

SEMPER FIDELIS



XIth Foot

Journal of

THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

Volume II No. 17

July 1958

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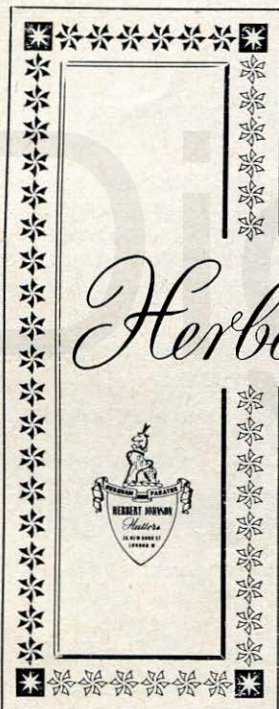
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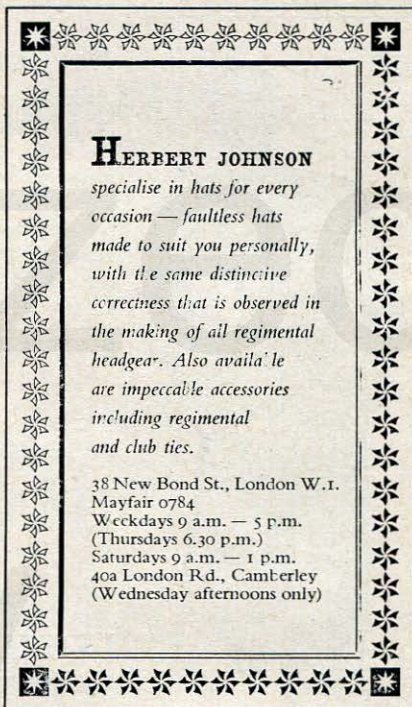
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"Dettingen," "Salamanca," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula,"
"Afghanistan 1878-80," "Tirah," "Defence of Ladysmith," "Relief of Ladysmith."
"South Africa, 1899-1902."
The Great War—25 Battalions.—"Aisne, 1914, '18," "La 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," "Guilleumont," "Fers-
Courcette," "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."

World War Two—"Normandy Landing," "Port en Bessin," "Tilly sur Seules," "Caen," "St. Pierre La Vielle,"
"Nederrijn," "Roer," "Rhine," "Ibbenburen," "North-West Europe, 1944-45," "Landing in Sicily," "Regalbuto,"
"Sicily 1943," "Landing at Porto San Venere," "Italy 1943," "Malta 1940-42," "Imphal," "Shenham Pass,"
"Tamu Road," "Ukhrul," "Myinmu Bridgehead," "Kyankse 1945," "Burma 1943-45."

Colonel: Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, D.L.

Regimental Association—Old Comrades' Association, Topsham Barracks, Exeter.

Hon. Secretary: Lt.-Col. R. H. Creasy, D.L.

Assistant Secretary—Major G. White, M.B.E., M.M.

Editor "Semper Fidelis"—Major W. P. Symonds

VOL. II No. 17

JULY, 1958

PRICE 2/6

THE LAST NUMBER OF "SEMPER FIDELIS"

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THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT

In the November number of *The Journal* I wrote about the forthcoming amalgamation of our Regiment with the Dorset Regiment.

By the time that this, the last number of *The Journal*, reaches you the amalgamation of the 1st Battalions will have been completed and the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment will have come into being.

I and, I am sure, all members of the Devonshire Regiment wish it the best of luck in the future.

The Colonel of the new Regiment has not yet been announced, but we all hope that it will be Major-General G. N. Wood, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Colonel of the Dorset Regiment.

From my experience of him during the past ten months I am sure that if he is appointed, the new Regiment will be very fortunate in having as its Colonel one who has shown himself to be so understanding of the many problems, some of them difficult of solution, which inescapably have to be decided when two Regiments amalgamate.

He has told me that should he be appointed, he is determined to see that the best traditions of both the Regiments are carried forward into the future.

We all wish him well in his task of welding successfully the late Devonshire Regiment and the late Dorset Regiment into the new *Devonshire and Dorset Regiment*.

APPOINTMENT OF H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., AS COLONEL-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT

The following letters were exchanged :

*From : Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, D.L.,
Colonel, The Devonshire Regiment.*

4th March 1958.

Dear Mr. Hay,

Will you please convey my humble duty to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and express to her both on my behalf and that of the Devonshire Regiment how honoured and delighted we are that she has been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

I would like to assure Her Royal Highness that there is no Regiment with which we would rather amalgamate than the Dorset Regiment.

Before 1939 we were friendly, and in the Second World War new and strong links were forged between the Regiments in the Malta Brigade, which contained the 1st Dorsets and 2nd Devons. After the siege this Regular Brigade became the 231st Infantry Brigade, which earned a fine reputation in Sicily, Italy and Normandy.

Since the War members of the Dorset Regiment have served with us and vice versa, so that a number of officers and other ranks already know each other.

In the new Regiment, therefore, it is certain that members of both the present Regiments will work together to make their union a happy and successful one, and to continue the great tradition of the past.

I am convinced that nothing could have given the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment a better start than Her Royal Highness's appointment, and that all ranks of the Devonshire Regiment will prize the great honour and privilege of serving under her as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd.) *L. H. M. Westropp, Colonel.*

To : Philip Hay, Esq., C.V.O.,
Private Secretary to Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Kent, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.,
Kensington Palace,
London, W.8.

*Reply from the Private Secretary to Her
Royal Highness :*

Kensington Palace, W.8.
6th March, 1958.

Dear Colonel Westropp,

Thank you for your letter of the 4th March, which I have shown to the Duchess of Kent.

Her Royal Highness much appreciated the terms in which your letter was expressed, and desires me to thank you for the kind messages of good wishes which you send on behalf of the Devonshire Regiment in connection with her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Her Royal Highness looks forward to a long and happy association with the new Regiment, and trusts that she will have an early opportunity, after its formation, to pay her first official visit to it.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sd.) *Philip Hay*,
Private Secretary.

Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, D.L.,
The Regimental Headquarters,
The Devonshire Regiment,
Topsham Barracks,
Exeter.

OUR EDITOR

Major W. P. Symonds, our Editor, has told me that with the issue of this **last number** of *this Journal* he wishes to resign, as he now has not enough spare time to deal adequately with the new *Journal* of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

It is with great regret that I accept his resignation, as he has been a remarkably successful Editor.

He produced the first number in May, 1950, and has maintained a very high standard throughout the past eight years.

Producing and editing a Journal is a never-ending work.

It requires both imagination and a natural aptitude, both of which he possesses.

We are all grateful to him.

On behalf of the Devonshire Regiment I thank him sincerely and wish him success in his new venture.

EDITORIAL

So ends my period as Editor of *Semper Fidelis*. (Readers may remember that I decided to drop the editorial "we").

It is with great regret that, owing to business commitments, I find myself unable to carry on as Editor of the *New Journal*, but I should like to thank Major-General Wood and Colonel Westropp for paying me the compliment of asking me to take it over.

The eight years of my Editorship have been a great pleasure to me for it has kept me in touch with Regimental affairs, and it has given me great satisfaction to produce a book which appeared to meet with general approval.

I cannot close without thanking Colonel Westropp for the kind remarks about my efforts, and I would like to thank all contributors for their co-operation over the past years.

Any success I may have had has been due to a very great extent to the help, guidance and advice which I have received from my friend Mr. D. Levy of the publishing firm, Messrs. Parsons of Hastings. I thank him sincerely. Mr. Ketheson and Mr. Thomas of Combined Service Publications have given me invaluable assistance throughout for which I thank them also.

Lastly, may I send all good wishes to the 1st Bn. The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and success to the Editor of the *new Journal*. If I can be of any assistance to him, I hope he will get in touch with me, care of the Depot, Topsham Barracks, Exeter. (My own phone No.: Crediton 297).

Once again, thank you all and the best of good fortune in the future.

Acknowledgments

The Journals of the other Regiments of the Wessex Brigade.

OFFICERS' CLUB**NOTICES*****The Devonshire Regt.—Cricket Week***

This was held on the County Cricket Ground, Exeter, from 21st July to 26th July, 1958. The "At Home" took place on Thursday, 24th July, 1958.

The Devonshire and Dorset***Regimental Dinner***

Will take place at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, on Thursday, 23rd October, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. Names of members intending to dine should be sent to the Administrative Officer, R.H.Q., The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Topsham Barracks, Exeter, by the 1st October.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent has graciously intimated that she will be present at the Regimental Dinner.

Accommodation at U.S. Club

The committee of the United Service Club have very kindly extended full Honorary

Membership to all those attending the Dinner from 12 noon on Wednesday 22nd October to 12 noon 24th October. This privilege includes sleeping accommodation, and the use of changing rooms, baths, etc.

Members of the Officers' Club requiring sleeping accommodation for nights 22nd/23rd and/or 23rd/24th MUST inform the Administrative Officer, Topsham Barracks, Exeter, by 1st October, 1958, at latest.

Regimental Tea Party

This will not take place this year.

The Future of the***Regimental Cricket Week***

It has been suggested that after 1958, Cricket Weeks shall continue on a reduced scale at Exeter and Dorchester lasting for two or three days including an "At Home." Retired officers would subscribe as at present, i.e. for the Exeter "At Home."

The subscriptions of serving officers would be divided to meet the expenses of both functions.

This will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Officers' Club.

THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT, 1685 TO 1945

1685—The Devonshire Regiment was raised in 1685 by Henry, Duke of Beaufort and was called the "Duke of Beaufort's Musketeers" to quell a rebellion caused by the landing of Henry, Duke of Monmouth, in Dorset.

1689—The Regiment embarked at Highlake on the 30th May under Colonel Sir John Hanmer, and sailed for Ireland helping to relieve the besieged Protestants of Londonderry.

1690—The Regiment fought under William III at the Battle of The River Boyne. With His Majesty they advanced to the river and were strongly attacked by Irish Cavalry whilst fording it. The Regiment gained the bank, repulsed the horsemen, and helped to drive the enemy to a precipitate retreat.

1703—Remaining in Ireland until 1703, the Regiment joined the Duke of Marlborough's Army in Holland, where they assisted in capturing the fortress of Huy and the City of Limburg.

1705—The Regiment sailed to Portugal and with two Portuguese battalions came under the command of General Don Pedro de

Figuetedo at the garrison town of Portalegre. On the advance of the enemy French and Spanish troops, the General thought it impossible for the enemy to bring their guns to bear on the town. The enemy however achieved this, and the alarmed inhabitants immediately clamoured for surrender. So after a short stay in Portugal, the Regiment became prisoners-of-war. But within a few months they had returned to England under the exchange system that existed in those days.

1707—The Regiment took part in the Battle of Almanza in the Iberian peninsula. Easter Monday, the 25th of April, was broiling hot. The French and Spanish in superior numbers were drawn up before Almanza. The Regiment, later in the day, was given the role of counter-attacking through the chaos of their own retreating Army. In the process most of them were cut down or taken prisoner.

