

8/55

# THE TIGER



# AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF

# THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

VOLUME IV (NEW SERIES)

NUMBER 2

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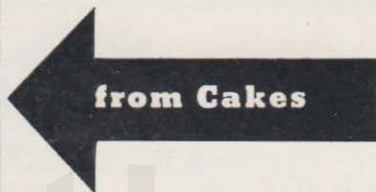
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# THE TIGER & SPHINX

The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

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[Photo: "Edinburgh Evening News"]

THE GUARD OF HONOUR FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Collection

## 1st Battalion Notes

### EDITORIAL

Our notes this quarter, although representative of the 1st Battalion, come from all over Scotland where the Companies are acting as permanent staff in Territorial Camps. To many this has obviously been a pleasant change after the hard work put into our winter training programme by all ranks. A programme that culminated in April when we moved to Barry Camp. Our activities at Camp are dealt with separately, as are also the masterly pyrotechnics of the M.T.O. whilst marshalling the transport for the move up.

The time honoured consideration of the country's rolling stock in coming to a shuddering halt over the Whitsun holiday prevented most of the Battalion from getting a few days well earned leave. Furthermore, a heavy strain was put on our limited resources for ceremonial duties when increasing demands for drivers and drivers' mates came pouring in for convoy work. In spite of this setback we were able to provide a Guard of Honour for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and on 11th June we shared with the Cameron Highlanders the honour of witnessing the installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle. An amusing incident occurred at this latter ceremony when a menacing Highland figure, swathed in tartan, fiercely challenged the entry into the Castle in clear, nerve shattering . . . Cockney! "Wot cums the Lord Loyn King of Arms t'do at the gaites of Edinboro Carsol?" We await in awful anticipation the production in Vista-vision with stereophonic sound of the film taken during the parade by an American Company.

On 4th June we sent a rifle section and elements from the specialist platoons with their equipment to the Royal Victoria School at Dunblane. A short demonstration of fire power and tactics was staged and then the boys were given a free hand to examine and handle the equipment. Great interest was taken and we hope their enthusiasm will produce some recruits to the Regiment. Many questions were asked during the day and all received adequate answers except for one. How was the sergeant, commanding the Jungle Patrol demonstration,

able to flourish so luxurious a girth on the meagre 24 hours' pack ration so apologetically displayed? They might well ask!

The summer period in Edinburgh, as we discovered last year, is the most testing but nonetheless interesting part of the year. Ceremonials occur in frequent succession . . . with little time for rehearsal between parades. Once again we have been honoured to Guard Her Majesty The Queen, this time for the eight days she spent at Holyrood House. A guard of one officer and fourteen other ranks mounted daily in the forecourt, and a Guard of Honour was drawn up for her arrival. The Queen was heard to remark on her first evening in Edinburgh that it was such a pleasure to inspect a proper Guard of Honour for a change. Whether this remark referred to the comic opera Guards she had recently experienced on her Scandinavian Visit, or to the Guard of Honour drawn up on Princes Street Station by some obscure regiment of foot guards was not made clear.

However, one remark heard by the Commanding Officer and made by a palace workman during guard mounting must not pass unrecorded. "Well, skipper - they'll never let you down - they're lovely". In either case, a finer tribute to the Battalion could hardly be expected.

During the Royal Week in Edinburgh we were visited by Mr. G. Dunbar whose father served with the Regiment and emigrated to Canada at the end of the 1st World War. Mr. Dunbar's father served with considerable distinction in the Regiment, being awarded the D.C.M. at Elands-laagte and later earning the unique distinction of receiving a commission as Pipe Major.

At the time of writing, our future still lies in the balance. In the last three months almost every area in the world has made an attempt to upset the balance but equilibrium has always triumphed in the end. An official announcement must surely come in the near future. Whether it be from the War Office or some "Eastern gentleman" offering his services as contractor, it will make little difference. Either will answer those three all-important questions: Where? When? How?



[Photo: Courtesy "The Scotsman"]

H.M. The Queen inspects the Guard of Honour at Holyrood House.

### HATCHES AND MATCHES

We offer our best wishes to the following on the event of their marriage:—

- Pte. Kerr, W., to Miss Irene Tappenden on 26th March, 1955 at Powis Church, Aberdeen.  
 Cpl. MacKenzie, W., to Miss Eileen Grant, on 5th March, 1955 at Kirknewton.  
 Pte. Kerr, J., to Miss Frances Chell, on 3rd June, 1955 at Glasgow.  
 Pte. Collinson, F., to Miss Marjorie Clark on 16th May, 1955 at Edinburgh.  
 Pte. Turnbull, R., to Miss Barbara Mathieson on 7th May, 1955 at Kirthdee.  
 Pte. Hay, R., to Miss Janet Russel on 6th May, 1955 at Edinburgh.  
 L./Cpl. Thomson, J., to Miss Patricia Hackett on 23rd April, 1955 at Sunderland.



[Photo: Wilson, Groat, Edinburgh]

We offer our congratulations to the following:—

- Capt. and Mrs. J. N. Wright on the birth of a son, Peter Norman, on 1st June.  
 Sgt. and Mrs. Freeman on the birth of a daughter, Astrid Kristina, on 24th June.  
 L./Cpl. and Mrs. Carter on the birth of a son, James Sidney, on 6th April.  
 Sgt. and Mrs. Postill on the birth of a son, Norman John, on 20th April.  
 L./Cpl. and Mrs. McGilvray on the birth of a son, Thomas, on 16th April.  
 Sgt. and Mrs. Kerr on the birth of a daughter, Deborah, on 6th May.  
 Sgt. and Mrs. Stephenson on the birth of a daughter, Mary Louise, on 16th May.  
 Pte. and Mrs. Watt on the birth of a daughter, Linda, on 14th June.

### BATTALION APPOINTMENTS

#### BATTALION H.Q.

- Commanding Officer*—Lieut.-Colonel J. E. G. Hay, D.S.O.  
*Second-in-Command*—Major P. W. Forbes.  
*Adjutant*—Capt. J. J. H. Simpson.  
*President Regimental Institutes*—Capt. C. M. Wolfe Murray.  
*Regimental Medical Officer*—Lieut. J. M. Williamson (R.A.M.C.).  
*Chaplain*—Capt. (Rev.) H. Drummond, C.F.  
*Assistant Adjutant*—Lieut. E. F. Gordon.  
*Regimental Sergeant-Major*—R.S.M. G. Michie.  
*Bandmaster*—Bandmaster W. Williams, M.B.E.  
*Orderly Room Quartermaster-Sergeant*—O.R.Q.M.S. R. S. Hay.  
*Drum-Major*—Drum-Major L. Burlton, B.E.M.  
*Pipe-Major*—Pipe-Major J. Massie.

#### H.Q. COMPANY

- Company Commander*—Major A. T. Wilson, M.C.  
*Motor Transport Officer*—Capt. M. M. Makgill-Crichton-Maitland.  
*Education Officer*—Capt. J. N. Wright (R.A.E.C.).  
*Quartermaster*—Capt. (Q.M.) F. Kernohan.  
*Messing Officer*—2/Lieut. N. H. Cantlie.

### THE BATTALION CHAPEL, REDFORD BARRACKS

- Administrative Officer*—2/Lieut. I. G. Saltmarsh.  
*Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant*—R.Q.M.S. G. Dunn.  
*Company Sergeant-Major*—C.S.M. A. Dunbar.  
*Company Quartermaster-Sergeant*—C./Sgt. W. Anderson.  
*Motor Transport Sergeant*—Sgt. J. Wood.  
*Weapon Training Sergeant*—Sgt. A. Hyslop.

#### SUPPORT COMPANY

- Company Commander*—Major P. B. Hay.  
*Regimental Signal Officer*—Lieut. D. G. B. Saunders.  
*Anti-Tank Platoon Commander*—Lieut. R. A. C. Linzee.  
*Machine Gun Platoon Commander*—Lieut. R. D. L. Smart.  
*Mortar Platoon Commander*—Lieut. R. W. C. Murison.  
*Company Sergeant-Major*—C.S.M. I. Rodger.  
*Company Quartermaster-Sergeant*—C./Sgt. A. Martin.  
*Signal Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. D. Postill.  
*Anti-Tank Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. T. Brown.  
*Machine Gun Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. C. Kerr.  
*Mortar Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. J. Forsyth.

#### "A" COMPANY

- Company Commander*—Major G. R. Elsmie.  
*Second-in-Command*—Lieut. D. C. K. Brown.  
 1 *Platoon Commander*—2/Lieut. M. A. Avery.  
 2 *Platoon Commander*—2/Lieut. W. J. M. Beckwith.  
 3 *Platoon Commander*—2/Lieut. W. Anderson.  
*Company Sergeant-Major*—C.S.M. G. MacKay.  
*Company Quartermaster-Sergeant*—C./Sgt. T. Denholm.  
 1 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. A. Dow.  
 2 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. R. Gammie.  
 3 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. P. Cameron.

#### "B" COMPANY

- Company Commander*—Capt. M. H. Burge.  
*Second-in-Command*—  
 4 *Platoon Commander*—Lieut. J. A. Clarkson.  
 5 *Platoon Commander*—2/Lieut. M. G. Bates.  
 6 *Platoon Commander*—2/Lieut. J. M. Gray.  
*Company Sergeant-Major*—C.S.M. E. Lindores, M.M.  
*Company Quartermaster-Sergeant*—C./Sgt. A. Taylor.  
 4 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. R. Kent.  
 5 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. G. Skene.  
 6 *Platoon Sergeant*—Sgt. A. Heffren.

## "C" COMPANY

Company Commander—Major M. A. C. Stephen.  
 Second-in-Command—Capt. D. H. W. Brown, M.C.  
 7 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. E. J. J. Walker.  
 8 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. J. R. W. Stansfeld.  
 9 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. B. G. Paton.  
 Company Sergeant-Major—C.S.M. F. Tayles.  
 Company Quartermaster-Sergeant—C./Sgt. W. Stewart.  
 7 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. G. Girling.  
 8 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. J. Munro.  
 9 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. V. Crittenden.

## "D" COMPANY

Company Commander—Capt. J. Neish.  
 Second-in-Command—Capt. J. T. D. Durbin.  
 10 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. I. R. McNeill.  
 11 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. A. J. Henderson.  
 12 Platoon Commander—2/Lieut. H. M. Bradshaw.  
 Company Sergeant-Major—C.S.M. J. Innes.  
 Company Quartermaster-Sergeant—C./Sgt. L. Dunn.  
 10 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. W. Freeman.  
 11 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. G. McAuley.  
 12 Platoon Sergeant—Sgt. I. Thatcher.

## SECRETS OF AN ORDERLY ROOM CLERK

Life for a clerk in the Orderly Room is not exciting, although perhaps it may be defined as vague and uncertain. The only things that can be relied on are the twice-daily mugs of tea and the permanent pleats in one's hindquarters collected from unbroken contact with the slatted peculiarities the Quartermaster is pleased to call chairs.

My day invariably starts, after the routine that is common to all private soldiers, with a half-hearted walk down the back stairs to the office. Once inside, my heart resting somewhere behind my chattering teeth, I force myself to look at my tray. Although, recently, it has never become laden with work, I can never forget the pre-Barry mountain of typing that gave my tray a permanently bent appearance.

Should there be two or three letters in my tray, I am happy. My expression brightens, and I get down to work. Should my tray, however, be empty then I become miserably dejected. Acquaintances in the sweating, toiling rifle companies fail to see this point of view, for what, they argue, could be better than no work at all. They have obviously never endeavoured to give an impression of a clerk working hard to an eagle-eyed O.R.Q.M.S. At times like this I find myself wondering how on earth there can be so little to one day, and so much the next.

To counteract this state of affairs I have a routine. I start to wander in and out of the dispatch office, replenishing my stock of typing paper and carbons. This task completed, I wander off to relieve a supposedly bursting bladder. On my return, should my tray still be empty, then I have to resort to the final step and ask my colleagues whether or not I can help them. One is bound to say yes, and at last I get down to tackling a job of sorts, whether it be helping the runner to count official-paid labels, or checking documents with the release clerk. The job, of course, is a long one, and by the time I have finished my conscience-enforced Good Samaritan act I find my tray groaning under the weight of half-an-hour's flood of work. That, brethren, is life.

Then, of course, there are the 'duty clerks'. These 24-hour spells come round once or twice a week, and involve either frantic periods of boredom with plenty of defaulters to clean the office out, or again hours of sweat and toil with, shall we say, the complete *Tiger and Sphinx* issue to type, and no defaulters to aid in the sweeping and dusting chores. The duty clerk, however, has the advantage of a slight change in routine—meals half-an-

hour earlier, to be devoured hot and in relative comfort—an immunity from such things as the morning vigil by the bedside whilst the platoon commander makes his fateful rounds, and he may—ssh! Not a word to the B.O.S.—brandish his fingers in the air at the 0600 hours piper and turn over for a further 15 minutes' sleep.

However, for all my uncertain life and pleated rump, I would not like to leave the typist's chair until I was either thrown out or demobbed, and can but advise every reader to take evening classes in 'pen pushing' and join the queue for an orderly room job and the thrill of typing the *Tiger and Sphinx*, an Op. Instruction, or similar nightmare; remembering first to take an advanced course in hieroglyphics.

## TRAINING FOR WAR, 1955

"A short piece, old man," they said, "about the training. Light but factual. You know the sort of thing. Like you used to do. Cover the essential points and all that."

"Certainly not more than two or three all-night sessions," they added as they laughingly went their way. "Do it on your head."

And that, dear registered reader, is exactly how it has been done. And now, even at the expense of your valued contribution, you are going to read all about it.

You will appreciate for a start, and whether you like it or not, that our main concern on returning from the Malayan Jungles was to retrain ourselves with all despatch for war in European conditions.

By November last we had made considerable headway. We had accustomed ourselves to the change from palatial bivouac and basha to the sanitary reality of several hundred acres of glazed tiles and open archways. We had even got used to the anomaly that at the entrance to this Arabian Nights convenience there still appeared, above the full length mirror, the usual slogan about being a credit to one's regiment—instead of the more appropriate injunction "Kindly adjust your dress before leaving".

We were adept at carrying coal to Edinburgh Castle and domestic utensils to foreign families in the remote purlieus of Portobello. We guarded Headquarters Scottish Command and other places of historic and sentimental interest. With great skill we rebuilt firing points facing due south on gale swept shoulders of the Pentlands, marvelling in the while at the foresight which ensured that a purblind Albino should have as good a chance of classifying as the next man.

We were, in short, able hewers of wood and drawers of water and learnt to feed and accommodate in our well ventilated establishment unspecified numbers of troops of all services and nationalities at no notice whatsoever for indefinite periods or longer.

But this was not enough. Despite the strenuous opposition of the authorities, who feared that we might be overtraining with consequent dire effects on their fuel and ration deliveries, we began to attempt tactical work *out of doors*.

This took the form of inter-platoon field efficiency tests involving a series of 30 hour two-sided exercises. Since they were conducted in the milder weather towards the end of the year, they proved of considerable value, as all those who quite shortly recovered from snow blindness and pneumonia enthusiastically agreed.

Spurred by this success, we mooted the idea of something more comprehensive on the same lines. The authorities, now thoroughly alarmed, sought to divert us with administrative inspections, blanket shaking competitions and canned ration convoys to Corstorphine. Under pressure, however, they finally agreed that the Battalion might go to Stobs for a month in April.

