

THE TIGER



AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

VOLUME V (NEW ISSUE).

NUMBER 15.

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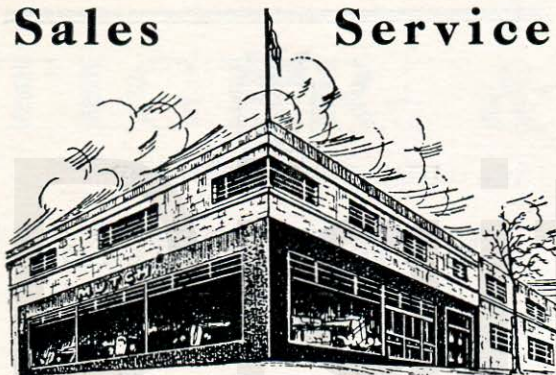
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The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

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Presentation of Colours by Her Majesty the Queen to 3rd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders (T.A.), Balmoral Castle, 19th August, 1961.
(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)

EDITORIAL

Pressure on space has made it necessary to hold over some contributions until 1962 so once again we ask contributors of articles to be patient and understanding.

We take this opportunity of bidding farewell to Commandant D. M. Loveland of The Cape Town Highlanders who retired on 1st August after 25 years' service, and are most grateful for the interest and support which he gave to the *Tiger and Sphinx*. We extend a warm welcome to his successor, Commandant C. St. L. Hone.

Congratulations to Captain R. I. Raitt on winning the George Knight Clowes Memorial Essay

Prize and Gold Medal for 1961. The winning essay appears in the current issue of the "Army Quarterly" and it is interesting that, in the same issue, there is an article by Lieut.-Colonel Charles Barker.

We regret to announce the death of Major L. L. Tevendale and Major Geoffrey Barlow, and offer our sympathy to their relatives.

We are asked to draw attention to the report of proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the Dinner Club and to add that alternatives to the proposed terms of subscription are now under consideration by a more widely representative Committee.

Obituaries

Major L. L. Tevendale, D.C.M.

Lewis Tevendale died recently in Strathcathro Hospital at the early age of 51. Born in Kemnay, he joined the Regiment in 1928 and on conclusion of his service went into the Kincardineshire Police Force in 1935.

In 1939 he rejoined and saw service as a paratrooper with the Scottish Commandos and it was for his services as R.S.M. with them in the Middle East that he was awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry in the Lebanon.

Tevendale was commissioned in the field in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and as a Major he fought in Burma with the Chindits. After the war he obtained a commission in the Regiment.

He was an excellent heavyweight boxer and had marked success both in the Army and the Police Force.

On retirement he took over the Bush Hotel, St. Cyrus.

The funeral was attended by representatives of Regimental Headquarters and the 1st Battalion as well as many serving and retired members of the Regiment.

Major G. Barlow.

Geoffrey Barlow, who died on 13th July, served with the Territorials for some years before the war. He escaped the disaster which befell the Highland Division in 1940, but was with them in North Africa.

Whilst serving with the 5/7th Battalion he received wounds which severely affected his health and undoubtedly led to his early death.

After the war he lived in England and was rarely seen in Aberdeenshire.

The funeral at Northampton was attended by Major Warlow on behalf of the London Association. The Pipe Major of the London Scottish was also present.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS' DINNER CLUB

At the annual general meeting of the Gordon Highlanders' Dinner Club held at the Naval and Military Club in London, on 20th June, 1961, it was decided to widen membership of the Club to allow all officers who hold, or have held, a commission in the Gordon Highlanders to become members of the Club. This includes officers of the Regiments which form part of the Corps of Gordon Highlanders or are affiliated to it. Hitherto, membership has been restricted to serving and retired regular officers and officers of the Aberdeenshire Militia (The old 3rd Battalion).

At the same meeting of the Dinner Club, it was agreed that the annual subscription should be raised from one guinea to two guineas. It is of interest to note that the subscription was fixed at one guinea when the Club was formed in 1890 and the Club has therefore been run for more than seventy years without raising the subscription until now. From the proceeds of this subscription, a dinner, including drinks, has been provided annually in London, except during war years, and in addition, a sum of £600 has been given towards the writing and publication of the Regimental History.

The Dinner Club is to be honoured by the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, at the next annual

dinner, which will be held in London on the 15th June, 1962.

The following members of the Dinner Club were present at the annual dinner, which was held at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly, London, on the 20th June, 1961, when the Colonel of the Regiment presided:—

Major Generals E. C. Colville and K. C. Davidson.

Brigadier J. M. Hamilton.

Colonels W. J. Graham, G. McDonald, R. A. G. Murphy and G. W. Nelson.

Lieut.-Colonels C. N. Barker, H. I. Bradshaw, J. D. Chalmers, J. Clark, E. H. Davidson, G. R. Elsmie, P. W. Forbes, D. A. D. Fraser, J. E. G. Hay, R. G. Lees, B. C. A. Napier, H. W. B. Saunders and H. Wright.

Majors P. Bell, D. H. W. Brown, V. A. H. Denne, J. I. R. Dunlop, L. A. Gordon, C. R. D'I. Kenworthy, M. M. Makgill-Crichton-Maitland, R. A. Nickson, J. J. H. Simpson, A. D. Spark, J. P. P. Taylor and A. T. Wilson.

Captains A. E. Balfour, C. T. M. Booth, R. A. C. Linzee, P. E. L. A. Myers, J. W. P. Rhodes, D. G. B. Saunders, W. H. Smith-Grant, J. de B. Stansfeld, and C. M. Wolfe-Murray.

Messrs W. J. M. Beckwith, D. W. S. Buchan, J. B. Robertson, and C. H. Van Der Noot.

LOCATION STATE

REGULAR AND NATIONAL SERVICE:

<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Initials, Name and Decorations.</i>	<i>Present Location.</i>
Lt.-Col. G. R. Elsmie,	O.B.E.	Deputy President Regular Commissions Board.
Lt.-Col. F. G. E. Walford,	M.B.E.	Q.M.G. Ministry of Defence, Ghana Army.
Lt.-Col. B. C. A. Napier,	M.B.E., M.C.	C.O. 1 Gordons.
Major R. F. Davies.		S.O.P.T. H.Q. Scottish Command.
Major G. Slater.		Army Information Office, Aberdeen.
Major P. B. Hay.		H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe.
T/Lt.-Col. C. N. Barker,	M.B.E., M.C.	H.Q. Scottish Command.
Major J. D. S. Young.		H.Q. Land Forces Persian Gulf.
Major R. W. Smith.		D.A.A.G. (Org.) H.Q. Scottish Command.
Major I. C. S. Munro.		H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Major M. A. C. Stephen.		2/Lt. 1 Gordons.
Major A. J. C. Richardson.		Arms Inspectorate, War Office.
Major R. A. Nickson,	M.C.	B.M.M. Libya.
Major J. A. G. Tindall.		1 Gordons.
Major J. Neish.		Training Major/Adjutant 1 London Scottish.
Major M. H. Burge.		Adjutant 1 Gordons.
Major A. T. C. Brown.		Army Air Corps, Kenya.
Major J. Carmichael.		Federation of Malaya Military Forces.
Major D. H. W. Brown,	M.C.	Training Major/Adjutant 3 Gordons (T.A.).
Maj. I. McK. Robertson.		Nigeria Regiment, Nigeria.
Major R. C. B. Chancellor,	M.B.E.	1 Gordons.
T/Major J. J. H. Simpson.		War Office, M.T. 1.
T/Major M. M. Makgill-Crighton-Maitland.		1 Gordons.
T/Major J. T. D. Durbin.		H.Q. Singapore Base District.
Captain R. D. L. Smart.		1 Gordons.
Captain I. D. Martineau.		H.Q. 2 Division, B.A.O.R.
Captain D. G. B. Saunders.		
Captain C. J. D. Gordon-Steward.		1 Gordons.
Captain R. W. C. Muri-son.		1 Gordons.
Captain M. A. Avery.		Adjutant Training Depot Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron) / Gordon Highlanders.

<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Initials, Name and Decorations.</i>	<i>Present Location.</i>
Captain D. C. K. Brown.		1 Gordons.
Captain R. I. Raitt.		1 Gordons.
Captain M. M. Cruickshank.		Nigeria Regiment, Nigeria.
Captain E. F. Gordon.		School of Infantry, Support Weapons Wing.
Captain W. D. R. West.		1 Gordons.
Captain B. G. Paton.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. R. J. MacLagan.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. P. W. Graham.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. A. N. M. Scott.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. D. J. S. MacColl.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. R. G. D. Bruce.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. R. C. I. Robinson.		Training Depot Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth & Cameron) / Gordon Highlanders.
Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. K. I. H. Lumsden.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. T. H. G. Duke.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. C. H. Van Der Noot.		1 Gordons.
2/Lieut. R. S. Fawcus.		1 Gordons.
2/Lieut. D. M. H. M. Du Boulay.		1 Gordons.
2/Lieut. D. J. Hendry.		1 Gordons.
Major (Q.M.) R. W. Gibb.		H.Q. East Africa Command.
Major (Q.M.) F. Kernohan.		1 Gordons.
Captain (Q.M.) R. B. Wilkinson.		1 London Scottish (T.A.).
Captain (Q.M.) C. Michie.		3 Gordons (T.A.).
Lieut. (Q.M.) G. Dunn.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. (Q.M.) W. Dawson.		Brigade of Gurkhas Transit Camp.

SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS:

<i>Rank.</i>	<i>Initials, Name and Decorations.</i>	<i>Present Location.</i>
Major D. A. C. Grant,	T.D.	D.A.D. Claims, H.Q. Scottish Command.
Major C. D. A. Provo,	M.B.E.	War Office.
Major G. Duncan.		1 Gordons.
T/Lt.-Col. N. K. Hartrey.		A.A. & Q.M.G. Stats., H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Lieut. M. Borthwick.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. P. J. Fitch.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. I. Fleming.		1 Gordons.
Lieut. R. Saville.		1 Gordons.
Captain (Q.M.) W. J. Murray.		H.Q. Brigade of Gurkhas.

GAZETTE

REGULAR ARMY:—

2nd Lt. Robin Stewart Fawcus (463855), from Short Serv. Comm., to be 2nd Lt., 16th March, 1961, with seniority 24th Sept., 1960.

Lt. Kenneth Ian Hugh Lumsden (434254), from Res. of Officers, to be 2nd Lt., 30th May, 1961, with seniority 3rd Feb., 1958. To be Lt., 30th May, 1961, with seniority 3rd Feb., 1960.

2nd Lt. T. H. G. Duke (461412) to be Lt., 1st June, 1961.

2nd Lt. C. H. Van Der Noot (463410), to be Lt., 18th June, 1961.

Maj. B. C. A. Napier, M.B.E., M.C. (85692), to be Lt.-Col., 28th June, 1961.

Lt.-Col. A. G. Close (56434), from Emp. List (1) to be Lt.-Col. (Emp. List (1)), 15th Sep., 1961, retaining his present seniority.

David George Hendry (469017) to be 2nd Lt., 29th July, 1961.

Capt. J. J. H. Simpson (364953) to be Maj., 13th Oct., 1961.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS:—

2876806 W.O. I William James Reid Dawson (469522) to be Lt. (Q.M.), 24th Aug., 1961.

Maj. K. E. Muirhead, T.D. (56782), (Emp. List 3) relinquishes his commn., on completion of service, 25th Sep., 1961, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.

Maj. (Q.M.) A. Taylor (338591) relinquishes his commn., on completion of service, 1st Oct., 1961, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj. (Q.M.)

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS:—

Capt. R. J. C. Chaytor (108208), resigns his commn., 18th June, 1961, and is granted the hon. rank of Capt.

CLASS III:—

Lt. J. B. Thomson (450367) from A.E. Res. of Offrs., Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 1st Sep., 1961.

2nd Lt. (on probation) N. H. Cantlie (430256), from Active List Greys to be Lt., 20th Aug., 1961, with seniority 31st July, 1955.

TERRITORIAL ARMY:—

2nd Lt. F. D. Ogston (461597) (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt., 31st May, 1959. To be Lt., 31st May, 1961, with seniority 31st May, 1960.

2nd Lt. A. D. M. Hendry (461598) (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt., 31st May, 1959, with seniority 31st May, 1958. To be Lt., 31st May, 1960.

23681751 L/Cpl. Norman Charles Hodgson (468849) to be 2nd Lt. (on probation), 25th April, 1961.

Capt. H. R. M. Kay (407185) is granted the actg. rank of Maj., 1st May, 1961, with seniority 1st Nov., 1960.

Lt. J. M. Gray (441329) is granted the actg. rank of Capt., 1st June, 1961.

2nd Lt. G. W. Anderson (460516) (on probation) is confirmed in his appt., as 2nd Lt., 8th Mar, 1959. To be Lt., 23rd July, 1961.

Maj. D. E. Miller, M.C. (326933), resigns his commn., 3rd Aug., 1961, retaining the rank of Maj.

2nd Lt. R. A. Headridge (459360) (on probation) is confirmed in his appt. as 2nd Lt., 19th Nov., 1958. To be Lt., 3rd Sep., 1961.

TERRITORIAL ARMY—**NATIONAL SERVICE LIST:—**

Lt. D. C. T. Pollock (457701), from T.A. to be Lt., 1st April, 1961, retaining his present seniority.

Maj. J. A. Hewson, T.D. (129498) from Active List, to be Maj., 24th April, 1961.

Capt. C. R. Turnbull (425887), from Active List, to be Capt., 4th April, 1961.

Maj. J. J. McGibbon, T.D. (397000) from Active List, to be Maj., 1st May, 1961.

Maj. J. B. Singer, T.D. (148623), from Active List, to be Maj., 1st May, 1961.

Capt. J. D. Brayshaw (43627) from Active List, to be Capt., 10th May, 1961.

Capt. J. D. Brayshaw (436427) from Active List, to be Capt., 22nd Aug., 1961.

1st BATTALION EDITORIAL

Militarily the most important event during the last few months has been the British intervention in Kuwait—a smartly executed operation which has confounded many of the critics of the 1957 White Paper Strategy, a strategy involving the use of the Strategic Reserve, Commando carriers and air transported fire brigade troops.

Although the Kuwait intervention did not at that time directly affect 1 Gordons its repercussions may still do so, even to the extent that alterations

in troop movements to Bahrain, Kuwait and Kenya could cause a change in the Battalion deployment when we eventually reach Kenya at the end of the year.

The actual operation itself provides a pointer to the type of work we may find ourselves engaged in during 1962 and 63. The strategy of the air transported brigade group is here to stay and it will in all probability lead in the final analysis to the end of the era of expensive fixed static bases in the colonial and dependent territories.

The whole of the Middle East area is still as tense to-day as it ever has been and the replacement of British troops in Kuwait by United Arab Republic forces can be counted upon to heighten the tension rather than alleviate it.

Similarly the advent of independence in Kenya consequent upon the release of Jomo Kenyatta signifies the approach of a period of political and social strain and one which will require very careful handling indeed by the Colonial Office. That however is the business of the politicians, for the soldier the task is clear; to ensure that he is well trained, knows his job and is ready and able to do it.

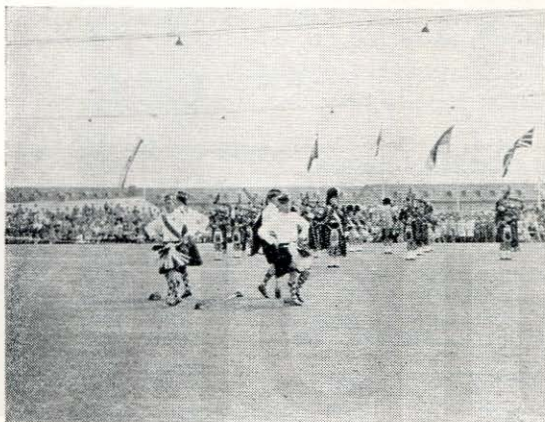
That is our target for the future.

BERLIN

Nearer us here in Germany however is the crisis in Berlin. As yet it has had only a very small effect upon the daily life of the Battalion—there has merely been a slight stepping up in the military preparedness state of units in B.A.O.R.



International Day—Bad Hersfeld.



Drums, Pipes and Dancers. Sgt. Reid and Pte. Barrack facing.

However it has meant that the Battalion has been at operational readiness and will probably remain so right up to the very time we leave for Edinburgh in October. Thus preparations for a move, always a complicated and tedious process, have to be carried out with the simultaneous requirement of always being able to carry out an operational task. The packing up process nevertheless proceeds on schedule and even the added difficulties of an air trooping move to the United Kingdom are being steadily overcome.

VISIT OF A PANZER GRENADIER PLATOON

During the period 10-17 August a platoon of a Panzer Grenadier Battalion were quartered in "D" Company Barrack block and carried out training with "D" Company. This visit was in return for that paid by a Platoon of "D" Company to the Panzers earlier this summer. One feature of the Platoon's stay was a demonstration put on by "D" Company before the Battalion of ambush drill. After "D" Company had shown how the drills should be carried out the German Platoon gave a demonstration along the same track through the Scheuen training area of their equivalent drills, namely anti partisan action. The contrast between the two systems of operating was most marked and it was particularly noticeable how the members of the fire section never stayed for more than a few seconds in one fire position, but kept crawling round and towards the objective whilst the assaulting sections rounded up the bandits or partisans. Whether this method would in fact work in the anti terrorist role is a matter for speculation but many useful lessons were learnt on both sides from these demonstrations.

VISIT OF THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

On Monday, 14th August, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. Leakey, D.S.O., M.C., paid an official visit to the Battalion. After lunching in the Officers' Mess and meeting the Officers he attended the demonstrations in Scheuen training area of ambush drills given by "D" Company.

B.A.O.R. MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS.

Trenchard Barracks could never be described, even on the most peaceful of summer evenings, as a haven of tranquillity and quietness. The normal

cacophony of bagpipes, vehicles, brass bands, wire-lasses, Harry Lauder emulators and other disturbers of the peace (no disrespect to the Drums and Pipes or Military Band!) paled however on Monday, 21st August, before the indescribable tumult heralding the approach of a plague of motorcyclists.

As if called by some demoniac summons hundreds of these roaring and thundering machines hurtled into Trenchard Barracks and disgorged their oil spattered, space helmeted riders on to the Main Square.

The B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trial was on!

It was the Battalion's task to organise these trials and no mean task it proved to be. The weather was indescribable and one of the routes which had been carefully planned and signposted for the Map Reading test proved to be impassable. Major Lacey of the R.A.P.C., the scorekeeper, worked wonders with his slide rules to keep a semblance of order in all the scores which, due to the impassability of the course, required revision.

On the following day when the Hazard circuits were negotiated the complicated scoring system nevertheless worked admirably.

On the second day the Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Jones attended the trials together with Lady Jones. After lunching in the Officers' Mess they toured all the various hazards at Scheuen and at the end the prizes were presented to the winners by Lady Jones.

Everyone engaged in organising the trials worked hard to ensure the smooth running of a most difficult task and their work was well rewarded for at least one team captain was heard by the writer to remark that he had never before been at such a well run motor cycle trials meeting.

What the other meetings must have been like we dread to think.



Platoon of 81 Panzer Grenadier Battalion and detachment 1st Battalion marching into barracks.

THE BATTALION IN GENERAL

Summer this year in Germany never even began and except for a short sunny period in July it has been almost incessant rain and cloud for the last four months.

The Companies all had their spells out on the training area and Battalion H.Q. or parts of it ventured out three times on exercises Top Hat, Cleft Stick and Genesis V. The first, Top Hat, was a Corps administrative exercise and part of the task

of 1 Gordons was to provide 100 casualties to be evacuated by the medical services back to the corps rear area. By the end of the exercise the gallant 100 looked like real casualties and some of the R.A.M.C. orderlies were wondering what had hit them.

One new introduction to Battalion life is the Saturday morning lecture on Current Affairs. Every Saturday morning at 0845 a scale X parade in the Battalion theatre is addressed by a Subaltern on some important topic of Current Affairs. This subject, contrary to what most officers think, is of vital importance and is also of very great interest to the soldier and the attentiveness of the audience to the good lecturer on Saturday mornings is evidence that the need was there.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome back to the Battalion after a few years absence in civilian life Lieutenant K. Lumsden who has been granted a regular commission and has been posted to "D" Company.

Among the farewells we say goodbye with great reluctance and regret to Captain (Q.M.) Foster, M.B.E., and his wife. It is intended to publish in our next issue a photograph of Captain Foster and a short biography but in the meantime we wish him and Mrs Foster all success in their civilian life and hope we may see them as frequent visitors to the Regiment and Battalion wherever we may be.

THE DEPARTURE OF LT.-COL. G. R. ELSMIE, O.B.E.

In June Lieutenant Colonel Elsmie's 2½ years term of command was completed and he and his family left Celle to take up their new home in Wiltshire where Colonel Elsmie's next post is on the staff of the Regular Commissions Board.

His departure from Trenchard Barracks was marked by the jovial informality of his ceremonial chairing and cheering out through the barracks gates when he was borne out in an armchair on the shoulders of the officers.

The loud cheering of the Battalion in farewell salute to their Commanding Officer from January, 1959, to June, 1961, signified his popularity with the Battalion and particularly with the "Jocks" of whom he was so fond.

For a record of achievements of the Battalion whilst under his command past Tigers and Sphinxes tell the tale but what is probably not so well known is the record of achievement of Lt.-Col. Elsmie himself since he was commissioned from Sandhurst in January, 1936.

This is therefore a suitable opportunity to provide the inside story and to write a short biography.

After commissioning Lt.-Col. Elsmie joined the 1st Gordons in Edinburgh in March, 1936, and he was then posted in January, 1937, to the 2nd Bn. in Gibraltar. He continued to serve with the 2nd Bn. in both Singapore and Malaya being successively



Lieutenant-Colonel Elsmie being chaired out of Trenchard Barracks.

Signal Officer in 1939-40 and Company Commander 1940-42. From February, 1942-August '45 he was a Prisoner of War in Malaya and Siam and then in September, 1946, he rejoined the 2nd Gordons in Tripoli where he served until he became Adjutant of the 4/7 Gordons, T.A., in December, 1947.



Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Elsmie, O.B.E.

Then followed a period of service in the 1st Battalion in Essen, Berlin and Sennelager from 1949-50 and in Malaya from 1951-52. From 1952-54 Lt-Col. Elsmie commanded the Depot during which time he had the honour of commanding the Queen's Guard at Ballater from August to October, 1954.

Again there followed a spell in the 1st Battalion in Edinburgh, then in Cyprus, where he was Second in Command from 1956-57, and in Dover.

In 1958 Lt-Col. Elsmie became senior instructor in the Basic Wing at Mons OCS and from there he came to the 1st Battalion as Commanding Officer in January, 1959.

The best wishes of the Battalion go to him and his family.

THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER LIEUT.-COL. B. C. A. NAPIER, M.B.E., M.C.

As the old passes so does the new begin and it is therefore to be hoped that the customary warm welcome which the Tiger and Sphinx gives to a new Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion will this time live up to the traditions of the past. Indeed on this occasion it is intended to transcend the customs of the past to the extent that besides extending a welcome from the 1st Battalion to Lieutenant-Colonel Napier we are also going to print a short

biographical sketch of the Military Career of the new Commanding Officer.

The purpose of this is twofold, firstly because it seems more appropriate that a Battalion should know as much as possible about their new C.O. as soon as possible and secondly because in general prologues sound sweeter to the ear than epilogues. This being so the tale may now commence.

The son of a Regimental father who joined the Second Battalion in August, 1867, and commanded the same Battalion in 1896. Lt-Col. Napier joined the First Battalion in Aldershot in January, 1939, on commissioning, together with Jock Gordon and Jimmy Dunlop from Sandhurst. On the outbreak of war he was posted to Aberdeen as Weapon Training Officer and Assistant Adjutant and in February, 1940, he volunteered for the Commandos. However the Commando didn't form immediately and thus Lt-Col. Napier found himself rejoining the reformed 1st Bn. in June, 1940, as O.C. "C" Company. In August, 1940, he joined 11 Scottish Commando on its formation and was appointed Second in Command and promoted temporary Major. He remained with 11 Scottish Commando until its disbandment in the Middle East in September, 1941, and he then became O.C. British Wing, Middle East War Training School until December, 1942.



Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. A. Napier, M.B.E., M.C.

In January, 1943, Lt-Col. Napier joined 5/7 Gordons in the desert and commanded "C" Company until the end of the African Campaign. When Colonel Hay was wounded on the beach in Sicily he took over command of 5/7 Gordons until a week before the end of the campaign when Colonel Hay returned.

In February, 1944, he went to the Staff College, Camberley, and then left the course one month

before the end on emergency posting as Brigade Major, 153 Brigade to General Murray and later to the Colonel of the Regiment when he commanded 153 Brigade.

A posting to the War Office in May, 1946, with the task of starting an Intelligence Section on Soviet Army Organisation and Tactics was followed in February, 1948, by being sent to Australia by Field Marshal Templer to serve in a Grade 1 appointment on the Australian Army Staff until mid-1950.