1709—The Regiment once again rejoined the Duke of Marlborough's Army in Holland, taking part in the siege of Mons. While working in the trenches within one hundred



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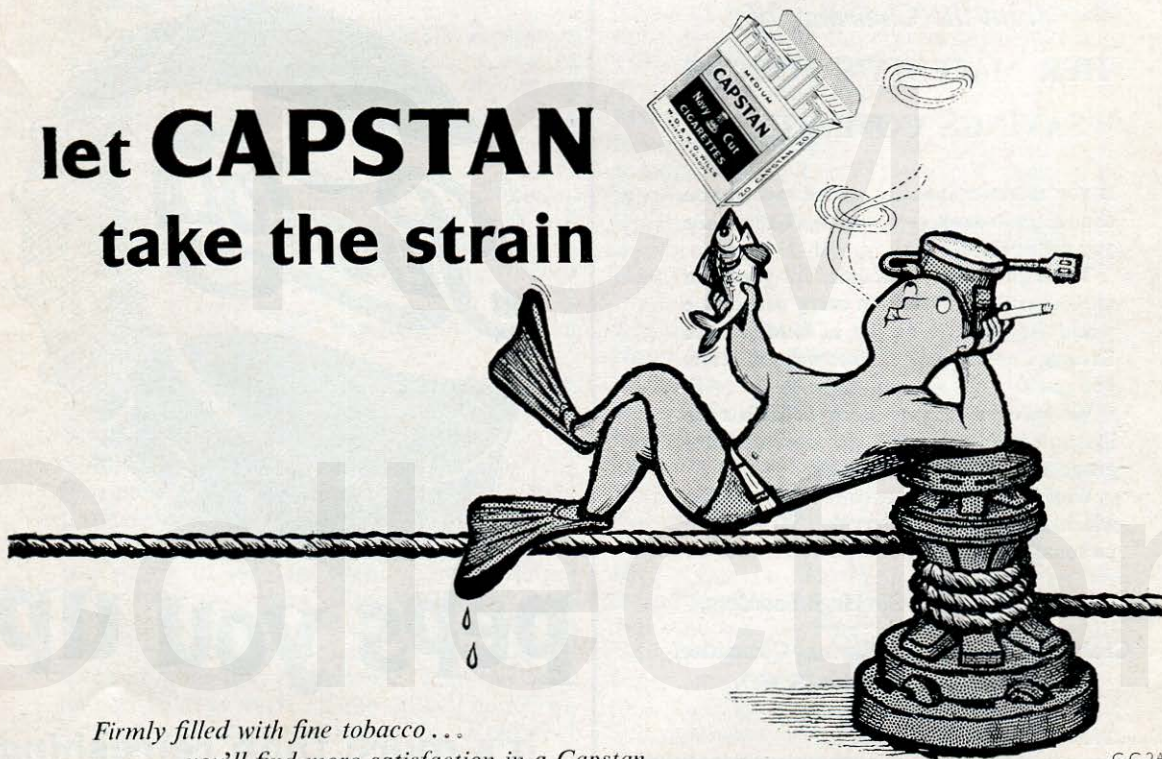


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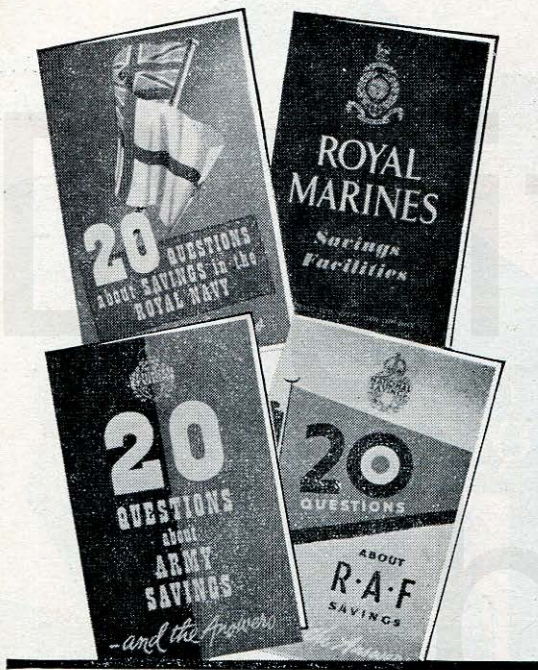
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Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

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An advertisement for Toblerone chocolate. At the top, a speech bubble contains the text 'Milk chocolate with almonds and honey' and the brand name 'TOBLERONE' in large, bold letters. Below this, a man and a woman are shown smiling and holding a large Toblerone bar. The bar is partially unwrapped, showing the characteristic triangular shape and the 'TOBLERONE' logo. The background is filled with many small Toblerone logos. At the bottom, the text reads 'TOBLERONE IS MARVELLOUS CHOCOLATE TOO!' and 'CHOCOLAT TOBLER LTD · SOHO SQUARE · LONDON W1'.



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yards of the French palisades, the Regiment was attacked by a strong force. The Grenadiers protecting the working party were thrown into confusion. Nothing daunted, the men of Devon threw down their picks and spades, drew their swords and counter-attacked with such vigour that the French were driven back over their palisades with severe losses. Some of the Regiment followed the enemy over the palisades into the fortified town. During the attack and counter-attack 160 casualties were sustained.

For some twelve months the Regiment engaged in operations against towns whose names many years later were to become familiar to the British Army: Douai, Bethune, Aire and St. Venant.

1711—The Regiment took part in an unsuccessful expedition against the French in Canada.

1715—The Regiment were camped at Stirling ready to battle with the Scots.

1719—Spanish troops landed in Ross-shire and were joined by the Scottish Clans of the neighbourhood. The Regiment formed part of a small force which, charging with the bayonet, dispersed Spaniards and Highlanders and won the Battle of Glenshiel, thus breaking the rebellion.

1743—Back again in Flanders, the Regiment was a unit in an expeditionary force of 37,000 personally commanded by King George II, and opposed at Dettingen by a French Army of 60,000. The King dismounted and is reported to have said: "Now my boys, for the honour of England, fire low and behave well. The French will soon run." The galling fire of the British Infantry drove the French into a disordered retreat.

Dettingen became the Regiment's first battle honour.

1745—The Regiment took part in the defeat of the Young Pretender, driving him back to Scotland from near Carlisle.

1746—Returning to the Netherlands, the Regiment joined the Allied Army and helped to check the French Advance. At Roucoux on October 11th, orders were given to hold the valley to the last man. Three villages were held by eight English, Dutch and Hessian battalions. Against them, preceded by a heavy cannonade, the French threw a force of some fifty battalions. The line held, and wave after wave of the enemy had been broken and crumpled up. The Regiment

lost in that gallant action 10 officers and 180 rank-and-file killed or missing; two officers and 26 rank-and-file wounded.

1756—A *Second Battalion* was formed, which in 1758 became the 64th Foot, now the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment.

1751—The Regiment became the **11th of Foot**, a number which it has retained until the present time.

1760—1763—Part of the Seven Years' War against France in which the Regiment fought with distinction.

1763—After peace was concluded in 1763, the 11th Foot sojourned awhile in Minorca.

1782—In England in this year, the Regiment was designated "The 11th Foot or North Devonshire Regiment," and its officers were directed to "*cultivate an acquaintance with that part of the County, so as to create a mutual attachment between the inhabitants and the Regiment.*"

1783 - 1791—The Regiment was stationed at Gibraltar.

1793—During the reign of terror in France, 500 men of the Regiment formed part of the Allied Garrison of Toulon which defended the town for four months against the revolutionary army. In a sortie they captured some guns and in the course of the fighting, Colonel Napoleon Bonaparte received a bayonet wound in the leg.

1794—In the early summer a portion of the Regiment embarked in the Channel Fleet, commanded by Lord Howe and, fighting as Marines helped to defeat the French Naval Squadron which came out from Brest and was broken and dispersed on the "Glorious First of June."

Also in this year the North Devonshire Regiment helped in the capture of Corsica, Napoleon's birthplace.

1801—The Regiment assisted in taking the West Indian Islands of Saint Thomas, Saint Martin, Saint John and Santa Cruz.

1803—Another **2nd Battalion** was formed. Within a year this battalion was in action at the siege of Flushing, and captured the French 11th Regiment's brass drums.

1812—The 1st Battalion took part in the storming of the fortress at Badajos, while the 2nd Battalion were in Ceuta opposite Gibraltar in action against the French. On June 26th, the 1st Battalion stormed and took three forts outside Salamanca, capturing 700 prisoners, 30 guns and stores. On July

22nd at the battle of Salamanca the Regiment did magnificent work and suffered heavy casualties, losing three hundred and forty officers and men in killed and wounded.

After the battle the Regiment was nicknamed "The Bloody Eleventh."

During the Peninsular War the Regiment fought at the following battles, which like *Salamanca*, are borne on the Regimental Colour: *Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes* and *Toulouse*.

1816—With peace proclaimed in 1816, the decimated 1st and 2nd Battalions were ordered to Gibraltar where they **amalgamated**.

1831—In October desperate rioting broke out in Bristol. A dispatch reached the Regiment at Cardiff asking for immediate assistance. Seizing a ship at Newport, the Devons, because of the disaffection of the crew, worked the vessel themselves to Bristol, and saved the town from the horrors of sack and pillage.

It is related that after the disembarkation at Bristol, the 11th marched down Park Street, where windows and doors flew open and ladies rushed to shake hands with their preservers.

1838—The Regiment went to Canada during the Insurrection 1838-1839, and suffered great hardship, marching 1,300 miles amid snow and ice.

1845—The Regiment went to Tasmania and then on to Australia with its headquarters at Sydney. The Regiment was detailed to look after the convict settlements, and it frequently happened that Government vessels containing thirty or forty desperate criminals sailed with a guard composed of only a Devon N.C.O. and three or four privates.

1851—During the gold rush the Regiment proved its good discipline, for, when it left for England in 1857 the inhabitants of N.S. Wales presented it with a handsome silver centre-piece as a token of respect for the bearing of the Regiment when in Australasia.

1857—On return to England the **2nd Battalion was re-formed** and went to the Cape, then to Hong Kong and back to South Africa in **1866**, to return to England in 1870. The 1st Battalion went to India in **1864**.

1877—The two Battalions caught a passing glimpse of each other, for the 2nd Battalion on board the "Serapis" bound for India passed the 1st Battalion off Bombay on the "Jumna" homeward bound.

1878—The 2nd Battalion went to Afghanistan, and in the hottest period of the year marched through Scinde and the Bolan Pass.

1890 - 92—The 2nd Battalion in Burma assisted to stamp out dacoity.

1895—A detachment of the 1st Battalion proceeded with the force which quelled the hostilities on the North West Frontier, losing its Commanding Officer in one of the frontier actions.

During the same year the battalion found a detachment to accompany the Ashanti Expedition.

1897—The 1st Battalion took part in the expedition organised by Sir William Lockhart against the Afridis and the Orkzais in the Tirah Valley on the North West Frontier.

1899 - 1902—Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions fought with distinction during the South African War. The 1st Battalion was invested in Ladysmith under Sir George White, the siege commencing November 2nd, 1899, and the relief on February 28th, 1900. During the siege the Devons did a magnificent counter-attack and drove the Boers off *Wagon Hill*, one of the defences of Ladysmith, on January 6th, 1900. Lieut. Master-son was awarded the V.C. and C/Sgt. Palmer the D.C.M.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria sent the following cablegram to Sir George White: "*Warmly congratulate you and all your command on brilliant success. Greatly admire conduct of Devonshire Regiment.*"

The 2nd Battalion was in Buller's relieving force, and took part in actions at Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaalkrantz and Monte Cristo, which paved the way to the Relief of Ladysmith. The 2nd Battalion marched into the town and the two battalions met.

Battle Honours awarded were: *Defence of Ladysmith; Relief of Ladysmith; South Africa 1899-1902*. The County of Devonshire presented both Battalions with a set of four silver side-drums, which are used on ceremonial parades, to recall the County's pride in the valour of their County Regiment.

After the South African War and until World War I the stations of the two battalions were:—

1st Battalion: Shahjanpur, Rangoon, Tidworth, Jersey.

2nd Battalion: Bordon, Devonport, Malta, Crete, Alexandria, Cairo.

1914 - 18—Twenty-five battalions of the Devonshire Regiment took part and served

in Flanders, Italy, Macedonia, Greece, Dardanelles, Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Caucasus, India, North Russia.

The most notable action was that of the 2nd Battalion at *Bois des Buttes* on May 27th, 1918. The Battalion was in Brigade reserve in a wood named Bois des Buttes near the village of La Ville au Bois. The River Aisne was behind them. The forward battalions were crushed by the terrific enemy bombardment. The 2nd Devons though isolated, and without hope of assistance, beat off numerous German attacks during the day and thus prevented a breakthrough. The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel Anderson-Moorshead, was killed, and of the 28 officers and 528 other ranks only a handful survived.

