many were the pleasing remarks heard during the course of the evening. The music for dancing was provided by the band of the 4th Battalion, and their playing left nothing to be desired. Many were the moans when the last dance was announced.

The next big social event was the O.C.A. Dinner on the 22nd July, and once again the Depôt Staff resources were strained to their utmost, but, as always, we came through with flying colours. This event is, of course, dealt with more fully elsewhere in this number.

Although the weather was not too kind this year for cricket week, it was at least kind to us on the day of the "At Home," when a large number of guests were entertained by the Officers on the County Ground,

and it was by all accounts a very enjoyable afternoon. There is a full account of this on another page.

Our next social event was that of the visit of the Coldstream Guards, together with the full Regimental Band and Drums, who, in full dress, marched to the Cathedral to lay up the colours of their 3rd Battalion. The sight of the Guards in their full dress will long be remembered by the thousands of people of Exeter, who lined the streets. In the evening the W.O.s and Sgts. of the Guards were entertained in the Sgts.' Mess and I can safely say that they will remember their evening with us for a long time to come. Once again there were a large number of guests who were invited to meet the Coldstream chaps, and the Devonians mixed well with our friends from the Big City.

So, after a very hectic week-end, we settled down once again to the normal routine, but we did not have much quiet, as it was not long before we received notification from the R.T.O. that 36 men for National Service release, together with ten men on Python, would be arriving; and, at the time of writing they are all here, and one wonders what all the soldiers are doing in Exeter, for it is not often we have so many here at the same time.

But with the various jobs, both Military and Social, that we get here at the Depot we lead quite an interesting life; there always seems something different to do. I will repeat the invitation I made in the previous issue of the Journal, that if ever any of you are this way do not fail to pay us a visit. I am sure you would still find one or two of your old pals knocking about (I include all ages in this), for there are still a couple of Old Timers working in the barracks, one of whom is Tommy Alsford (age about 77) and still going strong.

Well, I think I have given you all the notes for the present, so Here's to the Next Time.

CRICKET WEEK, 1950

CRICKET Week took place this year after the Old Comrades' dinner, from the 24th to the 29th July, and for the first time for many years, a Regimental Ball was held at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter.

In spite of the bad weather which has prevailed throughout the summer, we con-

sidered it fortunate that only one day of the cricket was spoilt by rain, and the week as a whole was a great success. By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel Howard and the Officers of the Somerset Light Infantry, the Band of their Regiment played each day during the cricket on the County Cricket Ground.

Lieut.-Colonel E. J. Hatfield again undertook to run the cricket, and a side for each match was selected from the following:

Lieut.-Colonel Hatfield, Major Nation, Captain Gilchrist, Lieut.-Colonel Carpenter-Garnier, Major Spencer, Lieut. Freeland, C.S.M. Garnham, Major Doggett and Sjt. Lonton (4th Bn.), Brigadier Farwell and Lieut.-Colonel Smith (Devon A.C.F.), Major Parker, Mr. Pitts (late 1st Bn.), Mr. Hoare, Mr. Harvey (4th Bn.) and Mr. Bedford (C.C.F. Blundell's School).

The umpires were Lieut.-Colonel P. F. Cooke and Captain E. H. Sargent.

The results of the matches played were as follows:

(a) 24th & 25th July.

REGIMENT v. SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT

1st Innings.	S.W. District	...	...	...	78
	(Garnham 4 for 22, Doggett 3 for 25)				
	Regiment	...	...	...	85
	(Farwell 28, Gilchrist 17)				

2nd Innings.	S.W. District	44 for 2	
	Result:	Match Drawn.			

(b) 26th July.

REGIMENT v. SOMERSET STRAGGLERS

1st Innings.	Regiment	...	...	...	66
	(Lonton 17)				
	Stragglers	...	...	...	117
	(Lonton 4 for 55, Hoare 3 for 6)				

2nd Innings.	Regiment	...	...	...	77
	(Pitts 16, Smith 16, Spencer 14)				
	Result:	Match Drawn.			

(c) 27th & 28th July.

REGIMENT v. DEVON DUMPLINGS

1st Innings.	Dumplings	...	...	...	136
	(Garnham 3 for 46, Lonton 3 for 48, Bedford 3 for 2)				
	Regiment	...	...	...	198
	(Pitts 88, C.-Garnier 25, Lonton 19)				

2nd Innings.	Dumplings	...	...	...	114
	(Garnham 5 for 35, Freeland 3 for 29)				
	Regiment	156 for 9	
	(Smith, 80 not out)				

Result:	The Regiment Won by 2 Wickets.				
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(d) 29th July.

REGIMENT v. EXETER

1st Innings. Exeter	206 for 9
(Freeland 6 for 50)	
Regiment	100
(Parker 53)	

Result: The Regiment Lost.

(e) Although not part of our Cricket Week, it is appropriate to include here the result of a match played against the Somerset Light Infantry on the 17th and 18th August.

It was played on the County Ground at Taunton during the Somerset Light Infantry's Cricket Week. No play was possible until 2 p.m. on the first day and there were one or two interruptions owing to rain during the afternoon, but on the second day play started at 11 a.m., and the weather, though cloudy, did not prevent play.

The result was as follows:

1st Innings. Somerset L.I.	178 for 6
(Stead 51, Burgess 40, Collyas 24, Frith 20)	
(Lonton 3 for 49, Garnham 2 for 47, Farwell 1 for 53)	
Regiment	184 for 4
(Spencer 74, Smith 64, Farwell n.o. 12)	
2nd Innings. Somerset L.I.	98
(Bailey n.o. 22, Burgess 15)	
(Garnham 6 for 55, Freeland 2 for 13, Lonton 2 for 27)	
Regiment	94 for 6
(Harvey n.o. 34, Lonton 17, Spencer 17)	
Result: The Regiment won by 4 Wickets.	

THE GARDEN PARTY

This was held as usual on the Thursday of the Cricket Week, and the weather could not have been better. Five hundred people accepted invitations and many regimental personalities were present. The guests were received by the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Westropp and tea was provided within and outside marquees pitched on the edge of the ground. The tents looked very nice decorated with flowers and with some of the regimental silver laid out, which was done by the wives of serving and retired officers living in Exeter. All the arrangements were carried out under the supervision of Major W. H. Radcliffe, and the Depôt personnel were kept busy up to the last moment, putting those finishing touches, which added to the gaiety of the general scene.

THE REGIMENTAL BALL

On July 28th over a hundred officers, their wives and guests, were present at the Regimental Ball held at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter. It was a great success, so much so that it is hoped to make it a feature of Cricket Week in future years.

It was organised by Major G. T. Dadson and a Committee consisting of Mrs. Westropp, Mrs. Hatfield, Mrs. Dadson, Major and Mrs. Spencer, and Major and Mrs. Hastings.

Soldiers from the Regimental Depôt, in full-dress uniform gave valuable assistance and added a further touch of colour to an already colourful scene, the ballroom and supper rooms being bright with flowers, and the display of Regimental silver brought to mind not a few memories of the sparkling functions of pre-war days.

A novel feature was the provision of dance programmes, but it appeared to be a light-heartedly unpopular innovation for those who had omitted to bring their reading glasses with them.

Among those who were present on both these occasions, other than residents of Exeter or the immediate vicinity, were the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Fortescue, Lord Devon, The Adjutant-General and Lady Steel, The G.O.C. South-Western District and Mrs. Coleman, Brigadier-General and Mrs. Ingles, Colonel and Mrs. Worrall, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Cope, Brigadier Gotto, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Coates, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Bovill, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Wadham, Major and Mrs. Wilcox and Major and Mrs. Curry.

MALTA RE-VISITED

by

*Flt.-Lieut. P. D. Lee (ex-Sgt. "C" Coy.,
2nd Battalion, 1943)*

DURING March of this year I was fortunate in being able to fly to Malta by an R.A.F. York.

On touching down at Luqa the air raid siren sounded its horrid familiar scream and to my relief I discovered it was only the station having a practice fire alert. Luqa is now a very busy, tidy, efficient R.A.F. station handling commercial aircraft as well as

being the base for some of our modern planes. The many stone aircraft pens erected by the Battalion have been removed, but a lot of the old battle scars remain. That dangerous place, Safi Strip, known to many as the "Wimpey's graveyard," has been closed down and the silence which now prevails is unbelievable. A huge three-tier modern barracks has been built near Gudja, now the property of the Air Ministry, for the personnel of the R.A.F. stationed at Luqa.

Hal Far, Kalafrana and Tal Kala haven't changed very much except that there are now a large number of black tarred Nissen huts in No. 15 platoon's area at Hal Far.

St. Georges, St. Andrews, Verdella and Imtarfa Barracks are all empty. A small detachment of the R.M.A. were billeted in St. Paul's huts; no doubt they were using the ranges, as I heard a certain amount of firing from the direction of "E" range.

Tigne and Floriana Barracks house a limited number of troops, mostly members of the R.M.A. St. Patrick's hospital has now been converted into a barracks and by the number of guns displayed in neat ranks outside, one must come to the conclusion that the R.A. are installed.

Whilst visiting St. Andrews Barracks I spent a quiet half an hour in the cemetery and noticed that the graves, pathways and surrounds were tidy and well kept and that flowers were on many of the graves.

In Tarxien the school buildings used by Brigade and Battalion H.Q. have now returned to their rightful owners, the children. By a happy coincidence the children were being taught English on the occasion of my visit. Villa Cecy (Battalion R.A.P. and later billet) was looking as bright as a new penny. The owner kept pestering me for news of the erstwhile Battalion residents and Captain Hall-Palby. "Lofty" Wellman (ex-band) and "Tich" Stroud (ex-Pioneers) were both living in Tarxien with their families and working at the Australian Hall (St. Andrews) as members of the Army Kinema Corps. The Signals billet near Tactical Battalion H.Q. and known as the "Town Hall," is now minus roof, windows and doors, is littered with tins, and is the home of dozens of smelly goats.

The A.A. sections which lived in the Anderson shelters will be pleased to know that they are now being used as stables. Charlie, the smiling barman of the most popular bar

in Tarxien, produced photographs of most of H.Q. Company and three of Drummer Northway.

Bir-Id-Deheb has hardly changed at all. The old M.T. dining hall has now become a third-rate cinema. Johnny, the crippled barman, spoke of Sgt. Smithy and Cpl. Nobby (meaning Clarke) of the M.T., and mentioned that Captain Edgar had recently enjoyed a drink at the bar there.

Sans Souci is now a second-rate hotel, badly in need of a coat of paint, with Saddlers Field no more than a field with odd stones and dried up grape vines lying about.

Birzebbugia and Kalafrana are still dotted with pillboxes and the Shell Oil Company are now working at full throttle. Reggie Caldwell (M.T. Platoon) is living happily next to Peter Dowdall's and working as a civilian in Floriana with the R.A.S.C. servicing depôt. Peter Dowdall's place is now the happy haunt of the sailors who wander down from Hal Far and Kalafrana.

Most of the pillboxes occupied by "A," "B," "C" and "D" Companies are still in good condition, locked and cemented at the ports.

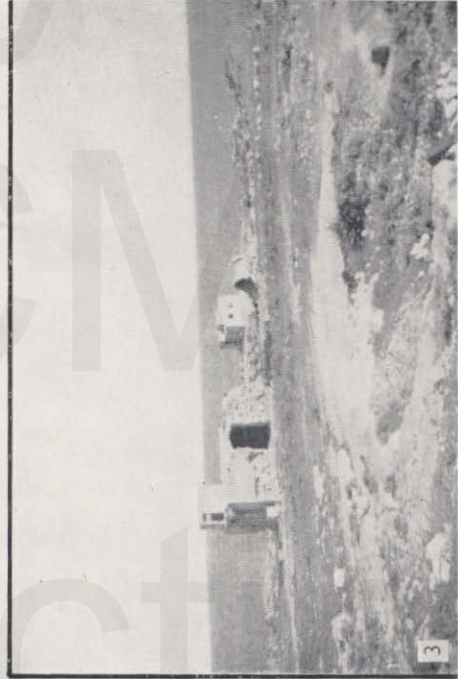
Using the amalgamated bus service and travelling via the salt pans, Mosta, Wardia and St. Paul's bay I reached Marfa, caught the large new ferry and visited Gozo.

Making my headquarters at the Duke of Edinburgh in Victoria I lazily strolled around the Company areas at Shaghra, Nadur, Sanant and Marsal Forn. Nothing appears to have changed, the farmers were pruning their grape vines, walking in their bare feet, wearing cloth caps and large leather waist belts. They often stopped work and chatted to me, thrusting forth a large bottle of Stuka juice (Ambeet), part of a loaf, sardines, olive oil and frequently a tomato.

Later in Valletta I met Baron Browning (ex-drummer), now a C.Q.M.S. in the R.A.S.C., and "Swipey" Harris (ex-Carrier Platoon), also of the same R.A.S.C. Company, both contented with life on the island and little wish to return to England.

Sliema Wanderers are still the favourite soccer team, but I witnessed a Combined Services team thrash them to the tune of six goals to one. Racing at Marsa is now in full swing, with those highly decorated flat carts and long-eared donkeys blocking the roadways, making the bus drivers drive on their melodious horns.

MALTA—1950



(1) Battalion R.A.P., Tarxien
(3) No. 15 Platoon Cookhouse

(2) Birzebugia
(4) Sengella

4th BATTALION



1



2



3



4

(1) Brigadier Platt presenting the "Barum Trophy" to Captain Jones

(3) 4th Battalion Team-Winners "Barum Trophy"

(2) At Warminster Camp : Officers v. Sgts., Basket-Ball

(4) Some of "A" Company (Exmouth) resting at Camp : Cpl. Hills, Sgt. Haywood, Cpl. Chapman, C./Sgt. Butler and L./Cpl. Whitehead

Collection

Valletta still has its battered Opera House, Lotto offices (housey-housey), and wayside vendors selling cheese cakes on hot trays.

On festival days all the shops are closed and thousands idly wander up and down Kingsway sporting their very best clothes and loudest of American ties. The band of the La Valet Club move in an unregimental

fashion around Kingsway and Merchant Street, blasting some favourite Maltese hymns.

Malta is still a very pleasant place to live and I sincerely hope that I frequently get the chance of spending more happy days there (in times of peace).

4th BATTALION NEWS

SINCE the last issue of the Journal the amalgamation of the 4th Battalion and the 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion has become complete. Physically, apart from the re-naming of companies and the demotion of certain outstations from company status to that of a platoon, there has not been much visible change. The department most affected was Battalion H.Q. of the 5th Battalion, which had to disappear from Mutley Barracks, Plymouth, and merge with that of the 4th Battalion at Exeter.

To mark what is hoped to be only a temporary suspension of life and its strong link with the City of Plymouth, the 5th Battalion held a Parade Service at St. Andrew's Church on May 21st to dedicate its new Old Comrades' Association Banner, and, at the same time, mark its last ceremonial appearance. The Battalion was commanded by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Cross, T.D., and the salute was taken by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J. R. I. Platt, D.S.O., Commander 130th Brigade, and Colonel G. C. Wycisk, O.B.E., T.D., Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, were with the Lord Mayor during the march past.

On June 10th the new 4th Battalion went to the annual camp at Warminster and under the command of Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Anstey, T.D., proceeded very quickly to settle down and accustom itself to its new organisation and sudden increase in numbers.

We had some noticeable successes at this Camp in once again winning the Barum Cup, the Permanent Staff Trophy, and the following individual prizes :

INDIVIDUAL RIFLE.

Class 'A.'

- 1st. R.Q.M.S. H. Crocker.
- 2nd. Sgt. C. Lonton.

Class 'B.'

- 1st. Cpl. Binmore.
- 2nd. Cpl. Connors.

Class 'C.'

- 2nd. Pte. Chapman.

Class 'D.'

- 1st. C.S.M. Harrison.

The Adjutant of the 5th Battalion, Captain M. F. R. Bullock and R.S.M. G. W. Blake both came to the new battalion and a month later, having wound up the affairs of the 5th Battalion, the Quartermaster, Captain R. Marshall, M.B.E., followed them to relieve Major A. Toy, T.D., who retired after many years' service both with the Regular and Territorial Battalions. On return from camp, the decision was made to move Battalion H.Q. and H.Q. Company from Higher Barracks to the T.A. Drill Hall in Barrack Road, recently vacated by 256th Regiment R.A. In August the move was completed and so the Battalion has a real independent H.Q. of its own for the first time since 1939.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Following the amalgamation of the two Battalions it was necessary to re-arrange the Sergeants' Messes and that of the 5th Battalion was re-named "S" Company Sergeants' Mess, the Company thereby receiving its funds complete. A new Mess is being opened at Torquay for the members of the

company stationed there, and is starting off from scratch.