From October, 1950, to early 1952 Lieut.-Colonel Napier was Adjutant to 1 Gordons in Germany and Malay, and from September, 1953, to March, 1954, he studied at the Joint Services Staff College. After a period on the staff, he commanded the Depot from 1956 to 1958 and then joined the Battalion as Second in Command. In December, 1959, he was appointed A.Q.M.G., Eastern Command.

A warm welcome indeed goes out from the 1st Battalion to Lieut.-Colonel B. C. A. Napier and his family.

THE BATTALION SPORTS AND AMENITIES CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

In all communities, whether military or otherwise, societies and clubs play an important part in corporate life. It is therefore not to be wondered that the introduction in August of the Battalion Sports and Amenity Committee, embodying as it does no less than 35 different clubs and societies, has been highly welcomed in the Battalion and has evoked universal support and interest.

The purpose of these clubs and societies is to encourage the soldier to use his spare time wisely and beneficially and to ensure that everything is done to make all sports and amenities available to all ranks.

The main aim is to give the soldier and his wife and children every possible opportunity for recreation in Kenya and particularly to enable all ranks to participate in what have hitherto been regarded only as "officer's sports," but which in Kenya can be made open to everyone.

Appointment	Rank	Name	Comm.	T.O.S.	Duties
C.O.	Lt.-Col.	B. C. A. NAPIER, M.B.E., M.C. (W)	Reg	28 Jun., 61	
2/I.C.	S/Maj.	M. A. C. STEPHEN (W)	Reg	6 Jul., 60	Band President, O.I.C.
Adjt.	S/Capt.	R. D. L. SMART (W)	Reg	2 Apr., 60	Riding, Security Officer
Asst. Adjt. IO	S/Lt.	D. J. S. MacCOLL	Reg	11 Sep., 58	Unit Mail Officer
O.C. H.Q. Coy.	T/Maj.	M. M. MACKGILL - CRICHTON - MAIT - LAND	Reg		City Labour Officer
2/I.C. H.Q. Coy.	S/Capt.	R. W. C. MURISON (W)	Reg	22 Sep., 59	
Sig. Offr.	S/Capt.	R. I. RAITT	Reg	14 Apr., 61	P.M.C.
			Reg	11 Sep., 58	Bn. Editor "Tiger & Sphinx", O.I.C. Sailing, Sec. Central Sports and Amenities Committee.
Q.M.	S/Maj.	F. KERNOHAN (W)	Reg	23 Apr., 57	O.I.C. Football
Adm. Offr.	S/Maj.	G. DUNCAN (W)	ESC	3 Mar., 58	Pipe President, O.I.C. Swimming.
W.T.O.	S/Lt.	P. W. GRAHAM	Reg	11 Jan., 61	Unit Baggage Offr., O.I.C.
M.T.O.	S/Lt. (Q.M.)	G. DUNN	Reg	8 Aug., 61	Tug o' War.
					Unit Road Safety Offr., Unit Driver Testing Offr.
Med. Offr.	S/Capt.	T. N. ALLISON (RAMC)	NS	19 Feb., 60	
Paymaster	S/Maj.	P. V. LACEY (RAPC) (W)	SSC	5 Sep., 60	
Chaplain	REV.	C. G. INGLIS, M.A. (RACHD)	Reg	27 Mar., 57	
Education Offr.	2/Lt.	R. P. SHILLITO (RAEC)	NS	14 Sep., 60	
O.C. A Coy.	S/Maj.	M. H. BURGE, p.s.c. (W)	Reg	30 Sep., 59	Regtl. Assn. Rep.
2/I.C.	S/Capt.	M. M. CRUICKSHANK (W)	Reg		Unit Emplaning Offr.
Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	N. F. M. OXLEY	Reg	14 Apr., 60	
SP. Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	R. G. D. BRUCE	Reg	2 Aug., 59	O.I.C. Hockey
Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	I. FLEMING	Reg	2 Aug., 58	O.I.C. M/C Trials
O.C. B Coy.	S/Maj.	J. A. G. TINDALL, p.s.c. (W)	SSC	7 Feb., 59	Recruiting Offr.
2/I.C.	S/Lt.	A. N. M. SCOTT	Reg	28 Mar., 61	
			Reg	21 Dec., 57	Sports President, O.I.C. Boxing.
Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	R. SAVILLE	SSC	3 Jul., 59	Fire Offr., O.I.C. Canoe- ing, Messing Offr.
Pl. Comd.	2/Lt.	R. S. FAWCUS	Reg	3 Feb., 60	
Pl. Comd.	2/Lt.	D. M. H. DU BOULAY	Reg	1 Feb., 61	
SP. Pl. Comd.	2/Lt.	C. H. VAN DER NOOT	Reg	5 Feb., 60	O.I.C. Cricket
O.C. D Coy.	S/Capt.	D. C. K. BROWN (W)	Reg	20 Dec., 60	
2/I.C.	S/Capt.	W. D. R. WEST	Reg	28 Jul., 60	
Pl. Comd.	2/Lt.	T. H. G. DUKE	Reg	1 Sep., 59	
Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	P. J. FITCH	SSC	28 Feb., 60	
Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	K. I. H. LUMSDEN	Reg	1 Jul., 61	
Pl. Comd.	2/Lt.	D. J. EWART (W)	NS	28 Jul., 60	
SP. Pl. Comd.	S/Lt.	R. J. MacLAGAN	Reg	10 May, 61	

OFFICERS DETACHED

2/Lt.	M. BORTHWICK	SSC	5 Jul., 58	Silberhütte Trg. Centre
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Note: (W) Wife in Station

Officers of the Committee as appointed are:—

President, Lieut.-Colonel B. C. A. Napier, M.B.E., M.C.; Vice-President, Major M. A. C. Stephen; Treasurer, Major G. Duncan; Secretary, Captain R. I. Raitt.



Arrival of the Commander-in-Chief.

A subsidiary aim behind the founding of these clubs and societies is to show to all ranks that the Army and the Gordons have something extra to offer the soldier of to-day besides just the repetitive drills of an infantryman's training. In other words, the recruiting incentive resulting from a proper exploitation of all the magnificent sport and amenity facilities existing in Kenya should be a very considerable one and already in fact it is beginning to make an impact.



Guard of Honour—Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley with the Regimental Colour.

The biggest mistake that the Army of to-day can make and is making is to assume that the private soldier is content to remain on the level of Kipling's Soldiers Three. The Privates Mulvaney, Ortheris and Learoyd of to-day are not living in the 1890's but in the 1960's and as such their interests and hobbies have altered accordingly. The Battalion Sports and Amenities Committee will see to it that the facilities are provided for everyone to indulge in the sports and hobbies of their choice and as these activities will be

subsidised by the P.R.I., there should be no problem of the smallness of one's purse preventing participation in any club or society.



Highland Society Demonstration—Eightsome. "B" Company at Bad Hersfeld.

Naturally the launching of such a vast project as the setting up of 35 different clubs and societies at short notice presented many difficulties and the cynics and pessimists almost outdiogenesed Diogenes in their comments from the side-lines.

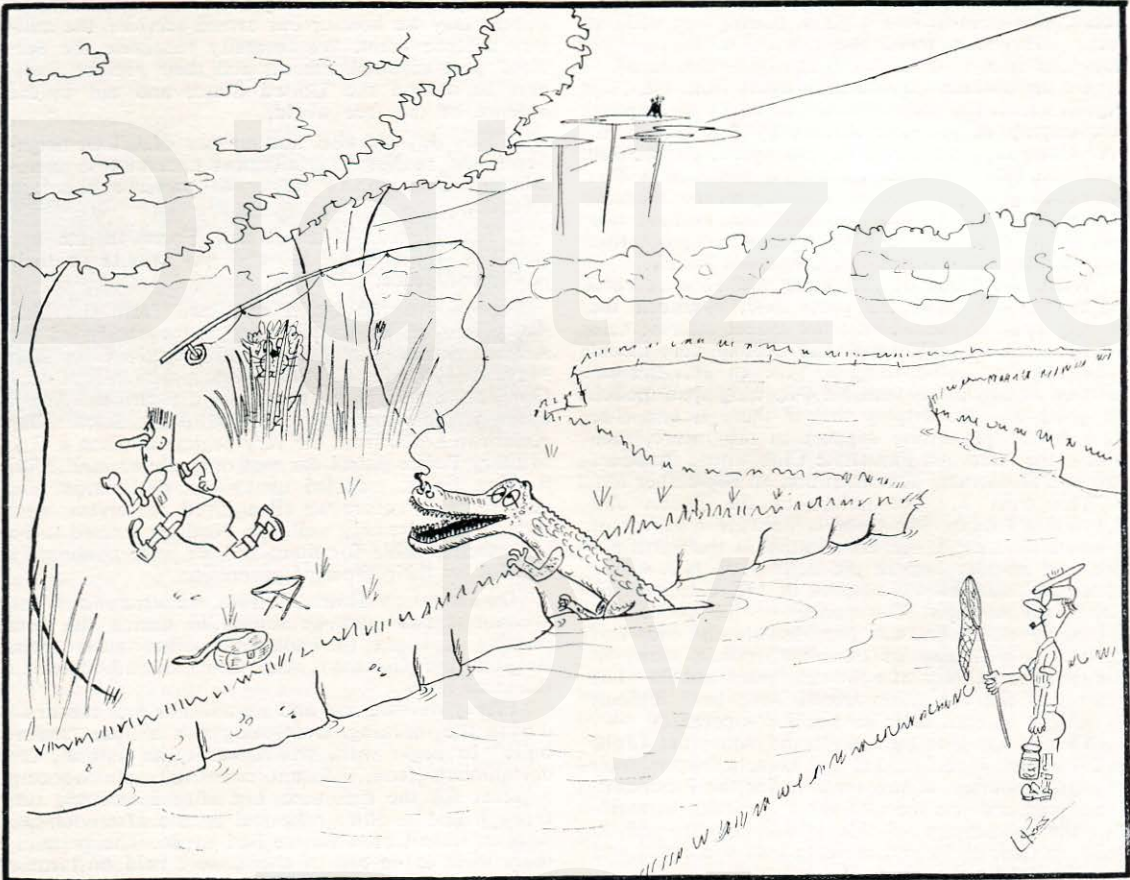


At the Safari Club Exhibition.

The decision to launch on September the 6th, to coincide with the C-in-C's visit, a sports and amenities exhibition was indeed a risky one in view of the shortness of the time available, but, as always, the greater the challenge, the greater the achievement when the challenge is successfully taken up, and the results obtained on September 6th certainly justified the decision.

VISIT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL SIR JAMES CASSELS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

At ten minutes to four on the afternoon of September the 6th, the roar of helicopters from above denoted the arrival on the main square, Trenchard Barracks, of the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir James Cassels, accompanied by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. Leakey, D.S.O., M.C.



EXTRACT FROM KENYA GAME LAWS!!

"ANYTHING MEASURING LESS THAN NINE INCHES MUST BE CAREFULLY REPLACED IN THE WATER"

After inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by "A" Company, the Commander-in-Chief visited "B" Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment, and then took tea in the Officers' Mess where the officers and their wives were all presented to him.

At 5 p.m., the Battalion Sports and Amenities Exhibition opened in the Gymnasium and the C-in-C. spent 1½ hours visiting all the various displays. Among those in which he showed particular interest was the Art Society Exhibition, into which Lt. MacColl, the President of the Society, and C/Sgt. Ross, the Secretary, had put a great amount of work. The shot guns on the Safari Club's stand also caught the C-in-C's interest and on a visit to the Clay Pigeon shoot on the sports field, capably run by Lieut. Bruce, the C-in-C. got a left and a right at a couple thrown up in quick succession.

Other features of the display in the Gymnasium which drew large crowds was the trampoline demonstration given by the B.A.O.R. champion from the Army Physical Training Corps, a Fencing demonstration given by C.S.M.I. Pearce and Cpl. Salmon, and two boxing bouts between the Commanding Officer's younger son and Major Stephen's younger son and between Major Duncan's son and Major Stephen's

elder son. In both bouts the battle was fast and furious and the large "gate" were highly entertained by these pugilistic encounters.

From the main square the enterprising Aero and Parachute Clubs, laid on a helicopter taxi service to Scheuen air strip where light aircraft were available to take soldiers and their families flights over the barracks. As far as the writer knows, no one made any parachute jumps, either voluntarily or otherwise!

Other features of the exhibition were the display of Highland dancing put on by the Highland Society under the Presidency of Lieut. Fleming, the collection of stuffed animals and safari trophies from East Africa, kindly obtained by Reg Currey, our Services Liaison Officer from Hanover, and the sailing display composed mostly of kit kindly loaned by the Steinhude and Kiel British Yacht Clubs. One aspect of this last display which caught attention was the 5ft. model of Girdle Ness lighthouse built by Ptes. Cargill and Davidson of the Signal Platoon. The model even had a faultless winking light system installed.

In the Officers' swimming pool Lieut. Oxley of the Fly Fishers' Club had arranged a Fly Fishing competition, having first deposited some trout in the

pool and suitably starved them over the last 48 hours. The C-in-C. had a go at casting but without luck. However, three Jocks were successful and doubtless had a better tea that night than usual.

On the Battalion sports field, apart from the Clay Pigeon shoot, the scene was enlivened by an impressive display of golf-ball driving by Pte. Cargill of "A" Company, the B.A.O.R. Champion, on the 300 yard hole laid out under the skilful guidance of that renowned golfing enthusiast, the Regimental Medical Officer, Captain Allison. So effective, in fact, was this model hole with its properly laid out green that one regretted that it had not been built earlier.

While the crack of golf balls and 12 bore cartridges echoed round the sports field, overhead the throaty roar of radio-controlled model aircraft held a large audience spellbound. The German aero model champion had come along to give an amazing exhibition of aerobatics with his 4-ft. wing span model. So good was the display that if there is one clue that should get strong support in the future, then that is the Aero and Parachute Club whose members saw this astonishing demonstration on September 6th.

This then was the nature of the Sports and Amenities display, but there is one great aspect of it which ensured its success and that is the participation and co-operation in the display of N.A.A.F.I., under the most helpful control of Mr. Gannon, the Celle area manager. The variety of the goods displayed by N.A.A.F.I. was considerable and they had gone to a great deal of trouble to obtain many of the required exhibits at extremely short notice. The success of the exhibition would have been difficult to achieve without their help and co-operation.

Thus it was that the Sports and Amenities Clubs and Societies were founded and launched upon their appointed courses. It now remains for the Presidents, Secretaries and members of these Societies to maintain the momentum of this initial impetus and to build up their clubs and societies into successful and thriving institutions.

ARMED FORCES DAY AT BREMERHAVEN

"Armed Forces Day" was established in 1950 by Presidential Proclamation. This special day replaces similar observances held on certain days of the year



Pte. Carswell, Pte. Stewart, Pte. Duncan, L/C. Simpson, L/C. Buchan, Pte. Ritchie, L/C. Johnston, Pte. Thomson, Pte. Bruce, L/C. Young, Thompson, Lieut. Scott.

by each of the U.S. Military Services. On this Armed Forces Day we honour our armed services, the military defence team. We formally recognise the Services' past accomplishments and their present readiness to defend the United States and aid in the defence of the free world.

"This day we also honour our N.A.T.O. neighbours and reaffirm our alliances necessary to maintain the free world's power to preserve peace in freedom.

"The United States Armed Forces salute our N.A.T.O. NEIGHBOURS and pay tribute to their power for peace."

The above passage is extracted from the U.S. Army booklet issued to all on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day held at Bremerhaven on 20th May, 1961. Under Captain West, a detachment of 1 Gordons went up to represent the British Army, accompanied there by our Military Band. Our American hosts, from the very beginning when a U.S. Military Police patrol car met our column, and, with flashing lights, escorted us to our destination, did everything to ensure we all enjoyed ourselves. And they did it extremely well, too. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble for them and we were continually dazzled by their show of generosity.

On arrival on Thursday, 18th, we were shown our accommodation and we settled in during the first evening and got to know our other allies from Belgium and Germany, who were accommodated in the same block.

Friday dawned fine and we had our first rehearsal during the morning. Everything was a little "shambolic" to begin with, which was quite natural, for detachments from different countries were working together for the first time, but after a morning run through and another rehearsal in the afternoon we were confident of what we had to do. The parades, there were to be two of them, were held on tarmac and grass respectively. The first, to be held on the Saturday morning consisted of only four detachments from U.S.A., Germany, Belgium and U.K., and was merely a short welcome to the visiting senior officers. The second one, a much larger and longer one, had detachments from all countries and also from the Germany and U.S. Navy Marines taking part. This was to take the same form as our recent colour parade, but without the actual Troop.

So far, the weather had been lovely and the sun shone all day. During the evening the Jocks watched baseball, toured the base, and generally improved the Anglo/U.S. relationship! Most of them should now appear in many foreign soldiers' photograph albums.

On Saturday, 20th May, we were fortunate with the weather during the morning parade and we marched past Brigadier-General Meyer, Signal Officer, U.S.A.F., Europe, in great style. The remainder of the detachments marched past in column, but, bringing up the rear, we marched past in line. This was a great success and we repeated this in the afternoon. An excellent lunch was provided for guests and those taking part in the parades. Up to the time we were due to go on parade, the sun shone and we thought we were due for a lovely afternoon. But as we marched on the clouds came over and broke on us. From then on we were soaked and had to make the best of it. When the Inspecting General arrived the rain was so heavy that he cancelled the inspection so we went into the march past with our military band



U.S. Armed Forces Day, Bremerhaven. March Past of the Guard.

leading, immediately. Prior to this, each band on parade (there were four) trooped and finally played the country's National Anthem. Unfortunately, the spectators gradually dwindled from about 5,000 to 1,000, due to the heavy rain and the fly past afterwards was missed by the majority of people.

For half an hour before our parade there was an excellent demonstration by a German Air Force pilot in a helicopter. The only thing he didn't manage to do was loop the loop. The crowd was held spell-bound as he hovered inches off the ground and picked up men. Following that, he flew over the ground at zero feet making everybody duck quickly. An extremely skilled pilot and he performed admirably.

All the uniforms were, of course, completely soaked and all one could do was to laugh at the "white" kilt! Fortunately, on return, and on a complete dry-out, most of the material cleaned well.

All the work now over, everybody rejoiced and prepared themselves for the evening's entertainment. Everybody was catered for and dances were held for all ranks during the evening. As always, there were articles of kit lost and swopped, and even one man had to appear in plain clothes the following morning! The lavish entertainment and kindness shown by our hosts will be very difficult to surpass in any future commitment of this kind. We thank our American hosts for making our visit to Bremerhaven so memorable.

RECRUITING

The recruiting situation in the Regiment is more serious than most people apparently realise. In recruiting, plain facts are the judges and opinions and notions are worthless when confronted with statistics.

The statistics show that by the end of next year when National Service ends the strength of 1 Gordons will be the lowest in the Highland Brigade if recruiting continues at its present level until that date.

The figures have been worked out by Records to be that at the end of next year the Black Watch will have 550, the Queen's Own Highlanders 720, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 550, and 1 Gordons 480.

The danger is that it is future War Office policy to use the numerically weakest Battalion in 4 Bat-

talion Brigades as a Depot Battalion providing drafts for the other three Battalions in the Brigade. Such a fate would be intolerable and once inflicted upon one is a burden which is almost impossible to throw off, for the recruits would inevitably become fewer and fewer the longer one remained in the United Kingdom.

The solution, however, lies with us all and it is the duty of every Gordon Highlander, whether serving now, working in civilian life, or retired, to draw in the recruits. Not only is it vital to the survival of the Regiment but also to the security of the country. Whatever the critics may say, a return to conscription will not solve the nation's defence problems: for defence nowadays is not merely a military problem but also an economic one and the country just cannot afford any longer to have 200,000 young men away each year from the work-benches and shop-floors of industry.

An all regular Army can do the job, provided it gets the men and if it sets its mind to it the men can be got.

In order to ensure that we get our men, a two-phased plan is being put into operation. Firstly, an internal recruiting drive is taking place in the 1st Battalion, and this is already meeting with success, no fewer than 12 soldiers having either signed on or extended their service in the last three weeks. Secondly, the Regiment has been allocated a recruiting caravan for nine months to enable a drive to be launched in the regimental area. This drive is just about to begin.

This two-pronged drive, together with the added attraction of a move to Kenya should bring the recruits in, whilst the deterioration of the employment situation in the North-East is also advantageous for the success of recruiting measures.

The richest soil, however, at present lies in the 1st Battalion itself in the 226 National Servicemen who are all eligible to receive a £200 tax free bounty if they sign on for three years with the Colours. Surely never before has it been so easy to make £200 with the stroke of a pen! As yet, the National Servicemen are wary, but it is to be hoped that once the Battalion reaches Kenya, the success of such activities as the Battalion Sports and Amenities Clubs and Societies and the exhilaration of active soldering in magnificent country will get the pens moving.

STATISTICS

There are 226 National Servicemen in the Battalion.

165 are single; 61 are married.

Their trades on enlistment were stated to be:—Joiners, 32; Painters, 18; Mechanics, 16; Fitters, 13; Plumbers, 11; Electricians, 8; Bricklayers, 7; Platers and Welders, 7; Forestry Workers, 5; Farm Workers, 4; and among the others we even have a British Railways Carriage Cleaner; a Kerb-layer; a Jute Spinner; and a Hackle Worker, whatever he may be.

The main towns and cities from which the National Servicemen come are:—Aberdeen, 41; Dundee, 18; Deeside, 6; Perth, 6; Wick, 5; Inverurie, 5; Paisley, 5; Clydebank 4; Falkirk, 4; Peterhead, 4; Thurso, 4; Cowdenbeath, 3; Glenrothes, 3; Keith, 3; Kilsyth, 3; Macduff, 3. Only four of the National Servicemen come from England, and there don't appear to be any Irish or Welsh at all.

REGULAR ENGAGEMENT RUN-OUT DATES OF BATTALION PERSONNEL, AUGUST, 1961.

Year	Type of Engagement										Total
	22/3	22/6	6	7	8	9	22/9	12	15	22	
1961-2	15	5	6	1	1	0	3	2	0	3	36
1963	12	16	1	0	1	0	5	2	0	3	40
1964	2	34	4	0	0	0	7	4	0	1	52
1965	0	33	4	0	0	1	18	2	0	3	61
1966	0	29	2	0	0	0	17	2	0	0	50
1967	0	8	0	0	0	2	28	1	0	6	45
1968	0	0	0	1	0	5	37	1	0	11	55
1969	0	0	0	0	0	8	41	0	0	6	55
1970	0	0	0	0	0	5	22	0	0	5	32
1971-80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	30	32
Total	22	125	17	2	2	21	178	16	0	68	Totals 458

ONE MAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Not everyone, even the National Servicemen, will agree with these views, but we publish them as those of one individual known to many who will read them.

To those readers they may or may not come as a surprise. How much do you know of what the man next to you is thinking?

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE "M.T." PLATOON AND OF LIFE IN THE ARMY AS A NATIONAL SERVICEMAN

By Pte. Fitzpatrick

If anyone asks you, "What do you think of the Army?" some will say, "Oh, it's all right, I suppose", others will say, "Roll on demob!" The whole point is, it is a way of life, accepted and lived in, but hard to put into words.

But I must be more specific and give some impressions of the M.T. Platoon. How shall I begin? What will I say? Obviously more is expected of me than just a bland, "Oh, I put up with it."

All through my service with the Gordons, I have realised and appreciated how much worse off I could have been. I am not a soldier or soldier minded, although I must admit I have learned to submit to authority, but because there are so many ranks and so much rank distinction, I have never learned to take the Army seriously. I say the Army, and I mean it as an organisation, but I have found my own little department interesting and have always found my working hours full.

It was with some apprehension that I trudged from the Continuation Cadre in November, 1959, to my allotted position in the Battalion — the M.T. It was all a mistake in the first place, because I was classed as a clerk, which I am not and never had any wish to be.

My first impression of the Platoon was of surly looks from the drivers and apprehensive ones from the N.C.O.s. I don't remember being spoken to by any of them for at least six weeks after I arrived. This was obviously an unofficial "acceptance period." The M.T. Platoon is a close set, with fixed ways and they do not take kindly to strangers, or orders from outside the Platoon, from the parent company or even the Battalion. This probably comes from the fact that we are a busy Platoon with enough to do on our own without being interfered with by "outsiders." People have to come to us and we like it that way.

In those early days, Captain Simpson was M.T.O. Somehow things got done and most of the vehicles

were kept on the road. About a quarter of the Platoon consisted of National Servicemen, all of the same draft and due demob in the spring of 1960. Every National Serviceman has a chip on his shoulder, but the majority will work well and conscientiously. The biggest trouble with this lot was that they had always been together and there were so many of them, all with the same thought in mind — DEMOB! Nevertheless, they were all good drivers, did their job and had great spirit. They got demobbed and not long after the Platoon lost many more of their numbers to Company M.T.s. A couple of National Service drafts filled their places and Captain Foster took over as M.T.O.

The advent of Company Transport was the end of an era in the Platoon. Confused and dismayed drivers were driven out to the five companies. On asking these same drivers, just a few weeks after they had gone to their companies, how they were taking it, I was amazed to hear them say that company life is far easier than M.T. Platoon life! For a start they did not have as much "running about" to do, which gave them more time for cleaning and maintaining their allotted beast. Many a time, in fact, almost every time vehicles come back off an exercise, the driver is lucky if he gets a whole day to clean up his vehicle before being detailed for some other exercise or menial task necessary to keep the Battalion on the go. A Company driver gets a break between schemes because he is part of the Company, whereas the M.T. driver has to supply all the Companies, as well as do routine hauls for the Battalion H.Q. and its many departments.