For their gallantry that day the French Government awarded the Battalion the **Croix de Guerre**. Battle Honours awarded were: *La Bassee 1914, Ypres 1951, Loos, Somme 1916, Ypres 1917, Somme 1918, Bois des Buttes, Hindenburg Line, Vittorio Veneto, Doiran 1917, 1918, Palestine 1917-18, Mesopotamia 1916-18.*

1919 - 1939—Battalions were stationed:—

1st Battalion: Sunderland, Plymouth, Southern Ireland, Plymouth, Blackdown, Shanghai, Malta, Quetta, Razmak, Calcutta, Lucknow, Rawalpindi, Lahore.

2nd Battalion: Devonport, Quetta, Delhi, Aden, Devonport, Bordon, Dover, Malta.

1939 - 1945—In the second World War the Regiment had no battalions serving in

France and Belgium in 1940 nor in the 8th Army in the Desert.

The 2nd Battalion was besieged in Malta and later distinguished itself in Sicily at the battle of *Regalbute* and in the fighting in Normandy, France and Germany in 1944-45. They were the leading infantry to enter Berlin.

The 1st Battalion was in India and later took part in the Burma Campaign, where, as in the Boer War, it distinguished itself by a magnificent counter-attack during the battle of *Imphal*. Nippon Hill had been taken by the Japanese and six counter-attacks by other battalions had failed to dislodge them. On 11th April, 1944, the 1st Devons re-took the hill and suffered heavy losses.

The 12th Battalion was in the Airborne Forces which landed by glider in Normandy and later assisted in the crossing of the Rhine.

Battle Honours awarded were: *Normandy Landing, Caen, Rhine, North West Europe 1944-45, Landing Sicily, Regalbuto, Malta 1940-42, Imphal, Myinmu Bridgehead, Burma 1943-45.*

After the war the 2nd Battalion remained in Germany until **disbandment in 1948**. The 4th Battalion left Austria in 1947 to disband as a serving battalion.

It re-formed as a T.A. battalion on **1st May, 1947**, with its H.Q. in Exeter.

The 5th and 6th Battalions were disbanded, but one company of the 4th Battalion retains the title (in brackets) Prince of Wales's, which was held by the 5th Battalion.

THE 1st BATTALION—SEPTEMBER 1945 to MAY 1958

In **September, 1945**, the Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Col. J. F. Snow, Somerset L.I., was stationed in Visapur, near Poona, as part of 36 British Infantry Division. It had been there since leaving Burma in May.

In *November* Lieut.-Col. Snow left for another appointment and was succeeded by Lieut.-Col. B. P. Doughty-Wylie, M.C., of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

In *December*, as part of 2nd British Infantry Division, the Battalion sailed for Malaya in *M.S. Sibajak* to help in police duties and the general rehabilitation of the country after the Japanese occupation.

At first the Battalion was stationed in Kluang, a small town about 90 miles north of Singapore. Its main task was internal security and the screening and guarding of Japanese prisoners-of-war who were awaiting repatriation.

After a few months its area of responsibility was extended from Batu Pahat on the West coast to Mersing on the East coast, and Battalion H.Q. moved to Batu Pahat, leaving one company at Kluang and another at Mersing.

By the middle of **1946** the remnants of the Japanese Army in Burma and Malaya had been rounded up and sent back to

Japan, although a few hundred convicted war criminals and those awaiting trial were still held in Changi Gaol on Singapore Island.

In *July* the Battalion moved to Selarang Barracks, Changi, at the Eastern point of Singapore Island, to assist in guard duties on the docks, depots and Changi Gaol itself.

Then came another change in command, when Lieut.-Col. D. W. Jackson, of the R.W.F., took over. Later in the year Lieut.-Col. H. A. Borradaile, D.S.O., assumed command and the Battalion received orders to move to Hong Kong.

In **January, 1947**, after considerable efforts by "Q" movements, the Battalion embarked most appropriately in *H.T. Devonshire* and sailed for Hong Kong.

In *April* the Battalion received large drafts from the 2nd and 4th Battalions, both of which were disbanding as active units.

For the first few months the Battalion was stationed on the Island in Stanley Barracks, but in *May* it moved across to the New Territories to a newly constructed camp at San Wai.

This move was a notable one, as the only method of moving from the Island to the mainland was by civilian ferries. So the movement tables were concocted amicably between the Adjutant and the Manager of the Hong Kong Ferry Company.

In *October* the Battalion was warned for duty in Malta, but at the end of the year the situation in Malaya was becoming very unsettled, so the Battalion sailed back to Singapore in *December* to re-occupy its old barracks at Selarang.

From **January, 1948, to June** the Battalion's duties were again those of internal security and guarding depots and installations of the Island.

In *April* Lieut.-Col. Borradaile returned to U.K. for a course and another appointment, and Major A. F. Hanks, M.C., became acting C.O.

Early *June* it became obvious that the Terrorist activities were developing into a serious organised threat against the administration of the country and a conference was held at G.H.Q., FARELF, to decide what counter-measures should be taken.

It was decided to send the only two Battalions immediately available across to Johore on the mainland, which was the worst

affected State. The Battalions were the 1st Battalion The Devonshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders.

The Battalion was immediately made up to scale in equipment and the Q.M., Capt. R. Marshall, M.B.E., and the Adjutant found themselves visiting all the "Q" Branches and Services in G.H.Q. at liberty to draw practically anything they wanted.

The Battalion then moved to Johore and Battalion H.Q. found itself back once again in its old camp at Kluang.

In *September* Lieut.-Col. R. G. Pine-Coffin, D.S.O., M.C., took over command.

From then on the Battalion was engaged in continuous operations against the bandits and **early in 1949** was moved North to the State of Pahang, which was rapidly succeeding Johore as being the most unruly area.

The months that followed saw unremitting patrolling with varying degrees of success. One patrol, led by Capt. Kelly Lucas, attached from the Royal Berkshire Regiment, fought such a gallant action that it earned him the first D.S.O. of the campaign. At one time during the action Capt. Lucas fought off the bandits singlehanded to allow the wounded to be evacuated.

Another patrol near Mentakab, led by Sgt. Bulley, came upon an occupied bandit camp. They took on the bandits, who were considerably superior in numbers, but were forced to withdraw, suffering two casualties in the process. However, Sgt. Bulley managed to fight his way out, leaving the wounded so concealed that they were later rescued by another patrol sent out to get them. Sgt. Bulley received the M.M. for this operation. Countless other patrols went out and found nothing, but did their job and by their ceaseless activity drove the bandits deeper into the jungle and further from sources of food supply. Pte. Osborne also won the M.M.

At intervals the Battalion returned to their base at Selarang for rest and re-training. Indeed, it was only on these occasions that Companies ever saw one another, as normally the Battalion was scattered over miles of jungle. But this dispersion did not prevent the Battalion football team from winning the Malaya Command Football Competition in 1949.

By the **end of 1950** the Battalion had killed 70 bandits, wounded 35 and captured

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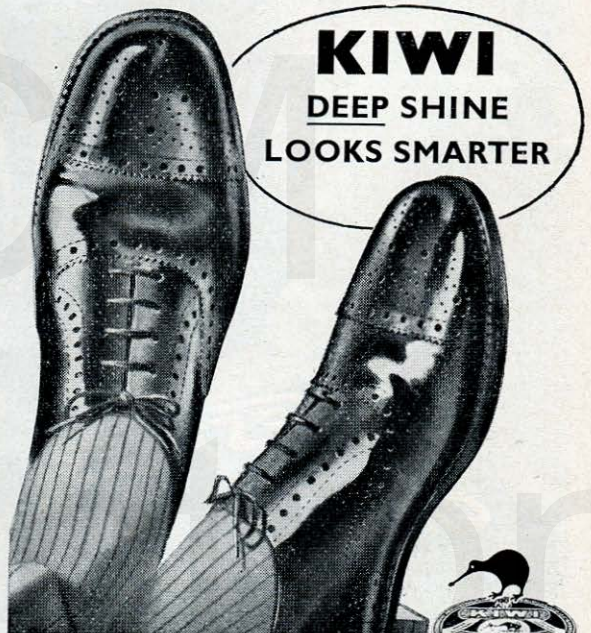
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five, while its own losses were six killed and 22 wounded.

Early in the morning of **18th December, 1951**, the Battalion arrived at Liverpool on board the *Empress of Australia*, to return to England for the first time since 1927.

The Battalion were then stationed at Bury St. Edmunds and shortly afterwards moved to Meeanee Barracks, Colchester. [I have happy memories of visiting them there — a cheerful night! — *Editor*.]

The Battalion was organised at this time into four Rifle Companies, Support and "H.Q." Company.

In **June, 1951**, Lieut.-Col. P. Gleadell, C.B.E., D.S.O., assumed command. The Battalion formed part of 19 Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier Lipscombe, and took part in many large scale Exercises such as "Merry Widow." The Battalion received orders to proceed overseas to North Africa with only 14 days' notice for the move of the main body, whilst still on Exercise "Surprise Packet" on Salisbury Plain.

In **October** the Battalion moved by air and took over Ghialo Barracks, Tripoli, from the 3rd Battalion The Coldstream Guards.

From **November, 1951**, to **October, 1952**, the Battalion was in Derna, with detached companies at Tobruk. The main activities were training till midday, with pre-breakfast P.T., and games in the afternoon, mainly swimming at "Five Mile Bottom," some five miles West of Derna.

The Anti-Tank Platoon fired a salute on the creation of Libya as an independent state. Live ammunition was used and fired out to sea.

In **October, 1952**, the Battalion returned to the U.K. in *H.T. Empire Test* from Tobruk, calling at Malta and spending 13 days on the voyage.

The Battalion took part in flood relief on the East Coast and in particular "S" Company at Canvey Island did good work with carriers. All Companies took part in sand-bagging operations in various parts of East Anglia.

In **March, 1953**, the Battalion moved by air to Kenya to take part in the anti-Mau-Mau operations. In *April and May* the Battalion, less "A" and "D" Companies in Nairobi, became acclimatised at Molo in the White Highlands, where the

kindness of the settlers will always be remembered.

The Battalion was on active service and started full-scale operations in *early June*. Companies were widely separated, each with large areas of responsibility around the Aberdare Mountains.

Lieut.-Col. Gleadell handed over command to Lieut.-Col. J. K. Windeatt, O.B.E., at the end of *June, 1953*.

The Battalion co-operated very closely with the local police, the Administration, and the air wing of the Kenya Police Reserve and took a leading part in the training of the Kikuyu Home Guard.

The companies and patrols usually operated at heights between 5,000 to 11,000 feet in the forests of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya, as well as in the Kikuyu Reserve. All ranks became extremely fit and by the time the Battalion left Kenya it had killed some 137 terrorists.

In **January, 1955**, the whole Battalion concentrated for the first time for 18 months at Thika, about 25 miles North-East of Nairobi. The Battalion marched through Nairobi as a farewell parade and embarked at Mombasa for the sea voyage home via the Canal.

The East African Medal was issued to all ranks of the Battalion.

The following awards were won by the Battalion: D.S.O.—Major M. C. Hastings; M.B.E.—Major G. W. Small; M.C.—Capt. F. Legge; B.E.M.—O.R.Q.M.S. Hunter, Sgt. Barker and Sgt. Sandford; three Mentioned in Despatches; two Queen's Commendation and nine C-in-C's Commendations.

On arrival in England at long last the Battalion moved into Seaton Barracks, Plymouth, the *first time the Battalion had been in Devon for 30 years*. The County gave the Battalion a wonderful welcome. Plymouth and Exeter gave a civic welcome and the Battalion marched through both cities. In *June* the Battalion moved in 'buses, due to the rail strike, to Harwich and embarked for B.A.O.R.