At the annual camp, due to the increase in strength, we found that our total in mess, including the attached personnel, was in the region of ninety. Excellent messing arrangements were made by R.Q.M.S. W. Baldock, and he was assisted by Sgt. A. Symons as the Mess Caterer. During the camp period all the V.I.P.s visiting camp, the Brigade Staff, the School of Infantry and the Light Infantry Messes were entertained on various evenings, and although we have yet to reach the pre-war standard of camp entertainment, all voted that this year's camp was certainly an improvement on previous years. Camp coming so soon after the amalgamation, was an excellent opportunity for the Mess members of both battalions to get together and get to know each other quickly; this otherwise would have been a lengthy matter in view of the great distances between our outstations. In the near future a new Mess will be opened at Barrack Road and it is hoped that we shall have the opportunity of getting members of Company Messes to visit us, and so improve the spirit of comradeship in the Mess which showed itself at annual camp.

NOTES FROM COMPANIES

"B" Company.—Torquay, Dartmouth and Newton Abbot

This Company, now nearly fifty strong as a result of the amalgamation, has its headquarters at Torquay, with platoons at Dartmouth and Newton Abbot. The Company has received a good number of National Servicemen and goes from strength to strength.

"C" Company.—Barnstaple and Ilfracombe

Although far away in the fastnesses of North Devon, the Company is thriving and has gained Barnstaple as a result of the amalgamation. C.S.M. Fry, his brother Cpl. Fry, and Pte. Hayes transferred to us from 628th Heavy Regiment R.A. on its disbandment and we are now trying to revive the strong link between Barnstaple and the Regiment.

We and our truck have taken part in the local carnivals and won first prize at Combe Martin Carnival.

We have lost our Second in Command,

Captain Green, who has taken a Short Service Commission in the Royal Army Service Corps. We wish him well. We have also lost our P.S.I., R.S.M. Gale, who has gone as R.S.M. to the Regimental Depôt, but his successor, Sgt. Foster, recently returned from the 1st Battalion, fills his place in a most worthy fashion.

"D" Company—Tiverton and Cullompton

Since the last issue of the Regimental Journal we have re-started the Cullompton Platoon, which now has a good nucleus for the building up of a strong sub-unit. We understand that our activities will soon extend to Honiton.

Summertime at Tiverton is always a difficult time for attendance as so many are either directly or indirectly connected with agriculture, but we have maintained solid progress. We have sufficient instructors now to deal with the National Servicemen as they arrive. Those who have joined us are settling down and we know already that they are going to be assets to the Company.

We were very sorry to lose our popular P.S.I., C.S.M. Shord, who is now in Hong-Kong. He did a great deal for us and for the town. We welcome C.S.M. Cann and hope he will be happy at Tiverton. So far, owing to courses and leave, we have seen little of him. Sgt. Beecroft, having now finished his Reserve period, is becoming a "Devon." We are glad to hear that two officers will be joining us who will be able to relieve the harassed Company Commander.

We wish that more "Ex-Devons" in the area would visit us and encourage the young soldier in voluntary service.

The Regimental Band visited Bradninch on the 23rd July and played for an hour to an appreciative audience.

We paraded on Mayor's Sunday and led the parade to Church in honour of the Mayor, Major H. R. Carpenter, a former Company Commander at Tiverton.

"S" Company.—Plymouth and Kingsbridge

Despite its depleted permanent staff and increasing size, being now over a hundred strong, "S" Company is carrying on most worthily the traditions of the Regiment in Plymouth and South-West Devon, and also preserving the memory of the 5th Battalion.

A display of weapons and vehicles was

put on at the Roborough Air Show, and as the weather prevented flying, the carriers proved the chief attraction, giving children rides.

With winter approaching and the Plymouth section of the Dance Band becoming most accomplished, there promise to be some enjoyable Saturday evenings.

"A" Company,

Exmouth, Budleigh, Salterton and Sidmouth

We have remained virtually unchanged by the recent upheaval in the Battalion and are still commanded by Major Lewis.

The first two N.S. Officers to join the Battalion, 2nd/Lieuts. Bennett and Innes, have both been posted to us and we extend a warm welcome to them, for they couldn't have come to a better Company.

THE BAND

This is one branch of the Battalion which has reaped notable benefits from the amal-

gamation. With the Corps of Drums the Band is nearly fifty strong and is beginning to be much in demand in the County.

Its first appearance as a combined band was at Torquay on April the 23rd, when they played at the Parade Service for the Dedication of the Old Comrades' Association, Torbay Branch Banner.

More engagements followed and during annual camp they Beat Retreat, combining with the Buglers of the Somerset Light Infantry and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. They played at all Battalion Guest Nights, the School of Infantry Guest Night, and by special request at the Regimental Garden Party of the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment at Bulford.

Although still operating with half the personnel in Plymouth under Bandmaster Wilson and the other half in Exeter under Band C.S.M. Woodcock, M.M., the Band continues to meet centrally for practice and its reputation continues to spread throughout the county.

Battalion appointments are now as follows :

Bn. H.Q.	Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Anstey, T.D.	...	...	Commanding Officer
	Major R. S. Wood	...	...	Second in Command
	Major M. C. Hastings	...	...	Regular Trg. Officer
	Captain M. F. R. Bullock	...	...	Adjutant
	Captain (Q.M.) R. Marshall, M.B.E.	...	...	Quartermaster
	Captain W. T. White, T.D.	...	...	I.O. & P.R.I.
	R.S.M. G. W. Blake	...	...	R.S.M.
	R.Q.M.S. W. Baldock	...	...	R.Q.M.S.
	H.Q. Coy.	Captain G. Wreford	...	...	O.C.
	Captain J. Harrison	...	...	Signals Officer
	R.S.M. S. Gunney	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. S. Wills	...	...	C.S.M.
"A" Coy.	Major J. T. Lewis	...	...	O.C.
	Captain B. E. Lake	...	...	Second in Command
	C.S.M. J. Crawford	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. R. Murch	...	...	C.S.M.
"B" Coy.	Major E. F. J. Rockett, T.D.	...	...	O.C.
	Captain A. R. G. Harvey	...	...	Second in Command
	C.S.M. T. Williams	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. J. Wallis	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. W. Farmer	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. W. Balston	...	...	C.S.M.
"C" Coy.	Major S. M. Fainlight	...	...	O.C.
	Sjt. A. Foster	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. W. Fry	...	...	C.S.M.
"D" Coy.	Major G. F. Doggett, M.C.	...	...	O.C.
	C.S.M. F. Cann	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. J. Walsh	...	...	C.S.M.
"S" Coy.	Major R. E. H. Brendon, T.D.	...	...	O.C.
	Captain J. A. Jones	...	...	M.M.G. Pl.
	Captain C. H. Sture	...	...	A/Tk. Pl.
	Lieutenant G. G. Baker	...	...	3" Mortar Pl.
	Captain F. K. Carter	...	...	Pioneer Pl.
	C.S.M. F. Barnes	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. E. Palmer	...	...	P.S.I.
	C.S.M. J. Myall	...	...	C.S.M.

THE PASSING OF THE 5th (PRINCE OF WALES'S) BATTALION

At midnight on May 31st a proud infantry battalion, with roots deep in Plymouth's past, faded from the military scene.

The 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, victim of Territorial Army reorganisation, lost its identity to become Support company of a reconstituted 4th Devons.

Colonel G. C. Wycisk, O.B.E., T.D., Honorary Colonel of the 5th Battalion, has compiled these notes on its history :

For many hundreds of years the inhabitants of Plymouth have responded nobly in times of national crises.

In 1497 they assisted in the pursuit of Perkin Warbeck. During the Civil War they manned the Plymouth forts. In 1794, under Colonel John Hawker, a Freeman, and Mayor of Plymouth, two companies of volunteers were formed and grew rapidly in strength until, in 1801, on their disbanding they numbered 1,500.

They re-formed soon afterwards during the French invasion scare and were organised into three battalions and a regiment of artillery.

The 2nd Plymouth battalion changed its facings from the customary red and yellow to blue, and was called the Prince of Wales's Own Plymouth Battalion.

GREEN UNIFORM

In 1815 all the local infantry volunteers were consolidated under the title of the Prince of Wales's Own Volunteers and were clothed in the historic green uniform. When the French invasion threat disappeared the volunteers were once more disbanded.

The Prince of Wales (afterwards King George IV.) instructed Sir Thomas Tyrwhit, Member of Parliament for Plymouth, to present Colours to Colonel Hawker's battalion in his name. This took place at Mount Wise, and the Colours were later placed in St. Andrew's Church, being transferred subsequently to the Guildhall.

In 1880, however, they were returned to the volunteers of that day, to maintain a link with the old corps, but were unfortunately destroyed by enemy action at Millbay Barracks in 1941.

In 1859, during a national panic over the hostile tone of a European Power, the volunteers were revived, and in Plymouth was formed the 2nd Devon Volunteer Rifles. For a long period they were based on the site of Plymouth Guildhall, but in 1871 Millbay Barracks were completed and opened.

The battalion was 1,098 strong in 1883, and the following year seven of its members went overseas for the first time to serve with Methuen's Horse in the Bechuanaland expedition.

A detachment of 30 went in 1900 to South Africa as part of the Devon Volunteer Company and were attached to the 2nd Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment. They returned home in June the following year.

RE-ORGANISATION

In 1908 the Auxiliary Forces were re-organised and the volunteers became the Territorial Force. The 2nd Devon, Prince of Wales's Volunteer Battalion and the 5th Devon (Haytor) Battalion (formed in 1803) were combined to become the 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, with headquarters at Plymouth.

The new 5th Battalion discarded its green uniform for the Scarlet and Lincoln Green facings of the Devonshire Regiment, but retained its Prince of Wales's plumes for its collar badges.

The first Honorary Colonel of the new battalion was William Henry, fourth Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, who had commanded the 2nd Volunteer Battalion for many years.

FOUGHT TURKS

At the outbreak of the Great War the 5th Battalion, with the 4th and 6th Battalions, relieved the regular garrison of Plymouth, which went overseas with the British Expeditionary Force. Later the 5th moved to Salisbury Plain and received orders to embark for India. It remained there on garrison duty for two years under the command of Lieut.-Colonel. E. Hawker.

In 1917 the battalion moved to Palestine, and in May, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel F. K. Windeatt, it was fighting the Turks.

It suffered heavy casualties during the unfortunate attack upon El Jib, and continued in action until May, 1918. The action in Palestine is emblazoned on the battalion colours.

On June 1st, 1918, the battalion landed in France and spent the remaining months of the war with the 62nd Division, adequately maintaining the reputation of the regiment. After the Armistice the battalion went to the Rhineland as part of the Army of Occupation until it returned to England in cadre for demobilisation.

On June 13th, 1919, the Prince of Wales, then Honorary Colonel, presented colours to the battalion at the Brickfields, Devonport, when a party sent over from Germany received them.

BETWEEN THE WARS

The following year the battalion was re-formed in Plymouth, with detachments at Ivybridge, Tavistock, Buckfastleigh, Totnes, Newton Abbot, Torquay and Dartmouth, and in 1921 it was placed under Lieut.-Colonel E. Roseveare's command. During the year the battalion supplied a large number of officers and men for the 5th Devon Defence Force Battalion during the industrial crises.

Maintaining a reputation as a happy and hard-working T.A. battalion, it was in 1938 adjudged the most efficient infantry battalion in the Wessex Division and later that year was selected to become the divisional machine-gun battalion.

1939 ONWARDS

In 1939 the battalion was mobilised, under Brev.-Colonel G. C. Wycisk, appointed to command in 1933. With its entire strength responding to the call without delay, the unit remained in Plymouth until January, 1940, and then moved via Somerset to South-Eastern Command, where it was disbanded as a machine-gun battalion and immediately re-formed as the 86th Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A.

Training continued in the new rôle until the unit landed in North-West Europe at Courseulles on June 28th, 1944, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel R. Fletcher.

Its most notable engagements in the campaign were at Hill 112, where it secured a mixed bag of six German tanks, an armoured fighting vehicle, and an aeroplane; in the Falaise Gap, where all the batteries were in

action; and, finally, in lower Holland, where 129th Battery came under the command of the Guards Tank Brigade.

At the end of the war the unit was re-formed as the 43rd (Wessex) Division Machine-gun Battalion under the command of Lieut.-Colonel R. McM. Lawson, and in 1947 reverted to its original status of 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, becoming part of 130th Infantry Brigade, T.A.

BISLEY

Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Cross, who joined the battalion in 1931, succeeded to command in June, 1948, and under his guidance the battalion won the China Cup, the premier Bisley award for team shooting in the Territorial Army, last year. Under his command, too, the unit rose in strength from the weakest to the strongest battalion in Southern Command.

Recording the battalion's coming fate, Col. Wycisk adds: "In this sad state we leave them, and look to the Plymouth company and the Old Comrades to keep alive the traditions and spirit of the 5th (Prince of Wales's) Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment."

FURTHER MEMORIES

It is perhaps a strange coincidence that at a time when Territorials of the Devonshire Regiment were undergoing training this year at Warminster, an account of a similar camp held in the summer of 1898 was found in an old volume of copies of *The Army and Navy Illustrated*.

PLYMOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Fifty-two years ago, almost to the day, 3,000 troops of the then Plymouth Volunteer Infantry Brigade, comprising the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Volunteer Battalions of the Devonshire Regiment, the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, a supply detachment, and a bearer company went under canvas for a week on Roborough Downs.

The brigade was commanded by Maj.-General Mackay Heriot, and battalion commanders were Colonel Sir D. Duckworth-King, Major Rolston, Colonel Sir John

PASSING OF THE 5TH BATTALION



Officers, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Devonshire Regiment



Preparing to March Past

These pictures were reproduced from a print from the Army & Navy Illustrated, 1898. So it can be understood that the details and features are not as clear as we should wish, but it was not technically possible to obtain first class results.

Naafi **Toy** **Fairs**



Organisers of children's Christmas Parties will find the answers to all their problems in Naafi's Toy Fairs.

These offer the finest possible range of gifts for boys and girls of all ages, at the most advantageous terms.

Decorations, too . . . coloured paper hats and streamers, balloons, Christmas trees (with or without illuminations), crackers . . . everything for the great event!

Let Naafi help you to fill the traditional sack with toys for the children's party this year.

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SEE NAAFI'S TOY FAIRS FOR 1950 AT

Aldershot	Imperial Court,
Beeston	Kennington
Belfast	Kinloss
Bovington	Maryhill, Glasgow
Bulford	Norton Barracks,
Catterick Camp	Worcester
Carlisle	Oswestry
Cranwell	Portsmouth
Corsham	R.A.F., Padgate
Fulford	Redford Barracks,
Halton	Edinburgh
	St. Athan
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| La Tropical de Luxe | Castella Panatellas |
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| Petit Coronas | |

"A contented spirit is the sweetness of existence," wrote Charles Dickens.

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If you are away from home this Christmas you can still contribute to the family festivities by means of a presentation case of wines and spirits from Naafi.

Naafi has prepared a selection of eight cases for its customers at home and overseas, these gifts vary in price and their contents differ accordingly but they will be universally acclaimed!