Filled with simple zeal we began to prepare. But we had sadly underestimated the cunning of our opponents. The steady flow of memoranda demanding our requirements for ammunition of all natures in quintuplicate by the day before yesterday rapidly became a flood. Then, without warning came the announcement, blandly regretful, that it had been discovered that no NOISE of any sort could be permitted at Stobs. The yowes, it appeared, had a prior claim to the area and might be disturbed on the knowes in the process of justifying the joint efforts of the local rams and the Minister of Agriculture.

Even when thus faced with the prospect of carrying out battalion training in dumb charades and Braille, we were not to be outdone. We had learned about delivering rations. Somehow we must, *inter alia*, learn to eat them *alfresco*. "We must be able to fight and whilst so doing maintain ourselves", we said to the Staff, after brushing up a few of the old College quotations. "We must peer at your pipeline from the business end", we added to an unaccountably embarrassed Quartermaster.

Unable to understand the weight of such learned arguments they offered us three-and-a-half weeks on Barry Sands in lieu. This was accepted.

Whilst the give and take of memoranda and indents was once more getting under way, two "framework" exercises were carried out in one of the less violent blizzards of early spring in the Pentlands. They were designed to refresh and test us in Battle Procedure and despite the weather we succeeded in refuting the statement, proverbially addressed by the skeleton to the Eno's bottle. "You'll get nothing out of me". On the contrary. "Great value was derived and many useful lessons learned", according to a slightly delerious military spokesman in Cowglen Hospital - Ward 3.

Thus primed, we arrived at Barry in early April at nearly 60% of our Lower Fatigue Establishment, leaving behind only essential administrative members and key personnel such as pipers and musicians. Pardon us the pun and distinction, neither of which were intended.

The Barry Area of some 5,000 by 3,000 yards was divided into five allotments to which companies fell heir in daily rotation. The sequence of training was to be ten days section and platoon, a week's company and finally five days, crowded in every sense, Battalion exercises. Of these latter the last was to be set and run by 52nd Lowland Division.

"So much to do, so little time to do it", as the late Tommy Handley once described his feelings after mashed peas. This was the first opportunity for over four years that the Battalion had had of doing any training in other than jungle or Colinton conditions. It was probably the last it would have before once more departing to an overseas station where none of it would be applicable. In the circumstances, three weeks was none too long a time, as even we admitted.

Ignoring, nevertheless, the raised eyebrow, the shrugged shoulder, the curled nostril and pitying smile which our boyish enthusiasm provoked, we set about our programme. The Staff were most helpful, albeit with that air of determined benevolence usually reserved for possibly dangerous lunatics. They provided us, *inter alia*, with five thousand sandbags and extra ammunition and plastic explosive in the politely concealed hope that we would put our heads in the former and blow ourselves up with the latter. They even provided double-tiered bunks in case we should ever come in at night.

The zest with which the training was undertaken was both remarkable and alarming. As witness the Korean veterans, who, after the first sub-unit night operations in "C" Company, expressed the opinion that a couple of years in a Chinese prison camp would be better than capture and interrogation by 8 Platoon. It appeared that

a broken nose or midnight immersion in a frozen pond were some of the milder inducements to reveal the dispositions of the remainder of the Company.

Most sub-units could not be persuaded to commit less than two 24-hour exercises a week. In consequence of which, and of the able assistance of our friends from 117 Field Engineer Regiment in simulating D.F. fire by night, there was no sleep for anyone in the rest of Angus either. Added to this were the banshee howls of agony as the Second-in-Command ran madly from point to point round the training area trying vainly to prevent his painfully acquired stock of Verey lights from making a Brock's Benefit of the entire coast from Carnoustie to Monifieth.

Small wonder, too, that the representative of the Air Officer, Scotland should be testily enquiring at 2 a.m. as to why he had not been informed that "very heavy" artillery fire was taking place by night on Barry Ranges and considerably endangering the safety of his jets homeward bound over the coast at only 3,000 feet.

Space and security restrict the detail, dear reader late registered, into which we may go. "You will wish to be made aware, however", as we in the War Office used to say when about to impart to a superior some particularly unwelcome bit of information, that this was by no means all. Not only was the initial programme almost entirely completed and each phase of war studied and practised at both sub-unit and unit level, but between day training, evening lectures and night training, other novelties and aperitifs were introduced.

We flew, for instance, in Auster aircraft and studied, from every aspect, including through the bottoms of burst brown paper bags, our efforts at concealment on the ground. Atomic shelters were dug with varying degrees of success in unsuitable soil and were rapidly filled with either shifting sand or inverted sheep. For the benefit prematurely of the Press and subsequently of the G.O.C.-in-C., we gave live firing demonstrations with our novelty anti-tank piece. The operators of this contraption are recognizable in photographs by their preference for wearing their steel helmets back to front as mark of their acquaintance with the characteristics of the weapon.

Furthermore, we succeeded in carrying out a first run through for 1955/56 of all available personnel in two days of continuous sound and fury. In the course of this exercise we again proved, at least to our own satisfaction, that a year of coal fatigues and guards is not altogether the best preliminary training for musketry classification.

A few words, as if there hadn't already been enough, about our final Battalion Exercise. This was perhaps the most successful and valuable climax to our training that could have been desired. It was certainly, in the experience of many, one of the best umpired and organized in which they had participated. Lightless convoys motored madly through the night; aircraft of all denominations made life intolerable and somewhat uncertain for miles around; a very active and very well organized enemy, provided by the Black Watch, did a first-class job despite the depredations of our Messing Officer's seaborne raiding party in a providentially captured DUKW; in fact, and almost entirely without consideration of the writer's future career, we are all considerably indebted to the Staffs of the Lowland and Highland Divisions for an excellent test of our hard won experience.

Here, if ever, was an occasion when, indeed, many valuable lessons... etc. Let us both, dear reader, derive great benefit. It is now 2 a.m.

SUNRAY SINISTER.

## FIRE IN BARRACKS

(A Conversation Piece)

One April morning in the year of our Lord 1955, at a particularly unchristian time of the said morning, an Adjutant was sleeping peacefully.

Eventually he became aware of a polite but firm shaking motion, and, opening one eye with extreme difficulty observed the apologetic form of one Private Harper.

"Excuse me, sir," said Harper, "but the Second-in-Command has called. He has come to tell you that the Barracks are on fire, sir."

"... and it's far too early in the morning for the Barracks to catch fire", said the Adjutant, after the retreating form of his batman.

However, hospitality to visitors is of paramount importance to a British household, so, brushing his hair and wrapping a dressing gown about his person, our Adjutant descended the stairs.

In the hall (the dignity of the title belies its dimensions), razor poised hard by a bristly jaw, and regarding the mirror with an expression of mingled awe and apprehension, stood a figure resplendent in a gown of many colours.

The Adjutant put on his dark glasses.

"The Quartermaster has given you a much better mirror than mine," said the Second-in-Command, "do you mind if I finish my shaving here?"

"Not at all", said the Adjutant. "Have a gin."

"By the way", said the Second-in-Command, "the barracks appear to be on fire."

"Really," said the Adjutant, "I suppose one should go and look at it."

"Bloody awful razor blades, these", said the Second-in-Command. "Must send for the N.A.A.F.I. Manager."

As consciousness slowly overcame the Adjutant, so the weight of his military responsibility descended on his shoulders. Proceeding to a window, he observed a thick pall of smoke rising from the M.T. garages.

"Looks like the M.T.'s gone up", said the Adjutant. "That will muck up the tac move to Barry."

"Would you like a cup of tea, sir" said Harper.

Attiring himself suitably for the fray, and with all speed, the Adjutant proceeded to his car, leaving the Second-in-Command regarding the mirror with an expression bordering on horror.

Entering the barrack gate, he addressed the sentry in commanding tones: "Where's the fire, sentry."

"Umph wumph jugh gonk", said the sentry.

"Take off that confounded gas mask," said the Adjutant.

"Gas alarm's gone," said the sentry, replacing his gas mask hurriedly at the appearance of the Provost Sergeant at the other end of the square.

Breaking the speed limit with smug pleasure, the Adjutant departed for the M.T. lines. There he beheld, under a diminishing column of smoke, one of Her Majesty's motor cycles WD, watching the last tyre burn itself out, stood the Master Tailor and a Cook.

"M.T.O.'s gone up, surr," said the Master Tailor.

"Well, rest on your arms reversed," said the Adjutant.

"Gone up to the Mess, surr," explained the cook.

"No water there," said the Adjutant, mindful even at that hour of Regimental tradition.

"To get Mr. Humph the Fire Officer," added the cook.

"What for?" said the Adjutant.

"To sound the Gas Clear," contributed the tailor.

NOTE.—The Commanding Officer, when asked if this regrettable incident could be brought to light by inclusion in the Regimental magazine was heard to say that he was happy to hear of the example set by his Second-in-Command in waking up the more junior officers in the Married Quarters, a routine he could only imagine

pertained with regularity. As for a FIRE, well, after all we had not had one since we returned from Malaya and it was a good thing it happened when it did, for with all the able-bodied members of the Battalion being snatched for Camps and fatigues it will shortly only be possible for us to call on a party of Tattoo ZULUS to put out the Gas or practise the Fire, until everybody unmistakably recognises the Alarm and then there can really be a Gas—correction, Fire.

## "A" COMPANY

As predicted in our last notes, we carried out all our engagements with the exception of Dundonald Camp which fell through at the last minute much to the disappointment of certain high ranking soldiers. The main body of the Company is now well installed at Stobs Camp whilst the less fortunate continue to soldier on in Redford Barracks. Looking at Stobs Camp one can realise how fortunate the Battalion was in carrying out its training at Barry. The terrain is very pleasant on the eye but we doubt that it would have the same effect on the human frame. The weather man has looked on us with a kindly eye so far and many varied sports have been seen in progress. Certain members of the staff have been keeping their eye in with firearms although rumour has it that a certain senior N.C.O. had to beat a hasty retreat with the Game Warden in full pursuit. Quite a few members of the Company are carrying out duties which they had never done before. To mention a few: L./Cpl. Alexander is the Post Cpl. His motto seems to be "The mail must get through." After the vehicle in which he was travelling crashed through a bridge outside Hawick he was seen to climb through the top with his mail still intact. When asked to explain his lucky escape he said: "Ah, well, I just curled up in a ba' and hoped for the best." Sgt. Gammie has been handed the task of Camp C.Q.M.S. This has been noted by all ranks, who now proceed to the Store with utmost caution. Cpl. Smith of the A.C.C. is once more in charge of our diets and all ranks seem to be benefiting from it. In the Camp offices everything seems to be going with a swing and Lieut.-Colonel Elsmie has a very contented look as he practises his favourite cricket strokes in the corridor. R.S.M. MacKay still seems to favour football to cricket and quite often he can be seen playing the same behind the Sergeants' Mess in the evenings. Sgt. Dow says that the R.S.M. is always fouling. This seems rather exaggerated although it must be admitted that he puts an awful lot of weight into his tackle. Capt. Neish, the Camp Adjutant, has got over his disappointment with regard to Dundonald Camp and seems quite content to take a run into Hawick now and then, much to the benefit of any Jock who might be walking the road.

At the moment we are entertaining 152nd Highland Brigade which includes the 5th/6th Gordons. No doubt, during the course of their stay many jungle stories will be told much to the annoyance of those not too well acquainted with the land of the rubber trees. It seems a great pity that there are no shops in Hawick which sell curry and rice. This would have given just the right atmosphere but as it is we will just have to use our imaginations over a plate of fish and chips.

The following staff positions at Stobs are filled by Gordon Highlanders:—

*Camp Commandant*—Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Elsmie.

*Camp Adjutant*—Capt. J. Neish.

*Camp R.S.M.*—R.S.M. G. MacKay.

*P.R.I.*—Lieut. D. C. K. Brown.

*Imprest Holder*—Lieut. M. M. Cruickshank.

*Farm Liaison Officer*—2/Lieut. W. Anderson.

*Camp R.Q.M.S.*—C./Sgt. Murray.

*Camp C.Q.M.S.*—Sgt. Gammie.

*Sergeants' Mess Caterer*—Sgt. Bird.  
*Chief Clerk*—Sgt. Williams.  
*Ration Cpl.*—Cpl. Wright.  
*Post Corporal*—L./Cpl. Alexander.  
*Officers' Mess Caterer*—L./Cpl. Milne.  
*Unit Pay N.C.O.*—L./Cpl. Simpson.

### "B" COMPANY

Since our last notes, we of "B" Company have lived a very varied existence. From the energetic period at Barry we have returned to the more static life of Redford. The main topic to report on during the last quarter must be the winning of the Champion Company Competition. Unfortunately, since the commencement of the competition there has been an almost complete turnover of personnel, and consequently there are few now left who were with us during the highlights of the earlier days. Nevertheless we feel we must thank all old members of the Company, wherever they are, for the part they played in helping us to win the competition. In addition we must also thank the team captains who put in such a lot of hard work training us for the various events. At the time of writing we are all looking forward to celebrating in "real style" in the near future.

During the month of April we spent a most energetic and instructive time training at Barry. With the many demonstrations we watched, and the numerous exercises in which we took part, we all feel that we gained a great deal from our spell away from Redford. Since our return we have provided a large number of personnel for the Ceremonial duties in Edinburgh including a complete "Queen's Guard" for duty at the Palace of Holyrood House. The call for athletes for the Battalion team has also kept a number of the Company hard at work "burning up the track" each afternoon. Finally, we must not forget the many weary days spent rebuilding Dregghorn ranges in order that we may all classify as "marksman" when we next proceed to the range!!

We are now hard at work preparing for our summer duties with T.A. and C.C.F. Camps. Already a number of personnel have left us for duty with the Camp Staffs at Dallachy and Stobs. Now the remainder of the Company are preparing for our departure to Buddon Camp

to act as permanent Staff for the Combined Cadet Force Camp. Many N.C.Os. and men have for some time now been understudying employments within the Battalion. We understand that in a lot of cases they had no idea that such employments existed!! We are all looking forward to our return to the Barry/Buddon Area, and only hope that the "weatherman" will be as kind to us during the summer as he was when we were there in April.

As usual in these changing days we have said many farewells to those who have left us to try their hand in civilian life and other employments in the Army. During May we lost our Company Commander, Major C. N. Barker, M.C., who departed to join the "chairborne Army" of Scottish Command within Edinburgh Castle. We understand that he has been quickly converted to being "Airborne", having found that organising the Tattoo for Copenhagen entails many flights to that "Fair City". We cannot pass on without thanking him for all his help and encouragement which in no small part helped us to finish as Champion Company. Even though he has now left us we are glad that he will be remaining in Edinburgh and will therefore be visiting us on occasions. In his place we welcome Capt. M. H. Burge. To H.Q. Company we have lost 2/Lieut. N. H. Cantlie and 2/Lieut. I. G. Saltmarsh, while in their place we welcome Lieut. J. A. Clarkson who has returned to the Battalion from the land of Mau Mau. During May we received a draft from the Regimental Depot and later a number of "young" Camerons. We trust that they will settle down and enjoy life with us.

### 4 PLATOON

Although personnel keep leaving us for civilian life and other parts unknown, we have managed to remain strong in numbers due to the constant drafts from the Regimental Depot and other units. We are looking forward to the day when the Platoon Sergeant will be able to remember every one's name!! Lately, because of the many fatigues and Regimental duties we have been called upon to perform, we have been unable to get together as a platoon for training. After our energetic month at Barry we just can't wait to teach our new members the mysteries of section and platoon attacks.