The Battalion was stationed at Trenchard Barracks, at Celle, 25 miles North of Hanover. Initially it was in 31 Lorried Infantry Brigade of 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats) on a three Rifle Company basis. On the reorganisation of the Armoured Division in **March, 1956**, it

became the Armoured Infantry Battalion of four Rifle Companies and with no "Sp" Company in 7th Armoured Brigade. But "B" Company was again disbanded eleven months later.

The Battalion was mounted in half-tracks manned by 109 Squadron R.A.S.C. and later in six-wheeled Saracens manned by "C" Squadron 14/20 Hussars, who lived in our barracks.

Lieut.-Col. G. R. Young, O.B.E., assumed command in **July, 1956**.

Companies were affiliated to Armoured Regiments as follows: "A" Company to 4th Queen's Own Hussars—"C" Company to 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards—"D" Company to 4th Regiment, Royal Tank Regiment.

The M.M.G. Platoon and Mortar Platoon, now in "H.Q." Company, provided sections with each company. Almost all training was done on an Armoured Regiment/Infantry Company/group basis.

The most important Regimental event was the presentation of new Colours on *29th September, 1956*, by the Right Hon. The Earl Fortescue, K.G., P.C., C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Her Majesty's Lieutenant of-and-in the County of Devon. The Colours replaced those presented by King George V at *Aldershot in 1924*. The new Queen's Colours carried the *ten* Battle Honours awarded to the Regi-

ment for service during the second World War.

Officers for the Old Colours were:

Lieutenant N. D. Notley and Lieutenant C. J. Ackford.

Officers for the New Colours were:

Lieutenant A. G. Chiswell and Lieutenant C. R. M. Green.

The Battalion took part in many sporting activities including ski-ing in the Harz Mountains. In **1957** the Battalion were runners-up in the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship, and in the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting our falling-plate team were just beaten in the final, but L/Cpl. Prowse was runner-up Champion "young soldier."

In **1958** the Battalion were winners of the 7th Armoured Division seven-a-side Rugby competition.

Due to man-power shortage "C" Company was disbanded in *February*.

At the beginning of *May* the Battalion's advance-party moved to Minden and on the **17th May, 1958**, "**AMALGAMATION DAY**", the two battalions became one; 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, commanded by Lt.-Col. G. R. Young, O.B.E., in 11th Infantry Brigade Group.

On 21st May, an amalgamation parade was held at which the C.I.G.S, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., took the salute.

THE DEPOT, 1939 to 1958

1939—At the outbreak of War in 1939 Major H. Gibbons, M.C., was commanding the Depot with Lieut. D. A. D. Young as Adjutant. During 1939 the Militia had been called out for training. On mobilisation, the small Depot at Higher Barracks was filled to capacity with Reservists. The weather remained fine for the first two weeks after mobilisation and this helped to relieve the serious problem of over-crowding.

In *October, 1939*, Lieut. R. E. R. Robinson became Adjutant.

1940—The Depot continued to train intakes and N.C.O.'s from T.A. units as instructors until an Infantry Training Centre was formed at Honiton. After the Dunkirk disaster, staff from the Depot helped to provide meals

at the Central Station and assisted in finding accommodation for some 10,000 survivors who passed through Exeter.

1941—A small Depot "holding party" was formed at Higher Barracks under the command of Major W. L. Sparkes, assisted by Lieut. J. N. Goodwyn. The Band also remained at the Depot.

1942—The U.S. Army moved into Higher Barracks, but the Depot party remained until 1945 to look after Regimental affairs and keep a close liaison with serving Battalions.

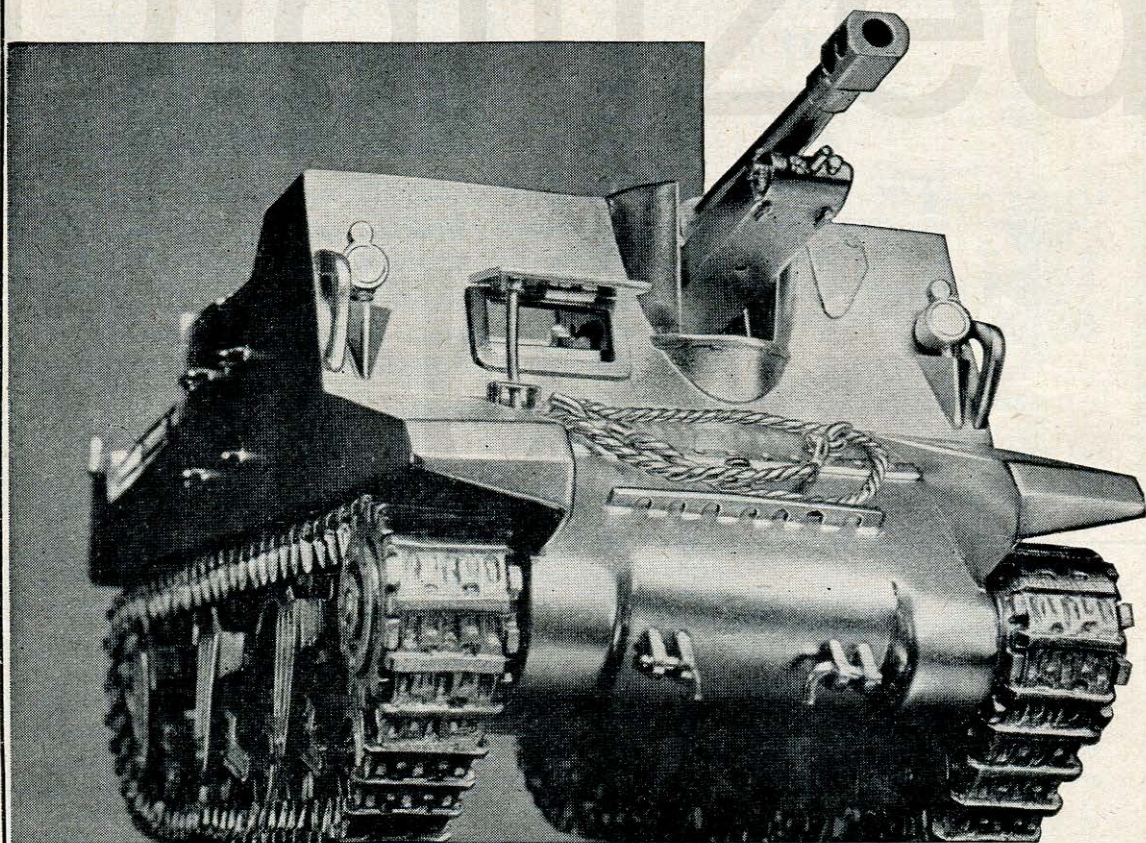
In particular there was close co-operation with Earl Fortescue's Comforts Fund in providing welfare amenities for Battalions overseas.

1945—Major Sparkes took the 3rd Battalion



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Colours to Berlin for the 2nd Battalion, who were taking part in the Berlin Victory Parade on the 13th of July, 1945. The 2nd Battalion Colours were still at that time in storage at Malta.

1946—On 10th August, Major W. H. Radcliffe took over command of the Regimental Depot party from Major W. L. Sparkes, who retired.

On 18th September the Regiment was presented with the Freedom of the Borough of Barnstaple.

On 31st October the Depot party expanded to form a Depot and became affiliated to the newly created 11 P.T.C. at Topsham Barracks. *So for the first time since about 1875, when, it is believed, the Regiment took over from a Cavalry Unit at Higher Barracks, the Regimental home was moved.*

Lieut.-Col. A. G. Davidson was appointed to command No. 11 P.T.C., Major E. J. Hatfield assumed command of the Depot, Major W. H. Radcliffe becoming Administrative Officer.

November 17th—H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth visited Exeter and at Topsham Barracks inspected the pre-service units of Devon, who were drawn up on the Square, under the command of the Rt. Hon. The Lord Roborough.

1947—In January, Major R. M. S. Curry assumed command of the Depot. During May, orders were received that the **2nd Battalion** was to lapse into *suspended animation*.

July 19th—The Colours of the 2nd Battalion were paraded and formally handed over to an escort from the Depot.

In November Major W. P. Symonds assumed command of the Depot.

1948—May 19th—The Regimental Depot closed at Topsham Barracks and re-opened at Higher Barracks on the same day. Personnel marched under the command of Major W. P. Symonds, to the music of the Band of the Royal Marines, from the R.M. Training Centre at Exton. Their Drummers carried the Silver Drums of the 2nd Battalion.

December 1st—Colonel H. Street, D.S.O., relinquished his appointment as Colonel of the Devonshire Regiment.

Colonel L. H. M. Westropp was appointed Colonel of the Regiment.

1949—February 26th—The Colours of the 2nd Battalion were laid up in Exeter Cathedral.

1950—February 29th—Major G. T. Dadson assumed command of the Depot, Major Symonds having retired and been appointed Army Recruiting Officer at Salisbury in January. Capt. P. V. Nepean, M.C., the Adjutant (now O.C. Depot), commanded in the interim.

1951—May 1st—Lieut.-Col. A. G. Davidson assumed the appointment of Administrative Officer and P.R.I.

October 20th-27th—The Depot moved from Higher Barracks to Topsham Barracks in order to prepare for expansion to "Depot Devon and Wessex Brigade."

1952—January 17th—The Earl Fortescue, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of Devon, dined with the officers.

June 14th—Major D. J. Bannister, M.C., assumed command of the Depot Devon and Wessex Brigade.

August 20th—A party of 120 strong left the Depot to assist in repair work in the flood disaster at Lynton.

1953—June 2nd—The Depot supplied two small contingents for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The marching troops were under Major D. A. Gilchrist, whilst those lining the route were under Lieut. D. P. Lovejoy.

1954—May 7th—It was announced that the Depot had won the Army Rifle Association small-bore match for Infantry Depots for 1953.

May 24th-27th—Depot won the S.W.D. Minor Units' Rifle Meeting Championship.

June 27th—At Bisley, L/Cpl. Ward was champion young soldier of the British Army.

July 16th—The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., took the salute at a Presentation Parade of recruits passing out.

August 7th—Major J. Rogers, M.C., assumed command of the Depot.

1955—February 19th—Depot won the S.W.D. Small Units' Basketball Championship.

March 18th—Depot won the S.W.D. Small Units' Hockey Cup.

March 23rd—Depot won the Southern Command Small Units' Hockey Cup.

April 27th—After the march of the 1st Battalion through Exeter a cocktail party was held in the Depot Mess, which was attended by many notable persons from the County of Devon.

May 9th-13th—Depot won the Minor Units' Challenge Cup at the S.W.D. Small Arms Meeting.

1956—May 7th-16th—Depot won the Minor Units' Challenge Cup and the team Rifle Cup at the S.W.D. Small Arms Meeting.

June 27th—The G.O.C. Southern Command, General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., took the salute at a Presentation Parade and later officially opened the newly built Sergeants' Mess.

1957—January 26th—Major J. Rogers, M.C., died suddenly. Major I. H. F. Edgar assumed temporary command.

May 6th-9th—S.W.D. Rifle Meeting. Depot won the following matches: The Young Soldiers' match—the Minor Units' match—the Grand Aggregate (Minor Units).

July 24th—**First news of amalgamation with the Dorset Regiment.**

July 26th—The Mayor of Exeter (Lieut.-Col. R. H. Creasy, D.L., late the Devonshire Regiment) gave a dinner at Guildhall, Exeter, to past and present officers of the Regiment.

August 26th—Major P. V. Nepean, M.C., assumed command of the Depot.

October 31st—Major-General H. A. Borradaile, D.S.O., late the Devonshire Regiment

and now G.O.C. S.W.D., took the salute at a Presentation Parade.

1958—January 23rd—Brigadier P. Gleadell, C.B.E., D.S.O., late the Devonshire Regiment, was the Inspecting Officer at a Presentation Parade.