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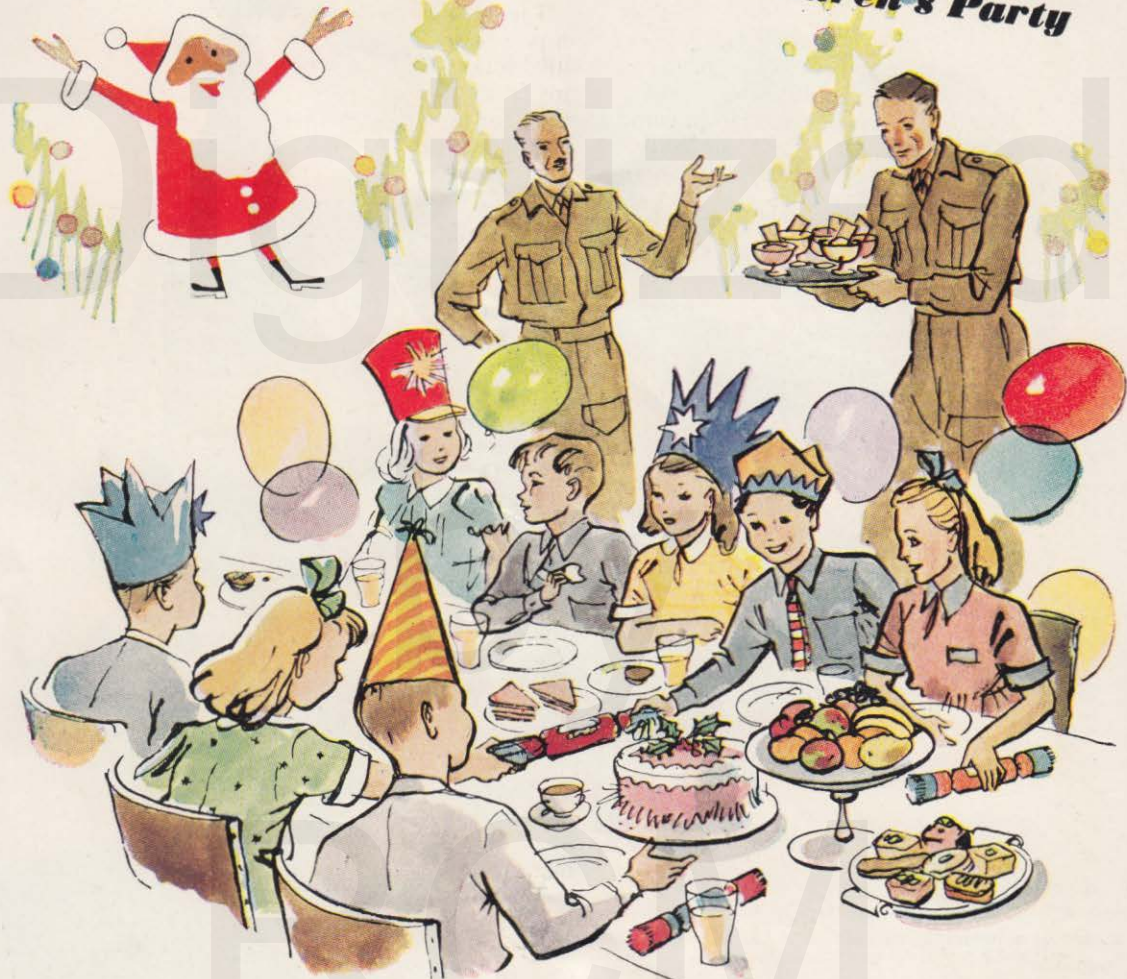
Folders showing the complete range of Naafi's presentation cases of choice vintages are obtainable from your Naafi Shop. These folders incorporate an order form for the convenience of customers

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Let Naafi Cater for your Children's Party



Christmas Party time again! The Children are "priority" now in the Unit's list of seasonal festivities, and plans must be laid for the jolliest party on record.

What plan could be better devised than that which entrusts Naafi with the entire catering for the great occasion?

Place orders NOW with the specialists in Services' catering for *all* occasions, and ensure the unqualified success of the biggest event of the Christmas programme.

Among the large variety of Service events for which Naafi has provided the catering are:—

Regimental Re-unions . R.A.F. "At Homes"
Navy Days . Military Tattoos . "Corps Weeks"
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Paratroops "Airborne Week" . Army F.A. Cup Finals . Army Rifle Association Meetings
Passing-out Parades.

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces
RUXLEY TOWERS • ESHER • SURREY

Brings you Christmas Cheer

Kennaway, Colonel Walcott, Colonel Lord Clifford and Colonel Rosewarne.

To Captain Gratwicke, of the 4th Volunteer Battalion, the Devons, states the account, were entrusted the duties of ordnance officer, these having never before been discharged by an officer of volunteers.

"Thursday was the principal day in camp, when Lieut.-Colonel Sir Forestier-Walker, commanding the Western District, was present to witness the work of the brigade," the account continues.

FIELD DAY

"The general idea for the field day was that an enemy advancing on Plymouth had been forced to fall back on Tavistock, leaving a rear guard at Yelverton to cover his retreat. The 5th V.B., under Colonel Lord Clifford, represented the enemy, and the remainder of the force was supposed to have been sent out from Plymouth to cut off his retreat.

"The cyclists rendered good service by scouting for the enemy and sending back information of his movements and, after some sharp fighting, the enemy was cut off by means of a flank attack.

"The manœuvres over, the troops, after a short rest, marched past, and were subsequently congratulated by Sir Forestier-Walker on their efficiency in the field."

(By kind permission of the "Western Morning News.")

5th (PRINCE OF WALES'S) BN. OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION NOTES

SINCE writing our last notes to the Regimental Journal we have suffered a great loss in Plymouth in the disbandment of the 5th Battalion, under the recent Territorial Army reorganization.

All Old Comrades of the 5th Battalion and the citizens of Plymouth feel very strongly about the way this has been done because of its many years' association with the City, and of its record in the past three wars. Our heartfelt sympathy must be with Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Cross, T.D., who has had a great disappointment, because, since taking over command in 1948, he put in a

great deal of spade work to put the battalion back on its feet, and this he did with great success, as the records will plainly show.

The Headquarters at Plymouth are now in possession of the Support Company of the 4th Battalion Devonshire Regiment, and we are very grateful to Major R. E. H. Brendon, T.D., for his kind permission in allowing the 5th Battalion O.C.A. to hold their monthly meetings at Mutley Barracks as before.

* * *

On Sunday, 21st May, our Banner was dedicated by the Bishop of Plymouth (The Right Reverend Whitfield-Daukes) in the blitzed Church of St. Andrews, Plymouth. Prior to the dedication ceremony the Banner, which was designed by Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Markwick, was handed over by him to Colonel E. Roseveare, T.D., who then made the presentation to the Association on behalf of the Donors.

We were honoured to have with us on this occasion The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. F. G. Leatherby), the Colonel of the Regiment (Colonel L. H. M. Westropp), Commander of the 130th Infantry Brigade (Brigadier J. R. I. Platt), the Hon. Secretary of the Devonshire Regiment, O.C.A. (Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Creasy), and the 5th Battalion commanded by Lieut.-Colonel G. C. Cross, T.D.

All kindred Old Comrades' Associations in Plymouth, including the Plymouth and Torbay Branches of the Devonshire Regiment, O.C.A., paraded with us, and we thank them for their very loyal support.

The parade, headed by the Band of the 5th Battalion, marched from Glanville Street through the City Centre to St. Andrew's Church.

After the Service of Dedication the Lord Mayor, supported by Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, Colonel G. C. Wycisk, O.B.E., T.D., and Mr. J. P. W. Hingston, M.B.E., took the Salute at a march past on the Royal Parade.

After the parade tea was served at Mutley Barracks by the Ladies' Committee, and to them we say "thank you" for their efforts in helping to make this day such a great success.

* * *

On Friday, 26th May, we held a combined social evening with the Plymouth Branch of the Suffolk Regiment, O.C.A., at Mutley Barracks by kind permission of the President and Members of the 5th Battalion Sgts.'

Mess. We all had a very enjoyable evening and sincerely hope more will be held during the coming winter. During the evening Mr. J. P. W. Hingston, Chairman of the 5th Battalion O.C.A., made a presentation to R.S.M. G. W. Blake on his leaving Plymouth, having been posted to the 4th Battalion at Exeter, as an appreciation for the great help and inspiration he had given to all Old Comrades during his tour with the 5th Battalion.

R.S.M. Blake was a great scout and we shall miss him very much because of the great understanding with which he has dealt with Old Comrades.

* * *

On Saturday, 22nd July, 32 members went by coach to Exeter for the annual dinner of The Devonshire Regiment, O.C.A. This was really a jolly fine show and it was grand to see such a large gathering of Old Comrades enjoying themselves in the real Regimental spirit. We congratulate Colonel Creasy and his hard working dinner committee for the splendid arrangements made and such an excellent menu.

* * *

Our Monthly meetings held on the first Friday of each month are very well attended. Also, we are pleased to see Members of the Plymouth Branch of the Devonshire Regiment, O.C.A., with us on these occasions. Although we are a Battalion Association, our first aim is to be of service to the Regimental Association in the Plymouth area.

* * *

Our Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, 11th November, at Mutley Barracks, Plymouth, at 7 p.m.

* * *

In conclusion, we offer our sincere congratulation to the Editor for such a splendid edition of the first Journal and we are eagerly awaiting the next issue because of its grand reading.

* * *

We should like, if we may intrude on this space, to thank you for your kind remarks and for the good wishes sent to us by the Honorary Secretary.—Ed.

* * *

It will be welcome news for associates of the former 5th Devons that Colonel G. C. Wycisk, the battalion's former Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel, has been ap-

pointed Honorary Colonel of the reconstituted 4th Devons in succession to Colonel C. P. Tremlett. His appointment, dating from August 4th, is for one year.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

AT last it had happened!
As I passed the sentry I gave him a perky nod and thought: "I'll soon be there."

No more for me the humdrum existence of everyday life, no more that monotonous routine of washing breakfast dishes, catching the 'bus and off to the office.

No, Sir! I have flung off the shackles of Civilian Life and . . . yes, you've got it . . . volunteered for the Army.

Mind you, it wasn't easy. Oh, no, not by a long way. Mum still had the idea that the Army was not a suitable career for a young man, but then I know that's wrong. Why, hasn't Tom Murphy just completed 21 years, and look at him. Healthy, a fine home and a pension. Yes, a pension, on top of the wages that he picks up at the local factory. Besides, I want something different, something adventurous! Yes, that's the word

. . . . *ADVENTUROUS!!!*

Of course the beret and denims that I am wearing aren't exactly "a la Ritz," but then they only need "breaking in," so to speak.

Oh! Oh! Watch it! Here comes an officer.

What shall I do? No side turning. What was it Dad said? "Salute?" Yes, that's it, "Always salute an officer, my lad."

Right! Here goes

"Come here, lad!"

"Sir."

"Stand to attention when you speak to me."

"Yes . . . S-S-irr."

"How long have you been in the Army?"

"Six hours, S-S-irr."

"Don't you know who I am?"

And then it dawned on me, just how many times Dad had emphasised it, "Be careful of the dif. . . between . . . Officer and—Oh, Ye Godfathers

. *THE R.S.M.*

What have I done ?

Letters to The Editor

THE CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE

From Mr. Ivan R. Pengelly, 76, Avenue F. Lobbedey, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Having recently toured Normandy, and particularly the Invasion Beaches of 1944, I came across a monument erected by the Commune of Asnelles to the memory of the 50th Northumbrian Division, and noticed that the Devonshire Regiment was mentioned. In case this may be of interest, I enclose prints of three snapshots of the memorial.

Having lived in Exeter from my birth until the outbreak of the First World War, I often came in contact with members of the "Devons," and have always followed the Regiment's activities with great interest.

Illustration on page 114.

A COVER PLAN

19th September, 1950.

Dear Sir,

May I congratulate you on Issue No. 1? May the Regimental Journal go from strength to strength.

I feel sure that I am expressing the sincere wish of all your readers when I say that henceforth, so long as there is a Devonshire Regiment, there will be a Journal to record its doings together with the activities of those who are no longer serving but who are with us, in spirit.

Tradition and Esprit de corps, terms lightly used these days, are weighty in their meaning and significance; they must be nurtured and preserved, and a further step to this end, as far as the Devonshire Regiment is concerned has been taken by the production of the Regimental Journal.

I know that you will agree that we must keep the Journal light and friendly and must at all costs avoid it becoming the dry-as-dust publication which is typical of so many military magazines.

I think you will agree, too, that we must continue to experiment with the cover until we find one suitably attractive and meeting with general approval.

In this connection I would suggest that we have a scroll on the cover (similar to that

on which the Battle Honours are inscribed on the Regimental Colours), upon which we enumerate the Units, etc., which subscribe to the Journal.

Further—and very important this—as the Journal contains a great amount of news from "Old Comrades," who, I imagine, at present comprise the greater part of your circulation, I feel that this fact should be given suitable prominence on the cover.

If you feel inclined to publish this letter in the forthcoming issue of The Journal it may induce others to offer their suggestions and, guided by these, you no doubt will be able to produce the right answer.

Yours, etc.,

R. H. Coxhead,
Captain, 1st Battalion.

RESIDENTIAL CLUB

for

RETIRED SERVICE OFFICERS

Unmarried or widower retired officers now-a-days find it difficult to get accommodation they can afford.

With this in view a retired senior officer has acquired an hotel on the Norfolk Coast, which will open on October 1st, 1950, as a Residential Club for Retired Service Officers as permanent residents.

The property is situated in one acre of grounds overlooking the sea, in the healthiest part of England, 10 minutes from Golf Course, and with facilities for most sports near at hand.

Here retired officers will find, in their own atmosphere, real comfort, excellent catering and complete valet service, including laundry and care of linen and clothes, at an inclusive fee of from £5 5s. Od. to £7 7s. Od. per week, according to room. Two comrades sharing large bedroom at reduced rates.

This venture has the good wishes of the War Office.

Applications for reservations to:

Wing Commander K. W. Bransby,
"Abbeville,"
Mundesley-on-Sea,
Norfolk.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

AS we used to warn the readers of our *News Sheet*, so we must repeat to the wider circle who read the *Journal*: "These notes are compiled as the news which they contain comes in to us. We apologise if some is a bit stale, and we do not vouch for the complete accuracy of any one of them." So here goes for the tail end of March, after our last postscript was sent for the first issue of the *Journal*.

* * *

We hear that a schoolmaster in South Molton has undertaken to form a collection of medals awarded to men of the Devon Regiment. He confesses to the knowledge (or ignorance) that there is no collection of this kind in Devon.

Our letter to the newspaper which foreclosed the schoolmaster's ignorance, was not published by the newspaper in question, so will the Old Comrades of South Molton inform him of the existence of the Regimental Museum, which, by the way, is always open to visitors to Higher Barracks, and to the public generally.

* * *

We hear of the death of No. 2876 Pte. Robinson, well known to us in Exeter, in the Blackboy Road area. He enlisted in 1889 and took his discharge in 1901. He ranks among those who were the original members of the O.C.A., and he paid 10/6 for his life membership, which in these days represents quite 30/- Makes some of you "newly joined" think, doesn't it?

* * *

Another sad note (and I cannot recognise the sender's name): "I regret to inform you that Mr. A. C. Harris, M.M., late of the 1st Devon Regiment, passed away on March 10th, after being in Waterman Hospital since December, 1949. He was the most loyal, cheery and faithful comrade imaginable, and was in the '14/'18 war from start to finish. He always lived up to our Regimental motto, 'Semper Fidelis.'"

* * *

Still more sadness must come before April arrived, and this time a blow which words cannot express—Exit the 5th Battalion, and all that that grand Battalion means to us. I am sure that the Editor will explain it more clearly elsewhere, but we glory in the fact that the 5th Battalion has a live and very active O.C.A. of its own which will keep the achievements and spirit of the Prince of Wales' Battalion alive for ever. Every cloud, however, is silver-lined, and so we see the 6th Battalion being revived in some military formation of Infantry, now unknown to us civilians, as part of the extended 4th Battalion, and we who were so frequently and closely connected with our well-loved T.A. Battalion of the North are delighted to learn that they can wear once again our Regimental badge and uniform. Welcome home to the 6th Battalion.

* * *

Mr. T. H. Williams, who recently came to live in one of the Cottage Homes at Whipton, passed away very suddenly while in hospital at Richmond.

* * *

APRIL. "The Mayor and Town Councillors request the pleasure of the company of all members of the Old Comrades' Association of the Devonshire Regiment at a banquet to be held at the Royal Hotel, Ladysmith, on Saturday, 4th March, 1950, at 8.15 to commemorate the Fiftieth anniversary of the Siege and Relief of Ladysmith, 1899-1900." Thus reads the invitation received only too late to be of any avail, and to which we replied appropriately on your behalf.

* * *

The Torbay branch organised an excellent parade and service for the dedication of their branch Banner, about which I hope we shall receive a full report in the Branch news. We would like to congratulate this Branch, one of our most recently formed, on their fine organisation and keen support of their local Secretary, who deserves all the help he receives.

* * *

Captain Spurway, who did so much of his

ranker service with the Devons before transferring to the Indian Army and later to the Barrack Department of the R.A.S.C., died in hospital in Plymouth after a prolonged, although not a continuous illness. Many Old Comrades attended the funeral service in Exeter, and paid their last tribute to an old friend.

* * *

Captain and Quartermaster J. Robins passed away at his home near Yeovil. He will be remembered by the older members of the 4th Battalion, as well as by many old regular soldiers.

* * *

MAY. Colonel Godfrey Williams of Perran-ar-Worthal, called upon us quite unexpectedly. Returning from the Old Comrades' dinner of the XIth Hussars in London he wanted to revisit the Higher barracks, where he served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Devon Militia. His memory went speedily to a Serjeant who had the riband of the Afghan campaign, thought to be Robert Marsh, who entertained them with blood-thirsty tales of that grim campaign. He recalls meeting our 1st Battalion in 1898 on the way to Cavalry manoeuvres at Delhi and has the most pleasant memories of that meeting. He has the deepest feelings for Old Comrades of all times, and wishes our Association all prosperity.

