THE TIGER



AND SPHINX

THE HALF-YEARLY
JOURNAL OF

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

VOL. I (New Series) No. 1

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AUGUST, 1948

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THE TIGER & SPHINX

The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

PUBLISHED HALF-YEARLY

Vol. 1 (New Series) No. 1 **August, 1948**

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial	3
Obituary	4
Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.	5
Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C.	5
Regimental History	6
Regimental Museum	6
Memorial Fund, 1939-45	6
Regimental Banner	6
Notices	7
Acknowledgment of Subscriptions	7
5th Battalion Drum	8
Expedition to Singkep	11
Sentences on Japanese War Criminals	14
1st Battalion News	15
2nd Battalion Notes	33
The Depot and No. 75 Primary Training Centre	43
4th/7th Battalion	45
5th/6th Battalion	46
48th Highlanders of Canada	49
The Capetown Highlanders	50
Regimental Associations	53

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C.	*Frontispiece*
Presentation of the 5th Battalion Drum	9 and 10
Visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester to the 1st Battalion	16
Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O.	18
Trooping of the Regimental Colour	19 and 20
Band of the Gordon Highlanders	24
The Warrant Officers, 1st Battalion	24
Pipes and Drums, 1st Battalion	26
Officers of the 2nd Battalion	34
Drummers and Pipers, 2nd Battalion	37
2nd Battalion Football Team	42
G.O.C.-in-C., Scottish Command visits Gordon Barracks	44
Drummers and Pipers, The Depot, 1947	44
The 48th Highlanders of Canada	50
The Capetown Highlanders	52

All contributions for "THE TIGER AND SPHINX" should be typewritten on one side of the paper only. If the manuscript, photograph, etc., is to be returned, the fact should be so stated and a stamped addressed envelope enclosed. The name of the sender should be included, not necessarily for publication, but for the satisfaction of the Editor. Contributions should be addressed to: The Editor, "THE TIGER AND SPHINX," Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, and should arrive not later than 1st May and 1st November.

Photographs and sketches should be in black and white and on a reasonably large scale. Distinctness of detail is essential to secure good reproduction. It is most important that all illustrations are supplied with a complete title. In the case of groups, all the names should be given; without this, much of the interest in the illustration is lost. Photographer's permission for reproduction should be obtained before submission of photographs and a note of this fact stated.

No payment is made for contributions and photographs.

The Editor reserves the right to alter or decline any contribution, and he cannot be held responsible for any statement made by contributors.

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COLONEL W. J. GRAHAM, M.C.
who has been appointed to succeed Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bart., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., as Colonel of the Regiment

EDITORIAL

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death, some months ago, of General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D. The Regiment has lost one of its best friends—a friend who always had the interest of the Regiment at heart and who had done innumerable good turns for the Corps of the Gordon Highlanders, for which he will long be remembered. An obituary notice will be found on another page.

* * *

We also record, with great regret, the retirement of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. Though we are losing him in his official capacity, we know that he will always display that great interest in the affairs of the Regiment that typifies him as a true Gordon Highlander.

We welcome Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C., as our Colonel. We wish him every success and know that the future of the Regiment is safe in his hands.

* * *

With this number the Regimental Journal resumes publication after a break of nine years. Our aim is to collect news, articles and photographs from all branches of the Regiment and place them before our readers in an attractive and readable form. In this way past and present members of the Gordon Highlanders, both Regular and Territorial, the Allied Regiments of the Dominion Forces and many others who have connections with the Regiment, are enabled to keep in touch with old friends and associations and to follow the fortunes of every branch of the Regiment. In this way, also, THE TIGER AND SPHINX can fulfil its function as the peace-time history of the Gordon Highlanders.

In these days the difficulties confronting an editor are formidable: in particular the high cost of publication. To raise the Journal to its pre-war high standard is not a matter for one or two individuals, but will require the co-operation of all Gordon Highlanders.

Our older readers will notice the new cover design, which is more in line with modern trends, and, we hope, will meet with approval. This change and the absence of block headings is due to the insatiable demands of the war machine for scrap metal.

By the time this number appears the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions will probably be complete. The reduction in the number of infantry battalions is a sad event, which all hope is not to be permanent: something very similar occurred in the history of the Regiment some hundred years ago, when the 92nd found themselves consisting of one weak battalion.

To the remaining battalion, the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders (75th and 92nd), we wish all good fortune.

* * *

In the reorganization of the Territorial Army there have also been changes. To the 4th/7th and 5th/6th Battalions we send our best wishes, confident that they will prove worthy successors to the 4th, 5th/7th and 6th Battalions.

* * *

The return of the kilt, after almost nine years in retirement, is welcomed not only as the most essential part of the Highland garb and a relief from the uniform drabness of recent years, but as a garment of great utility, so picturesquely described in "Costumes of the Clans" as allowing "the inhabitants of the mountainous regions to pursue with facility their laborious occupations, ascend the mountains, traverse the glens, and bound over the bogs with agility."

* * *

We send greetings to our Allied Regiments of the Dominions. News from Canada and South Africa will be found on another page, and we have heard with pleasure that the Victorian Scottish are to be retained as part of the reorganized Australian Forces, and, moreover, that the swing of the Gordon tartan will soon be seen in Melbourne.

* * *

There are many topics which might suitably be referred to in this column, but, in view of the restricted supply of newsprint, it is our policy to restrict editorial comment to the minimum and to allow events, as presented by our correspondents, to speak for themselves.

OBITUARY

GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.

GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON died in London on Sunday, 12th October, 1947, aged 94.

Ian Standish Monteith Hamilton was born in 1853 in the island of Corfu, where his father, Christian Monteith Hamilton, was serving as a captain in the 92nd Highlanders. His mother was the daughter of the third Lord Gort, so that by birth he was a mixture of Highland Scot and West Irish—a Celt on both sides and inheriting the distinguishing Celtic characteristics.

At the age of 14 he entered Wellington College, which was then in its early years, and he was among the first hundred or so Wellingtonians. From Wellington he passed into Sandhurst, and on finishing his time there he was gazetted, in 1872, to the Suffolk Regiment. The next year he transferred to the 92nd The Gordon Highlanders, and for sixty-six years he served his old Regiment in one capacity or another, until finally, in 1939, he relinquished the appointment of which he was so proud, namely, that of Colonel of the Regiment. But giving up his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment did not mean that in any sense he was losing touch with the Regiment, and until the day of his death he continued to follow the fortunes of the Gordon Highlanders with the keenest interest.

Sir Ian first saw active service in the Afghan campaign of 1878-80 under Lord Roberts. He was present at the action of Charasiah and in the subsequent pursuit, and took part in the occupation of Kabul. He was mentioned in despatches—medal and two clasps. His first appointment as a staff officer was as A.D.C. to Lord Roberts.

Sir Ian's next active service was in South Africa in 1881, when he was present at the Battle of Majuba Hill in which he was severely wounded and the Regiment suffered heavy losses. He was again mentioned in despatches.

It was at this time that the names of regiments not already having two battalions was changed—such regiments were united one with another, and the 75th, The Stirlingshire Regiment, joined with the 92nd, the old Gordon Highlanders. This inevitably led to a good deal of heart-burning, and Sir Ian was prominent amongst those who did their best to smooth out the difficulties.

In 1884 Sir Ian was serving with the 1st Battalion in the Nile Expedition under Lord Kitchener and was present at the Battle of Kirbekan. He was again mentioned in despatches, received the medal with two clasps and the bronze star, and promoted brevet major.

In 1886-87 he saw service in the Burmese Expedition, was mentioned in despatches, received the medal with clasp, and was promoted lieutenant-colonel.

In 1895, whilst on the staff of Sir George White, himself a Gordon Highlander, Sir Ian took part in the Chitral Relief campaign and came once more into close contact with the 1st Battalion. He was mentioned in despatches, received the medal with clasp, and created C.B.

Two years later renewed trouble on the North-West Frontier of India resulted in British forces being assembled at Nowshera and Peshawar, and one under Sir Bindon Blood was dispatched towards the Malakand Pass, the other being sent from Jamrud for use against the Afridis in Tirah. In this expedition Sir Ian was given a brigade, but an accident prevented him from taking part. Later, however, he was appointed to command an enlarged brigade which included the 1st Battalion, and he continued in command of this brigade until the cessation of hostilities in 1898. He was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with two clasps.

The South African War, 1899-1902, found Sir Ian once again with Sir George White. He was with the 2nd Battalion at Elandslaagte and later with the force invested in Ladysmith. He took a prominent part in and displayed great gallantry during the siege, for which he was recommended for the Victoria Cross, but owing to his high rank he was ineligible for the award. He was mentioned in despatches and promoted major-general.

After the relief of Ladysmith Sir Ian was given command of a division and took part in many battles and for a time was Chief of Staff to Lord Kitchener. He was many times mentioned in despatches, received the Queen's Medal with six clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps, created Knight Commander of the Bath, and promoted lieutenant-general for distinguished service.

In 1903 he was appointed Quartermaster-General to the Forces and served as military representative of India with the Japanese Field Army in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War. From 1905 to 1908 he was G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, and in the following year became Adjutant-General and Second Military Member of the Army Council.

From 1910 to 1914 Sir Ian was successively G.O.C.-in-C., Mediterranean, and Inspector-General of Overseas Forces. Raised to G.C.B. in 1910 and promoted general in 1914, Sir Ian succeeded Sir Charles Douglas as Colonel of the Regiment in 1914.

In the First World War Sir Ian received his biggest and most important command, for he was appointed to command the land forces operating in the Gallipoli Peninsula. This campaign, so finely conceived, so magnificently fought and so tragically ended, has been the subject of endless controversy, but the general consensus of expert opinion does not question the quality of Sir Ian's leadership or blame him for the ultimate failure to hold the heights. In 1919 he was created G.C.M.G.

From 1918 to 1920 Sir Ian was Lieutenant of the Tower of London. He was greatly honoured by the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders when, in 1905, he became their Colonel, which appointment he held until 1914. In addition to all the honours already referred to, he was awarded the D.S.O. and many foreign decorations.

Sir Ian always took the deepest interest in the welfare of ex-Service men and held the office of President of the British Legion (Scotland). Few people are aware of the enormous number of cases and the amount of work he undertook in helping to ease the hardships of his old comrades-in-arms in all the Services.

Sir Ian was tremendously proud of the Freedom of Inverness conferred on him by the Burgh in June, 1947, to receive which he journeyed specially from London.

In addition to being a great soldier, Sir Ian Hamilton was a man of great literary ability and a gifted writer. His irrepressive gaiety, charm of manner and gift of expression gained him the affection and admiration of people in all

walks of life. He was a brilliant speaker at public functions. He will go down to posterity as a shrewd and kindly psychologist with a keen sense of humour and, above all, a sympathetic understanding of the trials and tribulations of the humbler classes such as is possessed rarely by purely military men. To ex-Service men whose cause he never ceased to champion he was something more than a hero.

In 1887, at the age of 34, Sir Ian married a daughter of the late Sir John Muir. Until her death in 1941 Lady Hamilton was associated with Sir Ian in many kind deeds and interests relating to the welfare of the Regiment. Their adopted son, Capt. Harry Knight, of the Scots Guards, was killed in action in Libya during the Second World War.

And so we have lost a great soldier, a gallant gentleman and a magnificent Gordon Highlander whose life will be an inspiration to succeeding generations of the Regiment. A friend who knew Sir Ian well described him as "the most personally courageous man I have ever seen in action and in the ordinary soldier's life an officer of singular charm and courtesy."

MONSIEUR PIERRE MASSE

Many of our readers, particularly those of the 5th and 7th Battalions of 1915, will be sorry to hear of the death of M. Pierre Masse which occurred at his home in Brest on 16th August, 1947.

As founder of the Amicale of the 19th Regiment d'Infantrie and editor of their magazine, he maintained a link with the Regiment since those days on the Somme in 1915. He was a great lover of Scotland, of the Highland regiments, and in particular of the Gordons and Black Watch of the 153rd Brigade.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JAMES BURNETT OF LEYS, BART., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

MAJOR-GENERAL BURNETT was born in 1880, son of Sir Thomas Burnett, 12th Baronet of Leys. He was educated at Wellington and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, being gazetted to the 2nd Bn. The Gordon Highlanders in 1899, at the time when they were in South Africa. He served all through the Boer War with the 92nd, taking part in the operations in Natal, including the action at Laing's Nek during 1900. In the same year he was in action at Belfast and Lyndenberg in the Transvaal. In the latter half of 1901 he served on the staff. He was mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 3rd December, 1901. For his services during the South African War he was awarded the Queen's Medal with two clasps, and also the King's Medal with two clasps. He was promoted to captain in 1906, when he was still serving with the 2nd Battalion.

When the First World War broke out he was posted to the 1st Battalion on the Western Front, where he stayed for the remainder of the war, except in 1915, when he commanded a company of gentleman cadets at Sandhurst. He was promoted major during the same year. In 1917 he commanded the 1st Battalion, but the next year he became brigadier, and commanded the 186th Infantry Brigade till the end of the war.

He was awarded the D.S.O. and bar and the C.M.G., and was also made an Officier, Legion d'Honneur, being mentioned in despatches five times during the whole conflict, besides being awarded the 1914 Star and clasp and the British War and Victory Medals.

After the war he became an instructor at the Senior Officers' School until the end of 1922, when he commanded the 2nd Battalion at Fort George and Bordon. After relinquishing command of this battalion he became Brigadier of the 14th Brigade, Shanghai Defence Force.

He returned home in 1928 to command the 153rd Black Watch and Gordon Brigade until he was promoted Major-General, Highland Area, in 1931, thus culminating a brilliant military career.

Sir James Burnett takes a prominent part in the local affairs of his own county, Kincardineshire, and is well known throughout the North. His family is one of the oldest in Scotland, the lands being held under a charter given to an ancestor by Robert the Bruce in the fourteenth century.

COLONEL W. J. GRAHAM, M.C.

COLONEL GRAHAM held a commission in the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion from July, 1910, before receiving a Regular commission in December, 1912, when he joined the 2nd Battalion in Cairo.

During the First World War he landed with the Battalion at Zeebrugge in October, 1914, and remained with them until he was wounded at the Battle of Festubert in May, 1915. He rejoined in September of the same year, and six months later went to Headquarters, 20th Infantry Brigade. After a year at home, on a staff course and a staff appointment at Cromarty, he returned to France in July, 1917, to join the 1st Battalion, and shortly afterwards was appointed Staff Captain, 8th Infantry Brigade. From May to December of 1918 Colonel Graham served as Staff Captain at G.H.Q. and for the next year as D.A.Q.M.G. with the British Administrative Liaison Bureau at Brussels.

Returning to regimental duty in 1920 he was appointed Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion whilst stationed in Glasgow, in Ireland and at Fort George. In February, 1922, he relinquished this appointment in order to become Adjutant for the next four years of the London Scottish. After two

more years of regimental duty with the 2nd Battalion at Bordon he went to Kenya, under the Colonial Office, from 1929-33, and commanded the 3rd King's African Rifles.

Colonel Graham commanded the Depot from 1934 till 1937, and after a few months as Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion at Edinburgh he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Singapore, which battalion he subsequently commanded, from December, 1938, for three years.

On the outbreak of the war with Japan Colonel Graham was appointed Fortress Commander of Penang, on the fall of which he was employed with the III Indian Corps and finally by Headquarters, Malaya Command, until the surrender. After four years as a prisoner of war in Malaya, Formosa and at Mukden in Manchuria, he returned home and retired with the rank of colonel in May, 1946.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

THE History of the Regiment during the two world wars is now being written by Mr. Francis Bamford. At the present time he is completing Volume V, which deals with 1939-45, and when that is done he will start on the 1914-18 war.

Some explanation of this arrangement is necessary. The late Mr. Philip Guedalla had written an introductory chapter to Volume IV when work was interrupted by the war, and he died in 1945. Both the Committee and the historian thought it best to proceed at once with Volume V, the history of 1939-45, and that Volume IV, already very late, would lose nothing by a further two or three years' delay.

Mr. Bamford, who has a reputation as an historian, enlisted in the Regiment in 1940 and was released in 1945 with the rank of major. He has family connections with the Regimental District.

There is still a stock of the earlier volumes and these are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, Regimental History Fund, at the Depot.

Vol. I 1794-1816 } £1 1s. the set (postage 1s. 6d.).
Vol. II 1816-1898 }
Vol. III 1898-1914: 15s. 6d. (postage 1s.).

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE Regimental Museum, which was started shortly before the war, is now being reassembled in its new quarters in the Depot Officers' Mess, but owing to alterations which have still to be done it will be some time before it will be open to the public.

Some interesting additions, too numerous to catalogue here, have been made in recent years. Among these are a fine set of nine statuettes depicting the dress of the 92nd Highlanders, the 75th Regiment of Foot and the Gordon Highlanders; and some uniforms of a hundred years ago and more, and a riding whip, presented by the Perth Branch of the Regimental Association, which it is believed was carried by the Duchess of Gordon at the raising of the Regiment.

Further particulars, with illustrations, will appear in the next issue.

MEMORIAL FUND, 1939-1945

AN appeal was made some time ago to raise funds with which to commemorate those Gordon Highlanders who gave their lives in the war. Its objects and aims are as follows:

(*a*) The establishment of a fund to be used for the benefit of ex-members of the Regiment and their dependants who are in necessitous circumstances, with a preference to those ex-members of the Regiment who served in the 1939-45 war and their dependants.

(*b*) The provision of a Roll of Honour to those of the Regiment who gave their lives in the 1939-45 war, in the form of a suitably bound book, copies of which will be placed in the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh, and in the Regimental Clubs at Glasgow and Aberdeen.

The amount so far received in donations at 30th April, 1948, is £6,436 2s. 2d., of which the following sums have been expended:

	£	s.	d.
The Thistle Foundation	1,000	0	0
Royal Military Academy Memorial Chapel	100	0	0
Administrative expenses	91	11	6

The fund is still open, and donations, which will be acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, 25 Crown Street, Aberdeen.

The Roll of Honour, which contains the names of 2,396 Gordon Highlanders of all ranks, is now in the hands of the bookbinders.

REGIMENTAL BANNER LODGED IN ST. MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL

AT a special service held in St. Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, on Sunday, 18th April, now the Parish Church of the Depot, Lieut.-Colonel A. D. McKechnie handed over a Regimental Banner with these words:

"I hereby present this Banner to St. Machar's Cathedral and I ask that it may be received and given safe custody here as a visible link between the Gordon Highlanders and their Parish Church."

Accepting the Banner, the Rev. Dr. Wilson Baird said:

"On behalf of the Cathedral Kirk Session, I promise for this Banner safe custody within this church. We gratefully receive and accept this symbol in thanksgiving to Almighty God for the service given to the cause of freedom and righteousness by the Gordon Highlanders throughout the world, and in especial remembrance of all who, fighting in their ranks, have laid down their lives for their country. Here it will find a secure and worthy resting place and be held in lasting honour."

While the banner was carried to the Holy Table, the hymn "For all the saints" was sung.

This Banner was presented by the ladies of the Regiment to the late General Sir Ian Hamilton and was used at a rally in the Albert Hall in 1917 to commemorate the first seven divisions in the 1914-18 war.

NOTICES

We have been asked to give publicity to the following organizations which cater for past and present members of the Forces:

51st (HIGHLAND) DIVISION TRUST FUND

Ex-members of the Division with not less than six months' overseas service may be eligible for grants. Particulars may be obtained from any branch of the Regimental Association.

1st BRITISH INFANTRY DIVISION

The war-time History of the Division has been published in two volumes: Vol. I, Anzio; Vol. II, Florence to Monte Grande. Copies, price 4s. each, postage extra, may be obtained from "G" Branch, Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division.

3rd BRITISH INFANTRY DIVISIONAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Particulars of this Association may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

S.S.A.F.A. MARRIED FAMILIES' CLUB

The above Club, at 14/16 Nevern Square, Earl's Court, London, consists of three houses which have been converted into one, providing accommodation for a hundred people.

There are a spacious lounge, two dining-rooms and a children's nursery where the children may be left while the parents go out by themselves. The bedrooms are of various sizes, catering for a variety of families. For instance, for the Service man with a large family there is a bedroom with a double bed for the parents, two single beds for the larger children and two cots for the babies. Other bedrooms cater for smaller families. There are also a laundry room and a library. All this is supplied for a charge of 5s. per person for bed, bath and breakfast; children of five years and under are charged half the price. Supper is available at 1s. 6d. each, and a midday meal on Sundays is 2s.

The atmosphere is bright and gay, and for those who wish to avail themselves of a short trip to London they could not do better than stay at this Club.

Her Majesty Queen Mary, President of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, visited the premises recently and was most interested and asked many questions.

CLIFTON COLLEGE

An exhibition of £50 has been founded at Clifton College to make it possible for the son of an officer in the following regiments, in need of such assistance, to come to Clifton College: the Highland Light Infantry, Black Watch, Gordon Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Application should be made to the Headmaster.

ARTISTS IN THE FORCES

The Army Art Society, which held its most successful exhibition last year, when entries were accepted for the first time from artists of all ranks in the three Services, is organizing another display to be held next October at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington. This will be the seventeenth since the foundation of the movement twenty-three years ago—at first known as the Army Officers' Art Society—and an effort is to be made to make the annual event, interrupted only by the war, even more successful.

The Hon. Secretary, Colonel L. N. Malan, O.B.E., 2 Iverna Gardens, Kensington, W.8, will be glad to send further particulars on application.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

1.—BANKERS' ORDERS

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Lieut. D. H. W. Brown, Mr. D. M. Baird, Major T. W. C. Barlas, Lieut.-Colonel E. B. Beedle, Major P. Bell, Colonel J. E. H. Boustead, Lieut.-Colonel H. I. Bradshaw, Lady Brooke, Brigadier-General P. W. Brown, Major G. W. Bruce, Major P. H. H. Buckingham, Brigadier-General H. P. Burn, Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bt., Mr. J. N. Burns (two copies).

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Major C. W. Findlay, Major R. Fleming, Major P. W. Forbes, Lieut.-Colonel D. A. D. Fraser.

Capt. H. H. Gardiner, Colonel G. P. Geddes, Rev. Ian R. Gillan, Major D. G. Gordon, Colonel J. H. McI. Gordon, Mr. William Gordon, Colonel W. J. Graham, Lieut.-Colonel J. B. Gray.

Brigadier J. M. Hamilton, Dr. C. Gordon Harper, Major J. E. G. Hay, Capt. G. M. Haworth, Lieut.-Colonel J. Hay, Capt. R. I. M. Henderson, Major W. L. Henderson, Capt. R. Hennessy, Major G. C. D. Huggins, Lieut.-Colonel D. W. Hunter-Blair, Major R. S. Hunter-Blair.

Major W. A. D. Innes.

Major J. M. Lawrence, Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Lees, Lieut.-Colonel A. de L. Long, Mr. A. Lukey.

Lieut.-Colonel G. MacDonald, Major L. I. G. G. M. Maclean, Colonel S. R. McLintock, Major W. E. Main, Capt. L. L. Maitland, Capt. W. Menzies, Major J. E. Mills, Capt. I. J. Monteith, Lieut.-Colonel R. A. G. Murphy, Lieut.-Colonel W. T. Murray-Bisset.

Major B. C. A. Napier, Mrs. M. I. Neish, Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Nelson, Lieut.-Colonel A. M. B. Norman.

Lieut.-Colonel W. B. J. Osbaldeston-Mitford, Capt. R. Ogilvie, Lieut.-Colonel K. G. O'Morchoe.

Lieut.-Colonel I. Picton-Turberville, Mr. N. G. Pearson, Lieut.-Colonel P. T. Pirie.

Mr. F. Rae, Lieut.-Colonel C. Reid, Major J. N. Reid, Colonel E. R. Rivers-McPherson, Lieut.-Colonel W. Robertson.

Lieut.-Colonel H. W. B. Saunders, Brigadier J. R. Sinclair, Major A. L. Smith, Capt. W. H. Smith-Grant, Major H. M. Sprot, Mr. John de B. Stansfield, Mr. David Stewart, Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Stitt, Major J. Sutherland, Mr. B. H. Sweek.

Major J. P. P. Taylor, Major J. E. Tollemache, Capt. Sir E B. B. Towse.

Colonel C. M. Usher.

Mr. J. Wallace, Major R. E. Warlow, Lieut.-Colonel E. W. Watt, Lieut.-Colonel H. Wright.

(*Continued at top of page* 15)

PRESENTATION OF THE 5th BN. THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS' DRUM BY THE SEVENTH UNITED STATES ARMY

MUNICH, 7TH JUNE, 1945

IN May, 1940, the 5th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders stored their drums at Metz, just prior to the 51st (Highland) Division's fighting withdrawal to St. Valery.

On 23rd March, 1945, Capt. Thomas O'Rorke, of the 10th U.S. Armoured Division of the Seventh U.S. Army, found a drum in the officers' quarters in the Kasserine Artillery near Baumholden.

This drum belonged to the 5th Battalion and had been presented by Capt. W. Stephens, of Peterhead.

Lieutenant-General A. M. Patch, Commander of the Seventh U.S. Army, decided to present this drum back to the Battalion and accordingly invited a representative party from the Battalion to take part in an historic ceremony in Munich on 7th June, 1945.

Brigadier J. R. Sinclair, D.S.O., commanding the 153rd Infantry Brigade, represented the Regiment. The Battalion party was represented by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Irvine, M.C., Capt. D. A. Thom, commanding the guard of honour, and 2/Lieut. D. A. Craig. The guard of honour consisted of C.S.M. Nicol, C.Q.M.S. Runciman, six N.C.Os. and twenty-four other ranks. The Pipes and Drums of the Battalion were under Drum-Major Ferguson and Pipe-Major Macgregor. There were fourteen pipers and nine drummers on parade.

The party arrived at Seventh U.S. Army Headquarters at Augsburg on the evening of Tuesday, 5th June, 1945.

On Wednesday afternoon the whole party attended a full-dress rehearsal in Munich. In the evening the Pipes and Drums beat "Retreat" on the main square of Army Headquarters at 1830 hrs. The Chief of Staff and many senior officers of Army Headquarters were present.

Unfortunately General Patch had been recalled to Washington, but Brigadier Sinclair, Lieut.-Colonel Irvine and officers of the Battalion party were presented to General Patch just before his departure.

General Patch expressed his deep regret at being unable to take part in the ceremony. He introduced his successor, Lieutenant-General Wade H. Haislip, to the party.

The ceremony at Munich took place on the Konigsplatz at 1500 hrs. on 7th June in brilliant sunny weather. The following units of the United States Forces were represented on the parade:

An infantry regiment of the 45th ("Thunderbird") Division (157th, 179th and 180th Infantry Regiments).

A company of the 42nd ("Rainbow") Division and a carrying party of the flags of the forty-eight American States.

A guard of honour of the 10th Armoured ("Tiger") Division carrying the drum on to the parade.

A troop of tanks and tank destroyers.

The parade was formed up with the company of the 42nd Division and flags of the States forming an arc behind the saluting base. Drawn up in front were the troops on the parade, with the Pipes and Drums and guard of honour of the 5th/7th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders on the right of the line. In the centre were the Colour parties of the United States Forces, with the infantry regiments on either side. The Band of the 45th U.S. Infantry Division was on parade.

At 1500 hrs. General Haislip reached the saluting base, and with him were the following officers:

Major-General R. T. Fredericks, commanding the 45th Division.

Major-General H. J. Collins, commanding the 42nd Division.

Major-General W. H. H. Morris, commanding the 10th Armoured Division.

Brigadier J. R. Sinclair, D.S.O., The Gordon Highlanders.

Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Irvine, M.C., The Gordon Highlanders.

Lieut.-Colonel R. F. Daubigny, M.B.E., M.C., commanding British Increment, Seventh U.S. Army.

Lieut.-Colonel Jones, Public Relations Officer, Seventh U.S. Army.

After the General Salute, General Haislip introduced Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Irvine, M.C., who gave a short history of the 5th Battalion and the drum. Capt. O'Rorke then handed the drum to General Haislip, who after a short speech presented it to Brigadier J. R. Sinclair, D.S.O., who in a speech thanked General Haislip for the honour done to the Regiment by the United States Forces. He mentioned the pleasure it would give to the officers and men of the old 5th Battalion, who had so recently returned home, to know that this drum had been found and handed back to the Battalion.

The drum was then handed to Cpl. W. Sim. The parade came to the present. Cpl. Sim marched back across the square to a position in the Band immediately behind the Drum-Major.

The Pipes and Drums then "Trooped the Line," returning to their original position. After the 45th Division Band had played the two National Anthems, the whole parade marched past.

The Gordon Highlanders' guard of honour, headed by the Pipes and Drums, led the march past, and took up a position on the other side of the square, where they remained whilst the United States Forces marched past, headed by the Band of the 45th Division.

The whole ceremony lasted thirty-five minutes, and was broadcast by the B.B.C. and all American radio networks.

In the evening the officers of the Gordon Highlanders were guests of honour at a party given by General Haislip and officers of the Seventh U.S. Army Headquarters in the Kaiserhof Hotel, Augsburg. The guard of honour and Band were entertained at a party given for them at the Army Headquarters barracks.

On Friday, 8th June, the party went sightseeing and bathing. Some went to visit the famous German concentration camp at Dachau. In the evening the Pipes and Drums again beat "Retreat" at Army Headquarters and followed this with an exhibition of Highland dancing.

On Saturday the whole party visited the famous palace of the mad King of Bavaria, Ludwig II, on the Chiemsee Lake.

The party left Augsburg on Sunday morning with very many pleasant memories of the kindness and hospitality of our hosts, the officers and men of the Seventh U.S. Army Headquarters.