March 4th—It was announced in the *London Gazette* that **H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent** would be appointed *Colonel-in-Chief* of the **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment** on formation.

March 27th—Lieut.-Col. A. G. Davidson (Retd.), Administrative Officer, Depot, the Devonshire Regiment, died suddenly at his home. His funeral took place in Exeter Cathedral on March 31st.

May 17th—An Amalgamation Day Parade took place on the occasion of the amalgamation of the Devonshire Regiment with the Dorset Regiment. The Inspecting Officer for the parade was General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command.

Footnote.—May 19th, 1948—when the Depot moved from Topsham Barracks back to Higher Barracks, the Regimental Band was overseas, the Royal Marine Band had no copy of our Regimental March and the Music Publishers were unable to help. So Major Symonds paid not a few visits to the R.M. I.T.C. at Exton, and marched up and down the music room humming "We've lived and loved together" while a Band Sergeant of the Royal Marines wrote the melody down. The Warrant Officer Bandmaster, R.M., then orchestrated it. The R.M. Band played magnificently and there were crowds in Exeter to watch the march "... with drums beating and Colours flying..." Once again the 3rd Battalion Colours were uncased and carried on parade.

OBITUARY

LT-COLONEL A. G. DAVIDSON

The Colonel of the Regiment writes:
"... In 1941 *H.M.S. Manchester*, carrying half the 8th Battalion King's Own Royal Regiment was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. Five officers were killed by the explosion, including the acting 2 i/c.

When we eventually reached Malta I applied for 'Curly' Davidson as my Second-in-Command.

He was at that time serving with the 2nd Devons, who had been suddenly ordered to Malta in 1938.

He served with the 8th King's Own during 1941 and 1942 and was a first-class Second-in-Command in every way.

Later, when I left Malta, he took over

command of the Battalion.

Since 1950 he had been Administrative Officer at the Depot, where his work has been invaluable to the Regiment.

He had a quick brain and was an excellent Staff Officer.

The Regiment owes him a great debt, in that Regimental affairs have been so efficiently and smoothly conducted during his tour of office.

It is indeed a great tragedy that he should have died at such a comparatively early age.

We all sympathise deeply with Mrs. Davidson and his family in their great loss. . . ."

I first met "Curly" as I have always known him when I was posted from "C" Company of the 1st Battalion to take over



The late Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Davidson.

from him at Carnsore Point wireless station near Wexford in Southern Ireland. We became good friends from the start and I always enjoyed his company as indeed did all with whom he came in contact, both officers and other ranks. His sense of humour was very marked and his sense of the ridiculous to say the least of it, infectious. While a good disciplinarian he was very kind and in every way an admirable character.

Our friendship continued in the 1st Battalion and we shared many activities, not the least in the concert party in our duet performances—"Put your worries through the mangle . . .", etc, etc. Shooting ducks at *Kushdilkhan*, we went out together "flying" or walking up a *lora*.

I regret that I cannot give details of his career as we used to pick up the threads of our friendship after years of being in different places. It was a great consolation to me after a "debacle" in my career to become his 2 i/c at Topsham Barracks before the P.T.C. closed down. He was a kind sympathetic listener, and I owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his understanding and advice. He is sorely missed by many, and I myself have lost a great personal friend.

W.P.S.

THE 4th DEVONS AND THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

The year 1908 was in some respects similar to 1958 in that amalgamation and reduction in defence costs were both subjects of public and private debate—Mr. Haldane's new streamlined Army was to contain a "Territorial Force"—a second line army absorbing the old Militia, Volunteers and Yeomanry. Included in its strength as the senior battalion of infantry was to be the "4th Battalion The Devonshire Regiment"—an amalgamation of the 1st Rifle Volunteers (1st R.V.) and the 3rd Volunteer Battalion The Devonshire Regiment (3 V.B.D.R.).

Fraternization between the men of the re-organised battalion was the order of the day at the first Territorial Camp at East Ausley in 1908. But Colour-Sergeant W. G. Boundy of "A" Company reported that apart from its length (15 days), the receipt of regular army rates of pay and the fact that King's Regulations were read to all ranks

on parade he could see "little difference from any of the other 25 camps" which he had attended.

The 4th Devons were in camp on Black Hill, Woodbury Common, undergoing their usual annual training, **when the First World War broke out**. On receipt of orders to mobilize, the Battalion proceeded immediately to its station at Fort Tregantle and Scraesdon (near Plymouth). As the 4th Devons marched from Woodbury, through Exeter, to entrain at St. David's Station, the excitement was intense, both in the ranks of the military companies and in the crowds lining the streets.

After a few days, the battalion moved to Perham Down, on Salisbury Plain, and began a strenuous course of training. The terms of service of the Territorial Force made no provision for overseas service, only for home defence. However, Colonel Troyte, the Commanding Officer, called for the men

to volunteer for service anywhere. The response was very satisfactory; a few who could not see their way to volunteer for foreign service at that moment, were relegated into the reserve battalion which was being formed by the large number of recruits which were daily arriving from the Headquarters in Exeter.

In early **October, 1914**, the 1/4th Battalion embarked in the transport *Nevasa* for India. Their reception at Ferozepore was astounding; a civic as well as military welcome awaited them, and thousands of Indians assembled at the cantonment station and along the roads.

It appears that many of them had expected to see "The Duke of Devonshire" riding at the head of his "Territorial Retainers"!

On **2nd February, 1916**, the Battalion was ordered to mobilize for service in Mesopotamia. By the 19th, mobilization was complete, and on the 21st the Devons entrained for Karachi, where they immediately embarked in s.s. *Vita*. On arrival, the Battalion became the British Battalion of 37 Brigade of 14 Indian Division. It was in this role that they fought their most famous action at the Battle of *Hai Canal*, South of Kut, on the River Tigris.

The other units in the Brigade were the 45th Sikhs, 36th Sikhs, 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles and 37 Brigade M.G. Company. On 28th January, 1917, the Brigade relieved 36 Brigade in the Hai Trenches. The first assault on the enemy line of trenches and the bank immediately behind was made on 31st January by the 36th and 45th Sikhs: the 1/4 Devons and 1/2nd Gurkhas being in reserve. The Sikhs advanced under heavy fire from both flanks, gained the enemy's position, but were unable to maintain themselves and had to fall back. Further attack was called off for that night. On 3rd February the 1/4 Devons and the 1/2 Gurkhas began their attack at 08.30 hours in eight waves at 30 paces interval. They advanced over 400 yards of open ground through a hail of M.G. and artillery fire, captured both lines of trenches and then further advanced to capture a sunken *nullah* and third trench, of whose existence no previous information had been given. The enemy's immediate counter-attack was beaten off, as were several further attacks that day.

The Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General Carey, wrote a personal letter to

Colonel Tremlett, the Commanding Officer, in which he said: "This is to express to you my appreciation of the most exceptionally good work done by your battalion . . . The unflinching cheerfulness with which all orders were carried out and the unsparing way in which the really hard digging was performed, was beyond all praise . . ."

Casualties were heavy—of 15 officers and 403 men only five and 186 remained unharmed at the end of the day. Immediate awards were made to Pte. T. C. McLellan (M.M.) and L/Cpl. W. T. Matthews (D.C.M.).

Two other Battalions of the 4th Devons were formed during the 1914-18 War—the 2/4th, who served in Southern India from early 1915 until September, 1917, when they went to Palestine, where they were disbanded; and the 3/4th Battalion.

The years between the two Wars were difficult ones for the Territorial Army. Pacifism and economy were the order of the day. The 2/4th and 3/4th Battalions were disbanded.

The chief events in the 4th Devons were the provision of two squads of honour—one in **1921** for H.R.H. The Prince of Wales when he unveiled the County Memorial in the Cathedral Close at Exeter, and the other for Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty at the unveiling of the Exeter City War Memorial in Northernhay.

In **1936** the Battalion won the L.M.G. Cup, open to all units of the British Army, at Bisley.

On the outbreak of war in **September, 1939**, the Battalion, commanded by Lt.-Col. Rutherford, M.C., was mobilised at Exeter and in a short time moved to Paignton. With the 6th and 8th Battalions they constituted 134 (Devon) Brigade of the 45th Division. Brigadier W. G. Michelmore, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., commanded the Brigade, but soon afterwards he was promoted to the rank of Major-General and assumed command of the Division.

In **May, 1940**, the Battalion moved to Gibraltar. Here, until June, 1943, they were occupied, amongst other things, in arduous duties as assistants to the Sappers in removing rubble during the process of converting the fortress into what was virtually an underground township.

Training on a higher level than platoon was almost impossible, but inter-platoon competitions in fieldcraft and shooting, as

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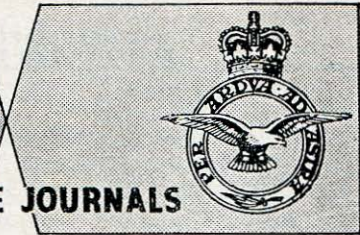
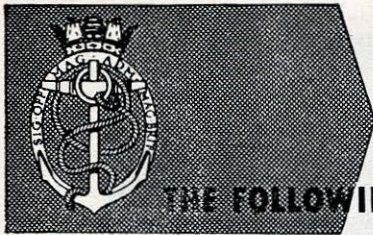
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well as weekly route marches, kept the men fit and interested.

Lt.-Col. P. A. A. D'Oyly assumed command of the Battalion early in 1943.

On reaching England in **June, 1943**, the Battalion was sent to Barnard Castle, where it was the first to do duty as Demonstration Battalion to the School of Infantry. Arthur Bryant, in his preface to "*The Devons*," by Jeremy Taylor, pays them a remarkably high tribute.

In **December, 1943**, they moved to Eastbourne, back to the 45th Division. The much-hoped-for orders for participation in the landing on the Continent failed to materialise, to the intense disappointment of all ranks. Instead they remained in Sussex, were sent thence to Angle, Pembrokeshire, then back to Sussex. They sailed for Italy in the latter part of **1945** and from there proceeded to Austria, where, as part of the 78th Infantry Division, they carried out occupation duties until ordered home in **February, 1947**.

In the eleven years which have elapsed since the Second World War the 4th Battalion has had its fair share of ceremonial occasions and of achievements in sport and training.

On **31st October, 1948**, it was represented at the Grand Review of the Territorial Army

in Hyde Park, by His Majesty King George VI. On 21st October of the following year it formed a Guard of Honour for H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth. In **1950**, as part of the reorganisation of the Territorial Army, it was amalgamated with the 5th Battalion.

1952, the Centenary Year of the Battalion, was marked, amongst other things, by an inspection in Castle Yard by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. That year it went to camp with its "Z" Reservists and was 1,000 strong.

In 1952 it was represented at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In **1955** it won the Southern Command Football Cup, and the following year provided a Guard of Honour for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Barnstaple.

1957 was the first All-Volunteer Camp for six years.

There, the cycle is, in a sense, once more complete.

With the present amalgamation of the Regular Battalion with the 1st Battalion The Dorset Regiment, **The 4th Devons** will be the sole unit of the British Army entitled to wear the badge of **The Devonshire Regiment**.

There is no doubt that all ranks will do their utmost to continue to be "*Ever Faithful*" to all that that badge stands for.