I remember Captain Foster arriving on the appointed day. He took one look at his new office, shook his head sadly and said, "Let's clean this place up for a start!" It was that "for a start" that had us all worried. Within a morning he had all the offices sorted out to his way of working. "We must get into a drill," was the bye-word of the day, and we did get into a drill; from the Offices to the Tech. department, to the F.A.M.T.O. and Tools department, and through the Central Servicing Station and P.O.L. "outposts" to the vehicles and their drivers. The "Organisation Man" went, with such energy and command that we were all left staggered. A man with such capacity for work and selfless good intent for the members of his Platoon could not help but earn and maintain the support and loyalty of the Platoon, and he got it.

What is an M.T. driver? Is he just the lucky one of the bunch who does not have to sit in the back of a three-tonner when it is raining: the one who stands back and watches while others load and unload

his truck; the one who gets a free tour of the countryside.

Let's take a closer look at the above three suggestions. In the first case he has to learn to drive and maintain that three-tonner. How would you like to be responsible for 20 lives on a slippery, badly surfaced road?

The second suggestion will surprise a few people. Nearly always the driver does load and unload, because often enough he does not get a big enough fatigue party, or none at all! A driver went to collect stores with a one-man fatigue party. One man was not enough to move a bulky and heavy crate, so the driver was called on to do his little bit. The crate slipped and the driver's thumb was damaged. He could not drive the truck back. His one-man fatigue party could drive, but was not authorised to drive W.D. vehicles, but did. If the truck had been stopped by the Military Police, and they occasionally are, both men would have been in trouble.

The last answer to the question of what this vehicle driving machine is, is true. Much ground is covered. There are interesting runs on occasion, but the majority of the driver's time is spent on the more monotonous short runs covering the same stretches of road over and over again. In addition to this, there are all the important training exercises in which the driver is often as much taxed physically as the duty company man.

Apart from doing his own job as a driver, he is also called upon for that dreaded word in the M.T.—DUTIES!! Put an M.T. driver on guard or D.R.O. and ten to one he will say, "It's not my twist," and nearly always he is right. I consider it wrong to alter driving details and M.T. administration so that all the men in the Platoon get a fair "twist" at Battalion duties, and I think I am right. Consequently drivers in the less used sections, or who do not happen to be operational at the time, do all the duties time after time. I have known a driver to have been in barracks for a total of only nine weeks during the whole of a year. That means for 43 weeks of the year he was not available for duty of this very secondary nature.

The M.T. life is a very good life and every driver and administrative man knows this. When you hear an M.T. man complaining, it is usually about the Army in general, and not his own Platoon. Room inspections, kit checks, drill and P.T. are all necessary things, but will always be complained about, because of the inconvenience they cause to normal daily routine. However, I feel that many improvements could be made to give greater content without "softening" the Army.

For example, you do a day's work and often more, but you are never left alone, really relaxed. Why is it that, in what should be your own time, you have to dress as the Army says, even so far as to dictate what type of civilian clothes you wear?

The food could be much better than it is. At almost every meal the Orderly Officer comes round to ask each man individually if the food is to his satisfaction. Unless you are a qualified dietician you have to agree that it is good. But it is not good. It is edible and no one is suffering from malnutrition, but with the exception of soup and fresh fruit, it is tasteless and unappetising.

I am of the opinion that if this question of rank distinction was altered, the private soldier would be

treated less like a child and more like a man, and consequently the Army as a whole would have far less trouble with recruiting problems.

MARRIAGES

- 23801482 Pte. G. Robertson and Kathleen Shand Shephard, 8th April, 1961.
 23801494 Pte. E. Clark and Margaret Criggle Mowatt, 22nd April, 1961.
 23787423 Pte. R. Edwards and Marguerite Amy Baillie, 22nd April, 1961.
 22835540 Pte. D. Mackie and Gwendoline Mary Shirley, 29th April, 1961.
 23466909 L/Cpl. C. Aitken and Phillis Johnstone, 29th April, 1961.
 23745551 Pte. A. Ord and Helen Poland, 23rd May, 1961.



Marriage of Captain R. West and Miss Jane Elsmie, The Chapel, Trenchard Barracks.

- 23807599 Pte. W. Smith and Sheila McKay Robb, 23rd May, 1961.
 23815039 Pte. H. Ross and Hanna Bell Patterson, 3rd June, 1961.
 23782229 Pte. A. Barron and Betty Reid, 10th June, 1961.
 22107455 Cpl. J. Wilson and Anne Gilchrist Thomson, 10th June, 1961.
 23547980 Pte. H. McDonald and Margaret Fairburn Watt Raffarty, 13th June, 1961.
 22844654 Cpl. N. MacDuff and Margaret Murphy Gilmour, 16th June, 1961.
 23801509 L/Cpl. S. MacFarlane and Mary Harris McKinnon, 24th June, 1961.
 23815050 Pte. W. Thomson and Joyce Carnigan Sutherland, 27th June, 1961.

Lt. R. Saville and Josette Jacqueline Hooley, 8th July, 1961.
 23529110 Pte. J. Gauld and Anita Robb, 8th July, 1961.
 23832360 Pte. L. Johnston and Elizabeth Skene, 15th July, 1961.
 23233533 Pte. D. Cambell and Irene Isobel Douglas, 19th July, 1961.
 23503654 Cpl. P. Murphy and Maureen Fraser, 22nd July, 1961.

BIRTHS

22276039 Cpl. A. Pattillo, a son, Andrew, 6th April, 1961.
 23035806 Pte. J. Shephard, a son, Samuel Resfrick, 4th May, 1961.
 23636804 Pte. T. Menzies, a daughter, Donna, 28th May, 1961.
 22950870 Pte. A. Grant, a daughter, Williamina Mullen, 4th June, 1961.
 23525579 Pte. J. Paterson, a daughter, Audry, 17th June, 1961.
 2/Lt. D. J. Ewart, a daughter, Louise Anne, 18th June, 1961.
 22286843 Cpl. T. Cullen, a daughter, Audrey Jane, 12th August, 1961.

SPORT

The summer sports season is once again drawing to a close and with the football season already open we feel the winter is almost on us. Once again our Tug-O-War teams went home to compete in the Army Championships at Aldershot. This year the Heavy team were defeated and our Light team became Army Champions, 1961. An extremely creditable effort and details appear later. But congratulations to our coach, C.S.M. Brown, and his two teams. This will be our last year here but our name stands on all Brigade, Divisional and B.A.O.R. Tug-O-War Trophies. A splendid achievement.

Our Athletics team trained hard and put up a good performance in the Brigade Sports in June.

Our footballers have had a few games during the summer months and are now preparing for the new season.

Our Cricketers under Lt's MacLagan and Bruce have had a few games but several have had to be cancelled owing mainly to the extremely bad weather we have had.

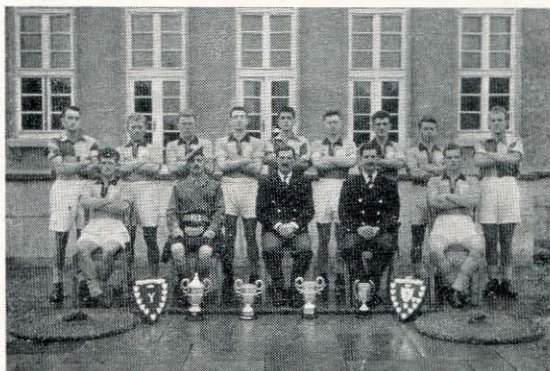
Our boxers have once again earned themselves distinction. Cpl. McDuff, Cpl. Gribble, L/Cpls. Costello and Scott, and Pte. Gregor have all been asked to train with a view to taking part in the Army Boxing Trials, at Caterham, on 27/28/29 September, 1961. If they do well in the trials they have a good chance of being selected for the match Army v. The Rest, on October 11, 1961. Good luck to them all.

Hockey has not been played much but has been revived in an inter Company six-a-side competition which had its final on September 6, in the presence of the C-in-C. With the forth-coming move of the Bn. no fixtures can be arranged either in Germany or at home but it is hoped that those interested will still remain in training and take whatever opportunity avails them of competing in any games while we are in Edinburgh.

TUG-O-WAR

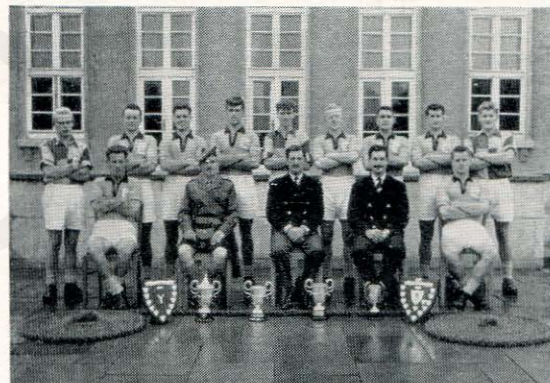
Owing to the Presentation of the New Colours and all the celebrations that followed, training did not get under way until the middle of May.

Faced with a shorter training season our trainer and coach, C.S.M. Paddy Brown, decided to call on all the old hands at the game. With a few good men selected from the Company teams, he hoped to produce two teams of Army Championship standard, for him nothing less would do.



Lightweight Team, 1961—7th Armoured Brigade Shields, 1st Division and B.A.O.R. Cups. Winners, Army Championship, Aldershot.

The Companies produced some very good keen men in the heavy class, making it quite simple to form a Heavy Team. It was difficult to find a Light Team. Many keen men were rejected purely because of their being over weight, this being disappointing to all concerned. Changes were made from day to day, hoping to find suitable men. It appeared at one stage that a Light Team would never be formed. Finally, L/Cpl. McDonald, Ptes. Leckenby and Dey were switched from the Heavies. It was felt their experience would help to form the back bone of the Light Team.



Heavyweight Team, 1961—7th Armoured Brigade Shields, 1st Division and B.A.O.R. Cups. Semi-Finalists, Army Championship, Aldershot.

Each man according to size and build was given a weight target and ordered to reduce his weight to it. The team provided their own aids for this, in fact, real "do-it-yourself-kit." Daily, one could see coloured items of clothing, including vests made of Plastic and groundsheet material, of all shapes and sizes, hanging on the fence by the derrick, to dry off. One might have mistaken it for a Chinese Cloth-

ing Line. Nevertheless they proved most effective in reducing weight. "Wifies please take note!"

The final selection of Battalion Teams were as follows:—

Light Team:—Old—Cpl. Leslie, L/Cpl. McDonald, Ptes. Leckenby, Dey, Thomson; New—Ptes. Sinkins, Reid, McIntosh, Grant, Duncan, Finigan.

Heavy Team:—Old—Cpl. Gillies, Ptes. Ritchie, Christie, Angus; New—L/Cpl. McRae, Ptes. Beck, Clark, King, McDonald, McDougall.

Both teams settled down to some serious training. Many faults had to be removed before any progress was made. Companies had their own ideas of the so called "Jack Knife" that did not satisfy our coach, and it had to be cut out completely.

On the 7th June the teams made their first public appearance competing in the Armoured Brigade Group Championships, at Celle.

Both teams beat 94th Location Regiment R.A. in the Final by two straight pulls.

On the 30th June the Divisional Finals took place at Verden. The Light Team pulled the 66 Company R.A.S.C. in two straight pulls. The Heavy Team beating the 1st R.H.A., also in two straight pulls.

So far the Teams had met comparatively little opposition. It was hard to convince the new members of the Teams, that all the hard training they were doing was really necessary. However, the coach had a definite aim in view, the Army Cups, and kept them hard at work. His motto this season:—"Action speaks louder than words!" Into the bucket went two more heavy stones. This was to prepare both Teams for the B.A.O.R. Championships on the 5th July. Both Teams, and the coach especially, were looking forward to this competition and heavy opposition was expected from the 19th Field Regt. R.A. Their coach, R.S.M. Grimes, was originally the coach of 18th Field Regt. R.A. in U.K. and had been our opponent several times at the Army Championships held at Aldershot. It was he who coached his team to beat our heavy team in 1960 when we were the cup holders. Both Teams, and especially the Old Members, were looking forward to getting their revenge by beating them this year.

On the 5th July the Teams, under command of their coach travelled by bus to Bielefeld to defend both Cups. All teams assembled in the Gymnasium. 108 Company R.A.S.C. was the last to arrive and informed us they had already beaten the 19th Field in the Divisional pulls. The Teams were rather disappointed NOT having the honour of beating them.

The draw for B.A.O.R. was as follows:—

Light Teams:—Semi-Final—1 Gordons v. 15 A.B.O.D. Final—1 Gordons v. 108 Coy. R.A.S.C.

The Light Team won on both occasions by two straight pulls. Cpl. Leslie and Pte. Leckenby were delighted to have pulled 108 Coy. R.A.S.C. They were both in the Light Team in 1959 when 108 Coy. R.A.S.C. beat them in the Semi-Final by two pulls to one.

Heavy Team:—Semi-Final—1 Gordons v. 28th Signal Regt. Final—1 Gordons v. 1st K.S.L.I.

Likewise the Heavy team won on both occasions by two straight pulls. Therefore both teams retained the Cups. The Heavies for the 3rd year in succession, the Lights for the second year running. They now have the honour once again to represent the B.A.O.R. in the Army Championships at Aldershot.

ATHLETICS MEETING

The meeting was held on Thursday, 11th May, 1961, at the OFP Scheuen by kind permission of the

Commanding Officer, Major C. Wilson, as our own track at Highbury Stadium was flooded. Because of the unsuitability of the jumping pits at Scheuen, however, the high and long jumps and Pole Vault were to be held on Wednesday, 10th May, at Highbury Stadium. However, the weather proved to be against us and after a heavy shower we had to abandon the attempt. Eight o'clock the following morning, found the jumpers again at Highbury but this time we were favoured and all events were successfully completed. No sooner were we finished at Highbury than the meeting opened at Scheuen at 10.

A great amount of hard work had been put into the erection of tents for refreshments, etc., and in the preparation of the track by C.S.M. Coggle, L/Cpl. Simpson and their teams. Thus everything was looking extremely smart and we started the first race with the sun shining. Indeed, we were fortunate the whole of the morning and had only one heavy shower during the lunch period. Bad weather completely ruins a meeting such as this and we were fortunate to have a sunny morning and afternoon, whereas it had rained almost continually the previous days.

Considering the bad weather, which obviously curtailed a lot of the training during the previous weeks, the standard in several events was extremely high. Outstanding competitor was undoubtedly 2/Lt. Trembath, "B" Sqn., 4 R.T.R., who won three events 100m, 110m hurdles, and long jump.

The 5,000m was an exciting race with Pte. King ("H.Q." Coy.) fighting it out with Pte. Costello ("A" Coy.) in the last 50 yards to finally win by 5 yards. Cpl. Leith ran a good mile and won quite comfortably but as he had no real challenge he did not record a good time. The sprints were highly competed for and times were good considering the track conditions but we rather doubt the veracity of the watches when we saw the first three in the 200m came in under 23 secs.!

We finished off with the Old Soldier's, Wives and Childrens' races which provided a certain amount of amusement for all. Finally Mrs. Elsmie kindly presented the Cups and Prizes to winning teams and competitors. We congratulate "H.Q." Coy. on winning two of the Cups and also "D" Coy. who held the Field Cup for the second year running.

It would be invidious to pick out names for the success of the meeting, as so many people were involved, but many thanks are given to all officials and helpers who did make it such a success.

Below are listed the results of the meeting:—

Trophies—Winners of—Battalion Athletics Cup, "H.Q." Coy.; 2 Battalion Track Cup, "H.Q." Coy.; 3 Battalion Field Cup, "D" Coy.

Individual Winners and Runners-Up:—100m—1 2/Lt. Trembath, "B" Sqn., 4 R.T.R., 11.4 secs.; 2 Lt. Scott, "H.Q.", 11.5 secs.; 3 Lt. Oxley, "A", 11.8 secs. 200m—1 Lt. Scott, "H.Q.", 22.5 secs.; 2 2/Lt. Ewart, "D", 22.6 secs.; 3 2/Lt. Van der Noot, "A", 22.7 secs. 400m—1 2/Lt. Ewart, "D", 58.5 secs.; 2 L/Cpl. Clow, "H.Q.", 60.00 secs.; 3 2/Lt. Duke, "D", 60.1 secs. 800m—1 L/Cpl. Clow, "H.Q.", 2.19 mins.; 2 Pte. Costello, "A", 2.21 mins.; 3 Pte. Stewart, "B", 2.23 mins. 1500m—1 Cpl. Leith, "H.Q.", 5.15 mins.; 2 Bds. Nicols, "H.Q.", 5.26 mins.; 3 2/Lt. Duke, "D", 5.30 mins. 5000m—1 Pte. King, "H.Q.", 18.17 mins.; 2 Pte. Costello, "A", 18.20 mins.; 3 Pte. Wilson, "D", 19.23 mins. 110m Hurdles—1 Lt. Trembath, "B" Sqn., 4 R.T.R., 16.00 secs.; 2 Bds. Wallace, "H.Q.", 19.6 secs.; 3 Pte. Whyte, "H.Q.", 19.6 secs. Discus—1 2/Lt. Fawcus, "B", 105 ft. 2½ ins.; 2 Bds. Grieve, "H.Q.", 94 ft. 3½ ins.; 3 Pte. Taylor,

"D", 88 ft. Pole Vault—1 Pte. Black (retired), "H.Q.", 8 ft. 9 ins.; 2 Pte. Ross, "B" Sqn. 4 R.T.R., 8 ft. 6 ins.; 2 Pte. White, "D", 8 ft. 3 ins.; Shot—1 Bds. Grieve, "H.Q.", 34 ft. 11½ ins.; 2 L/Cpl. Gillies, "A", 34 ft.; 3 Pte. McDonald, "D", 32 ft. 2 ins. Javelin—1 Bds. Williams, "H.Q.", 149 ft. 8 ins.; 2 Lt. Oxley, "A", 117 ft. 9 ins.; 3 Pte. McIntosh, "D", 116 ft. 10 ins. Long Jump—1 Lt. Trembath, "B" Sqn., 4 R.T.R., 19 ft. 8½ ins.; 2 Pte. Murray, "A", 17 ft. 5 ins.; 3 Pte. Clark, "D", 17 ft. ½ in. Hammer—1 L/Cpl. Gillies, "A", 116 ft. ½ in.; 2 Bds. Christopher, "H.Q.", 113 ft. 4 ins.; 3 Cpl. Lochrie, "D", 100 ft. 3 ins. High Jump—1 Pte. Whyte, "H.Q.", 5 ft. 5 ins.; 2 Pte. Jarvie, "H.Q.", 5 ft. 4 ins.; 3 Pte. Davidson, "D", 5 ft.

7 ARMD. BDE. GROUP INTER-UNIT ATHLETICS AND TUG-O'-WAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Athletic and Tug-o'-War Championships of 7 Armoured Brigade took place at Celle on 7th June, 1961. It started off by being a perfect sunny day, but during lunch clouds came scurrying over and the remainder of the afternoon's events were held in the rain. This was disappointing as there was an extremely good turnout of spectators in the morning but most of them failed to return for the afternoon. The Battalion team gained the highest place in the championships since coming to B.A.O.R., namely third position. Due to Company/Squadron training being later this year, we did not always have our team training regularly, however, the result was satisfying and everybody put up a good performance. For the first time track and field teams were almost equal in strength. L/Cpl. Gillies and Pte. Cohen, both of "A" Company, won the Hammer with a combined throw of 220ft. 4ins. This is the second year that L/Cpl. Gillies has competed in the winning Hammer team at the Brigade Sports. In the Shot event, Ptes. Cohen and Wands came second, as did Ptes. Williams and Fulton in the Javelin.

Our track team was a little weak over the middle and long distances but ran extremely hard to gain points. The 4 by 200m. relay was almost a warm up for the 4 by 100m. relay which came half an hour afterwards. In the former we ran well, but were beaten by 94 Loc. Regt. into second place. But, determined to reverse the order during the latter race, 2/Lieut. Ewart took off from his blocks as if he had been shot and handed over to Lieut. Oxley who ran very fast and handed over to number three. All hand-overs were good, fortunately, and Cpl. McMillan put Lieut. Scott well away on the last leg which was won by a short head from 94 Loc. Regt.

Last year's championship winners, 5 Royal Tank Regt., were fighting for every point with 94 Loc. Regt. for the trip to Berlin. But 94 went ahead and finally won by a margin of 14 points. Congratulations to them, and we wish them good luck in Berlin in July.

The final placings were as follows:—1st, 94 Locating Regiment, R.A., 112 points; 3rd, 5th Royal Tank Regiment, 98 points; 3rd, 1 Gordons, 72½ points; 4th, 1 Div. R.E.M.E., 55 points; 5th, 1 Div. R.A.S.C., 50 points.

The track and field events were made up of the following:—4 x 100m. — 1 2/Lieut. Ewart (D), 2 Lieut. Oxley (A), 3 Cpl. McMillan (B), 4 Lieut. Scott (B), 4 x 200m. — 1 2/Lieut. Ewart (D), 2 2/Lieut. Van der Noot (A), 3 Lieut. Scott (B), 4 Cpl. McMillan (B), 4 x 800m. — 1 Pte. Jarvie (H.Q.), 2 2/Lieut. Duke (D), 3 2/Lieut. Van der Noot (A), 4

Lieut. Oxley (A), 4 x 800m. — 1 2/Lieut. Duke (D), 2 Pte. Duncan (A), 3 Pte. King 54 (H.Q.), 4 Pte. Lisle (H.Q.) 1500m. — Pte. Wilson (D), Pte. King 54 (H.Q.), Pte. Lisle (H.Q.), Bds. Nicols (H.Q.) 110m. Hurdles — 1 Pte. Whyte (H.Q.), 2 Pte. Glen (B), 3 Cpl. Waters (C), 4 Bds. Wallace (H.Q.) Discus — 1 Pte. Wands (A), 2 2/Lieut. Fawcus (B). Shot — 1 Pte. Cohen (A), 2 Pte. Wands (A). Hammer — 1 L/Cpl. Gillies (A), 2 Pte. Cohen (A). Javelin — 1 Pte. Williams (A), 2 Pte. Fulton (H.Q.) Long Jump — 1 Pte. Clark 01 (D), 2 Pte. Clark 79 (H.Q.) High Jump — 1 Pte. Whyte (H.Q.), 2 Pte. Jarvie (H.Q.) Pole Vault — 1 Pte. Black (H.Q.), 2 Pte. Gibbons (C).

In conclusion, we congratulate the athletic team on their performance, and both Tug-o'-War teams who won the Brigade Tug-o'-War Championships for the third year in succession, with no difficulty at all. We now go forward to the B.A.O.R. Championships in July. Finally, we welcome C.S.M.I. Pearce who arrived at just the right time to look after our athletics. Nobody can train a team in ten days. But with his excellent knowledge of athletics and good coaching the field men in particular improved their styles and techniques, thus performing better. Already, by his easy smile and quiet confidence he has proved himself a good instructor and we are sorry he has only just come from Kenya so may not be coming with us in October.

BOXING NEWS

After a very unlucky exit from the team championships against the 1st Battn., The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders at Lemgo on 17th June, 1961, losing 17 points to 16 (six bouts to five), we had a few selected individuals to take part in the British Army of the Rhine individual boxing championships.

The first series of the championships were the Divisional Championships held at Detmold on 17th February, 1961, and from the four members of the Battalion Boxing Team selected, we produced four Divisional Champions, namely Cpl. McDuff (Bantam), L/Cpl. Scott (Light-heavy), Pte. Costello (Light-weight), and Pte. Gregor (Light-heavy). From the Division, our next move was then to Berlin, where the British Army of the Rhine Championships were held on 7th, 8th and 10th March respectively. The entries here consisted of 80 individuals and some tough opposition was found in the bouts to follow. Pte. Costello, who unfortunately was drawn against a very classy left-hander in the opening stages of the preliminaries, was only just outpointed in a very close contest, and he must have been sorry at losing on a narrow decision as his opponent went on only to be outpointed narrowly in the B.A.O.R. Finals. Our next bout saw L/Cpl. Scott K.O. his opponent in the second round, this putting great spirit into the remaining bouts to follow. L/Cpl. Scott, again with the unfortunate luck of the draw, entered the ring again and successfully knocked out his opponent in the third round, thus placing him in the semi-finals.

By this time, our hopes of achieving three B.A.O.R. Champions were high until Pte. Gregor was outpointed by Sgt. Shearsmith in a gruelling battle. Gregor undoubtedly taking the first two rounds. Sgt. Shearsmith went on to be disqualified in the finals. The next entry in the semi-final was now Col. MacDuff who stopped Rfn. Bently of the Rifle Brigade in the second round, MacDuff going on to

win the B.A.O.R. Championships by a walkover, his opponent being unfit to box.

L/Cpl. Scott was then disqualified in the semi-finals against Tpr. Camplin, this being, of course, an unfortunate decision, as there was no signs of defeat, L/Cpl. Scott hitting his opponent five times to the floor in the second and third rounds, became over anxious and found himself being disqualified for hitting when his opponent was on his way down for the sixth time.