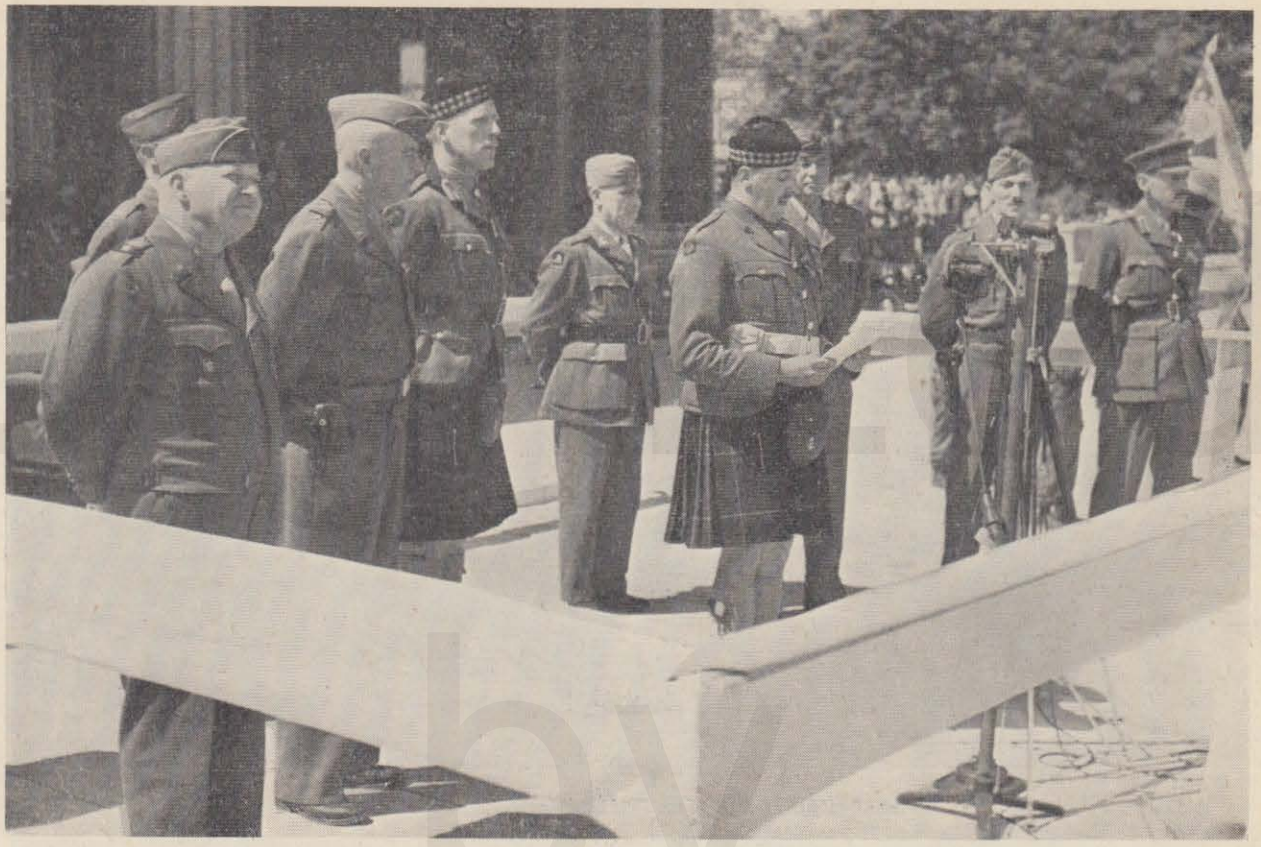


DETACHMENT OF 45th "THUNDERBIRD" DIVISION



[Photos: By courtesy of Keystone Press Agency Ltd.

5th BATTALION DRUMMERS AND PIPERS AND GUARD OF HONOUR



LIEUT.-COLONEL C. F. IRVINE, M.C., ADDRESSING THE PARADE



[Photos: By courtesy of Keystone Press Agency Ltd.

BRIGADIER J. R. SINCLAIR, D.S.O., HANDS THE DRUM TO CPL. SIM

EXPEDITION TO SINGKEP

By Cyril Wild

(Reproduced by courtesy of William Blackwood & Sons Ltd.)

On 13th February, 1942, as the sun set behind the smoke rising from Singapore, s.s. *Kuala* sailed from Laburnum Steps for Batavia. Her passengers were mainly nursing sisters, with a party of P.W.D. men, some R.A.F. technicians, and a few civilians. They had suffered some casualties from bombing while waiting to embark, and were bombed again without effect before they sailed. At dawn on 14th February the *Kuala* anchored off Pompong Island in the Rhio Archipelago, 300 yards from s.s. *Tien Kuang*, which had left Singapore in company with her. A mile away lay s.s. *Kung Wo*, with a decided list from bombing received the night before. Boats were lowered to fetch foliage from the shore for camouflage, and two were still away when a flight of Japanese bombers came over at 11.30 to finish off the *Kung Wo*. They sank her in a few minutes. The *Kuala's* turn came next: the first stick set her afire, and two more followed. Women and wounded were sent away in the remaining boats, and the rest of the ship's company, including some of the women, took to the water, supporting themselves on mattresses and spars. Unfortunately the current carried them down towards the *Tien Kuang*, to which the bombers were now turning their attention. Four sticks were dropped, which did little apparent damage to the ship, but killed and wounded a number of people in the water. The last flight of bombers dropped their load on shore, causing further casualties among those who had already landed. The survivors of the three ships divided into two parties of about 400 and 250 and made their way to the north and south of the island, which was about a mile across, covered with dense jungle and uninhabited. Their intention was to avoid the unhealthy neighbourhood of the ships should the bombers return; for, although the *Kuala* was now ablaze, the *Tien Kuang* still offered a tempting target. The ship's whaler was used at night to maintain contact between the two camps and to carry water from a small spring at the north of the island to the people in the south. After dark a party of volunteers boarded the *Tien Kuang* and obtained a quantity of stores and medical supplies. An attempt was made to raise steam, but the sea had risen too high in her engine room. She was therefore scuttled by opening a seacock, before she could attract more bombers.

On the afternoon of 16th February a small sampan arrived, manned by three Malays, who said that on all the small neighbouring islands there were more survivors of ships sunk by bombing. They were asked to obtain food and assistance, and set off again, promising to do their best. At 1 a.m. the following morning they returned with small supplies of coconuts and rice. The owner of the sampan, Ali by name, urged that an attempt should be made to reach the island of Senajang, where help could be obtained. Mr. I. G. Salmond, who spoke both Dutch and Malay, was chosen for this task, and set off in the sampan, taking with him eight wounded R.A.F. men and one sepoy. They left Pompong with the Malays about 1.30 a.m. One of the wounded died a few hours later, but the craft was so small that it was impossible to dispose of the body without capsizing. It was therefore kept on board until they could bury it on Senajang, where they arrived about 3 p.m. on 17th February.

Here Salmond hastened to meet the Amir, Silalahi, a Malay chieftain with authority over a hundred islands in the archipelago. His title in Dutch is "Hoofd der Onderafdeeling Blakang Daik."

On hearing the story of Pompong the Amir at once pledged all the help of himself and his people to the hundreds of British thus stranded in his territory. He himself set off for the island of Redjai to collect motor *tongkans*, and undertook to send the news by the first of these to the nearest Dutch Controlleur, at Dabot, on Singkep Island. During the next two weeks the Amir worked unceasingly day and night, scouring the islands of the archipelago with a fleet of *tongkans* and sampans to collect survivors, and stinting his own people of food and shelter in his determination to succour these sufferers of an alien race. He did this out of his great humanity without thought of favour or reward, knowing full well the danger of reprisals from the Japanese, whose arrival was expected daily.

By the end of February nearly one thousand British men, women and children had been ferried over to the mouth of the Indragiri River, fifty or sixty miles away, most of them in native craft, but some in small ships of the Royal Navy, such as H.M.S. *Hung Jau*. From the Indragiri River they crossed Sumatra to Padang, where most of them were evacuated by the Royal Navy. Many hundreds in England and Australia today owe their liberty and lives to the Amir Silalahi.

Mr. Salmond remained in charge of Senajang and Singkep Islands until the last of the survivors had passed through. On leaving Singkep he took the Amir by the hand and said: "I promise that when the day comes I shall return from Singapore with the British Navy to drive out the Japanese." "No, Tuan," replied the Amir quietly, "I shall come to Singapore to meet you, and we shall return together with the British Navy to liberate my people."

Mr. Salmond reached Padang on 10th March, some days after the last British ship had left. There he met a man of the same temper as himself in Lieut.-Colonel F. J. Dillon, M.C., who had been ordered to leave Singapore for India on 13th February. Dillon, too, had risked his own chance of escape by staying for a month in Central Sumatra until he had organized transport to the west coast for the many hundreds who had escaped from Singapore. Mr. Salmond joined him as interpreter, and with a party of eight officers they left Sumatra in a small sailing junk on 16th March and set their course for Ceylon. When dawn broke on 4th April they were well on their way with a favouring wind, and thought that their worst danger, from the daily reconnaissance of land-based aircraft, was behind them. Instead, out of the mist emerged three Japanese naval tankers; and forty-eight hours later they were all back in Singapore as prisoners.

August, 1945, found Dillon in Changi Camp, near Singapore, after our sojourn together on the Burma—Siam railway with "F" Force. (I can only hope that the gratitude of the surviving British and Australian members of that

party, which lost 3,100 out of 7,000 up by the Three Pagoda Pass in seven months, goes some way to console him for the unlucky chance which overtook him in mid-ocean.) The officer who relieved us was Lieut.-Colonel Bob Stewart of the Canadian Army, formerly of the Vancouver Police. He had parachuted some weeks before into Johore from India to join the Chinese guerrillas. One day he arrived in Changi Camp in a Chevrolet roadster, commandeered from a Japanese general in Johore Bahru. (Even the Japanese were startled at the contrast between his magnificent physique and our somewhat attenuated frames.) With Stewart I spent a happy week touring the island, with a Union Jack flying on the roadster. We visited the Civilian Internment Camp at Sime Road, and all the camps of the loyal Indian prisoners of war. Later, Major Cooper, an aerodrome engineer, arrived from the Cocos Islands in a Mosquito. With him, as his interpreter, I visited all the aerodromes on the island, to measure them up and see that the Japs had taken the propellers off their planes. While General Itagaki still kept up his boasting that he would fight for Malaya and Singapore, we saw his men piling their arms and shuffling northwards across the Causeway in their thousands.

So far the local population had dared do no more than give surreptitious V-for-Victory and thumbs-up signs as our car with the Union Jack sped past. But today, as we returned from Tengah aerodrome, we could scarcely drive through the cheering crowds in Singapore. And the cheering was loudest wherever disconsolate Japanese sentries were still standing beside the road. The explanation came as we reached Keppel Harbour and I saw the first flight of the 5th Indian Division, in their unfamiliar jungle-green, advancing with fixed bayonets past the godowns. We drove down to the dockside and met the General as he disembarked. Almost his first words were: "Take that Union Jack off your car"; which was fair enough, for we were no longer the C.-in-C., but amusing after three and a half years under the Poached-Egg flag!

The next day I joined the unit which had been diverted to war crimes. Our first task was to discover the fate of certain missing pilots. A well-meant tip from a Malay driver took us on the day after the landing to Outram Road Jail to interrogate Mikizawa, our first prisoner. Mikizawa, as commandant of the civil side of the prison, had a good deal on his conscience, having lost 1,200 Asiatic prisoners from starvation during the last fourteen months of the war. It was not long, therefore, before he led us to a lonely stretch of country near Reformatory Road, where his driver had taken him to an execution in July. He prodded about among the scrub until he found three newly made mounds with wooden crosses on them. This, he thought, was the place. The heath around was pitted with half-filled depressions and open graves, among stunted bushes and the insect-eating plant called Dutchman's Pipe. Evidently it was a favourite execution ground of the Japanese. Why, then, were these the only graves marked with crosses? Mikiwaza did not know: they were Chinese whom he had seen executed. Unfortunately the authorities did not permit us to exhume, and the matter remained a mystery.

A week or so later the Amir Silalahi, long since deposed by the Japanese, arrived in Singapore, having escaped from Singkep Island in a *tongkan*. He asked for and met Mr. Salmond, who had just been released from the Sime Road Internment Camp. Salmond brought him to us—a young Malay, with finely cut aquiline features, and the sad but dignified air of an exiled chieftain, conscious of his integrity and worth. He had two stories to tell. The first was that a well-armed Japanese garrison, with its headquarters on Singkep Island, was still terrorizing the Lingga Archipelago. Among them were twenty-seven members of the Japanese Gestapo, the Kempeitai, of whom twelve (he gave us their names) had been heavily involved in the Double Tenth case, so called because it was on 10th October, 1943, that more than forty of the British internees in Singapore had been arrested by the Kempeitai. Fifteen of them later died from torture and ill-treatment at their hands. His second story was that in December, 1944, ten British and Australians, members of a raiding party, had been captured in the Lingga Archipelago and had been kept as prisoners on Singkep Island until they were taken to Singapore.

The task of reoccupying Malaya was such that it was not until October that we could take action. Meantime, the Amir stayed on patiently in Singapore. We took him to the Great World Amusement Park, and to the Cathay to see "Tunisian Victory." He was an appreciative and forbearing guest, but at the end of each evening he would ask us: "When will the British Navy be coming to liberate my people?"

At last, one morning in October, four M.Ls. set forth from Collyer Quay. On board, besides our excellent naval hosts, were half a platoon of paratroops under a subaltern; Major Sheppard, of the Malayan Civil Service, who had planned the expedition and had himself twice experienced Kempeitai methods of interrogation in captivity; another ex-internee, Mr. Leonard Knight, of the Police, engaged like Sheppard on the Double Tenth investigation; a Dutch official; myself, and Mr. Salmond and the Amir Silalahi, together keeping their engagement of three and a half years before. The next morning the Amir was gazing proudly from the deck at the palm-fringed beaches of Singkep Island and the jungle-clad peaks beyond. On the pier waited the Japanese garrison commander, who had been warned by wireless of our coming. We split into four parties: Sheppard went into the little town of Dabot with Salmond and the Amir to assist the new Dutch Controlleur to take over; Knight set off to organize and arm the police; another officer with a Malay interpreter inquired into the Amir's story of the missing British and Australian party; while I went up the hill behind the town to the Kempeitai headquarters. On calling the roll I found that one badly wanted man was missing, Miyazaki, a Jap-Malay half-caste, who had interpreted for the Kempeitai in the Double Tenth, particularly during the torture of the Bishop of Singapore. On the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, I selected the four toughest-looking Kempei and sent them off in two flying squads to find him. Long before my time limit of an hour was up, two of the Kempei had brought him back well roped between them, having found him in a small sailing-boat, struggling to catch a breeze that would take him to one of the neighbouring islands.

We left for Singapore again that night, with twenty-five Japanese squatting in the bows of our four M.Ls. Also among our captives, at the Controlleur's request, was the Malay quisling who had usurped the Amir's place. The Amir himself stood waving farewell to us from the end of

Singkep's pier until he and then his island were lost to our view in the gathering darkness.

Among our trophies was the admission book of the local police station and a scrap of paper bearing the names of a British officer, a warrant officer and an able seaman, each pencilled in block letters in a different hand. The admission book, kept in Malay, showed that on 18th and 19th December, 1944, six "white men" had been admitted, and all had been transferred to Singapore on 23rd December. A later entry showed that three more "white men" had been admitted on 28th-29th December and had left for Singapore on 8th January, 1945. The charge against each was the same: "Enemy of the State." Attempts had been made to write the names of some of them, but, apart from those on the scrap of paper, only one was clear—"R. M. Ingleton, Major, Royal Marines. British." Two others were marked "Australian," and one "Australian (British)."

These were the only clues when we took up the hunt for the nine "white men" in Singapore. There was no trace of such people having ever been in a prisoner-of-war camp, and the Japanese were in a conspiracy to tell us nothing. No single survivor, as it turned out, remained to tell the tale, and no written record of theirs remained beyond that found on Singkep. Yet within a month we knew their story in full, and how and where each one of them (not only these nine but fourteen of their comrades) had met his end. Moreover, only one of the Japanese concerned had escaped the net, and he by suicide at the surrender. Here, then, is the story.

On 11th September, 1944, H.M. Submarine *Porpoise* left Perth, Western Australia, with a strange party of twenty-three on board, in addition to her normal crew. The Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Army had each provided their quota; seven were officers, and the proportion of Australians to British was about two to one. The leader was Lieut.-Colonel I. Lyon, of the Gordon Highlanders, who had won his D.S.O. for a brilliant achievement in 1943, when a party led by him blew up six Japanese ships in Singapore Roads and returned safely to Australia. The object of the present expedition was to repeat that exploit. At Merapas Island they left the submarine, and arranged a rendezvous with her there for 6th November. After forming their base on shore they embarked in a captured junk for Singapore. By 6th October they had reached Puloe Samboe, just outside the harbour. They were awaiting their moment to strike when a police launch approached their junk and forced them to open fire. As surprise was essential to their operation, Lyon was forced to abandon it for the time being. He therefore gave orders to withdraw independently to Merapas in four small parties in rubber boats. The Japanese encountered Lyon's own party on Sole Island. In the night action which followed, Lyon and one other officer were killed, after killing the Japanese commander and killing and wounding several more. The remainder reached Merapas Island safely, and joined forces with the other three parties who had likewise suffered some casualties. The Japanese discovered them on 4th November, two days before the submarine was due to arrive. In the action which followed, the Japanese were at first repulsed with heavy loss, but our people were later compelled to leave Merapas and continue their withdrawal to the south. The fighting went on from island to island, until twelve had been killed or died, and ten had been taken prisoner. Of these, an able seaman died shortly after capture. The other nine were lodged in Singkep Police Station, and were then taken to Singapore. One more, an officer, was captured later when his rubber boat stranded on some fishing-stakes not far from Timor. Of his two companions in this fantastic voyage one had been killed by natives and the other taken by a shark. He, too, was brought to Singapore and lodged with the other nine in the Water Police Station, from which they were transferred in February to Outram Road Jail. Of their life in captivity we have a remarkably full record. It is clear that from the first they were regarded with respect, verging on awe, by the Japanese, and in consequence were exceptionally well treated. A well-disposed Japanese interpreter supplied them regularly with books, chocolates and cigarettes. The officers had little doubt what their fate was likely to be, but the whole party remained in excellent spirits and good health until the end. They were sentenced to death by a military court on 5th July, 1945, and on the 7th they were beheaded in the execution ground off Reformatory Road. Their graves were those which we discovered by chance just two months after. In an unmarked grave close by were buried the Chinese victims of the later execution witnessed by Mikizawa.

Let the Japanese themselves tell the last chapter. The first paragraph is from the closing address of the prosecuting officer:

" 'With such fine determination they infiltrated into the Japanese area. We do not hesitate to call them the real heroes of a forlorn hope. It has been fortunate for us that their intention was frustrated half-way, but when we fathom their intention and share their feelings we cannot but spare a tear for them. The valorous spirit of these men reminds us of the daring enterprise of our heroes of the Naval Special Attack Corps who died in May, 1942, in their attack on Sydney Harbour. The same admiration and respect that the Australian Government, headed by the Premier and all the Australian people, showed to those heroes of ours we must return to these heroes in our presence. When the deed is so heroic, its sublime spirit must be respected, and its success or failure becomes a secondary matter. These heroes must have left Australia with sublime patriotism flaming in their breasts, and with the confident expectation of all the Australian people on their shoulders. The last moment of a hero must be historic and it must be dramatic. Heroes have more regard for their reputation than for anything else. As we respect them, so we feel our duty of glorifying their last moments as they deserve: and by our doing so the names of these heroes will remain in the heart of the British and Australian people for ever more. In these circumstances, I consider that a death sentence should be given to each of the accused.'

"Major Ingleton thanked the court for referring to them as patriotic heroes."[1]

"After the trial all the members of the party were given extra rations, and, in accordance with their request, were kept together in one room so that they could freely converse with one another. Their attitude was really admirable. They were always clear and bright, and not a single

[1]Translation of proceedings of Military Court.

shadow of dismal or melancholy mood did they show. All who saw them were profoundly impressed."[2]

" 'They all knew they were going to be executed. When they left their prison to enter the two trucks in which their executioners were waiting, they were in high spirits, laughing and talking and shaking hands with one another. All of us prisoners were amazed.' "[3]

On arrival at the execution ground at 10 a.m. on 7th July "they were all given cigarettes and rested. Then, in accordance with their request, they were allowed to shake hands with one another. They all stood up, shook hands merrily and even laughingly in a very harmonious manner, and bade each other farewell. The sky was clear and the scenery was beautiful."[2]

"Major Ingleton, on behalf of the whole party, requested the commandant of the prison and the prosecuting officer to tell the Japanese interpreter that they were all most grateful for the courtesy and kindness which he had shown them for a long time past. He said again that they must not forget to give the interpreter this message. All who heard him were deeply moved."[4]

"The execution started and it was over by noon. Every member of the party went to his death calmly and composedly, and there was not a single person there who was not inspired by their fine attitude."[2]

"Major-General Ohtsuka reported to the 7th Area Army Commander and the Chief of Staff on the completion of the execution and commented on the sublime and glorious manner in which these men had met their death."[2]

At a staff conference of the 7th Area Army, "Major-General Ohtsuka reported on the patriotism, fearless enterprise, heroic behaviour and sublime end of all members of this party, praising them as the flower of chivalry, which should be taken as a model by the Japanese. He concluded by saying that all Japanese soldiers should be inspired by their fine attitude, and on reflection must feel the necessity of bracing up their own spirits in emulation, if they hoped to win the war."[2]

Three weeks later Japan surrendered.

There is evidence that the Japanese were anxious to avoid the death sentence. It was, in fact, suggested to the prisoners before their trial that they should adopt a humble attitude and plead for mercy. Instead, down to the last corporal and able seaman, they remained resolute and defiant to the last. A young Australian captain,[5] who had accompanied Lyon on his earlier expedition also, was asked by the court: "Did you yourself kill any Japanese soldiers?" He replied in clear and deliberate tones: "I am an officer in the British Army, and I know that my aim was good." Not one of them can have dreamt that a single word of his conduct or his fate would ever be heard in England or Australia. What, then, was the secret of their cheerful endurance in captivity and of the light-hearted courage with which they met their end?

"Why? Am I bidding for glory's roll?
I shall be murdered and clean forgot.
Is it a bargain to save my soul?
God, whom I trust in, bargains not.
Yet, for the honour of England's race,
Can I not live and accept disgrace?

"I must be gone to the crowd untold
Of men, by the cause that they served, unknown,
Who moulder in myriad graves of old.
Never a story and never a stone
Tells of the fellows who died like me,
Just for the sake of the Old Countree."

It has been my privilege, little by little, to piece together their story, and to mark their graves with this stone.

[2]Translation of Records of Judiciary Department, 7th Area Army.
[3]Interrogation of Korean witness.
[4]Interrogation of Japanese witness.
[5]Capt. R. C. Page, D.S.O.

SENTENCES PASSED ON JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS

THE following represents a selection of some of the more widely known Japanese war criminals who have been tried by the War Crimes Tribunal Committee.

Almost all of you who have worked on the construction of the Burma—Siam railway are familiar with these infamous characters and their sadistic tendencies. Many more have been tried and subsequently sentenced, but space is insufficient to permit a full publication of all criminals, so if your special "hate" is not listed below don't be disappointed—he probably swung in the breeze just as nicely as the others!

Burma—Siam Railway Cases
Major-General Isheda: ten years' imprisonment.
Colonel Nakamura: death by hanging.
Colonel Ishi: death by hanging.
Lieut.-Colonel Yanagida: twenty years' imprisonment.

Prisoner-of-war Camps, Siam
Lieut. Nobusawa ("Horse Doctor"): death by hanging.
Sergt.-Major Eda: death by hanging.
Capt. Daimon ("Jack Diamond"): ten years' imprisonment.
Sergt. Noro ("Baldy"): fifteen years' imprisonment.

Kilo Camps
Lieut. Kokebu: death by hanging.
Kor. Takayama: death by hanging.
Sergt. Terakuchi: death by hanging.

Nonpladuk, Bankok, Uban
Kor. Takamine ("Efficiency"): nine years' imprisonment.

Kanburi Officers' Camp
Sergt. Shimojo: four years' imprisonment.

Prisoner-of-war Camps, Siam
Lieut. Usuki ("Kanu Kid"): death by hanging.
Sergt.-Major Hiramatsu ("The Tiger"): death by hanging.
Kor. Motoyama ("Black Prince"): death by hanging.
Kor. Matsumoto ("Silver Bullet"): life imprisonment.
Kor. Takyama ("Donald Duck"): death by hanging.
Kor. Iwaya ("Mad Mongrel"): death by hanging.
Kor. Tomotoma: ten years' imprisonment.
Kor. Morimoto ("Mad Bugler"): life imprisonment.
Kor. Minaka ("Singing Master"): life imprisonment.
Kor. Kumdieji ("Bombay Duck"): fifteen years' imprisonment.

Krian Prisoner-of-war Camp
Kor. Fumimoto: death by hanging.

Chungkai
Kor. Takemoto: two years' imprisonment.

Kanu, Hintock, Hinsayor
Sergt. Okada ("Doctor Death"): ten years' imprisonment.

Kanburi "Radio Case"
Major Chida: nine years' imprisonment.
Capt. Kumai: death by hanging.
Sergt.-Major Ijima: death by hanging.
Sergt.-Major Urikawa: life imprisonment.
Sergt. Watanabe: life imprisonment.

Tamakan, Kanburi
Lieut. Takahashi ("The Frog"): death by hanging.

Nakon Nyok, Nonpladuk
Kor Kaneshiro ("The Undertaker"): death by hanging.

Prisoner-of-war Camps, Siam
Major Mizutani (Commandant, No. 5 P.O.W. Camp): death by hanging.
Major Noguchi: death by hanging.
Capt. Taramoto: life imprisonment.
Chungkai, Siam
Lieut. Osato: three years' imprisonment.
Kor. Azawa: four years' imprisonment.
131 Kilo Camp, Siam
Kor. Hayashi: death by hanging.
Songkrai, Siam
Kor. Hosumi: death by hanging.
Kor. Okawa: death by hanging.
Kor. Otsuki: eighteen years' imprisonment.
Tonchan, Siam
Capt. Suzuki: death by hanging.
Sergt. Yamamoto: death by hanging.
Kor. Chiba: death by hanging.
Prisoner-of-war Camps, Siam
Colonel Sugasawa: twelve years' imprisonment.
Chungkai
Sergt. Sakano ("White Slug"): five years' imprisonment.
Changi, Singapore
Lieutenant-General Fukuei: death by shooting.
Changi Jail
Sergt. Okayama: seven years' imprisonment.
Singapore
Sergt.-Major Toyoda: death by hanging.
Hong Kong
Sergt. Kawamoto: death by hanging.
Int. Inouye: death by hanging.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

(*Continued from page 7*)

2.—CASH

Major D'Arcy B. Alexander, Mr. R. Angus.
Colonel R. Bruce, Mr. D. Burnett (two years), Mr. Frank Burton, Lieut.-Colonel A. D. Buchanan-Smith (two years).
Mrs. M. Coutts, Mr. D. J. Cruickshank (two years).
Mr. A. Dickie (four years).
Mr. David Forbes (two copies), Mr. T. L. Forsyth, Colonel Ian Forbes, Colonel A. S. Fortune.
Mr. S. P. Gillespie, Mr. I. J. Glen, Colonel A. D. Greenhill-Gardyne.
Mr. J. Hardie, Mrs. R. W. Harter.
Mr. J. F. Keir.
Mr. P. B. Ledingham, Mr. W. Lee, Mr. W. R. Lawson (four years), Mr. F. L. Lewis.
Major L. N. MacDougall (two years), Miss M. Mackie, Capt. T. Mackison (£1), Mr. J. McDonald, Capt. J. R. McGregor, Major J. A. Milne (two years), Mr. R. L. Milne, Lieut.-Colonel P. C. Mitchell.
Mrs. M. Nicol, Mrs. H. E. Norman.
Mr. A. S. Riddler, Mr. W. Riddler, Capt. R. D. Robertson.
Mr. W. Sherriffs, Capt. J. B. Smith, Mr. J. H. Smith, Mr. C. D. F. Snape.
Mr. William Tait, Mr. J. H. Thompson (four years), Mr. J. Tough, Mr. C. F. Troup, Mr. W. Tyre.
Mr. J. S. White, Mr. J. W. Watson, Mr. G. Wilson.

Note.—Subscriptions received after 1st June will be acknowledged in the next issue. Orders from units, messes, clubs, etc., will be acknowledged separately.

1st BATTALION NEWS

THIS being the first edition of THE TIGER AND SPHINX since 1939 we feel that it is right and fitting to give some news of the Battalion since the "Cease Fire" in Germany. We have, during the past three years, wandered to many parts of the British zone, from Bremerhaven near Bremen to Neustadt near Hanover, until finally coming to rest in Essen in the Ruhr.

Since these immediate post-war days in 1945 the Battalion has undergone many changes, both in personnel and policy. Demobilization has been the main cause for these changes and, coming to the present day, the advent of the National Service soldier has again entailed a complete reorganization of the unit. However, these difficulties are being overcome and by next year we should be fairly well settled into the smooth running of a post-war peace-time battalion.

When the war finished we found ourselves on the outskirts of Bremerhaven. A victory parade of the 51st (Highland) Division was held here, and, needless to say, the Gordons were well to the fore. The salute was taken by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks. From here we moved to the Orel area near by, for reorganization and recuperation, and three weeks later were ordered to go to Neustadt.

Neustadt is a typical medieval German country town and we were accommodated in comfortable civilian billets. Our duties were those expected of occupational troops, consisting mainly of guards, road checks, village searches, etc.

It was here that we welcomed our new Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, D.S.O., who joined us from the 5th/7th Battalion.

Many were the celebrations within the 153rd Brigade at this time, as both the 5th/7th Battalion and the 5th Bn. The Black Watch went into "suspended animation" in the same month.

A farewell party was held in honour of our sister battalion, the 5th/7th, who had fought beside us from El Alamein until the end of the war.

Our stay in this station lasted nine months, when we moved to Muna Camp near Zeven. This was a ruined ex-British prisoner-of-war camp, and it was with no regret that we moved again shortly after to Verden. It was here that we saw the disbandment of the 51st (Highland) Division, which cut short our stay in Verden and caused us to come to our present station, Essen. A shock awaited us here, the whole city being in a state of utter desolation.

The Battalion has been here since June, 1946, during which time many improvements have been carried out in the barracks. On our arrival we found them in the same state as Essen itself, bomb-scarred and battered as a result of R.A.F. bombing. The present Officers' Mess was a burnt-out shell; now we feel we may justly claim it to be one of the finest barracks in the British zone of Germany.

We were then still part of the 153rd (Highland) Brigade in the 53rd (Welsh) Division, and it was here that training and sport really came into their rightful places.

In May, 1947, we were honoured by the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, who inspected the whole Battalion on parade. The same evening he attended a guest night in the Officers' Mess.

Shortly after this the 53rd (Welsh) Division disbanded and the Brigade, now consisting only of the 1st Bn. The Black Watch and ourselves, was redesignated 6th (Highland) Brigade, an integral part of the recently arrived 2nd Division.

On New Year's Eve, 1947, Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O., took the salute at the Trooping of the Regi-

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.