DIARY OF A RETIRED OFFICER

Continued from page 351

- Oct. 2 Marched to Canal bank, Ypres. Thousands of troops everywhere. Company Commanders went up to front for recce by night and came back with awful stories of mud and barrage of shells. Frightful din all night.
- 3 Had walk round Ypres in morning. In evening marched by companies to Sanctuary Wood, where we collected grenades, etc. On, via Lone Trench to reserve trenches at Clapham Junction. Pause here for grub. 9 p.m. companies moved forward behind guides to Battalion H.Q. at Fitzclarence Farm, Inverness Copse. Soon after we left for company forming-up positions, a shell landed on Battalion H.Q., killing

C.O. and Adjutant and others. A terrible night. Pouring with rain, pitch dark, mud and water everywhere and continuous heavy shelling. Our company guide lost his way almost at once. Wandered round and round for hour, although we had only 1,000 yards to go. Major Bell, recently from a cycle battalion in U.K., in despair. Left company in what was left of a trench full of Jock bodies and went on recce. Picked up a lost Surrey signaller from Battalion in line, bumped into D.C.L.I. (thought they were Bosch at first), who were attacking on our left. Followed their line along to right and found E. Surreys, whom we were relieving. After a drop of

Continued on page 371

Old Comrades Association, The Devonshire Regiment, Exeter

PRESIDENT:

COLONEL L. H. M. WESTROPP, D.L.,
COLONEL OF THE DEVONSHIRE
REGIMENT.

CHAIRMAN:

COLONEL D. A. BULLOCK, O.B.E., D.L.



TELEPHONE EXETER 59279

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER:
LT.-COL. R. H. CREASEY, D.L.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

I am advised by *the Editor* that my notes must be brief owing to lack of space and so I feel that I should convey to all Old Comrades my appreciation of their co-operation with, and trust in my stewardship as their Honorary Secretary.

At our last General Meeting, the Rules of the Association were re-written to comply with the inevitable changes consequent upon the amalgamation of the Regiment with the Dorset Regiment, but generally speaking no great changes were made beyond the composition of the General Committee, and the acceptance of members of the Amalgamated Regiment and of the O.C.A. Dorset Regiment as Honorary Members of our O.C.A. for social activities.

It is indeed fortunate that for this year, 1958, we are being accorded the same and generous facilities by the Depot for the Reunion Dinner in Exeter on Saturday, July 26th, when there will also be the customary march from Berrymeadow to the Cathedral for our special service.

I feel that you should make a point of coming this year because at the moment I foresee difficulties in running future dinners at the present low cost.

In bidding farewell to *The Journal of The Devonshire Regiment* I wish all its readers

good health and much happiness in the future.
R. H. Creasey

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES

The following "Signals" were exchanged between Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Young, O.B.E., Commanding The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Old Comrades' Association.

From Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Young, O.B.E., to O.C.A., Depot Devons:—

"17th May the soldiers of Devon and Dorset amalgamate, and from this day forward, we shall continue to maintain the fine traditions, fighting spirit and comradeship of our predecessors. To a very large extent the spirit of the new Battalion will emulate its historic and famous past. A past which you have helped to build.

The thoughts of all of us are with you on this sad and historic occasion..." Young.

To which the Old Comrades' Association sent the following reply:—

To Colonel Young, Commanding Devonshire Dorset Regiment, B.F.P.O. 29:—

"...Grateful thanks for signal, contents much appreciated. Please convey to Battalion our loyalty and best wishes for success and prosperity in the future..."

Devon Regiment O.C.A.

D—DAY

American author, writing an hour-by-hour account of D-Day, is anxious to contact members of the Devonshire Regiment who took part in the Normandy landings from midnight June 5th to midnight June 6th, 1944.

Please write to the Research Editor, The Reader's Digest, at the following address:—
25, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

**NOMINAL ROLL OF ALL DEVON SERVING OFFICERS & N.C.O.'s
DOWN TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL**

MAY, 1958

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General H. A. Borradaile, D.S.O. G.O.C. South Western District
Brigadier P. S. Leeper, C.B.E. War Office (DD Mov.)
T/Brigadier P. Gleadell, C.B.E., D.S.O. Chief or Staff, Cyprus.
T/Colonel R. G. Pine-Coffin, D.S.O., M.C. Cndt. Army M.T. Sch., Bordon.
L/Brigadier D. A. D. Young M.A., Moscow.

Lieutenant-Colonels

C. V. King A.A. & Q.M.G., Gibraltar
L. G. Carpenter-Garnier, O.B.E. Min. of Defence.
J. K. Windtatt, O.B.E. Sch. Land / Air Warfare (G.S.O. I), Southern Comd. (AMS).
Q. D. T. Hogg 1st Devons (C.O.).
G. R. Young, O.B.E. 4th Devons (C.O.).
R. E. R. Robinson Trucial Oman Scouts (C.O).
D. J. H. Bannister, M.B.E. M.C.

Majors

G. N. B. Spencer H.Q. Southern Command (D.A.Q.M.G. Mov.).
W. R. A. Kettle, M.C. R.A.E.C., Beaconsfield.
M. C. Hastings, D.S.O. 1st Bn. (2 i/c).
G. G. C. Coleridge South. Comd. (D.A.Q.M.G. Wks.).
P. F. Anderson, M.C. Iraq Staff College (GSO I).
J. R. H. Parlbly, M.B.E. H.Q. B.A.O.R. (GSO 2 Trg.).
G. N. Taylor 1st Bn.
R. G. J. T. Bahin (T/Lt.-Col.) Min. of Supply.
G. V. O'B. Adams H.Q. B.A.O.R.
P. V. Nepean, M.C. Depot Devon (C.O.).
D. A. Gilchrist 1st Bn.
P. T. Wilcocks, M.B.E., M.C. H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde. (D.A.A. and Q.M.G.).
F. W. Harries Aden Protectorate Levies.
T. J. Pine-Coffin G.S.O. II, 6 Armd. Div., B.A.O.R.
F. K. Pyne 250 G.L. Section.
D. O. Appleton Depot Malay Regt.
P. W. R. F. Faulkner 1st Bn.
D. N. Inman H.Q. 24 Indep. Inf. Bde.
I. H. F. Edgar Depot Devon (HS).
C. J. Lynch SHAPE (M.A.).
M. T. Procter 103 G.L. Section.
J. P. Randle, M.C. 1st Bn.
W. G. Wood, M.C. H.Q. Federal Army Malaya (D.A.A.G.).
J. E. ff. Roberts H.Q. 6 Inf. Bde.
J. Norrish Depot Devon.
W. J. P. Aggett 1st Bn.
T/Major M. F. R. Bullock 1st Bn.
T/Major A. D. Rouse H.Q. (70) (AE) Inf. Bde. (B.M.).
Major (Q.M.) R. Marshall, M.B.E. 1st Bn.

Captains

P. R. B. Freeland 4 Devon (Adjt.).
T. Hope H.Q. 5 Div.
P. H. Wood Staff College.
P. W. R. Graystone H.Q. 2 Fed. Inf. Bde.
P. K. Essame H.Q. (U.K.) Corps (G3 INT.).
R. E. Cole-Mackintosh H.Q. B.A.O.R. (G3 INT.).
J. E. Hollingshead Depot Devon (HS), 4 Devon Adjt. designate.
A. M. Dilleigh R.A.F. Brampton. Hants.
D. P. Lovejoy Sch. of Inf., Hythe.
D. McL. Stone Mons O.C.S.
P. Burdick 1st Bn.
E. H. Tremlett Depot Devon (Adjt.).
J. R. Edward-Collins H.Q. II Inf. Bde.
T/Captain F. Legg, M.C. A.A.C. Centre.
T/Captain R. Sheather 1 Devon (Adjt.).
Captain (Q.M.) G. W. Blake Depot Devon.

Lieutenants

J. D. C. Blake Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.
J. E. K. Goodbody 1st Bn.
R. Jury 1st Bn.
P. D. Clarke H.Q. S.W.D. (A.D.C. to G.O.C.).
N. D. Notley Depot Devon.
J. M. Deans Depot Devon.
T/Capt. A. G. Chiswell 1st Bn.
C. J. Ackford 1st Bn.
E. Rosenberg 1 Devon.
C. R. M. Green 1 Devon.
M. W. Wadham Mil. College of Science.
P. R. Sammons Depot Devon.
Lt. (Q.M.) F. L. Cann 4 Devon.
Lt. (Q.M.) R. Patmore 11 K.A.R.

2nd Lieutenants

J. M. Hewitt 1st Bn.
F. J. Cann 1st Bn.
C. M. Peplow 1st Bn.
R. D. Turrall 1st Bn.

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Major B. G. Dillon War Office.
Captain M. P. Bennett Malay Regt.
Captain H. S. Tucker H.Q. Northumbrian Dist.

Lieutenants

T. H. E. Emmett Depot (HS).
J. D. Goodchild Depot (HS).
J. C. F. Hill 1st Bn.
P. G. Pine-Coffin Att. R.A.S.C.
P. G. Honeyman Depot (HS).
G. Hamill K.A.R.
2/Lt. Creasy 1st Bn.
2/Lt. Martin Depot (HS).
Major (Q.M.) G. Watson H.Q. 5 Inf. Bde.

EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

Major F. C. A. Himely H.Q. Mid West District.
Major G. R. Hickey H.Q. 11 Inf. Bde., B.A.O.R.
Major G. M. Bennett Cyprus Leave Camp.
Captain G. A. Mills Singapore Guard Regt.
Captain G. J. Ferris H.Q. North Midland Dist.
Captain R. Aggett No. 1 Wessex PS Team.
Captain P. E. Mangin Int. Corps Centre.

W.O.'s AND N.C.O.'s

No.	Rank	Name	Present Unit
5618862	W.O.I	Combe, A.	1st Bn.
5503774	W.O.I	Harris, W.	Depot Devon
5631259	W.O.I	Pollard, R.	4th Bn.
5617580	W.O.II	French, H.	1st Bn.
883509	W.O.II	Wallis, J.	1st Bn.
5617457	W.O.II	Crawford, J.	1st Bn.
5617457	W.O.II	Petherick, R., M.B.E.	Inf. Jnr. Leaders Bn.
5619283	W.O.II	Rooke, K.	RWAF Sch., Ghana
1929043	W.O.II	Nott, M.	Depot Devon
5617017	W.O.II	Burton, F.	4th Bn.
1487451	W.O.II	Bate-Jones, R.	4th Bn.
5619247	W.O.II	Channing, F.	1st Dorsets
22222392	W.O.II	McGregor, R.	1st Bn.
5618336	W.O.II	Bolton, A.	6 KAR
5382272	W.O.II	Willey, V.	Depot Devon
5623655	Colour/Sergeant	Glanville, F.	Mons OCS