This, however, saw us with two semi-finalists and one champion from the four selected individuals. From the B.A.O.R. Finalists, four were selected to represent the B.A.O.R. team in the Army Championships in U.K. on 22nd March, 1961. Cpl. MacDuff being selected, went on to win both his bouts in the Championship to merit a trip to Aldershot only to lose on points to Dvr. Hussey, R.A.S.C., in the Army Finals.

Having completed the Army individuals, the team picked to represent B.A.O.R. in the inter-service Championships against R.A.F., Germany and U.K. combined, consisted of three of our boxers who were Cpl. MacDuff, Ptes. Gregor and Costello.

The result was a win for the Army, Cpl. MacDuff losing on point, Pte. Gregor having no opponent and Pte. Costello going on to win by a very comfortable points decision, proving his chances for the future to be very bright.

FOOTBALL

This has been our quiet season of the year, but nevertheless we have managed a few games.

We played a game between the Major and Minor League winners, to receive the Major League Cup and individual trophies, which we won 8-3—too easy.

We have twice played the local German amateur team which is reckoned to be very good. The first time we beat them 5-2 and that was followed by a 2-2 draw. Two of our stalwarts are now helping them out in the German league, namely Smith (inside left) and Muir (right back). Any Sunday you can hear the crowd shouting for our Willie and Jeemy, and they seem to be a great attraction.

One of the small village teams (Altanelle) have played us twice, and both times we have beaten them. The last time we played them we presented them with a plaque with the new Brigade badge on it, and they in turn presented us with a small silver cup which we hope to put to some use by making it a "Footballer of the Year Cup" to be competed for annually.

We are looking forward to our short stay in Edinburgh, and who knows, HEARTS! HIBS! We had better let them know we are coming.

We are not entering the league this year but we do hope to have some games with the teams that will be competing just to let them know how lucky they are we are leaving B.A.O.R. Oh for the Army Cup!

CRICKET NOTES

Cricket this season has paid the penalty that has been occasioned by the training season, our move to Kenya, star performers off on courses, our old friend the weather, and even a certain member who is getting married, and will be married by the time these notes are published.

The results of the games played were:— 27/5/61, 94 Loc., lost; 3/6/61, Q.D.G.S., lost; 17/6/61, 5 R.T.R., won.

The following have represented the cricket teams this season:— Major M. M. L. Maitland, Major R. W. Smith, Captain C. J. D. Gordon-Stewart, Captain R. W. C. Murison, Captain R. D. L. Smart, Lieut. R. G. D. Bruce, Lieut. R. J. McLaggan, Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley, 2/Lieut. C. H. Van der Noot, W.O. II Homer, Sgt. MacDonald 68, Cpl. Murphy, Pte. Stewart 07, Pte. Stewart 44, Pte. Henderson, Pte. Mortimer.

"A" COMPANY

The Company spirit during the summer period can be measured largely by the number of empty beer cans now littering the woods of the Soltau training area—at a depth, we hope, of several inches below ground level. Much time has been spent in bouncing over bone-shaking expanses of open country, sometimes reduced to a bog by heavy rain, sometimes sending up a blinding, penetrating cloud



Major Burge and Pte. Campbell greet Reveille with enthusiasm.

of dust behind each vehicle. Despite every hazard 2/Lt. Jeremy Rawlins and his merry cavaliers of 7 Troop, "B" Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, have kept virtually all their Saracen armoured personnel carriers on the road for us throughout the training period.

Typical of any month of May, the period opened with the accent on athletics. We were well represented in the Battalion sports, and congratulations



Brew-up—Pte. Raeburn (4 R.T.R.), Pte. Laing, L/C. Smith, C.S.M. Symon, Capt. Cruickshank.

go to Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley, L/Cpl. Gillies, Pte. (now L/Cpl.) Costello, and Pte Cohen on winning medals in a variety of events. Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley and 2/Lt. C. H. Van der Noot put a great deal of time into training our athletes and when the great day came the Company was well pleased by the results of their endeavour.

Shortly before this the Company 2/I.C. went off to Holland as No. 2 in an Army entry for the Tulip International Rally. The Army entered three crews of three, driving 6-cylinder Vauxhalls, one of which (No. 71) completed the 2,420 miles to Monte Carlo and back without damage or road penalties. The inability of the 2,650 c.c. engine to compete with the Citroens and a Mercedes 220 SE in the same class cost points on the timed sections, and No. 71 finished 101st out of 214—with the other Army cars 103rd and 104th.

On the 12th May the Company went out to a spot near the village of Heber on the Soltau training area for a week's training with our affiliated A.P.C. troop. The weather was bad, and the base camp was set up in a seemingly endless shower of rain; so the initiative of all was put to sound use: all the firewood in the vicinity was collected, and soon huge fires were roaring in what was by now a very wet wood. The fires blazed on, but spirits were somewhat dampened, when it came to light that most of the "fire-wood" had come from stacks of cut palings—and had to be paid for! Once the locals realised that they were on to a good thing, we were accused of stealing eight hens—needless to say, a completely unfounded accusation. While the Company Commander roughed it in a "bivvy" the 2/I.C. and the C.S.M.—joined by the C.Q.M.S.—were seen lurking in the so-called Officers' and Sergeants' messes respectively. The Company H.Q. food situation under the direct control of Master Chef Boyles was saved from eternal disrepute when Lieut. I. Fleming produced a spare tin of curry powder—a

to be able to congratulate C.S.M. Symon on his promotion to substantive Warrant Officer.

On the 19th May we all returned to Celle for a few days before going out again, this time for two weeks in another wood near Heber. During this period the A.P.C.s and ourselves trained with the 5th Royal Tank Regiment. The first few days were spent working with each squadron in turn, while the last three days entailed a regimental exercise. During this exercise the Company successfully undertook the roles of "enemy" and "own troops" as required. Probably the highlight of the whole fortnight was the rendering of "A Scottish Soldier" over the A.P.C. wireless net by an unknown (!!) voice from the Company. Although the rendering was of a "high" standard, it resulted in the Com-



Command Saracen out of action.

pany hiking the ten miles back to base camp. Despite such intrusions on our training we had a very successful two weeks. It was sad, however, to think that this would in all probability be the last time that we would train with an armoured regiment of 7th Armoured Brigade Group. It was also a farewell to the Soltau training area, to the Saracens with their excellent wireless communications, and to that most important piece of equipment to which we have all become attached—the "Benghazi."

Back to sport. The Battalion was represented in both the light and heavy Tug-O-War Championships at Aldershot, both teams being coached by our expert C.S.M. Brown. All praise to the heavy team for their gallant fight to the semi-final. As usual "A" Company produced a large percentage of those who pulled: Cpl. Leslie, Ptes. Leckenby (a veteran of three visits to Aldershot), Sinkins, and Beck, with Pte. Angus in reserve. Congratulations also to Pte. Fleming on the award of his B.A.O.R. Football Colours.

On the 12th June, 3 Platoon, under the expert guidance of Lieut. Oxley and Sgt. Strathdee went off to Steinhudermeer, near Hanover, for four days' sailing at the British Yacht Club there. Later that month seventy-five men from the Company took part in Exercise "Top Hat," an administrative exercise designed to test amongst other things the evacuation of casualties. For three days the unfortunate "casualties" travelled through that well known thing—the "medical chain." Swathed in bandages, they were moved by helicopter and ambulance to far distant places, and on their return to the Battalion hours later they were revived with food and hot tea, only to be fed once again into



Saracen in trouble.

basic essential for every "compo" meal. By the 15th more beer was needed, so Pte. Traynor took in his 3-tonner to collect the vital supplies from Hohne. On the 17th Sgt. Strathdee was caught with his trousers down when the 2/I.C., thunderflash in hand, outflanked him at last light; and later that night a small party including the C.S.M. and Pte. Laing "attacked" Battalion H.Q.—situated in a nearby wood—causing quite a stir in the area of their Officers' and Sergeants' messes. Despite this unofficial activity we were later glad (and very relieved)

the pipeline with yet another broken limb (exercise purposes only).

From the 1st to the 8th July we found ourselves at Pultos once more. This year the camp on the Baltic coast east of Kiel was a tented one, and the weather with the exception of two days was bad—which is invariably the case when we are under canvas. The Company shop, expertly managed by Cpl. Pattillo, did a roaring trade, and even the sun-tan lotion was sold out, thanks to the limited good weather appearing at the beginning of our stay!

The last of our exercise commitments materialised at the end of July when the 2/I.C. with L/Cpl. Smith and Pte. Laing went out on Exercise Genesis V, initially as "A" Company and finally as the Regimental H.Q. of 3rd Royal Tank Regiment! The whole exercise period might be summed up in the words of a tank squadron commander, who said to one of the crew of his tank: "you take over pouring the tea, and I'll look after the gun."

This year the Nijmegen story lacked the colour of previous years. Four teams from "A" Company—a total of forty six men—represented the Battalion, and unlike last year all the marchers were volunteers. Teams were led by Lieut. R. J. MacLagan, Lieut. N. F. M. Oxley, Lieut. I. Fleming, and Cpl. A. Pattillo. Unfortunately several of the men fell out, and only Lieut. Oxley and Cpl. Pattillo brought back team awards on behalf of their teams. However, this means that during our tour in Germany the Company has won seven team awards and well over a hundred individual medals.

Since the beginning of August, when we became non-operational, everyone has been looking forward to the move in October—some have developed headaches as a result, while the majority are mildly delighted at the thought of a move after more than three years in the one place. Captain Cruickshank is hovering on the brink of a posting to an unknown destination, while Lieut. MacLagan is recovering from the news that he is to be M.T.O. Kenya. Lieut. Oxley is to command a support weapons platoon, and will probably remain with "A" Company. Lieut. Fleming will, it is hoped, increase the number of regular soldiers in the Regiment in his capacity as Battalion recruiting officer. Our very large strength, at times over one hundred and fifty, is decreasing slowly, but most of the gang will, we hope, still be with us when the old type-writer gets going again.

Finally a word of tribute to C.S.M. Brown, who has recently left "A" Company after being our sergeant-major for practically the whole of our stay in Germany. Paddy Brown has been a mainstay of the Company through periods of both success and frustration, and has met the two with equal equanimity. We were very sorry to see him go, and we wish him the very best of luck in his new appointment.

"B" COMPANY

In the month of May we had what was to be our third and last camp near Heber on the Soltau training area. This time we went to work with our A.P.C. troop provided by "B" Squadron, 4th Royal Tanks, supporting the 13/18 Hussars who were converting to the role of an armoured regiment after returning from Malaya earlier in the year.

An excellent camp was established, but unfortunately the weather was something of a disappointment. However, the old soldiers were soon leading the rest in providing those extra comforts like charpoys and bashas. The consumption of mine tape and signal wire was phenomenal but very worth

while working on the principle that any fool can be uncomfortable. Here is what Pte. James has to say about our camp:—

"It was a wet day in May when the Company arrived at Heber. The rain, however, did not deter the Jocks from going down town to get better acquainted with the local folk. As can be guessed



Steinhude Meer—Pte. Donald pretending he is Uffa Fox.

from past experience, the meeting place was in the nearest Gasthof.

"It was quite an interesting period of training, that is, apart from the weather which did its very best to wash us away. This year we were to work with our new Armoured Regiment, the 13th/18th Hussars. This necessitated putting on a demonstration for their benefit to show the role that we play in an Armoured Brigade. This was a great success and all ranks were congratulated by the Brigade Commander.

"Yes, the demonstration attack was a great success and after it the troopers of the 13th/18th Hussars were more than keen to examine our vehicles

and weapons. It is a pity that we shall not be with them a little more, but other tasks have to be done."

After "B" Company's showing as No. 1 Guard on the Colours Parade in April, it was decided that we should represent the Battalion at the 14th American Cavalry International Day in Bad Hersfeld. We were also given the honour of carrying the old Regimental Colour.

Our arrival at Bad Hersfeld was indeed a good omen, for the sun shone gloriously for the first time in that area for twenty-nine days. This hot, fine weather continued throughout our stay which would otherwise have been not quite such a success.

In the typical manner of the Gordons, it was not long before we were mixing freely with the soldiers of other armies from Germany, Canada, Belgium, and, of course, America.

The first morning of our stay there we spent in being thoroughly inquisitive and we were handsomely received by the Commander of the American Recce Troop, Lieut. J. Maddox, who showed us round his vehicles. The centre of attraction to most of us was the giant A.P.C. which looks just like a box on wheels! After the introductory talk by Lieut. Maddox, the Company was let loose. Questions were fired quickly at the Tank and A.P.C. Commanders who answered very well. Equipment such as infrared sights was new to us and caused a great deal of interest.



"B" Company at Bad Hersfeld.

The third day of our visit was the climax. Bands, display items, demonstrations and spectators all joined in to make the day a splendid success. The barracks parade ground was used instead of the normal field which was water-logged; it was a little small but things were soon going with a swing.

The square was surrounded by numerous side attractions in the form of military static displays from several armies and ranged from an enormous American atomic howitzer to a British Ferret scout car. From that time onwards, a continuous review of dancing, drill, band-music, battle technique and athletics took place on the square. The "B" Company contingent, followed by our A.P.C. troop, marched past with the Colours and the Drums and Pipes gave a display of dancing which did the Battalion credit. To round off the day's events, various balls and parties were held for the benefit of all ranks who had taken part. It is sufficient to say that all this was wonderful, thanks to the officers and men of the 14th Cavalry.

June is the traditional training period at Putlos which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all, and the thanks of the Company are expressed by Pte. James who writes:—

"June saw us at Putlos, where the sun came out to greet us. As was to be expected, 3 Platoon won the inter-Platoon competition by winning the Platoon attack and the mortar competition in which Pte. (Hicky) Flynn excelled himself by beating the man who could put mortar bombs in a tea-cup at 200 yards, Pte. (Tug) Wilson. Also we would like to thank C.S.M.I. Pearce who made such a good job of organising and providing the facilities for our sport, which we thoroughly enjoyed, particularly swimming in the Baltic. Also many thanks to the catering staff who provided us with the most excellent meals."

After our return to Celle it was not long before we were suffering from wanderlust again, for we began a programme of "adventure" training throughout Germany, by ourselves and with other units. This period is best summed up by those who took part in these schemes, and the following extracts help to do this:—

Pte. McGugan writes:—

"On the 4th of August this year, myself and ten other men arrived at Steinhude. It is a very nice spot and it is one of the best yachting lakes that I could recommend to anyone. It is only about five feet deep in most parts and about six miles long by three miles wide. So if you did happen to land in the lake, I think you could manage to walk ashore. We spent a most enjoyable time there and some of the boys did happen to land in the lake. One of the lads in charge of a yacht, his name I had better not mention, walked down the jetty and said to the others, "Come on, I'll show you how it's done!" They were just 200 yards off shore when suddenly they were all splashing about in the water. We all worked together and managed to get the yacht ashore and serviceable for the following day. I had a few narrow escapes myself, but I won't say anything about them. We were down at Steinhude for four days but if I ever get the chance of going there again, I will jump at it. In the evenings we all had a good drink and sing-song. Yes! The yachting club is on the ball"

So much for McGugan's escapades, another writes:—

"On the 29th of May, fifteen of the Company left for Steinhude Meer under the eye of 2/Lieut. Du Boulay. We were off to spend the week sailing, or rather, learning to sail on the lake. We lived at the British Steinhude Meer Yacht Club. The weather was extremely good except for one day when all ideas of sailing had to be abandoned. On the whole, most of us picked up the basic principles very quickly and were able to take boats out on our own. There were, however, one or two who seemed to forget their nautical ancestry and found that swimming was a speedier and less bewildering form of water transport."

And so it seems that the Company contingents to Steinhude Meer have really enjoyed their stay there. Several others suffered the disgrace of paddling back to the jetty, but on the whole, life was really worth while when messing about in boats. Pte. Small with his banjo was in much demand for the evenings' entertainment.

The affiliation of a certain platoon to the Bundeswehr seemed to cause a lot of publicity in B.A.O.R. through the "Triangle" magazine and B.F.N. programmes, but it is felt by "B" Company

that the visit of Mr. Fawcus and his party to Bad Hersfeld has been somewhat overlooked. We think the expedition was entirely justified when Mr. Fawcus writes:—

"This year we have been fortunate enough to be able to send thirty men down to the American Zone to train with the 3rd Squadron, 14 Armoured Cavalry.

"The first party, under myself, arrived at Bad Hersfeld on 13th August, 1961. There we were met by Captain Heath, 1 Troop Commander. After a brief talk by him, the men were split up amongst the troop and shown to their rooms. They were quick to mix with the Americans, and in no time we were fixed up with some sort of entertainment for the night. Next morning, reveille was sounded at 0600 hours and after a good breakfast we were distributed throughout the troop and mounted on tanks, mortar carriers, scout cars and personnel carriers. We marched to a harbour area, and after a check on equipment and stores, we began an advance to contact, with 1 Platoon as enemy, which lasted until 1700 hours that evening.

"We discovered that American tactics were very different from anything we had been used to and their infantry work was at times somewhat bewildering to all of us.

"After installing the troop in a night harbour area, Captain Heath gave the order to become semi-tactical only. This was due to the fact that an infra-red night driving exercise was to be carried out. For those of us unable to ride a vehicle on this part of the exercise, no sleep was possible due to the din of crashing timber which could be heard late in the night.

"Next morning Captain Heath, after much careful thought and deliberation, took the plunge and announced that one of his new personnel carriers and his new type jeep was to be handed over to us for driving instruction. Surprisingly enough, no real damage was done, except to the nervous disposition of the Sergeant Instructor, and Pte. Wilson 59 was informed by Captain Heath that his driving was of a very high standard. (Wilson saw to it that the remainder of the Squadron was clear on this point on his return to Bad Hersfeld).

"The advance to contact was continued next day, and after returning to the barracks at Bad Hersfeld late that evening, a good night out was enjoyed by all.

"Next day, Captain Heath arranged for all of us to carry out a border patrol. It was commanded by 2/Lieut. Lawrence, and consisted of eight jeeps, each carrying two Americans and two of us. Since a border patrol normally consists of no more than three jeeps, the East German guards appeared to be somewhat startled at its size. Mr. Lawrence showed us a large section of the border and it was very interesting to have a close-up view.

"Before we departed from Bad Hersfeld we were all privileged to be presented with border certificates by the Squadron Commander, Lieut.-Colonel Galloway. An extract from these certificates runs as follows:—

"For outstanding service on the East-West German Border during the period 12 Aug. 61 to 17 Aug. 61, and being held in high esteem by the Officers and men of the 3rd Sqn., is awarded this Border Certificate."

"We were also extremely grateful for the kind hospitality which they showed to us."

With a view to one of our roles in Kenya, internal security training started in August and the Company put on a demonstration of the cordon and search of a village for the benefit of the rest of the Battalion. The villagers, male and female, were represented very enthusiastically by members of "A" Company who dressed up and acted the parts of such indispensable characters as the police officer, the Padre, and even a somewhat unprepossessing W.R.A.C. sergeant whose tartan skirt bore a suspiciously strong resemblance to the Company Commander's desk cloth. An officer on attachment from the K.A.R. gave a brilliant performance as an interpreter, using his own native Swahili and the P.R.I. sports loudhailer.

It is planned that Lieut. Saville will take a party to Silberhutte Training Centre in the Harz Mountains and that Lieut. Scott will take another party by helicopter to Bad Kissingen to train with our American friends once again. We may also manage to send a third and last party to Stenhude Meer. Thus we see the Company enjoying a planned programme of interesting and unusual training enjoyed by everyone.

In conclusion to our notes, we would like to give a welcome to those members of the Company who have newly joined us and a farewell to those who have left, both being too numerous to mention, with two exceptions, Captain C. J. D. Gordon-Steward who is hoping to join the Parachute Regiment for a tour, and C.S.M. Freeman who is going to the London Scottish. C.S.M. Freeman joined the Company in February, 1960, and played a very large part in maintaining the Company at such a high standard in the field on training and in barracks. He will be missed very much. Our very best wishes to him and to Mrs. Freeman.

So we end with thoughts of Kenya in everybody's minds. There will be numerous changes in the Company during the coming months, but we all look forward to our future in a country that is new to us all.

"C" (S.P.) COMPANY

Due to the introduction of the new infantry battalion organisation for support weapons and to the end of draft training, "C" (S.P.) Company was closed down on 4th August, 1961. Company H.Q., the M.T. Platoon, and Assault Pioneer Platoon with the training staff were posted to "H.Q." Company. The men of the 3-Inch Mortar Platoon were distributed to rifle companies.

The night before the disbandment of the company, there was a very successful company smoker at a local German inn. The M.T. Section on this night also said farewell to their platoon commander, Captain (Q.M.) Harry Foster, M.B.E., and to his wife, Mrs. Foster. Mrs. Foster did a lot of good work with the families of the company. We wish them both the best of luck on retirement to civilian life from the Army.

In May C.S.M. G. Rose was away training the Bn. Shooting Team, and Colour Sergeant Strachan acted as C.S.M., with Sgt. Lowe acting as C.Q.M.S.

The 3-Inch Mortar Platoon having done a week of butt marking for the R.P.C. B.A.O.R. Rifle Club meeting in May, went off to Hohne for three weeks, where they did their last Mortar Training and live shoots as a platoon.

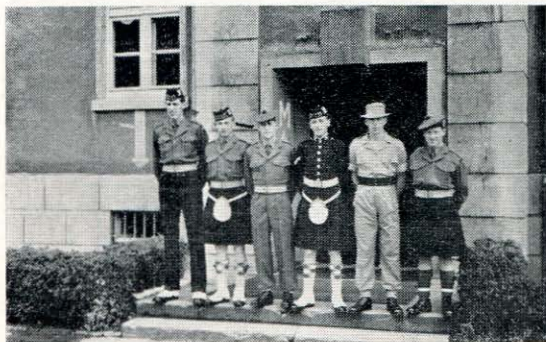
In June the Assault Pioneer's had a three week's attachment at Nienburg with 4 Fd. Sqn. R.E., which they thoroughly enjoyed. They did bridging, clearance of obstacles and mine training with the Sappers.

A composite platoon from the Company went to Putlos for the first week of July under the command of Lt. P. W. Graham with Sgt. Gordon and L/Cpl. Taylor as N.C.O.'s. Lt. Graham had just returned from an M.M.G. course at Netheravon. This platoon returned to barracks looking very fit and full of sea air.

Lt. R. G. Bruce went off in July on a forward air controllers course, part of which he spent at the R.N.A.S., Lossiemouth, where he had plenty of flying in jet aircraft. Lt. Graham ran a three weeks cadre for junior N.C.O.'s, which passed out at the end of July. The passing out parade was inspected by the Commanding Officer. The instructors for this Cadre were the R.S.M., C.S.M. Rose, Sgt's. Lowe, Gordon. It is expected that "C" Company will be formed in Kenya as a training company, and in the meantime the P.R.I. holds the flag of the company and property for safe custody.

"D" COMPANY

During the last three months the company has seen many changes, particularly so amongst the officers. Firstly our commander, Major M. A. C. Stephen relinquished his command after a year in his very capable hands. The Company wish him well in his new role of second-in-command. Captain D. C. K. Brown is in the chair until we reach Edinburgh when our new Sunray, Major Chancellor arrives. We are also pleased to welcome Lt. Lumsden, who has re-joined the regiment after a spell in "Civvy Street," and there is no doubt that his thorough knowledge of Swahili will be of great use to us in Kenya. We say farewell to our Sergeant-Major, "Paddy" Coggle, who has been replaced by C.S.M. Rose and we also welcome C/Sgt. Strachan who has replaced C/Sgt. Kerr. C/Sgt. Strachan has arrived at a very difficult time, when we are packing up the stores in preparation for our



Orders of Dress in use—Ptes. McBain, Moir, Craigie, L/C. Robertson, Cpl. Breen, Pte. Stewart.

move to Redford Barracks, but it is hoped that he can achieve the impossible. Finally we say goodbye to the regiment's only and possibly the last N.S. Officer—2/Lt. Ewart. The Coy will certainly miss him especially his accounting ability, which has been exercised freely over the Company account.

1 PLATOON

After a fortnight on the Soltau Training Area we say "Au Revoir" to our scheme hardened Pl. Comd. who is on a signals course. We also con-

gratulate him on his recent promotion and at the same time realise that there is hope for us all.

With the forming of a Sp. Pl. we have also lost, among others, the services of Sgt. Flinn and Cpl. Joss who have taken over the Mobat Section and as they now think themselves to be in the specialists class they are seen going about with their noses in the air.

Our heartiest congratulations go out to Cpl. McDuff on his marriage and also on his recent success in the British Army Boxing Championships on reaching the finals. Well done Nicky and the best of luck for the future.

Now that our tour in Germany is fast running to a close our thoughts are turning to Edinburgh, leave, and the next stop somewhere in the Middle East. But wherever it is we are sure the "Fighting First" will carry on the good work.