1. TAKING THE SALUTE OF THE MAIN GATE GUARD.
2. INSPECTING THE GUARD OF HONOUR
3. THE MARCH PAST
4. MEETING THE FAMILIES

mental Colour parade, arranged as a farewell to him on relinquishing command of the Brigade. After the parade the Brigadier attended the men's Hogmanay dinner, which was followed by an informal party in the Officers' Mess which Lady Caithness also attended. In the evening the Commanding Officer and all officers of the Battalion entertained him at a guest night, where the usual Highland honours were paid to him.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing him and his wife *bon voyage* and good luck in his new appointment in Burma.

In March, 1948, General Sir Brian Robertson, Commander-in-Chief of the British Zone of Germany, made a thorough inspection of the Battalion when he saw all aspects of training and administration. He was accompanied by General Sir Richard L. McCreery, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, Major-General P. M. Balfour, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 2nd Infantry Division, and our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. F. K. Belchen, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

On 7th April this year Major-General P. M. Balfour carried out an administrative inspection of the Battalion. After watching a Battalion drill parade he visited each company in turn. At the conclusion he remarked to our Commanding Officer: "I consider the administration of a very high standard, and I'm now speaking as a Horse Gunner!"

Turning to the training aspect, the whole Battalion went down to Vogelsang, a former S.S. and Werhmacht training camp, in March, 1947. This area was found to be ideal, and several field firing exercises were carried out.

Again in August of the same year, having just returned from guarding "Chetniks" at the famous prisoner-of-war camp at Munster Lager, we spent a fortnight at Paderborn on Brigade training.

Of our many successes in the field of sport, that of our tug-of-war teams bears mention. In March this year our light and heavy teams won their respective divisional bouts and qualified for the B.A.O.R. Championship, in which both teams reached the finals. Our heavy team finished as winners after defeating the 2nd Bn. The Rifle Brigade in two straight pulls, thus qualifying to represent B.A.O.R. at the Royal Tournament at Olympia. Our light team, however, after a valiant effort, lost to the R.E. (Airborne).

In conclusion, it is with deep regret that we learn of the resignation of the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir James L. G. Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. Although we are losing him in his official capacity we are confident that he will continue to interest himself in all aspects of life in the Regiment.

As is so often the way, farewell to one means welcome to another, and so it is that we, the 1st Battalion, welcome Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C., as our new Colonel.

Colonel Graham is a well-known member of the Regiment and needs no introduction. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

BIRTHS

BARKER.—On 8th April, 1945, at Colwyn Bay, to Major and Mrs. C. N. Barker—a son, Nigel Chartwood Brodrick; and on 26th February, 1947, at Poona, India, a daughter—Jennifer Susan Brodrick.

CUPPLES.—On 22nd March, 1947, at the British Military Hospital, Tripoli, to Pipe-Major and Mrs. A. Cupples—a son, Alexander Gordon.

DUELL.—On 26th February, 1941, to L./Cpl. and Mrs. A. Duell—a son, Brian; and on 17th November, 1942—a daughter, Mary Emlay.

GERRARD.—On 16th May, 1942, to Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. B. J. D. Gerrard—a son, Robert Joseph.

MCFARQUHAR.—On 5th July, 1947, at 77th British Military Hospital, Wuppertal, to Sergt. and Mrs. H. McFarquhar—a son, Harold.

MILLER.—On 10th July, 1946, to R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. B. Miller—a daughter, Margaret Jessie Black.

SCOTT.—On 17th March, 1948, at 77th British Military Hospital, Wuppertal, B.A.O.R., to Sergt. and Mrs. B. Scott—a son, Robert James.

WATT.—On 20th August, 1947, at 77th British Military Hospital, Wuppertal, B.A.O.R., to Capt. and Mrs. C. A. L. Watt—a son, David Ewan.

MARRIAGES

BARKER—BRODRICK.—On 20th April, 1942, at Camberley, Major C. N. Barker, M.C., to Joan Sibyl Brodrick, second daughter of Brigadier W. L. C. Brodick, C.B.E. (late I.A.), and the late Mrs. Brodrick, of Roundstonefoot House, Moffatt.

CUPPLES—PARIS.—On 21st June, 1946, at Broxburn, West Lothian, Pipe-Major A. Cupples to Janet Hardie Paris.

DIXON—THOM.—On 28th November, 1942, at Lucknow, India, Lieut. J. N. Dixon to Dorothy Thom.

FOSTER—HINGLEY.—On 10th February, 1940, at St. Peter's Church, Clapham, London, R.S.M. H. Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Foster, of Stoke-on-Trent, to Vera Hingley, of Thornaby-on-Tees.

FRENCH—SUMMERS.—On 16th January, 1946, at Kinloss, Morayshire, Cpl. W. French to Cpl. I. Summers, W.A.A.F.

GERRARD—DE VILLIERS.—On 2nd January, 1941, at Nairobi, Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, D.S.O., to Mrs. P. M. De Villiers, daughter of the late Mr. Max Robinson and of Mrs. Robinson, of Cato Road, Durban, Natal, South Africa.

LINDSAY—ANDREWS.—On 17th August, 1946, at the Parish Church, Luton, Capt. (Qrmr.) J. McG. Lindsay, M.B.E., to Joan May Andrews.

MILLER—FARRELL.—On 20th April, 1945, at the Church of Scotland, Bothwell, Lanarkshire, R.Q.M.S. B. Miller to Margaret Wilson Farrell.

TAVENDALE—MCLAUGHLAN.—On 21st February, 1947, at St. Bridget's Church, Stonehaven, Sergt. H. A. Tavendale to Elizabeth McLaughlan, of 9 Cheyne Road, Aberdeen.

WATT—MATHESON.—On 3rd July, 1946, at Ayr Old Church, Capt. C. A. L. Watt to Aileen Margaret Matheson, of 3 Holston Crescent, Ayr.

DEATHS

ELWELL.—On 19th November, 1947, Sergt. R. Elwell, as a result of a road accident.

HODGKINSON.—On 2nd September, 1947, Pte. J. Hodgkinson, as a result of an M.T. accident.

MACDONALD.—On 2nd September, 1947, L./Cpl. MacDonald, as a result of a road accident.

MCGARVA.—On 18th October, 1947, Pte. J. McGarva, as a result of a road accident.

MULLANEY.—On 26th February, 1947, Cpl. Mullaney, as a result of a tree-felling accident.

RAE.—In 1946, at Verden, Major B. Rae, M.C.

ROSE.—On 26th February, 1948, Pte. A. Rose, as a result of an M.T. accident.

OFFICERS SERVING WITH THE BATTALION

Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, D.S.O.
Major A. W. Gibbon, O.B.E. (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).
Major W. G. Tailyour (Cameron Highlanders).
Major J. Telford-Smollett, M.B.E. (Highland Light Infantry).
Major F. G. E. Walford, M.B.E.
Major C. N. Barker, M.C.
Major G. Morrison, D.S.O.
Capt. R. J. C. Chaytor.
Capt. C. A. L. Watt.
Capt. T. N. Johnston.

Capt. P. J. Connor (Highland Light Infantry).
Capt. A. C. E. Elliott (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).
Capt. A. F. Stephens, M.M.
Capt. D. A. Craig.
Capt. A. J. C. Robbins.
Capt. P. H. Hutchinson.
Capt. R. W. McLeod.
Lieut. J. N. Dickson.
Lieut. J. Q. P. Curzon.
Lieut. P. N. Ritchie.
Lieut. R. Bannerman.
Lieut. B. J. Stewart (Cameron Highlanders).
Lieut. A. S. Baker.
Lieut. I. G. Cathie (Cameron Highlanders).
Lieut. W. D. L. Ride.
Lieut. J. P. N. Kinghorn.
Lieut. I. McK. Robertson.
Lieut. W. Cunningham.
Lieut. R. C. B. Chancellor.
Lieut. S. A. Marshall.
Lieut. P. N. Chisholm (Cameron Highlanders).
Lieut. J. T. D. Durbin.
2/Lieut. J. C. Kennaway.
2/Lieut. J. S. Douglas.
2/Lieut. H. S. H. Venour.
2/Lieut. W. Johnston.
Capt. (Qrmr.) R. W. McDonald.
Capt. (Qrmr.) J. McG. Lindsay, M.B.E.

WARRANT AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SERVING WITH THE BATTALION

W.O.I H. Foster.
R.Q.M.S. B. Miller.
C.S.Ms. T. Mason, J. Stephen, J. Lloyd, J. Leys, J. Yule, N. Wilson and J. Stuart.
Clr.-Sergts. W. Barclay, W. Devine, R. Haygarth, J. Mackie, H. Palmer and S. George.
Sergts. R. Stewart, G. Wilson (Pipe Sergeant), A. Stewart, J. Craig, B. Scott, J. Innes, A. Drummond, A. Riddell, A. Keiller, C. Forbes, S. Grant, L. Dunn, N. McCormick, R. Page, W. Crease, G.M., W. Hunt, D. Evans, V. Mansor, H. Tavendale (O.R.S.), E. Coggle, J. Ogg, S. Agnew, T. Brown, P. Baxter, T. Denholm, W. Gray, G. Smith and H. McFarquhar, Pipe-Major A. Cupples and Drum-Major L. Burlton.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Distinguished Service Order

Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, for service with the 1st Nigerian Regiment, R.W.A.F.F.
Major G. Morrison, for service in North-West Europe.

Military Cross

Major Lumsden, for service in North-West Europe.
Major R. W. Petrie, for service in North-West Europe.
Major C. N. Barker, for service in North-West Europe, 1945.
Major B. Rae, for service in North-West Europe.

Bar to Military Cross

Major B. Rae, for service in North-West Europe.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

C.S.M. Thompson, for service at El Alamein.
L./Cpl. May, for service in North-West Europe.
Pte. Blackman, for service in North-West Europe.

Military Medal

Capt. A. F. Stephens, for service in North-West Europe.
C.S.M. Morris, for service in North-West Europe.
Cpl. McGarrigle, for service in North-West Europe.

Bar to Military Medal

Capt. A. F. Stephens, for service in North-West Europe.

Mentioned in Despatches

Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, 1945.
Major C. N. Barker, for service in Sicily, 1943.
C.S.M. J. Stephen, for service in North-West Europe.

Member of the Order of the British Empire

Capt. (Qrmr.) J. McG. Lindsay, 1945.

George Medal

Sergt. Crease, for rescue of engineer from burning plane, Italy, 1944.

Croix de Guerre

Major G. Morrison, for service in North-West Europe.
C.S.M. J. Stephen, for service in North-West Europe.

TROOPING OF THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR
31st December, 1948

Had it not been for the pithead behind the saluting base a better setting for the Trooping of the Regimental Colour would have been difficult to choose. On 31st December, 1947, the parade ground at Meeanee Barracks was covered by two inches of snow which scintillated under a cloudless sky and brilliant sunlight.

At 1000 hrs. six guards were formed up in line ready to troop the Colour as a farewell parade to Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O., on the 160th anniversary of the raising of the 75th of Foot by Lord Abercrombie in 1787.

Many hours of hard work had been put into this parade by all ranks and especially the R.S.M., Mr. H. Foster, and many were the difficulties that had to be overcome—not least of these being dress.



BRIGADIER THE EARL OF CAITHNESS, D.S.O.



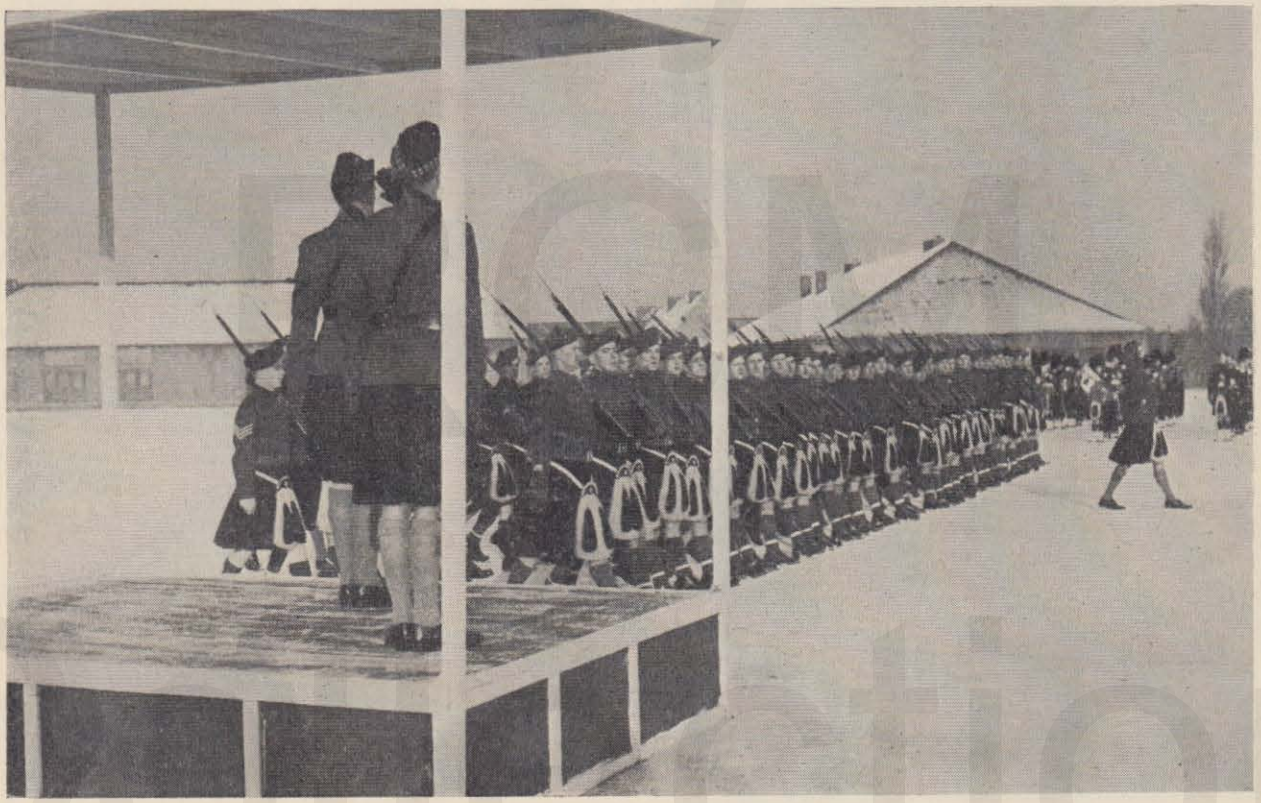
INSPECTING THE GUARDS



R.S.M. FOSTER HANDING THE COLOUR TO LIEUT. KINGHORN



THE TROOP : BAND, DRUMMERS AND PIPERS



THE MARCH PAST

Both Bands were in full dress; that of the Military Band had been issued from Ordnance for the Tattoo early in the year and had been successfully withheld by the Battalion by protracted correspondence and the use of "Pending" trays. Officers wore service dress, Sam Browne belts, Glengarries and hair sporrans, while the men wore No. 1 drill order and hair sporrans. A great deal of improvisation took place in companies to turn out sufficient kilts and hair sporrans and it was an impressive sight to see the splendour of colour against the gleaming whiteness of the snow.

Marquees were erected alongside the saluting base for spectators, who were provided with blankets in place of rugs and had braziers near at hand.

Among the spectators were Major-General P. M. Balfour, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., G.O.C. 2nd Infantry Division, Lady Caithness, Mrs. Gerrard, members of the Control Commission and married families.

At 1000 hrs. the six guards were handed over to the Adjutant, Major C. N. Barker, M.C. Officers were detailed to guards as follows:

Commanding Officer.—Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, D.S.O.

Second-in-Command.—Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Gibbon, O.B.E.

Ensign to the Colour.—Lieut. J. P. N. Kinghorn.

Escort Guard.—Capt. C. A. L. Watt and Lieut. R. C. B. Chancellor.

No. 2 Guard.—Capt. R. F. Davies, Lieut. J. A. N. Edwards and 2/Lieut. A. K. Stewart.

No. 3 Guard.—Major G. Morrison, D.S.O., Lieut. C. C. Bonsey and 2/Lieut. W. Johnston.

No. 4 Guard.—Capt. A. C. E. Elliott, Lieut. W. Cunningham and 2/Lieut. K. M. D. Usher.

No. 5 Guard.—Capt. A. J. C. Robbins, Lieut. A. L. Mackie and Lieut. W. D. L. Ride.

No. 6 Guard.—Capt. T. N. Johnston, Lieut. P. N. Ritchie and 2/Lieut. J. E. Day.

The salute was taken by Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O. After completion of the troop, the Battalion formed hollow square and was addressed by Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O., who commended the Battalion on an extremely fine parade and thanked all ranks for their loyal support during his tour as commander of the 6th (Highland) Brigade.

"B" COMPANY

After a period of many changes in personnel "B" Company has been reorganized to receive the first intake of National Service men to the Gordon Highlanders.

Hard work has been put in by C.S.Ms. Mason and Stephens, ably assisted by Sergt. Craig and a team of willing workers to turn "B" Company block into a miniature "Grand Hotel," everything being spick and span by the end of May when the "visitors" arrive.

The N.C.Os. for "B" Company are at present on a cadre under the Regimental Sergeant-Major.

"C" COMPANY

Since the end of the war "C" Company has had a chequered career. The end of the war saw us outside Bremerhaven under the command of Major Lumsden. In June, 1945, the whole Battalion moved to Neustadt, midway between Hanover and Neinburg, where we were to remain for nine months, billeted in houses around the town. During this time large drafts were sent from the Battalion to make up the 2nd Battalion, who were going out to Tripoli. As a result of this, "C" Company was disbanded, its remaining members being transferred to the other companies in the Battalion. All that remained of "C" Company was its new Company Commander, Capt. R. F. Williams, C.S.M. Greig and two or three men.

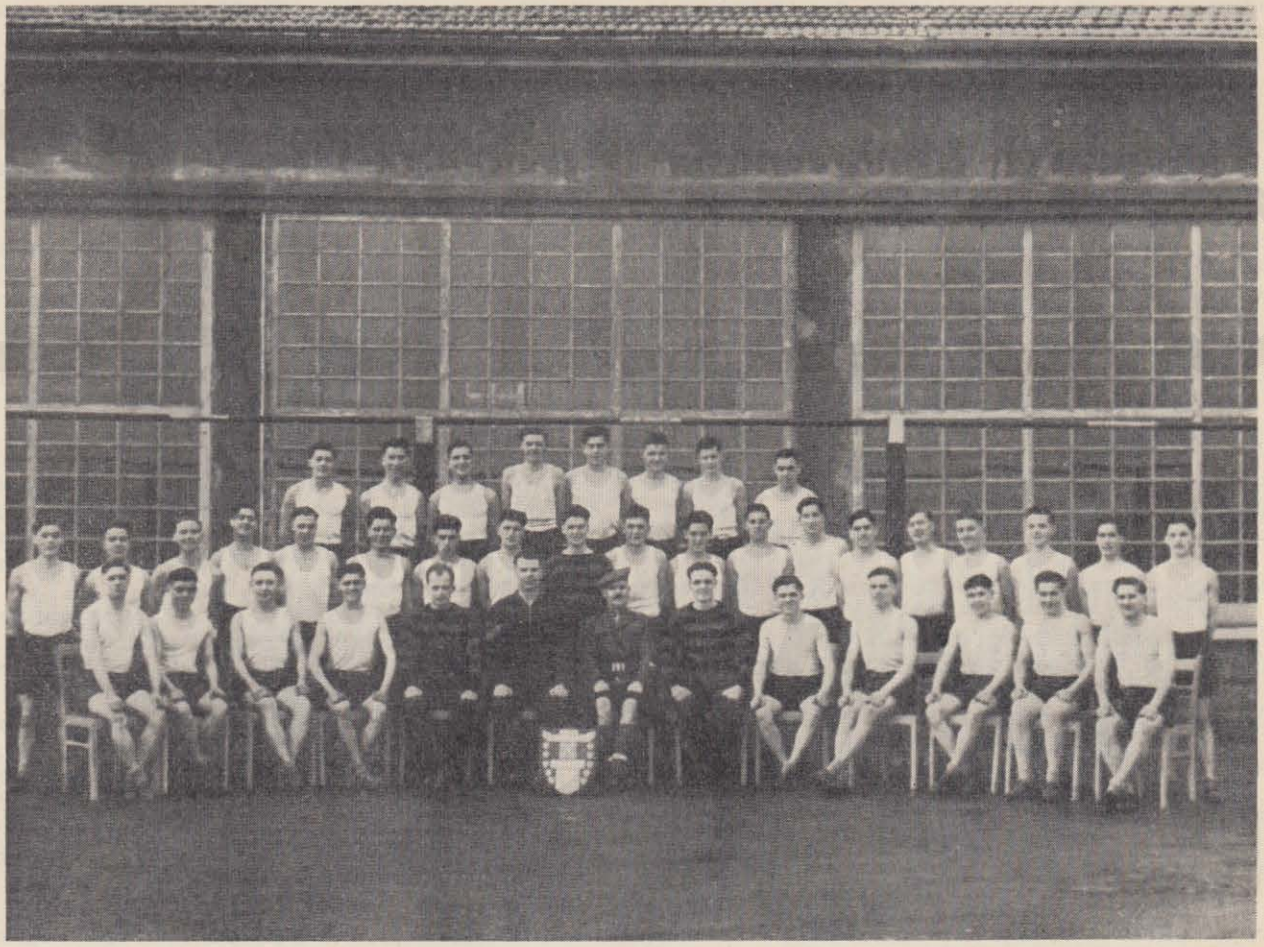
"C" Company remained a "ghost" until November, 1946. During this time the Battalion had moved from Muna Camp to Verden, on the Aller, and from there to the ruins of the Ruhr, and to the worst ruin of all—Essen. At Essen, in November, 1946, "C" Company was again re-formed under the command of Major R. Findlay-Shirras. In January, 1947, such was our versatility that we were turned into lumberjacks, and sent off on the scheme which became known as Operation "Woodpecker." This scheme was intended to provide wood to ease the housing shortage in the United Kingdom, and we have often wondered how many old Gordons who might have been lucky enough to get houses have had to thank "C" Company for them!

"C" Company formed part of No. 2 Scottish Lumber Group, and with us were a company of the Black Watch and Royal Scots Fusiliers. We were first of all stationed in the area around Celle, and then moved, when we had felled everything there was to fell, to a tented camp on the banks of the Elbe at Gorleben. Here a walk of 800 yards in the wrong direction might bring us into the Russian zone, and indeed on one occasion we had to thank the Cameronians for rescuing a truck-load of our "Jocks" who had crossed the border by mistake, and who had been detained by our Russian allies.

On Operation "Woodpecker" life was primitive but enjoyable. We were out in the open all day, had splendid rations and grew very fit and weather-beaten. We covered ourselves, too, with glory. Within a few weeks of our becoming lumberjacks we made and held the record, which has never been broken, of felling seven hundred and twenty tons of timber in a working day, a record held against all the lumber groups, which included Canadian lumberjacks. Again, too, we made and held the record of two hundred and ten tons of lumber felled, trimmed and train-loaded during a working day. We won the North-East Area Lumber Competition. We were chosen to give demonstrations of felling, etc., to all the lumber groups and V.I.Ps. who were always visiting us. In the "Woodpecker" competition, for which teams from all over Germany were entered, we had very bad luck. After giving a demonstration of how to fell a tree, we took our turn in the competition and our tree on its way down got entangled with another. This lost us twenty precious points and we finished fourth—less than twenty points behind the winners.

We also did our bit in the sporting line, being one of the finalists in the 5th Division Inter-Company Football Competition, but, alas! the game was never played owing to the end of Operation "Woodpecker" and return of the Company to Essen in November, 1947.

When we returned to Essen we hoped we would remain a company, but it was not to be. Owing to the rapid demobilization of the Battalion and no drafts coming in, the



"A" COMPANY. WINNERS, 2nd INFANTRY DIVISION P.T. COMPETITION



OPERATION "WOODPECKER": THE FELLING SITE



"C" COMPANY
WINNERS OF NORTH AREA WOOD-FELLING COMPETITION

Battalion was reorganized, and "C" Company became the demobilization company. A month ago we were over 200 strong; today we are seventy. By May we shall have disappeared, but we are quite confident that, like the bad penny, we shall turn up again.

"D" COMPANY

For the benefit of past and present members of "D" Company these notes are the story of the Company since the "Cease Fire" to the present day. It has been a difficult period in many ways, with continual changes both of personnel and policy.

The "Cease Fire" in Germany found us at the front in the Orel area, near Bremerhaven, under the able command of Major R. W. Petrie, M.C., who is now Adjutant of the 5th/6th Battalion at Keith. Our C.S.M. was "Scottie" Mason, who later became R.Q.M.S., and at the time of writing is awaiting a posting to the Depot on "Python."

We moved into Bremerhaven into requisitioned accommodation where the order of the day was spit, polish and white blanco, and curfew at 2100 hrs.

It was not long before we moved back to the Orel area, where we were given the job of looking after a large ex-German underground ammunition depot. June, 1945, again saw us on the move to Neustadt, near Hanover, which was to be our station for the next nine months. During this time drafts were dispatched to the 2nd Battalion, the release scheme came into being, and each week saw us bidding farewell to such stalwarts of the Company as C.Q.M.S. McHolland, Sergts. Littlefair and McHardy, and others, many of whom had served with the Battalion since June, 1940.

We were in comfortable civilian billets and the settled life was pleasant after being continually on the move for so long. It was here that we lost C.S.M. Mason to the Quartermaster's department. He was replaced by C.S.M. J. Stephen.

In February, 1946, we moved with the Battalion to Muna Camp, near Zeven. Our new location was a great contrast to Neustadt, originally a British prisoner-of-war camp which had been laid in ruins by displaced persons after the "Cease Fire."

It was with great relief, therefore, that "D" Company was sent on detachment to guard German S.S. prisoners at Westertimke. Though our duties were onerous, it was a change to be out on our own once more.

Meanwhile, the Battalion had moved to Verden, where we joined them in time for the move in June, 1946, to Essen in the Ruhr. Essen can simply be described as a heap of steel, bricks and mortar. The barracks had been the scene of some severe fighting and as a result were in a bad state. However, by dint of hard work we managed to make them into a haven of sanity and civilization in the midst of a sea of wreckage and want.

In May, 1947, the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, paid a visit to the Battalion. "D" Company, having previously won the Battalion Drill Competition, were ordered to provide the guard of honour, which was complimented on its high standard of turn-out and drill.

In the same vein, in December, 1947, the Company was selected to provide the guard for the residence of the Commander-in-Chief, British Zone of Germany, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Sholto Douglas. So it was that the whole Company moved to Ostenwalde, in the heart of the Westphalian countryside, where we were billeted amid lovely orchards, woods and rolling hills. The contrast with Essen nearly took our breath away. We were due to remain here for a month, but through the personal request of Sir Sholto Douglas, himself a true Scot, we remained there a further three weeks until exigencies of the Service recalled us from our rustic idyll to the Ruhr.

As a result of the rapid rate of demobilization and lack of reinforcements, the whole Battalion were put in the "melting pot," and in January, 1948, "D" Company became a demobilization company. By August this year we shall have disappeared, but we are confident that we shall not remain long as a "phantom," but, like the phœnix, out of the rich ashes remaining will rise a reborn "D" Company which, under its present commander, Major W. G. Tailyour, will keep the flag flying as proudly as ever.

WEAPON TRAINING NOTES

Although the Battalion entered for several shooting matches, including rifle, L.M.G. and pistol, the only outstanding victory obtained in the shooting world of 1947 was the winning of the A.R.A. Sniper's Cup (Non-Central) with the following team:

Lieut. I. McK. Robertson and Ptes. J. Wood, C. Honeywell and J. Scott.

Other A.R.A. (Non-Central) matches entered for were the Queen Victoria Trophy, the King George Cup (Officers), the Royal Irish Cup (Sergeants), the Young Soldiers' Cup, the Hopton Cup, the Company Shield, the Duke of Connaught Cup, and the 2nd (British) Infantry Division and B.A.O.R. Rifle Meetings, and although the teams were rewarded with a moderate amount of success no great distinction was earned, chiefly owing to the lack of time for practice beforehand.

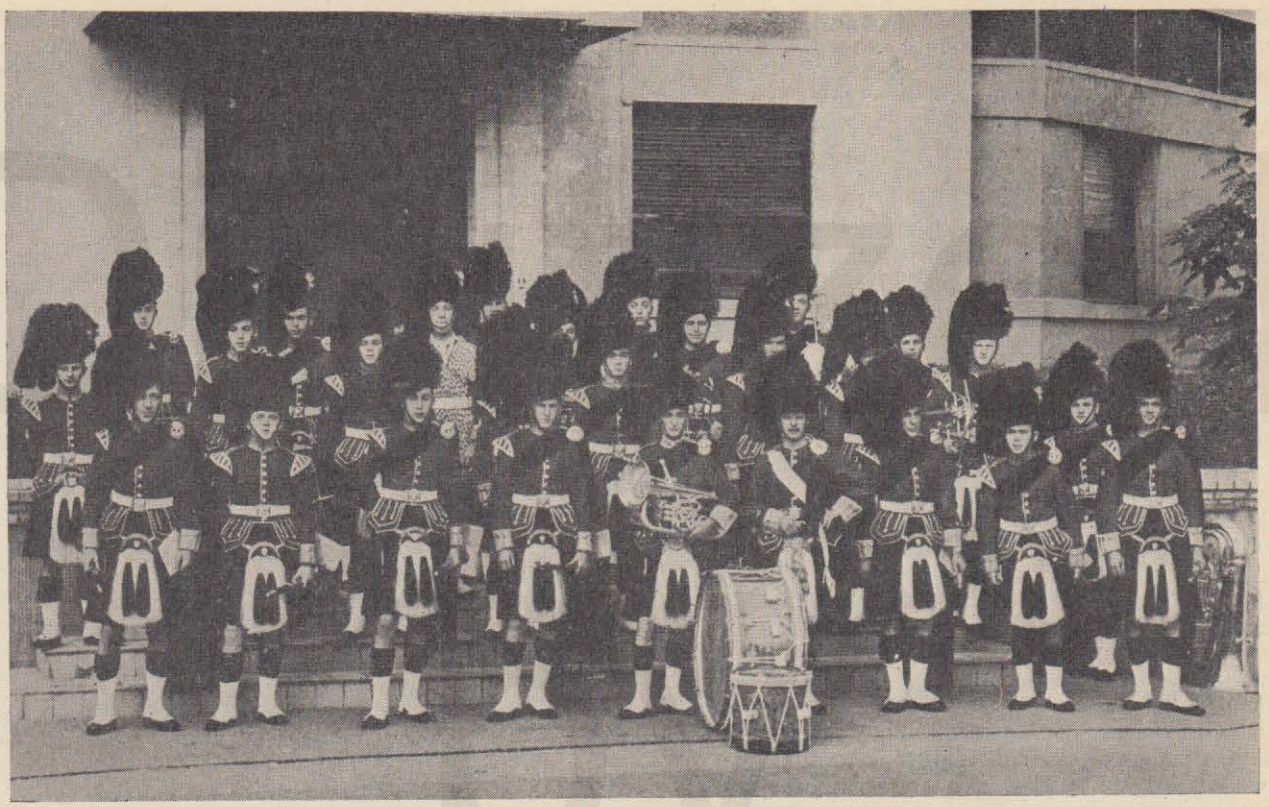
This year the Battalion has again entered for these competitions, and we intend to send a team to Bisley (28th June to 3rd July).

