

THE TIGER



AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

NOVEMBER, 1965

NUMBER 27

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THE TIGER & SPHINX

The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

No. 27.

November, 1965

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"THE TIGER AND SPHINX" is published in March, July and November and may be obtained from the Editor at the above address.

Rate of subscription is 2/6d. per copy or 7s. 6d. per annum post free for individual subscribers. Units, Clubs and Associations may obtain special rates for orders of twelve copies or more of each issue.

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be crossed and made payable to the Editor, "THE TIGER AND SPHINX."

“ TO ALL GORDON HIGHLANDERS ”

“ I wish to tell you all how proud I am to have been appointed your Colonel. As a descendant of your Founder, I am deeply conscious of the honour and pray that I may contribute in some measure to the Regiment's well-being during my tenure of appointment.

Very best wishes to you all, especially to the 1st Battalion on Active Service in Borneo.”

“ GEORGE GORDON LENNOX ”



**Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO,
Colonel of the Regiment, 1st September 1965**

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EDITORIAL

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

All members of the Regiment will join us in giving a very warm welcome, and in sending loyal greetings, to Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO, whose appointment as Colonel of the Regiment was gazetted as from 1st September 1965.

The occasion is in many respects an historic one, not least because after nearly 160 years the Regiment again has as its Colonel a direct descendant of the 4th Duke who raised it.

The General's home, Gordon Castle, Fochabers, though now in disputed tribal territory was once the

centre of vast estates from which so many Gordon Highlanders were drawn.

Although Sir George's Regimental Service was with another, which he now calls his second, Regiment he is no stranger to us. On the return of the 1st Battalion from Cyprus they served under his command in the 3rd Division. A number of Officers have served on his Staff in Germany, England and Scotland, where before going to Borneo the 1st Battalion were under his command as GOC-in-C. and will be so again on their return early in 1966.

The General's distinguished Military career was at the time of the Gazette published in both the local and national Press and is in any case too well known to be repeated here.

PERSONS AND PLACES

This has been a busy summer for visitors to the Museum with numbers running between 30 and 50 on quite a few Sunday afternoons. Among them as usual there has been a good percentage from overseas and some of these visitors are noted individually. 'Awadi's Family' from Kuwait are our first callers from that part of the world.

*

In August Mr. James Small, a former 48th Highlander of Canada, and his wife came and spent some time looking round the Headquarters and Museum. More recently from Toronto we had Lieutenant Colonel D. J. Robinson and his wife. The Colonel served with our 1st and 4th Battalions from 1916 and then had a spell with the Royal Flying Corps. Having crashed three aircraft he thought it was time to come back to earth so he rejoined the 1st Battalion and was with them in Turkey in 1920. Invalided with a disability pension he went to Canada where he was accepted for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with whom he served for 20 years.

*

Callers from nearer home have included Captain S. P. Gillespie from Edinburgh paying his first visit to the Headquarters and Major Morrice Henderson who never fails to look in during his annual holiday in the North East. Another regular visitor has been Lieutenant Colonel Reggie Lees who was on holiday in August supervising operations at Torphins and in Aberdeen again at the beginning of October for a Dinner. We were sorry to miss Captain Ian Robertson from Romsey in Hampshire who looked in one Saturday in September and left a handsome present for the Museum.

Another generous visitor was Colonel Sir Hugh Boustead who was brought along by Lieutenant Colonel Harry Wright. Sir Hugh, who has now retired from being Political Agent, Abu Dhabi, had recently toured the Himalayan and other mountain foothills of India and Pakistan and was shortly leaving for a lecture tour in the United States. A widely travelled man he considers Kashmir the most beautiful country he has seen. Sad to think of its being torn apart and sad perhaps, in a different way, to think of the changed conditions in another familiar haunt—Landi Kotal and the Khyber—where he says that the tribesmen have turned their rifles into transistors.