It is with regret that we said farewell to 2/Lieut. N. H. Cantlie on his move to H.Q. Company as Messing Officer. We rest assured, however, that those fish cakes will be evenly spaced out and dressed by the right in future. In his place we welcome Lieut. J. A. Clarkson and trust his stay will be a long and happy one. We cannot finish without reporting that Pte. Collinson has sealed his doom by getting married. We offer to him and his wife all our best wishes for their future happiness.

### 5 PLATOON

During the past quarter there has been only one all too short period available for really constructive platoon training. This, needless to say, took place in April during our visit to Barry. There, together with the remainder of the Company, we took part in really serious training,



[Photo: Wilson Groat, Edinburgh]

### 1st BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM, 1954-55

*Standing (left to right)*—2/Lieut. M. A. Avery, L./Cpl. Thouless, Pte. Currie, Pte. Reid, Pte. Kerr, Pte. Rodgers, C.S.M. G. MacKay.  
*Sitting (left to right)*—Pte. Boyd, Pte. Pirie, Cpl. Crawford, Lieut.-Colonel J. E. G. Hay, D.S.O., Cpl. Reynolds, Pte. Craib, L./Cpl. MacDuff.

and as often happens when we are busy we found time to sit down and have a good laugh at our neighbours. Most of all, perhaps, we enjoyed watching 6 Platoon fleeing before our hail of mortar smoke bombs, and incidentally became quite adept at dodging them ourselves. This, together with many other incidents, contributed to the general enjoyment of our stay at Barry. It is indeed unfortunate that we have been unable to follow up the good work which was carried out there.

Again we have lost many familiar faces from the Platoon due to the call of other duties and the thought of civilian life. We are always sorry to see them go but on the other hand are also pleased to welcome the new arrivals who so ably take their places.

### 6 PLATOON

We would appear to spend a great deal of space in each issue of the *Tiger and Sphinx* welcoming and saying farewell to Platoon Commanders. This issue is no exception for we have now lost 2/Lieut. I. G. Saltmarsh to H.Q. Company. At the time of writing we are in the capable hands of 2/Lieut. B. G. Paton who has attached himself to us for the summer months from "C" Company.

During the last quarter the main event in life with the Platoon has been the Battalion Camp at Barry. This was a great success and the Platoon did extremely well in all the exercises in which it took part. We have a feeling that the majority of the members of the Platoon would have liked to stay there for the whole summer (can it be that the "talent" of Carnoustie was the attraction!). Anyway, we are now looking forward to returning to that area for the C.C.F. Camp at Buddon.

Since our return to Redford we have produced a number of men for Ceremonial duties and in addition our N.C.Os. have been understudying their various employments for Camp. On the sporting side we must congratulate Ptes. Thomson 88 and Kerr 49 who played a large part in the winning of the Champion Company Football Competition.

We congratulate Sgt. Heffren on his promotion to that rank and also L./Cpl. Douglas on attaining the "first rung" of the ladder. The latter, we understand, has now managed to have a pair of spats made to fit him, so he has one less worry in life.

Our ex-Camerons are now departing rapidly. We thank them for the work they have done for the Platoon during their brief stay. In their place we have welcomed Ptes. Danile, Duncan, Sharp, Marr, Muir, Stuart 67, and McLean from the Regimental Depot and feel sure that they will carry on the good work.

### "C" COMPANY

We concluded our last literary effort with Cpl. Forbes up to his knees in water in his "atomic" pit and 8 Platoon attached "C" (bed down) suffering from acute housemaid's knee. The "immaculate seven" were not quite



**"C" COMPANY, 1st BATTALION THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS**  
**Winners Inter-Company Tug-of-War Shield, May, 1955**

*Back Row (left to right)*—Pte. McLaughlin, Pte. Joyce, Pte. Reid 41, Pte. Simpson 10, Pte. Marnoch, Pte. Black.

*Front Row (left to right)*—Cpl. Robertson, Major Mac. Stephen, C.S.M. F. Tayles, Pte. O'Connor.  
 (Company Commander) (Coach)

so immaculate as usual, and 9 Platoon were "in reserve".

The Company moved to Barry on 1st April as the Battalion advance party thereby avoiding a tactical move by road and a rather cramped move by rail. A month's hard training was put in at Barry and we were greatly assisted in this by the kind weather and the feats of Napoleon, Soult and Ney, although Mr. Clausewitz must have turned over a few times in silent protest.

Three years in Malaya followed by a year rusticated in Edinburgh had robbed us of such knowledge of waging a European war as any of us had ever possessed. We benefited by this month's training in that we left Barry with the knowledge that we had learned a lot and that with a little more training we would be capable of doing even better.

One stalwart member of the Sergeants' Mess (not of call sign three) came near to breaking the very fine tradition that its members all die with their boots on (nuff said)!

On our return to Redford most of the Company went off on leave and preparations were made for our move to Fort George where we are providing the permanent Staff for the C.C.F. Annual Camp. It is from Fort George that we now write, where we are busily engaged in preparing the Camp for habitation. In this task we have been greatly assisted by the Depot Staff of the Seaforth Highlanders. The N.A.A.F.I. staff look forward with great "interest" to our first pay night together with our hosts.

C.S.M. Tayles moves around with his customary grandeur but with both forearms heavily bandaged with the local rank of R.S.M. The Company Commander is bent with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel but without the

means to increase his ration of juniper to that consistent with the rank. His predecessor is better placed in that respect.

We end our contribution here by wishing farewell to the leader of the "immaculate seven", 2/Lieut. E. J. J. Walker, and bidding welcome to his successor. 2/Lieut. Wallis.

#### 7 PLATOON

Since the pen was last put to paper we have been kept fairly busy. First we had Barry. There we got down to some serious training but the time was not entirely without light relief—ask L./Cpl. Philp; he had a ducking as a repayment for a little third degree. Two other N.C.Os. in the Platoon also distinguished themselves during this time, the one with his leg permanent C.O.S., the other with his foot permanent B.O.S. They were, I believe, according to the text-books L.O.B. Sgt. Girling, after a spell in "dock" rejoined us in Edinburgh where the Battalion Sports were approaching and leave passes were at stake. In tug-of-war we consider ourselves outstanding, providing six of the victorious Company team: Cpl. Robertson, Ptes. McLaughlin, Joyce, Reid 41, Simpson, and O'Connor. Well done.

Training for our summer stay at "The Fort" is now almost completed, and we have seen the rough edges being smoothed off our D.R.Os. in order to produce "mess waiters". In addition to this a few bogus promotions will lend temporary glamour to the Company.

In a short time now we shall say *Auf Wiedersehen* to our Platoon Commander. To him we all say good luck in Civvy Street, perhaps we shall see him again (I doubt it), who knows? Also Ptes. Reid and Robb have left us already, best wishes for the future to these two also. Having completed the debit side, we now come on to the credit. We welcome four new members to the Platoon. Ptes. Shinnie, Smith, Wilson, and Lawrence no stranger 54. Where's all that money?

Pte. Smith at the time of writing is still in hospital, it seems he got hungry one evening and ate a couple of needles—who said there was no point in that!

That's the lot for now, anyway, and to those readers who have now left us you may rest assured that you are not forgotten—"immaculate seven".

#### 8 PLATOON

During the quarter Ptes. Gavin, Kelly and Rennison have returned to civilian life and we wish them most sincerely the very best of luck. Ptes. Grant 47 and Morrison 34 have joined the Platoon from the Depot, and the former has gained an early success by becoming a marksman at his first attempt at classification. Ptes. Simpson 37 and Armstrong have arrived from the Depot of the Cameron Highlanders and we wish all four newcomers a long and happy soourn in the Platoon. Cpl. Simpson has also returned to us from his job in the Officers' Mess.

The first part of the quarter was spent in Camp at Barry; here the Platoon grew heartily sick of the sight of sand and made vast inroads into the rabbit population which was stricken with myxomatosis. The casualties suffered by the rabbits were almost equalled by our opponents in 9 Platoon, "D" Company and the Fantasians in successive weeks thereafter. However, our only serious casualty was one section commander who fell into enemy hands while on cloak and dagger exercises every time that the occasion offered and spent several cold nights as a prisoner in the enemy camp.

After a strenuous but enjoyable month we returned to the gay lights and our girls in the city. A Company athletics team was trained and after the Battalion Sports most of us went on leave, in preparation for the wilds of

Fort George, where we are to look after cadets and soldiers of the future.

#### 9 PLATOON

Since the last notes were submitted to the Editor, much has taken place in the Platoon. After a hard month's training at Barry Camp in April we returned to Edinburgh when most of the Platoon went on leave.

Several new faces are to be seen in the Platoon from the Regimental Depot:—

Ptes. Neilly, Mennie, Scott 70, Symon, and

Ptes. Govan and Turnbull from Depot Camerons.

In the departure side we have said good-bye to L./Cpl. Caven, Ptes. Small and Morrison 10 on their return to an ordered and civilian life; Pte. Wright and Dickson who have been posted outside the Battalion, and Pte. Wheeler who has joined the Q.M. staff.

The more distant future is very hazy but for the remainder of the summer, and what a summer it is, most of us will soon be further north, helping in the training of the future Army. A great deal more about this, however, when we return.

In closing we welcome all newcomers and hope their stay will be long and to those who have left we wish "all the best" in the future.

#### "D" COMPANY

In April the Company spent a profitable month at Barry Camp. Having started with individual training, we finished with a Battalion Exercise which was set by H.Q. Lowland District. "D" Company were congratulated on their performance during the final phase of the scheme. 12 Platoon also received a mention from Brigadier Richardson—Chief Umpire.

Since we returned from Camp the Company has disintegrated into Territorial Summer Camp staffs and a Ceremonial party. The Company has now been renamed "D" (Holding) under Capt. J. T. D. Durbin, with Lieut. R. D. L. Smart as second-in-command, and is composed of the rear parties of all other companies who are employed entirely on either Ceremonial duties or Regimentally employed.

The following have joined the Company during the quarter:—

2/Lieut. A. J. Henderson, from Eaton Hall Offr. Cdt. Sch.

Pte. Turnbull 16, from M.T. Section.

Pte. McCourt, from Depot Gordons.

Pte. Petrie " " "

Pte. Forsyth " " "

Pte. Shields " " "

Pte. Smart " " "

Pte. Morrison " " "

Pte. Gilmore, from Army Apprentice School, Harrogate.

Pte. Hay 71, from Clothing Depot, Gillingham.

Pte. Day, from 1st Camerons.

Pte. Armstrong, from 1st Camerons.

Pte. Sharp, from Signal Platoon.

Pte. Hanson, from Eaton Hall Offr. Cdt. Sch., P. Staff.

The following have left the Company during the last quarter:—

Cpl. Simpson, to Ration Stores.

Pte. Simpson, to Paratroop Regiment.

Pte. McEwen, to Army Apprentice School.

Pte. Alexander, Release.

Pte. Thomson " "

Pte. Ikin " "

Pte. Moir " "

L./Cpl. Gall " "

Pte. Meldrum, to Depot Gordons.

Pte. Pooley, Release.

Pte. Ayrton, to Eaton Hall Offr. Cdt. School, Batman.

The following attended courses in the Company:—

Pte. Morton 90 attended a Projectionist course at Perth.

The following are now classified as Marksmen:—  
Sgt. Freeman classified as marksman on the Bren gun.  
L./Cpls. Wisdom and Turnbull and Pte. Falconer 97,  
marksmen in the rifle.

The following Promotions took place in the Company:—

Pte. Morton 56 promoted L./Cpl.

Ptes. Donald, Kerr, Chester, and Breaks to L./Cpl.

A weapon training Cadre was held for three days in May in which Cpls. Gordon and Wilson and L./Cpls. Brown and Taylor (of "A" and Support Company respectively) were the representatives.

Sgts. Wilkie and Thatcher, Cpl. Gordon, L./Cpls. Turnbull, Wisdom, Danald, and Chester, Ptes. Park and Falconer 54 are representatives of the Company in the Battalion Shooting Team.

The following personnel represented the Battalion at the Scottish Command Sports Meeting:—

Capt. C. M. Wolfe Murray.

2/Lieut. I. R. McNeil.

Ptes. Day, MacPherson 52, and Russell.

In the Scottish Command Individuals the following were placed:—

120 yds. (Hurdles) 1st—2/Lieut. I. R. McNeil, 3rd—Lieut. R. D. L. Smart, "D" (Holding).

100 yds. 3rd—2/Lieut. Stansfeld, "D" (Holding).

Pole Vault 3rd—Pte. Welling, "D" (Holding).

Hammer 3rd—Pte. McDonald 82, "D" (Holding).

The Battalion, in its commitments this quarter, had the honour of providing two Guards of Honour, a substantial number of which came from "D" (Holding) Company.

The first was mounted for the installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle and the Ceremony of the Keys.

As this is being written the second Guard is in the process of welcoming the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to the Capital of Scotland.

Other duties of "D" (Holding) have included twenty men under 2/Lieut. McNeil on Strike duties which included taking convoys of military personnel to and from Newcastle, interdispersed with days of loitering at either end.

#### SUPPORT COMPANY

At the time of writing the Company is split. Company H.Q. and some forty men are up at Dallachy Camp as

the permanent Staff for the Territorial Army Camp which continues from June to September. The rest of the Company have remained at Redford, some to do Ceremonial duties and some to assist at other T.A. Camps.

April was the month of the Battalion Camp at Barry. During the four weeks of almost perfect weather much training was done. All Platoons took part in a fire-power demonstration, which was concluded by a most successful demonstration shoot of the 120 mm. B.A.T. This was the first time the majority of the Battalion had seen the B.A.T. fire. From an excellently camouflaged gun pit, the gun, without previous zeroing, hit the target with its second shot.

During the week of Battalion training much was learned by all the Platoons and now we can feel that Support Company has reached a satisfactory level of training.

The hard work and previous training of all four Platoons gained them third place in the Battalion inter-Platoon Field Efficiency tests. If we had hoped to gain first place our failure to do so this year will be made good in the coming year.

In spite of having to provide two teams for the Inter-Company football, we reached the final, not without difficulty as H.Q. Company had to be played three times in the semi-final, each game going extra time. In the final a tired team was fairly beaten by "B" Company.

In both athletics and cross-country running convincing victories were achieved. So, with two Cups and a gallant future in the football Cup the Company has much to be proud of in sports.

At Dallachy Camp, on a tumbledown former airfield, there is plenty of fresh air and hard work. The weather has been good with an occasional gale which blows down the tents as fast as they are put up.

#### SIGNAL PLATOON

The first month of this quarter proved to be the busiest for this Platoon since our return from Malaya. We trained hard at Barry, with the line and wireless sections in active competition for the highest honours. The final week of Battalion exercises was the culmination of three weeks' practical training and we make no secret of the fact that, like the Windmill Theatre, "We never closed down" (well, hardly ever). Pandemonium was saved on more than one occasion by the silken tones of the control operators telling irate and blaspheming SUNRAYS to "wait out". And on one particular night exercise a



[Photo: Courtesy "The Scotsman"]

DEMONSTRATION OF 120mm B.A.T. AT BARRY

Company Commander was even told in the most diplomatic manner not to use "jargon on the air". A masterpiece of understatement considering the sulphurous, ear-blistering abuse that was tormenting the ether at the time. It must be mentioned that as we were without divine leadership at Camp it was left to the Signal Platoon to set the standard for Christian brotherhood.