* * *

The 5th (Prince of Wales') Battalion O.C.A. held their service and ceremonies for the dedication of their banner in the ruins of St. Andrew's Church in Plymouth. This was fittingly the first service held in the ruins, now temporarily roofed, since the war blitz, and was most impressive. I feel sure the Branch news will describe it all very fully, so let us from here congratulate their Secretary and all who supported him on a very efficient and well organised occasion.

* * *

Now we come to the welcome letters which have in the past followed each issue of the *News Sheet*. We ask the Journal Editor to send them on to us because we want news of our pals and their present whereabouts. (Yes, please write as many letters as you can.—Ed.)

* * *

S. Liverton, from Bristol, had a sneaky feeling for the old *News Sheet*, but thinks the Journal very good. He mentions H.

Ruby, well known in the sporting world, whom he sees frequently in Bristol.

* * *

C. Rawlings, living in Exeter, very wisely wrote to make sure that his name was properly recorded for the Journal, as his pals had got theirs, but not him. He also registers for the Regimental History, which we are all expecting any day now.

* * *

Mrs. St. Clair tells us that her husband is in hospital in Dorchester, but was delighted to receive his Journal. He apparently is in company with other old soldiers there and they have all read our Regimental Journal with pleasure, and, I gather, with a certain measure of envy. Mr. St. Clair is awfully anxious to be visited by any Old Comrades up that way, so will anyone who can do so, spare the time to look up Mr. St. Clair—Geriatric Unit Hospital, Damers Road, Dorchester, or write the old soldier a letter.

* * *

S. Summerhayes is still at Taunton and does noble work for us with raffle tickets. At least, I hope, he will accomplish his aim.

* * *

Sgt. Frank Howard writes from Poole: "The standard of the Journal is certainly very high and all credit must be paid to the Editor—more power to his elbow." (Thank you very kindly.—Ed.) I am sure the Editor's elbow will need that power on Salamanca Day when he meets Howard.

* * *

H. Roper wrote from Dagenham and enclosed a letter for us to forward to a pal of his. We sent it on to the pal's last known address and we only trust it got to him. Let's hope those two will meet at the dinner in Exeter.

* * *

JUNE. We got interesting news of the family of Lieut. Rendle of the 1st Battalion, which shows great Regimental traditional service. Mr. C. Russell Rendle, now living in the Argentine, served in the 4th Volunteer Battalion from 1892 to 1904. One of his sons, the father of Lieut. Rendle, was in our 51st Battalion in 1918 and the other son was in our 9th Battalion, and was subsequently killed at Paschendale in 1917.

* * *

Colonel Worrall writes to say that he is organising a re-union tea and fête for Old

Devons in the Birmingham district. It is indeed good of him to do so and I hope the Birmingham Branch news will give us an account of it.

* * *

Mr. A. Fluck found great pleasure in his first copy of the Journal, and, particularly, in the Sports news of the Battalion and the Depôt. I think he is the first person to mention the Depôt and its prowess in reaching the final of the Hockey. We join with Fluck in wishing them better luck next year. He seems to be a great fellow for looking up back copies of team photographs and gloating over the pleasant memories which they revive.

* * *

Mr. S. Howard writes from Cowbridge, Glamorgan, to apologise for not writing to us and all who worked so hard in order to give him and others a most enjoyable time at the dinner of 1949.—Thanks, Mr. Howard. We are now getting embroiled in the 1950 effort and shall feel rewarded if we see you here again next month. He recounts a story which I will pass to you as he tells it: One gentleman, sleeping in barracks that night, decided to sleep on the tent ropes and was heard to remark next morning: "enjoying myself, why it was the best ever, but this *?!* bed is a bit tight under the arms." But, above all, Mr. Howard, thank you very much for your kind offer of a prize for the raffle which is again being run to help pay the cost of tentage.

* * *

Mr. H. F. Simmons, of London, must say that the first issue of the Journal is much better than the *News Sheet* and he hopes that the circulation will carry on for ever.—(Thanks, and we hope so, too.—Ed.)

* * *

Major Tracy-Barclay is now with No. 4 A.B.T.C.—(I can't imagine what the "B" stands for.) He wishes to add his praise for the first volume of the Journal, which is really first class. Unfortunately he cannot get leave to attend the dinner this year, but after receiving the bowler hat in December he feels that he will be free in future years.

* * *

Mr. A. V. Scales is now at Axminster after his service with the 4th Band, the 2nd Battalion and the Forces in Austria. Let's hope we see more of him now that he is nearer home.

One of those whom we have helped financially, writes to thank us and the Old Comrades who helped to supply him with special foods during his illness. "Words cannot express my gratitude to you all," he concludes.

* * *

We do get a certain number of letters from the hundreds of Old Comrades to whom we send assistance in varying forms during the year and we appreciate the acknowledgement very much.—We also get a number of letters from those who simulate *Oliver Twist* and ask for more. These might be termed "All of a 'twist,'" more accurately.

* * *

One or two letters of appreciation have been much consolation to the Committee. From Crediton a member writes: "Ever so many thanks for your most kind help and consideration in my appeal. My wife and I deeply appreciate your prompt action, which has put us on our feet again." From London: "I am more than grateful and find it hard to put down in words what I would really like to say. The money saved us from a very great worry and enabled us to pay our long-standing debts." We are delighted to know that this fellow is now out of hospital and back at work.

* * *

Bill Hemming of the 1st Battalion Band expresses his congratulations to the Editor of the Journal. "I read," he says, "of my old Battalion's work in Malaya, and yet it is only what one expects of the Devons." He has recollections of meeting George Bean, the side-drummer at Dover about the time of Dunkirk, and wants news of Tom Symonds, George's old partner. In his village near Bristol, there is Sammy Cox, M.M., of the 2nd Battalion; Bill Elliot of the 1st Battalion; and Iver Ames of the 8th. (Let's hope they all support our Bristol branch). In anticipation of the dinner he hopes the "Char-Wallah" won't miss his tent next morning, and that he will meet or hear of Ginger Gayler, E. P. Gray, Jimmy Garnham and all the 1st Battalion Band. He wishes to enquire particularly if the Black-down Lads (1926) remember Mrs. Binner's shop in Deepcut?

* * *

Mr. J. Wood, of Crowthorne, Bucks., is not sure if the Journal he received was for him or his son, Cpl. Wood of the 1st Bat-

talion. It was sent to "Father Wood," and we hope that he will continue to subscribe, as that will overcome his complaint, that he hadn't heard from the O.C.A. since he left the Regiment in 1931. "No, Mr. Wood, we have no news of Kelly Pitt—if any Old Comrade informs us of his whereabouts, we will let you know."

* * *

Charles Lang writes from London to say he was bucked to find the dear old Regiment, as of old, always to the fore in peace training and in war activities. As an old Regimental footballer (Jeremy Cup winners, C.I., 1912/13), he wants to congratulate the 1st Battalion on their successes in Malaya under very adverse circumstances.

* * *

Major Freeman very much appreciated the Journal and the O.C.A. News. We are very pleased to hear of his complete recovery after a major operation.

* * *

We learn, with deep regret, of the death of Mr. D. White of Dawlish. His passing was very sudden and unexpected, in fact, he had already purchased his ticket for the dinner.

* * *

J. Lindley-Buckley of Plymouth, has been through distressing times, but we are glad to know that his wife is now in better health and we congratulate them both on the birth of a daughter.

* * *

JULY. Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Burke writes from Liverpool, where he has resumed his post as a master at the School of Technology after being de-mobbed two years ago. His letter sounds as though he did not receive a Journal. (Editor, please note)—(On the principle of de-centralisation, Depôt, please note.—Ed.)—but he wishes to be remembered to Major Radcliffe, Lieut.-Colonel Coates and Lieut.-Colonel Haynes.

* * *

Mr. E. J. Smith, our Birmingham Branch Secretary, brought a very old soldier to the dinner, whom he thought to be quite the oldest soldier of the Regiment, but reference to the list in the last Journal will show that Albert Jennings would be placed 12th. Mr. Jennings served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in South Africa, and is proud of the old Army Number 1692.

* * *

Mr. R. Richards, No. 732, writes a disappointed letter to say that he wished he could be with us, but at 87 he doesn't feel up to the strain and wishes all a very pleasant evening.

* * *

Colonel C. P. Tremlett and Major Stewart-Rattray also sent apologies for their absence from the dinner.

* * *

Mr. S. Hickman, now of Dagenham, writes very appreciatively of the dinner; he appreciates all the work done by the Depôt, and especially the life-saver administered by Les Crowley.

* * *

W. Golding and A. F. G. Doddrell, both energetic London committee men, write conjointly: "We feel we cannot let the 1950 O.C.A. dinner pass without thanking you and your Committee for your wonderful organisation and the work which must have been put into a great show—to their credit, we of the eagle eye, could not find a chink in the organisation—." (They haven't heard what was said in committee at our "after the show meeting."—R.H.C.). We understand that Mr. Doddrell is thinking of retiring from public-house life, and we rather secretly hope that he will join the noble band who are privileged to live near the Depôt.

* * *

Captain Roberts came back from the 1st Battalion in Malaya, after doing a year with HQ. N.M.S.D., and two years with the Battalion. Fancy completing a tour of foreign service in three years; we used to do so—but no, that's not the object of these Notes. Let's hope he gets a job to his liking at home.

* * *

A. J. Duffey, of Australia, was at the National Eisteddford, where he met Mr. C. Edwards, who may be remembered for his work in entertaining the troops in Devon hospitals during the 14/18 war. Duffey doesn't compare the Eisteddford with the O.C.A. dinner.

* * *

Mr. W. J. Bagwell, who is rising 80 and enlisted in 1890, paid a welcome visit to the office. He keeps well and sends his salaams to all the VERY old soldiers.

* * *

Our July memoranda closes with a long

list of chaps who came or wrote short notes to us to thank us for our work in arranging the O.C.A. dinner; their names will all be in the list of those attending, under the Dinner report, so we won't repeat them here, but we appreciate these very practical expressions of thanks and we don't deny, more than modesty permits, that we have to work hard, but we feel it's worth it—about the following Wednesday.

* * *

AUGUST. This is generally a quiet month and this year did not differ in that respect. There is very often an odd optimist or two who wants money for the family holiday, and so applies for a grant on very compassionate grounds: this is followed up by a telegram and then a telephone call, and when the £20 cheque is not received, there is blissful silence—blissful to us.

* * *

Captain Coxhead, Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion, and our valued "link" in the O.C.A. world (and in ours, too.—Ed.), is home on leave in the Andover district. He is coming to look us up if his old Morris stays on the road long enough! We gather he is very busy doing the chores and weeding the garden, but keeping very fit on it. (We were very glad to see him in Salisbury.—Ed.)

SOUTH AFRICA WAR GRAVES

The Member of Parliament for Exeter, Mr. J. Maude, K.C., sent us the following extract from "Hansard" of the 27th July, 1950. We are very grateful to him and other Members for their interest in our representations concerning our Boer War Old Comrades:

Mr. Aitken asked the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations if he can now say what steps he proposes to take to approach the Government of South Africa with regard to the neglected state of the cemeteries and graves of Imperial troops who died in the South African War; and, in view of the undertaking given by the Government of that country many years ago, that these cemeteries and graves would be looked after and maintained."

The Prime Minister: "A communication has been sent to the United Kingdom High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa on this matter."

Mr. Aitken: "Will the Prime Minister say why the Commonwealth authorities have

not dealt with this matter before, in view of the many representations made by the South African War Veterans' Association and other interested parties?"

The Prime Minister: "Because consideration had to be given as to exactly where responsibility lay in this matter."

* * *

We hear with sorrow of the death of 4923 Sergeant A. Tallamy, of Plymouth, at the age of 72.

* * *

Mr. Price, now living in Marlow, Bucks., was spending his holiday in Torquay when our energetic Secretary of that Branch raked him in for the Branch bus to go to the dinner, where he seems to have enjoyed himself no end.

* * *

Mr. G. Hoadley writes from Stockport, Cheshire, to say what a good show the Regular Forces' Employment Association is. That Association has found him the job he really wants and he feels bound to express his feelings of surprise that all the literature issued to him on discharge, concerning the ability to find good work through the Forces' Employment Association was not just bunk and/or "kidology," as he terms it; he found it to be hard fact and true. We recommend lots of Old Comrades to that same Association, and a great proportion of them are put into good and permanent work. We used to write up the Regular Forces' Employment Association in the old *News Sheet*, and we still believe in it for job-finding—it's good. (See p. 43, *The Journal*, No. 1).

Hoadley has good reports of the wife and baby to send us; we remember them both, less the baby, when they helped us so ably with the 1948 dinner, and we rejoice to learn that the saxophone and oboe are earning good pin-money.

* * *

SEPTEMBER. Mr. R. H. Halling writes from Aldershot to get news of his old Regiment, and is quite unique in admitting that he appreciates that he has not written to us and so could not expect us to write to him. As one of the older Old Comrades, who holds an original membership card, he will be remembered by the older members, and I hope he will be able to attend the 1951 dinner at Exeter.

* * *

The Editor of the *Swede Basher* is to be

congratulated on getting his excellent Journal registered in the library for such journals in the Imperial War Museum. We always enjoy reading of the activities of the 12th Battalion and are filled with admiration for their Editor.

* * *

We would like to make it clear that the O.C.A. does not edit, publish or circulate the Regimental Journal. This excellent magazine allows us space for Old Comrades' news and notices, but all financial business and requests for copies should be sent to the Editor, Regimental Journal, the Devonshire Regiment, Higher Barracks, Exeter.

We, in the Old Comrades' office are always delighted to hear from anyone who has served in any unit of the Regiment, and to help them in any way we can, so do not let the passing of the *News Sheet* to the superior Journal of the Regiment, deter you from writing to us, O.C.A., Devon Regiment, Higher Barracks, Exeter, AND, if you haven't heard the news already, record the date of next year's Exeter Dinner, as SATURDAY, the 28th of JULY, 1951.

Last, but not least, of our office notes, 13th September, 1950: George White has been promoted to Major G. M. White, M.B.E., M.M., and well he deserves it. In the 130th Inf. Bde. he is known as "Doctor White," so he can now crown his No. 9s.

* * *

NOTES FROM THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

The Birmingham Branch has been re-born: it has taken its first look at the world, given a characteristically lusty squeal, and is now thriving in the best tradition of infamy. Who the mid-wives were who assisted in bringing forth this monster, it is impossible to say—no-one will admit liability—yet.

At its inaugural meeting the Branch elected Captain Handy, Mr. F. J. Hammond and Mr. E. J. Smith, as President, Chairman and Secretary, respectively, and these officers are aided and abetted at the top table by Major Rosbrook, a Vice-President, who is a walking encyclopædia of local ex-Service knowledge, and "Spud" Reeves as Minute Secretary, whose chief difficulty is to find enough space in which to record the Chairman's remarks.

The first essential to an active Branch is a comfortable Headquarters, and one has been

found at "The Anchor Inn," Five Ways, where meetings are held on alternate Fridays throughout the year. This hostelry is neither large nor modern, and it lacks the glitter and chromium plate of the modern gin-palace. Instead, thanks to the motherly personality of the hostess, Mrs. Maria Elkington, it offers a friendly welcome and a spacious room where members can meet in comfort and feel at home. No praise for our good lady can be too warm: as the widow and mother of Servicemen, she has a knowledge of ex-Servicemen which enables her to control them with a quiet ease which would be the envy of any R.S.M.

A comfortable Headquarters leads to a steady inflow of new members, and it is a poor Friday which cannot find thirty Old Comrades met together to run the business of the Branch. In these early days there is so much business that precious little time is left for drinking; but as the works get more into running order, so the balance can be restored. The Chairman will be the first to agree that there are no "yes-men" in Birmingham. George Amphlett watches the philanthropic activities of Exeter with the jaundiced eye of a Relieving Officer, yet it is noticed that he has no objection to spending his own money in the interests of the Branch. In this he is encouraged by Joe Lester, who has made it his function to pass a hat round on every conceivable occasion; the Corporation are reserving him a pitch outside the Hippodrome for when he gets too old to work!

* * *

It came as a pleasant surprise when a donation was received from a Vice-President, Captain Ray Gibbons, M.C., and, encouraged by his benevolence, the Branch, with an optimism which foreshows great things, decided to open a bank account. In these days of small incomes and high tax, it was thought that very few ex-officers could afford to follow Capt. Gibbons' generous example, and it has been decided to organise a series of concerts to maintain the bank balance at double figures and to repay the Chairman, who lost money on the Branch's visit to Exeter for the Annual Dinner.

* * *

Plans for the first concert are now complete, and the great day is September 22nd.

* * *

A discussion arose as to the payment of

artists, and it was this juncture, as I hear it, that "Tug" Wilson offered to provide his own beauty chorus free of charge. "Cheese" Cheshire and Freddy Fox immediately formed a sub-committee of two to decide whether their wives would object—hoping they wouldn't, of course. "Tug" has now promised to put on a concert for us later on in the year.