A Battalion Rifle Meeting, with everyone taking part, will be held in June.

PIPE, DRUM AND BAND NOTES

After having spent sixteen days in Belgium on tour, the Band and Pipers are putting in for extra-duty pay as interpreters. Their French has improved beyond all recognition, as shown by their fluency on the early morning parades. A report on the Belgian tour has already been published, but mention must be made of the keen appetites that were acquired by all and sundry when confronted by the huge meals that were given to them by their Belgian hosts. By the time these notes are in print, the combined Pipe Bands of the Black Watch and the Gordon Highlanders will have given a massed "Retreat," followed by a concert by the combined Bands of the Black Watch and Gordons in the barracks here in Essen and at Duisburg.

After a nice spot of leave the members of both Bands may be seen walking around barracks with a far-away look in their eyes. Is it thoughts of home or of the promised tour of Denmark? Nevertheless, they are getting down to some really hard rehearsals, as, from a glance at the Bandmaster's engagement diary, H.Q. Company will



BAND OF THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS



THE WARRANT OFFICERS, 1st BATTALION

see very little of them in the coming months. A few trips to Paderborn are in the offing, and the combined programmes with the Black Watch are getting a "bending" under the baton of "Taffy" Brace, as the Bandmaster is on leave. There is also a broadcast taking place shortly from Hamburg, with a rumoured return visit to Belgium to follow.

The Band football team is doing very well and has played a number of games, notably with the cooks. There are good reports from our six members at Kneller Hall, the School of Music. McCulloch is captain of the School football team, and Boy Forbes captain of the Boys' team at the School. We hope that they are doing as well at music, as we shall be needing them badly when they return.

There is little news from the Boys' Section, as they are so busy with School work, woodwork, drill, etc., that some day they may find a musical instrument in their kitbag.

In conclusion, I would like to welcome to our ranks our new "Pipey," Cupples.

French Tour

The Band of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders recently paid a visit to Nancy at the invitation of General de Linares, G.O.C. Eastern France. Also during the short stay they visited Metz and Strasbourg.

Travelling by train from Cologne, the Band arrived at Nancy in the early hours of Saturday, 20th September, 1947, and were met by Capt. Arnold, Secretary of the British Council, Nancy Branch, and a small delegation of French officers.

Accommodation for the men was arranged in the University of Nancy, and feeding arrangements were in the hands of a corporal of the Army Catering Corps who had been drafted from Calais for this purpose. A humorous note was struck when the Bandmaster, anxious to see that feeding times would not interfere with the programmes on hand, tried out his execrable French on this individual, only to be answered with: "Ach, awa', man. Fit the —— ye trying tae say? I'm fae Aiberdeen." Feeding arrangements were in good hands.

On Saturday afternoon the Band marched through the streets of Nancy, ending with a short marching display in the courtyard of the General's palace. Here General de Linares invited the men to have wine with his guests, but the crowd was so great that none of the men could get through to the entrance until a few French police managed to make a narrow pathway through the wildly cheering people.

On Sunday morning, in beautiful sunshine, the Band took part in the unveiling ceremony of the monument to the Resistance Movement, and many complimentary references to our rendering of "La Marseillaise" appeared in the Press.

In the afternoon we combined with the Swiss Choral and gave a two-hour programme in the City Park, to an audience of at least two thousand according to the organizers. The Swiss Choral, in their picturesque national costumes and the Band in full dress, added just the touch of colour to a musical programme that reached a very high standard. This concert was repeated by request in the evening at the Rue Poirell, when many hundreds were unable to gain admission to the already overpacked hall. At the conclusion of the concert both the Swiss Choral and the members of the Band were invited to a champagne supper given by the Town Council, which concluded with "Auld Lang Syne."

On Monday we visited Metz and were received by the Mayor and members of his Council. A speech of welcome was read and replied to by Lieut. Mackie, the conducting officer, after which we were given wine, and then proceeded to go on a small march through the town! The "small march" lasted one and a half hours and was followed by a two-hour band programme given on the Esplanade to a mass of wildly cheering people.

Tuesday, the 23rd, saw the Band at Strasbourg, where we again were received by the G.O.C. of the area and invited to have wine, which was followed by another of their "small marches," after which we were invited to lunch at the officers' mess of the regiment in residence. Bandsmen of their regimental band acted as hosts, and some of the men were taken to see the famous Strasbourg Cathedral, where they showed much fortitude by climbing the hundreds of stone steps to the topmost spire, which almost put them out of action for the evening concert. This was held in Salle de L'Aubetter. The Band left Strasbourg by train at 0200 hrs. and arrived in B.A.O.R. at midnight, and the following morning left at 0530 hrs. for Hamburg to broadcast over the B.F.N.

Belgian Tour

The Band, Pipers and Drummers of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders recently paid a visit to Belgium at the invitation of the British Council.

Arriving at Charleroi late in the evening of 13th February, the men were given a light meal and then introduced to their hosts, who had been waiting for them since early afternoon, but their long wait in no way damped the enthusiasm of the welcome they extended to them, and within a few minutes Bandsmen, Pipers, Drummers and Boys were seen reclining nonchalantly in the back of magnificent limousines and puffing at expensive cigars! This was merely the foretaste of similar scenes in almost every town in the province of Hainault.

On Saturday afternoon, in beautiful spring sunshine, both Bands marched through the streets of Charleroi, followed by hundreds of cheering inhabitants of this "Birmingham of Belgium." Lieut. Fraser, the conducting officer, laid wreaths on the memorials to the dead of the 1914-18 war and the dead of the Resistance Movement of 1939-45. Each of these ceremonies was most impressive. Cpl. Howlett sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille," and Pipe-Major Cupples played the Lament. The Band gave an impressive rendering of the Belgian National Anthem and "God Save the King." No Armistice ceremony could have held more poignancy, and one could feel the waves of memory stealing through the hearts of the people as the strains of "Lochaber No More" crept plaintively through the silent crowd.

In the evening the Band gave a concert to an enthusiastic audience in the Hotel de Ville. Every seat in the magnificent concert hall was filled and many hundreds were turned away. Every item by the Band was enthusiastically applauded, in particular any with a Scottish flavour, such as "The Thistle" and "The Wee MacGregor Patrol," whilst the display of Highland dancing given by the Pipers and Drummers literally shook the foundations. More was



PIPES AND DRUMS, 1st BATTALION

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yet to come, and as the Band ended with "Auld Lang Syne" the Pipers struck up a slow march in the auditorium and marched through the wildly cheering audience and on to the stage, where the Drum-Major and Drummers had formed up. Here they gave a grand set of tunes, concluding with "The Cock o' the North," to which they again swung out into the auditorium. The whole concert ended with the playing of "La Brabanconne" and "God Save the King." Such was the enthusiasm of the audience that it was with difficulty that the men managed to leave the building to join their hosts who were waiting to take them to their homes for the night.

The scenes at Charleroi were re-enacted in each of the nine towns visited, but particular mention must be made of the reception given by the Burgomaster of the town of Binche. Here the men were received by the civic officials and Lieut. Fraser was handed a medallion by the Burgomaster which conferred on the Regiment the highest honour given by this quaint old Belgian town. It may also be mentioned that in this town we met a real Cockney who had settled down there after the 1914 war and was now one of the most important business men in the town. This being his first contact with British troops since 1919, it can be imagined how enthusiastic was his welcome. As he was the only English-speaking person in the whole town, he proved a great help throughout our stay.

Perhaps our most memorable reception was at the mining town of Quievrain. Marching through the streets of this typical mining town, we were followed by practically all the inhabitants, who cheered themselves hoarse, and when we eventually arived at the school we were met by all the little children, each with a self-made Union Jack. The Bands halted and immediately the tiny tots started singing "God Save the King," followed by their own National Anthem, "La Brabanconne." Hearing their sweet voices rendering our own National Anthem so beautifully actually brought a tear to many of the men's eyes. A speech of welcome in halting English by a little girl of three, who shyly handed Lieut. Fraser a bouquet of flowers, brought a burst of spontaneous hand-clapping from the men, and this short, simple welcome was more memorable than all the speeches and receptions that had been theirs throughout the tour.

A free day at Mons gave the men a chance to visit the battlefields of the 1914-18 war, and a most interesting survey of the battle was given and the positions of the Gordon Highlanders in this memorable battle were pointed out. There was also a tour of the British War Cemetery, where a wreath was laid on the war memorial by Bandmaster Williams, and where a small tribute was paid to the graves of the six Gordon Highlanders who lie buried there.

A request was made by the Burgomaster of the village of St. Symphorien that a book be placed in the little church adjoining the cemetery, in which visitors may place their names, as the former book had been taken away by the Germans.

A second visit to Charleroi concluded the tour, during which the Bands had visited Lessines, Mons, Binche, La Louviere, Quaregnon, Ath, Quievrain and Jemappes.

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

Firstly, let us welcome Capt. (Qrmr.) McDonald, our new Quartermaster. He replaces Capt. (Qrmr.) J. M. Lindsay, M.B.E., who after twenty-three years' service in this Battalion, has left us to take up an appointment as Garrison Adjutant and Quartermaster at Munster. To him we extend our very best wishes and our thanks for the good work he did while with the Battalion. Capt. McDonald comes to us with a grand record and we hope that he will remain with us for many years to come.

Of the other many changes in our department, we record the exit of R.Q.M.S. T. W. Mason, whom many of the old-timers will remember as goalkeeper of the 1st Battalion in India, on being posted to the United Kingdom under the "Python" scheme. O.R.Q.M.S. Miller has taken over his job.

Cpl. Wrigley, L./Cpls. Johnston and Dade, and Ptes. Gunn, Evans and Cruickshank, all pre-war Regular soldiers, are now employed in various jobs within the "Q" team. Cpl. Baigrie, who was N.C.O. in charge of the Sanitary Squad, has also gone home under the "Python" scheme.

To all who have left our ranks we say: "All the best and thanks for the good work you have done for the Battalion," and to our new arrivals: "Welcome and here's wishing you success in your future work."

Transferring our attention to the sporting side of our life, we boast of only two "heroes," Pte. Craven, who is in the Battalion swimming team, and the R.Q.M.S., who plays hockey for the Battalion.

The Battalion is once again wearing the kilt, and in spite of many difficulties it makes a grand sight at the various parades and inspections, thereby holding the good name of the Regiment high in this theatre.

HISTORY OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Gordons arrived at Meeanee Barracks, Essen-Kray, on 5th June, 1946. By July the Education Wing was established in the unit and in possession of good accommodation. From then on could be seen the "brains" or regimental instructors, busily engaged in class, handicraft and store rooms, while in a well-furnished Education Office the U.E.O. carried on the work of administration and resettlement. The Unit Education Officer at that time was Capt. Rev. E. Traill, M.C., who with his keenness and enthusiasm did invaluable work for education in the unit.

Three Sergeants, as regimental instructors, assisted the U.E.O. in the running of the Education Scheme—Release Period. They were specially selected men, who had attended a course in the Regimental Instructors' Wing at No. 7 Formation College, Gottingen.

The Battalion has a unit library, a valuable and interesting selection of books, fiction and non-fiction, totalling 400. The librarian then had a gratifyingly busy job, registering in and out the books which men borrowed every day.

Sergt. Roughan, a skilled painter and decorator, obtained the necessary tools and materials for handicraft and painting classes, which he started and supervised until his release in the summer of 1947. A member of the "I" Section was co-opted and ran woodwork evening classes.

The Education staff was extended and maintained throughout the next two years, as keen and interested men were selected to attend a training course at the College of the Rhine Army. On their return they were usually promoted as regimental instructors. In the unit the subjects

English, Mathematics, Geography, Regimental History and B.W.P. were taught by the Education staff. Officers and warrant officers of the Battalion were sent on special A.B.C.A. (Method) courses.

Towards the end of the year vocational training courses commenced at Gottingen. The officers and men of the 1st Gordons quickly came to avail themselves of this opportunity of a four-week pre-release course in any academic or technical subject at the ancient university town of Gottingen. At the same time, the Rhine Army School of Agriculture was established, and attracted many entrants. Today the applicants outnumber the vacancies offered, with the result that, unavoidably for each session, there are a few disappointed, rejected applicants. When a soldier desired vocational training in a subject not available in any of the Army colleges, he was attached to a German firm for four weeks.

From October, 1946, to Easter, 1947, the Education staff of the 1st Gordons also served as "schoolmarms" to the "bairns" of several of the married families. Until the children's school opened in Mulheim, every Wednesday afternoon would see the Regimental Instructor leading his infants across country on a botany expedition.

Meanwhile there had been a swift and successful succession of officers acting as U.E.O. until, in March, 1947, 2/Lieut. Day took over the Education Wing as a permanent job.

The N.C.Os. also changed, and in January, 1947, the first R.A.E.C. personnel arrived in this unit and successfully took over the administration of the Battalion Education Scheme.

The Battalion newspaper, which started in 1946, was now published regularly and was a most welcome magazine, covering as it did every aspect and activity in the life of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders.

During 1947 certain students who were preparing for the Forces' Preliminary Examination received private tuition from the Education staff, and afterwards were sent on an intensive pre-F.P.E. course.

By checking S.P. Sheets 100A, it was determined who in the unit were well below the average standard of education. Those selected were sent on a six-week preliminary education course for semi- or complete illiterates. On their return they received follow-up lessons in the unit, as laid down on their report sheets, and in this way good progress was made and maintained by them.

By the end of the year it was proving very difficult to find keen and interested men who could be trained as regimental instructors, though by this time the speed-up of release had greatly depleted the staff. The Army Education Scheme—Interim Period was now in force, however, and as education was to assume a greater importance in the soldier's life so was the Education Corps being built up to cater for the demand upon it. Therefore at the end of 1947 the 1st Gordons were one of the many units to welcome their "basic ration" of trained R.A.E.C. personnel, approximately one for 200 to 240.

Since the New Year there has been only one of the "old firm" of regimental instructors—Pte. Graham, more familiarly known to the rest of the staff as "B.W.P." Graham.

The heavy commitments of the Battalion curtail somewhat the full implementation of the Army Education Scheme, though evening classes are held four times a week to ensure that the men left at Essen-Kray receive the three hours a week as laid down.

The Band Boys, some of whom are sitting the 1st Class Certificate in June, receive instruction in English, Mathematics, Geography, Map Reading and Regimental History to the total of twelve hours per week. There is now close liaison between the Education Department and the Y.M.C.A., so that the opening of a now-flourishing library and information room was a cause of mutual pleasure. Lieut. Day left the department in March amidst great wailing and gnashing of teeth, though the cheers which greeted the new U.E.O., Lieut. S. A. Marshall, were no less sincere. He it is, then, who is at the head of that most flourishing and learned establishment—the Education Department of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders which is ready at all times to defend its good name, as it is also prepared to see that the heralded National Service soldier goes out of the Army, no less wise (to say the least) than when he came in.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Jungle drums were beating and a search party is scouring the grape vine for news to submit to our Editor who will in turn sift and blue-pencil the results, thereby producing the first effort of Mess notes since 1939, those halcyon days when beer was 4d. a pint in the Mess and everybody handed their cigarettes around without a shudder! Nevertheless, there seems much to report of our modest happenings.

Firstly, we should like to extend our best wishes to Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, D.S.O., who has now left the 6th (Highland) Brigade for an important appointment in Burma. His farewell speech at the conclusion of the Trooping of the Regimental Colour on 31st December indicated that, though he was leaving the Regiment, his thoughts would always be with us, and I feel sure that many readers who had the honour to be under his command will retain many memories of his capabilities as a grand officer and a gentleman.

Though the weather was some degrees near the vicinity of freezing point, the Trooping of the Colour on 31st December lacked nothing in smartness in turn-out and drill. Credit must be given to R.S.M. Foster, who did wonders in the short time at his disposal, as the Battalion had more than the normal share of duties during this period, and even at the time of going to press C.S.Ms. of companies are still attempting to squeeze twenty-eight hours out of a twenty-four hour day. Maskelyne in all his glory cannot compare with this.

Fortunately the world of entertainment still shines brightly. The weekly whist drives are well attended, though the lack of ladies gives "Misses" Grant and Drummond ample opportunity to gain the "winning ladies'" prize. Apart from being able to play, we wonder if "Drummy" also talks them off their game?

Quite a number of members are walking about with sprained wrists owing to wielding a too strenuous double blank in the Sunday morning domino competition. "Tosh" and Ronnie Haygarth have been warned off the course for bumping and boring the double-six under the table. Jimmy Lloyd has just discovered that there is such a number in the set! No doubt it inspired the writer of "The Nameless Lady" which has been rendered with much clarity on numerous occasions.

"Smokers" are a great innovation, as evidenced by the large number we have had since the New Year, and praise must be given to all those who do so much to make them a success. Included, of course, are the singers, the monologuers and the well-trained entrants in the Boat Race, not forgetting the well-paid strip-tease artist who "shimfed" because his turn was barred during our visit to the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Bn. The Black Watch, where we all had a real Highland welcome. This was the first occasion on which both Messes really got down to the business of getting together, and we are hoping to have them along to our Mess and really "go to town." We also had a grand evening with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in January and gave them a return visit on the occasion of our "Rabbie" Burn's Night. Fortunately or otherwise your scribe was on leave and can write only from hearsay, the deductions amounting to one of the best nights ever. They in turn invited us to their St. David's Day Ball on 6th March, where we turned up in force as true Gordon Highlanders with about threepence between us. After having been presented with a leek and given the first order, a frantic call for a whip round was given, leeks were hastily devoured and the business at hand proceeded with. It was surprising how steep those stairs were at the conclusion of the evening.

There's not much to report in the sporting world except to congratulate C.S.M. Stephen and his tug-of-war teams. The heavy team will represent the B.A.O.R. at Olympia and the light had hard luck in the B.A.O.R. finals. Both teams have a majority of Mess members, and it says much for their spirit and toughness when their ages and service are considered. The Mess hockey team have reached the Inter-Company finals and bets are being laid on the final results with the Band.

We have quite a number of members in the Battalion football team, notably the captain, C.Q.M.S. George, who besides nagging the life out of "Lofty" can kick a ball and with Crease and Vic Mansour upheld the traditions of the Gordons' Mess. In fact, the Mess could turn out a team to beat any company at present within the Battalion.

Congratulations to "Tug" Wilson on receiving his Long Serivce and Good Conduct Medal from the G.O.C., who complimented him on his years of "undetected crime." Also to Jimmy Leys and Vic Mansour on getting the T.A. Medal. Jimmy has a bar coming to him, but his good lady says he gained that years ago.

We should like to extend our congratulations to Sergt. McCormack and Lucy on their wedding, which took place in the Battalion Chapel.

A fond farewell to C.Q.M.S. Tommy Wilson, Sergt. Tommy Mulvie and "Pipey" Massie on their departure to the United Kingdom on "Python."

In closing we offer our congratulations and welcome Sergts. Smith, Butler, Turner, Morgan, Green, Denholm, Agnew, Kent, Baxter and Brown on their promotion to the most exalted rank.

CORPORALS' MESS

The Corporals' Mess of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders was re-formed during the last week of September, 1947, at Meeanee Barracks, Essen-Kray, Germany. Previous to this all Corporals, through lack of suitable accommodation for a Mess, used the Private Soldiers' Canteen.

R.S.M. H. Foster, who had newly joined the Battalion from the Grenadier Guards, helped greatly in attaining the co-operation between all Junior N.C.Os. necessary for the successful commencement of the new Mess within the Battalion.

Since the opening of the Mess several Mess meetings have been held and with the aid of suggestions put forward at these meetings a large improvement has been brought about in the general layout of the Mess.

During the month of February, 1948, an invitation to a "get-together" with the Corporals' Mess of the 1st Black Watch, stationed at Duisburg, was received by the President of the Mess, and in response to this invitation twenty-five members spent a most enjoyable evening with their friendly rivals of the Black Watch. Three weeks later a party from the Corporals' Mess of the 1st Black Watch came to Essen for a social evening with the Gordons' Corporals' Mess, the Gordons having returned the compliment in inviting them over. Once again all who had participated in this gathering went away well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

In the past few months several familiar faces have left the Mess. Conspicuous among these is Cpl. T. Baigrie, who proceeded home on "Python" after having served a considerable number of years with the Battalion.

However, new members have joined the Mess, and these, together with the old ones, will continue to preserve the high standard of comradeship which has always been recognized as being part of the tradition of the Corporals' Mess of the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders.

MARRIED FAMILIES

In September, 1946, the Battalion took on one of its "old looks" when the first of the married families arrived. Since then eight officers' and twenty-three other ranks' families have joined their husbands in B.A.O.R. Their presence here, despite occasional moans from errant husbands, is a great asset to the social life of the Battalion.

Officers' families are accommodated several miles away from the barracks, and other ranks' families occupy modern flats about a mile and a half from barracks. The distance, incidentally, is rather a handicap when a thirsty husband wants to slip out for a pint.

Life in B.A.O.R. is much easier than in the United Kingdom for the wives, although they—God bless 'em!—will not admit it. Shopping is a weekly event entailing a long journey over bombed roads, but the antiquated regimental bus somehow manages to keep creeping along.

Entertainments or lack of them are the wives' chief complaint, but of late British variety shows and whist drives have been organized and cinema shows—1939 vintage—are available twice weekly. Officers' and senior ranks' spouses make good use of their respective Messes, and normal routine on a Sunday is for Sergeants' wives to go to church and then adjourn to the Mess to collect missing husbands who are trying to eke out their pocket money by winning the domino tournament.

Normal daily life in winter consists of keeping as close to a fire as possible and the inevitable "hen parties," but in summer the houses are locked up, husbands left to look after themselves, and a daily pilgrimage is made to Baldeney See, an inland "seaside" resort.

Old faces—no pun intended—meanwhile in married

quarters are C.S.M. "Tug" Wilson, whose wife will be remembered by members of the 1st Battalion stationed in Edinburgh before the war, R.Q.M.S. Benny Millar, C.Q.M.S. Barclay, Sergts. "Pipey" Wilson, "Sandy" Keiller (still speaking as much as ever), Scott, Tavendale and McFarquhar ("The Stork"), Drum-Major Burlton and Cpls. French and Strachan. The married families were increased by the arrival of the "Tara," R.S.M. Foster, and his good lady in May, 1947, direct from France. Mrs. Foster has the honorary appointment of Acting R.S.M., and the brunt of organizing events for M.Fs. fall on her. Among her accomplishments are pokey-die and a particular brand of euchre which has emptied a few pockets. Newcomers to the Mess are excused if they address her as Mrs. Nathaniel Gubbins.

As the majority of the wives are those of senior ranks, it will be appreciated that most of the news available is linked with the Sergeants' Mess, their oasis in this land of no entertainment. Considerable political unrest was caused recently on the occasion of the Sergeants' "smoker." Little did the contented husbands in the Mess know that their better halves had organized a "smoker" of their own in the married quarters. Great was the outcry in the early hours of the morning when "happy" husbands found locked doors and no wives in the flats.

Congratulations to Capts. C. A. L. Watt and D. W. Nunnely and Sergts. Scott and McFarquhar on additions to their families during the past year, although some wives say they are happier paying income tax.

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Robertson on her husband's present serious illness.

It is hoped that in the next edition Married Families' notes will be compiled by one of the ladies who always appear to have plenty to talk about. The voice from the gallery remarks that probably the *News of the World* would be interested.

Finally, in conclusion, good wishes to all past and present members of married quarters in Aberdeen and the 2nd Battalion, not forgetting Mesdames Petrie, Davies, Rich, Dingwall, Gilmour and Parker, who all spent a period here, from the Essen pad.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

It has not been easy to build up a team to compare with pre-war standards, owing to rapid demobilization and other heavy commitments. However, our record this season leads us to great optimism for the future.

The team overcame one of its biggest bogeys when, in the "local derby," it defeated its old friends the 1st Bn. The Black Watch at home by 7 goals to 3. We completed the double by beating them again later in the season by 5 goals to 2. Both games produced good, clean, hard-fought football, the outstanding players in both matches being Ptes. Smith, Kinney and Jackson. Pte. Robb also distinguished himself in goal. Since these games Smith and Kinney have left us. We wish them the very best in civilian life.

The team entered for the Army Challenge Cup, but successes were short-lived, as in the third round, having drawn with the 1st Bn. The Middlesex Regiment on their ground, we failed in the replay to the tune of 1 goal to 0. It was a good game, the honours being on our side until in the last few minutes a successful penalty kick settled the issue. It was an unlucky way to lose, but that is all in the game. Pte. Robb gave his usual brilliant display in goal, and both Jackson and Mansour had a successful game.

We then tried our chances in the 2nd Infantry Division Inter-Unit Competition, where we had, and in fact are still having, more success. We have reached the semi-final, having achieved the following victories:

First Round.—*v.* 17th C.R.E. (away), 3—2.

Second Round.—*v.* 42nd Field Regiment, R.A. (home), 3—2.

Third Round.—*v.* 2nd Bn. The Queen's Regiment (away), 2—1.

The fine play of Robb, Jackson, C.Q.M.S. George and the goal-getter of the season, Sergt. Crease, has been the means of reaching the semi-final round. We now look forward to an exciting game against a strong team from the 6th (Highland) Brigade Headquarters. On the result of this critical match depends whether we shall win the Divisional Competition. With true Gordon determination and a little luck we stand a good chance.

HOCKEY

Hockey was started in earnest when the Battalion moved to Essen in June, 1946. During the 1946-47 season the Battalion did well in friendly games and in the Divisional and Brigade Leagues. We won the Brigade League and came third in the Divisional League. In the Army Cup we reached the third round before being beaten by Headquarters, R.A., I Corps.

The 1947-48 season was quite successful. We did well in the Brigade League, which, however, was not played to a finish. We were beaten in the first round of the Army Cup by the 1st Middlesex by 1—0. In the Battalion League we swept the board, with "S" Company second.

The Regimental Band provided most of the team during both seasons, and it is due to their efforts that we have been able to do so well during the past two years. Among the most prominent were Bandmaster Williams, Cpl. Thow, L./Cpl. Crewe, and Bdsn. Dawson, Walker and Haynes.

CRICKET

Cricket after the war did not get started until the Battalion moved to Essen in June, 1946. We had a very good season during the summer of 1946 despite the lack of bats, balls, pads, etc. Our nearest cricket pitch is about five miles away, and we play on a matting wicket. The Battalion XI played 15 games, of which we won 12 and lost 3. Outstanding players on the side were Major Davies, C.S.M. Leys, Sergt. Paley, Cpl. Cooke and Pte. Bishop. Within the Battalion an Inter-Company League was run, this being won by "S" Company under the leadership of Major Davies, "B" Company being runners-up.

The 1947 season started very well. Four matches were played, of which the Battalion won three and lost one. Unfortunately cricket then came to a stop owing to the move of the Battalion on prisoner-of-war duties to Munster Lager. By the time we returned to Essen the cricket season was well over.

Prospects this year are, I think, very good, despite shortage of equipment and linseed oil. We have some very good cricketers in the Battalion, headed by Major Tailyour, the former Army player, Major MacMillan-Douglas, who we



ATHLETICS TEAM, 1947



TUG-OF-WAR TEAM, 1946
153 Brigade Winners

hope is shortly going to join us, and Lieuts. Dixon and Chisholm. In addition, old-stagers like C.S.M. Leys are still with us. A fixture list has been arranged for the Battalion team and company leagues will soon be commencing. We are looking forward to a good season's cricket, provided that we are left alone to enjoy it.

ATHLETICS

Athletics were seriously resumed during the summer of 1946, when the Battalion was narrowly beaten by the 1st Bn. The Black Watch, with the 2nd Bn. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders third, in the 153rd (Highland) Brigade Games held at Duisburg Stadium. The Battalion won the 110-stone Tug-of-War, but were beaten by the ultimate winners in the 53rd (Welsh) Division Meeting.

The year 1947 brought a successful season, when the Battalion won an overwhelming victory in the 6th (Highland) Brigade Games held at Duisburg Stadium. In July a combined Gordon team composed of athletes from the 1st and 2nd Battalions and the Depot won the Highland Brigade Cup at the games held at Redford Barracks.

RIDING

At Verden the Battalion showed signs of establishing a flourishing stable, which were, however, soon wrecked on arriving in the Ruhr, where conditions were far from favourable.

The Highland Brigade Steeplechase was run on Dusseldorf Race-course on 9th November, 1947. The Battalion obtained the following results:

Third, Lieut. R. C. B. Chancellor, riding "Freeman"; fifth, Capt. E. G. R. Farnham, riding "Ascot."

BOXING

In November, 1946, the Battalion boxing team was formed and immediately started training under Sergt.-Instr. Morgan, A.P.T.C. The first match was against the Royal Horse Guards on 17th January, 1947, which resulted in a win by 22 points to 12, including eight knock-outs for the Battalion. A week later we lost to the 1st Bn. The Royal Scots Fusiliers by three points in the semi-final of the 2nd Infantry Division competition, which was won by the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

In the 2nd Infantry Division Individual Championships the Battalion had the largest number of entries of any unit within the Division. Four men reached the finals, including L./Cpl. Fisher, who won the welter-weight. The results were:

Pte. Hay: runner-up, light heavy-weight.
L./Cpl. Fisher: winner, welter-weight.
Pte. Hayes: runner-up, feather-weight.
Pte. Hixon: runner-up, bantam-weight.

In the 1947-48 season Sergt.-Instr. Woollen trained the team, who were beaten by one point by the Royal Fusiliers, who reached the finals of the 2nd Infantry Division competition.