On return to Redford we found ourselves split up with the remainder of the Battalion. Ptes. Gill, Nicol and Craig are manning the telephone exchange at Dallachy, whilst Ptes. Weston, Paton, Stuart and Bell are doing the same task at Stobs. Meanwhile, we keep our own exchange in operation at Redford. After a considerable wait and patient entreaty the G.P.O. have at last installed a new exchange for us, which works! They finally broke down and gave us the new one when it was found that a nest of mice living in the equipment had eaten the insulation off the wires. They were also inclined to disturb the sleep of the duty night operator, a factor that finally sealed their death warrant.

Early in July we expect a large draft from the Depot to join our depleted ranks. Among those who have left are Ptes. Welsh, Brimer, Savage, Leadbetter and Donaldson on their return to civilian life. Meanwhile, the remainder of the Platoon are kept busy on Ceremonial parades. Congratulations to L./Cpls. Farquhar, Reid, Taylor, Chester and Donald on their promotion. To L./Cpls. Chester, Donald and Pte. Nicol on becoming marksmen, and to Pte. Welling whose skill at pole vaulting earned him a place in the Battalion Athletic team.

#### MORTAR PLATOON

The 3 in. Mortar Platoon spent April at Barry doing Platoon and Battalion training. In the absence of the Platoon Commander at the School of Infantry, the Platoon was commanded by Sgt. Forsyth. The Platoon played its part in the Battalion demonstration of firepower, putting down an effective weight of fire in a most effective style.

Congratulations to Lieut. Murison on obtaining an above-average grading on his course, the fourth "B" the Mortar Platoon has had in succession from Netheravon.

The majority of the Platoon are now at Dallachy, where Support Company are now the permanent staff of a T.A. Camp for the summer. The Platoon Commander is M.T.O. of a R.A.S.C. section of drivers and Officer-in-Charge of a Vehicle Pool with R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. detachments. Cpl. Crawford and eleven of the Platoon are part of the Vehicle Pool Guard, and have been kept busy preparing the Camp for the arrival of the T.A. Units. L./Cpls. Thouless and Kerr are hard worked members of the Quartermaster's staff. At Fort George, Sgt. Forsyth is now R.Q.M.S. with the permanent staff. Cpl. Higgins and two others are members of the Queen's Guard at Holyrood Palace.

Downie's win in the three-mile race of the Battalion Sports has been the highlight of sport in the Platoon. Congratulations to L./Cpl. Thouless on his promotion, and to Ross 18 on his marriage. We wish luck to Cpl. Duguid, Cpl. Leaper, Ptes. Cooney, G. S. M. Duguid 44, Edwards, Harrison, Ritchie, and Rutherford who have returned to civilian life. At the end of the summer, when the tubes 3 in. come out of mothballs, a new Platoon and cadre of N.C.Os. will have to be built up.

#### M.M.G. PLATOON

There have been many activities worthy of mention in the past three months and it is no longer necessary to pick our note material from the humdrum routine of barrack life.

In April we set off with the remainder of the Battalion to spend four weeks at Barry/Buddon near Carnoustie.

The first week was spent brushing up our section and noting carefully the lie of the land for future exercises. The improvement in the standard of training at the end of the week was most noticeable and it was most encouraging to witness the keen competition developing between the sections.

The second week was devoted to Platoon training, and exercises were held on Advance to contact, Attack, Defence, and Withdrawal. The week ended most fittingly with our participation in the Inter-Platoon Battle Efficiency Tests. The exercise was based on defence and we were given from 1600 hrs. on Friday afternoon until 0800 hrs. on the Saturday morning in which to "dig in". The Platoon worked exceedingly hard and in the morning two most excellent gun positions and an O.P. were manned and ready to repel any attack. Platoon Headquarters had also a hard night's work digging in the administration vehicles and preparing for local defence. When the Commanding Officer inspected the position, we were most grateful to be told that we had done a good piece of work. We are sorry to say that despite all our efforts, Sp Company did not manage to get first place in this particular competition, but we take heart from the knowledge that the Machine Gun Platoon scored most points for the Company and shared the honours for the first place in the Battalion.

Immediately after our "night out" we gave a demonstration of fire power to the Battalion. The demonstration showed a section of guns coming into action and engaging sets of falling plates at 600 yards. Good strike was seen and the targets and the demonstration was an unqualified success.

The third week of training saw the two sections being formed out of the rifle companies who were doing company training. It was a most interesting week and many valuable lessons were learned.

Our last week at Camp, and the most interesting, was fittingly taken up by participation in Battalion exercises. The week ended with "Exercise Repulse" which was set by Lowland District and dealt with attack. The Platoon received a great deal of praise from the D.S., and on leaving Barry our morale was of the highest order. On arriving again at Redford a hectic few days of administrative reorganisation followed. The majority of the Platoon were selected to go to Dallachy and administer it for the T.A. Annual Camps. After a most welcome spell of leave the Platoon left for Dallachy on 20th May, leaving behind a most disconsolate Platoon Commander.

Sgt. McDonald returned from his course at Netheravon at the end of March and it is with great pleasure that we congratulate him on being graded above average.

Congratulations are also due to Sgt. Kerr who is now the father of a second child. The happy event took place with the arrival of a daughter, Deborah.

In the marriage line we must congratulate Pte. Connelly on his marriage on 11th February. The Platoon wish the newly-weds all happiness in the years that lie ahead.

There have not been many opportunities to indulge in sport in the period under review. We are glad, however, to report that we provided a fair number of the Sp Company team which won the Battalion Athletics meeting by a most substantial margin. Lieut. Smart and Pte. Pooley both represented the Battalion in the Scottish Command Games and are now in training for the individual championship.

We welcome to the Platoon Ptes. Whyte, Nicol and Dargie, the second named was unfortunately unable to remain with us due to ill health. We wish him a speedy recovery. Others who have left us are Ptes. Stirling, Slessor, McKell, McFarlane, Walker, Duncan, and

Willox. We are sorry to see them go and sincerely hope that they repent and come back to the fold but for the meantime good luck to you all.

### ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Since the last issue of the *Tiger and Sphinx* we have been pretty active. The culmination of all our training came when we went to Barry Camp to put into practice all that we had learned on the theoretical side; and we derived great benefit from the chances to handle and fire the B.A.T. under field conditions.

We soon found that all was not quite as easy as we had hoped, principally because of the back-blast, which made siting and concealment difficult. Nevertheless, we found answers to one or two of the problems that confronted us, although several more, among them the vulnerability of the crew from the rear, remained temporarily unanswered.

We were warned before we left for Barry that we could not spend all our lives riding around in jeeps while the "infantry" went into battle on their flat feet; so we were somewhat prepared. But never in our wildest dreams did we envisage the enormous emplacements that we would dig, nor the frequency with which we had to construct them. The only thing that saved us was the softness of the ground, and we were prepared to sleep in a pool of water in the bottom of our trenches than have to dig in solid chalk.

We put on two demonstrations of the B.A.T. firing, one to the Battalion and the gentlemen of the Press, and one to the Army Commander. We were greatly gratified to see our faces splashed all over the page of one of the local papers; L./Cpl. McFarlane being described as ramming home with "split second timing" the 56 lb. shell (which he had been holding in position for about two minutes while the photographer inserted a new film), and Cpl. Dick following "with eager eyes" the fast moving tank (although, thinking himself somewhat photogenic, he was smirking at the camera).

Having contrived to make our B.A.T. look like another hill, we placed it out on the ground while an Auster flew

around looking for it. Several of us had the good fortune to fly ourselves, although one of us succumbed slightly to air sickness.

And so, after a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive time, it was time to return to Redford. All our guns and kit were stowed away in cold storage, and we have now departed all over Scotland to the annual T.A. Camps.

We welcome Craftsman Malloch, who spends his life straightening out the parts of the guns that we bend and repairing the things that we break. We congratulate L./Cpl. McFarlane on his promotion.

### H.Q. COMPANY

Early in April the Battalion proceeded to Camp at Barry, leaving behind in Redford most of H.Q. Company and all the Regular and N.S. personnel of the Battalion due for release during April. Those left behind acted as a caretaker party for the Barracks, with O.C. H.Q. Company as O.C. rear details. On paper it looks easy to administer about 300 bodies with a small staff but it proved to be no mean task to fulfil all the demands made by the L.A.O. and Q.M. at different times for working parties at short notice. The Commanding Officer remarked how clean and tidy the Barracks and gardens were when the Battalion returned from Camp, so we feel our job was well done.

The Battalion had hardly settled in again when the Inter-Company Sports Meeting was held on the Scottish Command Sports Ground. Although we had never been able to hold an inter-Platoon sports meeting beforehand we managed to produce a fairly good team to represent the Company at the Battalion meeting and we would like to congratulate all competitors who helped the Company to gain second place in the final Company placings.

Perhaps the Military Band will not have an engagement the next time a sports meeting is held and then the result may be even better! Special mention must be made of L./Cpl. Todd, who represented the Company and won the pole vault event, which at the age of 45 is quite a feat. His son also competed.

The results of the Champion Company Competition were published during May and it was very gratifying to all ranks of H.Q. Company when the Company was placed third. Well done! And even better luck next time! With a little more effort we might still achieve No. 1 Company on parade.

With the heavy load of T.A. Summer Camp commitments falling on other companies, H.Q. Company have had to produce a large number of other ranks for all the Ceremonial parades which the Battalion has had to take part in during the summer. All departments of the Company are well represented on all the parades and rehearsals and it says a lot for the hard work put in by all ranks that all departments are still able to keep abreast of their work. To date, we have taken part in the following Ceremonial parades:—

The Opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Installation of the New Governor of Edinburgh Castle.



[Photo: Wilson Groat, Edinburgh]

### 1st BATTALION HOCKEY TEAM, 1954-55

Left to right (standing)—2/Lieut. Brodie Brown, L./Cpl. Price, Cpl. Dawson, Cpl. Simpson, Cpl. Smith, 2/Lieut. Walker.

Left to right (sitting)—C.S.M. Rodger, 2/Lieut. McNeil, Lieut. Gordon, Lieut. Saunders, L./Cpl. Owen.

Guard of Honour at Holyrood House for Her Majesty the Queen.

Whilst the Queen is in residence at Holyrood House the Company is well represented in the Royal Guard which mounts daily.

Looking back over the last three months it certainly has been a very busy time and a lot of hard work is still ahead, with the Edinburgh and Copenhagen Tattoos not far off.

Congratulations to all ranks, too numerous to mention, in the Company who have recently been awarded Army Certificates of Education, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class.

The age of enterprise never ends and we would like to express our best wishes in their new venture to Sgt. "Kayu" Wood, who has bought for himself a mansion-house with a few acres of land near Jedburgh, and to C./Sgt. Anderson who has bought a smallholding in Aberdeenshire. Well done, you sons of the soil, and may your crops aye be heavy and good!

To those who have left the Company for civil life or have been posted elsewhere we wish the best in their new surroundings and to those who have joined us we hope that their stay will be a long and happy one.

*Things we would like to know.*—Is it true that our Drum-Major, after his sojourn in office as acting C.S.M., has started to write a book with the title of "Flying High"?

#### M.T. SECTION

A month's Battalion training at Barry passed by successfully, the vehicles putting up a total of 50,000 miles for the month. It can be seen from this that the drivers have had plenty to do and no doubt have learned much.

Valiant efforts were made trying to dig 3-ton trucks into the ground to make them bombproof. Oh how some people longed for the unit to be issued with a bulldozer! All the same, some trucks were cajoled into extraordinary positions, and somehow they drove out of them, too.

The final exercise started with a night convoy. All went well till one truck—not ours—broke down. There then ensued an hour's driving which would have tested the night vision of any driver in an attempt to re-ignite the convoy. One motor-cyclist did not notice the right-angle bend and finished in the brambles, luckily with no damage to himself or machine. All arrived safely and in good order at their destination at three in the morning.

Since Barry, the M.T.'s activities have been varied. A large proportion have taken to drill and appear immaculately dressed in No. 1 dress. Others, led by Pte. Knox, specialise in tugging the war. A band of experts led by Cpl. Stark have been driving to the corners of Scotland in R.A.S.C. vehicles, re-uniting railway strike-bound soldiers with their units. Those few who were left uncommitted to any other activity found themselves driving to Newcastle with mail bags or carrying the despatches to Glasgow and Stirling.

Sgt. Charles has returned from the fount of M.T. wisdom at Bordon with his head full of Army forms. Sgt. Wood has become a laird by acquiring a substantial Border mansion; may he be successful as an estate manager. Cpl. Souther has bowed his way out of the Army, and Pte. Mitchell, having gained a distinction in the 1st Class Arithmetic exam., has departed for the world of banking.

Two M.T. Cadres have been run and some young enthusiasts are now driving trucks. May they prosper and drive safely.

#### DRUMMERS AND PIPERS

Since our last notes the Pipe Band has been as busy as ever, if not more so, and an even busier quarter lies ahead.

Our most important public engagement has been the Television Broadcast from Edinburgh Castle on Easter Monday.

That was followed by the arrival from Kenya of 1st Bn. The Black Watch (R.H.R.), whom we played into King George V Dock at Glasgow. As usual, "Big Robbie" our handsome bass drummer succeeded in getting his photo published in the local Press on that occasion.

The next public performance was at Gleneagles Hotel, where we entertained the residents. Next came the Cambridge Agricultural Show, where we gave our usual performance, including Highland Dancing.

Shortly afterwards we went to Queen Victoria School at Dunblane to let the boys hear a combined Retreat with the Military Band. Judging by overheard remarks from the boys, we made a considerable impression on them. Let's hope some young recruits may be forthcoming as a result.

Just recently a lot of "wedding bells" have been heard in the section. They are obviously more popular than the "Bells of Perth". However, we congratulate L./Cpl. Mortimer, Pte. Kerr 53, and other poor unfortunates.

We have undergone our annual P.E. Tests and it's a good thing for us that they only come round once per year. This will at least give L./Cpl. "Podge" Fleuchar a chance to repair and dry out his denims after the rather wet and rough experiences he had during one of his tests.

We all heartily congratulate Pipe-Major Massie on his recent promotion to Colour Sergeant, and also Pte. Fleuchar, who has just re-enlisted, on getting his first stripe again.

Our latest recruits to the fold are learner drummers Cree, Condron, Rattray, and Carstairs and learner pipers Riley, Anderson 26 and Harrop. They are all more than welcome.

#### QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

The big event of the past quarter was the month the Battalion spent at Barry Camp. The Quartermaster went with the advance party to organise and equip the Camp, and attend to the hundred-and-one jobs that go with it on these occasions. Having seen the Battalion settled in, he returned to Redford to complete the task of preparing the year's accounts for submission to that much respected establishment, the Command Secretary. Cpl. Grant and his henchmen kept the flag flying at Barry, ably sustained with supplies despatched from Redford by S.D.S. at frequent intervals. Much credit must be given to all those concerned in the Battalion with the accounting for stores at Camp, for the lightness of the damages and losses which occurred during the month. We of the Department were pleased to hear the Anti-Tank Platoon made such a great success of the B.A.T. shoot at Barry—they almost didn't! It happened thus. A chance remark led us to believe that the necessary missiles would not reach Barry by the required date, despatch from the source of supply having been delayed. "They" were reminded that "a certain personage" was to see a demonstration of the B.A.T. This threw the machine into top gear. A further consignment was despatched by road from the south, a speedy transfer to a Battalion 3-tonner was effected at Redford and so the ammunition was despatched to Barry.