2 PLATOON

Our last notes left us looking forward to our visit to the 82nd Panzer Grenadiers Bn. in Luneberg. On arrival we were greeted by a welcome in the form of a flag ceremony, which was marred by the fact Cpls. Melville and Graham, were unable to undo the knot in the flag, thus leaving us in the present arms position for ages. Clearly they had forgotten their Boy Scouts Training! When all formalities had finished we settled in to quite excellent living accommodation.

We found the German soldiers very friendly and helpful on all occasions, and the language difficulty was overcome by the waving and pointing of arms. Our first difficulty arose when Sgt. Cameron was asked to drill the Bundeswehr and the platoon together. After a few embarrassing moments, it was found that we could pick up the German easier than they could ours. So Feldwebel Karlak assumed command and it was only ten minutes before we were marching about the square to the sound of "Links, Recht, Links." Shortly afterwards we went to their ranges and both of us enjoyed the experience of firing each others weapons. Some of the boys produced excellent shooting results. For the final three days we were on a scheme on the Munster-Lager training area. This was an education in itself watching their tactics, and went well, particularly so as our only interpreter was Herr Oberleutnant Fitch late of the First Gordons. We also enjoyed hearing the Germans singing their marching songs round the camp fire at night. However after a few beers the jocks retaliated with "I Belong to Glasgow," whereupon the Germans took cover thinking they were being attacked.

Shortly after the Bundeswehr's departure, we found ourselves acting as enemy in a Brigade exercise, and everyone accounted well for themselves, and this also includes 5 Tp. of "B" Squadron, 4 R.T.R., who not only started the exercise with 10 Saracens, but returned to Barracks with the same number. This must surely be a military miracle.

3 PLATOON

Our A.P.C. training went off with the usual gusto on Soltau, where the jolly figure of Pte. Grant 60 became an everyday headache to all Saracen and Tank drivers. In one day by his presence alone he succeeded in putting three cars and one tank out of action. Unfortunately our 7-day visit to Putlos was marred by inclement weather. However, on the only two days of good weather everyone scattered to the beach and carried out talent spotting intensively. On the arrival of the 82nd Panzer Grenadiers

Pte. Simpson went into action in the Company beer bar. Here, there appeared to be two aims, to out drink his German friends and to exercise his "pidgin" German. Recently the P.T. staff have been exercising their patience trying to train us for the P.E. Tests, and the jump certainly appeared to be a stumbling block for certain smaller members of the Platoon.

We are glad to see all the Tug-O-War members back amongst the fold and we offer Ptes. Christie 20 and Smith 61 the best of wishes when they leave us shortly for the joys of "Civvy Street."

4 PLATOON

As we are only in the embryonic stage, much hard work lies ahead. However, our role certainly appears interesting and has a wide variety of scope. At present our friends the Mortars are in "H.Q." Company under the very capable hands of Lt. Bruce and Sgt. Arthur and by all reports they are being put through their paces.

The Anti-Tank Platoon have just started their Cadre and by the whispers we have heard it's a lot better than section attacks, much to the envy of our fellow platoons. Cpls. Joss and Buchan have recently returned from the Cameronians at Minden where they completed a Cadre and are demonstrating their recently gained knowledge to the members of the Pl. L/Cpl. Buchan is congratulated on extending his service and qualifying for a £200 bounty.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since the last issue of the "Tiger and Sphinx" notes, many changes have taken place in the Company. The largest change was the return of the M.T. Section, plus the Assault Pioneer Platoon and a few more odds and bods from "C" (SP) Company, which has now been folded up for administrative purposes.

Hand-over of the Company has been rather a "disputed affair" where C.S.M.s were concerned owing to the many different "Crowns" being placed in the chair in the last few months. (Too many Chiefs and not enough Indians). Now that it has finally been sorted out, we hope, we welcome C.S.M. Coggle into the fold as "Chair-man," and C.S.M. Brown as Second in Command to "the chair."

Last month we said good-bye to Cpl. "evasive replies" McGhee who has been posted to the Fort. We wish him well at his new post.

We congratulate W.O. II Homer on his promotion which dropped as the "Pennies from Heaven" out of the blue.

At the time of writing, the Company is in the midst of measuring up boxes, to find out the cubic capacity for the odds and ends each department has accumulated in the past three years, in the shape of "Advertising Ash Trays" for well-known beers, wine glasses with crests of well-known places and Gasthofs.

From the last National Service Release Draft we say good-bye to:— L/Cpls. Clark 14, Hume 99, and Ptes. Clark 79, Dineen 49, English 32, Goddard 41, Hutton 34, Jarvie 72, MacGowan 01, MacDonald 00, McLean 56, McCreadie 37, Ritchie 84, Kingswell 94, Ross 57, Small 60, Sutherland 62, Wellwood 73, MacKinnon 68. We wish them all well in their future employment in civilian life and hope that some day one or two may return to the flock.

We must apologise for this Company's notes being so short, but we hope to have a larger column in the next issue when we can let our reporters off the leash to collect material of a more interesting nature. At present they are all tied up with their various jobs of getting packed up for the move to the U.K.

SIGNALS PLATOON

May saw the opening of the Kiel season for the Signal Platoon, but this year it proved to be the only visit and unfortunately, due to the expansion of the Germany Navy, our usual camp site of last year was no longer available.

Nevertheless, amidst many other diversions, some useful signalling was done. A course in signalling of another kind for the driver of the three-tonner which had an argument with a Mercedes might also have proved beneficial. The Platoon Commander, as usual, arrived in time to go sailing and brought with him in his 80 m.p.h. armoured Austin the pay for the week. Pte. Lloyd, however, about to go on leave, had so much money on him that he didn't know where to put it. He succeeded so well in not knowing where to put it that he lost it altogether.

The sight of our Welsh Nationalist borrowing off his fellow Aberdonians kept the Platoon amused for days.

On return to Celle, we found that the M.T.O., not trusting us any longer, had taken away our one-ton truck and given us a one-ton armoured Humber instead. This was a very unwise set-up — within a week Pte. Aird had driven it all over the Soltau training area with such speed and energy that his momentum never ceased and on return to Trenchard Barracks he couldn't stop his monster and collided with a Saracen. This enabled Sgt. Mitchell and L/Cpl. Higgins to spend a week taking out of the vehicle all the radio equipment they had spent a fortnight putting into it.

Ex. Top Hat saw us off again on manoeuvres and the first occasion on which our Don Rs really got cracking. Pte. Patterson was the hero of this exercise and now intends to go in for speedway as a profession. At any rate he stayed on throughout the exercise, unlike Pte. "Geoff Duke" Cargill on Ex. Genesis 5, the next scheme, who, when ordered by the Commanding Officer to follow him wherever he went, obeyed his orders literally and tried to follow him through a bog three feet deep and ended up head first in a ditch looking for lobsters. Unlike in Nigg Bay, there were none to be found.

In August the Platoon spent a fortnight sailing at Steinhude under the command of Petty Officer Carter. The Jolly Roger was hoisted on the yard arm, the frauleins of Steinhude ran for miles and within a few hours the number of capsized boats on the lake have broken all records.

Nevertheless, the standard of sailing improved enormously during the period and the time spent on this admirable recreation was certainly well rewarded.

In August we were very sorry to say good-bye to Sgt. Mitchell who left to take up a post as an instructor at Hythe. Sgt. Mitchell will be greatly missed in the Platoon, both on and off duty, and we all wish him the very best of luck in his new job.

Colour Sergeant Somers was called in to provide the decorations for the Battalion Sports Exhibition and with the aid of the whole Platoon he achieved wonders in a very short space of time. Everyone in the Platoon worked hard to do a good job and there can be no doubt in the truth of C/Sgt. Somers' statement when he said, "Give me a dozen Signallers and I can do anything."

From sailing to building exhibitions, motor cycling to signalling, we can do a lot, and by the time we get to Kenya we will have learnt the Tom Tom as well.

Finally, congratulations to Ptes. Kerr and Rennie on being presented with their flags on qualification as classified signallers.

"M.T." PLATOON

The reins of the M.T. Platoon have now passed from the hands of Captain (Q.M.) H. Foster, M.B.E., who is retiring, to Lieut. (Q.M.) G. H. Dunn.

To Captain and Mrs. Foster we would like to say "Thank you for all your help and advice given to



Driving Competition—Pte. Gray receives his prize from Mrs. Napier.

the members of the Platoon. It has been very much appreciated by us all." May civilian life prove to be as successful and as pleasant to you both as the life life you now leave behind.

We welcome Mr. Dunn to the fold and sincerely hope that his term of office will be a pleasant one with us.

In the past, an acute shortage of drivers within the Platoon did at times bring about the unavoidable situation whereby a certain number of vehicles became dormant. Knowing as we do, that each vehicle must receive regular, up-to-the-minute mileage or time servicing and maintenance, this predicament entailed extra duties and fatigues being placed on the shoulders of drivers who were available, much to the consternation of all concerned. To-day, however, the position is very much changed. We have a "machine" for producing drivers. It works almost

non-stop. At the moment there are twenty potential drivers undergoing instruction. It is the intention of the M.T.O. to have one driver for each vehicle and a reserve of trained personnel to replace the National Service men who leave us during 1962. Those on the present cadre are shaping well and appear to be eager for the day when they qualify for their "pink slip" to acquire a driving licence, and to become the proud, if temporary, owners of a W.D. vehicle. In this way we hope to keep 'em rolling.

During the long Whitsun week-end, we held a driving competition. Devised by the M.T.O., organised and controlled by the Platoon N.C.O.s, it was intended to, and did, test the drivers' ability to manoeuvre his vehicle through, round and past certain set obstacles. Besides which, it was good fun and a pleasant day's recreation. This took place on the main barrack square and was such a great success that the Platoon received the Commanding Officer's congratulations and the hope that something similar be done in Kenya. We hope to make it a bigger and better competition next time, to include all personnel in the Battalion who can drive. The winner of this latest venture of ours was Pte. Irvine, whose skill not only earned him a new wrist watch but the very enthusiastic applause of the rest of the Platoon and spectators. He dropped only two points. Pte. Clark 94 was second and Pte. Gray third — both good efforts. Next came the ladies' event, the same course, different vehicles. Some husbands had such confidence in their ladies' driving that they allowed them to risk losing their "no claims" bonus. This event was great fun and the driving was of a high order. Honours went to Mrs. Napier and Mrs. Duncan. Besides winning a prize, Mrs. Napier kindly presented them too.

Pte. Gray is often in the news these days. Recently he was among the prize winners at the Brigade Motor Cycle Trials, and more recently still, accompanied by Ptes. Smollett, Stewart and Johnston 52, took part in the B.A.O.R. Trials. They had a very creditable place of twelfth among some very skilled teams. Many teams failed to finish a tough and gruelling two days.

Congratulations go to L/Cpls. Raine and Wicks of the R.E.M.E., on their recent promotions. (Why not "stay in" and get some more, L/Cpl. Wicks?).

Pte. Thompson 57 has successfully attended a water course. We hope that this aspiring "Gunga Din" will retain his new found skill until we get to Kenya where his services either as a water diviner or curer will no doubt be required. Another of our Thompsons, this time of the 87 variety, must also receive mention here. He was a member of the Light Tug-o'-War team which won the Army championship at Aldershot this year. It is fairly obvious that here is a man who pulls his weight in more ways than one.

Pte. Fitzpatrick has left us to sally forth among the denizens of Civvy Street. Quite often his was the face behind the phone in the M.T. office. During the latter part of his service, to learn to drive became almost an obsession with him. His chance came along and he was duly accommodated with one of the cadres. After several hair-raising experiences, and a certain amount of patience, his ambition was finally realised. Came the day when he took his Volkswagen on charge, and it can truly be said that he carried out his transport details to the letter. If ever a Volkswagen was nursed, this one was. Wherever it was parked, so also was Fitzpatrick, but there is no evidence to prove that he ever got it into

his room. Next came the day of his discharge, and it took a while to convince him that he couldn't take it with him. Not only did he become a driver, but he burst forth with a literary effort which we hope to see published in the pages of this journal. We are told that it might even give food for thought to our recruiting organisation.

Others we said good-bye to at the same time were Ptes. McTiernan, Johnston 67 and Morrison, who were all ex-Seaforths. We wish them well in their new jobs.

In September, we lose some more of our stalwarts of The Land o' the Heather, namely Ptes. Ross, Muir, Greener and Johnston 02. If ever they decide to return to us they will certainly be made welcome. Need we say more?

"Elusive" and "Phantom" were just two of the expressions our (new) M.T.O. used when referring to our Ordnance Field Park during the recent Corps Administration exercise called "Top Hat," in which he participated. It appears that during the four days' activity the M.T.O.'s driver, Pte. Bruce, almost used the entire exercise allocation of petrol trying to locate them. At the same time the M.T.O. was running short of map references and wondering if the object of the exercise was "Find the O.F.P." At one point there was a huddle at the side of the road consisting of the Brigade Ordnance Warrant Officer, R.M.P. Sergeant and the M.T.O., all of whom were trying to find this "damned elusive . . . O.F.P.," when down the axis came the unit on its way to another secret destination. It was easy now, they just went with it.

The rest of the world may well believe that Major Gagarin was the first man into orbit, but we in the Platoon think differently. We believe that this distinction goes to a certain Tech. Sergeant. During a recent check of the Battn. G1098 equipment by a Board of Officers, he was duly informed, in the politest way possible, that he was deficient of twelve sets of heavy duty skid chains. Then, without warning — ZOOM . . . ! He didn't even wait for the count down. Some time later the chains were found discreetly concealed by a pile of camouflage nets belonging to the Signal Platoon. The said Tech. Sergeant has since obligingly suggested to the Signal Platoon where they can keep their nets!

A social event of note at the beginning of August was the "C" Company dinner held at a nearby Gasthaus. This was a very enjoyable evening at which we said our official good-byes to Captain and Mrs. Foster and an unexpected good-bye to "C" Company which has been disbanded until we arrive in our new location. This was a most hilarious occasion and we are told that Cfn. Maddy has the only photographic evidence to prove it. This was taken, of course, the next morning.

After much study and nail biting, the M.T. Sergeant is now a member of that group of intellectuals who possess their first class certificate of education. He is now permitted to initial the crosses with which he has been authorising work ticket journeys.

All the Company transport and drivers have now returned to the M.T. pool. We are, at the moment, preparing our vehicles for the R.E.M.E. Inspectorate which will begin on 25th September. The transport will then be handed over to representatives of the incoming unit. This means that between now (end of August) and the end of September the M.T. Platoon will become a hive of industry, and we can guaran-

tee that during this period every kind of B . . . L will be used.

ONE FOR THE ROAD — Make sure that your licence expires before you do.

ORDERLY ROOM

The nerve centre of the Battalion continues to run in an orderly manner under the able direction of "Chiefy" while still retaining its quirks and peculiarities which provide much amusement to the staff therein.

I use O.R.Q.M.S. Gammacks nickname with my tongue in my cheek at the same time mentally calculating the number of duty clerks it is going to cost me. At the time of writing the Battalion move to Edinburgh and subsequently to Kenya is imminent and we in the Orderly Room are faced with an infinitesimal amount of work, especially the Chief Clerk who has and will work many late nights and I recall with amusement the comments of one duty clerk who was called upon to make tea at half-past three in the morning.

One of the peculiarities I mentioned earlier is the behaviour of a certain gentleman who persists in disappearing at regular intervals during the day. As you might imagine this phenomenon leads to no small amount of speculation among his work-mates as to his whereabouts, their conclusions however cannot find outlet in such a reputable publication as this.

Sgt. West has not been much in evidence of late being engrossed in the instruction of the "lesser brethren" in the arts of clerking. "His task must have been most arduous," remarked one colleague who had noticed with glee that Sgt. West now sat several inches nearer his desk, but this I feel owes itself more to the recent P.E. Tests.

L/Cpl. Williams awaits in doleful anticipation his unenviable job of striking the Battalion off strength in B.A.O.R., taking them on at Edinburgh and then doing a repeat performance with the move to Kenya.

Before this article reaches print we shall have said goodbye to Pte. Ower who has valiantly refused to sign on, even with the "Dangled Carrot" of two hundred pounds before him. Jim has given valuable service to the Battalion and I am sure that all who know him will wish him every success in his "mecca" civilian life. We continue to reprimand nature for bestowing upon Sgt. Buchan such a powerful pair of lungs, his strident bellows punctuated with a series of grunts proclaim to all that that most noble of institutions Commanding Officer's Orders are in progress and to us that any work requiring concentration can be forgotten.

INDIA MIKE.

Q.M. PLATOON

The past few weeks have, of course, been exceptionally busy because of the pending move of the Bn. to Edinburgh. C/Sgt. Jock Donald, ably assisted by his 2 i/c Cpl. Tug Wilson, have been up at the crack of dawn each Monday and Thursday to start the families on the first lap of their homeward journey from B.A.O.R. Sgt. McGilvray and his wood butchers in the pioneer shop have lost count of the number of prams they have crated and the number of boxes they have stencilled. Hope you haven't mixed up the boxes boys!

Cpl. Pat Charman and Wee Nobby Clark 21 are also feeling the onslaught of the extra labour in the G1098 section. In fact owing to the amount of

equipment withdrawn from the now extinct "C" Company and the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes the Q.M. had to launch a new store, namely the "Wifies' Club," to contain the lot. Not content with that, the Q.M. removed Pat, Nobby and even Gus Munro from the rather secluded Q.M. lines in "E/2" Block and appointed them as duty storemen into the bargain. Now, of course, they are even more secluded than ever and I doubt if even C.S.M. Coggle is aware of this new hideout. Reliable sources have it that our three musketeers have had some fabulous times in their new quarters, but, owing to the board of censors, the next sentence or two have been hastily removed.

We all thought, much to our amazement, that Nobby, a fervent Rangers man, had gone Newcastle United daft, but the black and white stripes he was painting on the Q.M.'s C.W.P.s were only the chosen markings for our particular stores. Well, you had us worried for a while, Nobby!

Our other Nobby 81, and L/Cpl. Jock Quade in the Battalion clothing stores have almost vanished from sight these days under the piles of demob kit which they have taken in recently. Indeed, the only time Nobby can be seen is when he nips down to the cookhouse for a cup of tea and a "banjo" for the R.Q. (and for himself at the same time, I suppose).

The P.E. tests for the Platoon are now in full swing and I'm afraid our attached personnel are making rather heavy weather of it. Cfn. Steve Curtis in the armourer's shop was the first casualty when he didn't quite make the 9ft. jump and retired from the fray with a twisted ankle and a wide grin on his face. Stevie's buddy in the armourer's shop, L/Cpl. "Cannonball" Webb, struggles gamely on during the 07.30 a.m. battle training sessions, but has still to break his duck on the assault course. Much to his dismay, however, C.S.M.I. Pearce has not given him up as a lost cause yet. Cheer up, Cannonball, a posting may just be around the corner, you never know!

As usual, the Old Contemptibles of the staff, namely C/Sgt. Varley, C/Sgt. Donald and Sgt. McGilvray have been conspicuous by their absence during the P.E. tests. In all fairness, of course, Jock and Tam did show up for one morning apiece, but have since told the Q.M. they are "rather busy" for such trivialities at that time of morning. Arthur, although not noted for his shall we say, "energetic outlook" decided to do a spot of training in his own time and made a supreme effort to vault a garden gate at Himmelsburg one fine day. The gate, however, was not latched, and our master tailor's nut hit the deck with a resounding wallop. To this day he still sports the ugly bruises and pleads with his pals in the Sergeants' Mess. "I wasn't drunk," but all to no avail.

Our R.A.O.C. assistant in the tailor shop, Pte. Ron Payne, is rather sorry to be leaving B.A.O.R. just when he is now able to down two glasses of German beer without showing effect. Why, only at August Bank Holiday, our London friend had a day in the town with Cpl. Davy Birchall (R.A.O.C.) and Stevie Curtis and survived till the next day, at least. He was then rushed to the M.R.S. with acute abdominal pains, where he stayed put for three days. "Food poisoning," the M.O. said, but was it liquid or solid food, Sir?

The R.A.O.C. motor bike fanatic in the cobbler shop, Cpl. Davy Birchall, was delighted when at last he was issued with the 1958 Patt Webbing, and could hardly try it on quickly enough. Poor Davy

wondered what the joke was till some kind soul told him he had his rear pouches on upside down.

Since the last publication we have had two newcomers to the staff, and we are happy to have the able assistance of Pte. Scott, ex "D" Company, in the Q.M.'s office, and Sgt. Paddy Thomson, ex 1st Tanks, in charge of the armourers' shop. Sgt. Thomson now promotes a thriving football sweep to which we all contribute at least 1 D.M. weekly. I am sure there will be a few angry murmurs if the loot finds its way to the armourer's shop. Just in case anyone does not read B.R.O.s. Paddy has been duly elected President of the Battalion Archery Club for Kenya. His dismay was unfounded, however, because, unknown to him, our quiet man, Pte. Parker, the regimental armourer, claims to be excellent shot with the longbow, so we can safely look forward to great things from this terrible duo!

Our old friend, the irrepressible Pte. Bill Sneddon, after having his trunk encased in plaster for ages, has now at long last shed his bullet-proof vest, and is ready for anything, well, except P.E. tests, marching, lifting, drill, D.R.O., guard, and, in fact, anything else that is not really a symptomatic of running an infantry battalion. But just mention football to our Bill and he can't get his referee's kit on quickly enough. He is eagerly awaiting the forthcoming soccer season, and is on the look out for a good second-hand whistle.

Each edition, of course, is incomplete without its fond farewells to our members proceeding on demob, and this one is no exception. That illustrious pioneer, L/Cpl. Garden, takes a one-way ticket to Aberdeen of all places shortly, and he is even getting married in December. Our good wishes go with Ian who is the reigning Platoon tennis singles champion, and he has turned out on several occasions for the Battalion football team. Others who will shortly be terminating their army "careers" (in Edinburgh) are wood butcher Bob Marshall, and the ever faithful ration storemen, Alex. Cormack and Jimmy Muir. Jimmy has been a stalwart right back in the Battalion football team for two seasons and will be sadly missed, not least of all by the local side, Tus Celle, for whom he is now playing. That droll character, Alex., will also be missed by all who know him, especially his hyena-like laugh. The Q.M. fervently hopes that your successors keep up his supply of sugar and milk, etc., for his "mornings after" feelings. Pte. Billie Briggs (R.A.O.C.) from the tailor shop, also makes his farewell bow in Edinburgh. He has been attached to the 3rd Battalion in Aberdeen for three months now, lending an expert hand in preparation for their Colours presentation by the Queen at Balmoral. Well done, Bill, and good luck to you also on your return to Georgie land.

And last but by no means least, I must give a mention to our "Civvie Attached," Mr. Charlie Turner, whom we are leaving behind. Charlie keeps the G.1098 ledgers for the whole Battalion up to scratch (so he claims) and doesn't half give the poor C.Q.M.s a dog's life sometimes. It is generally accepted he is the brains behind the scene and the best interpreter in the Barracks. We won't say anything about the chicken farm Charlie runs up at Fallingbostal which has got "W.D." stamped all over it. After all, a man has to make an honest living somehow. Charlie intends to retire after assisting in the hand-over to the R.I.F.s. But time alone will tell. If he does, you can rest assured the supply of eggs to the cookhouse in Trenchard Barracks will still continue to flow, and he will still be dropping in regularly to collect! We are all sorry to part com-

pany with you, Charlie, and thank you for all the jams you have got the Q.M. out of (and into!).

P.S.—Can anyone beat the R.Q.'s points total for Kenya? He refuses flatly to divulge the facts, but our estimate of 170 can't be very far out.

DRUMS AND PIPES

The Drums and Pipes set off to France in the large Mercedes bus, undaunted by rumours of Algerian terrorists and barricades of farm tractors. The trip was long and uncomfortable, but spirits were kept high by the efforts of L/Cpl. Spoor and Pte. King on their guitars. After a quick halt in Nijmegen, where we commiserated with "A" Company on the condition of their feet, we drove through the night to Ostend and then down the coast to France. It did not take us long to appreciate that we were in France — we stopped for beer and sandwiches in Le Touquet at four o'clock in the morning! With two other halts — at Rouen to see Joan of Arc's monument and at Deauville to have lunch — the Band eventually arrived at Bricquebec, 20 kms. short of Cherbourg, by tea time. The Mayor and members of the Bricquebec Festival committee were there to greet us with the traditional drink of champagne, and from that moment onwards, our hosts made every effort to make us feel completely at home. The Band slept in the Girls' Boarding School and were lavishly wined and dined daily in the Civic Restaurant.

Bricquebec is a small and very old town built round an old Norman castle, part of which has been converted into an hotel. Both Queen Victoria and Field Marshal Montgomery have slept there and the castle, the committee assured us, was the work of William the Conqueror. Normally, Bricquebec is peacefully agricultural, but we were amazed on our last day to witness its transformation into a bedlam of 30,000 holidaymakers all intent upon seeing "le plus beau Régiment du monde," as Sir Winston Churchill kindly called us! Nor did the Band disappoint them! The drill and turnout were always impeccable, and the cheers which greeted the Band at every turn made us feel that we were not only making the Festival a complete success, but giving an effective boost to the tourist trade in Scotland! The Drum Major's arms ached from holding babies while their eager parents fumbled with their cameras.