RUGBY

At the beginning of the 1947-48 season a somewhat unsuccessful attempt to produce a rugger side was made. Many difficulties prevailed, chief of which was the enormous disadvantage of not having a ground to practise on. However, several matches were played which produced enjoyment for the players if not dynamic wins for the Battalion.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

During the 1947 season the Battalion team trained hard but were hindered by adverse weather and large expanses of town rather than country to run over. In the 2nd Infantry Division Cross-Country Race run on 8th February over a seven-and-a-half-mile course, the Battalion gained fourth place with only a few points separating them from the winners, the 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards.

During 1948 the cross-country team had a disappointing season, being beaten by four points by the 42nd Field Regiment, R.A., in the 6th (Highland) Brigade Race, and gaining only eighth place in the 2nd Infantry Division Race. The team had the misfortune to be separated during the crucial stage of training owing to the Battalion commitments.

SQUASH

The year 1948 has seen the start of a Battalion squash team. To date we have played two matches, the first being against the Black Watch, which we won by 5 games to 3. On Wednesday, 14th April, our opponents were the 42nd Field Regiment, R.A., whom we beat by the easy margin of 4 games to 2.

The Battalion was represented by the following officers:

First String.—Major C. N. Barker, M.C.
Second String.—Capt. P. H. Hutchison.
Third String.—Lieut.-Colonel B. J. D. Gerrard, D.S.O.
Fourth String.—Lieut. R. Armitage, R.A.M.C.
Fifth String.—Lieut. J. N. Dickson.

SHOOTING

The Battalion has been lucky since the end of the war as regards game shooting in Germany. While stationed at Neustadt and Verden sport was excellent and big bags of partridge, pheasant, duck, deer and even pig were obtained. At that time shooting was unrestricted and no licences were required; everyone had a gun of some sort and shooting became a very popular pastime which was taken up by all ranks.

When the Battalion moved down to the Essen area things were not so easy. To start with, all shotguns not legally acquired had to be handed in, which meant that most were handed in. Shooting, too, became regularly controlled and none was allowed without a licence. The area acquired near Essen, in the face of keen competition from other units and the Control Commission, was a big, rough shoot, but it was heavily poached by Germans and there was little on it. However, the Battalion had a very good area indeed near the Dutch frontier at Wesehe, where some excellent bags were recorded.

The distance from the Ruhr to the shooting is a serious handicap, but we are looking forward to a good season this year.

2nd BATTALION NOTES

We have been at home one year waiting to amalgamate with the 1st Battalion. As these will be the last 2nd Battalion notes for some time, or perhaps for all time, we give a brief outline of our history since the old 2nd Battalion was captured at Singapore.

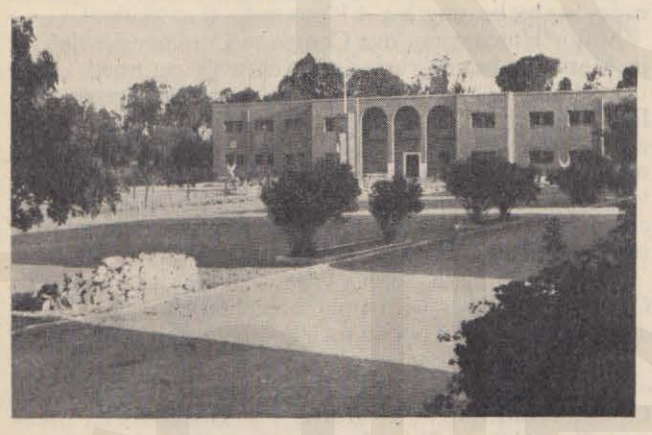
The Battalion was raised as the 50th Holding Battalion at Keith in June, 1940, and later moved to Aberdeen as garrison troops. April, 1941, found the Battalion, by now called 11th Battalion, on beach defences in Northumberland. Later the same year another move, this time to the Orkney Islands, and in May, 1942, following the capitulation of Singapore, we became the 2nd Battalion.

We remained fully occupied in Orkney and England training until landing in Normandy on D plus 12. In August, 1945, we returned to England and were equipped as an airborne unit destined to join the 6th Airborne Division in Palestine. However, at the eleventh hour the War Office sent us to Tripoli (Libya) as an infantry battalion and there we remained until 26th April, 1947. Here we said farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel R. M. Neilson, M.B.E., and welcomed as his successor, Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Lees, M.B.E.

In March, 1947, information was received, with impenetrable gloom, that the Battalion was to be placed in "suspended animation," and accordingly would revert to the home establishment and spend our declining days in Scotland. We disembarked from H.T. *Devonshire* at Liverpool in the middle of May and moved by train to Duddingston Camp, Portobello.

From then until the present time our future has been obscure and variously described as "suspended animation," "disbandment" and "amalgamation," with rumours of reprieve and re-formation interspersed with astonishing generosity, and without anyone seemingly able to provide the real answer. At last we believe that amalgamation is to take place in the near future.

In the meantime we have been variously employed. The Battalion found the guard of honour at Waverley Station for H.M. The King on the arrival of Their Majesties in Edinburgh in July, 1947, and we also provided one officer and fifty other ranks for the Ballater guard for the duration of Their Majesties' holiday at Balmoral. Training camps and demonstration platoons for the Army Cadet Force occupied us a good deal last summer and the removal of ammunition dumps from the byways of Perthshire has latterly been our task. The Battalion was strongly represented at the funeral of the late General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.



BATTALION H.Q., AZZIZIA BARRACKS, TRIPOLI

We say farewell to Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., as Colonel of the Regiment, and welcome as his successor Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C.

Our congratulations are extended to Capt. J. A. G. Tindall on the occasion of his marriage.

Congratulations to our football team, who so majestically, and in the best spirit of the game, carried all before them.

"A" COMPANY

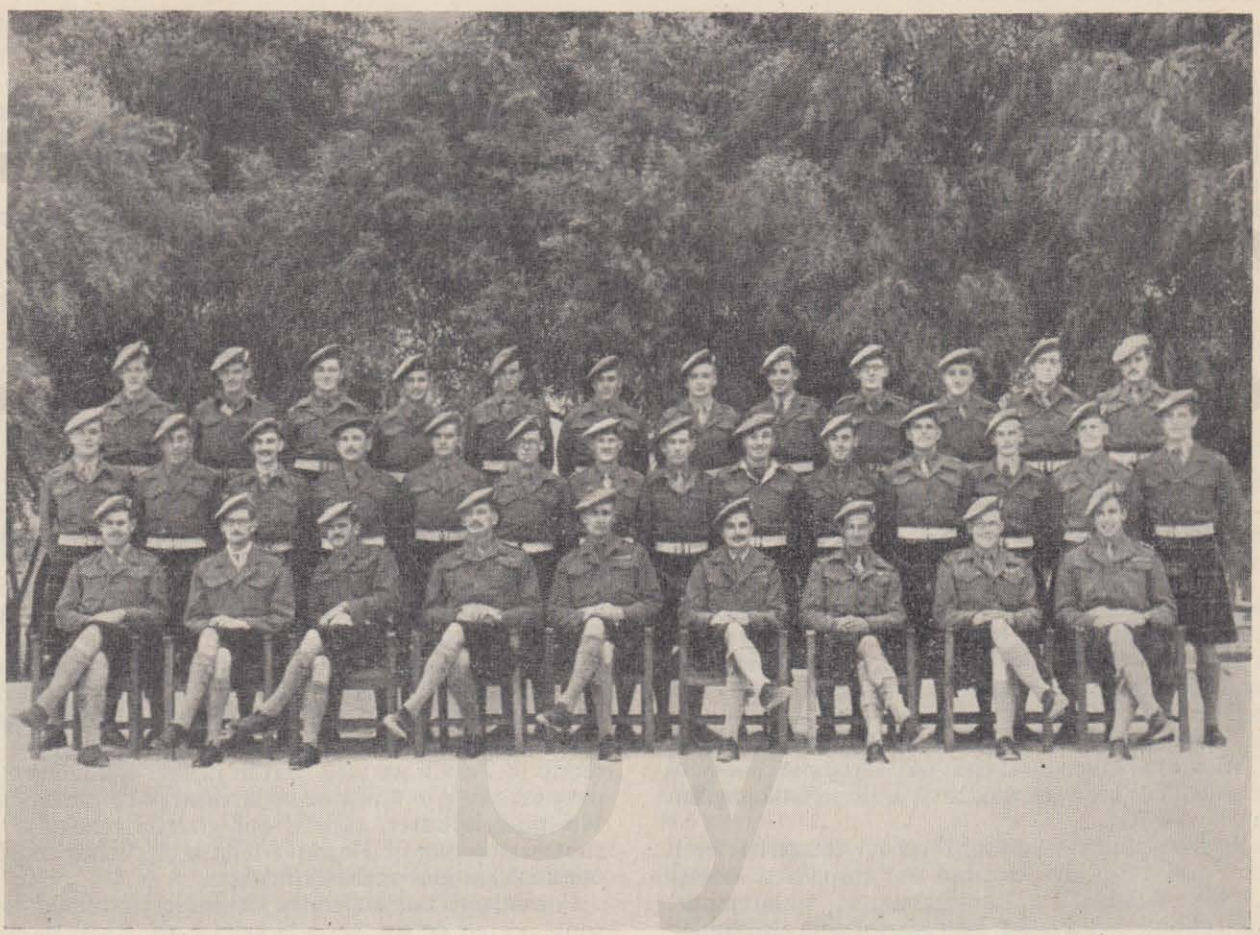
The year 1947 began with a good deal of coming and going both by the Company itself and its members. We have been busily saying good-byes to those due for release and "Hullo" to the many drafts which have been greatly swelling our ranks.

We began the year with a fortnight's platoon field training at Tarhuna with the Carrier Platoon. Unfortunately the weather was bad for most of the time, but in spite of this we managed to cover a good deal of country. On our return to Tripoli we took part in further strenuous company exercises, in which we maintained our high standard. We must, however, express our grateful thanks to the stretcher-bearers of Headquarters, who carried most of our tinned rations on their stretchers.

Fortunately our sufferings on exercises ceased for a while on our departure to Homs for the usual six-week tour of duty. Here we said farewell to C.S.M. Dunbar on his promotion and welcomed C.S.M. Glennie as his successor. Whilst at Homs we heard the sad news that the 92nd was to be placed in "suspended animation" and this was followed quickly by word of our immediate move home. The weeks at Homs passed all too quickly with numerous games of football within the Company and occasional matches with our neighbours, "B" Squadron, 2nd/1st Derbyshire Yeomanry. In addition, the beach, the sea, and Leptis Magna were all put to full use. Because of an outbreak of smallpox within the Battalion our stay was extended by three weeks and we returned to Tripoli only in time to embark for the journey home.

We congratulate our football XI on their successful season. We have been well represented in the Battalion team by Sergt. ("Tiger") Brownlie (captain) and Ptes. Wilson and Docherty; whilst Sergt. McCann and Pte. McAlindon have also played. We were beaten in the first round of the Tripoli Cup, but not less than five of our team were on tour with the Battalion XI in Malta.

After a pleasant and uneventful voyage home we eventually arrived at Duddingston Camp, Portobello, and from there proceeded to Northumberland for June, July and August to train Army Cadets. In September we were fortunate to move to the Depot, where we assisted our own county farmers to lift their "tatties." At the conclusion of our agricultural work we re-formed on Support Company at Easthaven. Our National Service N.C.Os. and men were posted to "B" and "D" Companies, and we received all the



OFFICERS OF THE 2nd BATTALION, TRIPOLI, MARCH, 1947

Back Row.—Lieut. J. H. C. Bennett. Lieut. P. S. Graham. Lieut. D. R. McCallum. 2/Lieut. M. Baillie. Capt. J. M. Rowbotham. Lieut. J. McKenzie. 2/Lieut. H. Watt. Lieut. G. M. Fraser. Lieut. G. Findlay. Lieut. C. A. McDonald-Gaunt. Rev. E. A. McLean. 2/Lieut. I. D. Jackson.

Centre Row.—Lieut. J. G. Clarke. Capt. R. G. McAlpine. Capt. W. M. Lamont. Capt. J. S. Vallat. 2/Lieut. D. I. W. Macmillan. Lieut. W. McGregor. Capt. T. P. Smith. Lieut. A. J. Rait. 2/Lieut. A. A. Kidd. Lieut. (Q.M.) W. Watson. Lieut. L. J. Robertson. Lieut. G. G. M. Taylor. Lieut. J. M. Wyllie. Lieut. P. J. Tew.

Front Row.—Capt. A. R. Speak. Major I. C. S. Munro. Major G. R. Elsmie. Major G. N. Ross. The Commanding Officer. Capt. A. G. Close. Major G. H. Hutchinson, M.C. Major M. H. Burge. Capt. G. D. Rollinson.

Regular soldiers of the Battalion. The intention was that we should undergo a period of intensive training, but as is so frequently the case these days, it was never more than an intention, for posting orders, quickly followed by embarkation leave, arrived and "A" Company was disbanded on 15th February, 1948.

"B" COMPANY

Much has happened since the beginning of the year, which started with the usual jollifications and good food, the latter being ably supervised by Sergt. Shand, who provided a most excellent New Year's dinner.

After the festive season we settled down to some serious training, commencing with two weeks' section training and then progressing on to platoon and company tactics. Having finished the first phase of our tactical training we were lucky enough to be sent on detachment to Homs for six weeks, which, besides providing a change of scenery for everyone, gave us ample opportunity to tackle the sporting side of our existence, which up to then had been rather neglected.

We started by holding inter-platoon football, hockey and basketball competitions, a cup being presented to the winner of each. Incidentally, Company H.Q. staggered everyone by beating No. 4 Platoon 4—0 at football.

Major Hutchinson, our Company Commander, left us in March to be married, and eventually returned to the United Kingdom with Mrs. Hutchinson to become a civilian. We were all extremely sorry to lose him, as he took an interest in all the activities of the Company, both in the training and sporting spheres. We wish him luck in his new venture. Capt. Rollinson took his place. He had previously commanded No. 5 Platoon, and was known to most men in the Company except for the very new arrivals.

We congratulate Sergt. Wiles on his promotion to C.Q.M.S., together with Cpls. Meechan, Douglas, Amodio, Jobling and Nichol on their promotion to Sergeant.

In spite of the constant coming and going of people on release and "Liap," our football team—consisting of L./Cpl. Armstrong; Pte. Morris, Pte. Duncan; Pte. Brennan, Pte. Gillan, Pte. Murphy; Pte. Slack, Pte. Craig, L./Cpl. Coates, Cpl. Tosh and Sergt. Amodio—gave a

very good account of itself and was top of the Company League at the end of the season. Our left back, Pte. Morris, right half, Pte. Brennan, and inside left, Pte. Bond, played for the Battalion team, and helped to maintain its unbeaten record. They accompanied the team to Malta, giving a very good account of themselves in all the games; and it is interesting to note that these three have accepted a trial for Newcastle United. In this we wish them the very best of luck.

The Company cross-country team, trained by C.Q.M.S. Wiles, maintained the high standard of sport in the Company by winning the Battalion cross-country race in great style, the whole team finishing in the first fifteen places. The following represented the Company: C.Q.M.S. Wiles, Cpl. Tosh, L./Cpl. Lazell, Ptes. Kennedy, Homer, Davidson, Dunn and Fisher, and L./Cpl. Wilkie. Well done, the cross-country team.

The news of the Battalion going into "suspended animation" came as a great blow to us all, and the thought that we will eventually have to serve in different units is not encouraging. If we are fortunate enough to find ourselves in a company as happy as "B" Company, then we shall have no cause for complaint.

The present historian, not having joined the Company until October, 1947, can only sketch very briefly the interim period.

It was with sad hearts that we bade farewell to the historic city of Tripoli and sailed down to Egypt, to the transit camp which the Battalion advance party had prepared. We arrived at Port Said at the beginning of May and travelled down to Qassassin in the Canal Zone, to our new camp. Here, in the original concentration area of the famous Eighth Army, the Company reorganized and awaited the troopship's arrival in Port Said. On 3rd May it was known that we were to move off at first light on the 4th to embark on H.T. *Devonshire*. The move up of the Battalion to Port Said in ten-tonners, and the embarkation, went very smoothly; we shared the *Devonshire* with the 2nd King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and the voyage home, although cramped, was enjoyable.

Major-General K. C. Davidson, C.B., M.C., who commanded the 2nd Battalion in the early days of the war, visited the Battalion in Malta. On the last night of the voyage many members of the Company were to be seen with their heads together, working out means of evading the Customs. Disembarkation went smoothly and within two hours we were safely through the Customs and on the train from Liverpool to Edinburgh, where we were going to be stationed.

The sound of the Highland Brigade I.T.C. Pipes and Drums met us as we clambered into our transport to take us to our new camp at Duddingston. Within four days of our arrival all members of the Company were away on disembarkation leave.

Back from leave, some of the members of the Company were attached to "C" Company, where, under the eagle eye of Major McAlpine and C.S.M. Ewan, they were drilled and prepared for the guards of honour for the Royal Family's visit to Edinburgh. These men ably represented "B" Company in the combined guards of honour, and shared the congratulations of H.M. The King on the Battalion's fine turn-out. Whilst at Duddingston we were visited by our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, and the Colonel, Sir James Burnett of Leys, who both welcomed us back to Scotland.

The Commanding Officer told us that we had been selected by the War Office to train Army Cadets in England and Scotland. In accordance with this, "B" Company moved off to Strensall I.T.C., York, in June under the command of Major G. R. Elsmie. The Company Headquarters was situated at Strensall, there being two full-strength training platoons with W.E. equipment detailed in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The Company stayed in England until September, when the cadet training finished. They moved back to Edinburgh for a period of well-earned leave.

At Duddingston we learned that the Battalion had been saved from "suspended animation" once more and that, along with "A" Company, we were to move off to the Depot at Aberdeen, to help with the "tattie" gathering. The detachment at Bridge of Don was under the command of Major G. N. Ross, "A" Company being commanded by Major Burge and "B" Company by Major Elsmie.

Our period at the Depot was a very happy one, all of us renewing old acquaintances. During the day sections of the Company moved out to surrounding farms and gathered in the harvest. Although occasionally potato fights were recorded, the Company soon became efficient farmers and very green-fingered, as C.S.M. Watson noticed on drill parades on Saturday mornings. Whilst at Aberdeen we bade farewell to Lieut. I. D. Jackson, who had been granted a commission in the King's Dragoon Guards. The potato harvest finished, both companies shed a large percentage of their regulars to Battalion Headquarters, now at Easthaven, Arbroath, and the two companies united into one full-strength "B" Company.

Consisting of a skeleton staff of Regulars, the majority of the Company being W.S. at the end of October, the Colonel visited us and we were told that again Scottish Command had postponed our disbandment and that the Company had now to move down to Douglas, Lanark, where they would be attached to the R.A.O.C. to help with the maintenance and disposal of surplus Army vehicles. Many of the old faces had now gone, Sergts. Ammodio, Douglas and Jobling leaving us in Aberdeen. Douglas proved to be a very comfortable station indeed. We were occupying ex-A.T.S. quarters and found them very comfortable. Major Elsmie left us to go on a Staff College course in Edinburgh, and Capt. Young, late of the 17th Dogra Regiment, took over command. In a remarkably short time the Company became organized with the fair sex in Douglas, even, it's rumoured, C.S.M. Watson being tempted.

The work progressed smoothly, the Company Commander being rather surprised to find so many *qualified* M.T. drivers under his command. The Company football team flourished under Cpl. Tish and succeeded in beating all local opposition.

With Christmas and the New Year approaching, the Company's worthy messing staff excelled themselves and produced a substantial meal, with free cigarettes and beer. They even managed to persuade the officers to get up in the morning and serve the Company with early morning tea. A merry time was indeed had by all.

The Company was now diminishing rapidly and by January we had shrunk to some two officers and thirty men. It was decided that we should be relieved of our

commitments at Douglas by the 1st Royal Scots, home from India, and the Company be finally disbanded. It was thus that on 17th March the rear party of one officer and twenty men, the sole survivors of "B" Company, were piped out of Douglas Camp to join "D" Company at Aberfoyle who were the remaining infantry company in the Battalion.

"C" COMPANY

The Company celebrated Christmas and New Year at Homs and a good time was had by all.

Since returning from Homs we have had one or two changes in the Company. We have said good-bye to Major Caulfield, who has gone to take over the job of Liaison Officer. We wish him all the best in his new appointment. Major McAlpine has joined us from "D" Company and we give him a very hearty welcome, and foresee many happy times with him at the helm. We also extend to Capt. Lamont and 2/Lieut. Kidd a warm welcome to the Company.

C.S.M. Lindores has gone to the W.T. staff, and we have our old friend C.S.M. Ewen back from hospital looking quite fit.

Some of the "old hands" have taken the "big boat with the tartan funnel" back to "Blighty" for their demobilization. They are Sergt. Joe Farley, Pte. McGeoch, who will be missed from both the Company and Battalion football teams, Pte. Mowatt—or to some "Moaning Mowatt," "M.M." for short—Pte. Jim Laing and L./Cpl. Hobbs.

On the sports field things have not gone too well for the football team. Some say it is a hoodoo, whilst others say it must be the team. In the Inter-Company Cross-Country Run we were placed second. With a bit of training the team should go far. We had three men in the Battalion team in the Tripolitania District Run.

In the Battalion Rifle Meeting Pte. 51 Anderson won the Young Soldiers' Individual Rifle Competition. L./Cpl. Smart won the Individual Rifle Competition in the District Rifle Meeting, and the Company falling-plate team were first in their competition.

We have had a few drafts from the United Kingdom and one from the 1st Liverpool Scottish since the beginning of the year.

There have been inquiries as to what the "canteen cowboys" are going to do with their spurs. We know that the Tripoli Union and Castle Clubs are now somewhat bare, but we understand from two of the Company sanitary men that the spurs are being kept polished for the next N.A.A.F.I.

The Inter-Company Drill Competition, which was held just before we left Tripoli, was a hard fight. We congratulate "D" Company on managing to tie with us for first place, but when we fight it out in the United Kingdom they had better look to their laurels.

Our days in this haven of Tripoli are now drawing to a close. Entertainments on a large scale had been planned with a view to depleting some of the funds accumulated from our detachment canteens. Unfortunately these well-laid schemes never materialized owing to an outbreak of smallpox which necessitated our being cut off from the outside community.

Despite the dampening of our spirits and plans by this calamity, our last day arrived and our many friends saw us off in great style.

Slowly and sadly we drew away and many minds were filled with thoughts of the happy times we had spent on that sunny shore.

After a very pleasant voyage we docked at Liverpool, evaded the Customs and made our way to what was to be our new home, Duddingston Camp, Edinburgh. As soon as we had settled, the great day came and we packed our duty-free "fags," "buckshees" from Tripoli, and went off on disembarkation leave.

On our return we found that owing to the many commitments we and H.Q. Company were the only companies left in Edinburgh. We then had the honour of providing the guard of honour for Their Majesties at Princes Street Station. In this our numbers were supplemented by men from other companies.

We also supplied after many days of gruelling drilling under Major Mac the guards for Holyrood House whilst Their Majesties were in residence, and also the Castle guard.

It was at this period that we heard a certain W.O.II describing himself over the telephone as "Sergeant-Major of the Guards Company." . . . Sergeant-Major, your eggs are ready!

At this period we welcomed back to the fold Capt. Torrie, who had passed us in the Mediterranean as he returned from "Liap." We also bade our good-byes to some of the old boys, C.Q.M.S. Hilton, Sergts. Feasey and McKay, Ptes. Wells and Wiley, and many more who had been our comrades for so long.

At the beginning of August we were sent down to Stewarton on I.S. duties. This lasted for five or six weeks, after which we had our first privilege leave and rejoined the Battalion, which had now moved to Easthaven, near Arbroath.

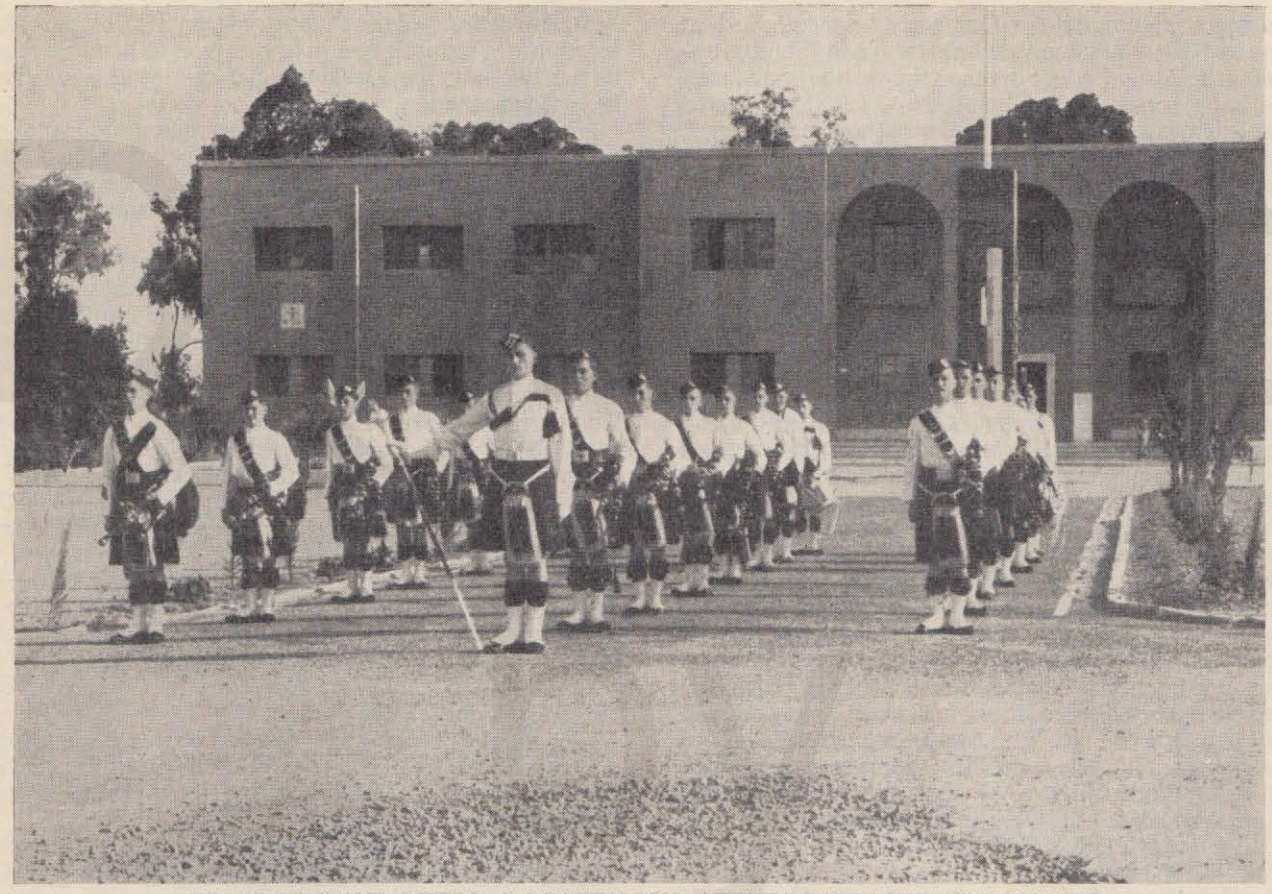
Many a time before we had been told to pick our feet up, but now the order of the day was to "pick that spud up." With many a groan we completed the potato harvest, after which came the hardest blow of all. "Charlie" Company received orders to disband and much to our regret we found ourselves absorbed into the remaining companies and a small token force under the command of Mr. Wyllie proceeded to Montreathment Camp, where the disbandment was completed.

"D" COMPANY

ALTHOUGH these are the first notes on "D" Company to be published in THE TIGER AND SPHINX since 1939, it is not proposed to write about the progress of the Company in the war years. Since the end of hostilities most of the Company's time has been spent in and around Tripoli, and despite the many unavoidable difficulties during the transitory period from war to peace there has been no lack of competitive activity. In this "D" Company has done well.

Last year the Tripoli Football Cup fell to us, and this year we reached the semi-final, only to be beaten by Support Company, the eventual winners. However, we came out first in the District Rifle Meeting and tied for first place with "C" Company in the Battalion Drill Competition. In the Battalion Cross-Country Run we were not so fortunate and finished well down the list (see below).

On the training side we completed a fifty-five-mile march across the desert from Tarhuna to Tripoli in excel-



DRUMMERS AND PIPERS, 2nd BATTALION, AZZIZIA BARRACKS, TRIPOLI, 1947

lent time under the leadership of Capt. (now Major) McAlpine, who has since left us to take over command of "C" Company. Their gain is our loss, but not perhaps to the more leisurely members of the Company.

Since September of last year we have had an influx of new officers, namely, Lieuts. McGregor and Fraser and 2/Lieuts. Taylor, Watt and McMillan. Major Munro, who has commanded the Company for the past year, except for his frequent journeys to other parts of the Middle East, has now returned to the Company. C.S.M. Strachan, who has been with us since 1944, left us in March to go to the T.A. on the permanent staff, and the Company lost a friend of long standing. The best of luck to him in his new job. His post has been ably filled by ex-C.Q.M.S. Stephen, who abandoned his fleshpots in the Quartermaster's Store to take upon himself the burden of Company discipline, much to the regret of those mentioned above. He in his turn has been succeeded by Sergt. Morris, long absent from the Company on the Education and W.T. staffs.

Still on the strength but attached to "C" Company, who seem to be drawing on us continually, is Capt. Brown, while Capt. Paterson, the second-in-command, awaits us in the United Kingdom. Platoon Sergeants have come and gone with bewildering speed, with the exception of Sergt. Lowes, who is firmly shackled to No. 11 Platoon. Sergts. 92 McKay, 54 McKay, Evans and Scott, M.M., make up our contingent in the Sergeants' Mess. New faces have been flowing in from home, from the 6th Battalion and from the Liverpool Scottish, while others have left us to go to civilian life. Among them were Pte. Carr, who kept goal, and Pte. Dugan, who kept out of the way. L./Cpl. Fox, our Company Clerk, left us last year, as did Sergts. Abercrombie and McConachie. However, the Company can claim two of the Battalion's unbeaten soccer team in Ptes. Frater and Marmion, and five of the newly formed rugger team in Major Munro, Mr. Fraser, Mr. McMillan, C.Q.M.S. Morris and L./Cpl. Shepherd.

In April we received news that we were returning home, despite an outbreak of smallpox which curtailed our activities during the last fortnight of our stay in Tripoli. We sailed out with the best wishes of our many friends ringing across the harbour.

The voyage has been pleasant, but we shall be glad to see the end, now fast approaching, of our journey home, and all are looking forward to the summer in Scotland.