What we want to know—Who put the creosote on the "wooden port", to the great discomfort of a certain C.S.M.



#### BATTALION TUG-OF-WAR TEAM, 1955

Back Row (left to right)—Ptes. Douglas, Chene, Gilmour, Kay, Frazer.  
Front Row (left to right)—Ptes. Thompson, Leslie, Sgt. Brown, Pte. Shand, L./Cpl. Knox.

We congratulate L./Cpl. Todd on his gallant, though unsuccessful, performance in the Command Sports at the pole vault. It must be many years since a father and son both serving competed in the same event in a sports meeting. L./Cpl. Todd has now forsaken his Hygiene section for the more comfortable berth of Commanding Officer's Batman. Cpl. Cruickshank has relieved L./Cpl. Todd, and considers the job "a snip" compared with similar duties he performed in Malaya.

C./Sgt. Norman McKay, from the 4th/7th Bn. on attachment, now administers our Accommodation Stores vice Sgt. Robertson to the 4th/7th Bn. Sgt. Stephenson has taken over the duties of Married Families Administration vice Sgt. Murray, otherwise employed at summer Camp. The hand over, we observe, included a brief case; may all its horrors be little ones.

Our new storemen are:—

Pte. Clements, to replace Pte. McAteer released—Accommodation Stores.

Pte. Wheeler, to replace Pte. Holdcroft released—Equipment Stores.

Pte. Barclay 74, to replace Pte. Cartney released—Sanitary Squad.

Other departures include L./Cpl. Foley, who took advantage of his first "option date", and Ptes. Hay and Turnbull released.

To those who have joined us we give a happy welcome and hope their stay will be long and pleasant; to those who have gone may their employments, whether service or civilian, be profitable and happy. We sincerely hope that Dame Fortune will smile on L./Cpl. Foley who underwent a severe abdominal operation a few weeks before his release and that he is now fully recovered.

We congratulate Ptes. Brands and Potter on having each acquired a spouse since our last issue, and wish them all the best for the future.

#### MILITARY BAND

Having prophesied in our previous notes that 1955 would produce a Diary of Events worth writing home about, we now discover that to chronicle our doings

would require a complete edition. Our diary has hardly a blank page from April to October. In fact, not counting a ten-day period of leave, we have completed 78 performances in 81 days, and this does not include rehearsals and practises for such important functions as the State Visit of Her Majesty to Scotland and the Installation of the new Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

From 10th July we play for a week in Hyde Park, followed by a week in Tunbridge Wells, and a fortnight in Plymouth. From there we make an overnight rush back to Barracks to commence rehearsals for the Edinburgh Tattoo, which finishes in Edinburgh in mid-September, and then shoots off to Copenhagen to continue in the Tivoli Gardens for three weeks.

So much for future happenings, to which no doubt we shall refer again in the next issue. For the present we will concentrate on the immediate past, beginning with a short account of our activities since April 7th, when we

started a ten-day engagement at the National Trades Exhibition in Birmingham. Here we were again acclaimed by huge crowds at each of the three daily performances. We were billeted at the Depot, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, in Warwick, to whom we played for an All-ranks Dance and a Passing Out Parade, a gesture which was much appreciated by the Warwicks. Travelling each day to Birmingham gave us little time to meet all the old Gordons who live there, but we managed to see Benny Scott, Jack Pearce who recently left the Band, and two very old ex-Bandsmen, Jim Winstanley and Tich Alleborn. Jim Winstanley gave Mr. Williams some old photographs of the Band taken in 1906 and 1911, which showed a Band 70 strong. Among the members shown were the late Major Windram, Director of Music the Coldstream Guards, ex-Bandmasters Buttberg and Needham, who were Bandboys in those days under Bandmaster Dick Pallant, father of the present O.R.Q.M.S. at the Depot.

From Birmingham to Hampden Park for the Scottish Cup Final, which was noteworthy for the simple reason that we appeared on TV for the first time. Otherwise the game held little interest for us, as Aberdeen had been knocked out previously. It was also the first day of a well-earned leave, so we scooted for the trains as soon as we had finished playing the National Anthem.

Immediately on our return we got down to work with a vengeance. The various parades and performances in connection with the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, including performances at Holyrood Palace, began on 14th May and continued almost without a break until 30th May. We played at a Garden Party in Lauriston Castle on the 31st, and began June with a visit to the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. There we performed during the boys' Sports, ending with a combined Retreat with our own Drummers and Pipers.

At the very moment of writing we have just returned from an eight-day engagement in the Glasgow Parks, where we met Major Davies the Garrison Commander, who still talks of the days at Essen. Also C.S.M. Bill Cargill, Black Watch, who had a brief spell with us early on in Malaya. "B" Company will well remember

"Uncle Wullie". He is now I.C. Detention Staff, Maryhill. "You have been warned!"

The old faithfuls who turned up included Don Richards, Rinty Jamieson and of course Neil and Mrs. Turner, who took the Landi Koti and Peshawar Wallahs home to tea. The Bandmaster was included as an honorary member. Leo Chartres is expecting to be enrolled next year.

The Gordon Highlanders Club (Glasgow) again opened their doors to us and overwhelmed us with their hospitality on the Special Social night (free). Our thanks are due to you all, but especially to "Peter" whose surname we have forgotten, the convenor of the Social Committee, and to Major Bill Marjoribanks and his Bonnie Jean, who are back in the fold again. Also to Albert Britland, ex-Bandsman, who with his cheery grin and hearty laugh is aye there to welcome us. Thank you very much, Glasgow Club and "Lang may yer lum reek."

Back in Dreghorn Camp, and right in the present, we must conclude by saying adieu to the Bandsmen who are leaving us on discharge by purchase, namely Fred Ballinger and Ralph Forbes, who is shortly to be joined by his brother Cpl. Ron Forbes. We are extremely sorry to see you go and wish you all the best, and will always be glad to see you during our travels.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

Although there has been no regimental function in the Mess during the period under review, there has been a certain amount of coming and going worth recording.

At the beginning of April the Battalion, less rear details, left for a month's training at Barry, and as far as the Mess was concerned the doors were locked and made fast and the place left to the pigeon that raised its family and still makes its home on the second floor. On arrival at Barry we soon came to learn, if not to love, our temporary home; the long wooden hut that was both anteroom and dining room, the well designed huts by Nissen that sheltered our bodies by night – or some of the nights, and the "usual offices" that were at least well ventilated. In spite of all this, however, we really lived very comfortably, our only worry being the lack of baths which was overcome by a nightly pilgrimage to the local hotels in grossly overloaded cars.

During our stay at Barry we were pleased to be visited by Ian Will who is now G.S.O. I at Highland District; unfortunately, he had only time for a small juniper crush before having to return to higher things in Perth. We were also pleased to see George Morrison, over on a short visit from Germany – and Claud Chancellor; we were glad to see how well Claud looks after his recent operation and we hope to see more of him in the future. Ken Metcalfe, our old friend from Malaya, paid us a in a flying machine and was good enough to take some of us for short flights over the Camp area. David McMillan of the 5th/6th did his fifteen days annual training with us instead of going to T.A. Camp and we hope that he enjoyed his holiday with the Regular Battalion.

In early May we returned to the comforts of Redford but it was not long before T.A. Camp commitments started to thin our numbers. The first to go were George Elsmie, John Neish, Martin Cruickshanks, Colin Brown, Bill Beckwith, and Bill Anderson, all to Stobs Camp near Hawick in the Borders; Brian Hay, Derek Brown, Dick Murison, and John Gray left next day for Dallachy Camp on Speyside; Mac Stephen, Robin Linzee and Ewan Gordon followed next to Fort George; and Dick Burge, Jim Clarkson and Brian Paton left in the first week in July for the familiar surroundings of Barry Buddon. All this has thinned our numbers and to it must be added the departure on release of Peter

Brodie Brown and Jeremy Walker who can now start their reminiscences – instead of waiting thirty years to do so – by saying: "When I was in the Army . . ."

Against this, however, must be set the arrival of Hugh Drummond as our new Padre, John Allison and Christopher Wallis who joined us from the Depot in early July.

During the month of May we were glad to welcome to the Mess Major McConnell of the Cheshire Regiment and Captain Hudswell of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, both of whom came up to compete in the Army Golf Championships. Major Truell of the Dorset Regiment and Flight Lieutenant McKenny of the Joint Concealment Centre also spent a few days with us and spun an invisible web or two around us before they left.

At the beginning of June we were pleased to see Sandy Imlah who was on leave from Germany. He originally intended, or so we were led to understand, to go further north but due to the rail strike found himself detained in Edinburgh. The Ceremonial parades of June brought their visitors, amongst the first of whom was Major West of the 4th Bn. The King's Own Scottish Borderers who stayed with us while his Band played at the Royal Highland Show. Major Dawson and 2/Lieut. Grant brought down the Cameron contingent for the Ceremony of the Keys and the Installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, and finally we were glad to have back with us Lieut.-Colonel Rhodes, Director of Music Scots Guards who, with Major Swinton and Lieut. Miller-Thomas and 2/Lieut. Stuart-Menzies, stayed with us for the first week of H.M. The Queen's visit to Edinburgh.

In the field of sport it is good to record that George Elsmie and David Saunders represented the Regiment in the Army Golf Championships, and David Saunders is to be congratulated on winning the National Playing Fields Cup, the handicap prize. Robin Linzee was unfortunate in that having been selected to play for the Army XI the match had to be cancelled due to the rail strike.

Jim Clarkson is to be congratulated on being chosen to represent the Army in the Athletics team to compete with Sandhurst; he is also to be congratulated on taking 2nd place in the Army Individual Championships with a high jump of 5 ft. 10 in.

After receiving a very handsome sum of money for the Silver Fund from 2/Lieuts. Christie and Turnbull on completion of their National Service, a barometer has been bought. This presentation is particularly welcome as since its arrival the needle has permanently remained at "set fair".

The Commanding Officer, Derek Brown, and Bill Beckwith have been keeping the running total in the game book jogging along. A total of thirty-seven trout, of various sizes, have been grassed from Gladhouse reservoir and Barns Loch. We anticipate some good days in the near future on our newly-acquired Regimental Shoot outside Glasgow.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

When we last went to press the Battalion was on the point of departure for Barry but in no time at all, it seems, all that is behind us, we've been back nearly two months, and this poor man's Mrs. Dale once more finds himself facing a pile of foolscap which up to the present is as blank as his mind. As I've already said, the memory of our stay at Barry is fast receding into the background and the healthy tans which many of us acquired there have now perforce faded and gone – more particularly so since summer in this neck of the woods persists in bearing a close resemblance to early spring or even late winter.

Despite the rather spartan conditions which prevailed at Barry we managed to make ourselves reasonably

comfortable in our temporary home and there's no doubt that those of us who spent a great deal of time out at the mercy of the elements were extremely grateful to our caterer for the bright fire and hot baths which were invariably waiting for us when we crawled back home, though I believe the baser minds amongst us tended to connect the copious amounts of coal Rab must have burned with the fact that there was a railway station just across the road.

Naturally, since all our energies were devoted to brushing ourselves up on the finer points of the art of war, we had little time for any social junketings but we did manage to fit in one very successful function during our first week-end in residence. This was the farewell party we threw for C./Sgt. Bill Devine, who, to the regret of all of us, has retired to Civvy Street after a great many years' service with the Regiment. During the course of the evening the R.S.M. presented Bill, on behalf of all of us, with a very handsome clock which we hope will help him remember us as long as we shall remember him, and I know I'm speaking for everyone when I say I hope he'll seize every opportunity to visit us in the future. While we were all busy saying good-bye to Bill on this memorable occasion we were happy to have the chance to say "hello" to Jack Hoad who made this occasion a chance to see us all again. Eighteen months of the stresses and strains of civilian life seem to have changed Jack very little and he dropped quickly back into place as though he'd never left us and soon became the life and soul of the party.

This last quarter has been less prolific than any other since we came home as far as departures from the Mess are concerned and apart from Bill Devine we've only had to say good-bye to two others, these being C./Sgt. Harry Lovie who we were sorry to see leave us for the 5th/6th Bn., and Sgt. Robertson who ended his attachment to us and went to the 4th/7th. In his place we were glad to welcome back to the fold C./Sgt. Norman McKay who has dropped right into Robbie's vacant shoes and terrorizes one and all from his position as uncrowned king of the Q.M's. Accommodation Store.

For the first time since this job was foisted on to him, your scribe is glad to report that the mad rush of single members up the aisle to married bliss and a life of thrall-dom has slowed down, though it seems that the rot has not entirely stopped as Peter Cameron and "Dhurzi" Taylor are uttering dark threats regarding their intentions of embarking on that blessed state in the near future but the time is not yet high and some of our stauncher bachelors have not yet given up hope of talking them out of it. Whilst dealing with things marital as opposed to things martial we are happy to announce that we are being well kept up to strength on the juvenile side, and our congratulations are due to Sgts. Denis Postill, "Busty" Stephenson and Colin Kerr, not forgetting their good wives, who have been blessed with the addition to their families of a son and two daughters respectively.

Congratulations of a somewhat different nature are coming the way of our Pipe-Major, John Massie, on his promotion to C./Sgt., and also to Andy Anderson, Paddy Coggle, Albert McKay, and "Busty" McKay who, at the expense of a great deal of blood, sweat and tears, have succeeded in capturing that elusive 1st Class certificate of education and unless they are intending to go on to university they can now rest easy on their laurels for a long time to come.

Long before these notes were written, many of our members had packed their kit and moved off to take up their summer abodes in fresh fields and pastures green at various T.A. Camps all over Scotland, and more will shortly be leaving to do the same. This being so we held a get together in the shape of a Dinner in the Mess last

month before too many had left the fold and this function proved to be a great success as its predecessors. We might add that due to the assistance of our new Master Cook, Sgt. McConnal, the quality and quantity of the food was better than ever before, and many of the beautifully inscribed menus disappeared shortly after dinner. It is believed that these disappeared into the pockets of some of our married members who'd come out for a decent meal and were anxious to show their wives what they'd be requiring from them in the future in the way of food. No reports are to hand as to what these gallant fellows actually *did* get.

Apart from this stag party we've had our usual welcome visits from sweethearts and wives on several Saturday evenings when, under the auspices of our present entertainments committee, the Tombola board and our collection of dance records have come into their own, to the general enjoyment of those present. We might add that one public spirited member, seeking to introduce a note of originality into the proceedings on one social evening we held, inveigled many who were unable to see behind this blackguard's seemingly honest smile of invitation into a game which he had invented on the spur of the moment. We will spare you the grisly details and merely say that it nearly resulted in a free issue of crutches all round. Needless to say, subsequent attempts on the part of this miscreant to brighten things up have met with universal cries of "Shut, up, sit down, and drink your beer".

Well, your scribe has come thankfully to the end of yet another quarter's notes and must now himself disappear into the blue to give the T.A. a helping hand, no doubt after perusing these, his latest ventures into the realms of literature, there will be those amongst you who will shed no tears if he forgets to come back. Ah, well, you shouldn't have joined if you can't take a joke.

## ATHLETICS

Before the Battalion departed for Barry in April it was decided that the Inter-Company Athletics Meeting would be held in early May, and it was finally agreed to have it on 9th-10th May. Unfortunately, there was not the time and seldom the inclination to do the training at Barry that had originally been intended.