The 51st Highland Division Reunion at Gordon Barracks on 2nd October, which was honoured with the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, drew a crowd of some 4,000. Among the many Gordon Highlanders who attended from a distance were contingents from Edinburgh and Glasgow Clubs, Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Wolfe Murray and his wife came from Daviot in Inverness-shire and during their stay in Aberdeen spent some time looking round the Headquarters and Museum.

*

Mention of Captain W. M. McFarlan in this column in July has, we believe, led to his being reunited with an old friend Captain D. L. Urquhart. So the good work goes on even if 'Contact Column' has failed for lack of support.

*

Back to visit us in September came former 6th Battalion Sergeant Tom Clarke of Alnwick. He was on one of his periodic tours visiting former wartime comrades and was this time accompanied by his son named, we are glad to note, Gordon. He was full of anecdotes of his contacts with such stalwarts as CSM Bill Murphy, Peter (Grey Owl) Shand farming at Auchnagatt, CQMS Bill Lovie policing Portree, and Jock McConnachie and Bill Thomson at Keith. While listening delightedly to his news we unobtrusively did a bit of indoctrination of young Gordon in the Museum.

*

In the midst of the monsoon on the Aboyne Games Field we chatted damply with ex-Gordon Highlander Pipe Major J. A. Duncan of the Bucksburn Pipe Band, which he has led to many notable team and individual successes in the North East and elsewhere. He also somehow manages to run his shoemaking business at 376 Holburn Street, Aberdeen, where you can get heels and soles or a new pipe bag. He had just had a visit from Mr. Keith of Boksberg, South Africa, who was enquiring as to the present whereabouts of the small Thistle-headed Mace presented by him on behalf of the community to the Regimental Drums and Pipes when the latter were in base camp there early in the war. At that moment we were unable to throw light on the matter, being more concerned with the whereabouts of our feet which had been missing for some hours. We think, however, that it is with the 1st Battalion property in storage

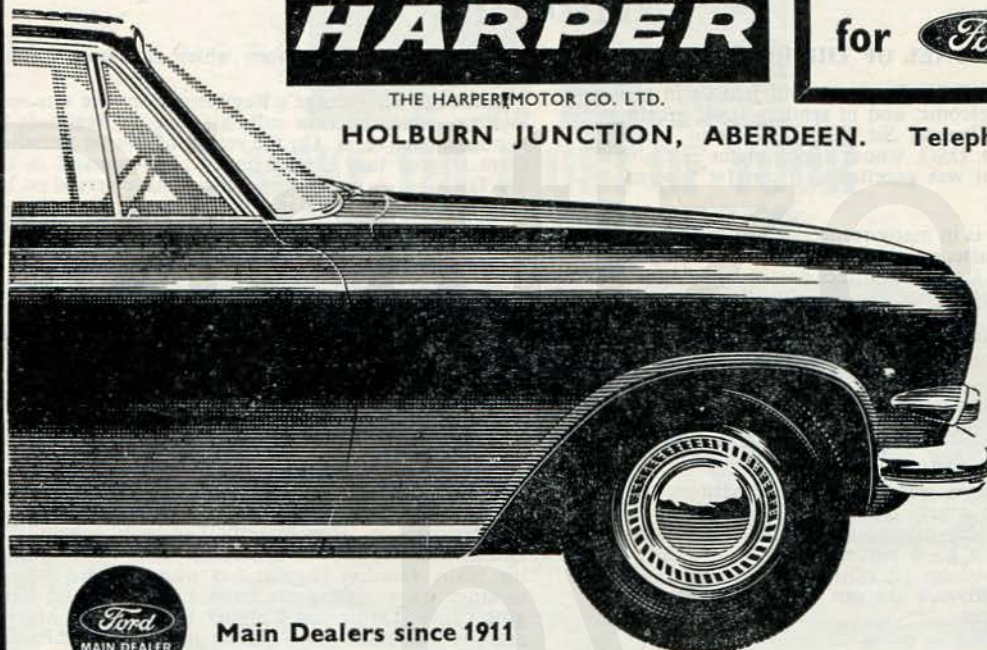
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pending their return from Borneo? Indignant denials or supercilious corrections will be equally gladly received.