* * *

After docking in Liverpool and evading the Customs, in which one "Sixty" was especially skilful, we moved to Edinburgh. Our stay in the capital was happy but all too short, and it was with real regret that we said farewell to Sergts. Lowes and Evans and a host of our less-exalted comrades. C.Q.M.S. Morris left, too, but our regrets, as is usual, were tempered by the hope of finding his successor, Sergt. 54 McKay, more than willing to listen to our tales of woe. We wish them all the best of luck in civilian life.

Before leaving the pleasures of city life for the winds of Barry we were rejoined by Mr. Gordon (after an absence of many months).

During the summer the Company was stationed at Barry, with No. 11 Platoon at Cromarty giving demonstrations for the Army Cadet Force. As the weather was excellent a happy time was had by all. No. 11 Platoon played football against the local team and were beaten, but Sergt. Scott, M.M., who refereed, must answer for his sins elsewhere.

However, all good things must come to an end, and in August we were reunited at Arbroath to open a new camp for the Battalion. The Company, now sadly depleted by demobilization, sent in succession Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons to Thurso for I.S. duties. This detachment, under Capt. McGregor, spent six weeks looking warlike in the local dance hall.

No sooner had the Battalion moved to Easthaven than we were sent off again to a small camp at Montreathment. Here, despite aching backs gained in potato picking, we made an effort to prepare these new quarters as our home for the winter. In October rumours began to fly: we were to break up—no more Company; and at last the rumours were confirmed and "B," "C" and Support Companies all fell beneath the axe. Though we rejoiced at being spared, we mourned their passing. It was a small consolation to see a platoon from "C" Company under Mr. McKenzie and one from Support Company under Mr. Lord march in.

Our re-formation complete, we were sent to Gartmore, where we have remained. Our story since then has been one of constant change. We lost all but a fraction of our old members, and new faces have come and gone with bewildering speed. In passing, we wish Mr. Gordon, Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Watt all the best of luck in civil life. To Mr. Lord and Mr. McMillan we wish happy landings in their new ventures overseas.

The Company's days are now numbered. The date of our disbandment, awaited since our homecoming, has been given. We, the few survivors of "D" Company, can only hope that the end will be painless and that some day the "Black Bear" will herald the approach of a new "D" Company.

SUPPORT COMPANY

New Year's Day, 1947, found the members of Support Company still a little groggy, and aspirins were very much in demand. In fact, the demand very much exceeded the supply, as I have good reason to know.

Everyone was ready for work the next day, however, and things quickly settled down to the usual smooth routine.

The Anti-Tank Platoon spent the festive season at Homs with the 2nd/1st Derbyshire Yeomanry, who taught our chaps a little about armoured cars, gunnery and wireless operating.

Back in Tripoli, the Carrier, Mortar and Pioneer Platoons were carrying on in their own sweet way. Carriers were being coaxed, cajoled, coerced, cursed and generally kicked into condition, and D.Ms. dashed hither and thither triumphantly waving spare fan belts, etc., fetched from some unknown spot.

One Sergeant from the Mortars spent three or four days raving and muttering threats and imprecations against a person of dubious ancestry who had pinched his track pins, and the famous words "What can I do?" (originally uttered by an N.C.O. in the Anti-Tank Platoon) were being howled across the square by angry R.E.M.E. craftsmen whose sole ambition in life seemed to be to discover how many parts they could remove from an engine before it ceased to function.

Then came the great blow, the news that the Battalion was, as the War Office expresses it, to be placed in a state of suspended animation. The blow was softened a little by the news that we were going home before actually breaking up.

Panic reigned, particularly among No. 49 Group and "Liap" personnel and rumour was rife. At last the official news came and dates for leaving Tripoli via Port Said were given. Then at the last moment a member of the Pioneer Platoon unfortunately went into hospital with smallpox (more panic). Vaccinations followed, and a number of the Company were placed in quarantine. The remainder of the Company got down to some really hard work necessary for the move to the United Kingdom.

At last the great day came when the Company (less the quarantine party) went roaring through Tripoli on the first stage to "Blighty."

It was with great regret that the Company bade farewell to Major G. R. Elsmie, who remained in Tripoli with the quarantine party and is destined to take a new role in the Battalion on arrival in the United Kingdom.

On arrival in the United Kingdom the Company went on disembarkation leave and then spent many happy weeks training cadets at Gailes Camp, where our efforts were rewarded by a special "mention" from Headquarters, Lowland District. In October, 1947, the Company was disbanded.

Sport

Since New Year the main sport within the Area has been football, in which the Company has done extremely well by winning the Tripoli Area Cup and being runner-up in the Battalion Inter-Company League. We wish to congratulate L./Cpl. Watson and Ptes. Brown, Campbell, Fox, Nugent and Sweeney on being selected to participate in the Battalion's successful football tour of Malta. We also wish to congratulate Sergt. Thorburn and Ptes. McKenna and Sturrock on their display in the Battalion Cross-Country Run.

Anti-Tank Platoon

At the beginning of 1947 the Platoon was stationed at Homs, a small village about eighty miles from Tripoli. At that time it was known as the Reconnaissance Platoon owing to the fact that it was maintaining eight South African armoured cars. The purpose of the stay at Homs was for the Platoon to be trained in the use of the cars.

On 24th January, 1947, the Platoon returned to Tripoli. For the next three weeks the Platoon carried out a number of schemes in preparation for a fortnight in Tarhuna. During that time an advanced drive of forty-eight hours was done and over 300 miles were traversed. The cars stood up to it quite well. The six 6-pounders of the Platoon which were stored in the gun shed were taken out on 2nd and 3rd February for firing. Four salvoes of twenty-one rounds were fired on this occasion. Considering the shortage of trained gunners, the Platoon did extremely well.

On 21st April the armoured cars were handed over to the 1st Bn. The Cheshire Regiment. The cars were in first-class condition, very different from when they were issued to the Platoon last year.

The Platoon football team has not had an outstanding season. It has not managed to beat any of the other platoon teams in the Company. At Homs we were more successful, where we beat all the "C" Company platoons and managed to draw with "B" Squadron, 1st/2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry, which was an excellent performance.

Mortar Platoon

The end of January found the Mortar Platoon on detachment with "A" Company at the desert outpost of Tarhuna. Here we settled down to a week of intensive training, but before our seven days had expired the "bubble chasers" were called upon to give a demonstration to the C.-in-C., M.E.L.F., General Sir Miles Dempsey. Before the last bomb had hit the ground our Platoon Commander, Capt. T. P. Smith, *new T.O.S. in hand*, made a bee-line down from the observation post to meet the C.-in-C., but, much to his regret, the General had gone on his way. This did not altogether please "T. P.," as the shoot had been a great success. We owe a lot to Sergt. "Jock" Ivory ("Monkey One") for the part he played as safety man with his 38 set.

On returning to Tripoli we again settled down to the usual routine of mortar drill and maintenance until a great panic spread throughout the city. News was received of the R.E.M.E. inspection. This fairly shook Support Company and within a matter of days the Platoon was again rushed to Tarhuna, to escape the clutches of Capt. Johnstone, R.E.M.E. During this short stay in the desert the whole of Support Company had the opportunity of firing a 10-pounder on charge 2. The most amusing experience was when Ptes. "Lanky" Peatfield and "Neonite" Spruce got into an argument about a misfire. To settle the dispute "Lanky" took a quick "shufti" down the barrel and to his satisfaction found that the bomb was on its way. It was here that Pte. "Tich" Goffin became battle-experienced, following a hail of 2-inch mortar bombs from the Carrier Platoon just as he was about to bring in his red flag. I've never seen a man lose his tan so quickly as did "Tich."

The end of our stay at Tarhuna gave a big headache to the Platoon Sergeant when he received a phonogram that all the drivers were going on "Liap," courses and "Python." Needless to say, a big switch-over and with the aid of our ex-R.A.S.C. driver, "Crasher" Tallis, the Platoon pulled through. The Platoon returned to Porta Azzizia (Tripoli) quite light-hearted, as we had then been given the "griff" about our return to the United Kingdom. From then on we lost our mortars and carriers, but kept the Platoon worthy of the Gordon Highlanders.

Keep it up, Mortars!

Carrier Platoon

After a most enjoyable Hogmanay the Platoon once more settled down to intensive training. Our course started with a fourteen-day battle camp at Tarhuna. The training included flanking exercises, neutralization, dismounted reconnaissance and a field firing course. At the end of the course we gave a demonstration to General Sir Miles Dempsey, C.-in-C., M.E.L.F., showing the fire power of the Carrier Platoon.

Returning to Tripoli we were sorry to lose Sergt. Thow and Ptes. Sutherland and Bell, three of our old comrades. At that time we were very near a R.E.M.E. inspection which shook not only us but the rest of Support Company. Just before the inspection Capt. Rollinson was whisked away on "Liap." At the end of February we had six newcomers to the Platoon. Throughout the whole of March we gave the carriers a complete overhaul and repainted them for the Battalion exercise in the following month.

The beginning of April came and Capt. Rollinson returned from "Liap," only to hand the Platoon over to Mr. Tew. The loss of Capt. Rollinson and Sergt. Collins was a great blow to the Platoon, but the N.C.Os. settled down to train another nineteen reinforcements newly arrived in the Platoon, bringing our total strength to seventy-five. Under the new Platoon Commander the Platoon moved with the rest of Support Company to Tarhuna for field firing again, only to miss another R.E.M.E. inspection.

During our short stay at Tarhuna every man fired the supporting arms of the Company. On 8th April the Platoon received the great news that the Battalion was being posted home. Returning to Tripoli the Platoon did its last exercise with the Battalion by acting as troop carriers in the Bianchi area in order to clear supposed Arab raiders from the settlement there. On the whole, the Platoon did very well, and except for Pte. Boardley throwing a track and Pte. Kidd losing his fan belt, we all managed to get through except Pte. Warren, the D.R., who broke his leg passing through a truck and is now recovering in hospital in Tripoli.

Our last few weeks were spent in preparing the carriers and making them roadworthy for handing over to the 1st Bn. The Cheshire Regiment.

Football in the Platoon was average, but we miss our old players. We hope that with so many new faces in the Platoon we have a more successful season at home. Taking the Platoon as a whole, not one of us could wish for a happier or more cheerful crowd and we are all looking forward to gaining great achievements at home.

Pioneer Platoon

After a reasonably comfortable journey home it was with a feeling of pleasant anticipation that the Platoon disembarked at Liverpool. For about three days the Platoon was looking at "Blighty" through rose-coloured spectacles; however, after a short while the smokers found that they had to pay 3s. 4d. for their cigarettes, and everyone in general discovered minor discrepancies in the "Blighty" of their imagination. Quite a few of the Platoon wished despondently that they were overseas again. However, when a



ST. MACHAR'S CHAPEL, AZZIZIA BARRACKS
Built by the Pioneer Platoon

draft did eventually depart for the Far East they discovered that their keenness was merely transitory.

Our first camp in Scotland was Duddingston, Edinburgh, which, owing to its situation, was very popular. After returning from leave we started work, our first job being the C.O.'s walking-stick (bless him!). A great deal of general repair work was done by the Pioneers, including a cookhouse which they practically built. The only soldiering done here was a stand-to to subdue Poles in Stewarton who had already left a month before.

After Duddingston came Easthaven, Carnoustie. The first changes in the administration of the Platoon came here; as Sergt. McGrath was demobilized, Sergt. Fraser assumed command of the Platoon. The rest of the Platoon were suffering from a disease called "Class 'A' release," and as there were only seven Regulars our numbers began to be sadly reduced. But the remainder carried on in that inimitable style which is the trade mark of the Pioneer Platoon (ha! ha!). In a gallant attempt to carry on the football tradition of the Platoon, Pte. Courtney was injured, being carried off the field with a broken arm.

On 10th December we were again on the move, this time to Comrie Camp in the rugged hills of Perthshire, where we have now settled down to the usual platoon routine —work and more work.

At sport we have endeavoured to keep up the fine sporting feeling throughout the Battalion, and, although handicapped by shortness of numbers, we have given an exceptionally good account of ourselves. It was hoped that this year would see the Platoon winning the Five-a-Side Football as in Tripoli. We kicked off in grand style, leading by four points at half-time, but in the second half of the game Sergt. Fraser pulled a muscle and was unable to continue; thus the Battalion Orderly Room beat the Pioneer Platoon 5—4 after extra time had been played.

M.T. SECTION

During our stay in Tripoli we have, like all other subunits of the Battalion, suffered the loss of some of our outstanding personalities. Those who will be best remembered are Sergt. Sounas, known to most of us as "Uncle Tom," Sergt. Syd Watson, L./Cpl. Aitchison, Cpl. McKellar, Pte. Craig and Sergt. Bertie Leese. Space permits us to mention only a few, but to everyone who has left the Section we wish the very best of luck in civilian life.

Those of us who remain will long remember Tripoli days as being the happiest of our Army careers. Whether on the road or in the lorry-drivers' pull-up, where the conversation invariably centred around the respective merits of the 51st and 15th Scottish, we were a happy crowd. Tripoli was not, however, a transport driver's paradise. The age of the vehicles, some of which were of Tel-el-Kebir vintage, coupled with the lack of spares, heat and sand, all served to shorten the life of a vehicle considerably. The Section, however, had an experienced gang of scroungers, by whose efforts most of the difficulties were overcome. We can only hope that the little time we have left to us will prove as happy and successful as our stay in Tripolitania.

On our arrival in Edinburgh those of us who had been eagerly anticipating the arrival of the new vehicles which we firmly believed were coming to us received something of a shock. We who had been used to a fully active Transport Section of 173 vehicles found ourselves the proud possessors of a Transport Section consisting of one three-tonner (all our own) plus one P.U. and one staff car on loan from Leith Fort. These were supplemented by Polish transport and drivers. The Transport Section as such had to be subjected to drastic cuts in personnel. Many of our drivers who in the past had prided themselves on being the backbone of the Battalion found themselves having to succumb to such menial tasks as D.R.Os. and sanitary wallahs. We who remained were sorry to see them go, but at the same time were glad that we were not to suffer the same fate. It was at this period that we lost Capt. Mike Rowbotham, who was succeeded by Mr. "Nobby" Clark.

With the change of T.O. came a change of luck (bad to worse). Four P.Us. were drawn up for the unit, one of them arriving on the end of a tow rope. Within a month of their arrival one was carefully draped round a lamp-post by the perpetrator of the now-famous "Naafi" outrage, and had to be written off as a complete wreck. Shortly after this incident the R.A.S.C. Commandant at Leith Fort bestowed upon us six three-tonners on the condition that we would accept six recruit R.A.S.C. drivers with them, to enable these drivers to gain experience. Most of the experience was gained by our own drivers, who swore that their lives had been foreshortened by at least twenty years, and only the fact that a benign Providence had been on the job brought about their safe return to base.

Our move to Easthaven meant the loss of these trucks and the restoration of our drivers' sanity, and once more we had to rely on our old friends the Poles. This state of affairs continued until the arrival of three three-tonners and a veritable host of 15-cwts. These arrived after dark, and thus our drivers were spared at least one night of nightmares. The sight which greeted them in the morning was a collection of relics which would have done credit to any museum. Where should have been a nut was a wad of chewing-gum, a frayed piece of string or a rusted twist of wire; indeed, one of the 15-cwts. was towed from Glasgow to the camp, defied the combined brains of technicians for some eight months, and was towed to a vehicle dump, its engine never having run in this Battalion.

Because of our somewhat boosted complement of transport the faces of those of our old friends who had long skulked in the Regimental sewers appeared smiling behind a steering wheel once more.

With the advent of this heap of wrecks, our vehicle mechanics entered once more into their own domain. By the simple process of robbing Peter to pay Paul, they managed, by sacrificing the two worst, to make reasonably roadworthy vehicles of the rest. Although their appearance was against them, most of the rattles had disappeared, and they could fairly "hop along."

Mr. Clark was posted away from the Battalion at this time, to be succeeded by Mr. Gerry Gilbert. Under the new T.O. the transport ran smoothly with nothing more serious than a few run big ends and other such trivialities which necessitated the disposal of several of our newly acquired trucks.

Thus things ran along quite smoothly until the Battalion moved up to Comrie. The demobilization of Mr. Gilbert saw the advent of Capt. T. P. Smith as T.O. Like the proverbial new broom, he made a clean sweep of the Transport Section. He drew up brand-new transport for the 2nd Black Watch and by devious means has so far

managed to hold on to it. How long this phenomenal run of luck will continue remains to be seen.

Shortly after Capt. Smith's arrival in the M.T. we said good-bye to our old friends the Polish wrecks. We watched them rattle out of the camp with tears of genuine regret in our eyes (regret that they hadn't left at a much earlier date). The advent of the Black Watch vehicles and the disposal of the scrap have seen the beginning of a new era for the M.T. Section. In the old days if we advocated the use of bus and railway warrants it was because we couldn't rely on our trucks to fulfil our customers' needs. Always supposing we could get them started (a morning's work), it was a safe bet that we would have to tow the darned things back. Now when we refuse a customer and put forward the petrol ration as an excuse we really mean that we are trying to keep within our monthly fuel allocation.

There have been many changes in faces, equipment and conditions over the period since the Battalion embarked at Liverpool for the M.E.L.F. to the present day. Two only are left of the original M.T., and although they must miss their old muckers the new prove just as true and reliable.

We of the present M.T. would like to end by wishing the present M.T., the old M.T. and all officers and men of the Battalion the very best of luck in the future.

WEAPON TRAINING

The first year in Tripolitania saw quite a lot of activity in weapon training. When all the necessary stores had been collected, cadres and instruction in range courses got under way. Starting in February, we continued annual range courses right up to the end of October. This was necessary, as there was only one very poor range in Tripoli, and our old friend the "ghibli" (dusty, hot desert winds to the less-informed) also had a great say in whether we would shoot or not. Eventually we got the Battalion finished under, in most cases, very trying circumstances.

In the early part of 1946 we took part in the District Rifle Meeting, but we fared rather badly against our next-door neighbours, the 2nd Bn. The King's Royal Rifle Corps, who took all the honours except the Falling Plate Competition, which we won, the team being commanded by C.S.M. Strachan, of "D" Company, who has now returned to the United Kingdom. Sergt (now C.Q.M.S.) Morris did very well and represented the District in the Middle East Rifle Meeting, gaining sixth place in the Individual Championship.

The year 1947 saw us preparing for the District Rifle Meeting. In order to get the best representatives for the Battalion, an Inter-Company Rifle Meeting was held in March. Keen competition was shown by all, and the honours were carried off by H.Q. Company under Lieut. Torrie, now W.T.O., and "D" Company, under Capt. McAlpine and 2/Lieut. Taylor. The challenge cup was won by "D" Company, who finished 99 points ahead of the nearest team, Support Company.

In the District Rifle Meeting, which followed a fortnight afterwards and which was organized by Capt. McAlpine, we did extremely well, carrying off all the honours, including all the individual placings with the exception of four. There was a close rivalry between ourselves and the 1st Bn. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, but our strong arm was "D" Company, who definitely proved themselves the sharpshooters of the Battalion, most of the individual and team events being won by them. Congratulations must go to 2/Lieut. Taylor on the hard work he put in with "D" Company; also to all those who so ably supported him, thus assuring the Battalion's success, and to Sergt. Scott, M.M., who so ably assisted all companies in the zeroing of their weapons.

The shooting of the Battalion has on the whole improved, and we only await now our return to Scotland, when we can, with good ranges and weather, further improve.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

There is no doubt that we have this year a football team of which we may justly be proud, and the team that fills the gap left in Tripoli football by our departure will have to be a good one.

When the team really started to show its form it was composed of the following: Cook (H.Q.); Sergt. Brownlie ("A"), Morris ("B"); Cairney (H.Q.), Marmion ("D"), Nugent (Support); McGeoch ("C"), Wilson ("A"), Bell (Support), Fox (Support) and Frater ("D"). As a team they were making good headway in the Tripoli League, and had set themselves up as potential league champions.

We were very fortunate in having the Tripoli Stadium for our football activities, the pitch being the only grass-covered one in the territory. It would be difficult to find a ground to compare with it in the Middle East or elsewhere.

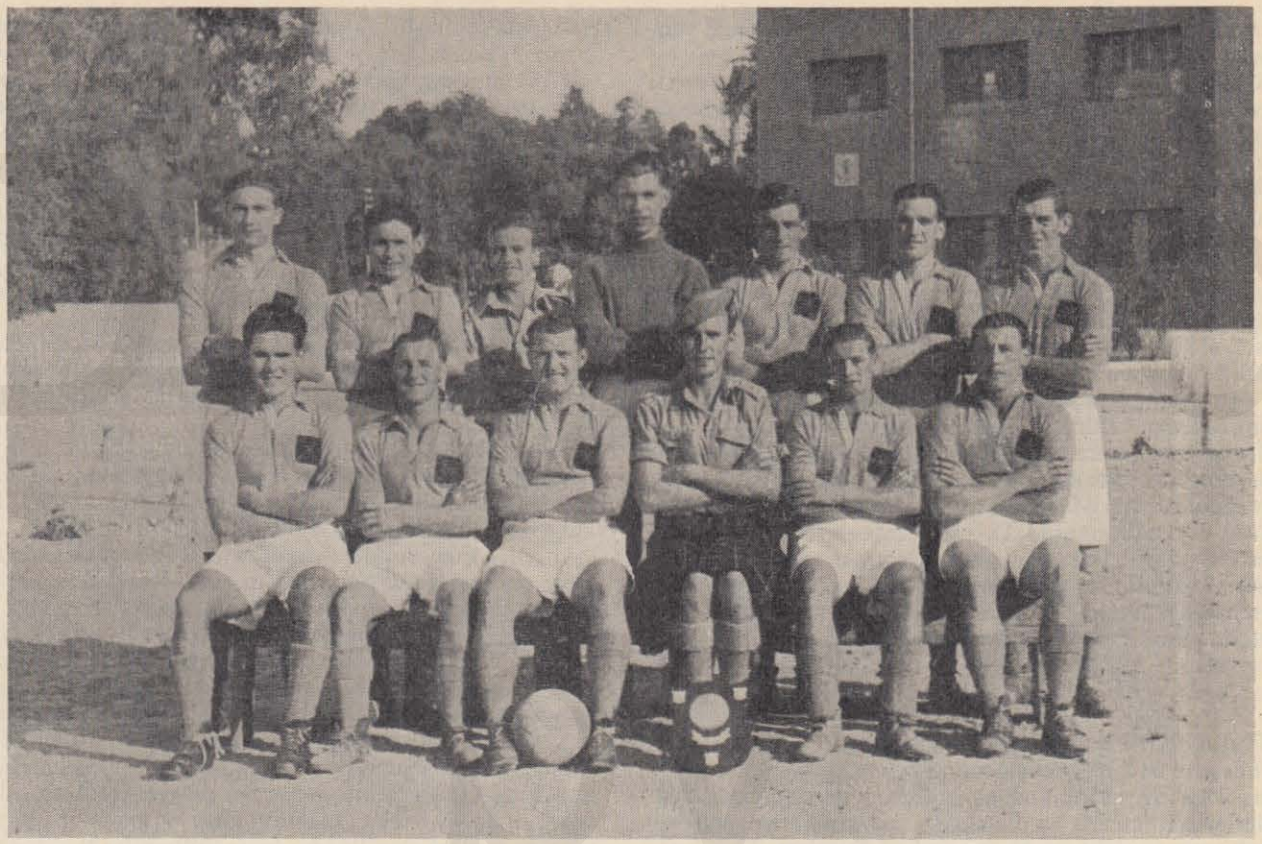
The team had not been beaten in the first half of the league, and no team appeared likely to beat us, unless the R.A.F. at Castel Benito imported players from outside in order to do so. Special mention must be made of Cairney, who, as captain, handled his team brilliantly. Not one goal was scored against us in the first half of the league, and Cook was getting little or no work to do.

In due course we lost Cairney, Bell and McGeoch on release. They were replaced by Brennan ("B"), Ross (Support) and Sergt. Hobbs (H.Q.), who fitted in very well without loss to the standard of play.

When the 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers arrived the league was restarted, and the local football fans had us beaten long before the two teams met. But on the day of the big game, with both stands packed with supporters from both battalions and civilians, and with a weakened team, we gave them a game to be remembered. The play was very even until the last fifteen minutes, when Sergt. Hobbs scored the odd goal in three. This was the first time that we had conceded a goal. In the return match, in which they had sworn to take revenge, they left the field beaten by 7 goals to 2.

The second game, against the R.A.F., was very close, 4—3. Frater will hardly forget this match, for he had changed into battledress and was flying over our heads on his way home on "Liap" almost before the field was clear of spectators. Two games were played against local civilian teams. Both these teams were beaten, but not before Sergt. Peter Craigmyle had discovered that he was not only a soccer referee but also potential boxing referee into the bargain.

By mid-February the team had won the league, scoring 74 goals against 9, and their fame had reached Malta, where a tour was arranged for them. This tour was the high-light of the season for the team. They accounted for a junior team, St. Julian's, by 3—0, beat the previously undefeated German prisoners of war by 2—0, the R.A.F.



THE 2nd BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM, 1946-1947

Back Row.—Sergt. J. Hobbs. Pte. W. Fox. Pte. J. Sweeney (Linesman). Pte. G. Cook. Pte. A. Brown. Pte. A. Nugent. Pte. S. Brennan.
Front Row.—Pte. G. Ross. Pte. D. Frater. Sergt. J. Brownlie. Lieut. J. G. Clarke (Sports Officer). Pte. B. Morris. Pte. R. Campbell.
Absent from Station.—Pte. J. Marmion. Pte. W. Wilson. Pte. N. Docherty.

by 1—0, the self-styled champions of the Middle East, the 2nd Bn. The Royal Scots, by 4—3, and ended by beating the Mediterranean Fleet by 6—3. The Service champions of the island, the 1st Coast Regiment, R.A., had agreed to give us a game, but for some reason decided against it at the last moment; so, if we cannot call ourselves the champions of Malta, we can safely say that we had the beating of any team brave enough to take the field against us. A word of thanks is due to Major-General K. C. Davidson, M.C., G.O.C., to whose kindness was due the smooth running of the tour, and to the Royal Scots, who were splendid hosts.

After the team returned from Malta they were given a rest. It was not intended that any further football would be played until our arrival in the United Kingdom. However, on the arrival of the 2nd Bn. The Cheshire Regiment, who were relieving us in Tripoli, a game was arranged. This turned out to be one of the best seen at the stadium and ended in a draw of 1—1. We scored in the first minute. There was no further scoring until about fifteen minutes from the end, when the Cheshires converted a penalty. They paid us a great compliment by presenting to the team on the dock just before we sailed a cup to commemorate our last game in Tripoli.

One further game was played, at Qassassin, against the 7th Royal Horse Artillery, which ended in a victory for us by 6—0. We are hoping that the same success will attend our efforts on our return to Scotland.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

It was not until the Tripolitania Signals Squadron issued a challenge through the *Sunday Ghibli*, the local newspaper, that our Rugby team became more than an idea. The usual request for players was issued, but the response left us in doubt as to how we would compare with our challengers. The game was fast and furious on a ground which had much in common with a desert rock garden. Tactics and combination were qualities seemingly unheard of, and the referee's whistle was by far the hardest working member on the field. Injuries were common, owing in the main to the rough nature of the ground, but Mr. Lamont and C.S.M. Lindores were forced to retire with injuries of a more serious nature. Nevertheless, with all our faults, we emerged the victors by 6 points to 4.

The combined team of the R.A.M.C. and R.A.O.C. were our next opponents, and we gained a narrow victory by 13 points to 10. In this game we saw a better combination in the pack, but the three-quarters still lacked smoothness in the attack. Frequently opportunities arose, but after gaining a few yards the attacks fizzled out. The defence was reasonably good and the kicking for touch outstanding. In the return game we had improved generally and our victory was decisive by 15 points to 6.

The last game we played in Tripoli was by far the roughest of our programme and our opponents are to be praised for their plucky attempt to overthrow us. We travelled to Castel Benito to visit the R.A.F. on a ground

overlooking the runway of the aerodrome. We played better than ever before and emerged triumphantly with a score of 25 points to 0. Our disappointment at not being able to give them a return game was great, because they had played a very gallant game.

Before leaving Tripoli we tried to arrange a challenge match against the Rest of the District to attempt to establish ourselves as champions. Unfortunately we were unable to do this, but we still remain undefeated, at least in Tripoli. The members of the Battalion who have played in the various games are:

Full back: Capt. Close and Major Munro; three-quarters: Capts. Brown and Lamont, Lieuts. Wyllie and Jackson, C.Q.M.S. Morris, Sergt. Bouglas and L./Cpl. Shepheard; halves: Lieuts. Gilbert and Fraser; forwards: Major Burge, Capts. Rowbotham and Rollinson, Lieuts. Tew, Graham, Macmillan and Bennett, C.S.M. Lindores, C.Q.M.S. Hilton, L./Cpl. McGuinness, Ptes. Kerr and Deans, and Lieut. Bennett.

BOXING

Following the satisfactory victories in the team boxing, the Battalion sent forward a few of the best to the Highland District Championships, where we were successful in the following events:

Fly-weight.—Pte. McDade, runner-up.
Bantam-weight.—Dmr. Bird, winner.
Light-weight.—Sergt. Chadwick, winner.
Middle-weight.—Pte. Johnstone, winner.
Light Heavy-weight.—L./Cpl. Timlin, runner-up.

The winners from the above event were selected to represent the District at the Scottish Command Championships, and we congratulate Dmr. Bird on winning the bantam-weight championship. Sergt. Chadwick and Pte. Johnstone were runners-up in their weights, the latter having to withdraw from the final bout on medical grounds, having sustained a bad cut over one eye.

Dmr. Bird journeyed to Aldershot as representative of the Command, and having fought his way to the final was unfortunate in injuring one of his hands and was forced to withdraw.

THE DEPOT AND No. 75 PRIMARY TRAINING CENTRE

SINCE the last notes were written under this heading many changes have taken place and the Depot has seen many strange happenings and it has housed a variety of units under a variety of names.

Nevertheless, in spite of the variations in name required for one reason or another by the war, Gordon Barracks have always been and will always remain "The Depot" to all Gordon Highlanders.

At the time of writing yet another and perhaps the most significant change of all is taking place. For the first time our barracks are to be largely occupied by another arm of the Service.

The 32nd Medium Regiment, R.A., moved in on 21st April. This has come as a great blow to all Gordon Highlanders, but it is hoped that the measure is purely temporary. Whilst they are here we wish the Gunners a pleasant and happy stay in our home.