However, the day came and with each rifle company providing two men per event, and Support and H.Q. Company four per event, there promised to be keen, if inexperienced, competition. The preliminary heats were run off and then, to quote a phrase, "The Rains Came!" The finals were eventually run off in the morning of the 11th, by which time several of the more active members of the Band had disappeared. Those who were unable to run were allowed to count their times of the previous day, so that H.Q. Company would not be too heavily penalised for points.

The outcome was that Support Company won the Inter-Company Cup, the Track Event Cup, and the Field Event Cup, and "C" Company won the Tug-of-War.

The results of the events were as follows:—  
 100 yds.—2/Lieut. Stansfeld (C), Cpl. Smith (C)—10:8  
 220 yds.—L./Cpl. Owen (HQ), Cpl. Forbes (HQ)—29:8  
 440 yds.—2/Lieut. Stansfeld (C), Pte. Lawrence (C)—56:1  
 880 yds.—Pte. Downie (Sp), Pte. McPherson (D)—2:15  
 1 mile—Pte. Downie (Sp), Cpl. Dick (Sp)—4:54  
 3 miles—Pte. Downie (Sp), Pte. Rogers (Sp)—16:37  
 Shot—Pte. Thomson (B), Pte. Currie (A)—34 ft. 5 in.  
 Javelin—L./Cpl. Smith (B), Pte. Donald (Sp)—114 ft.  
 Hammer—Pte. MacDonald (Sp), Cpl. Smith (B)—78 ft.  
 Discus—Cpl. Simpson (HQ), Cpl. Robertson (C)—98 ft. 6 in.

*Long Jump*—Pte. Allerton (Sp), L./Cpl. Owen (HQ)—16 ft. 9 in.

*High Jump*—Cpl. Simpson (HQ), L./Cpl. Wiper (B)—4 ft. 11 in.

*Pole Vault*—L./Cpl. Todd (HQ), Pte. Welling (Sp)—9 ft. 11 in.

The 120 yds. hurdles had to be abandoned owing to the very slippery conditions underfoot.

The times and distances in the finals as can be seen were not impressive, but in bad conditions and in gym shoes they showed promise, particularly Pte. Downie's mile time.

So those selected to train for the Battalion team were put into training. The Scottish Command Inter-Unit Championships were to be run on June 15th. The team had to consist of four-man relay teams for all distances up to half-a-mile, a team of four to run together in the mile, and two men for each field event. Time was short and specialised training was sacrificed to general fitness training, much to the consternation of the shot and discus merchants who had up till then thought they were having practically free half-days for the summer! In the running this fitness showed great dividends, and one relay was lost by baton changing being bad, but on the whole the running was of a good standard. The field events in the main were where we lost the prize. In spite of repeated instructions the field events teams did not see the point in running round to get warm when they were going to throw or jump something. Also, the lack of coaching and practise made itself evident. If the Battalion is to succeed in this kind of event, more field event men will have to train and coaches be found and used.

The teams were picked and were as follows:—

*Relay teams*

4×11—Capt. Wolfe-Murray, 2/Lieut. Stansfeld, Cpl. Smith 52, Cfn. Botham.

4×220—Capt. Wolfe-Murray, 2/Lieut. Stansfeld, Cpl. Smith '52 Cfn. Barnard.

4×440—2/Lieut. Bates, Pte. Allerton, Pte. McKinnel, Pte. Shields.

120 yds. *Hurdles*—Lieut. Smart, 2/Lieut. McNeil, L./Cpl. Wiper, Pte. Pooley.

4×880—Pte. Macpherson, L./Cpl. Smith, Pte. Young, Pte. Russell.

*Running teams*

1 mile—Pte. Downie, Cpl. Dick, Pte. Day, Pte. Christie 35.

3 miles—Pte. Downie, Pte. Shields, Pte. Rodgers, Pte. Rowley.

*Field Events teams*

*High Jump*—Lieut. Clarkson, Cpl. Simpson.

*Long Jump*—Pte. Allerton, Cpl. Higgins.

*Shot*—Ptes. Thomson 88, Graham 57.

*Javelin*—L./Cpl. Smith 61, L./Cpl. Donald.

*Discus*—Cpl. Simpson, Cpl. Reynolds.

*Hammer*—Pte. McDonald 82, Cpl. Smith 10.

*Pole Vault*—L./Cpl. Todd, Pte. Welling.

The most thrilling race of the day was probably the mile. Half-way through the first lap Pte. Downie was about 5th or 6th. He took over the lead shortly after completing the 2nd lap, followed closely by an officer of 50th Med. Regt. R.A., a very experienced runner. Coming round to the last bend it was the same and the runner for

50th Med. Regt. R.A. moved up as if to overtake Pte. Downie. However, that was not to be allowed. Pte. Downie sprinted in, winning by about five or ten yards in the very good time of 4 min. 39 sec. Pte. Downie then went on to win the three miles by a distance.

The final outcome of the meeting was that 50th Med. Regt. R.A. won and we came second by some 20 points. It was a very pleasant day, and was not marred by any objections to the results. We wish 50th Med. Regt. R.A. the best of luck in the Northern Command Championships next month.

In the Scottish Command Individual Championships held here on 22nd June the following officers and men obtained the following results:—

100 yards	3rd—2/Lieut. Stansfeld.
3 miles	1st—Pte. Downie.
One mile	2nd—Pte. Downie.
Hammer	3rd—Pte. McDonald.
Pole vault	3rd—Pte. Welling.
220 yards	3rd—2/Lieut. Stansfeld.
120 yds. hurdles	1st—2/Lieut. McNeil,
	2nd—Pte. Pooley,
	3rd—Lieut. R. D. L. Smart.

In the Army Individual Championships, Lieut. Clarkson was runner-up in the High Jump having cleared 5 ft. 10 in., and has been selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championships.

### GOLF

After a year at home, with the excellent opportunities given to us to play golf in our own country, interest in the game has flourished. The Officers' Mess are members of two courses, the local Merchants of Edinburgh at Craiglockhart and the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield.

The Battalion provided a team of three officers, Major Elsmie, Major Barker and Lieut. Saunders to play in the first meeting held by Scottish Command in April. We were narrowly beaten in to second place by H.Q. Scottish Command who were led by the G.O.C.-in-C. In the second week of May we entered another team for the Highland Brigade Meeting consisting of Colonel C. M. Usher, Major W. Broadhurst, Major G. R. Elsmie, Major C. N. Barker, and Lieut. D. G. B. Saunders. In this meeting we beat The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders by 9 holes but in the second round were beaten by the Seaforth Highlanders, the eventual winners, by some 15 holes. In this match Major Elsmie played very well to lose only 8 holes to Major David Blair who did so well in the Walker Cup a week later. In the individual handicap aggregate Major Broadhurst came first and Lieut. Saunders second.

The following week we again entered for the Army Meeting a team being Colonel Usher, Major Broadhurst, Major Elsmie, Captain Brown, and Lieut. Saunders. We were unlucky to draw in the first round a very strong team from the Camerons and were soundly beaten by 14 holes in the Army Cup. Lieut. Saunders in this meeting won the Cavan, National Playing Fields Cup for the best two rounds under handicap.

There is now an active interest in golf in the Battalion and it is hoped that next year we will be able to give a good account of ourselves.

### NOTICE

### Regimental Christmas Cards and Diaries

**Christmas Card**—The design of the card is the same as in recent years. The illustration is a reproduction of the original water colour by R. Henderson "Ballater, 1954", and is of Her Majesty The Queen being received by the Guard of Honour. The price is 10s. 6d. a dozen including postage.

**Diaries**—In green plexide with crest and pencil, 3s. 9d. each.

Orders for Cards and Diaries should be addressed to the Administrative Officer at the Depot and a cheque or postal order enclosed.

## Depot

The new G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, Lieut.-General H. Murray, C.B.E., D.S.O. visited the Depot on 27th April. He was accompanied by Mrs. Murray who met the wives in the new reading room of the NAAFI and visited some of the married quarters.

This was General Murray's first visit to the home of the Regiment.

Two more passing-out parades have been held. On 27th April Brigadier G. W. L. Andrews, D.S.O. who commands 152nd Infantry Brigade took the passing-out of Mons and Cambria Platoons under Lieut. C. J. D. Gordon-Steward. The champion recruit was Pte. W. Watson (Reg) from New Aberdour and the champion shot was Pte. G. Stephen (NS) from Johnshaven. R.S.M. W. Dawson was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on this parade.

On 24th June, Squadron Leader V. A. Hester, D.F.C., Commanding Officer, R.A.F., Dyce took the passing-out of Nile and Tirah Platoons under Lieut. I. D. Martineau. The champion recruit was Pte. A. Thomson (NS) from Buckie and the champion shot Pte. W. Smith from Monymusk. Cpl. S. Haynes was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

In an attempt to uncover our hidden talent a Depot Sports Meeting was held on 11th May. The weather conditions were very trying indeed, but in spite of blustering N.E. winds and rain, discoveries were made and detailed off for training for the Highland District Meeting.

The District Meeting took place at Gordon Barracks on 11th June, which was a genuine Aberdeen day—bleak and cold! The winners of the meeting were the Depot Black Watch with 85 points, with ourselves coming 4th with 32 points. Lieut. I. D. Martineau was the Depot star performer winning the 440 and 880 yards easily. The Tug-of-War team did not fare too well, coming 6th in the 88 stone Inter-Depot pull and 2nd in the Catchweight event.

The Depot and individual place winners were as follows:—

The Depot—Hidis Challenge Cup 5th, Mile Medley 2nd, Tug-of-War 88 stone 6th, Catchweight 2nd.

Individuals—440 yards Lieut. I. D. Martineau, 880 yards Lieut. I. D. Martineau. High Jump, 2nd, L./Cpl. J. Thow. Javelin, Boy Williams.

After several outings to the Black Dog Ranges in the most atrocious weather we managed to select teams for the Highland District Rifle Meeting held at Barry Ranges on 27th—29th May. The weather at Barry was marvellous, but alas, it was so good that we were forced to use the unaccustomed mildness as our excuse for failing to retain the Arbutnott Bowl. Not at all like our more robust Aberdeen weather!

The team started off well by gaining a clear lead in the first two practices but failed miserably and lost our lead and place on the last practice (snap at 300X). The young soldiers saved us from complete disgrace by being placed 3rd in the Young Soldiers' competition. The Depot did much better in the Highland District Small Bore Non Central Competition, coming second to the Depot Seaforth.

Several rook shooting expeditions were embarked upon by the Sergeants' Mess, and by all reports there are fewer rooks around Drum Castle than ever before.

The Judiciary Court sat in Aberdeen on 1st and 2nd June and on 19th—22nd July. The Depot provided the traditional guards on both occasions, consisting of

Sgt. Donald, Cpl. Burns, Ptes. Parker, Stephen, Simpson; Sgt. Rose, Cpl. Boyd, Ptes. Donaldson, Sutherland, Spence, Cooper, Kingston and Crockett. They are to be congratulated on their high standard of turnout and bearing. Many complimentary remarks were made.

Among the visitors to the Depot this quarter was Mr. George Dunbar from Ontario, on holiday in Aberdeen. Mr. Dunbar is the son of Pipe Major Charles Dunbar, D.C.M. who was Pipe Major in the Gordons for many years. Pipe Major Dunbar won the D.C.M. in South Africa and 40 years ago emigrated to Canada. He became Pipe Major of the A. & S.H. (T.A.) unit in Canada and served in France with them. As far as Mr. Dunbar knows, his father was the only Pipe Major to be commissioned and continue to be in charge of the pipe band. He was a lieutenant in the band until he retired in 1936.

*Marriages.* Sgt. J. Donald to Roberta Dougal at Stonehaven on 11th July, 1955.

Sgt. G. Rose to Grace Marion Robertson at Aberdeen on 27th June, 1955.

*Births.* To Capt. and Mrs. A.T.C. Brown a son, Nigel Wilson on 11th June.

To Capt. and Mrs. McK. Robertson a son, Charles McKay on 6th May.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have said goodbye to L./Cpl. Ferguson, Ptes. Young, Evans Allan, Mushat and Blair on release. We wish them all success on their return to civilian life.

Cpl. Lamb, Cpl. Stone and Pte. Sheriffs have rejoined the 1st Battalion in Edinburgh. S./Sgt. Fisher, A.P.T.C. has left us for the sunnier climes of East Africa and the K.A.R. We are sorry to lose him.

On the credit side we welcome Cpl. Robertson, Ptes. Meldrum, Stuart and Williamson from the 1st Battalion; S./Sgt. A. Copeland, A.P.T.C. who came as relief for S./Sgt. Fisher. Sgt. Benson of the R.A.P.C. who is now in the throes of taking over the Depot finances from Sgt. Ferguson who is preparing to launch out into civilian life soon.

### PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on their promotions to the new rank of Substantive L./Cpl.

Cpl. Howitt, Cpl. Buchan, L./Cpl. Watt, L./Cpl. Birnie, L./Cpl. Flinn, Cpl. Irvine, L./Cpl. Mowbray, L./Cpl. Young and Cpl. Gordon.

### NOTES BY THE Q.M.

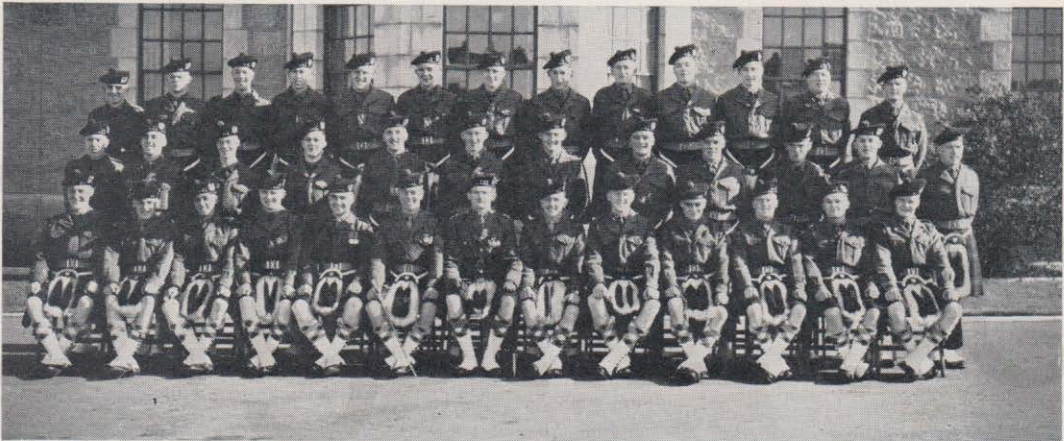
Since the last report, the usual half-yearly inspections of the M.T., Weighing Machines, Wireless, Optical Instruments and Grass Cutting Machinery has taken place, and a good report received on them all.

The Ammunition Inspector has also been, and departed satisfied.

It will surprise many how much grass cutting machinery is involved in one of these inspections, and our holdings consist of two 36 in. and two 24 in. power driven machines, two auto-scythes, a Gang Mower, a Power Driven Bracken Cutter and more than twenty hand Lawn Mowers, so quite a preparation is necessary before all these can be got ready for an inspection.

Major Bobby Gibb will have left for Kenya and 7th King's African Rifles before these notes appear, and we wish him a very pleasant tour out there.

Mr. Wilkinson has now returned from Japan and Korea, and it will not be long before he will be seen on taking over duties in Edinburgh.



[Photo: Aberdeen Photographic Service Ltd.]