* * *

It was unfortunate that we could not raise a full coachload to attend the Annual Dinner, but the glowing reports from those who did go, together with the newly instituted "Pay as you Go" Club started by our Secretary, has ensured a better show next year. Have you room for two coaches, Exeter?

* * *

The Hockey Match against the Birmingham Civil Service will take place on September 16th. Our team appears to make up for lack of youth by enthusiasm and low cunning. We are indebted to the Civil Service Club for providing us with much of the kit (whoever would have thought of saying anything good about the Income Tax people?) Lester, on being provided with certain body armour, has promised to play in goal. The game should be good fun, but, oh, for a few half-broken hockey sticks that we could call our own!

* * *

One Friday in January will see us turning the tables on Exeter. Mrs. Elkington has promised to waive her normal rule and will put on a dinner for us, to which we intend to invite all the "big nobs." We look forward to having Colonels Bullock, Worrall, Westropp and Creasy, to grace the places of honour—perhaps "Blanco" White will prefer to find his own level? Please take it as a warning order, Exeter, that "D-Day" is sometime in January.

* * *

And so we come to the end of our first Chapter; the first instalment of a serial story of which Part I will culminate with the acknowledgment that ours is the finest Branch in England outside the Home County. When we come to Part II, Devonshire Branches, look to your laurels!

* * *

Well done, "B'ham," we have room for all the coaches that you can bring and have marked our calendar "somewhere in January"—Exeter.

NOTES FROM THE PLYMOUTH BRANCH

There is little to report from Plymouth just now as our normal activities are confined to the Branch's Annual Meetings and Dinners, and neither of these have yet been held. The next immediate activity is the Annual General Meeting, which will be held early in October, the date of which will be advertised in the local Press.

* * *

It has been customary to hold the Branch Dinner during the Winter months, but at our last Committee Meeting the advisability of changing to a more comfortable time of the year was informally discussed and the general feeling was, that for those of our Comrades of advancing years, a date in Spring-time would be infinitely preferable. The suggestion has been made that April would be a good month for most concerned and this will be placed before the next Committee Meeting for recommendation to the Branch Annual Meeting.

* * *

During the past Summer, Comrades of the Branch have attended the dedication ceremonies of two O.C.A. Standards. One was of our Torbay Branch when, together with the 5th Battalion O.C.A., a coach party went from Plymouth to attend the Parade. We were favoured with fine weather and it was a most enjoyable experience—everything was laid on for us and the Torbay Branch are to be congratulated on their organisation. The second dedication to be attended was that of the 5th Battalion O.C.A., Standard at St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth. Here again, the Branch joined wholeheartedly with their "Terrier" Brothers in presenting to the public the spirit of Comradeship engendered by service in the Devonshire Regiment.

* * *

About 30 from the Branch attended the Annual Dinner at Exeter in July last, and I think that it is correct to state that we all had a thoroughly enjoyable time, despite the foul weather. At this point, I would like to pay tribute to Bill Baldock for all the work he put in to make both the visit to Torquay and to Exeter so successful and enjoyable.

* * *

During the last few months there have been many calls on the Benevolent Fund and the Branch Welfare Officer, Jack Hingston,

has personally investigated these cases with his usual cheerful efficiency. Every case which merited help has been passed on with his careful report, and the promptitude with which Headquarters have dealt with these cases merits the grateful thanks of the recipients and of the Branch.

* * *

In closing, I would earnestly appeal to Old Comrades to look in at Mutley Barracks on the first Friday evening in each month, when they will be warmly welcomed in the Sergeants' Mess, which is then given over to the Old Comrades of both the 5th Battalion and The Regimental Association. The beer is good and cheap and the company is warm and cheerful—so roll up.

* * *

NOTES FROM THE NORTH DEVON BRANCH

The Branch held their own local Annual Dinner at the Waverley Hotel in Barnstaple on April 19th. We were pleased to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment (who, incidentally, has honoured us with his attendance at our last two dinners), Colonel D. A. Bullock and Colonel J. N. Oliver. Another familiar face we greeted was that of "Smudger" Smith, lately Capt. Q.M. of the 6th Battalion and R.S.M. of the 9th. Unfortunately we do not seem to be able to rise above about the 40 mark at our dinners. These 40, however, are the backbone of our Branch and turn up loyally, mostly from Barnstaple, Combe Martin and Ilfracombe. To them the Committee offer their thanks, but would ask them to try and bring along just one "defaulter" each at our next Annual Dinner.

* * *

By the way, if these notes meet the eyes of R.S.M. Climo, a lot of his old friends of the 9th Battalion send him greetings and are looking forward to seeing him at our local Dinner next year. Accommodation for the night has been arranged.

* * *

As July approached we received enquiries regarding a bus for the Dinner at Exeter. We finally mustered a bus load of about 25 and quite a few made the journey under their own steam. All of the party were agreed that the trip was well worth while and the catering excellent, and thought that the cold meat and salad meal was grand and

should be continued. Those attending realised the hard work put in by the organisers to put on such a show and congratulate all concerned.

We all enjoyed the Dinner and thought it was the best we had been to.

* * *

Finally, the Officers and Committee of the Branch send best greetings to all ranks of the 1st Battalion and to those of them who have joined the O.C.A. and "signed on" for the North Devon Branch. Their names have duly been recorded on the nominal roll at Barum and will they please drop a card to the Hon. Sec. when they "come 'ome yer again"?

* * *

NOTES FROM THE TORBAY BRANCH

The activities of this Branch continue to cover a wide field, from dinner to darts; the usual spate of births, death and marriages, and even a few accidents.

* * *

The second Annual Dinner of the Branch was held on Saturday, 18th March, 1950, and was attended, among other important guests, by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (both former members of the Regiment), the Branch President, Major Ball, and the chairman of the O.C.A., Colonel Bullock; the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Creasy, Captain White and Colonel Wycisk.

The Regimental Colours decorated the room, and digestion was aided by the playing of the Regimental march. Over the top table hung the new Branch Standard, the gift of a Torquay resident. Altogether it was a very pleasant evening.

* * *

About 30 members of the Branch attended the Annual Dinner at Exeter, where the Torbay Standard was among those paraded. The dinner was voted the "best yet"—congratulations to all at the Depôt for the splendid organisation.

* * *

On Sunday, April 23rd, the new Branch Standard was dedicated by the Bishop of Exeter at a moving ceremony, which was attended by the Mayoral party and representatives of military organisations and public bodies. St. Mary Magdalene Church, Torquay, was filled, and the service was followed by a march past, when the Mayor took the Salute.

TORQUAY BRANCH



By courtesy of "The Western Morning News."

The Mayor of Torquay (Alderman F. J. March), supported by the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. W. H. White) and Colonel L. H. M. Westropp (Colonel of the Regiment), takes the salute as the newly-dedicated standard of the Devonshire Regiment, O.C.A., is marched past by the Colour Party



By courtesy of "The Western Morning News."

Miss H. Wootton of Torquay presents to Major D. Follett, Secretary, Torquay Branch, Old Comrades' Association, a standard for the Branch

Representatives from the Branch attended the ceremony at the dedication of the Plymouth Standard; the local B.L.E.S.M.A. dedication; Mayoral Sunday parade; and the "Battle of Britain" service. There are representatives from the Branch serving on local committees, including the Ex-Servicemen's Consultative Committee.

* * *

The Devons have always found their mark—and at darts they are no less successful. The Branch won the Darts League Ex-Servicemen's Trophy, and finished seventh in the League—a feat of which we are proud.

* * *

There are some personal details that should be recorded before this report is completed. Congratulations to Capt. Vinnicombe on the arrival of a son and heir (assuring the public of another 100 years' service?); sympathy and best wishes to Stan Webber who has broken a leg, and to Darcy Stapleton who incurred a serious eye injury, and to Dick Seaman who has undergone a recent operation.

* * *

We regret to report the deaths of Mr. W. Beer of St. Edmunds Road, Torquay, at whose funeral we were represented, and of Lieut. John Kemmel of Paignton, who was killed in action in Malaya. To the relatives of both, the Branch extends its sympathy.

* * *

The Annual Meeting of the Torbay Branch will be held on October 5th, and will be reported in the next issue of the Journal.

* * *

NOTES FROM THE LONDON BRANCH

In the last notes from our Branch I expressed the hope that the Regimental Journal from its first issue would meet the requirements of all Old Comrades in maintaining those happy memories engendered by the Old Comrades' *News Sheet*. I need say no more than report the fact that, at a recent Committee meeting of the London Branch, every member was agreed that the Regimental Journal is an excellent publication and the Editor and his staff have done a marvellous job of work. We hope it will long continue its excellent publication and layout, and also hope that our friends on the editorial staff will see to it that the Old Comrades' Association does not lose its individuality in the Journal. (We will do our

best.—Ed.). It is of course appreciated that this depends on us Branch correspondents, and it is up to us to see that the material goes to the Editor in good time to give him a chance to get things ready for the printers.

* * *

Before coming to the activities of the Branch, since the last notes were published, I feel it would be remiss of me not to mention the excellent (as usual) arrangements for the Annual Reunion at Exeter. Quite a crowd of London Old Comrades found their devious ways to the Dépôt, including one of our Chelsea Pensioners, Trooper Bowden. The dinner itself left nothing to be desired, but I always feel that there is something more to it than the dinner—that comradeship, that friendly banter and bonhomie which exists in the Devons is surely something which has no rival in the whole of the country, and I would almost say the world. Colonel Creasy, George White and his staff need have no fears that they have left anything undone—they never do—and we in London certainly appreciate all their efforts in every way (little and big) which go to make this dinner and reunion what must be a showpiece of Old Comrades' Associations. From London we say "thank you, O.C.A. staff for everything from the bottom of our hearts!"

* * *

In the course of my duties on the Branch Committee it sometimes falls to my lot to get letters from a varied number of people, but one I feel I must refer to in these notes is one I received recently—quite unsolicited—from the Rt. Hon. Baron Birdwood of Anzac and of Totnes, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.A., LL.D. The Baron writes from Hampton Court Palace: "I have been laid up with heart attacks, so please excuse this pencil scrawl from bed. It is always a joy to me to hear of the doings of my Old Devon Comrades, and all must be grateful for what is being done by their Old Comrades' Association. I will not say more as my sight is now very bad and I can hardly see when I write, and can only say that I hope that the Devonshire Regiment may long continue to uphold the tradition of the English County Regiments it has so proudly done for so many years. Please give my best wishes to all who may remember me."

* * *

This letter was in reference to a notice about the O.C.A. dinner which appeared in the London papers, and came as a tonic for me personally, and I know it will be with regret that many who knew Field Marshal Birdwood when they hear of his infirmity, but will wish him all the best.

* * *

Incidentally, it may interest members to know that Tank Nicholls (ex-Band Serjeant of the 2nd Battalion whilst in Malta) may be found on duty at Hampton Court Palace and I am sure will be pleased to see any Old Comrade around that way.

* * *

Since our annual general meeting we have held two dances and socials at "The Feathers Hotel," Broadway, London, S.W.1 (opposite St. James's Park Tube Station), and both have been eminently successful socially, even though the second one was not a financial success. We feel these dances are a grand chance to get the ladies together with us and it is certainly very nice to see some of the old 'uns tripping the light fantastic.

* * *

May I remind all members living in the London area that we hold a meeting at 7.0 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at "The Feathers Hotel," and ALL are welcome to come along; in fact, we would like to see the room crowded to capacity.

* * *

Another supper dance and social is being held after the Annual Dinner at "The Feathers Hotel" on Saturday, 28th October, so if this is published in time and any of you are in the district, come along, you will find us all there and having a reet gude time wi Mixed Vruit Stuff, white stuff and Jelly, Chocolate Caake and Cawfee. (We hope it went well.—Ed.)

* * *

Our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Atkinson, of 259, Hounslow Road, Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex, is anxious to get into touch with ex-R.Q.M.S. F. E. Snell (2nd Battalion), who I believe is down Tiverton way. What about it, Mickie, or will we have to send you a stiff letter on a piece of cardboard?

* * *

Annual Dinner

THE London dinner was held this year at the "Three Nuns Hotel," Aldgate,

London, when some 50 members of the London Branch gathered, and although the numbers were small, compared with the Branch membership, the party was one of the most convivial that the Branch has had for some years. The dinner was excellent and the old friendships which were renewed were too numerous to mention, and it was obvious that everyone was very happy to be present.

Captain A. A. E. Morgan, Chairman of the London Branch, announced with extreme regret the fact that the Colonel of the Regiment was unable to be with us owing to indisposition and expressed the fervent wish of us all when he hoped that "Monty" would soon be fit and well again. Amongst those present were Colonel H. Street, D.S.O., Captain G. F. Pitt-Lewis (Vice-President of the London Branch), Brigadier C. Greenslade, C.B.E., Major G. W. White, M.B.E., M.M. (Assistant Secretary of the O.C.A., Exeter), Major K. W. Wilkins, Major T. C. Keegan, Captain P. J. G. Anderson and Lieut. C. W. Howe (Secretary-Manager of the British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond).

After the loyal toast had been received with musical honours, Captain A. A. E. Morgan, in proposing the toast of the "Regiment," expressed his regret that Colonel L. H. M. Westropp was not present, but expressed the pleasure of all present at seeing Colonel Street in our midst. He also reminded the company that the first Tuesday of the month was a meeting night for the London Branch at The Feathers Hotel, St. James's Park, opposite St. James's Park Tube Station, and all members were very welcome, in fact, we would be very happy to see any old Devon who was in the region of The Feathers on any first Tuesday of the month. He expressed his sincere appreciation of the work put in by the officers of the Branch, particularly Mr. A. W. O'Neill, the hard working Hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur Doddrell, our energetic and ever youthful Vice-Chairman and Mr. W. J. Atkinson, our Hon. Treasurer. He also expressed his thanks to the Committee who turned up so faithfully at every meeting and did much to foster the esprit de corps in the London Branch.

He felt it hardly right that the dinner should pass without referring to our sad loss in the demise of Major Stafford Northcote. Major Northcote was Chairman of the Lon-

don Branch for about 18 years and during the last war he carried through the Committee meetings without fail, coming up from Reading with never ceasing regularity to be present. If ever there was a man who had the Regiment at heart it was Major Northcote, and it is with regret that we hold our Committee meetings and miss his cheerful countenance and wise counsel. Captain Morgan also announced that the London Branch were holding a Dance at The Feathers on the 28th October, and it was hoped that all present would attend and bring along their friends.

Referring to the new Regimental Journal, which keeps us in touch with all that is going on in the Regiment, Captain Morgan said it was a grand publication and we in London looked forward to its issue with pleasure and anticipation.

There were several members of the London Branch who would have been with us, but they had been recalled to service with the Gloucester Regiment and were now on their way to Korea; they were Pte. R. G. (Bob) Turner, Tich Allen (Col. Valentine's Jeep driver in Sicily), Cpl. Legge, Cpl. Gizzie, Pte. (Dingle) Bell, Pte. Andrews, Alan Cawsey, Cpl. Flack and Cpl. C. Bailey, and we wished them Godspeed and an early return to the country of their birth.

Colonel H. Street, in replying to the toast of the Regiment, thanked all present for his reception and said he hoped long to be with us, and told us he had recently seen the Divisional Commander who had the 1st Battalion under him in Malaya, and he told Colonel Street, that although it was the usual thing to say, he himself was proud to say that the 1st Battalion The Devonshire Regiment, was a Regiment he was proud to have under his command, he had never had a better one, and he really meant that.

Saying he was going to "Stand Up, Speak Up and Shut Up," Major George White, M.B.E., M.M., our Assistant Secretary from Exeter, told us there was very little news of the 1st Battalion at the moment, but they were practically on their way home. Colonel Pine-Coffin will be bringing home the Regular element of the Battalion, but a lot of the chaps had been transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment, but we should see the old faces we knew of the 1st Battalion back in England, and it was understood that they would be formed into a training Battalion for National Servicemen.

Coming to O.C.A. matters George White said he himself was very satisfied to see such a live gathering. London is certainly a big place, he said, and he urged on all present to try and bring one other Devon along to functions and so build up the dinner so that next year figures would be doubled. He further reminded those present that the dinner at Exeter next year was on the 28th July, and to see over 700 Devon swedes under one tent was a sight well worth travelling even down from London to see. He told the members present that something like fourteen hundred pounds were dispensed each year to necessitous cases and it only needed a letter to him at Exeter in a really sad case to bring immediate help. He knew the London Branch was carrying out its propaganda for the Devon Regiment, he himself was on the Victory Parade in London and all one could hear was "Up the good old Devons" and "Good old Bloody Eleventh." So much was said of the Devons that the commanders of the detachments in front and behind George White said to him, "Isn't there any other Regiment except the Devons in this parade." I leave you to imagine George's reply.