The arrival of the 32nd Medium Regiment does not mean that the Depot will cease to exist as the sheet anchor of the Regiment, for a small nucleus will still remain as a Regimental Headquarters, with a permanent staff of four officers and fourteen other ranks. The Headquarters will be established in the Officers' Mess, where it is hoped to maintain a small Mess and where also will be found the Regimental Museum and Offices. As soon as accommodation is available a small Sergeants' Mess will be established.

It is hoped that past and present members and friends of the Regiment will continue in the future, as in the past, to visit us and will not be deterred by the absence of a Gordon Highlander at the gate.

As a component of No. 75 P.T.C. the Depot has simply been a transit company and our population a floating one, our strength being largely on paper. We have dispatched large numbers back to civil life and dealt with innumerable "Pythons" and repostings. We have achieved little in the sports arena and in fact have no claim to fame.

H.Q. COMPANY

These notes are being compiled during the last week of this Company's existence and will therefore be in the nature of a swan song.

Even as we write, the Company's strength is diminishing rapidly and many are leaving the fleshpots of Aberdeen for the more rugged charms of Fort George.

Although it has not been possible to run an Inter-Company Football League within the P.T.C., the unit football team has done well despite the constant disappearance of players due for demobilization.

For the past two seasons we have reached the final of the Highland District Competition, only to be "pipped at the post." Mention must be made of the following H.Q. Company stalwarts who played consistently for the team: Cpls. Chambers and MacFarlane, Darkin and Murray (now all demobilized), and "Snookie" Orr, who is soldiering on.

Several confirmed bachelors have at last decided to take the plunge and we congratulate the Company Commander, L./Cpls. Christie and Singer, and Ptes. McWilliam and Spinks on their marriages. We also congratulate O.R.Q.M.S. Pallant and Ppr. Marwick on the birth of a daughter and son respectively.

During the past six months there have been several who have risen to more exalted rank and the following are to be congratulated on their well-deserved promotion: Cpl. Nicol to Sergeant (M.T.); L./Cpl. Richie to Corporal; and Ptes. "Paddy" Hinds, 10 Baillie, Calder, 88 Christie and Simmons to Lance-Corporal. Keep up the good work.

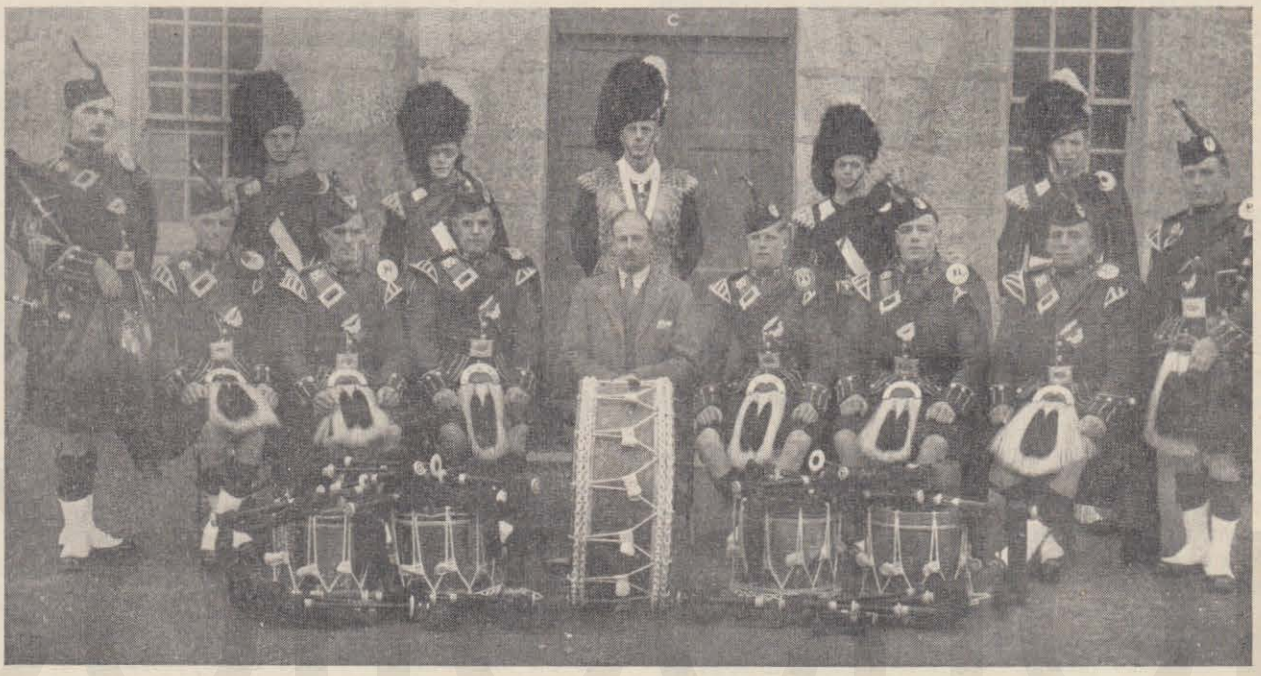
By the time these notes appear in print H.Q. Company will be no more and its former members will be scattered to the four winds. We take this opportunity of wishing them luck wherever they may be.



[Photo: By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.

THE G.O.C.-IN-C., SCOTTISH COMMAND VISITS GORDON BARRACKS

Capt. (Q.M.) R. Macdonald. Major D. R. McGillivray. Capt. V. Stuart.
Major L. Tevendale, D.C.M. Lieut.-Colonel A. D. McKechnie. The G.O.C.-in-C. A.D.C.



DRUMMERS AND PIPERS, THE DEPOT, 1947

TRAINING COMPANY

What could be a more fitting time to review the achievements of a company than the last week of its existence!

The Training Company formed in November, 1946, under the command of Major L. L. L. Tevendale, D.C.M., subsequent to the break-up of the combined P.T.C. and I.T.C.

The Company consisted originally of nine platoons of approximately thirty men, but this number decreased to six platoons in August, 1947, and finally in March, 1948, there was but one single platoon left. The Company's function was to train recruits straight from civilian life and in six weeks give them a grounding in basic Army training. The intakes came in at intervals of two weeks. During their six weeks they were tested by the Personnel Selection staff for their suitability for the various arms of the Service and every effort was made by this staff to place men where they wished, subject, of course, to suitability and vacancies. Similarly, potential officers and N.C.Os. were singled out during their primary training and posted to training battalions, where they were trained as leaders.

During the period November, 1946, to March, 1948, 1,871 recruits passed through the Company. It is a monotonous job for the instructors, and the highest praise must be given to the N.C.Os. for their patience and hard work.

Of the original officers, only Lieut. Ronnie Farquhar saw it through to the bitter end. Major Tevendale was detached most of the time after May, 1946, before taking over No. 4 Travelling Wing. He has now gone to Burma, where we wish him all the best.

Capt. A. R. Cornock joined the Company in February, 1947, as second-in-command, and has commanded since June. To his keenness and hard work the credit must go for the smooth running of the Company and the high morale of the permanent staff and recruits alike. He was perhaps our leading notability, being Highland District and Scottish Command sprint champion and right winger for the unit football team.

A number of subaltern officers served with the Company at various times. Lieut. George Middleton, renowned for his sense of humour, left in September, 1947, to study medicine, and Lieut. "Spiv" Eustace left in December, 1947, for No. 4 Travelling Training Wing. He needs no introduction to those who know him. The subalterns at the end were Lieuts. Farquhar, Dawson, Simpson and Davidson, all of whom had been with the Company for some time.

Sergt.-Major Murray was C.S.M. from the formation of the Training Company until October, 1947, when C.S.M. Dunbar came from the London Scottish to take over. Clr.-Sergt. Dawson ran the "Q" side from start to finish. He was probably the hardest worked of the staff and many a time his patience must have been sorely tried.

The Sergeant-Instructors all did long periods with the Company and, with one or two exceptions, were Regulars with a good deal of service. They include Sergts. Cobban, Cuthbert, Michie, McKay, Anderson, Murray, Johnstone, Simpson and Park. Sergt. Michie left early in 1947 for an appointment as Drill Instructor at the R.M.A. Sandhurst, a singular honour for an N.C.O. of the Infantry of the Line. Sergt. McKay is now a local C.S.M. with the T.A. at Banchory. Clr.-Sergt. Dawson, Sergts. Murray, Anderson and Simpson, and Cpl. Masson leave us for the Paratroops. We wish them happy landings—and warn the 5th Scottish Parachute Battalion to look out when the combination arrives!

Space does not permit stories of this grand team of Sergeants, but Sergt. Johnstone will be remembered for his irrepressible and unique sense of humour and his ability at catching rabbits, and Sergts. Dave Murray as the "glamour boy" of the Sergeants' Mess.

The many junior N.C.Os. deserve a special mention and it is unfortunate that there is not room to enumerate them all. Cpls. Millar and 81 McKenzie, of the P.T. staff, were stalwarts of the football eleven, and are now both playing first-class professional football with Aberdeen F.C. Cpl. Pyle, another P.T.I., is Highland District fly-weight boxing champion and we wish him good punching at the Command finals. Cpl. Shone is well known to all who served in the Company as the controller of finances. He hopes to join the Intelligence Corps, and we think that he should do well there after battling for so long with the Army pay system. Before leaving personalities, mention must be made of those two stalwarts of the 2nd Battalion Cpls. Andy Cameron and Peter Milton. They are returning to the Battalion and will be with it in its final days.

In conclusion, and as farewell to the Company, we have seen nearly 2,000 recruits of all kinds and forms, from all walks of life, and have licked them into shape. Discipline, morale and the standard of training have been high. The permanent staff have worked as a first-class team and, though many will be glad to leave the routine of primary training, they will all miss the *camaraderie* and spirit of the Training Company during the eighteen months of its existence.

4th/7th BATTALION

A COMMON attribute of celestial and military authorities is that they move in mysterious ways their wonders to perform. That the reputation of the former in this respect is seriously threatened by the latter is an opinion that has frequently been expressed and on occasions with a marked lack of the proper humility and humble resignation, since the renaissance of the Battalion in March, 1947.

Originally re-formed as the Divisional Machine Gun Unit under the abbreviated title of "51st/52nd Scottish Infantry Division Machine Gun Battalion (Gordons), T.A." (two deep breaths), the unit very rapidly acquired a good nucleus of Gordon Highlanders, mostly ex-Regular and former Territorial machine gunners and anti-tank gunners. The numbers included a large proportion of all ranks from the old 4th and 8th Battalions and 92nd and 100th Anti-Tank Regiments.

This ready response was due to the keenness of all ranks and to the efforts and enthusiasm of the former officers who returned once more to the unit. The alleged incident of the vacillating character who stopped to ask the way to the Old Infirmary and found himself some three minutes later outside the Drill Hall clutching an attestation form and a newly issued Cap, T.O.S., is, however, considered to have been somewhat exaggerated. Neverthe-

less, in a very short space of time the unit was well ahead of many others in the build-up.

After such an encouraging start it was therefore the more discouraging to all concerned to become, in early October, the subject of a high-level sleight-of-hand exercise. Under the popular "Now you see it, now you don't" system, the unit found itself one morning without machine guns, without equipment and apparently without prospects. It soon also became evident that, apart from idle and frequently frivolous speculation, there was unlikely to be any official indication as to our future role, if any, for some considerable time. Although recruiting in these circumstances was obviously impracticable, the following period of nearly seven months during which the unit was left "alone and palely loitering" was not given over entirely to indulgence in the old Army pastimes of beating the leg with the cane and/or monotonously sucking the teeth. Training continued with such weapons as remained and the morale of the unit was maintained with the usual functions of the social season.

In April, however, the long-awaited official decision finally arrived, albeit on a disappointingly small and unimpressive bit of paper. From it we learned that we were again to be an infantry battalion and part of a brigade of the reconstituted Highland Division. Despite the fact that the training year is already well advanced, it is hoped that our recovery can now once more get under way, although it must be anticipated that it will be anything but rapid in the first instance.

One fact again illustrated during our long spell of "suspended animation" has been that the Territorial soldier is well inured to delay and discouragement, in that despite all setbacks the same regular attenders have been in evidence on nearly every drill night. The very creditable example of these staunch supporters is one which should be of great value as an encouragement to the remainder and in providing a sound nucleus for the unit during its period of conversion training.

There is neither time nor space to mention individually all those former and new friends who are now with us. In the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel A. Milne, T.D., who has been with the unit since pre-1914 days, and the many other former officers and other ranks who have already rejoined us, we have been exceptionally fortunate, and we should like to take this opportunity of extending the welcome to them collectively for the first time in print.

Capt. J. W. P. Rhodes, M.C., who was Adjutant on the formation of the unit, has since left us for the United States via what was normally referred to as his "rum ranch" in Jamaica. Our best wishes go with him and his family in their new venture.

In conclusion it must be said that, while we may again be in the throes of our growing-pains, these are never sufficiently severe to prevent us from offering a warm welcome and appropriate hospitality to any Gordon Highlanders, past, present or prospective, who may find time to visit us at Woolmanhill, and it is hoped that our visitors will be many and frequent.

5th/6th BATTALION

DURING the last war, in every theatre of operations, battalions of the Gordon Highlanders, Regular and Territorial, were upholding the highest traditions of the Regiment. We can all recall with great pride the glorious efforts and whole-hearted contribution of each battalion towards final victory.

Now, on entering a new era, we find that there are new designations for the battalions that are to take their place in the re-forming Territorial Army.

Many of us no doubt feel sad at the loss of those familiar pre-war designations, but after all does this really matter? We are still, and will continue to be, Gordon Highlanders.

With the reorganizing of the "Terriers" in the North-East it was decided that one battalion of infantry would be recruited from Banffshire, Buchan and Donside, so what could be more appropriate than for us to be known as the 5th/6th Bn. The Gordon Highlanders!

This wide area is all ours with the exception of the towns of Banff and MacDuff (Medium Regiment, R.A.), Huntly (Heavy A.A., R.A.), and Inverurie and Kintore (R.E.M.E.), whilst at Fraserburgh and Peterhead, as in pre-war days, we share with a Medium Regiment, R.A.

The loss of Huntly, for so long looked upon as "Gordon country," was a bitter pill to swallow, but we had no say in the matter, and in this new era it appears that the powers-that-be are of the opinion that local sentiments must be overruled. Well, good luck, Gunners; we hear that to date you have the strongest battery in Scotland. Congratulations on your fine efforts.

In March, 1947, we started to get our house in order and activities commenced at Battalion Headquarters in Keith, where first on the scene was the Quartermaster, Major C. G. Munro, M.B.E., M.M., T.D. Here the Battalion has been most fortunate, since in the Quartermaster we have a personality of wide and varied experience. Charlie Munro has been a member of the Regiment since the days of 1914 and he became Quartermaster to the 6th Bn. Gordons (T.A.) in 1936, serving continuously as such until their disbandment in Palestine during 1946.

In the middle of March the Adjutant, Capt. R. W. Petrie, M.C., arrived from B.A.O.R., where he had been serving with the 1st Battalion. He left behind many old friends, but we are glad to say that he has made many new ones and is enjoying the experience of his duties.

As yet we had no Commanding Officer, and since the other battalions in the Brigade—152nd (Highland) Infantry Brigade (T.A.)—were commanded by Regular officers there was much talk and speculation. To take command of a battalion which had to start from scratch was not by any means going to be an easy task.

Soon all speculation was to be ended and the Battalion was indeed most fortunate when the War Office decided to appoint Lieut.-Colonel T. R. Gordon Duff, M.C., D.L. We can all look forward to happy and successful days under his command.

For a battalion covering a wide area, the allocation of company areas has given some concern, especially as nobody could foretell just how recruiting would go. However, a start had to be made, and the area was divided up on the assumption that, together with other factors, certain areas did produce so many volunteers during pre-war

days, and that there were drill halls with P.S.I. quarters at various places. Thus we are disposed as follows:

Battalion Headquarters.—Keith.
H.Q. Company.—Keith.
"A" Company.—Buckie (Company H.Q.), Cullen and Portsoy.
"B" Company.—Alford (Company H.Q.), Kemnay, Insch, Aberlour and Dufftown.
"C" Company.—Oldmeldrum (Company H.Q.), Turriff and Ellon.
"D" Company.—Fraserburgh (Company H.Q.), Peterhead, Hatton, Longside, Strichen and Stuartfield.
Support Company.—Bucksburn.

Recruiting opened on 1st April, 1947, and in view of the role of the Territorial Army we hoped to enlist the services of officers, N.C.Os. and men who had recent war experience, and who would form at the various outstations a nucleus training cadre that would be, with continued training, ready to receive the National Service reservists in 1950.

The response, whilst not overwhelming, was most encouraging, and it was soon very obvious that we would be able to depend upon those who were still keen "Terriers" at heart, and who were prepared to give a part of their spare time to help in the re-forming of a Gordon battalion.

Unfortunately, there were, and still are, many ex-Gordons who would willingly give further service if it were not for the fact that war disabilities and immediate business reasons prevent them.

As it is, many "old faithfuls" have rallied around the flag, and the following were among the first to offer their services. All have seen service during the war with the 1st, 5th, 6th or 9th Gordons:

Officers.—Majors E. J. Gordon, M.B.E., W. B. Gordon, M.C., T.D., A. J. Lockhart, W. B. Shearer, M.C., and M. Robb, Capt. J. Sinclair, M.B.E., Capt. J. L. Taylor, our Medical Officer, and Lieut. J. B. Singer.

Other Ranks.—C.S.Ms. W. Roy and J. McConnachie, M.M., C.Q.M.Ss. W. Goodall and C. Monk, and Sergts. W. Ogg (Orderly Room Sergeant), G. Hardie, M.M., H. ("Scrubber") Meldrum, J. Lobban, F. Morrison, R. Prise and D. Grant, and Pipe-Major T. Smith.

It will be of interest to members of the 1st Battalion of pre-war days to know that F. ("Breeks") Davidson is a member of our permanent civilian staff with the T.A. rank of Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant. It must be like old times to be working with the Quartermaster!

Other officers who have joined during the past twelve months, and whose services are most welcome, are Capt. J. R. Telfer and Lieuts. K. T. Howard and M. P. Littlejohn.

To date our numbers are not up to expectations, and our figures are the lowest within the Brigade, which, incidentally, is probably one of, if not the, strongest in Scotland. However, we have good material and still have an optimistic outlook for future recruiting.

As part of the winter training programme twenty-six officers and N.C.Os. attended a week-end camp at Fort George, under Brigadier E. H. G. Grant, D.S.O., M.C., 152nd (Highland) Infantry Brigade Commander. The syllabus was based on the new method of instruction, and the Brigadier took practically all classes in person. All who attended found the course most interesting, instructive and enjoyable. We came home with that feeling of satisfaction that comes from taking part in something worth while.

All ranks are now looking forward to the first official post-war camp, to be held at the end of June at Barry.

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

The Battalion notes with regret that the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir James Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has retired, and all ranks offer their best wishes to his successor, Colonel W. J. Graham, M.C.

THE HONORARY COLONEL OF THE BATTALION

Officers and men of the Battalion welcome the appointment of Colonel G. P. Geddes, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., as Honorary Colonel of the Battalion in succession to Colonel I. R. I. F. Forbes, D.S.O., of Rothiemay. Colonel Forbes was a loyal and helpful friend to the old 6th Battalion for many years, and in saying good-bye to him we are sure that former members join with us in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Colonel Geddes requires no introduction, as his services to the Gordons and the T.A. are of long standing, and are known to all.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the Efficiency Decoration (Territorial) on Major C. G. Munro, M.B.E., M.M., and Major W. B. Gordon, M.C.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE SHOOTING

In spite of the small numbers in the Battalion, a considerable amount of small-bore .22 shooting has taken place during the past winter, and the results are very satisfying indeed, great keenness being shown by all concerned. A summary of the competitions entered for and the results obtained are shown below.

Brigade Commander's Prize

This competition was for company teams of four, and companies could enter as many teams as they liked. It was open to companies of the 11th Seaforths, 5th/6th Gordons, 4th/5th Camerons and 152nd (Highland) Brigade Headquarters. This Battalion entered nine teams, viz., H.Q. Company, Keith, three teams; "A" Company, Buckie, one team; "C" Company, Oldmeldrum, two teams; "C" Company, Turriff, two teams; and Support Company, Bucksburn, one team. This was a very good entry, as over 50 per cent. of the personnel on the strength were in the competing teams, and at some out-stations 100 per cent. of the strength had to compete to complete the teams. Twenty-four teams from the Brigade competed, and the result was as follows, the h.p.s. being 200:

H.Q., Keith, No. 1 Team, equal first with 4th/5th Camerons, Inverness, score, 189; fourth, "C" Company, Turriff, No. 1 Team, 173; fifth, H.Q., Keith, No. 2 Team, 172; sixth, "C" Company, Oldmeldrum, No. 1 Team, 162; tenth, H.Q., Keith, No. 3 Team, 145; fourteenth, "A" Company, Buckie, 123; sixteenth, "C" Company, Turriff, No. 2 Team, 119; nineteenth, "C" Company, Oldmeldrum, No. 2 Team, 97; twenty-second, Support Company, Bucksburn, 93.

H.Q., Keith, No. 1 Team had to shoot off for first place with the 4th/5th Camerons, Inverness, and emerged as winners with the excellent score of 194 out of a possible 200, the Camerons' team scoring 192. Names of the winning team and scores were: C.S.M. W. Roy, 50; Sergt. H. Meldrum, 49; Sergt. W. Stables, 49; and Sergt. W. Ogg, 46. The winning team is to be congratulated on an excellent performance, as are those from out-stations, who did well considering the shortage of numbers from which to pick teams.

Banffshire Civilian League

H.Q. Company, Keith, entered two teams of four in this league, which was divided into four divisions. Our "A" Team entered the 2nd Division, and our "B" Team the 4th Division. Each division consisted of ten teams, and eighteen matches had to be fired during the winter, with the following results:

"A" Team.—Shot, 18; won 12; drew, 1; lost, 5; position in league, third.

"B" Team.—Shot, 18; won, 12; lost, 6; position in league, fourth.

These results were very satisfactory considering the quality of the opposition, which was civilian teams with years of experience in this type of match shooting. Only three of our members, Major Munro, C.S.M. Roy and Sergt. Hardie, had previous experience of competition shooting, but had had no practice since before the war. We hope, with the experience and practice of the past winter, to do even better in next winter's competitions.

Individual average scores made during this competition were as follows:

"A" Team.—C.S.M. W. Roy, 96.5; Major C. G. Munro, 96.44; Sergt. G. Hardie, 95.72; Sergt. W. Stables, 93.5; Sergt. F. Morrison, 93.3.

"B" Team.—Cpl. R. Petrie, 93.86; Pte. R. Gillies, 93.44; Cpl. J. Petrie, 92.44; Sergt. W. Ogg, 92.17.

Sergt. G. Hardie was the only member who made a possible on a league card, though C.S.M. Roy, with four, Major Munro with two and Sergt. Hardie with one made possibles on practice cards.

Banff and Moray League

The same two teams were also entered in the Banff and Moray Civilian League, which was divided into six divisions. The "A" Team was in the 4th Division and the "B" Team in the 6th Division. The "A" Team won 7 and lost 3 matches, and the "B" Team won 4 and lost 4, finishing second and third respectively in their divisions. Next year we hope to improve on this.

Banffshire Small-Bore Association Cup

The same teams of four, as above, were entered in this knock-out handicap competition. Both teams won their first-round matches with scores of 398 and 396 respectively. A bye in the second round resulted, unfortunately, in our teams being drawn against each other in the third round, the "B" Team being triumphant with a score of 398 against the "A" Team's rather modest score of 390. The "B" Team carried on the good work by defeating their opponents in the fourth round with a score of 397 against 395. This took them into the semi-final, the result of which was rather tragic. One of the team was doing excellently when he inadvertently fired a shot when coming up to the aim. The result was that this shot hit a bull which had already been hit. The target for this competition is a ten-bull one, and only one shot is allowed to be fired at each bull. The card was disqualified, which of course meant that their opponents had practically a walk-over. Had this unfortunate episode not happened, it is practically certain that the team would have gone forward to the final. However, better luck next winter.

Cpl. J. Petrie and Pte. R. Gillies are to be congratulated on their good shooting during the winter, as, prior to this winter's competitions, neither of them had ever fired a rifle of any description before.

Banffshire Small-Bore Association Silver Medal Competition

This is an individual handicap competition, in which each competitor chooses his own handicap. Three cards, possible score 300, are fired by each entrant. Nine competitors, including Major C. G. Munro, of our club, scored possibles in the first round, which necessitated a further three cards being fired. Major Munro was the highest scorer in the second round with a further three possibles, thereby winning the medal. Good show, Charlie!

Club Individual Handicap Competition

This handicap competition was run during the winter in our own club, one card per week being fired, the best twelve cards to count. The winner was C.S.M. Roy, who dropped only three points on his best twelve cards, Sergt. Hardie being the runner-up.

Christmas Small-Bore Shoot

This competition was held on 23rd December and was open to all the Keith Territorials. Twenty-four competed, practically 100 per cent. turn-out. Two cards were fired and the competitions were more comical than serious. Competition one was ten rounds at the back of a card, which meant that the competitor had to guess where the bulls were. Competition two was a handicap one, the firer's handicap being the amount he was short of 100 in the first competition. Some weird results were obtained, some firers having very nearly a minus score. However, it was good fun, and everyone had the same chance.

The winner was C.S.M. R. Roy, who deserves credit for producing a score of 161 out of 200. Considering the novel competitions, this was good going. Major Munro was second with 159 and Pte. Gillies third with 155. A large and varied assortment of prizes had been contributed by serving and ex-officers and others in the locality, as follows: two fowls, two hares, twenty-six rabbits, one scarf, one fountain pen, one pair of mittens, two bottles of wine, two sets of darts, two torches, three suit-cases, two electric bicycle lamps, two pipes and 200 cigarettes. Each firer received two prizes, one of which was fur or feather, thereby ensuring something for the Christmas dinner. The consumption of beer, stout and hot pies terminated a very successful and enjoyable evening.

Inter-Services Small-Bore Match

The above competition this year included the Territorial Army in addition to the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Regular Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Senior Training Corps and Junior Training Corps. Each team is composed of forty firers, each firer to shoot two cards, ten rounds on each, the h.p.s. per firer being 200. Scottish Command found seven firers, all of

whom were selected from the 152nd (Highland) Brigade, six being from H.Q. Company of this Battalion at Keith; a very high honour indeed, considering that the total strength at Keith was only twenty-five. The names of the selected, with the scores obtained, are as follows:

C.S.M. Roy, 196; Major Munro, 193; Sergt. Hardie, 191; Pte. Gillies, 189; Sergt. Morrison, 188; Cpl. R. Petrie, 177.

Congratulations are due to C.S.M. Roy on a fine score, and also to Pte. Gillies on getting his place in the Territorial Army team during his first year in the T.A., he having had no previous Army service.

The result of the match has not yet been published.

Shooting, both .303 and .22, has always been a popular pastime in the Battalion, especially at Keith, as the results of pre-war rifle meetings and wapinschaws can testify. It had been hoped to revive the popular Keith Wapinschaw this year, but it is very doubtful if this will now be possible. The powers-that-be have decreed that all ranges will be inspected by a board to ensure that they comply with peace-time safety regulations as per S.A.T. To date, the ranges at Keith, Dufftown and Aberlour have been inspected, and to everyone's amazement have been declared unsafe according to the aforementioned S.A.T., which publication we are seriously considering consigning to the flames. As all these ranges have been in use for anything up to fifty years, and possibly longer, it is rather difficult to understand why they are unsafe now. However, "theirs not to reason why," and we earnestly hope that higher authority will grant our ranges a reprieve in the very near future.

48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

University Avenue Armouries,
Toronto, Canada.
16*th January*, 1947.

The 48th Highlanders of Canada (Overseas Battalion) were formally dismissed by Lieut.-Colonel J. R. O. Counsell, D.S.O., on 1st October, 1945. After six years of service in the United Kingdom, Sicily, Italy and Holland the men who had won so many honours for themselves and their Regiment were dismissed for the last time. With mixed feelings they separated from their war-time comrades to join relatives and friends in all parts of the province and Dominion. However, the majority of the men are from the City of Toronto and many of them are enlisting in the Reserve Force unit. Others are members of the 48th Highlanders Association with club-rooms at 519 Church Street. It is there that Highlanders gather with old comrades and battles of both wars are refought daily.

Following the dismissal of the Overseas Battalion the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel H. Cassels, E.D., again became the 48th Highlanders of Canada. With an average strength of approximately 500, the Battalion has carried on its training and social functions in the usual 48th tradition. The training carried out during this reorganization period has been in the form of courses for officers, N.C.Os. and potential N.C.Os.

On 11th November, 1945 and 1946, the Regiment attended memorial services in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and at the 48th Highlanders' Memorial in Queen's Park. On these parades were ex-members of the Regiment from both wars and the affiliated Cadet Corps.

The first post-war Officers' Ball was held in the Royal York Hotel on 30th November, 1945, with an attendance of nearly 2,000.