**ARRAS SQUAD, PASSED OUT 29th APRIL, 1955**

Mr. Miller writes from Kuala Pilah and says that his Battalion practically occupies the same area as did our 1st Battalion during their last two years in Malaya. He tells me, with evident pleasure, that his Battalion has the highest record of successful encounters with the Terrorist Bandits, and has a commanding lead over any other unit. His administration inspection went off very well, so he has every reason to be happy in his present post.

As a result of my last notes, I have had a letter from Mr. J. A. Milne who writes from Ealing that he was anxious to be put in touch with Major Gibb so as he could give him the addresses of his many good friends in Kenya—I duly put him in touch. Mr. Milne will be well known to those that were serving before the war as he was formerly No. 2871504 Sgt. Busty Milne; he left the Army in 1945, finishing up as an officer in the Nigeria Regiment.

Another correspondent is Mr. W. B. Brown who is Warden to Toc H in Gibraltar. He says that he was No. 782 in the 1st Battalion in 1911, and possibly some of the old hands will remember him.

Congratulations to:—

(i) Cpl. Haynes, Q.M. Clerk, on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

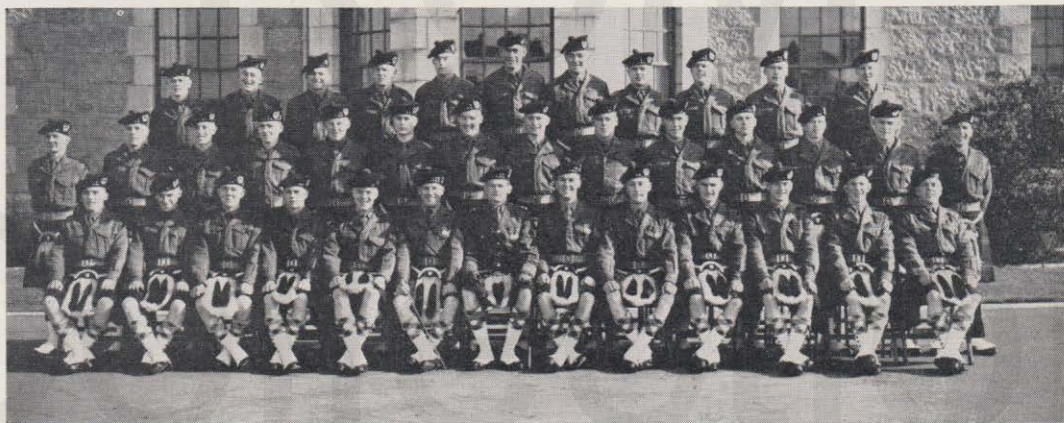
(ii) Cpl. Wardell, Army Catering Corps, in being placed third in the Highland District Individual Cookery Competition. It was hard lines that he only lost second place by one point.

Padre Dow who has religious charge at 47 Week-end Training Centre in Barracks, is a frequent visitor—usually at the morning break time.

Mr. Marr accompanied by Mr. Johnston (R.A.S.C. Barrack Storeman) had a very successful motoring holiday, and were at Lands End, as well as Gretna Green. An overseas trip is being planned for next year.

On the tailoring line, we have now got the services of Mr. A. M. Porter as the Civilian Tailoring Contractor, and hope that our Tailor's Shop troubles are over. Although Mr. Porter never had the good fortune to serve in the Regiment, he is well known in Gordon Territorial circles in Aberdeen.

And finally, we must not conclude without a special mention of the first class service always provided by our magnificent Master Cook—Charles Shand, B.E.M., While he holds the reins in the cookhouse, we all well know that the troops will have the very best of meals.



[Photo: Aberdeen Photographic Service Ltd.]

**SOMME SQUAD, PASSED OUT 29th APRIL, 1955**

**M.T. SECTION**

The only incident of note since our last report is the marriage of the M.T. Cpl.—L./Cpl. Fyvis. Pte. Bain the P.U. Driver acted as best man.

Now that the rules for the Scottish Command Safe Driving Competition have been published, it behoves all the drivers to be more careful than ever.

**THE COOKS**

Since our last notes, the Cookhouse has seen quite a

change in the form (or forms) of an invasion of W.R.A.Cs. The first batch arrived from Northern Ireland, and the second from Glasgow and district. Their help has been greatly appreciated, but at times, there appeared to be rather a strained look on Sgt. Shand's face as he referred to the "Blinking Tatties" and the "Blooming Tea".

Congratulations to Cpl. Wardell in obtaining third place in the Highland District Individual Cookery Competition—hard lines in not getting second place. Also congratulations to him on his marriage.

**5th/6th Battalion Notes**

Saturday, June 25th saw the climax to the previous two months of many headaches and hard work by the Permanent Staff—the assembling of over 550 officers and men of the Battalion for the annual fifteen days' training which this year took place at Stobs Camp near Hawick.

Throughout the day they poured into camp from all points of the compass—in ones and twos to start with, then in dribbles and finally in a torrent as the special train brought the main body direct from the north-east.

For many of the older members of the unit, Stobs was a return to familiar pastures, this being the third time the Battalion has been encamped here in the past five years, with the result that "settling in" took the minimum of time.

Training this year was in a higher plane than last year and the exercises were all up to battalion and brigade level with daily schemes being carried out in the many hills which abound in this area.

The weather was the biggest enemy of the first week although the first of the two 24 hour exercises of the fortnight—the battalion digging and defensive exercise, with night patrolling, given the code name "Mole"—enjoyed almost perfect conditions throughout.

One of the highlights of the first week was the arrival in Camp of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh who flew in by helicopter to visit our colleagues of the 4th/5th Bn. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and whilst we were not the object of his attention, we nevertheless shared in the honour accorded brother Territorials in our Brigade.

On Friday, July 1st the officers of the Battalion had a most memorable Guest Night in the Mess, and among those present were our Brigade Commander, Brigadier G. L. W. Andrews, D.S.O.; Brigadier A. D. Buchanan-Smith, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., father of our Anti-tank Platoon Commander, Capt. A. L. Buchanan-Smith; Colonel G. P. Geddes, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel of the Battalion who was our special guest on this occasion; and Lieut.-Colonel F. Burnett, Officer Commanding Aberdeen University O.T.C.

Colonel Geddes stayed with us that week-end and on the Sunday forenoon, after reading the lesson at the Church Parade, addressed the Battalion, complimenting officers and men on the progress and fine achievements to date.

On the evening of Saturday, July 2nd, the Massed Drums and Pipes of the Brigade led by the stalwart figure of our own Drum Major Wilson, gave a splendid performance beating Retreat on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle before a large gathering of the general public including ex-officers of the Regiments.

Tuesday, July 5th was another big occasion for the Battalion—the visit this time of Lieut.-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, who spent over an hour meeting and talking to the officers and P.S.Is. of the unit. The visit had special significance for the Battalion as General Murray commanded the 1st Battalion of the Regiment at El Alamein.

The climax of the whole of the training came on Wednesday, July 6th with the start of Exercise "Treble Chance"—a full scale Brigade Manoeuvre which lasted until Thursday morning. Here again the operation enjoyed the finest of weather. During the hours of daylight the 5th/6th Gordons put in an attack, driving enemy forces from a number of high features, while during the night the other two units of the brigade, the 11th Seaforth and 4th/5th Camerons passed through the Gordons and carried out night attacks, capturing two prominent features rising to over 1,300 feet and strongly held by the enemy.

The entire scheme went very successfully indeed and brought the personal congratulations of Major-General J. Scott Elliott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Highland District and Commander of 51st Highland Division, who watched the principal phases of the exercise.

On Friday night, July 8th the final chapter of Annual Camp 1955 was written and shortly before 10 p.m. the Battalion formed up under the commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Petrie, M.C., and headed by the Drums and Pipes, marched a mile across country to Stobs Siding where the special train lay waiting for the northwards journey.

While the men entrained under the direction of Majors W. C. Dewar, T.D., of Banchory, and A. W. MacDonald, M.C., Buckie, the Drums and Pipes marched and counter-marched on the siding with their customary efficiency and smartness.

The Commanding Officer addressed the Battalion on its arrival in Camp and again on the last day, when he expressed his pleasure at the exceptionally good behaviour of all ranks both in and out of Camp, and in particular on the last day when, for 'obvious' reasons, it was considered advisable to have the Brigade Group confined to the Camp area. No doubt the large Bounties and Pay would be put to more useful purposes in the Regimental area!

**"A" COMPANY**

While generally acknowledged as the most energetic post-war training Camp to date, the spirit of the Company at Stobs was tremendous throughout, as one noteworthy incident at the end of Exercise "Treble Chance" vividly illustrates. Tired after a fairly hectic and gruelling time involving some high-speed moves from one feature to another, the Company was ordered, in view of its final detached position, to make its own way back to camp across country. *En route* they bumped into their comrades of the other companies returning by transport, and although offered a lift they declined in terms of the utmost scorn, accompanied in not a few instances with signs on the Churchillian pattern.

The numbers attending Camp this year were the highest yet but unfortunately a very severe shortage of officers imposed a serious handicap throughout. On most of the schemes platoons had no officers and were commanded

by Platoon Sergeants, and our energetic and seemingly tireless C.S.M. G. McIntosh, of Portsoy.

A feature of Camp was the smoothness with which our internal administration functioned, and for this much of the credit is due to Sgt. Phillip Bright, our P.S.I. who was having his first experience of a T.A. Camp, and to that sturdy old faithful C./Sgt. William Sutherland who had his side of the business so well organised that he was able to slip away for a few days to minister to his other charges - the 3rd Banffshire Bn. A.C.F. whose Camp at Cultybraggan overlapped our Camp this year.

#### "B" COMPANY

During the second week of Camp at Stobs, the Company temporarily lost its identity, teaming up with "D" Company in view of the shortage of both officers and men, and the two forming our old friend "X" Company.

In happy contrast to our quarrying operations of the first week when digging in during the first all night exercise, we found some delightfully soft ground on the final big Exercise "Treble Chance", only to discover later as the night advanced that it was a midge-infested marsh. During the night, however, the tedium and our swatting was relieved by a wonderful fireworks display with para-illuminating rockets, for which exhibition, we understand, rockets descended on our Company Commander from a great height.

The bright lights of Hawick did not, however, hold the same lure as Scarborough even in spite of the most favourable ratio hitherto encountered.

We were sorry to see a number of our colleagues leave on the completion of their obligations but when more employment is available in Peterhead, we hope they will return to the fold.

The congratulations of the Company go to Cook Davidson on his recent marriage.

#### "D" COMPANY

Members of "D" Company assembled in the Saltoun Hotel, Fraserburgh, on the evening of 16th May to take farewell of C.S.M. Reid who finished his Army service. After tea, Major James Sinclair spoke of the long service C.S.M. Reid had had with the Regiment and of the valuable contributions his tour of duty had made to the numerous success which the Company have had. On behalf of the Company, Major Sinclair handed over a chiming clock suitably inscribed and at the same time C.S.M. Reid was asked to accept a pair of candlesticks to match for Mrs. Reid who was unable to be present through illness. C.S.M. Reid feelingly replied.

We welcome C./Sgt. Lovie and Mrs. Lovie to Fraserburgh. Once we get to know C./Sgt. Lovie we in "D" Company will find that we have been fortunate in having once more posted to us a P.S.I. who will maintain the standard of efficiency we have come to expect from the Company.

We are proud to record our success in the Highland District .22 Shoot. Being placed third in the whole competition and taking first place in all T.A. Units deserves mention in our notes.

Congratulations to the following members of the Company who are now proud fathers:

L./Cpl. Witty,	son,	Gordon;
L./Cpl. O'Brien,	son,	Frederick;
L./Cpl. Dick,	daughter,	Janice;
L./Cpl. Smith,	son,	Graeme;
Pte. Simpson 11,	son,	Kenneth.

Week-end training at Bridge of Don finished after eight enjoyable and profitable week-ends. The move to Camp went off smoothly but once at Stobs we were attacked by a form of influenza and suffered heavy casualties -

C.S.M. Chalmers, Major Sinclair and Capt. Bartlett succumbing in quick succession. Others of the Company suffered to a lesser degree including Lieut. Brayshaw who refuses to be upset at any time. Worst weather conditions for some years probably affected us less than other companies despite the fact that about half the Company slept in tents, for our lines lay on the hill to the west of Camp, and the continuous torrents of the first week ran off quickly, leaving "Don's" customary cheerfulness unimpaired.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

With the majority of our members being on familiar ground there was no difficulty experienced in finding the Mess at Camp this year. As a result, the Mess Caterer soon had his hands full after the long and thirsty journey to Stobs.

Old acquaintances were quickly renewed, and in addition a few "weel kent" faces appeared from the top of the hill, where the Camp Staff from the 1st Battalion are situated.

The main event on the social side of Camp was our Dinner and Dance which was held in the Victoria Hotel, Hawick, on Wednesday, 29th June. This function was again an outstanding success, and an excellent meal was provided by the caterers. Perhaps the very attractive waitresses had something to do with the enjoyment of the food.

The Dance afterwards was also very successful, and, being in Hawick, there is hardly need to say that there was an abundance of partners. Indeed, had the officers not been there in full strength the sergeants would have been well outnumbered, although on this occasion there would have been few complaints against the odds.

C.S.M. Sharp and Sgt. Lobban are to be congratulated on making the excellent arrangements for a first-class evening.

When the Battalion was being photographed for identity card purposes, one sergeant was observed making quiet conversation with several of the "long-haired types". But his efforts were in vain, and now the Orderly Room staff are at a loss what to insert against the "colour of hair" column on his identity card.

On Sunday, 3rd July, all members were entertained by the Officers in their Mess to a most enjoyable pre-lunch party. So enjoyable, in fact, that more than a few sergeants would have had "cauld tatties" for dinner but for the Mess Cook's wise anticipation of a late meal.

We bid welcome to new member Sgt. Graham and congratulate him on his promotion. Congratulations also to W.O.II Sharp, W.O.II McIntosh and C./Sgt. Sim on their promotion from Sergeant.

It is with much regret that we have to say good-bye to C./Sgt. Goodall who has decided to retire from the Active List after long and loyal service with the Battalion. However, we hope that he will still keep in touch and visit us in the Mess at Keith.

We say good-bye also to Sgt. Paterson and Sgt. "Dandy" McLean, who both have decided to seek their fortunes abroad, and we take this opportunity of wishing them every success in their new ventures.

#### SHOOTING TEAM

The Battalion Shooting Team continues to bring success in the .303 field. At the Highland District Rifle Meeting in May the Highland Division Shield was regained from the 4th/7th Battalion, the team was second in the Rifle Match (Open) and first in the T.A. Section; second in the Falling Plates competition; and Sgt. Morrison gained fourth place in the Individual Rifle Match. At Dechmont Ranges on Sunday, 12th June, the "A" team won the *Glasgow Herald* Cup and was also second

in the Falling Plates competition. In addition, several individual prizes were won.

It is hoped to have one or two Company teams competing for the Bannockburn Shield at Inverness Rifle Association Meeting on Saturday, 30th July, although some difficulty is being experienced getting the younger members of the Battalion interested in competitive shoot-

ing. This Meeting is followed by the Aberdeen Wapinchaw which takes place at the Blackdog Ranges on 4th, 5th and 6th August. The main attraction at the Wapinchaw is, of course, the coveted King's Cup which is at present held by Capt. J. R. Robertson, Oldmeldrum. Every effort will be made to retain the Cup in the unit despite the strong opposition threatened from other quarters.