On Saturday, the first day of the Festival, we were officially received by the Mayor with the other guests of the Festival, "les Gardiens d'Arles," an impressive group of horsemen and dancing girls from the South of France. We then took part in a short Remembrance Service before the War Memorial, during which L/Cpl. Huntington and Pte. Stokes sounded the Last Post with moving solemnity and the Pipe Major played the Lament. His agility and precision made a very deep impression on the on-lookers. A minute of silence was to follow, but the local band, thinking that the Scotsmen were merely playing a little piece to entertain the crowd, struck up with vigour, which made the silence a little difficult.

That evening, the Drums and Pipes overwhelmed the spectators with a brilliant display of marching and Highland dancing in the Festival Arena. The French commentator was a man of vivid imagination and Sgt. Reid and the Pipe Major were delighted to hear themselves described over the loudspeakers as "the world's most famous Highland Dancer and Piper"!

The highlight of the visit for the Band was the parade through the town on Sunday afternoon. We headed the procession and marched for two hours round the town. The crowds were as thick as those for a Coronation in London. With screams and cheers, scores of little boys ran beside us. Every other girl in the crowd had a bag of confetti and a somewhat bedraggled band eventually marched royally up the main street to the stadium for our final display.

Finally, a grand ball was held in the evening and the splendour of the band's uniforms soon overcame the shyness of the local girls and no one seemed handicapped by the language difficulty! Pte. King gave an impromptu demonstration of the Highland Fling at midnight and was such a success that he was forced to dance for the next twenty minutes while his eager audience cheered and clapped in time with the pipes.

At 4.30 in the morning, we reluctantly left the dance to load the coach and at 6 o'clock began the 1,000 kilometer journey back to Celle. As we drove away, we wondered what we had enjoyed the most. Was it the splendid food, the wine, the cheers and the enthusiasm of our spectators? We enjoyed it all, but we were particularly impressed with the open friendliness of everyone and their urgent requests to return again in the future.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Having successfully evaded all the victims of the July Notes, I shall continue (as the soldiers say) to "push my luck" in the forlorn hope that having now written these notes for over four years, I might be permitted to write them for another four and thus avoid the possibility of being myself exposed in these hallowed pages. To continue to write the notes seems to be the obvious solution but I would be



R.S.M. Tayles on Luneberg Training Area.

eternally grateful if someone were to write in and tell me what else I could do. On reading over the last sentence, I think that it would be better ignored as I have had the solution which springs to mind suggested to me countless times and it has never yet appealed to me.

We seem to be hanging about in a social doldrum just now to such an extent that even a "sinful" night of Tombola would go a long way towards

dispelling the gloom. Most members have been scattered to the four winds on various kinds of training and exercises and this means that most of the choicer pieces of scandal are committed outside the range of our literary radar. All the juicier bits of news are going to waste in places where there is



Sergeant Bell, R.E.M.E.

no earnest seeker of the truth to record them. This is grossly unfair to a case-hardened old L.O.B. Base-Wallah like myself and how are we going to take up our rightful quota of space in this journal if all the indiscretions are going to be committed at such a safe distance? Rally round, you Mess members and remember the spirit of adventure!

The R.S.M. is on leave at the moment and this has robbed the married men of their standing Saturday lunchtime excuse that they were "kept by the R.S.M." The "Noon Whistle" on Saturdays now sees a mass exodus in the direction of Himmelsburg and the Mess bar in a very precarious state for the want of a few props. The literal translation of Himmelsburg works out to Heavens Hill (this proves that your correspondent has not completely wasted his time here), but I must in all honesty admit that this was not quite what the R.S.M. called it when he inspected the streets and gardens. We will forgo the pleasure of quoting him, although we know that the precedent for the use of Anglo-Saxon four-letter words has been well established and we would not like to involve the Editor in any protracted legal litigation, so we will leave the selection to your imagination.

Our illustrious Sub-Editor has covered himself in glory and won a Gold Medal (not to mention thirty-five quid) just for writing an essay which tells the War Office what to do with National Servicemen. It leads one to wonder what the National Serviceman would have received for telling the War Office what to do with us. This is a great encouragement to some of us who plug away at a battered old "portable" three times a year. It might spur us on to such desperate efforts that we might make our notes both interesting and amusing all at the same time.

We are looking forward to heading our next notes "On the High Seas," this depends, of course,

on how high the seas get, by which time we expect to have taken our Khaki Drill out of moth balls and exposed our nether limbs to the nymphs and zephyrs of the Mediterranean breezes and as a direct consequence of the blanched appearance of the aforementioned extremities, been duly swindled out of pounds by the Bum-Boat armada at Port Said. This is all from the crystal ball, of course, and does not alter the fact that there is a notable dearth of news at the present moment. We continue to say this in each successive issue and at the same time we continue to churn out pages of inconsequential meanderings in the vague Micawberish hope that "something will turn up." My readers, if I may make so bold as to presume that I have some, have been very kind. I have never received any poison pen letters, although I have turned down numerous poisoned drinks and I have never been waylaid at night, probably because I have stopped going out after sundown and this leads me to believe that there may be a small but devoted band of adherents all suffering from the same ensalted viewpoint as myself. This is very comforting.

I have not made a census, but I think it would be safe to say that the regular "note-writers" must surely mourn the change from four to three issues per annum. We can no longer refer to "last quarter" or "next quarter" in our usual Sphinxmanship style and to date we have not come across a solution to the thrice-yearly problem, but, as mentioned in the last paragraph, we are hoping that something will turn up.

The period at the moment "under the glass" has seen one or two changes, and before we get into the meat of the news, we must apologise for being so remiss in our last notes as to omit all mention of the arrival of Sgt. "Danny" Williams. Anyone here will realise that it is quite impossible to overlook his presence in fact, although we seem to have done so in print. Sgt. Bill Burns was early off the mark with a posting to Hong Kong, with Sgt. Stan Firth close on his heels on the road to Singapore. Our good wishes go with them and their families, and we can only say, "You lucky - - - -s".

C.S.M. Gordon McAuley also went on his way rejoicing in "Old Betsy," with Fort George as his ultimate objective. It was his intention to do a little sight-seeing on the way, and the last sight we had of him he was proceeding West on the Neiburgh Road. He must have made a good landfall because we have since had news that he and Joice now have a baby son to contend with. We know that they will both be highly delighted and we would like to add our own felicitations. C/Sgt. Colin Kerr and Sgt. Tommy Lowe have both gone to brave the hazards of the recruiting staff. The former to Glasgow and the latter to Buckie. Both places will require a special technique, and whereas in Buckie you might be lucky enough to catch them as they come in for a haircut, the *mode d'emploi* in Glasgow is a matter for some conjecture. (No prizes for the right answer). We welcome into our financial department Sgt. Lynam, R.A.P.C., as a replacement for Sgt. Bill Fowler, who managed to accumulate sufficient hard cash to buy his "ticket" and in the musical (?) department, we congratulate Joe Wilson on his promotion to Sergeant and appointment to Pipe Major. This brings us to our final farewell which is to Pipe Major Calum Campbell who has taken up residence in Fort George. We hope that he has settled in and we also hope that he will manage to visit us whilst we are in Edinburgh. We will also be very pleased to

see any of our old friends, or even enemies for that matter, when we open up our Mess there.

We cannot close these notes without mentioning a special guest of ours for a week. A platoon of Panzer Grenadiers came to stay with "D" Company in a return visit, and Feldwebel Hans Keilach became our charge for a week. We managed to wean him successfully until he acquired a taste for Scotch whisky and Players, until after four nights he sent a frantic message to his H.Q. at Luneberg to the effect that he was holding up the standard for Deutschland alone every night and that he was weakening rapidly, what about some support? The result was a visit from his Sergeant-Major, Hauptfeldwebel Bruno Bargmann and Feldwebel Willi Wagner. They also joined battle but capitulated very early and next day saw them well on their way to Luneburg, leaving Hans to deal with the "Mad Scotsmen" as best he could. He managed to last out the week and showed his prowess in the field of

languages by returning to barracks about five minutes after the convoy had left and reporting to Sgt. Bell of the R.E.M.E., I quote, "Beel, Mein --?--? truck's kaput!!" Which is not bad for one week's practice. I think that his visit was a great success, and we hope that he enjoyed it, because we certainly enjoyed having him.

And now it just remains to close our last notes in Germany, to hope that we can make as comfortable a Mess in Kenya as we have enjoyed here, although our civilian staff will be virtually irreplaceable, and to look forward with optimism to a good Mess in our new station. The Sports, Hobbies and Amenities organisation evolved by the Commanding Officer give scope for many interesting activities and now that the P.R.I. has been relieved of its financial constipation, there is no end to the possibilities which spring readily to mind. So to Germany we say Auf Wiedersehen and at the end of this year, to Africa we shall be saying Jambo and we hope that the change will do us all some good.

3rd. BN. THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (T.A.)

EDITORIAL

THE PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

Described by the National Press in such glowing terms as "Balmoral's most colourful parade for a decade," the presentation of New Colours to the 3rd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders (T.A.) by Her Majesty The Queen took place on Saturday, 19th August, 1961.

Weeks of intense work and effort by the officers and men of the Battalion and the Headquarters

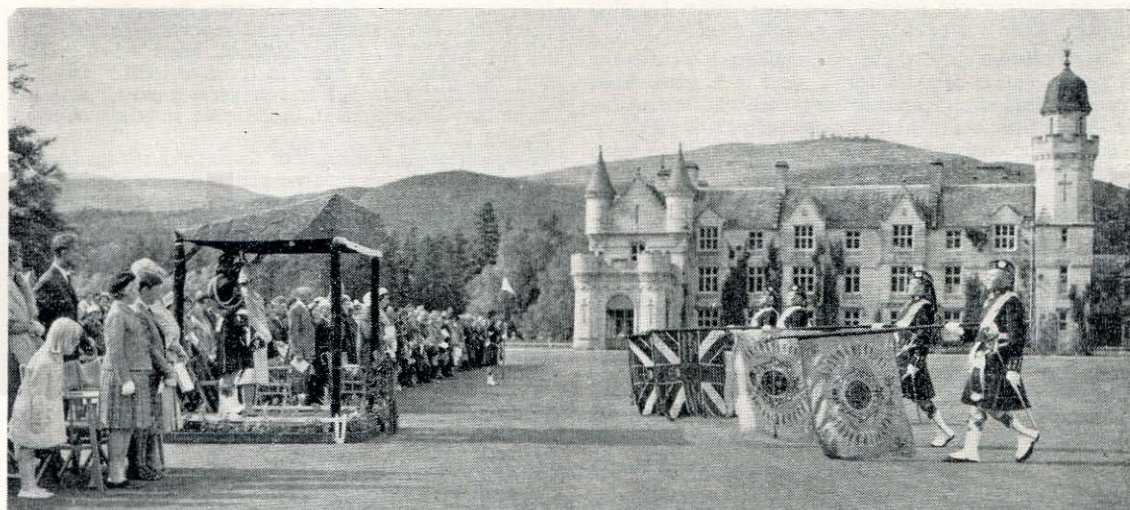
administrative staff went into the preparation for this very important and impressive occasion in the life of any regiment and the final result exceeded the expectations and hopes of even the most optimistic.

From all quarters — from Her Majesty, distinguished guests, military and civilian, down to the rows of critical, eagle-eyed old soldiers who watched the ceremony—came unstinted praise for the splendid military bearing and the high standard of drill shown by all ranks on parade.



Her Majesty accompanied by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester and the Colonel of the Regiment walk to the Saluting Base. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother is escorted by Brigadier Sir Alick Buchanan Smith, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion.

(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)



The Old Colours are marched off for the last time.

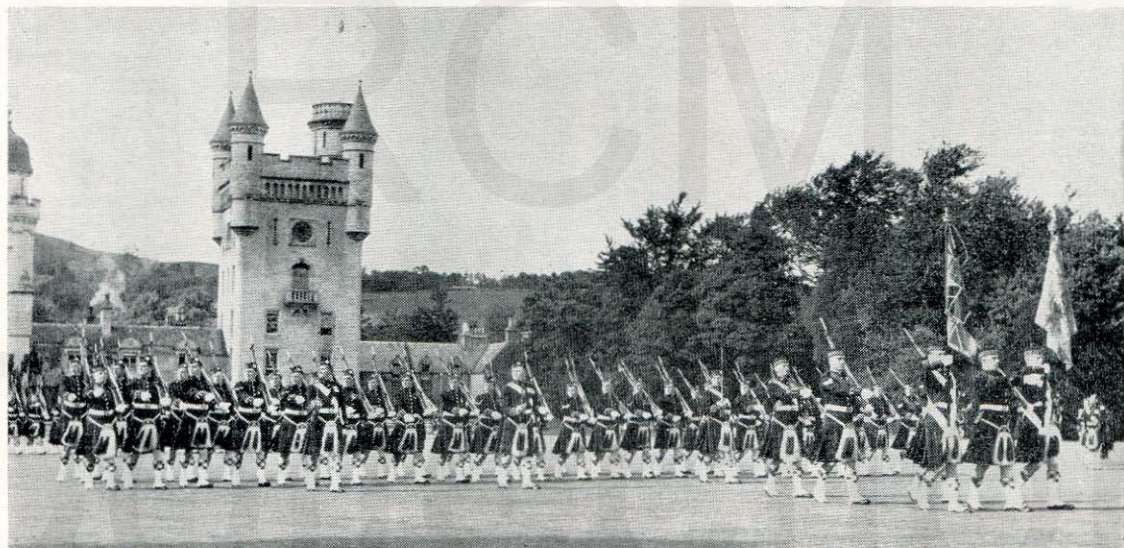
(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)

The setting could not have been surpassed anywhere — the smooth, green turf of the lawn in front of the Queen's Deeside home; the magnificent splendour of the Castle itself, and the entire arena encircled by the sunlit, heather-clad hills of the Gordons' "own country". For the 2000 relatives of the 23 officers and 270 men from all over the North-East on parade it was an awe-inspiring and unforgettable memory to treasure forever.

The rain, which had been an inseparable companion at many of the rehearsal parades and which had seriously threatened the actual occasion itself for many hours, miraculously cleared away just before the ceremony began and the sun was shining brilliantly as the Queen stepped from the main

entrance of the castle and walked across the lawn where the Battalion, dressed in No. 1 tunics, was drawn up in two ranks.

Escorting the Queen to the Gordon tartan-draped dais were H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Brigadier The Earl of Caithness and Brigadier Sir Alick Buchanan-Smith, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion. Behind them walked the Queen Mother, Prince Charles and Princess Anne. Princess Margaret and her husband, Mr. Anthony Armstrong Jones remained in the castle but watched the whole ceremony and took a film record of it from the balcony. Also in the Royal party were Princess Sophie of Hanover, sister of the Duke of Edinburgh, her husband, Prince George of Hanover, and their three



The New Colours and No. 3 Guard March Past.

(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)



Her Majesty meets the Old Comrades—Right to left—Major Russell, Mr C. Wallace, Mr A. Thomson, Captain Mitchell, Rev. Dr. S. Thomson, Mr F. Allan, Mr C. Campbell, Mr W. Waterman, Mr F. Hughes, Mr A. S. Brown.

(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)

children. Prince Philip, who was out shooting, came to the officers' cocktail party in the evening.

For the Battalion's Banffshire Company it was a specially memorable day. As No. 1 Guard they had the task of providing the escort to the Old Colours of the 4/7th and 5/6th Battalions (the amalgamation of these two Battalions earlier in the year brought into being the 3rd Battalion) and of Trooping them through the ranks in slow time after the Queen had carried out her inspection. The most moving part of the ceremony came when the Old Colours, carried by Lieutenants M. A. Gill, Aberdeen, and G. Thom, Ellon, and Second Lieutenants R. E. G. Aitken, Aberdeen, and J. G. Buchanan-Smith, Huntly, were marched off parade for the last time to the soft, haunting strains of "Auld Lang Syne," played by the Military Band of the Battalion which came over from Germany to join our own band for the occasion.

The new Colours were dedicated by the Rev. Norman MacLean, Deputy Chaplain-General to the Forces, after which the Queen handed them over to the two ensigns, Lieutenant J. A. Leith, Aberdeen, and Second Lieutenant R. D. Buchan, Methlick.

In her address to the Battalion the Queen said:—"Lieutenant-Colonel Shankley, Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and other ranks of the 3rd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders:

"In May of this year, owing to the reorganisation of the Territorial Army, the old 5th/6th and 4th/7th were amalgamated into a single Battalion, to which I am glad to be able to present Colours so soon after its formation.

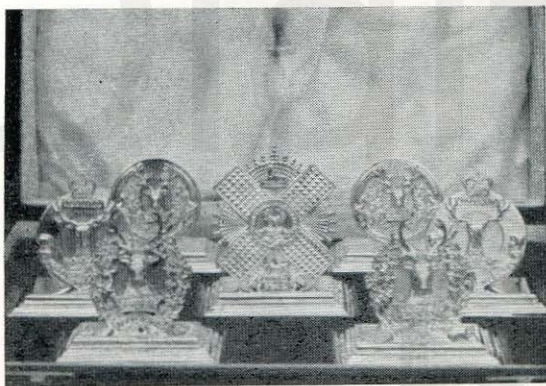
"Your Regiment, which has drawn volunteers from Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire, has always had close connections with my family since Queen Victoria came to live on Deeside; and so this ceremony here to-day, in the presence of your Colonel-in-Chief, The Duke of Gloucester, is, so to speak, on home ground for everyone.

"The Colours which are being replaced have had varied carers. Those of the 6th Battalion were presented by King Edward VII at Windsor in 1909. Under them the Battalion fought with distinction in two World Wars, with many casualties from this part of Scotland. The others were given as recently as 1955 by your Colonel-in-Chief in the City which has provided so many of its sons to serve in the 4th/7th Battalion. Both sets of Colours will be laid up with customary honours and will be treasured symbols of the glory of a great Highland regiment.

"This country must have regular professional armed forces; but these must be backed up in emergencies. That is the role of the Territorial Army, and I would like to pay my tribute to those, like you on parade to-day, who, at the cost of considerable

personal effort and sacrifice, have thought it your duty to volunteer to train for military service if needed. Your bearing on this parade shows that you can get very real satisfaction in the achievement of success through effort and hard work.

"I entrust these Colours to you, hoping that this Battalion will serve under them for many years, and knowing that you will respect and honour them with the valour and courage which are characteristic of The Gordon Highlanders."



Case of Silver Menu Holders presented to Her Majesty The Queen.

In his reply, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel James Shankley, said:—

"Your Majesty, the presentation of Colours to a Battalion of Infantry of the Territorial Army is an historic and rare occasion.

"We are most grateful that Your Majesty graciously consented to present the New Colours by your own hand and that we have been privileged to parade here at Balmoral, your Scottish Home, and in our own Regimental area.

"It is a great honour to have this presentation so soon after our formation.

"We pledge ourselves to uphold all the proud traditions of our Regiment and we are happy that so many former members of the Regiment who subscribed to and fostered these traditions are here with us on this memorable occasion.

"On behalf of the 3rd Battalion and of all Gordon Highlanders, for your kindness and graciousness in presenting the Colours, I thank you, Ma'am."

About seventy-five "Old Comrades," former Gordons, were given a special place of honour at the ceremony and after the Battalion had marched off, The Queen and The Queen Mother walked over and chatted to a number of them.

Later in the evening, the Queen, accompanied by the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Gloucester, Prince George and Princess Sophie of Hanover, attended a private cocktail party given by the officers of the Battalion at nearby Abergeldie Castle. At the entrance to the marquee which accommodated the guests at the party the Royal Party were met and welcomed by the Earl of Caithness, Brigadier Sir Alick Buchanan-Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel James Shankley, the Commanding Officer in turn presenting the senior officers of the Battalion.

The Military Band, under Bandmaster R. D. Ford, provided music during the party, and after the Drums and Pipes, under Drum Major A. Wilson,

beat Retreat. The Queen was presented with a set of menu stands bearing the various regimental badges in recognition of the occasion.

In making the presentation, Sir Alick Buchanan-Smith expressed the gratitude of the Battalion and called on 16-year-old Stewart Spence of Duftown, Banffshire, the youngest Boy in the Battalion, to hand over the gift.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Battalion and their guests had retired to Monaltrie Park, Ballater, where buffet refreshments were served. Later there was an all ranks marquee dance attended by well over a thousand people.

Officers and Senior O.R.s on parade were:—
Commanding Officer—Lt.-Col. J. Shankley, T.D.
Adjutant—Major D. H. W. Brown, M.C.
R.S.M.—R.S.M. J. R. Innes.

Field Officers handing over the New Colours to Her Majesty — Lt.-Col. K. M. Burnett, T.D.; Major R. M. Bruce.

Old Colour Party — Lieut. M. A. Gill, Lieut. G. Thom, 2nd Lieut. R. E. G. Aitken, 2nd Lieut. J. G. Buchanan-Smith, C.S.M. A. Sim. C/Sgt. W. C. Smith, Sgt. N. G. G. Donaldson, Sgt. W. A. Main.

New Colour Party—Lieut. J. A. Leith, 2nd Lieut. R. D. Buchan, C.S.M. G. McK. McIntosh, Sgt. A. R. Burnett, Sgt. W. Hay.

Quartermaster — Major (Q.M.) A. Taylor.

No. 1 Guard — Major A. W. MacDonald, M.C., Captain J. M. Gray, Lieut. T. L. Holden, C.S.M. M. D. Sharp.

No. 2 Guard — Major S. Ross, T.D., Captain J. D. Rust, Lieut. J. Lobban, C.S.M. A. J. Murison.

No. 3 Guard — Major R. Bannerman, Captain N. V. R. Simpson, Lieut. A. D. M. Hendry, C.S.M. J. Mitchell.

No. 4 Guard — Major A. F. Niven, Captain J. R. Skene, 2nd Lieut. A. D. Simpson, C.S.M. J. Taylor.

Parade A.D.C. to H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester — Captain A. J. Reid.

Bandmaster — Bandmaster R. D. Ford. Drum Major—Drum Major A. Wilson.

Pipe-Major—Pipe-Major C. Copland.

The Consecration Service was conducted by the Rev. Norman MacLean, O.B.E., Q.H.C., M.A., Deputy Chaplain-General to the Forces. Attended by:— Rev. T. N. Fraser, M.A., Assistant Chaplain-General, Scottish Command; Rev. R. S. Loudon, T.D., D.D., Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General (T.A.), Scottish Command; Rev. J. R. McKay, T.D., B.D., Senior Chaplain (T.A.), 51st Highland Division; Rev. C. H. Stuart, M.A., S.C.F. (T.A.), Chaplain to the Battalion; Rev. J. R. Anderson, M.A., C.F., and Rev. M. J. Maclellan, C.F. (R.C.).

The following officers performed other duties in connection with the Parade:—

Major H. R. M. Kay, Captains I. L. Nicol, I. R. McNeil, D. J. McMillan, F. G. Cochran, G. E. Michie, C. Michie (Q.M.), D. M. Proctor (R.A.M.C.), D. E. Fraser (R.A.M.C.), T. J. McBeath (R.A.P.C.), Lieuts. J. W. Gordon, J. Allan, A. M. Graham, R. D. Holliday, H. G. S. Johnston, F. D. Ogston, 2nd Lieuts. D. A. Young, H. McD. Ironside (R.A.P.C.).

THE BATTALION AT CAMP

Preparations and rehearsals for the Colours ceremony at Balmoral Castle were naturally the main preoccupation of all ranks at the Battalion's annual camp which this year took place at Milton Bridge, near Penicuik, Midlothian, from July 25 to 29.

For personal comfort, feeding and general amenities this was easily the best-ever camp which any

member of the unit could remember, or is likely to experience again, while the area enjoyed better weather than was the case in most other parts of the country.

For once field training had to accept a very low priority and most of each day was spent on the square where arms and foot drill were brought up to a commendable standard by the time camp ended. Much time was also devoted to sport — football, baseball, P.T., and tug-o'-war, and in the various events and competitions sponsored by the Battalion under the Sports Officer, Lieut. J. Lobban, the results were:—

Tug-o'-War Results:— First, "D" Company; second, Sergeants' Mess; third, "A" Company; fourth, Officers' Mess. **Football Results** (a) Five-a-sides:— First round—"C" Company 3 v. Military Band 0. Second round — "A" Company 1 v. H.Q. Company; "A" Company 2 v. "D" Company 0. Final — "C" Company 3 v. "A" Company 0. (b) Full Teams — First Round — "D" Company 0 v. "B" Company 1; "C" Company v. H.Q. Company (H.Q. Company scratched). Semi-Final — "A" Company 5 v. "B" Company 0; "C" Company 3 v. Sp. Company 0. Final — "A" Company 1 v. "C" Company 2.

The Quartermaster's department under Captain Charlie Michie worked at full pressure throughout kitting out the Battalion in No. 1 Dress for the parade and assembling from private and military sources the thousand and one items of equipment and uniform necessary.

Likewise, too, in the offices of the Adjutant, Major D. H. W. Brown and the Admin. Officer, Captain George Michie, there was round-the-clock activity in dealing with the colossal administrative task involved with the Colours parade and the fact that the event itself went so smoothly is a tribute to their work and ability as organisers.