N.C.O.'s

5618450	Colour/Sergeant	Sellick, A.	Fed. Malay Forces	22482895	Corporal (A/Sgt.)	Allen, C.	1st Bn.
5618450	Colour/Sergeant (A/W.O.II)	Bassett, W.	H.Q., Alder-shot Dist.	5616010	Corporal (A/Sgt.)	Crowley, L.	Depot Devon
823549	Colour/Sergeant	Sherbourne, P.	Depot Devon	22523346	Corporal	Rook, A.	1st Bn.
14486351	Colour/Sergeant	Lamble, J.	1st Bn.	22510301	Corporal	Pitts, F.	1st Bn.
5617448	Colour/Sergeant	Gilliam, J.	1st Bn.	22287402	Corporal	Potts, J.	1st Bn.
19036219	Colour/Sergeant	Wood, K.	1st Bn.	875821	Corporal	Cole, A.	Depot Devon
5619651	Colour/Sergeant	Richardson, A. (G.M.)	1st Bn.	22801849	Corporal	Mott, L.	RMP Est., Woking
6015499	Colour/Sergeant	Foster	1st Bn.	19040007	Corporal	Taylor, P.	Depot Wilts
19040562	Colour/Sergeant (A/W.O.II)	Granger, J.	15 Travelling Wing	22250043	Corporal	Leonard, K.	H.Q., 5 Div.
5495818	Sergeant	Pett, E.	35 Army Info Office, Exeter	14477313	Corporal	Cox, R.	1st Bn.
2037028	Sergeant (A/C/Sgt.)	Quinn, D.	RPO (REME)	19158978	Corporal	Keytes, P.	1st Bn.
14466492	Sergeant	Boon, W.	1st Bn.	21127058	Corporal	Jordan, W.	1st R. Hamps
5335257	Sergeant	Alder, G.	H.Q. Sqn. 7 Armd. Bde. Gp.	14474287	Corporal	Corbin, E.	1st Bn.
14466492	Sergeant	Cummings, J.	1st Bn.	22837007	Corporal	Walker, G.	1st Bn.
21182911	Sergeant	Sutherland, W.	MCTC	5618861	Corporal	Cary, L.	Depot Devon
22222376	Sergeant	Hutchinson, J.	1st Bn.	14473401	Corporal (A/Sgt.)	Harvey, R.	1st Dorsets
21045062	Sergeant	Evans, G.	Army Apprentice Sch., Arborfield	22557706	Corporal	Birdsall, H.	4th Bn.
22285193	Sergeant	Hill, L.	1st Bn.	22266107	Corporal	Windsor, D.	1st Bn.
5619805	Sergeant	Wilkinson, W.	1st Bn.	5621929	Corporal	Stansbury, I.	1st Bn.
14456112	Sergeant	Lewis, D.	1st Bn.	23034761	Corporal	Cann, N.	1st Bn.
5618908	Sergeant	Jeffery, A.	R. Ho-g Kong Def. Force	14462257	Corporal	Marrison, R.	MDC Trg. Centre
21015057	Sergeant	Violet, G.	1st Bn.	19047195	Corporal	Wells, A.	Depot Devon
561956	Sergeant	Vinson, W.	4th Bn.	22548371	Corporal	Page, R.	Depot Devon
21015456	Sergeant	Rose, R.	1st Bn.	22773333	Corporal	Riggs, D.	1st Bn.
5724951	Sergeant (A/C/Sgt.)	Hall, K.	1st Bn.	22222761	A/Corporal	Angrave, R.	1st Bn.
14471331	Sergeant	Cooke, G.	1st Bn.	23301903	A/Corporal	Baker, J.	1st Bn.
22485367	Sergeant	Groom, D.	Army Apprentice Sch., Arborfield	22539319	A/Corporal	Barlow, D.	1st Bn.
22548269	Sergeant	Alderman, J.	4th Bn.	23301923	A/Corporal	Braund, M.	1st Bn.
22582028	Sergeant	Turney, P.	RMA, Sandhurst	22069832	A/Corporal	Chase, T.	1st Bn.
22307458	Sergeant	Bull, D.	Mons OCS	23379097	A/Corporal	Corney, H.	Depot Devon
22447773	Sergeant	Solman, R.	1st Bn.	23301907	A/Corporal	Crocker, G.	1st Bn.
22550520	Sergeant	Ryder, N.	1st Bn.	23314023	A/Corporal	Cross, J.	1st Bn.
19040749	Sergeant	Bradfield, A.	1st Bn.	23144370	A/Corporal	Drake, A.	1st Bn.
2510323	Sergeant	Wilton, E.	1st Bn.	23274415	A/Corporal	Farmanter, A.	1st Bn.
19031745	Sergeant	Meagher, J.	Army Meth. of Instruction Centre	23104537	A/Corporal	Fox, B.	1st Bn.
22548188	Sergeant	Taylor, A.	4th Dorsets	23485172	A/Corporal	Fowler, T.	1st Bn.
14468830	Sergeant	Pengelly, K.	Depot Devon	22066017	A/Corporal	Hamlyn, P.	1st Bn.
22800163	Sergeant	Davies, J.	Depot Devon	22222405	A/Corporal	Henderson, S.	1st Bn.
941827	Sergeant	Dean, L.	1st Bn.	22522302	A/Corporal	Lingard, R.	1st Bn.
22272556	Sergeant	Bailey, G.	1st Bn.	23325082	A/Corporal	Prowse, B.	1st Bn.
22868784	Sergeant	Millis, D.	Sch. of Inf.	23334674	A/Corporal	Sawers, N.	1st Bn.
22673204	Sergeant	Crocker, R.	4th Bn.	22296955	A/Corporal	Stokes, R.	1st Bn.
19037506	Sergeant	Asplen, J.	1st Bn.	23241956	A/Corporal	Vaggas, F.	1st Bn.
22478955	Sergeant	S'eeman, P.	1st Bn.	5609634	L/Corporal	Hooper, P. G. H. A.	Depot Devon
22868766	Sergeant	Gilbert, D.	Depot Devon	7265618	W.O.I	Boulding, K.	Band 1st Bn.
23024512	Sergeant	Smith, M.	1st Bn.	5616450	W.O.II	Knowles, E.	Depot Band
22668098	Sergeant	McGoldrick	1st Bn.	5631263	Sergeant	Halstead, W.	1st Glosters
5614118	Corporal	Thomas, C. (B.E.M.)	1st Bn.	5631265	Sergeant	Mears, G.	Band 1st Bn.
14477310	Corporal	Cole, R.	Depot Devon	5631264	Sergeant	Offord, J.	RMSM
5619033	Corporal	Eales, H.	1st Bn.	5631262	Sergeant	Hibbs, R.	RMSM
14184252	Corporal	Hart, J.	1st Bn.	5631288	Corporal (A/Sgt.)	Howell, A.	Band 1st Bn.
4685026	Corporal	Bennett, A.	Depot Devon	5631282	Corporal	Begam, D.	Band 1st Bn.
22285350	Corporal (A/Sgt.)	Elliott, C.	Army Apprentice Sch., Arborfield	5631289	Corporal	Mann, P.	Band 1st Bn.
22462983	Corporal	Gratton, F.	1st Bn.	5631272	Corporal	Hamlin, A.	Band 1st Bn.
22797260	Corporal	Morrison, E.	MDC Trg. Centre	5631283	L/Corporal (A/Cpl.)	Pike, D.	Band 1st Bn.

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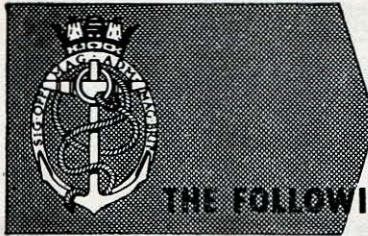
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THE AMALGAMATION PARADE

The amalgamation parade of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiments took place at the Dorsets' Barracks at Minden, Germany, on Wednesday, May 21st, when the new Regimental Band ended the day's ceremonies by Beating Retreat.

Officers and men of the 1st Devons had previously left their barracks at Celle, 70 miles to the north-east, and were installed with the 1st Dorsets.

Many high-ranking officers were present, among them General Sir Dudley Ward, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine and an old Dorsets officer; Lieut.-General M. M. A. R. West, commanding 1st British Corps; and Major-General M. W. G. Stirling, G.O.C. 2nd Division.

Turnout Praised

Major-General G. N. Wood, who was Colonel of the Dorsets and is now Colonel of the combined Regiments, and Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, who was Colonel of the Devons, inspected the Battalion and the Band, which is formed from the old band of the 1st Devons and 1st Dorsets.

General Wood praised the high standard of turnout and drill of the Battalion, which had been reached so soon after the merger—the official date of the amalgamation was

May 17th

He also paid tribute to Colonel Westropp, who has been Colonel of the Devons for nearly ten years, for his help during the birth of the new Regiment.

The Battalion—Officers, Colour Party, and Band in blue and the companies in khaki—marched past the saluting base where General Wood took the salute.

The parade was commanded by Lt.-Colonel G. R. Young, of Bovey Tracey, the 1st Devons' C.O., who in November hands over command of the new battalion to Lt.-Colonel R. H. Wheatley, a Dorsets officer.

The Colours

The Regiment will receive new Colours in the autumn.

The Devons' present Colours will be hung in Exeter Cathedral and those of the Dorsets in Sherborne Abbey.

Cyprus later

The Battalion will remain in B.A.O.R. until next September when it will embark for the U.K. and will stage at Piddlehinton, near Dorchester, while preparing to leave for Cyprus in November.

Earlier in the month the Devons' Colours were taken to Minden to be laid with the Colours of the Dorsets. The ceremony took place in lightly falling rain.

The Queen's Colour was carried by 2nd-Lt. F. J. Cann, of Kilce, Somerset, and the Regimental Colour by 2nd-Lt. R. D. Turrall, of Dolton, Devon. Also in the party was C.S.M. K. Wood, of Sidmouth. In the Dorset Colour party was C.S.M. F. Channing, of Newton Abbot.

By courtesy of the "Express and Echo"

DIARY OF A RETIRED OFFICER

Continued from page 367

rum with their Company Commander in a pill box went back to find company. They had moved, but after long search and much shouting found them and led company up to our jumping-off position. Crowley and several others wounded on way. Persuaded Crowley to go back—we never saw him again. Got into positions 3.30 a.m.

- 4 Very tired, wet and nervy. Shared a small slit trench with 2 E. Surreys. About 4 a.m. Bosch put

Continued on page 375

down a terrific barrage. Deafening din. Got plastered with mud from bursts. In middle got out to visit my section with platoon sergeant. Found half of them killed, including whole rifle grenade section. Extracted and distributed their bombs to others. 6 a.m. Zero. Thoroughly worked up now. Deafening barrage from our guns. Huge wall of flame and mud in front of us. A magnificent sight. Got troops going by waving and pushing. Through our

MESSAGE OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS TO THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT

Lieut.-Col. Young, Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. . . .

" . . . The Parade in which you have been taking part this morning marks the amalgamation of two old and famous Regiments, the Dorsets and the Devonshires. It is an historic occasion and—let us truthfully confess it—to some extent a melancholy one, for in all our hearts inevitable regrets must be mingled with our hope for the future of the New Regiment which is born today.

" That this great change in the lives of two fine Regiments has been accepted with such an immediate and so loyal a response reflects much credit upon all ranks; for the decision has radically affected the careers of every serving member of the two Regiments and in the case of many senior ranks—both commissioned and non-commissioned—has brought their careers to a premature close.

" We have in Great Britain a proper and abiding respect for our traditions. They are the links that bind us to the heroes and glories of bygone days, and they are a never failing source of strength. But we cannot live by regrets for the past; today, the much-prized traditions of two Regiments must be merged; and I am confident that all of you will set your hearts and minds towards the achievement of that great object.

" This should not be as difficult as may first appear. For the new Regiment is set already upon a firm foundation. You have stood together in many hard won battles; you

have fought side by side in Burma; and together you formed a part of the magnificent Malta Brigade which made its name famous—and fearful to the enemy—in the campaigns in Sicily, Italy and Normandy. Moreover, you can also claim a common background, coming as you do from neighbouring counties in the West Country.

" The young soldiers of the new Regiment will thus inherit a magnificent tradition and, as the successors of the men of Plassey and Salamanca, I have no doubt that in their time they will add a fresh page to this old and glorious history.

" And now, as your orders stand, the Battalion will soon be leaving for Cyprus. I very much hope that it will be possible for me to inspect you before you embark for that station. Your duties there will be exacting, and will demand of you a combination of great qualities; courage, kindness and tact. Do not forget that your conduct in that unhappy island may have a profound influence on future events, and that your actions will be judged not only there but throughout the world; it is not an easy task that you have been given, but I feel sure that you will discharge it with distinction and that you will be worthy of the famous old Regiments whose names you now bear.

" As your Colonel-in-Chief, I shall follow your fortunes with the closest interest, and shall look forward to receiving regular reports about all that concerns you. God bless you all. . . ."

Marina, Colonel-in-Chief.

ADDRESS BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

" . . . Her Majesty the Queen has just given her approval to my appointment as Colonel of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. This is the greatest honour and privilege that can be conferred on any soldier. It involves many duties and responsibilities, and I assure you that these duties will henceforth be my first care. For a start it will be my pleasant task to learn to know the old Devonshires of the Battalion as well as I know the old Dorsets.