Among those present at the dinner were :
 Captain P. J. G. Anderson (Edgware, Middlesex)
 Captain G. F. Pitt-Lewis (London, W.11)
 Brigadier C. Greenslade (London, S.W.7)
 Mr. F. J. Canning (Walworth, London)
 Mr. F. W. Metson (Chigwell, Essex)
 Mr. H. Roper (Dagenham, Essex)
 Mr. J. Stear (Twickenham, Middlesex)
 Mr. H. F. Simmonds (Plumstead, S.E.18)
 Mr. F. Eaglestone (Chelmsford)
 Mr. P. J. Richards (Buckhurst Hill, Essex)
 Mr. A. Lomax (Barking, Essex)
 Mr. D. J. Whitfield (London, S.E.23)
 Mr. P. Lee (Wembley, Middlesex)
 Mr. W. Golding (Streatham, London)
 Mr. W. J. Atkinson (Hanworth, Feltham, Middle-
 Mr. A. W. O'Neill (Bedford Park, London) [sex].
 Mr. C. F. Crump (London, S.E.1)
 Mr. W. G. Breach (London, S.W.17)
 Mr. J. Sims (West Hampstead, London)
 Mr. F. G. Price (Marlow, Bucks.)
 Mr. C. H. Cotton, M.M. (West Norwood)
 Mr. W. W. G. Gear (Battersea, London)
 Mr. O. G. Hancock (Wembley, Middlesex)
 Mr. Arthur Doddrell
 Mr. L. Pierce (Twickenham)
 Major K. W. Wilkins (Bedford)
 Mr. B. Vass (Enfield, Middlesex)
 Mr. A. F. Prior (Islington, London)
 Mr. H. J. Mason (Stepney, London)
 Mr. W. Starkey (Southall, Middlesex)
 Mr. T. Clowey (Streatham, Middlesex)
 Mr. J. H. Wright (Wembley)
 Lieut. C. W. Howe (Richmond, Surrey)
 Mr. E. F. Gould (Wandsworth)
 Major T. C. Keegan (Kennington, London)

An honoured visitor to the dinner was Trooper Bowden, our Chelsea Pensioner, who seemed thoroughly at home and was, as always, cheerful and in good spirits.

An innovation was the fact that the wreath to be laid on the Cenotaph was exhibited at the dinner and it was a beautiful piece of workmanship.

The Annual Service

On Sunday morning a goodly gathering of Old Comrades, led by Brigadier Greenslade and Captain G. F. Pitt-Lewis, assembled at St. Peter's-upon-Cornhill for our annual service. An impressive service opened with the Devon hymn and the lesson was read by Captain A. A. E. Morgan, Chairman of the London Branch. The Vicar of the Church, who kindly allows us to hold our service in St. Peter's, owing to the fact that our Devon church was blitzed during the last war, reminded us in his excellent sermon that the attributes of Devon were the attributes which were needed in Britain to-day—Patience, Discipline and Decision. After the service a column formed up in the Home Office Yard off Whitehall and marched to the Cenotaph, headed by Brigadier C. Greenslade, C.B.E., Captain A. A. E. Morgan and Captain G. F. Pitt-Lewis, and laid a Regimental Badge Wreath at the base of the Cenotaph, witnessed by a large and silent crowd of onlookers. And so ended a weekend which gave us cheer and which will long be remembered by members of the London Branch.

ANNUAL REUNION 1950

Well, Comrades: To those who came this year, thanks a lot, and hope to see you all again next year. YES, the date is fixed, i.e., Saturday, 28th July, 1951, that is the day ending the Devon Regiment cricket week.

To those who unfortunately couldn't make it, I can only say you missed a "treat," and for their benefit, below I have reproduced the report published in the "Exeter Express and Echo" on the Monday following the dinner. I do feel myself that it was our best effort so far; of course, there is always room for improvement, but leave it to our good hard-working committee, who do their best to thrash out all the wrongs and rights at the after-dinner inquest meeting.

Again we had a turnover of about 140 new faces, it's grand to see them. It is an honest fact, you really cannot forecast who will turn up. After all, I'm sure the Missus loves to get rid of you for one night in the year.

On behalf of the Committee I must say "thank you" to those unseen, unheard of hard-working Branch Hon. Secs., who organised the bus trip, and what a job it is to get the lads away from that tent for the homeward journey.

My last request to all readers is to make a very special effort next year to bring along just one more old pal of the Regiment; start writing now and organise your own little party. We can still increase the width of the tent a little.

So with the Committee's very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Regiment pilgrimage on

SATURDAY, 28th JULY, 1951.

G.M.W.

OVER SEVEN HUNDRED

*With acknowledgements to the
"Express and Echo"*

SEVEN Hundred and Twenty-three veterans of the Devonshire Regiment were under canvas again at Exeter on Saturday night. They met in a mammoth marquee on the officers' mess lawn at the Higher Barracks for what is believed to be the largest regimental reunion dinner ever to have taken place.

Picture a flag-bedecked marquee stretching across the lawn for about 100 yards, with "ante-rooms" for kitchens, bar and band running off at right angles, and you have some idea of the magnitude of the organisation undertaken by the Regimental Old Comrades' Association.

For more than an hour men who served in the regiment in various parts of the world during the last half century or more, were gathering under the great canvas roof.

HAPPY RETURNS

They swapped experiences over a glass of beer against a background of music by the band of the 4th Battalion under Mr. J. F. Wilson, or listened to announcements over the loudspeaker system.

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you
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 Ask for **White-Cottell's**
Worcester Sauce


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 ★ *Coal Tar Soap*

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 of Supply Contracts and will be glad
 to help with any problems.

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 loose hair on your comb—
 these are danger signals
 that point the need for
 Brylcreem's double benefit;
 (1) Day-long smartness.
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 stimulates the scalp, en-
 courages natural hair
 growth, checks Dandruff.
 Its pure emulsified oils give
 life and lustre to Dry Hair.
 Brylcreem *your* hair—most
 men do!

... use
BRYLCREEM
 most men do

Ask for the Best



JACOB'S
Original and Best
CREAM CRACKERS

and JACOB'S Water Biscuits with the nutty flavour people like
 Recommended for use in Messes and Canteens

Behind the main table at the far end of the tent was a magnificent display of regimental silver, silver drums and trophies, mingled with flags, and surmounted by a large illuminated regimental badge.

An honoured visitor was Mr. Albert Duffey, of Australia, who came to Britain largely because of the re-union. Overjoyed he exclaimed, "It is my 61st birthday today and what more happy return could I have?"

Another honoured visitor was Major H. R. Carpenter, the Mayor of Tiverton, and still another, Corporal George Bowden, aged 70, a Chelsea pensioner, who made the journey from London specially to attend the re-union for the third time in succession.

OLDEST OLD COMRADE

Others in the large gathering of veterans young and old were the oldest Old Comrade, Mr. G. Brimicombe, aged 83, of Poltimore; Mr. A. Cheshire, of Edgware, Middlesex, who as a boy joining the regiment 50 years ago, stood on the same piece of ground to hoist the flag after the siege of Ladysmith; and Mr. H. Whitby, of London, who lost four stone in weight during the siege.

Before the dinner began there was a ceremonial parade of the banners of the Exeter, Plymouth (Prince of Wales's), and Torbay branches of the O.C.A.

Proposing the toast of the Devonshire Regiment, the O.C.A. Chairman, Colonel D. A. Bullock, said they gathered that night to meet old pals, but had it not been for the Devonshire Regiment those close friendships would not have been made, and if earlier Devons had not formed the O.C.A. in 1911 there would have been no opportunities for comrades to meet. They all owed many of their experiences, pleasures and friendships to the regiment.

BOER WAR GRAVES

Responding, the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, said they sympathised with the 5th Battalion in being absorbed into the 4th. They hoped the 1st Battalion, now overseas, would be home in time for the next reunion.

Colonel Westropp thought the history of the Regiment, which was now available at 10s. 6d., would be of extreme value in helping members of the O.C.A. to pass on the Regiment's grand traditions.

In the toast to "Absent Friends," Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Creasy, hon. secretary of the O.C.A., made an impassioned appeal to all ex-Devons to press their Members of Parliament for some action to improve the condition of the Boer War graves, which, he said, had fallen in most places into a sad state of neglect.

Several Devon M.P.s had already raised the matter, continued Colonel Creasy, but the War Office replied that they had no direct responsibility for the graves, though they had communicated with the Commonwealth Relations Office, who had taken up the matter.

"All I can say is that the War Office has a shorter memory than the public," he added.

LADYSMITH JUBILEE

"I want to ask you all to help bring this disgraceful state of affairs to the notice of the Government, so that the graves of our Comrades shall be better looked after. Colonel D. H. Amory has promised to ask the Minister for War about it, and will let me know the reply, but I don't expect it will be very revealing."

Noting that this year was the 50th anniversary of the relief of Ladysmith, Colonel Creasy said the Mayor and Corporation of that city had invited all Old Comrades of the Devonshire Regiment to attend a banquet there, and to become freemen of the city for a week. As nobody could accept it, he wrote back a letter of appreciation.

THE DRAW (RAFFLE)

TO defray the cost of hiring the necessary tentage, a sub-committee again organized a Draw, and sent to the various Messes and Members of the O.C.A. books of tickets for sale. These tickets were also on sale at the Tent entrance on the evening of the Re-union Dinner for those who were unable to purchase tickets previously. The result was most gratifying and helped to make our Annual Re-union a financial success.

The 23 prizes for the Draw were all presented by general supporters, Friends, Tradesmen, Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. We thank them all for their generosity and for the splendid gift prizes which were displayed, one of which all ticket holders hoped to possess.

The following were prize winners :

Miss J. B. Beer	Exeter	Biro Pen	Ticket No.	315
Mr. A. Doddrell	London	Bottle of Whisky	" "	3614
Mr. R. H. Dart	Exminster	Bottle of Port	" "	3498
Mr. F. M. Fidock	Exeter	Bottle of Gin	" "	1409
Sgt. A. Foster	Ilfracombe	Bottle of Port	" "	3653
Mr. W. F. French	Axminster	Bottle of White Wine	" "	66
Captain F. Garrod	Twickenham	Bottle of Gin	" "	1522
Mr. R. Godfrey	Exeter	Pint Tankard	" "	3760
Mr. G. Hogden	Exeter	Bottle of Red Wine	" "	3754
Mr. C. W. Hardland	Birmingham	Fountain Pen	" "	5457
Mrs. S. K. Jennings	Bradworthy	Box Toilet Requisites	" "	1034
C.S.M. J. Martin	Exeter	Bottle of Port	" "	2320
Mr. A. Maer	Axminster	Pint Tankard	" "	61
Mr. F. Morrish	Exmouth	Bottle of Sherry	" "	1216
Mr. C. S. Nicholls	Torquay	Pair of Nylons	" "	2401
Colonel J. Olliver, C.B.E., T.D.	Barnstaple	Sixty Player's Cigarettes	" "	6239
Mr. T. Pencavil	Yeovil	Bottle of Sherry	" "	5843
Major C. C. R. Palmer	Plymouth	Bottle of Gin	" "	2768
Mr. N. Robinson	Ellesmere	Bottle of Whisky	" "	4150
Mr. P. Roper	Exeter	Bottle of Port	" "	305
Captain W. Sowden	Exeter	Bottle of Gin	" "	2858
Mr. C. M. Tozer	Whipton	Butter Dish	" "	5577
Mr. E. Vincent	Exeter	Bottle of Sherry	" "	2866

The Sweepstake Drums, painted in Regimental Colours, were used for the Draw. One Drum for the counterfoils of tickets sold and one for prize tickets. Having rotated the drums, Mr. A. Duffy (Australia) drew the prize tickets and Mr. F. H. Collins (Paddy) the sold ticket counterfoils.

Lieut.-Colonel P. F. Cooke was awarded the prize as seller of most tickets (Runner-up in 1949). A really good effort.

We thank all members who supported us by selling or purchasing tickets.

The sub-committee appeal to all members who returned unsold books of tickets this year to make a real effort in 1951 to sell some tickets. The cost of a Dinner Ticket, plus 1/- for a Draw Ticket, is not excessive for the privilege of Dinner and a Social Evening with your Old Pals on the "HOLY CARPET."

It is to be remembered that the object of the Draw is to help the Dinner Fund and so enable the expensive project of an Annual Re-Union Dinner to be continued.

Many thanks to the sub-committee who, by their efforts and much hard work, enabled this year's Draw to be a great success.

TO ALL OLD COMRADES

We have to thank you all for your invaluable assistance in making the Draw a success, which, as you all know, is the means of paying for the tent. It is felt that we go from success to success each year, but this is only possible with all your co-operation.

Do make this re-union your annual pilgrimage.

R. H. CREASEY, *Hon. Sec.*,
Old Comrades' Association.

"LIVED AND LONGED FOR THIS"

FROM AUSTRALIA TO RE-UNION

There were tears of joy in the eyes of 54-year-old Mr. Albert Duffey when he stepped out of a long-distance bus at Exeter's Paul-street bus station.

The big moment for which Mr. Duffey had journeyed all the way from Australia had arrived.

Waiting to meet him to take him to Higher Barracks, where he was to attend the annual reunion of the Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association, were three uniformed N.C.O.s of the regiment and multi-dressed Captain G. White.

LAST TIME 1914

The last time Mr. Duffey was in Exeter was just before Christmas, 1914, when as a young recruit to the Regiment he suffered the disappointment of being embarked for France instead of getting an expected Christmas leave to his home at Caerphilly.

Twice he was wounded in France; many times he made friendships with Devonshire men, and many times those friendships were broken by death; although their memory is always fresh in Mr. Duffey's mind.

After the war he went back to his work as an engineman in the Welsh coal pits, but in 1923, with his wife and children, he went out to New South Wales, Australia, under an ex-service men's emigration scheme.

SOMME MEMORY

During his 30 years in Australia, for 21

of which he worked on the railway, one particular memory has been uppermost in his mind. Because of it he hoped to do something during his three-day visit to Exeter which he omitted to do 30 years or more ago.

The memory is that of Lieut. Charles Rodd, a Princetown man, to whom he acted as batman. Lieut. Rodd was killed in action at the age of 19 on the Somme while helping some of his wounded men. Mr. Duffey was wounded and taken to the King George Hospital in London in August, 1917. While there he had a request from Lieut. Rodd's relatives that he should call and see them, but partially crippled by his injuries and prevented by force of other circumstances he was unable to make the journey.

Thus, 33 years afterwards, he intended taking advantage of his visit to Devon to see if he could trace any of Lieut. Rodd's relatives.

Whether or not his mission in Devon was successful Mr. Duffey hoped further to honour the memory of fallen comrades of the first world war by riding across the battle fields of those grim campaigns on a roadster model pedal-cycle which he has acquired. Memorials he hopes to see in three different French towns carry the names of Lieut.-Colonel Anderson-Moreshead, D.S.O., his one-time commanding officer; Lieut. Rodd; and a pal with whom Mr. Duffey joined the Devons, Pte. Charles Gayford.

Waiting to meet the Australian "Devon" with Captain White were R.S.M. H. Gale, Sgt. J. Davey and Sgt. L. Crowley.

And what more pleasing greeting could they get from their guest than his words, "I have lived and longed for this for 30 years."

(With acknowledgements to the "Express and Echo.")