The Battalion had its usual quota of official visitors during camp and the V.I.P.s included Lieut.-General W. F. R. Turner, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command; Major-General F. C. C. Graham, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. 51st (Highland) Infantry Division and Highland District; Brigadier P. M. Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander 152 (H) Infantry Brigade (T.A.); Brigadier Sir Alick Buchanan-Smith, Kt., C.B.E., T.D., Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, and the Hon. Colonel Designate, Major G. W. Bruce, T.D.

The officers had their dinner night on Friday, July 21, and the following night a cocktail party was held prior to attending the esplanade at Edinburgh Castle, where the Military Band and Drums and Pipes gave a memorable performance, beating Retreat before a 2,000 crowd. Brigadier Sir Alick took the salute and the loudspeaker commentary was given by Lieut. A. M. Graham, Assistant Adjutant.

After Retreat Sir Alick threw open his home at Balerno to the officers of the Battalion and their wives and gave generously of his hospitality.

"H.Q." COMPANY

For the past three months normal training has been severely curtailed, all efforts being devoted to preparation for the Colours Parade. The Company was well represented on the Parade for, besides the Drums and Pipes and Military Band, some two dozen men drawn from all sub-units took part. In addition, the Company provided the bulk of the men for the less glamorous but no less essential

duties connected with the Parade — the drivers, cooks, guides, police, etc.

The unusual vital statistics which are for some reason forever associated with the ranks of H.Q. Company caused some difficulties in fitting out personnel with No. 1 Dress. But the Q.M.'s department with its customary efficiency successfully overcame these problems and eventually even the massive frame of Sgt. Milne was suitably clad.

Camp was be-devilled by a shortage of manpower. The Company was combed through and "dug-out" as never before. All the efforts of the Company Commander to hide away a few men for Company duties were defeated by the relentless and unsympathetic scrutiny of the Adjutant and R.S.M.

Many men found themselves in unaccustomed roles. The M.O., Captain Proctor, for example, was somewhat shocked to discover that his R.A.M.C. personnel had been put on guard.

The Company is still without a C.S.M. and although we had the occasional but very valuable assistance of W.O. II George McIntosh and C/Sgt. Ian Mann kindly lent to us by "A" Company at Camp, the main burden has fallen on the shoulders of C/Sgts. Postill and Bonnar. Due credit must be given too to Cpl. Cobban who as permanent C.O.S. although he never saw the training area undoubtedly never walked further about Camp.

C/Sgt. Postill, our P.S.I., leaves us at the end of October to return to a more orderly and leisurely life with the 1st Battalion. He takes with him the best wishes of all ranks in H.Q. Company and our thanks for all the hard work he has put in on our behalf.

"A" (BANFFSHIRE) COMPANY

In view of the important role allotted to the Company on the Colours Parade — that of providing the escort to the Old Colours and Trooping them — frequent week-end training sessions were held up to the annual camp period at which many hours were spent rehearsing the drill movements involved.

Attendances throughout were most encouraging and the enthusiasm and determination of all ranks to do well was reflected in the final performance given at Balmoral Castle on August 19.

Camp at Milton Bridge towards the end of July set the final seal on the successful welding together of the various detachments in Banffshire into the new rifle company based at Keith and laid down under the plan for the amalgamation of the 4/7th and 5/6 Territorial Battalions, and the spirit shown augurs well for the future.

A great part of camp training, especially in the first week, was devoted to Colours rehearsals, but in the second week time was found to run a Company night exercise in the Pentland Hills behind the Camp. This consisted of a night march by compass from one side of the range to the other with minor "incidents" thrown in on the way to test the reactions of the Company N.C.O.s in charge of the various sections. During the exercise we were pleased to have with us a number of Battalion officers who volunteered their services as instructors and umpires.

A generous part of the time was laid aside for sport and P.T., and in addition to doing well in the Battalion tug-o'-war competition — we came third — the Company football team reached the finals of both the Inter-Company competition and the five-a-side tournament. But in both finals we were beaten

by "C" Company, to whom we extend our heartiest congratulations.

Very shortly the Company is to say farewell to two of its prominent members—Sgt. H. Slop, our senior P.S.I., and C.S.M. Malcolm Sharp. The former joined the Company shortly after the process of amalgamation began and quickly became a very popular figure with all ranks. C.S.M. Sharp, a member of a Keith family with a long connection with the Gordons, is leaving for private reasons after giving many years of splendid service to the T.A., and we take this opportunity of thanking both for their fine work and wishing them every success in the future. Another notable departure from the T.A. scene is C/Sgt. William Sutherland, Portsoy, who retired just prior to the amalgamation after 33 years of outstanding service. Many well-deserved tributes were paid to this loyal and extremely efficient N.C.O. at a social held in his honour at Buckie and at which he was presented with an inscribed clock from his colleagues.

To mark this outstanding year for the T.A. in Banffshire—the amalgamation, the birth of a new Rifle Company and the Colours Parade—the Company held a dinner-dance at the T.A. Centre, Keith, on October 6.

"C" (MAR) COMPANY

Since the last issue we have been hard at work on a Training Programme of considerable variety which has been enjoyed by all. Early in May we had an excellent day on Aboyne Loch when Major Tawse of the Royal Engineers endeavoured to make us sailors of a sort. The weather was extremely kind and we took to the water, if not exactly like ducks, certainly with enthusiasm. With fiendish delight Major Tawse drove us into the water and we soon learned that it was much more important to get our feet wet than to get the Assault Boats afloat. The nautical commands of Port and Starboard had some peculiar effects on our steering. More than one boat was seen in the middle of the loch sailing in ever-decreasing circles, with the Engineers, fortunately, making the necessary corrections before the manoeuvre reached its logical conclusion. Much more success we feel sure would have been ours had we been permitted to use expressions like "left hand down" and "haud over a bit, Wullie."

June saw us on a joint exercise with "D" Company in the hills beyond Braemar. Staying overnight in Ballater, we made an early start the next morning and from Derry Lodge commenced our ascent and by the steepest route possible (or so it seemed) came eventually to the top of Ben Macdhui. It was a stiff climb, but all agreed that the view from the top had been well worth the effort. After a much quicker descent to Derry Lodge we were transported to Ballater where we enjoyed a meal and pints of the most excellent beer we have ever tasted. The beer was taken medicinally, of course, and we were strongly advised of the necessity of replacing the liquid content lost during our exertions. (We never ignore medical advice, even when given by a Vet.!)

About this time, B.H.Q. directed that all future training would be concentrated on preparing for Colours presentation in August and so we were drilled unmercifully at every available opportunity.

Camp at Penicuik saw us once again pounding the Drill Square with very satisfactory results. At the end of a fortnight's training even Captain George Michie began to smile on odd occasions and

this we took as an indication that we might yet manage to look less like the "Shower" to which he made daily reference. The inclusion of Sport on the programme every day proved extremely popular and served the dual purpose of breaking the monotony of Drill and getting us fit for the endurance required on Colours Parade. The Company proved beyond any shadow of doubt that we have the best footballers in the Battalion by winning both the eleven and five-a-side tournaments. We did not fare so well in the Tug-o'-war, being knocked out in the first round by "A" Company.

The social life at Camp was by all reports much enjoyed and with Edinburgh within easy reach, there was no shortage of night life entertainment. We held a Company Smoker in the "Fishers' Tryst" when everyone joined in the spirit of things, with each taking his turn to say, sing, or do whatever else was asked.

After Camp we held two further rehearsals for the Colours Parade and finally the great day came on the 19th of August. As the Parade itself is reported in full by the Editor, we will satisfy ourselves by saying that we were proud to have taken part in such an historic occasion. The scenes on the Royal Lawn at Balmoral will remain firmly stamped in our memories to be told to future generations when they ask "Were you there?"

"D" (MEARNS) COMPANY

Though most week-ends were spent on rehearsals for the Colours Parade at Bridge of Don Barracks, we managed to run a week-end exercise in "C" Company's territory when the two Companies climbed Ben Macdhui.

This proved to be a very successful expedition and, if nothing else, improved our standard of physical fitness and, for once, the Company was far more interested in drinking snow-water than McEwan's. The Coire Etchachan was used as a testing ground for the Company Commander's walking stick and we are happy to report it emerged with flying colours.

Successes gained by members of the Company during the recent quarter included the winning of the L.M.G. competition at the Wapinschaw by Sgt. Murray and his team and also the Battalion tug-o'-war competition at Camp by Sgt. Bain and his merry men.

Promotion came during the period to three men—Ptes. Little and Smith, who each gained a stripe, and L/Cpl. Beadie who took another step up the ladder.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company asserted its independence at annual camp and, while the rest of the Battalion concentrated its energies on the drill square, we pushed off to Barry Camp, complete with M.M.G.s and 3-inch Mortars for a day's shooting on the ranges there.

Apart from a broken fan belt which nearly melted one three-tonner, the journey north was uneventful and undertaken in good weather. The next day, unfortunately, broke windy and wet, conditions which were not conducive to good shooting, but, nevertheless, the results were quite impressive.

For most of Camp, however, the personnel of the Company were attached to other Rifle Companies to bring the guards required for the Colours Parade up to the desired numerical strength.

NEWS FROM FORT GEORGE

The activities of Gordon Highlanders during the last quarter at Fort George have been mainly sporting in one way or another. Tug-o'-war practice in the moat has kept many busy during the evenings, and two mainly Gordon teams got as far as the Army championship at Aldershot, where the following Gordons represented Fort George:—

Heavy Team — Sgt. Dooley, Cpl. Sharp, Cpl. Christie, Cpl. Fraser, Pte. Wood, Pte. Murison, Pte. Thomson, Pte. Riach. Light Team — Cpl. Moir, Pte. McBain, Pte. Hammond, Pte. Inglis, Pte. Peter.

These teams also pulled at various games and shows throughout the Regimental area, but generally found the farmers too heavy for them. Also at all shows were two young soldiers to help the recruiting team, the theory being that would-be recruits were

more likely to listen to Jocks of that age rather than hoary old N.C.O.s with rows of medal ribbons.

The Depot has had a successful athletic season, as the following results where Gordons featured will show:—

Highland District Meeting:— 100 yards, Pte. Paterson 1st; 440 yards, Lt. Robinson; 1 Mile, Pte. McBain; Long Jump, Pte. Paterson, 1st (record); Hop, Step, Jump, Pte. Paterson, 1st (record); Shot, Cpl. Sharp, 2nd; Discus, Pte. Leask; Hammer, Pte. Leask; Javelin, Sgt. Swinnock, 2nd; Pole Vault, Sgt. Swinnock, 2nd; 4x100 yards Relay, Pte. Paterson, Sgt. Swinnock, Lt. Robinson, 1st.

The overall result was that we were second to 11th Bn., Seaforth Highlanders, and in the Hamilton and Inches Relay against Depot, Black Watch/



Fort George—July, 1961.

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders the same team as above won easily. At the Scottish Command Sports the following Gordons represented Fort George:—

100 yards, Pte. Paterson, 1st; 440 yards, Lt. Robinson, 2nd; 880 yards, Lt. Lumsden; Long Jump, Pte. Paterson, 1st; Shot, Cpl. Sharp; Javelin, Cpl. Christie; 4x110 yards, Lt. Robinson, Pte. Paterson, 1st.

Lt. Robinson and Pte. Paterson also represented the Army in the Scottish Command Inter-Services Match, where the latter won the 100 yards in the record time of 10 seconds.

If party going can be considered a sporting activity, then Captain Avery and Mr. Robinson have been well to the fore in that respect during the last month, their parish ranging from Oban to Aberdeen. Mr. Robinson is also rather apt to disappear off to West Lothian which makes it hard for him to keep up his local average of sorties flown.

August brought C.S.M. McAuley and new baby simultaneously. The family are now safely installed

in a quarter within the walls of the Fort, and all seem very happy. Other arrivals from the Battalion include Cpl. McGee and Cpl. MacRae.

Gordon Highlander recruits continue to carry off most of the honours from mixed squads and the following are last quarter's prize-winners:—

Marne Squad — Best L.M.G. Shot, Pte. Riach; Best S.L.R. Shot, Pte. Browne. Waterloo Squad—Best L.M.G. Shot, Pte. Thomson; Best S.L.R. Shot, Pte. Thomson. Ypres Squad — Best Recruit, Pte. McGillivray; Best L.M.G. Shot, Pte. Forbes; Best S.L.R. Shot, Pte. Forbes.

The only other event worthy of note is that the Prime Minister and Lady Dorothy MacMillan paid a surprise and private visit one Sunday. It was on one of the infrequent sunny days this summer and they went away most impressed by what they had seen. Contrary to most Gordon Highlander beliefs, Fort George can look most attractive, as the accompanying photograph confirms.

THE CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS

The 25th April saw a small band entrain at Cape Town for Oudtshoorn. Due to the impact of decimisation and the aftermath of the 1960 emergency call-out, exemptions were somewhat higher than usual and only some 135 all ranks were in camp.

After several years of drought conditions in the valley, Oudtshoorn had an excellent rainfall early in the year and, on arrival, we found the area beautifully green and a delight to the eye.

As the new FN/GL rifle was available for issue in camp, the normal training routine had to be varied so as to permit a conversion course on the new rifle. After becoming familiar with the FN (labelled the Fanny by some wag) and having completed the range practices, everyone was most impressed with the new weapon. At the same time, we were introduced to the new FN carbine which proved to be a far superior weapon to our old friend the Sten.

After initial revisionary training on weapons, grenades, and so on, we moved on to Internal Security training which led up to a two-day I/S Scheme that proved both instructive and enjoyable, albeit a bit short. The final cordon of the scheme was nearly marred by what might have been a serious accident when Sgt. Janke was caught between two trucks. Fortunately he escaped with bruises and minor abrasions.

On the 7th May the Battalion marched to the Presbyterian Church in the village for Church Parade. The homeward route was slightly extended so as to give as many as possible of the local inhabitants the pleasure of hearing the pipes and of seeing a good Regiment. Judging by later comments, the young fry of Oudtshoorn certainly enjoyed the occasion and made sure that their parents did as well.

The double security fencing of the entire camp area was almost complete when we left and the gates were being installed. On the week following our departure, all internal roads were to be tarred which will ease the dust hazard tremendously.

For the first time since construction we occupied two of the new bungalow blocks which take 50 men each and which are completely self-contained as far

as toilets, ablutions and lounges are concerned. A very big improvement.

Two large transport hangars have been constructed north of the kitchen block which makes the camp self-contained in that respect.

Although many familiar faces had disappeared from the camp staff, notably that of Captain "Love-will-find-a-way" Webber of FC/CTH days, who has retired from the Force, we found a number of old friends left in Comdt. Percy Ferguson, Major Tara Terblance, Major Dick Peddie, Major John Marshall and Captain Mike van Eyssen, complete with his permanent smile. Of the instructors, we found only S/Major Nieuwenhuis, and S/Sgts. Badenhorst, Calmeyer and Lukas with Staff Opperman still at the reins in the cook-house.

Our stable companions in camp were the Regiment Transkei from North-Eastern Cape. Commanded by Comdt. Neil Schoeman, 2 i/c Major Fred Kruger, two old sweats, they proved pleasant company. Last seen in 1942, Comdt. Schoeman was a Troop Officer of a troop of 25 pounders supporting the Regiment at Gazala.

During the Scheme we were visited by Col. P. MacMillan, Major D. Scarr of the British Military Mission, who had some useful hints to give us from I/S experience gained in other places. It gave us much pleasure to pipe them into their plane on the morning of their departure.

We found a very good friend in the Workshops O.C., Captain Augustyn who could not have been more helpful. It is suspected that, largely due to his efforts, a new ruling was issued re rifle barrel defects.

Handing back of kit started during the afternoon of the 16th, and, having a reasonable time in which to deal with this chore, it appears likely that camp was completed with a minimum of loss this year.

Before leaving Oudtshoorn, the Commanding Officer was told that the local folk had greatly appreciated the good behaviour and courteous manners of the Highlanders when in the village. A feather in the cap for the troops which can only lead to better things in future. It is also cheering to know that three local associations are giving serious consideration to the provision of some facilities in

the town where the troops can spend their spare time. This will help to fill a long-felt want.

Being only a small group, a special troop train was not warranted, so we entrained on the normal mail train on the morning of 18th May, arriving home next day at 0900 hours.

The report on the training carried out was generally favourable, the main criticism being lack of key personnel.

On the same day that the Regiment returned from continuous training, the C.O. was summoned to an order group at W.P. Command, and that evening held his own order group at Battalion H.Q. The Citizen Force was to be mobilised against possible disturbances as a result of the change of the country's constitution to that of a republican form of government. The Regiment was to be completely mobilised by 11.00 hours on Monday, 22.5.61 for an indefinite period. The troops were shuttled to Youngsfield and billeted in the bungalows and also under canvas. However, everything possible was done to make the canvas dwellers as comfortable as possible; bed and steel trunks being issued and electric light laid on. A training programme was immediately drawn up and enthusiastically embarked upon by unit instructors. Although few were qualified instructors, the experience gained was invaluable, and even in the short time available, the standard of instruction improved considerably.

All C.F. units had received instructions that their respective Queen's Colour was to be laid up by 31.5.61. The Regiment thus took this opportunity to plan and rehearse for this most historic event which took place on Sunday, 28.5.61, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Cape Town. A lot of hard work was put in by all concerned and, judging by subsequent comments, these efforts were justified. Unfortunately, the ceremony was marred by rain. Sunday morning dawned with threatening rain clouds. The Guard of Honour was ferried in to the Castle Cape Town, where the Guard was mounted. From there the Guard marched to the Church, where the Colour was handed over by the Ensign to the Commanding Officer who then handed it to Padre Currie for safe keeping. At this juncture the heavens opened and the parade had to be dismissed. Fortunately, the major portion of the ceremony was over. By a stroke of good fortune, the rain ceased for just long enough at the end of the Church Service to enable the Guard of Honour to be reformed and for the final Honours to be paid. The main personnel involved were:— Guard Commander, Captain C. C. C. Albertyn; 2 i/c, Lieut. W. Dallas; Ensign, Lieut. E. Parker-Forsyth; W.O., C.S.M.C. de Reuck; Colour Sgts, Sgt. G. Roberts and Sgt. W. Baguley; additional N.C.O.s, Sgt. Harris and Sgt. Fabre. Our release came earlier than we expected and by 2.6.61 the Regiment was released on indefinite unpaid leave except for the usual rear party.

Training has now swung back to a non-continuous basis but on a rather more urgent note in view of the general unsettled state of affairs. Results of courses attended by members of the Regiment continue to be most satisfactory.

Comdt. Loveland, E.D., for the past four years Officer Commanding, Cape Town Highlanders, has resigned and Comdt. Hone has been appointed in his place. With heavy hearts we bid another old soldier adieu and wish him and his wife all that is good for the future. Also we congratulate his successor; may his term of office be a successful and happy one.

Comdt. Loveland volunteered for service in the Regiment in 1936 and promotion quickly followed—A/Cpl. in February, 1937, then A/Sgt. in March of the same year. He was commissioned in September, 1938, and became a Mortar Plt. Commander. On 31.7.41 he was promoted to Captain in command of the Vickers Plt. Promotion to Major and command of Sp. Company followed in July, '44, a position he held until 1953, when he was appointed as 2 i/c of the Battalion. Promotion to Commanding Officer came in May, 1957, a post Comdt. Loveland held until he relinquished command on 31.7.61.

Comdt. Loveland has the distinction, with Comdt. Douglas, a former commanding officer, of being the only two officers of the Regiment that served in every engagement in which the Battalion was committed in the 1939-45 War.

Medals and Awards:— 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, General Service Medal, Defence Medal, Africa Service Medal, Efficiency Decoration, Mentioned in Despatches.

This brief review in no way does justice to the amount of sweat and toil and enthusiasm put into Commandant Loveland's 25 years of service. It is a shining example of loyal service which would be difficult to emulate.

Shortly after he left the Regiment, Comdt. and Mrs. Loveland were invited to a Formal Mess Dinner at the Wynberg Officers' Mess. After dinner, Col. van den Hoven, Officer Commanding, Western Province Command, on behalf of the Permanent Force members of the Command, paid tribute to the work done by Comdt. Loveland during his service with the Regiment. At the same time, he spoke in very glowing terms of the many hours of voluntary work put into the Citizen Force Regiments by the officers and other extended servicemen on whom the efficiency of the Force depends. He also commented on the willing co-operation of the ladies of the Regiments, without whose sympathetic understanding no Citizen Force member could give of his best in what was an essential portion of the country's defence system.

As this is the first known occasion when such a function has been arranged by the Permanent Force in this Command for a retiring Citizen Force Commander, it is regarded as a high compliment to the Regiment and it helps to counter-balance the many frustrations and difficulties that be-devil the endeavour of the C.F.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, our official farewells to Comdt. Loveland will only take place next month and will be covered in our next issue.

Two more items remain to be covered.

The home-coming dance was held after our term of duty at Youngsfield had been completed. It was a most enjoyable affair and our thanks go to the ladies who as usual arranged the catering.

The 62 Cup again changed hands, being won by "A" Company by a very narrow margin. H.Q. Company were runners-up and "B" Company third. The Duncan Shield was won by H.Q. Company and the Darts Cup by "B" Company.

OFFICERS' MESS

We hit Oudtshoorn for continuous training very thin on the ground for a variety of reasons, only the Commanding Officer, Majors Niemann and Forsyth, Captain Jacka, Lieut. Dallas and Cadets Burger and Bagshawe-Smith being available. Every-

one had to double up on duties, but all the necessary work was done most willingly.

Since our last visit in 1959 the mess had become slightly damp again for limited periods, but it was a pleasure to be able to foregather over a pint of beer at the end of the day's work to discuss problems and matters of common interest.

Formal mess, held on 16th May, found most of us very tired after a two-day internal security scheme, but, with the presence of Colonel P. MacMillan and Major Douglas Scarr of the British Military Mission, and Major John Inglesby of the S.A.A.F., it proved to be a most pleasant, albeit quiet, evening. True to form, the Pipes and Drums visited us at Reveille the following morning but we were not quite sure whether the British contingent considered it a good thing or not. After leaving the officers' lines, it was arranged that the Pipes and Drums return via the P.F. officers' quarters and there can be no doubt that this was a great success. Reported afterwards that offspring had never arisen so rapidly and willingly on a cold winter's morning before. Subsequent to this, the visit of a Regimental officer was announced by the junior Marshall to his father as, "Daddy, the vampire's here," that being his best interpretation of bagpipes.

The Battalion reached Cape Town from Oudtshoorn on Friday, 19th May. On Monday, 22nd, it was called up for full-time service as part of the precautions taken against possible disorder during the change over to a republican form of government. A full Mess assembled at R.H.Q., except for Major Ged Forsyth, who received a well-deserved exemption from the call-up. We moved out to Youngsfield where we found accommodation at the Anti-Aircraft Training Centre rather bare.

If sleeping and eating facilities were somewhat primitive, we have nothing but praise for the way in which nothing was too much trouble for Major-Louis Wolf, M.C., acting O.C. of the A.A.T.C., and his staff, to make the Battalion comfortable. In Youngsfield with us were the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles and the officers of the Training Centre. The Dukes we knew well and we got to know the P.F. officers well in the course of the twelve days we spent with them, and to like them.

On 31st May, the Union became a Republic and the Regiment dropped "The Queen's Own" from its title. To mark this sad occasion, the Mess assembled in the bar after the Battalion Retreat ceremony and drank a last Highland toast to "The Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders." After that the glasses were smashed against the walls. Lieut. Ed Forsyth salvaged the bottom of one of the broken tumblers and subsequently had it engraved, "The Last Toast of The Queen's Own Cape Town Highlanders, Youngsfield, 31st May, 1961." This he mounted in a stand of his own design and it now stands in the Mess in the Castle as a reminder of a great, happy and honourable association.

Release from full-time service came on 2nd June and the Mess broke up. To Major Wolf and his officers we have a debt of gratitude. Our relations with the Permanent Force have not always been of the best, but in Youngsfield we had nothing but help, co-operation and friendliness with no interference in internal unit matters.

At the Mess meeting in June we had as a guest Mr. E. Gawinowicz, formerly in the Polish Air Force and the R.A.F. Guest speaker at the July meeting was Captain Bob Schnelling of the Technical Services Corps who gave a talk on Operation

Letaba, a recent anti-guerilla exercise conducted in the Eastern Transvaal. Much of the talk was taken up with the vitally important matters of training and administration. Also present was Lieut. Duncan Fraser of the Imperial Light Horse.

A good proportion of the Mess and their ladies attended two very pleasant parties at the Army Officers' Mess, Wynberg, the first to welcome Brig. H. S. Cilliers, O.B.E., the newly-appointed commander of 13 Combat Group, and the second to welcome the new O.C. Western Province Command, Colonel van der Hoven, and to say good-bye to Colonel Dunbar-Moodie, his predecessor. On July 8, captains upwards attended a lecture about the northern border of South West Africa by Brigadier Cilliers. Not only is the Brigadier a fine speaker, but the talk was illustrated by some excellent colour slides.

We welcome into the Mess 2/Lieuts. Bagshaw-Smith, Burger, Ventris, Puren and Mackenzie. It is a long time since we had such a flush of commissions coming through. May their stay be long, happy and useful. We welcome back from the Reserve, Lieut. Pat Tate, who fills the post of Assistant Quartermaster. Congratulations to 2/Lts. Ventris and Burger on their engagements. On the debit side, we record the loss of Comdt. Loveland, who has retired from Command, and Lt. Martin Rae, who goes to the Reserve for business reasons. As we haven't said good-bye to them yet, your scribe will say no more at this stage.