" The Parade today has been a great surprise to me. I had thought and said, that a ceremonial Parade within five days of the actual merging of the Battalions was not to be thought of. Your bearing and turn-out today show that during these five days all ranks have worked with the greatest keenness, and they assure the future efficiency of the Battalion beyond any shadow of doubt. Moreover, a great deal of hard, patient work has



Lt.-Col. Young

Major-General Wood

Colours of the Devonshire Regiment

Colours of the Dorset Regiment

Collection

THE THREE COLONELS



L. to R. : Major-General G. N. Wood, C. B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Young, O.B.E., Commanding the Battalion; Colonel L. H. M. Westropp, D.L., late Colonel The Devonshire Regiment.

gone on ever since the first announcement of the amalgamation. This work has been invaluable.

"In this connection I wish to mention one name, that of Col. Westropp. Col. Westropp has served the Devonshire Regiment as its Colonel for nearly the full term of 10 years, and during this last year he has worked for the future of the New Regiment. His experience and wisdom have been invaluable and

in your name, and my own, I thank him for all he has done for us.

"My official duty now is to read a message which I have brought to you from the most gracious and beautiful lady H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, our Royal Colonel-in-Chief. I know that it would be your wish that I should report to Her Royal Highness that her gracious message has been received with loyal and hearty acclamation. . . ."

THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S ADDRESS

". . . Today, the 17th May, is the day we have been anticipating for many months. This day sees the union of two famous old County Regiments. We have become the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Today also sees all Regiments of the Wessex Brigade wearing the cap badge we are now wearing—the *Wessex Wyvern*.

"Amalgamation of the two old Regiments is no time for rejoicing but if it had to come there could be no better union than the Devons and Dorsets. We have known each other for a long time, and as West Countrymen we understand and respect each other's customs and way of life. During the last war we fought together in Malta, Sicily, Italy and on the Normandy beaches from D-Day until the campaign in Western Europe was brought to a victorious conclusion.

"I, myself, am extremely proud to wear the titles of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and proud too to be your first Commanding Officer. Here, it is perhaps fitting to remark that my father commanded a Battalion of Devons and my grandfather a Battalion of Dorsets.

"From what I have seen over the last few days, and on parade today, I have every reason to believe that we shall settle down into a happy and successful Battalion. But remember that we are starting from scratch and have a name to make for ourselves and we can't do that without each and every one of you pulling his weight to the utmost. Whatever I may do, nothing will be achieved without your determination to make the union a success. However, to this end we have the wonderful advantage of carrying forward with us the best customs and traditions of both old Regiments, and it must be our constant aim to uphold and enhance these.

"Yesterday, I was a Devon, today, I am a Devon/Dorset, and my loyalties will be entirely with the New Regiment. There are bound to be changes, but these will be no more than are customary with a new Commanding Officer.

"Together, we face our first test next Wednesday, 21st May, when we go on parade before our new Colonel, General Wood, in the presence of the C.I.G.S. and C-in-C. This will entail a lot of hard work in the next few days, but I am sure that we will pass this test with flying colours.

"After that, we must fit ourselves to operate in Cyprus, where we are due in November, later this year. We leave here on 11th September for Piddlehinton, near Dorchester, where we shall be in transit.

"To this end we shall train at Sennelager and the Harz Mountains, and shoot on the Ranges. By this time, I hope that we shall have fulfilled the words of General Wavell, which some of you have already heard, but I quote again, 'However good and well trained a man may be as an individual, he is not a good soldier until he has become absorbed into the corporate life of his unit, and has been entirely imbued with its traditions.'

"Finally, it is fitting on the historic occasion of the foundation day of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment that we renew our allegiance to our Sovereign by giving three hearty cheers for Her Majesty the Queen. . . ."

I Devon/Dorsets 'Shun. . .

Remove headdress. . .

Three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen. . .

Hip Hip . . . Hip Hip . . . Hip Hip . . .

Rifles between knees, replace headdress.



THE FIRST PARADE

The picture on this page was taken on the 17th May, 1958, at Topsham Barracks, Exeter, on the occasion of the birth of the first new Regiment of the Brigade, by the amalgamation of the old Devonshire Regiment with the old Dorset Regiment; and on the first day of the wearing of the new Brigade Cap Badge—the *Wessex Wyvern*—by all ranks of the Brigade.

It marked a landmark in the history of the British Infantry and, particularly, in the history of this Brigade which has existed since 1947.

To mark the occasion there was a special parade of two platoons of Wiltshire recruits who had been trained at Topsham Barracks, and who were passing-out for drafting to the 1st Battalion of their Regiment in Cyprus, together with a composite platoon of Permanent Staff and Brigade N.C.O.s' Cadre personnel then at Topsham Barracks.

The parade was made further remarkable by its being the first occasion upon which the Brigade Bandmaster unit, under the direction of W.O.I (Bandmaster) L. Fereday, A.R.C.M., the Brigade Bandmaster, played for a ceremonial parade.

The Brigade Colonel, Colonel J. R. Welchman, D.S.O., invited General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., the

General Officer Commanding - in - Chief Southern Command to take the salute and to address those gathered at Topsham Barracks for the occasion.

Representative parties were invited from the other Depots, including that of the old Dorset Regiment.

The photograph shows the General with Officers, Warrant Officers and Other Ranks of Wessex Brigade Headquarters and of the Depots—the Brigade Colonel is on the General's immediate right, with, to his right, Major P. V. Nepean, M.C., The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (formerly of The Devonshire Regiment), Major W. N. Hayes, M.C., The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (formerly of The Dorset Regiment), and Major W. A. Wood, The Gloucestershire Regiment; to the General's left are Major P. W. Weller, M.B.E., The Gloucestershire Regiment (the Brigade Adjutant), Major F. Myatt, M.C., The Royal Berkshire Regiment, Major M. H. Chivers, The Wiltshire Regiment, and Major H. E. Wingfield, M.C., The Royal Hampshire Regiment. The Brigade Bandmaster is standing in the second row between and behind Majors Chivers and Wingfield. The stout civilian in a well-worn bowler hat is Captain H. Platt (RO III), of Brigade Headquarters where he has worked since April, 1952. The civilian at the other end of the same row is Captain R. W. Hodge,

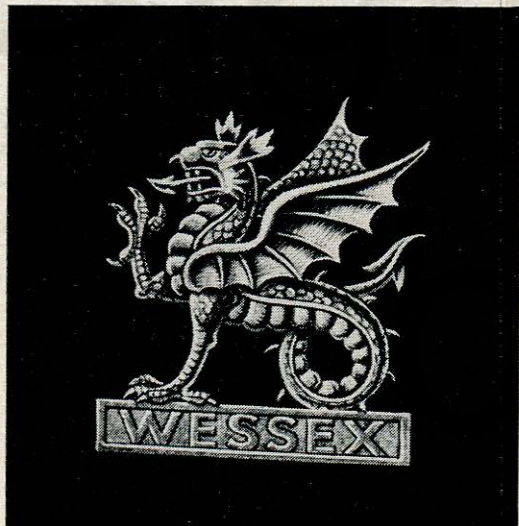
M.B.E., M.M., T.D., who had been Administrative Officer at the old Depot of The Dorset Regiment for many years.

In the back row, behind Captain Hodge, stands L/Cpl. Hooper, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, formerly of The Devon-

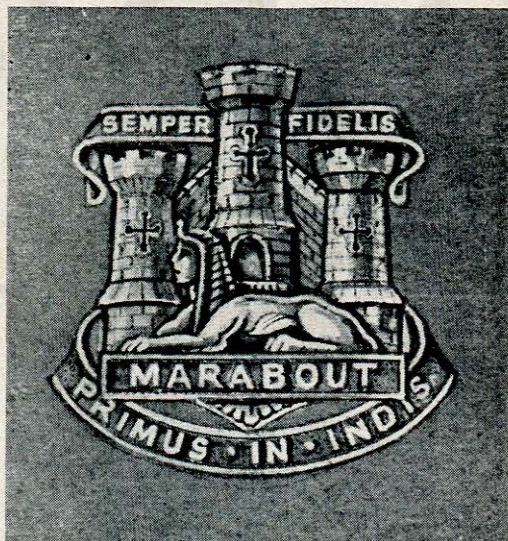
shire Regiment, who served in his former Regiment for 42 years and wears First War medals on his chest—he, too, wears the new Cap Badge.

In the centre middle row stands the R.S.M. —W.O.I G. Harris, who had just received his L.S. and G.C. medal from the General.

THE NEW BADGES



Cap badge worn by all Regiments of the Wessex Brigade.



Worn on the collar by The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

DIARY OF A RETIRED OFFICER

Continued from page 371

wire easily, and advanced, at first in line, towards Cameron Covert (about 500 yards). Few Bosch about stunned by our barrage. Further on saw heaps of dead. Lost touch with D.C.L.I. on my left and had to take on the wood alone. Watched other companies across the Reutelbeek meet Jerries in open.

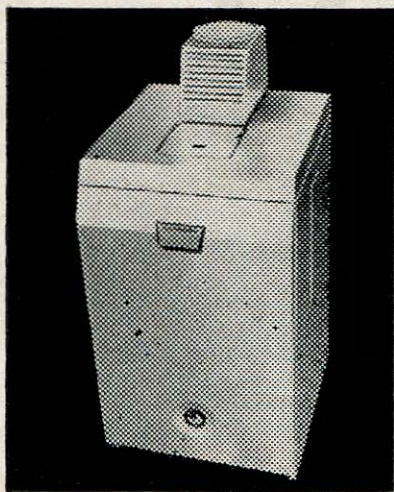
Hit in shoulder by a bullet from a sniper. As Pte. Heard patched me up he was also hit in the shoulder, probably by same chap. After dressing his wound I began to feel very groggy. Remnants of platoon gone on, so we decided to

try and find Battalion Aid Post. At last taken into an ambulance train. Travelled as stretcher case as there were not enough seats—very welcome. Wonderful coaches and very nice, if tough, nurses. Slept soundly.

- 7 Sailed across to Dover. Very rough crossing, most of us ill. Carried on to ambulance train and taken to Charing Cross, where our stretchers were lined up on platform. Left by ambulance for London hospital through crowd of women cheering and throwing flowers on to us. Felt no sort of a hero.

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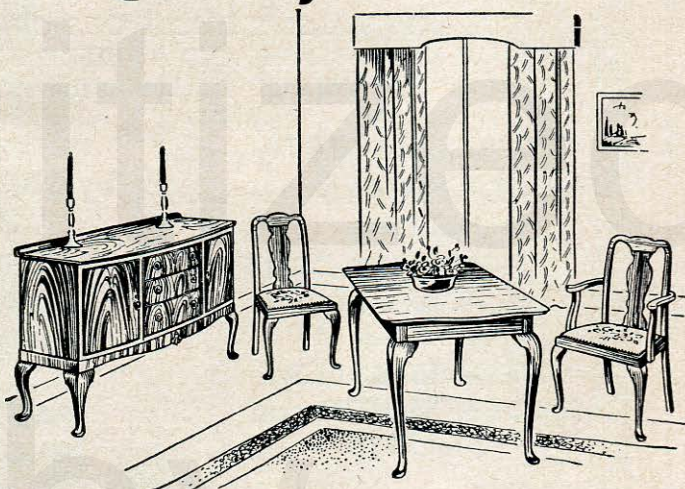
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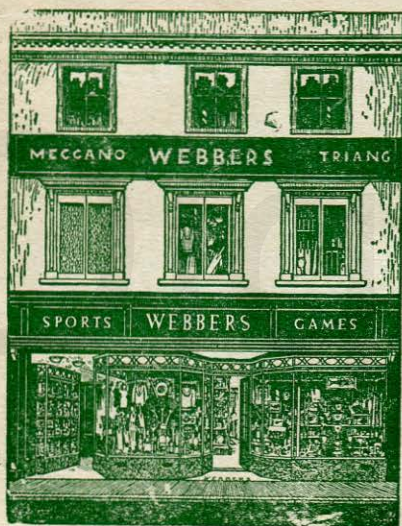
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