NAMES OF THOSE PRESENT

HERE is a list of those who attended the Exeter Dinner and we hope no names are left out, but, if one is, please accept our apologies for so permissible an error—

T. Atkins	Exeter
A. Andrews	London
A. Allstaff	Torquay
C. Arnold	Axminster
G. Avant	Ilfracombe
W. Ash	Honiton-Clyst
R. Bean	Croydon
J. Brown	Chard
M. Bramley	Exeter
W. Bally	Bath
G. Back	Torquay
H. Blank	Newton Abbot

D. Bishop	Torquay
B. Bradford	Exeter
W. Baldock	Plymouth
W. Batten	Seaton
F. Blank	Newton Abbot
Major Brock	Thoverton
Col. D. A. Bullock, O.B.E.	Instow, North Devon
C. Brathy	Teignmouth
E. Bedford	Exeter
Sgt. Bennett	Regtl. Depot
G. Bartlett	Exeter
C. Bennellick	Exeter
H. Bedwell	Exmouth
F. Bretton	Plymouth
Lieut.-Col. R. G. Coates	Lincoln
F. Canning	Bristol
A. Channing	Newton Abbot
J. Coles	Budleigh Salterton
J. Creek	Torquay
W. Cavill	Exeter
H. Cleverly	Exeter
F. Channing	Kingskerswell
Sgt. Chamberlain	Exeter
J. Constable	Plymouth
T. Cann	Bradworthy, North Devon
E. Coldridge	Exeter
F. Collins	Exeter
L. Channon	Honiton
Pte. Coram	Exeter
C. Davey	Barnstaple
L. Daniels	Lyme Regis
Col. P. D'Oyly, O.B.E.	Exeter
A. Doddrell	London
Lt.-Col. A. G. Davidson	Exeter
Major G. Davey, T.D.	Plymouth
K. Daniels	Axminster
M. Dobson	Plymouth
G. Davey	Woodbury
P. Drew	Topsham
C.S.M. Evans	Bulford Camp
H. Ellis	Barnstaple
C.S.M. H. French	Bulford Camp
A. Fogg	Ongar, Essex
C. Fewings-Kelly	Taunton
A. Ford	Exeter
L. Flynn	Tiverton
D. Ford	Teignmouth
Lt.-Col. A. W. Anstey, T.D.	Exeter
W. Arnold	Birmingham
W. Atkinson	London
J. Aggett	Exeter
T. Alford	Exeter
C. Brimicombe	Exeter
Captain M. F. Bullock	Exeter
A. Bradfor	Exeter
C. Bunt	Plymouth
C. Batten	Exeter
S. Blake	Exeter
F. Bird	Exeter
P. Broadhead	Ivybridge
F. Bace	Teignmouth
W. Brown	Ilfracombe
F. Briscoe	Exeter
H. Biddiscombe	Exeter
A. Burwood	Exeter
A. Bearne	Exeter
Major U. B. Burke, M.C.	Bordon
T. Brown	Exeter
C. Bach	Sheffield
W. Bangs	Teignmouth
A. Bennett	Exeter
F. Parker	Braunton
A. Cheshire	London
E. Cloke	Torquay
G. Chapman	Falmouth
R. Costigan	Tiverton
R. Cope	Bath
G. Curry	Exeter
J. Cruse	Barnstaple
A. Chapple	Barnstaple
E. Cooksley	Plymouth
J. Cheal	Plymouth
B. Clapp	Exeter
J. Chilcott	Chagford
H. Cummings	Exeter
S. Churchill	Teignmouth
Captain J. Carroll	Exeter
A. Duffy (Australia)	Glamorgan
T. Downey	Exeter
F. Dodge	Liskeard
S./Sgt. Dunstone	Taunton
A. Dodd	Exeter

O.C.A.—1950



A corner of the mammoth tent on the Lawn at the Depôt in which over seven hundred Old Comrades met at the Re-union



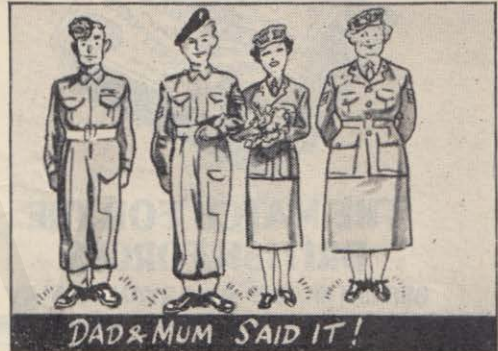
All the way from Down Under—to attend the Annual Re-union Dinner of the Regiment
 Mr. A. Duffey from Australia being welcomed by Major G. White, M.B.E., M.M., R.S.M.
 Gale, Sgts. Davey and Crowley *Photos. by courtesy of E. & E.*

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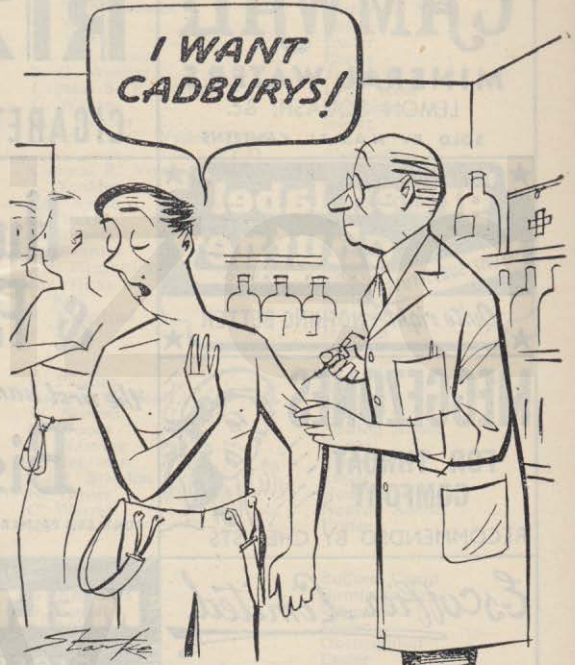
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T.A. CENTRE, BARNSTAPLE

THE 628th Heavy Regiment, R.A. (Devon)
T.A. (the old 6th Battalion, The Devon-

shire Regiment), having been disbanded, have now become part of the 4th Battalion The Devonshire Regiment (T.A.) and have thus reverted back to Infantry, although a greater number of the personnel elected to remain with "The Gunners" and transferred to 296th Field Regiment, R.A. (R.D.Y.) T.A.

The Drill Hall, Barnstaple, has taken to its pre-war rôle of housing both Royal Devon Yeomanry and Infantry. Unfortunately, the old familiar sight of the green turf with the flag pole and gun trophies has now gone, being replaced by a number of huts and hard ground.

Several members of the Regiment have recently been on a training attachment to B.A.O.R. Major H. G. H. Warwick, T.D., R.Q.M.S., F. R. Lane and B.S.M. Buckingham, P., were attached to 15th Medium Regiment R.A., and B.S.M. Fry, W.H., was attached to the Durham Light Infantry.

Unfortunately we have now lost the services of many of our old Officers, including Lieut.-Colonel J. N. Oliver, C.B.E., T.D., Major E. G. Thorne, T.D., Major J. B. Cruse, T.D., Major H. G. H. Warwick, T.D., and also Major D. S. Valentine, T.D., who have recently transferred to T.A.R.O.

* * *

Many members of the old 6th Battalion Devon Regiment Band are now playing together with the Barnstaple British Legion Band, their conductor being Mr. J. Thorne, son of a former Bandmaster, of the 6th Battalion.

* * *

Also installed at the Drill Hall, Barnstaple, is the Headquarters of the 7th Battalion (North Devon) Army Cadet Force.

PAID TO BE HIS OWN POSTMAN

Dave Snedy, sheep farmer, of Creonaich, Sutherland, on the banks of Loch Shin, is the only man in Scotland to be paid by the Post Office to collect his own letters. The official postal round ends on the opposite bank to Dave's farm, so he is paid 15s. a week to collect his own mail twice weekly either by a mile row across the water or a seven-miles drive round the head of the loch. He is paid overtime when winter makes the mail late and he is kept waiting.

R.E.M.E. WITH THE DEVONS

by

Sgt. Chandler, R.E.M.E.

I LANDED in Singapore on the 24th December, 1948, and having been married for only eight months you can imagine that I was none too happy. However, much to my surprise and delight, I was posted to Kluang in the Federation to join the Devonshire Regiment on New Year's Eve. It was typical of the army that I, as a Devon man born and bred, had to serve in the North of England with three different Units, only to come 8,000 miles to join the Regiment of my County.

Entering the Sgts.' Mess on that New Year's Eve the first thing that struck me was the accent, it was like "home from home" (or almost). It may have been "Pop's" greeting of "Wur be frum?" or one of the many speaking the good old Devonshire accent, but it served to make me feel right at home immediately.

From Kluang we moved to Temerloh further North, where, in spite of hard work, we had so many good times.

I visited "A" Company at Kuala Krau officially for an arms inspection, but found the hospitality and shooting facilities so good that I remained there for three weeks and would have been there longer if there hadn't been a telephone connecting us with the Q.M.'s office.

At "C" Company in Mentakab the story was the same, except that they were not situated like a Butlin's Holiday Camp. "D" Company also had recreational possibilities in the form of assault craft on the large Pahang River. There again they made one feel that it would be nice to stay longer.

Last, but not least, H.Q. Company, of which I can't say very much as it was my Company, except that the long months passed quickly with evening darts and crib matches and Saturday night sing-songs. The R.S.M.'s "Doctor Bodie," the R.Q.'s "Ginger was a lazy Coon," Pop's "Goosey Vaire" and many others, all made memories that will never fade.

I had hoped to be going home with the Battalion, but War Office has decreed otherwise and I'm going to be a "Base Wallah" in Singapore for the last 12 months.

After this latest stretch in the Bentong area we will all be glad to get away from it.

But the battalion has not seen the last of me for I hope to see them in '51 at Exeter (or wherever they may be) to renew old friendships and to prove to some of the old soldiers that monkey-shooting is not fatal. I may even be able to do some other Armourer out of a job and rejoin the Battalion.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the R.S.M. and members of the Sergeants' Mess for making an unpleasant country so much more bearable.

"C" COMPANY'S SAKAI VILLAGE

by

Major R. H. Wheatly, D.S.O.

THE Sakai, who are the aborigines of Malaya, have often been used by us and other units as porters and trackers on operations. However, as they live deep in the Jungle or are employed on only a few rubber estates it took some time to get hold of them, and the fact that we wanted them gave away that a longer and more arduous operation than usual was in the offing.

When we got back to Pahang from Singapore and found ourselves in Kuala Pahang we found that we had to operate in the most precipitous country with mountains up to nearly 5,000 feet. This meant that the wretched signaller carrying a 68 set, as well as his kit and rations, was usually so exhausted at the end of a day's patrol that he was hardly fit to give of his best as a signaller. We therefore needed porters regularly and we needed them instantly ready to go out on operations with every patrol to carry the wireless set. As a start we persuaded two or three Sakai families to come and live at Kuala Pahang, the men to be permanently with us as porters. They were allotted an area about 200 yds. from the Company lines, where there was an old garden and the remains of an old hut. They were very pleased with this and soon put the old hut in order and had new ones under construction. This was a good site as it was far enough away to be separated from our camp, yet sufficiently close to be reasonably safe from bandit interference. It was also near the river and down stream, which was probably just as well.



MONUMENT to the 50th (NORTHUMBRIAN) DIVISION
 (See Letters to the Editor)

"C" COMPANY'S SAKAI VILLAGE



1



2



3



4

(1) A Sakai hut
(3) "Under Arms"

(2) Pte. Andrews
(4) A family

We were fortunate in getting an older and respected Sakai with this first "intake." Although he was not much disposed to portering, he has been worth his weight in gold as the recruiting officer and village headman. The word soon got round that this was the Sakai equivalent of "A Good Egg," and recruits poured in; in fact, the time soon came when we had to refuse them.

The village now consists of 11 men and 15 women, to say nothing of countless children. The Sakai are delightful little people, warm hearted and full of fun and enthusiasm; they have the straightforwardness, shyness and simplicity of all who live close to nature. There have never been any quarrels or jealousies and it is a most trouble free and easily administered community.

The Sakai normally live by hunting and fishing. They cannot hunt whilst with us, but they spend much of their spare time fishing in the river with line and spear. They catch a surprising amount of fish with the most primitive tackle, and a fair number of turtles, which they spear. Most of their cooking is either by grilling over an open fire (turtlemeat is delicious when cooked in this way) or by baking in bamboo. Their basic diet is tapico, grated and baked in bamboo, and occasionally they eat rice as a luxury. Some of the meat and fish is eaten hot after grilling, but it is all cooked soon after catching and what is not eaten is stored by wedging into split bamboo; it is then hung up for future consumption.

Our village possesses one Blow pipe, the property of the Headman. It is a beautifully made instrument, about eight feet long and extraordinarily light. It is made of three separate parts: the outer casing of cane about 2in. in diameter, which is in one piece and hollowed out to a thickness of about $\frac{1}{4}$ in.; the muzzle half of the barrel and the mouthpiece half of the barrel. The barrel is also of hollowed cane of about 1-in. diameter and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. bore. The bore shines like a shotgun. The two halves of the barrel fit together tightly and the barrel fits the outer casing tightly only at the mouthpiece, the centre and the muzzle. Thus the outer casing supports the barrel, keeping it straight and rigid. The mouthpiece is a cone of hard wood tapering from a 2in. diameter base to the barrel to which it is fixed. The darts, which are carried in a cane quiver holding about fifty, consist of an 8in. strip of bamboo with a pointed and hardened tip,

whilst the other end is fixed into the apex of a hardwood cane. The cane fits the bore and acts both as a driving band and a feather in flight. The tip is poisoned. When firing, pith is also put in with the cone of the dart to make a completely airtight seal. The 2in. cone of the mouthpiece is put right inside the mouth and both hands support the blowpipe for aiming just in front of the mouthpiece. At 30 yards range the Headman, who said he was out of practice, could hit a 6in. square and at that range the dart drove $\frac{1}{2}$ in. into a hardwood board. A silent and deadly weapon.

The Sakai's normal dress (a "G" string and not much else) is as simple as their life, but our village has now become very dressy. The women wear bright sarongs and jackets and after every air drop there is a new crop of red and yellow jackets, sarongs, scarves and what-not. One even blossomed out in a hideous pair of plastic white high-heeled shoes, which she obviously found most uncomfortable but good for her age. These effects of civilization are regrettable; Sakai have not the stature suited to clothes, but their firm, lithe, brown bodies are beautiful in nakedness. They have come to love the visits of the Army cinema to which they bring their children of all sizes, and for all their dressing up the mothers sit happily and unconcernedly suckling their babies throughout the performance. The men have become equally keen on dressing up and, apart from the elegant "civvies" they have acquired themselves, we have fitted them up with jungle green and boots for use on operations. They are very proud of their uniform, it gives them a feeling of soldierly esprit de corps.

Since the outset, Pte. Andrews, who had taught himself to speak Malay, has been i/c Sakai. He rules them through the Headman with a fatherly hand, sees that the village is kept reasonably clean and tidy, runs the duty roster and looks after their welfare. He is to be congratulated on the success he has made of this job. The Sakai have benefited a good deal from the Medical care they have enjoyed at the hands of Sgt. ("Pop") Hingston. Some of them have arrived in a lamentable condition, chiefly due to malnutrition. One child was far gone with berry berry and undoubtedly owes its life to Sgt. Hingston.

A number have come to our village either because we have brought them in from the

Jungle in a state of starvation, terrified of bandits or who have come in on their own. These are not on our Pay role, but the P.W.D. have now asked if they can employ them. Some were originally employed by the P.W.D., but were driven into the Jungle by the bandits. So they now live in our village in safety and work for the P.W.D., who are very short of labour in these parts.

Generally this has been a most successful experiment. From a military standpoint we have our porters to hand and amongst them we have found some excellent trackers, who also have the merit of knowing our jungle intimately. From a civil standpoint our village is a help to the P.W.D., who have much important work to be done in this area from the security point of view. From a humanitarian standpoint we have succoured a number of these charming people who have suffered badly from the emergency, being maltreated by the bandits, and, it is sad to say, largely ignored by us; they have no Trade Union or political influence, so no one bothers with them.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

THE OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

The attention of Retired Officers of the Regiment, of Officers' widows and wives of Serving Officers, is drawn to the advantages of joining the above Society.

The Society already has a membership of over 3,000 Retired Regular Officers of the three Services, of all ranks, and many Officers' widows.

Its object is to safeguard existing pension rights and to prod the Government until they realise that the existing rates bear no relationship to the present cost of living and cry out to the heavens for an increase.

The subscription, at the moment, is only £1 a year for Retired Officers and wives of Serving Officers, and 10/s. a year for widows.

It is hoped to halve these subscriptions in the course of the next few months.

Full particulars from Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Tobin (10th Gurkha Rifles, retired), General Secretary, c/o Gale & Polden, Ltd., Ideal House, Argyll Street, London, W.1.

(See also p. 44 of No. 1 Journal)

THE SPILSILL CENTRE

(for functional disorders)

THE Spilsill Centre is an establishment which offers treatment for men suffering from nervous or emotional disturbances, or from asthma, bronchitis, ulcers or any illnesses of nervous origin.

During the war, the Founder, Miss Christine Knowles, M.B.E., did admirable work for prisoners of war with the Prisoners-of-war Books and Games fund. She expresses the hope that the Centre may once again be able to work for the good of the men of the Devonshire Regiment.

Ex-Service men are taken at nominal fees, but subscriptions and donations are needed to enable the Centre to take patients according to their needs and not according to their ability to pay.

The Centre is not controlled by the National Health Service and receives no grant for offered services.

Full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Spilsill Centre, Staplehurst, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.

THE JOURNAL

All subject matter for the Journal should be sent to the Editor, Regimental Journal, c/o Regimental Depot, Devonshire Regiment, Higher Barracks, Exeter. Tel. Nos.: 56542, 56160.