## The Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders

A quarter which includes both the Regimental birthday and the immediate pre-camp period is sure to be busy. The official birthday parade took place on 19th April when the Battalion was inspected by the Officer Commanding, Cape Command, Colonel L. du Toit, who afterwards addressed the troops and cut the official birthday cake. This was one of his last functions prior to retiring which he did on 21st April and with his retirement the A.C.F. in general, and the Unit in particular, lost a very good friend. He was always able to appreciate the difficulties under which the part-time soldiers labour and could be counted on for a sympathetic word when things were especially sticky or a word of praise for a job well done. He has been known to us for a long time for he served in Cape Command as G.S.O.I before the war and we have had occasion to meet up with him ever since. We wish him well and are sure that he will soon find a niche for himself in the pattern of civilian life.

Our Permanent Force Training N.C.O., S.M. Engelbrecht is to be congratulated on his promotion to Warrant Rank (long overdue in our opinion) and the award of the Union Medal for Long Service - 18 years without being caught out. Known as "Angel" and other less complimentary names he has served the Regiment loyally and well and it is hard to believe that he is a member of the Permanent Force posted to us to do a job of work rather than a fully attested member of the Regiment.

The annual church parade took place on the day of our birthday, 24th April, when the Regiment marched to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for morning service. There was a fine turn-out which must have encouraged our new Padre no end, this being his first birthday parade. After the service the Unit formed a hollow square round the War Memorial and the Commanding Officer laid a wreath suitably assisted by the Pipes and Bugles.

The beginning of the quarter also saw the addition to the Battalion's strength of the most recent batch of recruits who completed their three months continuous training early in April. We wish all the new arrivals a happy stay in the Regiment and may many of them continue for years in the service of the Unit. Congratulations particularly to Rfn. R. G. Forsyth, D. E. Meeser, G. A. Tawse and M. L. Nixon for being selected to attend the Junior Leaders Course at the Military College during their recruits training and for successfully completing the course. Great things are expected of these four lads.

### OFFICERS' MESS

During the early part of the quarter the Regiment's 70th birthday celebrations kept the Mess fairly busy. The first occasion of note was a Formal Mess held at the Garrison Officers' Mess, Wynberg Camp, attended by three ex-Commanding Officers, i.e. Brigadier W. D. Hearn, Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Sumner and Commandant W. S. Douglas, Major Gerber representing O.C., Cape Command, our Padre, the Chieftain of the Caledonian Society and Commanding Officers of sister units in the

Command and last, but not least as the only piano player amongst the assembled body, Commandant van der Walt of the Peninsula Skietkommando.

This dinner on 16th April was followed by the birthday parade on 19th at the conclusion of which the officers presented Colonel du Toit with an inscribed cigarette box as a small token of gratitude for his many kind acts of assistance during his term of office.

The following Sunday saw the annual church parade after which the officers entertained a number of friends at the Mess including several ex-officers of the Unit whom we have not seen for many a year.

A very hearty word of welcome to Major Arthur Weekes, E.D., who previously commanded the local "Q" Company but when it was moved to Stellenbosch, rather than discontinue his service in the A.C.F., decided to come and look after our "Q" troubles for which we were more than thankful. With Major Weekes came his charming wife and we bid her welcome to the ladies of the Regiment also.

Congratulations to Majors Niemann, Fort and Hone on the award of the new John Chard Medal, the award being for 12 years' service.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last report the Mess, although not having made headline news, has, nevertheless, continued to be in evidence in its small way.

Firstly on 27th February it had the distinction of being narrowly (?) beaten at cricket by the Corporals' Mess. Our star batsman W.O.II (Molly) Engelbrecht and our demon bowler Sgt. Stein, for all their efforts, could not avert a 10 wicket defeat. Nevertheless, a most enjoyable afternoon in a real "village cricket" atmosphere prevailed, wives and girl friends of both Messes were there in goodly numbers and we thank them for their moral support.

On 19th March, Sgt. Savage, our worthy cook, entered the body of the kirk (as it were) and became a member of the Mess Committee. After the traditional "roof wetting" he was given the honour of hanging the Queen Mother's photograph above the display cabinet. It is alleged that Sgt. Savage has requested a transfer to the administration side of H.Q. Company - apparently to cook the books for a change.

As usual, the birthday period kept us very busy first with the birthday parade and then the annual church parade. It is seemly to note here that a certain W.O.II so imbued with army punctuality arrived a week early for the church parade.

The April Mess Meeting saw the welcome into our midst of Sgt. Mullins an adept at "marbles" and with a taste for aniseed brandy which has saved the Mess the trouble of presenting that part of the stock to the museum. The crowns of S/Sgts. Reid and Prins were also suitably dampened. This particular evening saw a new sartorial trend in that a certain W.O.II of spear fishing fame introduced the wearing of brown shoes and socks with tartan slacks. We were also happy to have a visit from ex-S/Sgt. Owen Kets that evening.



**LAYING OF WREATH AT  
WAR MEMORIAL AT ST.  
ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH ON THE  
BIRTHDAY PARADE**

Laying wreath, Comdt. G. W. Thomas,  
M.C. Immediately behind (*left to right*)  
Lieuts. P. G. Joslin and L. Van N. Vink.

*With acknowledgments to the Cape Times*



**GOLD CUP TEAM 1955**

*Kneeling (left to right):* Rfn. D. Doherty, R.S.M. S. Schwormstedt (*Captain*), Sgt. P. A. Lisle.

*Standing (left to right):* Sgts. H. Clausen, W. Smith, Rfn. B. Higgins, Lieut. J. Hulme, S/Major N. Wrانkmore.



**REFRESHMENTS DURING THE SERGEANTS  
v. CORPORALS CRICKET MATCH**

*(Left to right):* S/Maj. Engelbrecht, S/Sgt. P. Buisson-Street,  
Cpl. R. B. Hemmens, C.S.M. Wrانkmore, Sgt. P. A. Lisle,  
Cpl. Anders.

Congratulations to Sgts. Mullins, Mouton and Jacka and S/Sgts. Reid and Prins on their promotions. Also to R.Q.M.S. G. Wastie and C.S.M. "Shorty" Hendricks on the award of the John Chard Medal.

As a result of a spot of dieting Mr. Hendricks is now able to do up the two top buttons of his slacks, something he has not been able to do for years. It is hoped that the trip up the East Coast will not undo the good work.

Sgt. Fullard also has the wander-lust at present and should, by now, be in U.K. where he hopes to visit our sister Regiment if time permits.

And finally a word of farewell to S/Sgts. Prins and Reid and Sgts. van Dyk and Thorndyke who are leaving us at the end of June.

#### "A" COMPANY

In April the Rifle Company was split into "A" and "B" Companies so we are able once again to resume our identity, this time, we hope, permanently. The split was made possible by the addition to the Company of 21 men who have completed their three months' basic training. We take this opportunity of welcoming them to the Company and wishing them a long, useful and happy stay with us.

Since last making a contribution little news has come to hand. What there is, is on the debit side. The Company Second-in-Command, Capt. H. Faragher-Thomas has taken up new employment in Queenstown and he will not even be able to attend camp. Even more serious is the imminent loss of the services of S/Sgt. D. M. Prins our very able C.Q.M.S. Truly it hath been said—"a good C.Q.M.S. is better than much fine gold." We wish S/Sgt. Prins every success and assure him that his services have been much appreciated.

#### "B" COMPANY

We are grateful to Major C. St. L. Hone for his guidance and the very real interest he took in us during the last few years when our depleted numbers necessitated temporary amalgamation with "A" Company.

However, we are very happy now to have regained our own identity and we welcome the appointment of Capt. G. Forsyth as our Company Commander.

Together with this recently gained independence, our numbers have been swelled by the new recruits who have joined us after three months' extensive training. It will be up to them, as much as the older hands, to build "B" Company into a body to be reckoned with in the Battalion, so beware . . .

We are certain we have one of the largest men in the Battalion in Pte. Murray-Rawbone. In these days where large men are the exception rather than the rule, our 200 odd lb., 6 ft. 4 in. rifleman has certainly upset our diminutive Sergeant Major (diminutive in stature only, certainly not in spirit or character).

Alas, on every ceremonial occasion, Murray-Rawbone has been found, by chance or design, as the right hand man of the leading file of 4 Platoon. On taking position for column of route, C.S.M. "Shorty" Lowton has found himself positioned in front of the aforementioned Colossus, and must have felt rather like Rhodes Memorial—on the wrong side of the mountain and getting little or no sun at all. An obviously impossible situation and somebody had to move . . . We believe Murray-Rawbone has found himself a very comfortable file at the rear of 4 Platoon, we trust to everybody's satisfaction.

Preparations are under way for camp and we are all keenly looking forward to what is the most enjoyable part of our training year. We hope on our return to have a fund of stories and incidents to relate and we hope some victories on the sports field.

#### BAND

The Band, as usual, have filled in their time to good effect. Several members were present at the Officers' Mess dinner to fulfil their usual functions and provide music off. On 4th May the Band assisted at the Villagers' Rugby Club Fete at Wynberg and on 30th at a Smoker at Muizenberg in aid of funds for the White Bonnets Ladies' Pipe Band.

On the Union Day parade on 31st May the Band turned out in full force and made a brave showing, quite obviously the favourites of the large crowd of spectators who attended the function.

On 4th June the Band assisted very ably at a dance at Muizenberg again in aid of the White Bonnets funds.

The Pipe Major and L./Cpl. Urquhart surprised the R.S.M.'s daughter at her wedding by playing outside the church when the bride and groom left after the ceremony. Now that this ex-Regimental piper has the R.S.M. as father-in-law, maybe a little persuasion by father and daughter might get him back into the Band. How about it Mr. Schwormstedt?

Congratulations to Piper D. Scott on his success at the Port Elizabeth Highland Gathering when he took 1st place in the Novice March, Strathspey and Reel.

A hearty welcome to the Band ranks to Pipers C. B. Levitt, Hellings, P.T. and Rynhoud and Drmrs. R. G. Parkinson, D. Cleland and Perloff and Learners F. H. Smith and C. Lumb.

#### RIFLE CLUB

Most of this quarter's news concerns the A.C.F. Gold Cup with every shoot being a practice for the big event. The Patterson Cup has been put up for the one who returns the best average out of the practices and the competition has been very keen. A welcome addition to the Club from the Sergeants' Mess is Sgt. W. Smith who seems determined to take off some of the year's trophies or die in the attempt. Sgt. P. Lisle, a member of longer standing, is also proving a little difficult. Our thanks to Lieut. C. Albertyn and C.S.M. N. Wrangmore for their assistance in helping with the Gold Cup efforts, Mr. Albertyn, unfortunately, not being available to fire on the occasion of the competition. A very hearty welcome also to Rfn. D. Doherty one of the recent postings to the Regiment.

The first date for the Gold Cup was 21st May but the weather-man had other ideas and washed it out, the only one to gain being the Club salesman of biscuits and minerals. The alternative date the 28th turned out a reasonable day but we had considerable difficulty in raising a team due to various hindrances not the least of which was an Inter-Provincial Rugby Match. We also lost Rfn. W. Kelly who has been transferred to Port Elizabeth. Kelly has been a keen supporter of the Club and we thank him for this.

Results on the 28th were a little disappointing and we finished second among the teams shooting at Bellville, the scores being 1st Armoured Division Sig. Sqdn. 518, Q.O.C.T.H. 483 and 3 Fd. Sqdn. S.A.E.C. 468 out of a total of 672.

Our team was as follows—2/Lieut. J. Hulme, R.S.M. S. F. Schwormstedt (Capt.) W.O.II N. Wrangmore, Sgts. W. Smith, P. Lisle, H. Clausen and Rfn. B. Higgins and D. Doherty.

#### SUPPORT COMPANY

Must have joined the Silent Service or are in need of a firing party. Great pity, it was quite a good company once!!

## Obituary

The deaths were announced in July of three distinguished members of the Regiment:—

**PRIVATE EDWARD LAWSON, V.C.**, whose death took place at Newcastle-on-Tyne was awarded the Victoria Cross 57 years ago. The extract from the *London Gazette* of 20th May, 1898 reads— "Edward Lawson, Private, The Gordon Highlanders. Date of Act of Bravery: 20th October, 1897. During the attack on the Dargai Heights on the 20th October, 1897, Private Lawson carried Lieut. K. Dingwall, The Gordon Highlanders (who was wounded and unable to move), out of a heavy fire, and subsequently returned and brought in Private McMillan, being himself wounded in two places."

**COLONEL E. H. H. GORDON, C.B.** Born on 8th November 1861 'Teb' Gordon has for some years been

the oldest Gordon Highlander. He joined the Regiment in 1882 and very soon saw service in the Egyptian campaigns. His nickname comes from the battle of El Teb and he was also in the Nile expedition which made the attempt to relieve Khartoum.

For many years he has lived at Pinelands, Cape Town and it was there that, on 11th July, he died.

**COLONEL JAMES FORBES ROBERTSON, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.** Colonel Forbes Robertson was specially selected to command the 2nd Battalion in 1926, and after the usual tour he was given command of a Territorial Brigade before retiring in 1932. He joined the Border Regiment in 1904 and was serving with that Regiment in 1918 when he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

## Gordon Highlanders Dinner Club

The Annual Dinner was held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane on Monday, 13th June, 1955.

The Colonel of the Regiment presided and the following were present:

Brigadiers The Earl of Caithness and J. M. Hamilton. Colonels E. B. Beedle, D. C. D. Munro, R. A. G. Murphy and W. J. B. Osbaldeston-Mitford.

Lieut.-Colonels P. D. Barry, T. M. Booth, J. D. Chalmers, D. A. D. Fraser, J. E. G. Hay, R. G. Lees, A. D. McKechnie, A. M. B. Norman, I. Picton-Turberville, G. N. Ross and H. W. B. Saunders.

Majors V. A. H. Denne, J. I. R. Dunlop, P. W. Forbes, I. B. M. Hamilton, C. G. D. Huggins, L. L. Maitland, L. I. G. G. M. Maclean, B. C. A. Napier, A. D. Spark, J. P. P. Taylor and J. H. S. Turnbull.

Captains A. E. Balfour, C. T. M. Booth, M. H. Burge, R. C. B. Chancellor, W. M. Kerr and J. J. H. Simpson.

Lieutenants J. Q. P. Curzon, R. A. C. Linzee and D. G. B. Saunders.

2/Lieutenants W. J. M. Beckwith, H. M. L. Bradshaw, N. H. Cantlie and B. G. Paton.

## Regimental History

The Regimental History Committee has come to an agreement with Capt. Cyril Falls to write Volume IV of the history covering the period of the First World War, and he has already begun work.

Capt. Falls who was born in 1888 has had a distinguished military and literary career. During the European War he served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and as Liaison Officer with the French on the staff of 36th and 62nd Divisions. Mentioned in Despatches twice, he received the French Croix de Guerre and two citations. From 1923-39 he was employed in the Military Historical section of the Committee of Imperial Defence.

Sometime Chichele Professor of the History of War, Oxford University and Fellow of All Souls College; Military Correspondent to *The Times* and a contributor to a number of periodicals, Capt. Falls has published

many works including the Official Military Histories of the British Campaigns in Egypt, Palestine, Macedonia and France; the History of the 36th (Ulster) Division; the Nature of Modern War, 1941; Ordeal by Battle, 1943; and a Short History of the Second World War.



[Photo: Lafayette Ltd.]

CAPTAIN CYRIL FALLS



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