★

To swell the count of bodies found from time to time in our ben room we are pleased to be able to add that of Captain (retired) Angus Avery. There he recently lay in celibate state, for what we piously hope is the last time his condition will be so mildly qualified, on the eve of the Northern Meeting and on a mattress frequently described by visitors as the hardest thing since Ben Hur. We know; we provided it, magnanimously, from our ancestral home. No doubt it was this experience which shortly provoked his public declaration of Intent to commit matrimony. On your behalf and ours we offer him our sincere congratulations. We are also thinking of wedding-presenting his spouse with the mattress and, regardless of expense, also the antique iron bedstead, as furniture for the Punishment Room in the conjugal home.

★

Colonel Alan Close also stayed for some days and slept, briefly, for some nights here "end Sep early Oct", as the Divisional Programme of Events would put it. We were glad to hear—and to remember, comparatively distinctly—news of his activities and of Grace and their family in and around Blackpool, where he now operates as, naturally, a highly placed official in an innocuous-sounding concern. But, beware! We learned, amongst other things, that our personal recommendation of one of their daughters for entry to an eminently respectable Seminary for Young Ladies had entirely failed to prevent her admission. Do you ever look-in at "Undermind"?

★

Earlier, in August, Jill and Colonel George Elsmie escaped for the space of a single night from Gullane/Muirfield not, on this occasion, to the RHQ, but to this Column's Other Workplace, where we were delighted to see them—and not only because they were collecting their very charming Youngest (remember Kinsey?) after a short visit to the Hinterland. We were about to speculate on the amount Jennifer of "The Queen" would have expected for this write-up, when something like a red hot poker straightened us from toe joint to earhole and reminded us that immediately thereafter a lethal flight of port had arrived anonymously at our residence. Despite of, or possibly in sympathy with, this calculated sabotage, you will join us in wishing George a speedy recovery from a slight limp, Jap-and-Handicap-induced, which somewhat limited his enjoyment of a visit to your native regimental health amid the rigours of the local summer.

★

On the subject of Colonels, we much missed our formerly annual visit from George and Peg MacDonald. The former remains, however, a faithful correspondent in light and serious vein. He signs himself, presumably for clarity but quite illegibly "George (MacD)", as if we could ever mistake that manuscript or forget that we had once, inadequately, served as a subaltern under the shadow of the moustache which now provides summer shade for the nurtured swine at Webbs Land, Wickham, Hants, and for the Dinner Club Committee on thirsty June mornings at the In and Out.

The Complimentary Dinner and Presentation to Brigadier The Lord Balerno and Colonel Sandy Milne, mentioned in our last issue, duly took place in the Town and County Hall, Aberdeen, on the evening of Friday the 1st of October.

As one of the Speakers aptly remarked, it was difficult to give a resumé of the services to the Regiment of either of these outstanding Gordon Highlanders without firstly making it sound like an obituary and secondly running on into the middle of next week. This and the last three numbers of the Journal being already very expensively in excess of contract size, we will not court complete financial disaster by attempting to do so in this issue.

Suffice it to say that the evening was a great success. The numbers attending exceeded seventy Officers and the occasion was also marked by the presence of Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox whose appointment as Colonel of the Regiment had in the interval been announced.

Those present, some, as you will see, having come considerable distances to be so, included:—

Committee: Lieutenant Colonel James Shankley (Chairman), Colonel G. W. Bruce, Colonel W. C. Dewar, Colonel Lachlan MacKinnon, Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Petrie, Lieutenant Colonel P. W. Forbes of Corse, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Robb (Secretary), Major James C. Williamson.