The Journal will be published twice yearly, in May and November. Subject matter is required to reach the Editor not later than March 20th and September 20th respectively.

Matter received after these dates cannot be published in time.

Photographs and Drawings should be as clear cut as possible; if "Blocks" can be sent it will save much expense; they will be returned after use.

Do not use pins for fastening captions to photographs. Photographs should be protected by stiff cardboard to prevent the picture being cracked or creased.

Type-written matter should be sent in duplicate and type double-spaced.

★

Mr. R. G. Sweetland, of Axminster, writes: "You have been recorded on the complimentary list of "SWEDEBASHER"—12th Devon "RAG"—Bash on S.F.

Thanks!—Ed.

THE DEVON ARMY CADET FORCE

THE Devon A.C.F. continue in a flourishing mood. The County has just been re-organized into seven Battalions, and the County Headquarters have taken up residence at Higher Barracks, therefore we really do now feel a complete part of the Devonshire Regiment. The Regimental Depôt Staff have been our complete friends, and have given us very great assistance in all directions.

This year we had our Annual Camp at Braunton, and the Regimental Depôt were our Sponsor Unit, and they certainly gave of their very best. The Depôt Q.M. (Major T. Benbow) was Camp Commandant of the Sponsor Unit—he, as always—did us proud. We also had Captain Nepean from the Depôt as Camp Adjutant, and R.S.M. Gale as Camp R.S.M., and through their united efforts the Camp went with a swing from the word go. Over 90 Officers and 550 Cadets had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

We had several weekend camps at Rawlinson Barracks, Denbury, again assisted by the Depôt—these weekends prove very popular with the Cadets and show very good results all round. This year we carried out our preliminary camp training at Denbury so that the training at the Annual Camp reaped the benefit.

In the early part of the year a party of Cadets were attached to the Guards' Depôt at Caterham, and earned a very good name for the Devon A.C.F. by their all-round keenness and efficiency.

In the Cadet sporting world, Devon concluded a very good season with the sending of a team of Cadets to compete in the National Athletic Championships in London—they put up a really good show and finished eighth out of 23 competing Counties.

Whilst most Units have been concentrating on Welfare, the Training has been very thoroughly carried out. Cert. "A" passes reached a total of 62 Part II and 212 Part I during the past year.

The County Competition for the "Roboro' Cup" .303 shooting was won by the 8th Battalion after a grand contest on Rippon Tor range—the "Fortescue Cup" .22 shooting was won by the 2nd Battalion. A team from Devon is competing in the S.W. District

.303 rifle competition this year.

At the County Athletic Meeting the 4th Battalion swept the board—winning the Athletic Championship and also the Swimming Championship.

The Annual County Band Competition this year was held on 24th September, 1950, at Tavistock, and the winning Band travelled to Taunton on 1st October to compete in the South Western District Competition.

The Corps of Drums play a very big part in Cadet Life, and most Battalions have a very high grade Band—even taking part in public shows, carnivals, etc., and the general feeling among Cadets is that they are very proud of their Band.

The Welfare side of the Force has progressed considerably throughout the County and to-day most sub-units have a well equipped Canteen and Recreation Room—in fact, some units have gained the award of the Army Cadet Force Welfare Shield for their efforts in making their hut so comfortable, and these have now become a complete part of the village school activities. Shields have been won by the 2nd Battalion H.Q. Company at Mutley Barracks, Plymouth, and the sub-units of the 4th Battalion at Ipplepen and Kingskerswell.

Great credit is due to the Sub-Unit Commanders throughout the County. These Officers are untiring in their efforts, and very successful, too, in keeping the Army Cadet Force movement throughout Devon in the sound state we find ourselves to-day. That the movement is a success is also proved by the number of Cadets who voluntarily join the Forces before they are "called up."

* * *

Major General C. B. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., has now joined H.Q. Staff in the capacity of Welfare and Sports Chairman.

* * *

Installed at the Drill Hall, Barnstaple, is the Headquarters of the 7th (North Devon) Battalion, who have a very fine Corps of Drums. They are the present Devon County and also West of England champions. Their Instructor is R.Q.M.S. F. R. Lane (ex-Drum Major 6th Battalion, Devon Regiment).

* * *

Readers will be interested to know that these boys are using the instruments and accoutrements that formerly belonged to the 6th Devons.

OPENING CEREMONY
of

"C" Company, 1st (Exeter) Battalion

THE strength of 1st (Exeter) Battalion Devon Army Cadet Force has been increased recently by the formation of a new Company—designated "C" Company—and housed in a modern and new pre-fabricated buildings in Butts Road, Exeter, and which has been placed under the command of

was received by Major A. C. Sampson (2 i/c 1st (Exeter) Battalion), representing the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel R. F. A. Crookshank, and a very slick Guard of Honour representative of the Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Roberts.

Meanwhile all ranks of the new Company were drawn up outside their H.Q. awaiting their first inspection by the County Commandant. Bearing in mind that they were all raw recruits, the new Cadets gave a very good account of themselves, and the General expressed his satisfaction at the way the Unit was shaping.

The inspection over, General Cowan inserted a key in the lock, opened the front door, and thus symbolically launched "C"



(By courtesy of the "Express and Echo")

The County Commandant at the opening of the Welfare Hut

Lieut. F. Templeton, late Devonshire Regiment and Intelligence Corps.

The new Company was fortunate in securing the presence of the County Commandant for the opening ceremony, which took place on 20th July last.

The General, on arrival at Company H.Q.,

Company on its career.

This done, all ranks entered Company H.Q., where Cadets and their parents, who had been specially invited by the O.C. for this occasion, were given an instructive and informative talk by the General, in the course of which he outlined the ideals and

THE DEPOT



Front Row (Sitting, l. to r.)—Sgt. R. Sandford, C./Sgt. R. Shorland, R.S.M. H. Gale, Capt. P. V. Nepean, M.C., Major G. T. Dadson, Major (Ret.) W. H. Radcliffe, C./Sgt. K. Rooke, Sgt. J. Davey, Sgt. R. Matthews.
Centre Row (l. to r.)—Pte. R. Bellamy, Pte. C. Hutchings, Pte. F. Thurlow, A./Cpl. T. Hooper, A./Sgt. A. Bennett, A./Sgt. L. Crowley, Pte. W. Broome, Pte. B. Soanes, Pte. Newark, Mr. E. Merridew.
Back Row (l. to r.)—Pte. G. Ellis, Pte. R. Adcock, Pte. M. England, Pte. T. Ovey, Pte. D. Miles, Pte. C. Glassey, Pte. F. Darke, Pte. L. Dibble, Pte. R. Lake,

Digitized

7th (N. DEVON) BN. A.C.F.



WINNERS, West of England Cadet Band Championship.

Seated (Centre): Drum-Major G. Pritchard and their Instructor, R.Q.M.S. F. Lane (late 6th Devons)

Collection

aims of the Cadet Force, and the advantages accruing to the individual Cadet through being a member of this old established Force.

Following the General's talk, tea and light refreshments were served by our very ex-

The designation "No. — Battalion Devon A.C.F. has been dropped and units are now known as No. — Cadet Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment. Headquarters of Battalions are as follows: No. 1, Exeter; No. 2, Plymouth; No. 3, Paignton; No. 4, New-



1st C. Battalion Exercise at "Blackstone Rock."

cellent W.V.S. helpers, assisted on this occasion by Mrs. Templeton, the O.C.'s wife.

"C" Company is indeed fortunate to have the W.V.S. running their canteen. No fewer than 14 of these kind ladies, organised by Mrs. McCallum, have volunteered to help and are making a great success of the job. We are all very indebted to them.

Among those present were Lt.-Col. Zealley, Staff Officer Devon A.C.F.; Captain H. G. Bayley, Adjutant 1st (Exeter) Battalion, Captain Dale and 2nd-Lieut. Whitton, Battalion Sports and Assistant Sports Officers respectively; Capt. P. G. Abbey, Assistant County Welfare Officer.

ton Abbott; No. 5, Axminster; No. 6, Tavistock; and No. 7, Barnstaple.

★ ★ ★

The Devon A.C.F. won the S.W. District Shooting Shield, and four Cadets went to Bisle and gained their N.R.A. badge (Cadet Hundred).

★ ★ ★

The Regimental Depot are running a series of week-end Instructional Courses this winter.

★ ★ ★

The Devon A.C.F. Annual Conference and Dinner will take place on the 9-10th December at Higher Barracks.

Collection

IN LIGHTER VEIN

NO COMMENT NECESSARY

41, Imomly Avenue,
Spennymoor,
c/o Durham.

Dere Sir,

I have got your kind and wel-come letter telling me I should join REME and I think it it a good idear as I am pretty smart at taking a by-cycle to bits I once had a one and took it to bits the pedals as will My girl whos name is Alis Short says I wood look grand in a Officers uniform I could also grow a mouse-tash and I have been tolled I am more clever than what they usually have in the REME I should like to be a oficer so if you will grant me a warant for oficer I will be one of them in your company and be able to show the surgents a thing or to about a by-cycle. Please let me no when you write with kind regards.

J (William Strong

Please see next page

PPS I am 26 and I am not married but I have a girl called Alis she is 25 and is not married neither

PS will I bring some tools please I have a very good spanner which cost 1/2 and has four sides

if I have to be seen by a doctor let me kno and I will have a wash all over the night before I cum

J (William) Strong
The J is for John

This pen is bad pen I generly write better.

(With acknowledgements to the R.E.M.E. Magazine)

“Q” TACTICS

THIS is a tale from Karak—a town a long way from Stoke,

And it wasn't a myth when a “Q” bloke named Smith, stopped—when he saw smoke.

With every intent he hurriedly went to the spot which was now ablaze,

To put out the fire, no matter how dire, but faltered—at what met his gaze.

For the tent that was burning, he was quickly learning, would never be no more,

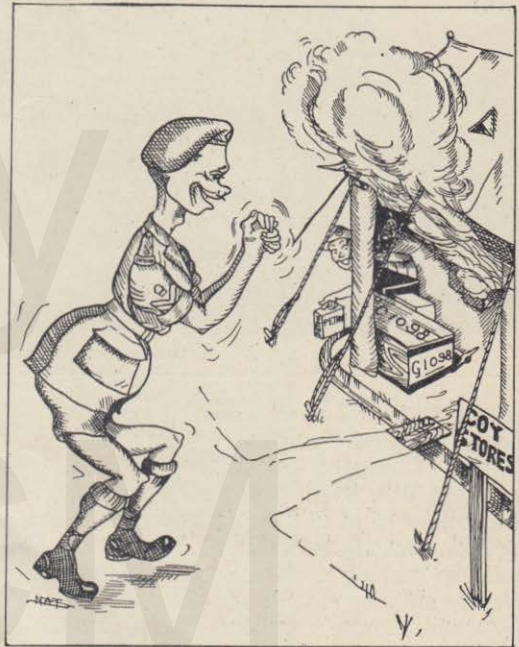
And whilst he was cursing, he, too, was rehearsing—of what to say to the law.

Where his stores had once been, now nowt could be seen but ashes and pieces of wreck,

And to add to his sorrow, on the morn of the morrow—the Q.M. was coming to check

His pots, pans and ladles, and numerous tables and stores that are known as “G Ten.”

His blankets and sheets, once so tidy and neat, would never be counted again.



But was Smithy mad, or trifyly sad when he heard that the check was now off?

In front of the stands he stood rubbing his hands, and laughed—just like a toff.

Will it ever be known or the expense sheet shown of how much the “Q” bloke was diffy?

And will the Q.M. make his stocks up again, and say to himself, “Well done, Smithy?”

As for Standish himself, he is now on the shelf, and in future he often will grieve,

When in a daze he saw his stores razed—and for the C.O. who sent him on leave.

**AN UNEXPURGATED APPLICATION
FOR A TEA GARDEN VACANCY
IN CEYLON**

Most Honoured and Respectable Sir,

Having come to understand that you require the services of a trustworthy and sober Tea-Maker Clerk, I humbly beg to apply myself for the vacancy in fervent hopes that your honour will favourably consider same and bestow upon me this blessing for my ability and ever pray.

I am unmarried Hambantotian aged 36 years of respectable parents (now deceased, R.I.P.) of same province. Now I am poor orphan with no any support and in emancipated condition, tossed hither and thither like compost upon the billows of the high seas, in Monsoon time, daily with empty stomach, but under the wing of your Honour's care and in the security of your Honour's family bosom, I am having full hopes like bride on night of honeymoon, to throw poverty out of the window and bring prosperity through door. I have received a good education at Ananda Suriyadala College in Hambantota and passed Matric with full honours by my fertile brain, and can give all information by diligent study of Encyclopedia when required. Owing to untimely surmise of my deceased father and no money, I was unable to take up my B.A. degree, which I can pass simply.

When I dismiss the College I learn Tea-Making under my paternal uncle at Galle, by latest methods in reversible wither and mist chambers according to T.R.I. I also come to know in that time some secret tricks to extract that subtle flavours from tea leaves lurking in the bowels of the rollers like honey in the honey comb, and can take liquors with so good colour and sparkle like diamond in Queen's tarara, when Colombo brokers see that they will elevate prices to height of Pedro; sometimes Colombo agents will elevate your honour also, then your honour can trample on bombastic competition on miserable fellow superintendents like boot on Adder's head in the Garden of Allah.

In machineries and oil engines I have some knowledge which I experienced in Coconut Mill. Also in electricity I know to take the current in night times from phiphony of communtator by means of H.T. wire. Factory I will keep so clean like Dining Room in Queens' Hotel and your

honour can come and see day and night with eyes closed.

Field works I know top and bottom and can milk the Rubber trees in many ways to show profit and care and maintenance. I learn all about compost from Venerable Mr. H.F., the Holy Father of Compost.

I can take full work from Tamils (high and low caste) and crafty Sinhalese at reduced cost. They does not know to humbug me in mouth and venom in belly like honourable State Councillors playing Harry and Dick with taxpayer's money.

For clerical work I am expert. Estate Accounts can be my double and single and cover up mistakes so that even no greedy eye of Colombo Agents can find out and make trouble.

If your honour will give charge of rice store in this business, I also know some tricks which I learn from my late cousin in Government service (P.W.D.), who retired in completion of duties with good circumstances and also pension. By some methods I can supply your honour and family with requirements and cover up. For this I do not require any salary and can manage somehow by hook or crook.

When your honour goes to assess the estate I like to come and get some presents here and there for your honour's early retirement in Mother Country.

Like humble flea on Belly of Noble Visiting Agent I hope to receive your honour's favourable reply and oblige.

In duty bound I will ever pray in loud voice night and day on my family's bended knees and prostituting myself at your honour's great feet,

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

P.S.—If you wish I can come suddenly.

... AND INWARDLY DIGEST

The Ministry of Labour once sent out this notice, which they called Form U185 :

"Separate departments on the same premises are treated as separate premises for this purpose where separate branches of work which are commonly carried on as separate businesses in separate premises are carried on in separate departments on the same premises."

ON PATROL

JUNGLE all around us,
Insects by the score,
For miles and miles we've bashed it
Sweat from every pore.

Over hills we've travelled,
Through lalang six feet tall,
Padi swamp and rivers,
We've bashed on through it all.

And now at last we've halted,
The order comes, "Make base,"
Off come packs and jackets
We cut and clear a space.

We get a fire going,
And hang our clothes to dry
We view the hills around us
And wish that we could fly.

At last the night is quiet
The ground seems not so hard,
My eyes are slowly closing,
When—hell! it's time for guard.

The two hour "stag" is finished
Once more we "hit the hay,"
And then the morning's on us
We start another day.

For three more days we rough it
And then at last "hooray!"
Someone starts the rumour
"Up sticks—we're home to-day!"

We find the transport waiting
And soon we're all abroad,
Everyone is happy—
We're returning, praise the Lord.



RESTING FROM PATROL

The brew is nearly ready,
The "bully" nicely done,
The sarge yells "Come and get it"
For the tot of rum we run.

We make a kind of shelter
And bed down for the night,
No sooner are we settled
Than "mozzies" start to bite.

My small pack for a pillow
My poncho for a bed,
On fifteen tins of "compo"
I rest my weary head.

To our billets taken
A shower, fresh clothes and pay,
Peace and quiet surrounds us
The jungle's far away.

After a few days resting
We're off again—once more,
Back to the damp, dark jungle
To try and learn its "lore."

So with jungle all around us
And insects by the score,
Plus Bandits for good measure,
We bash on all the more.

J Mould.

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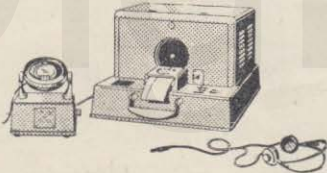
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