SERGEANTS' MESS

An active quarter is drawing to a close as your scribe hurriedly scribbles a few notes before trotting down the aisle to end his days of bachelorhood. Readers, I'm sure, will bear with me when I say that my mind is not at all concentrated on this issue.

Shortly after our arrival at Cape Town from Oudtshoorn, where the Regiment had just undergone three weeks' training, we were bundled off to Youngsfield to spend twelve uneventful days. During this period the Regiment laid up the Queen's Colour in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on May 28th. Lieut. E. Parker-Forsyth, Sgts. A. W. Baguley and G. Roberts comprised the Colour Party, the Guard of Honour being commanded by Captain Albertyn. This was a unique and rather sad occasion for our Regiment.

We must record the promotion of Sgt. B. Feldman to that of W.O.II. Congratulations, Sir! A more well-deserved promotion could not have been made. "H.Q." Company have acquired a worthy successor to W.O. II C. de Reuck, who has been transferred to "A" Company. We are pleased to welcome an old friend back into the Mess in Sgt. Len O'Connor. Congratulations also must be extended to S/Sgt. Eriksson and Sgts. v.d. Merwe and Walklett on their recent promotions. Stout work, chaps — we know that through your endeavours we will go from strength to strength.

Another wee Highlander has been born, this time to Pipe Sgt. Don Urquhart and his wife Kathy. Congratulations, Don and Kathy, on your first-born.

The annual home-coming dance held at the New Drill Hall was rather poorly attended this year. Adverse weather conditions undoubtedly contributed partly to the fall off in attendance. More enthusiasm on the part of the boys is, however, urgently required if this dance is to be held in future years.

Sgts. O'Connor and v.d. Merwe have recently completed a Section Leading Course at the Military College, Pretoria. Results are not yet to hand but

we are certain that the high standard set in the past by our fellows will be maintained.

"A" Company must be congratulated on winning the 62 Cup. We have to look no further than S/Sgt. Gavronsky to see just who was responsible for this victory. Nice work, Sid, we will now allow you an extra ten minutes in bed each morning at camp, i.e., rise and shine at 0740 hours, old boy!

PIPES AND DRUMS

During the 1961 Training Camp, held at Oudtshoorn, the Band was represented by nine members, viz., three pipers and six drummers. It will readily be appreciated, therefore, that the pipers were hard put to make themselves heard. However, what they lacked in volume, they made up in zeal and it was a lusty trio of pipers who were to be heard rousing the camp at reveille every morning.

It is with pleasure that, during this camp, we were able once more to welcome Piper Van Rensburg into our ranks, after a long absence since he moved to Port Elizabeth. It is pleasing to note that, in spite of his prolonged absence, his piping has not deteriorated. We also discovered that he was an able hand at making a set of pipes, and while we were there, he renewed two sets for us.

While in camp, we entertained some of the local residents at a football match, played on the camp football field. We were received with warm enthusiasm, especially as our repertoire included a traditional South African air which proved to be very popular with our visitors.

One week-end we were joined by some of our other members from Cape Town, who came to Oudtshoorn to supplement our ranks at a Church Parade on Sunday. Sleepy Oudtshoorn thrilled to the sound of the pipes marching through the town on their way to church. At this week-end, also, we were engaged to play at a dance given by the Oudtshoorn Golf Club. It was unanimously agreed that the evening was a huge success. It was soon after this that the Pipe-Major realised that his spectacles were missing.

Buglers took turns at playing the calls throughout the day and one bugler, who will remain anonymous, was heard to play "Cookhouse" instead of "Reveille". This created somewhat of a mystery as Oudtshoorn training camp is notorious for its unappetizing menu, until it was remembered that the bugler in question had recently become engaged and it was assumed that he was wistfully looking to the future to provide more palatable fare.

On returning from Oudtshoorn, we were immediately shunted off to Youngsfield Training Centre, where the battalion was billeted for two weeks during the change-over from the monarchy to a republican form of government in this country. Here we were joined by pipers Laskey, Reece and Pike and drummers Thorne and Kruse, who were taken on strength as recruits at the beginning of the year. At the time of writing they have progressed so far as to be able to play some of the shorter tunes in the band's repertoire. The pipers, in particular, have shown great promise, and in bidding them all a very sincere welcome, I venture to express the hope that they will remain with us for many years to come.

While at Youngsfield, interest was kindled in highland dancing, an activity which has been absent from the bill for many years. Quite a few bandsmen have shown enthusiasm and ability, and it is hoped that we will be able to send a team to East-

London next year at Easter for the Highland Gathering. Dancing has, in fact, proved to be so popular, that a regular club has been inaugurated, and attendances on dancing nights have, so far, been very encouraging.

Preparations are currently approaching fever pitch for the Easter Cape Highland Gathering next year. The results of this year's gathering have been very encouraging. Now that most of us are seasoned competitors, we are confident of our chances next year.

"A" COMPANY

Camp this year found "A" Company moving into the pleasant comfort of the new quarters in Oudtshoorn. Your scribe not having been in camp with the Regiment this year, has had to rely on the reports of others, but judging from these "home was never like this". It's a case of "all mod cons".

Company fortunes varied this year. Although we won the 62 Cup, it was on one score only — administration, for which we must thank our very able S/Sgt. Gavronsky. Had he not won his section for us by a margin of 18% we would not have succeeded in wresting the cup from H.Q. Company by two points. In the other five sections we did not manage to come out on top once. Once again, thanks Staff.

The Duncan Shield and Darts Cup went to H.Q. and "B" Companies, respectively. Congratulations to them. What a pity it is that "A" Company members are not robustly healthy enough to win the Duncan Shield, nor sufficiently dissipated to win the Darts Cup! We must see which condition is the easier (and pleasanter) to achieve and start making plans to bring the company up (or down?) to the required standard.

Training in camp was mainly concerned with internal security (has this a familiar ring?), the new FN automatic rifle and the UZI.

Camp was quiet and training and social activities were reasonably uneventful. The notable feature of this camp was the fact that the messes were no longer drought-stricken areas. A welcome feature.

Arriving home on Friday, the 19th May, the orderly room had to promptly organize itself that evening to get out mobilization orders, for the Regiment was now ordered to report to Youngsfield on Monday, the 22nd May! A week-end pass! Needless to say, all were overjoyed! Anyway, the news was borne with varying degrees of fortitude and Monday night saw the whole Regiment in Youngsfield camp, complete with the new recruits, and only a few country members still to arrive. Some of these country members had not even reached home yet and, as a matter of fact, one man, at least, had not even left for home.

It goes without saying that there were many suitably couched remarks passed about certain government departments and their consideration for the individual. However, the mobilization gave the Regiment a chance of getting to know its new recruits and for consolidation of training. On both these scores the Company achieved quite a lot.

There were lighter moments and our Major Niemann distinguished himself by hitting a home run in the softball match between the Dukes Officers' Mess and our own. There was also a small captain who, at some stage, must have been inspired by stock car long jumping, but who found that the seventh

bid was a bit much. By the way, do we hear wedding bells in the ofing again, Derek?

The Youngsfield episode was only a fortnight in duration, which was not unduly long, and the very hearty co-operation from the Permanent Force was much appreciated.

W.O. II Cecil de Reuck is extended a very warm welcome on his transfer from H.Q. Company as C.S.M.

Also congratulations are extended to all those whose promotions have come through recently, and in particular to A/Fd. Ct. Quentin Bagshaw-Smith and T/Sgts. van der Merwe and Walklett.

Promotions: Drummer Eriksson to Drum-Major; Drummer Hudson to Corporal; Piper Barton to Lance-Corporal. Our sincere congratulations to them.

In more social vein, our congratulations to Pipe-Sergeant and Mrs. Urquhart on the birth of a bonny son. We are hoping that he will soon follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a very able piper, as he has already displayed considerable lung-power!

Congratulations also to Drummers Parson and Johnson on their respective engagements, and to Corporal Hudson on winning the band cup for general neatness and efficiency in camp.

We commiserate with Drummer Thorne at the loss of one finger, while engaged in his daily occupation. He is confident, however, that he will soon be back with us, in spite of this.

Welcome back to Piper Sutherland who left us last year to join the Caledonian Society Pipe Band, but subsequently decided that "there's no place like home."

"H.Q." COMPANY

Training at Oudtshoorn this year was centred on Internal Security, with the Company split between "A" and "B" Companies. In spite of this the Company worked well, being first in the Bungalow Inspection, but losing the 62 Cup to "A" Company by the closest of margins. Congratulations "A".

On our return to Cape Town there was hardly time to unpack before we were again called up for duty and the Company was once again temporarily disbanded to fill the ranks of "A" and "B" Companies. This camp proved to be a two-week holiday, which was not, however, appreciated by all, particularly when a false alarm was sounded in the early hours of the morning after a hectic end of camp party.

We welcome Lieut. Tate to the Company as assistant Q.M. Congratulations to Lieuts. Burger and Ventris on their commissions and also on announcing their engagements. Congratulations also to C.S.M. Feldman on attaining warrant rank and to S/Sgt. Brink and Sgt. Devan on their promotions.

We must regrettably take leave of S/M de Reuck who has been posted to "A" Company. We hope that he will serve "A" as well as he served H.Q. over the last three years.

GORDONS' PIPE BAND IN SHETLAND

Highland Music and Dancing in Lerwick and Scalloway

Fresh from three weeks' performance in the nightly Military Tattoo of the Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama, the Drums and Pipes of the 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, 20 strong, accompanied by a team of four men dancers, gave very acceptable performances and displays in Lerwick and Scalloway during a courtesy visit on Friday and Saturday. The band, which on this visit was not at full strength, had been brought

over for the Edinburgh Festival from Germany where the Battalion has been stationed for three years.

The band arrived on Friday morning on the St. Clair in most unpromising weather—a gale of south-east wind and lashing rain. In the afternoon, however, it dried up, the wind veered westerly, and by the time of the first performance in the early evening, the sun was shining brightly.

After a march round the north part of the town from Fort Charlotte, the band entered the south King George V Playing Field at 6.30 p.m., where it marched and played on the putting green, which proved to be a most admirable pitch for the purpose. The band, in full dress uniform, under the command of Drum Major Girling, and led by Pipe Major Wilson, was watched and listened to by a big crowd of people overlooking the low walls of the park and down in the park itself by an official party, including among others, the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Basil Neven-Spence; Provost R. B. Blance; the County Convener, Mr. Tom Henderson; Bailie Harry Gray; the Town and County Clerks; Lieut.-Colonel Patrick Forbes, O.B.E., and Major George Slater (son of the late W. J. Slater, herring curer, Lerwick), from Regimental Headquarters in Aberdeen; ex-Sergeant Laurence Simpson, of Orgill, Vidlin, a former Gordons recruiting sergeant; and Captain J. T. A. Johnson, Secretary of the Shetland Territorial Association.

During twenty minutes the band marched and counter-marched or stood while playing.



Lerwick—Friday, 18th August.



With Lt.-Col. P. W. Forbes of Corse, Major G. Slater and Drummers and Pipers of 1st Battalion, are members of 5/7th Battalion Association. Left to right—Mr J. Strachan, Mr A. Gear, Mr J. Lawrenson, Mr L. Leask, Mr L. Simpson, Mr R. McPherson, Mr J. Carfrae, Mr D. Slater, Mr J. Johnson, Mr S. Stuart, Mr J. Garriock, Mr J. Gauson, Mr A. Leslie, Mr A. Leith, Mr E. Leask, Mr B. Garriock, Mr P. MacKay, Mr T. Coggle.

They were particularly smart in their sudden change from quick to slow march and were frequently applauded.

The four dancers marched out to the centre of the arena, and, placing their swords on the ground in the form of a four-pointed star, danced a sword dance to the stirring music of the pipes and drums.

The Lord Lieutenant took the salute as the band left the field.

SOCIAL EVENING WITH "OLD COMRADES"

In the evening, under the auspices of the Territorial Association, members of the 5/7th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders Old Comrades' Association (the 5/7th were the former Shetland Territorials) met the bandsmen in the T.A. Canteen at Fort Charlotte and a very happy evening was spent by all.

AT SCALLOWAY

At 10 a.m., on Saturday, the band and officers were welcomed in Scalloway Public Hall by Mr. John Smith, Chairman of the District Council and himself an old Gordon Highlander, by other District Councillors and local members of the Old Comrades Association, and by their ladies who entertained the guests to tea. The band then did a march through the town and gave another performance of music and dancing in Fraser Park, Mr. Smith taking the salute as they left.

The Battalion flag was flown both in Lerwick and Scalloway.

DEPARTURE

Afternoon rain cut out the planned performance on Victoria Pier extension, Lerwick, but as the St. Clair moved out, the band played appropriate tunes from the top deck as a grand finale to a memorable visit.



The Lord Lieutenant of Zetland, Major Sir Basil Neven-Spence, Kt., M.D.

TWO ARMY CUPS WON

The team of dancers who performed in Shetland were the band's reserve team. The regular team were hailed off as soon as the Edinburgh Festival was over to compete in the Highland Games at Oban. There on Thursday they won both Army Cups—for individual and team dancing. They are to be heartily congratulated on this double achievement.

POSTED TO KENYA

The band is doing a tour of north-east Scotland. The Battalion will return from Germany in October, and will take up residence in Redford Barracks, Edinburgh. In December, the Battalion and the band will go to Kenya, reckoned to be one of the best Army stations left.

—*"Shetland News," 19th September, 1961.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

FOLLOWING FATHER

On 4th September, John Gordon enlisted at Aberdeen aged 15½, and is now at the Junior Leaders' Training Centre, Oswestry.



John Gordon enlisting at Aberdeen. Left—Mr W. Gordon. Right—Major G. Slater.
(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)

His father, who is known to countless Gordons, joined the Regiment in 1934. During the war he served with 1st and 5/7th Battalions in North Africa, Sicily and N.W. Europe. In all he spent 12 years at Gordon Barracks. He retired in 1959 and is at present working in the Post Office in Aberdeen.

MERITORIOUS AWARD

S/Sergeant D. Thow, who was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, joined the Regiment on 5th November, 1928. The greater part of his service was with the Band of 1st Battalion and he was taken prisoner at St. Valery in 1940. Since November, 1957, he has been on the Recruiting Staff in Aberdeen.

CHAMPION DANCERS



Pte. Edwards, Sgt. Reid, Piper Kerr, Cpl. Harman, Pte. King.

At the Oban Gathering in September a team of dancers from the 1st Battalion won the inter-regimental Reel Competition. Corporal Harman was an individual winner.

THE SOMALILAND SCOUTS

By Lieut. (Q.M.) G. Dunn

The Battalion had settled into Redford Barracks after service in Malaya when, in mid-1954, the Commanding Officer called an "O" Group. We assembled in his office and were informed that the mission was graded secret.

"Do you know where Hargeisa is?" I was asked. I did not.

We were told that in the event of internal disturbances taking place in British Somaliland we would be required to fly in and that, among other things, we would:—

- Set up Bn. H.Q. in the European Club in Hargeisa.
- Take a good supply of containers water 4½ gall.—FILLED.

(c) Find on arrival a small quantity of accommodation stores pre-positioned for us.
Little did I know then that six years later it would be my lot to:—

- Pay my monthly member's subscription to the same club.
- Help in the distribution of water due to seasonal shortage.
- Dispose of the accommodation stores on the final withdrawal of the British element of the force.

British Somaliland, on the north of the Horn of Africa and across the Gulf of Aden opposite the port of the same name, now forms the Northern Region of the Somali Republic.

Italian Somaliland, a United Nations mandated territory to the south, was granted independence on 1st July, 1960. In March, 1960, the British Government agreed to bring forward the date for the granting of independence to British Somaliland to 26th June, 1960, thus allowing them to unite with the former Italian Somaliland if they so wished.

The people are mainly nomadic, herding camels, goats and sheep. They are of Hamatic extraction, handsome and very independent. They live mainly on camel's milk, goat's meat and imported dates.

The lack of rainfall and the inability to conserve that which does fall makes life hard for them. In

gallantry during the stormy history of British Somaliland.

Conditions were pleasant with an agreeable climate but with a much restricted range of recreational facilities.

Horses could be bought cheaply and cost only £5 or so a month to keep and feed, including the employment of a soldier syce. Shooting was a favourite pastime, there being an abundance of game of all kinds. There were also the usual facilities for tennis, squash, etc., but no swimming nor rugby due to lack of rain and the hardness of the ground.

Married quarters were insufficient to meet the demand, but those which existed were of reasonable standard, even if one did cook on kerosene stove or open wood fire.

Only one school for the very young was available, those with older children were on the "do-it-yourself" system. There were a few Asian shops which kept a stock of the more essential British goods. The roads could hardly be called by that name and were often impassable. Land Rovers were the best means of transport. A small N.A.A.F.I., supplied from Aden by air, as the dhows were often delayed due to the strong winds and high seas at the small port of Berbera, took care of the usual duty-free items and food and ran a mail-order system for special orders.

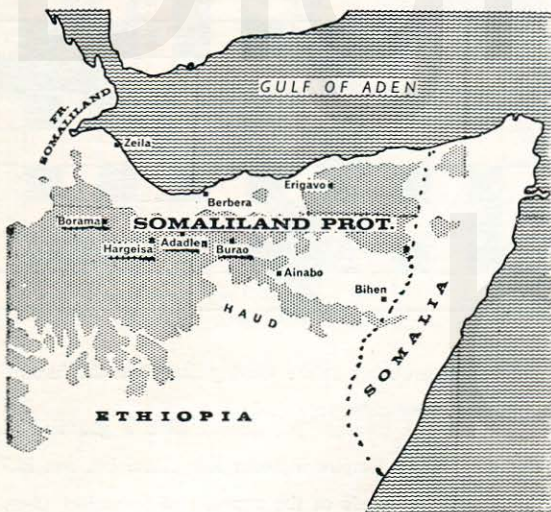
When independence was granted only three Somali 2nd Lts. were serving, having arrived only a few days before. Most technical jobs were done by British W.O.s and Sergeants.

A programme was devised to upgrade certain Somali W.O.s to the appointment of Junior Commissioned Officer. Civilians were employed to run the M.T., R.E. Works Service and the Pay Branch.

A dozen or so Somalis with secondary education were enlisted and sent to Cameron Barracks for six weeks' basic training prior to attending the normal course at Mons O.C.S. These young chaps arrived in Somaliland about one week or so before the last of the British element left on 24th December, 1960.

The Somaliland Scouts were finally handed over to officers of the new country of the Somali Republic, who had arrived from Mogadishu in the former Italian Somaliland. Difficulties were encountered in this, as some of them spoke only Italian or Somali, their native tongue, but all went well and the final hand-over could not have been carried out in a more friendly spirit.

The Somaliland Scouts were sorry to see their British officers go, and they said so. The officers, for their part, were sorry to leave a happy and well trained Battalion and we can only hope that something of our training and traditions will remain to help them in what is undoubtedly a difficult task in building their forces in a new and emerging country.



Somaliland Protectorate on Kenya the Horn of Africa.

1959 there were 255 consecutive days without rainfall.

The Somali is intelligent and inordinately proud. They make good soldiers despite being extremely individualistic. They were trained to be good regimental signallers, mortarmen, drivers, etc.

Prior to 26th June, 1960, the Somaliland Scouts consisted of one very strong battalion of Infantry, a Regimental Depot and a L.A.D. Their duties were mainly internal security, keeping the peace on the Ethiopian border and in the much disputed Haud grazing area. These duties they shared with the police Field Force and the tribal police called Illaloes who were controlled by the district officers.

It is worthy of note that no less than five Victoria Crosses have been awarded to British officers for

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

In the near future it is likely that a good deal will be heard of the activities of the Army Benevolent Fund, for the aim of their Appeal Organisation is to gear the whole Army to money raising.

The Army Benevolent Fund is the major Army Charitable Fund and since 1945 has given £4½ million to the various Charitable Organisations to which the Army owes its support; and to Regimental Associations which have received £1½ million. Despite this, it is disturbing to know that the standard of benevolent work in the Army falls below that of the

Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, and that for lack of funds it has been necessary, since 1959, to reduce grants.

This regrettable state of affairs is due partly to the absence of any big Army effort to compare with Navy Week or Battle of Britain Day and also to the fact that, though Army charitable efforts are spread over a wide field through, e.g., Divisional Trusts, Corps and Regimental Associations, there is, within the Army as a whole, less support for such work than is the case in the other Services.

The Army Benevolent Fund does not intend to upset the normal pattern of Army benevolent work. Their aim is to augment, not to interfere with, the activities of Regimental Associations which remain the core of the Army system.

The immediate object is to get grants back to the pre-1959 level.

The long-term aim is to obtain a combined annual income of £750,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund, plus Corps and Regimental Funds.

To achieve these aims and to raise the standard of benevolence at least to that of the other Services must be the challenge to a new sense of responsibility in all, Regulars and Territorials, who serve in the Army.

NOTICES

GEORGE KNIGHT CLOWES Memorial Prize Essay Competition, 1962.

Prizes:— First Prize, £35; Second Prize, £15.

Closing date:— 31st March, 1962.

Subject:—

Napoleon expressed the opinion that in war the importance of morale in relation to physical considerations was as 3 is to 1. To-day, in the nuclear age, the employment of new and revolutionary weapons tends to obscure the importance of morale as a war winning factor. Moreover, many modern writers almost entirely neglect the human aspect.

Discuss this and give your views on how the morale of the Fighting Services can best be sustained in peace and war.

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1961 competition and can be found in ACI 288 of 1960.

ROYAL SOLDIERS' DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL

The Chairman writes:—

"In sending you your copy of the Annual Report of the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School for 1960, may I draw your attention to a recent development which has made our School financially more attractive to the serving soldier.

Army parents with daughters at the School can now draw Service Education Allowance at boarding school rates. This amounts at present to £150 per annum for one child (rising to £186 for the third child) and the allowance is free of Income Tax to soldiers serving overseas. By setting these sums off against the school fees — for service parents these are at present £62 per term — it will be seen that continuity of education can be obtained at very low cost. Children of ex-soldiers are charged special rates.

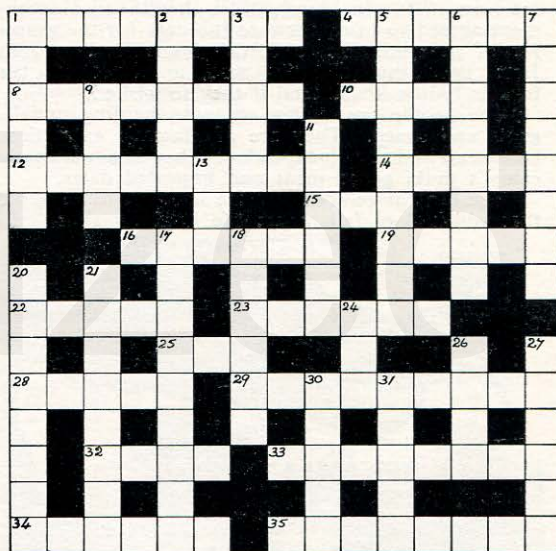
The girls, of whom the School can take up to 100, attend as day pupils the Hampstead Parochial School (5-11 years), or Haverstock Secondary School (over 11 years)."

For further particulars write:—

The Secretary,

65 Roslyn Hill, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS.

1. He will probably need a driving licence in the future! (8).
4. You do what he says (1-5).
8. He's still a teenager but doesn't need a guardian in Scotland (8).
10. The Roman Empire includes this State, but not historically (4).
12. Not in the hands of the unprepared financier! (5-4).
14. Month (5).
15. A Sop to the C.O.'s staff (3).
16. If you are a Gordon, you may swim in it next year (6).
19. A mode of transport for one's following? (5).
22. The Gordons know this place quite well! (5).
23. Small invertebrate animal (6).
25. Rumour has it that a drink is available (3).
28. Palms can be made to give light (5).
29. Supposedly where the soldier feels at home! (9).
32. Implement (4).
33. Sailor with an ordinary backing becomes very different (8).
34. Put in a box? (6).
35. Remain outside (4-4).

DOWN.

1. The Army's watch-dog (6).
2. I down comes in here without his head (5).
3. There's no straight sport here! (5).
5. A display of physical skill (9).
6. Different from, but the same as 33 across (8).
7. Young colt (8).
9. Close (4).
11. Large numbers of fish. In shallow waters? (6).
13. A hill ideal for horse riding (3).
17. Dislike (9).
18. In Alma you will find this beast (6).
20. Surmountable (8).
21. It sounds as if it is 20 down! (8).
24. She was Man's first pain in the Chest! (3).
26. A close look at the Potatoes shows them to be imitation (4).
27. Like a trunk (5).
30. United Dairies' wager for a start! (5).
31. Spacious (5).

Compiled by 2/Lt. R. P. Shillito, R.A.E.C.
The winners of the March crossword are:—1st prize, C/Sgt. Homer (H.Q. Coy.), 2nd prize, C/Sgt. Ross (H.Q. Coy.), 1 Gordons.



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