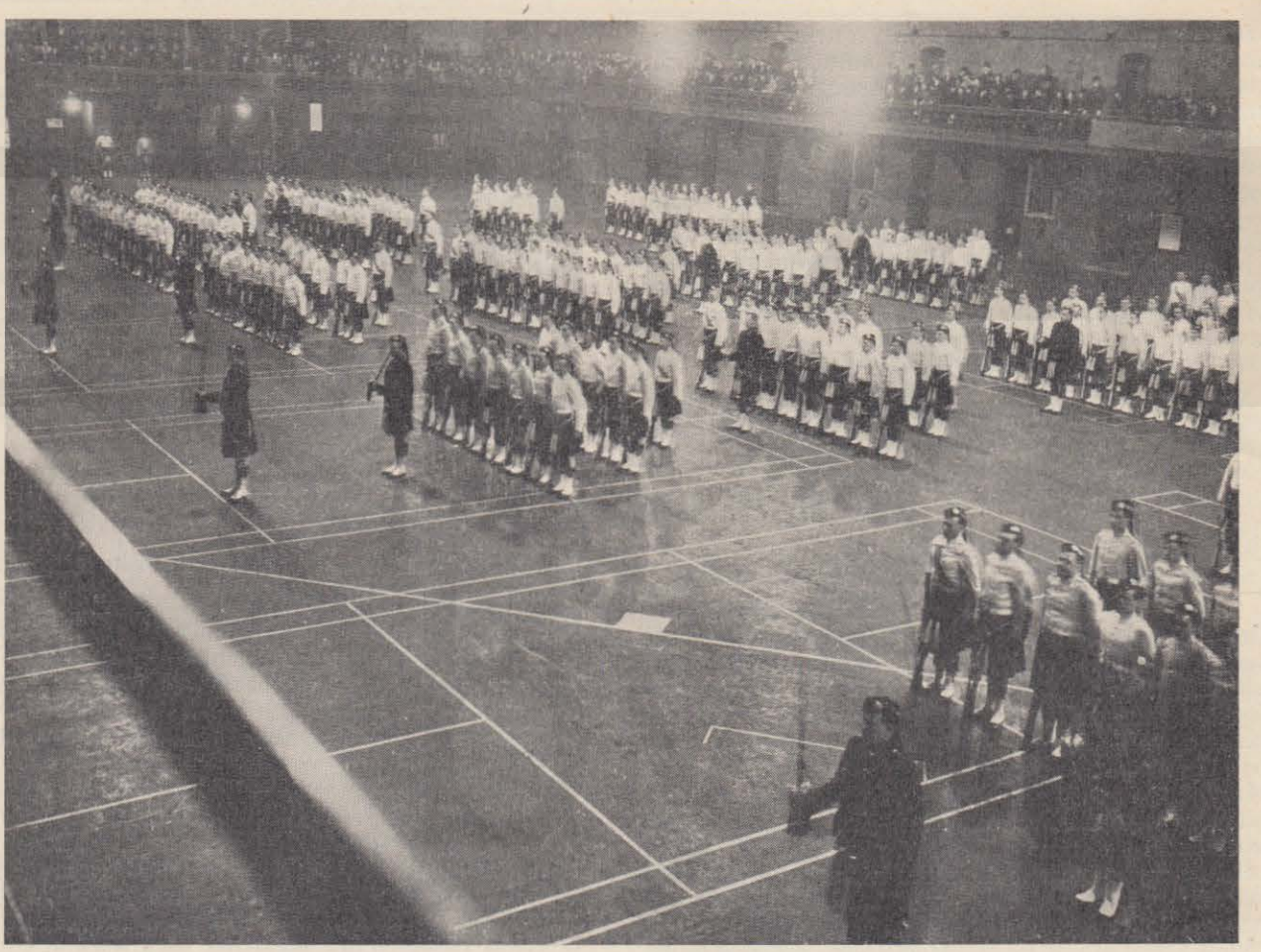
With the great increase in the number of associate members of the Regiment it was necesary for the 48th Highlanders Association (Old Comrades) to change their club-rooms from the comparatively small accommodation on Yonge Street to the large building now occupied at 519 Church Street. Through the efforts of the Sub-Association affiliated with the Regiment and friends of the Regiment, the club-rooms are now all that could be desired. The building was officially opened on 26th May, 1946, by His Excellency The Governor-General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, with the Regiment in attendance.

At the Royal Winter Fair last November the Regiment was called upon to provide a guard of honour for the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario. To add a touch of colour permission was granted by higher authority for the guard to wear full dress. After spending the war years in mothballs the scarlet had a week or two to undergo the necessary cleaning for the event. The appearance and execution were very smart and the dress was indeed a change from the familiar battledress.

The Sergeants' Mess under R.S.M. Thomas Cotton, M.M., has approximately 170 associate members as well as the active members of the unit, and is open daily for the convenience of its members. The Regimental Bands have added to their numbers from the bandsmen of the Overseas Battalion and are active each week at engagements throughout the city. Pipe-Major James R. Fraser, now in his 76th year, is still teaching and attending all parades. Capt. John Slatter (Bandmaster) spent his fifty-first New Year with the Regiment in the Officers' Mess and Pipe-Major Fraser was in attendance with his pipes. These stalwart members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada have a combined military service of more than 126 years.

During the reorganization period the Regiment has had three Commanding Officers. Following Lieut.-Colonel H. Cassels, E.D., Lieut.-Colonel (now Brigadier) J. E. Ganong, E.D., took command on 8th December, 1945. He carried on the training and reorganization until 1st July, 1946, at which time he was appointed Brigadier commanding the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The present Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel W. W. G. Darling, D.S.O., E.D., after six years of overseas service, has taken on the still difficult job of training and keeping the 48th Canada's finest Reserve Force unit. Lieut.-Colonel Darling was first commissioned in the Regiment on 4th February, 1929.

In December of last year the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Marchioness of Huntly. She was most interested in the painting of "The Battle of Dargai" on display in the Officers' Mess. There is still apparently some controversy as to whether "The Haughs of Cromdale" or "The Cock of the North" was played for the charge. Pipe-Major Fraser, who was present at the battle, advised Her Ladyship that it was "The Haughs of Cromdale.'"



THE 48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

[Photo: W. H. James, Toronto

THE CAPETOWN HIGHLANDERS

In 1918 it was very different. Disarmament, universally proclaimed, accepted as an ideal by all, adopted as a national policy by some, was put into practice by Great Britain and her Dominions. Why maintain forces if there is to be no more war? Had not war ended for all time on 11th November, 1918? A pious and profound hope had been accepted as a reality, and in the post-war years the forces of the British Commonwealth of Nations languished.

Came 1945. Victory had been achieved after long years of struggle, but no mood of blind optimism prevailed, for, had we not learned our lesson? Scarcely had the sound of gunfire died away than plans were formulated for the reorganizing for peace the units that had acquitted themselves so well in war.

While the Capetown Highlanders (associated with the First City Regiment as the F.C./C.T.H.) were still on duty in the Aosta province of Italy, selected officers and men were dispatched to the Union to commence reorganizing the peace-time Regiment so as to enable it to absorb the 1946 recruits, and thus establish its first post-war Battalion.

In spite of the many calls of family and business, the searching for homes and the starting of careers, the officers and men gave lavishly of their time. By July, 1946, an organization was ready to receive the recruits—lads who had been boys of ten or eleven at the outbreak of war.

All ex-Service men who volunteered to serve with the Regiment agreed to stay for a year at least. Among these were many who wore the green and gold ribbon of the Efficiency Decoration and who would doubtless be piped and chaired from the Castle many long years since.

Recruiting was most satisfactory and the Capetown Highlanders had no difficulty in completing its (limited) establishment. A frequent response to the question "Why have you decided to serve with the Capetown Highlanders?" was: "My father was with the Highlanders in the First World War and my brother has just come back from Italy with them." To those who had served with the Regiment before and during the war it was heartening to see the keenness and enthusiasm displayed by the new recruits. A noteworthy achievement was the fitting out of the Battalion with kilts, as no kilt replacements had been received since 1940.

The usual parade-ground work was carried out under the instruction of trained W.Os. and N.C.Os., and by 27th September it was felt that the citizens of Capetown should be shown their own kilted Regiment. In perfect spring weather the Battalion, headed by the Pipes and Drums and the Bugle Band, marched through the city. The green doublets of the pipers and the scarlet and gold of the buglers and drummers—absent from the city for so long—stirred the imagination of the Saturday afternoon crowds and the reception was vociferous. All along the three-and-a-half-mile route cameras clicked and it was gratifying to read in the evening papers the warm praises of the Battalion. The marching and march discipline called forth a well-earned commendation from the Commanding Officer when the parade was dismissed.

It was felt that, having introduced the Regiment to the citizens of Capetown once again, the friends of the Regiment should meet the officers as a body, and an "At Home" was held in the Garrison Officers' Mess on 7th December. About 150 guests assembled and left with obvious reluctance at 8 o'clock. The Colonel with a small party carried on to a dance, where the colourful uniform added a splash of welcome colour, and doubtless reminded those who were present of the years when uniform was the rule rather than the exception.

New Year's Eve was celebrated in traditional style with a party at the Drill Hall, and the Battalion embarked on the new year with the gratifying knowledge that they were known and respected by the people of Capetown—a not unimportant factor in the success of an Active Citizen Force unit.

Two topics were discussed at length during the first month of 1947—the forthcoming Royal visit and the annual training camp to be held in February. By going into camp in February the Battalion was in an enviable position to carry out with efficiency the many duties assigned to it in connection with the Royal visit.

On Saturday, 1st February, the recruits, with such trained men as were able and willing to attend camp for the full thirty days, marched into camp at Brooklyn. For the first period of two weeks Regular Army (known as "Permanent Force" or "P.F." in the Union) W.Os. and N.C.Os. instructed the lads in the well-known Army manner—sometimes harshly, sometimes kindly, and at all times humorously. The results achieved did both instructors and instructed credit. In precision of drill, smartness and general bearing and appearance the men were well up to standard and fitted for the parades that were to come. It was not uncommon to see lights burning till the small hours of the morning in washrooms where soldiers were busy washing and ironing their tunics or blancoing spats and equipment.

Field-Marshal Smuts, with the Governor-General, was among those present at a simple yet impressive ceremony held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Sunday, 9th February. Nearly seven years before, the Regiment had placed its Colours in the church for safe keeping, and now, the war over, was back once more to receive them from the Regimental Chaplain, the Rev. Yule. There were none who were not impressed by the touching address given by the Rev. Yule, and all were made to realize anew the significance of a regiment's Colours. At the conclusion of the service the Field-Marshal spoke and told us that it was our duty to South Africa, the Commonwealth and the world at large to keep ourselves in readiness for any eventuality, however much we may hope that such an eventuality might never again arise.

The senior and junior subalterns, carrying the King's and Regimental Colours respectively, and with the appropriate escort, marched with the Battalion back to the Castle. On the way through the city many an old gentleman was seen to uncover and stand rigidly to attention as the Colours went by. A small gathering of friends in the Mess fittingly rounded off a solemn but happy occasion.

All Capetonians know that a light sea mist in the early morning of a summer's day is the forerunner of a real "scorcher." A light mist hid the far shore of Table Bay on the morning of 17th February, and as the huge grey form of H.M.S. *Vanguard* majestically broke through and slowly headed for the Duncan Dock entrance the Capetown Highlanders marched up Kingsway to take up their position in lining the Royal route. The vast crowds waiting so patiently in the growing heat had a special cheer for the Highlanders as the Pipes and Drums led them up the length of Kingsway. The brilliant scene has been described so often in the Press and over the radio that it is unnecessary to do so here. One and all realized that they were taking part in a unique ceremony—the first visit of the reigning Monarch to South Africa.

While the Battalion stood waiting in the sun, a guard of one officer and twenty-six other ranks were on duty at Government House—the home of the Royal Family while in Capetown. The Capetown Highlanders provided the guard for three successive periods of twenty-four hours, finally handing over to the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles. The changing of the guard—an ever-popular ceremony—was watched by many, in spite of the comparatively early hour, 0800 hrs.

To the Capetown Highlanders fell the distinction of providing the guard of honour at the opening of Parliament on 21st February. Three officers and 100 other ranks rehearsed and practised for nearly a fortnight, and, although the guard consisted of recruits (W.Os.' and Sergeants' trained men), the turn-out on the great day was well up to standard.

Once more the Capetown Highlanders were on street-lining duty as they, in common with other units, lined the processional route. It was a relief to know that there would be no more ceremonial until the Royal Family returned and that the Battalion would now be able to concentrate on serious training.

The last week in camp was spent on field exercises—stalking, section leading, the tactical employment of the Bren and the support weapons, and the use of ground. These lessons having been learnt, Exercise "Balmoral" was arranged to test the platoon commanders and section leaders. In an area of high sand-dunes lying to the north of Capetown, it was assumed that well-equipped and well-trained paratroops were operating, and it was the task of the Battalion to dislodge these unwelcome visitors. Platoons were assigned the task of sweeping the area and mopping up the nests one by one. The country was difficult and maintaining contact was perhaps the hardest problem. What the recruits lacked in experience and knowledge they made up in enthusiasm, and some of the final assaults were stirring and bloodthirsty affairs.

All ranks were given several opportunities of proving their ability as marksmen, and it was gratifying to see that



GUARD OF HONOUR, CAPETOWN HIGHLANDERS, OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY H.M. KING GEORGE VI, 21st FEBRUARY, 1947



RECEIVING THE COLOURS FROM THEIR WAR-TIME SANCTUARY IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, 9th FEBRUARY, 1947
Field-Marshal Smuts on the Porch



WINNING RECRUIT SQUAD, 1946
No. 5. Squad—C.S.M. Stoffberg

there were many among the recruits who, with more practice, would turn into first-class shots.

The last working day of camp was spent at the range where a fire-power demonstration impressed the uninitiated and reminded the others of occasions when there was no time to be impressed and when a deep affection was felt for Mother Earth.

To mark the end of the first post-war camp a "Retreat" ceremony was held to which guests were invited. Among the guests were the Commander of H.M.S. *Vanguard* with several of his officers, and members of the King's Flight. The officers entertained about 200 guests in the Mess, and the other ranks held a highly successful dance in the camp cinema.

On the first parade after the camp it was clearly noticeable that most of the lads had found their feet, and the Battalion was a more homogeneous whole than it had been before.

The Royal Family's return to Capetown was marked by two more parades. H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, on her twenty-first birthday, inspected the largest body of troops ever assembled for a parade in South Africa. The weather and setting were perfect and all were agreed that the parade was the most impressive of the tour.

To an officer of the Capetown Highlanders fell the honour of being the first to partner Her Royal Highness at the ball held in her honour at Government House and to which members of the Mess were invited.

In past years it has been customary to refer to the annual drafts by the name of some visiting team—we had the Wallabies, the Motherwell and the M.C.C. drafts. The young lads who joined the Regiment in July, 1946, will possibly be remembered as the King's draft.

To the many to whom the Regiment means so much it is indeed gratifying to see a peace-time Battalion which, if small, is well founded, happy and keen. It augurs well for the future that the young men now coming forward have the welfare of the Regiment at heart and can be relied on to maintain the traditions so jealously preserved and guarded during the past years.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(Instituted April, 1930)

(Hon. Secretary: Major J. E. Mills, 25 Crown Street, Aberdeen. Telephone: 5612.)

The Association is still carrying on the good work as in pre-war days and during the war years. For the benefit of new readers a brief outline of the Constitution and Rules is published with the Eighteenth Annual Report.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RULES

Objects and Aims

To foster *esprit de corps* and keep alive, by reunions, on return to civilian life, the comradeship which has always been so strong among officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Regiment.

To assist members on leaving, or who have left, the Regiment to find employment.

To assist members on leaving, or who have left, the Regiment and who have, through no fault of their own, fallen on hard times.

To assist the widows and children of deceased members.

Membership

The life membership subscription to the Association is:

Officers, £5 (five pounds); other ranks, £2 2s. (two guineas).

The subscription may be paid in one sum or by annual subscriptions of officers 10s. and other ranks 6s., payable to the Secretary, The Gordon Highlanders' Association, 25 Crown Street, Aberdeen.

The following are eligible to become members: all ranks, past and present, of any battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, including the 14th London Regiment (London Scottish).

All members become life members when their annual subscriptions total the sum of the life membership subscription. A life membership card will be issued to all life members on completion of subscriptions.

Life members, if they so desire, may become members of the Gordon Highlanders' Club at Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh or London, whichever is nearest to their home, by making application to the Secretary, The Gordon Highlanders' Association, Aberdeen, and the Association will pay the first year's subscription as laid down in the Rules of the Club. This payment entitles the said life member to three years' free membership of the Club.

Life members of this Association are exempt from any entrance fee to any Original Association, Club or Branches.

Relief and Benefit

It must clearly be understood that all relief is of a temporary nature only; nothing in the way of a pension of a permanent nature can be considered.

All applications for assistance must be made in writing to the Secretary. The funds of the Association are not intended for the relief of casual applicants who do not assist themselves in finding employment. Assistance for the undeserving, or to men of the casual type, will not be given.

Employment Register

A register of trades will be kept at the Central Office, 25 Crown Street, Aberdeen, for men of the Association who desire employment. It must distinctly be understood that only men of good character will be recommended for employment. The employment register will be worked in close touch with the National Association for Employment of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, and our Original Associations at Glasgow, Edinburgh and London.

General

Other subjects dealt with by the Association include:

Bringing cases of disabled soldiers for disability pen-

sions to the proper authority. Assistance in commutation of pensions when advisable. Applying for special campaign pensions. Making application for pensions for widows and old soldiers over 65 years of age. Applying for admission of old soldiers' children to schools and homes. Acting as almoner for widows' pensions.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

President

Major-General Sir James L. G. Burnett of Leys, Bt., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

Vice-Presidents

The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen.
The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Banff.
The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kincardine.
The Lord Lieutenant of the County of the City of Aberdeen.

Annual General Meeting

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting will be held in the Gordon Highlanders' Club, 151 King Street, Aberdeen, on Monday, 22nd March, 1948, at 4 p.m.

The Committee beg to submit the Eighteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Association for the year 1947.

1. Membership

Membership as on 31st December, 1947:	
Life members	2,424
Paying members	140
	2,564

2. Obituary

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

Brigadier-General R. W. M. De Winton, D.S.O., 2867730 Pte. J. Barclay, 2865312 Pte. R. Beattie, 2875052 Pte. G. Condie, Pte. J. Gibson. 866949 Pte. J. McGarva (due to an accident), 1664943 Pte. W. Chalmers (lost at sea, Far East), 2876613 Pte. E. Charles (killed in action, Far East), 2877306 Pte. J. Cooper (killed in action, Far East), 2876343 Sergt. H. Fraser (killed in action, Far East), 2876495 Pte. S. Greive (lost at sea, Far East), 2876313 Cpl. T. Hunter (died as a prisoner of war, Far East), 2875889 Pte. G. Keith (lost at sea, Far East), 2876320 Pte. W. Kemp (lost at sea, Far East), 1661787 Cpl. A. McLeod (lost at sea, Far East), 2873074 Pte. S. McLean (died as a prisoner of war, Far East), 2875459 Sergt. R. McGregor (lost at sea, Far East), 2872442 Pipe-Major J. Murdoch (lost at sea, Far East), 2873510 Cpl. A. Percival (killed in action, June, 1940), 2873868 Clr.-Sergt. E. Topp (lost at sea, Far East).

3. Employment

During the year under review quite a number of good situations were filled. The housing problem, however, still exists and has a great bearing on the placing of men in jobs, as men cannot afford the upkeep of two homes.

The thanks of the Committee are extended to all those who have helped during the year to find employment for our members.

Close co-operation is maintained with the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, a branch of which has recently been established in Aberdeen.

4. The Gordon Highlanders' Benevolent Funds

During the year under review there was an ever-increasing toll of sickness and distress amongst our ex-members and their dependants. Two hundred and thirty-one applications for assistance were received, investigated, and grants in money or kind given to 151 necessitous cases. Each application received was carefully considered on its merits and all deserving cases assisted.

We are much indebted to the many organizations of the Social Services, the British Legion, Earl Haig Fund and others for their ever-generous co-operation and support.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the following grants received during the year:

The Army Benevolent Fund, £450; donation, Mr. Smith, £1; annual grant from the United Services Trustees, £11 9s. 8d.; sale of an officer's greatcoat, £5.

The distribution of assistance given during the year was:

	£	s.	d.
Payment of arrears—house rent, taxes, etc.	86	5	11
Purchase of clothing and boots	67	10	9
Other purposes, viz., doctors' and hospital bills, surgical appliances, special food, bedding, and other necessitous purposes..	516	17	0
	£670	13	8

Had it not been for the generous grant from the Army Benevolent Fund we could not have assisted the many applicants from our own limited benevolent funds.

In addition to the above, the usual grant from the Trustees of the Gordon Highlanders' Relief Fund to our in-pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was given.

5. General

Other subjects dealt with by the Association included making application for pensions for widows and old soldiers over 65 years of age; applying for admission of old soldiers' children to various homes and schools; assistance in commutation of pensions when advisable; bringing cases of disabled soldiers for disability pensions to the proper authority.

We have still a number of Association lapel badges available at 3s. each. These may be obtained from the Secretary.

(Sgd.) J. G. Burnett of Leys, *Major-General*,
Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, and
President, The Gordon Highlanders' Association.

(Sgd.) J. E. Mills, *Major*,
Secretary, Gordon Highlanders' Association.

Aberdeen.
February, 1948.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS LONDON ASSOCIATION

(ESTABLISHED 11TH MARCH, 1911)

President Emeritus

Capt. Sir Beachcroft Towse, V.C., K.C.V.O., C.B.E.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1948

President

Lieut.-Colonel James Peddie, D.S.O., T.D.

Vice-President

Lieut.-General Lawrence Carr, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Hon. Treasurer

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Reid, D.S.O.

Hon. Secretary

Mr. John F. Keir,* 4 Greenside, Dagenham, Essex.
(Telephone: Seven Kings 6232.)

Committee

Major P. D. Clendenin.	Mr. S. Gadsby.*
Major H. More-Gordon.	Mr. J. Goodall.
Major A. W. McIntosh.	Mr. C. E. Humphris.
Lieut. W. Hogg Ferguson.	Mr. A. Jappy.
Mr. H. E. Abercrombie.*	Mr. J. N. Madden.*
Mr. R. Angus.*	Mr. J. Miller.
Mr. E. H. Austin.*	Mr. A. Shirran.*
Mr. P. S. C. Buchanan.	Mr. W. Wallace.

*Member of Sub-Committee.

Hon. Auditors

Messrs. James Meston & Co.,
1 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

REPORT, 1947

The Committee have pleasure in submitting to you their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

1. ACTIVITIES

The Annual Dinner was held on 11th October, followed by dancing, and was well attended. The attendance would have been even better had it not been for the limitation on numbers placed on such functions by the Ministry of Food. We were delighted to have with us, as our guests, representatives of other branches of the Association, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Our monthly reunion meetings have continued on the first Wednesday of the month during the winter, and we should be pleased to welcome a greater number of members on these occasions.

Owing to our inability to find suitable accommodation to hold a series of social functions, it has been impossible to arrange a programme. Our efforts are being intensified, however, and we hope to be able to arrange some functions in 1948 to which ladies may be invited.

Delegates from the Association attended reunions at Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow during 1947, and two members were also entertained at an "At Home" given by the officers of the 2nd Battalion at Edinburgh on 16th July.

2. EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE AND CENOTAPH PARADE

On Wednesday, 6th November, a representative party of the Association attended a short religious service at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, where a plot dedicated "To the Memory of the Fallen of the Gordon Highlanders" had been allotted to the Regiment.

Ladies and members of the Association made their annual pilgrimage on 16th November and laid a wreath on the Cenotaph in the name of the Regiment. We thank Capt. Sir Beachcroft Towse for the wreath supplied.

The Association was also represented at the memorial service to General Sir Ian Hamilton.

3. EMPLOYMENT AND BENEVOLENT WORK

Four members were assisted into employment during the year. We continue to be active in our search for situations for our members as occasion arises. So far as is known, all our members are fully employed, but we shall always be pleased to learn of vacant situations, when we may be able to put forward candidates.

Two cases of distress were brought to the notice of the Aberdeen Association. Grants amounting to £8 were made.

A case of distress was brought to the notice of the Trustees of the 51st (Highland) Division Trust, and a grant of £50 was made. We desire to thank the Trustees for their kindness and help.

A case of distress was also placed before the Trustees of the Kinloch Bequest, the Royal Scottish Corporation, and an allowance of £1 15s. per week was granted. We are most grateful to the Trustees for their help in this case also.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The total membership of the Association to date is 441. Life members' cards are now being issued to:

(*a*) All members who have paid life membership subscriptions.
(*b*) All members whose annual subscriptions have reached the total as laid down in Rule 9 (c).
(*c*) All life members of the Regimental Association, Aberdeen, who have joined the London Association.

By-law 1 (page 16) is now withdrawn.

At your Committee's instigation a new arrangement was arrived at with the co-operation of the Aberdeen Association in the past year in regard to life members' subscriptions paid to the Aberdeen Association. If the members should ultimately join the London Association the Aberdeen Association will pay the members' yearly subscriptions up to the time the subscriptions reach life members' subscriptions, less certain deductions agreed upon. These members will be issued with life members' cards on joining the London Association.

5. OBITUARY

The Committee regret to record the deaths of six members of the Association:

General Sir Ian Hamilton, on 12th October, 1947; W. West, on 6th April, 1947; W. G. Sandall, on 25th July, 1947; D. H. Holt, on 12th September, 1947; C. G. Irish, on 25th October, 1947; F. J. Southgate, on 22nd December, 1947.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

(*a*) *Annual Subscriptions.*—The Hon. Secretary is enclosing with this Report a form for the remittance of annual subscriptions for 1948, where these have not already been remitted. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to "The Gordon Highlanders London Association."

(*b*) The Committee wish to thank the Aberdeen Association for the donation to your funds, and for the remittance of certain subscriptions; also the Commanding Officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions for their donations to the funds of the Association.

(*c*) A bequest of £100 was received from the executors of the late Miss Gertrude Scott, and has since been invested.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

(*a*) *Correspondence.*—Your attention is respectfully drawn to Rule 7 (b) in regard to enclosing stamps to cover replies to your inquiries. Donations to the postage expenses of the Association would be appreciated to meet the heavy calls on your funds for general correspondence and circulars.

(*b*) *The Gordon Highlanders' Memorial Fund,* 1939-45. —Total subscriptions to date amount to £4,356 7s. 6d. Donations to this Fund will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Capt. R. Fogg-Elliot, Hon. Treasurer, 25 Crown Street, Aberdeen.

8. ACCOUNTS

With this Report is issued a statement of the Association's audited accounts. The Committee wish to thank the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. James Meston & Co., for their kindness in undertaking the audit of the accounts of the Association.

For, and on behalf of, the Committee:

(Sgd.) J. PEDDIE, *Lieut.-Colonel, President.*
(Sgd.) CHARLES REID, *Hon. Treasurer.*
(Sgd.) JOHN F. KEIR, *Hon. Secretary.*

4 GREENSIDE,
DAGENHAM, ESSEX.
17*th March,* 1948.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (EDINBURGH) ASSOCIATION CLUB

Hon. Secretary

P. A. Sharpe, 45 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh, 8.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

1. The Committee have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

2. The Club continues to be the rallying point for past and present members of the Regiment in Edinburgh.

3. We have sincerely to thank the 1st and 2nd Battalions and the Edinburgh Women's Guild for their support and donations, also our parent Association in Aberdeen, for the comforts to our aged members.

4. The Women's Guild meets fortnightly on Wednesdays.

5. The social entertainments are now in full swing, having opened with the Annual Reunion on 26th September, with representatives from London, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Hawick. Colonel William Robertson, V.C., C.B.E., J.P., and Colonel W. Drummond, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., were present. Other entertainments were the children's Christmas treat—about seventy children were present with their parents—also New Year party and concert, with members and their wives. Darts and billiards contests fill the programme during the evenings. All entertainments are arranged by the Chairman of the Committee, Capt. A. Ewen.

6. We wish to congratulate Colonel W. Drummond, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., on being appointed Master of the Merchant Company of the City of Edinburgh.

7. Our membership is as follows:

Life Members	18
Life Members, Blinded	2
Ordinary Members	140
Extraordinary Members	56
Honorary Members	2
	218

8. The Committee deeply regret the passing of our Honorary President, General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., also the following members: T. H. Butterworth, a member since 1912; George Cruickshanks, an early Club Treasurer; James Whyte Christie, who came to us from Aberdeen Club; Sandy Garrow, for many years on the Committee.

9. *Committee Members due to Retire.*—Messrs. A. Collin, J. MacDonald, R. Fairgrieve and J. Black.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (GLASGOW) ASSOCIATION CLUB

Hon. Secretary

G. Wilson, 35 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow, C.2.
(Telephone: Central 2450.)

WE regret that owing to the illness of the Secretary there will be no news from Glasgow for this issue. We wish Mr. Wilson a speedy recovery.—ED.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (ABERDEEN) CLUB

151 KING STREET, ABERDEEN

Manager

Major J. Sutherland, M.B.E.
(Telephone: 3280.)

WE are glad to know that the issue of THE TIGER AND SPHINX is being resumed and I am sure that many of our members are looking forward to reading the first copy.

During the war years the Club was a real home to the many Gordon Highlanders in Aberdeen and those passing through the city on their way to and from their homes in the country. The bedrooms were continually full and very often we were able to find alternative accommodation in the vicinity of the Club.

The number of Service men who were put up from 1939 to 1946 ran into many thousands, and the Trustees, Management and Committee are proud that the Club fulfilled its function and is still doing so, not only to its members but to serving men of the Regiment who require accommodation and meals.

The membership is now very high and in consequence the state of the Club funds has improved enormously. We can look forward to the future with greater confidence.

There are still many ex-members of the Regiment who are eligible to join the Club. We appeal to them to come forward and become members. I am sure that they would enjoy the social life and help to increase the prestige which the Club now enjoys.

During 1947 and up to the present time, the pre-war life of the Club is slowly returning. Whist leagues, darts leagues, billiards and snooker leagues, and concerts are now in full swing and greatly enjoyed by those taking part in them.

We had our first post-war outing in 1947. It was made by bus to Perth and was hailed as a great occasion by those who were lucky enough to get tickets. Transport was limited to a certain number.

The children's picnic, Christmas treat and cinema show were enjoyed by the many hundreds of children of members of the Club.

In March, 1948, we had our first post-war dance in the Beach Ballroom. It was attended by about 600 people. Although it had not the splendour of pre-war gatherings, it was nevertheless a most enjoyable and harmonious event, greatly enjoyed by all present.

The Trustees are doing their best to have the Club entirely redecorated, both internally and externally, but the powers-that-be are very sticky about granting the necessary permit for the work. However, we are hopeful that a part of the building may be done.

J. P.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (SOUTH AFRICA) ASSOCIATION

NEWS has come from Mr. Rankine in Johannesburg that the Association, which had to go into recess during the war, may shortly be resuscitated.

BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS

THE following are the addresses of other Branch Associations:

The Gordon Highlanders' (Arbroath and District) Association. Hon. Secretary: Mr. D. Forbes, 3 Airlie Crescent, Arbroath.

The Gordon Highlanders' (Perth and District) Association. Hon. Secretary: Mr. G. T. Ronald, 13 Keir Street, Bridgend, Perth.

The Gordon Highlanders' (Hawick and District) Association. Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Grierson, 25 Beaconsfield Terrace, Hawick.

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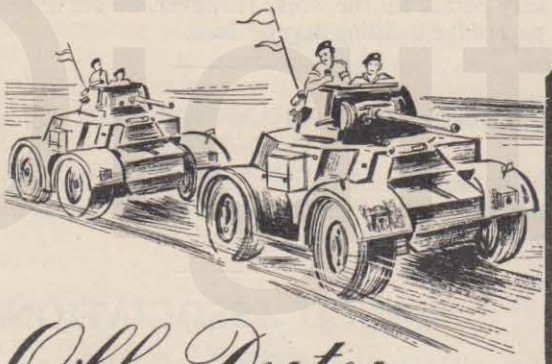

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