Guests: Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, GOC-in-C Scottish Command, Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Ian Robertson, GOC 51st (Highland) Division, Lord Provost Norman Hogg, Aberdeen, Lieutenant Colonel W. D. H. Duke.

Other Officers attending:

Colonels: A. G. Close, The Rev. J. G. Grant Fleming, W. Gordon, R. B. Strathdee, D. Edmond.

Lieutenant Colonels: The Marquess of Aberdeen, H. I. Bradshaw, J. Harper, G. B. Kynoch, R. G. Lees, A. M. Milne, W. Philip, John N. Reid, E. E. Toms, John P. M. Wright, Robert Reid.

Majors: R. Bannerman, James M. Burnett, W. H. Craig, A. W. Gordon, W. B. Gordon, The Earl of Haddo, L. S. Hatt, W. L. Henderson, P. B. Hay, Hugh R. N. Kay, W. H. Lawrie, W. Leslie, A. J. Lockhart, N. W. Meldrum, F. J. R. Moir, George Morrison, J. S. G. Munro, J. Strath MacKenzie, D. J. Palmer, Stewart Ross, W. B. Shearer, James Sinclair, J. B. Singer, A. Douglas Spark, The Rev. C. H. Stuart, R. D. L. Smart.

Captains: Alick Buchanan-Smith, M.P., The Hon. G. A. Buchanan-Smith, Sir William Duthie, R. G. Paterson, Donald R. McGillivray, James D. Rust, H. M. Usher, A. G. Williamson, W. R. Wisely.

Lieutenants: John Doeg, R. D. Holliday.

In addition to the above, over one hundred Officers who were unable to attend sent good wishes and contributions towards the Presentation.

The following cable was received from Officers of 1st Battalion:

"Best Wishes for a very Happy Evening."

★

"The Curator" has made reference earlier in this jointly compiled column to some of the many recent visitors to the Headquarters and Museum.

On the grounds, tactfully if unconvincingly explained, that he was not on all occasions personally present, he has left it to us to add mention of Mr. Gerry Reynolds, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary

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of State (Army) accompanied by Major General I. A. Robertson, General Officer Commanding 51st Highland Division; Dr. Couture, Mayor of St. Valery-en-Caux, accompanied by Madame Couture and Councillors M. M. Thevenet and Barthelemy and their wives. These were great occasions even if on the latter our inadequate French entirely deserted us and at one stage we found to our horror that we were discoursing fluently and utterly inaccurately on some point of regimental history in a mixture of Andalusian Spanish and, tactlessly enough, very "platt" German. Fortunately our renderings of both were quite unrecognizable as being any known European language and it is to be hoped that the Guests were gratified at having been addressed in what they must have thought was Gaelic.

Other Regimental visitors we feel for various reasons that we should mention were Major Douglas Spark from Edinburgh, Major Leslie Hatt all the way from Biggin Hill via the Old Kent Road, Major Bill Leslie and, again, Colonel Alan Close.

We mention the latter distinguished Officer and loyal worker for the regiment last, because you might like to know that despite his banishment to Blackpool he has volunteered somehow to contrive to carry on as Retired Officer Representative on the Highland Brigade Club Committee, as Brigade and Regimental Curling representative and as Secretary of the Edinburgh Officers Reunion Dinner. In the latter task, Major Bill Leslie, another staunch representative and Secretary/Treasurer of the Edinburgh Association and Club, has volunteered to assist him.

OBITUARIES

Major James Sutherland, MBE

Major James Sutherland died suddenly at his home in London on 3rd August at the age of 84.

He joined the Gordon Highlanders on 3rd January 1900 and in May of the following year he went to South Africa and served with the 1st Battalion as a Corporal. He was RQMS at the outbreak of war in August 1914 and was taken prisoner. Promoted RSM



Major J. Sutherland, MBE
Gibraltar 1935, the year of his retirement

on release he was soon commissioned as Lieutenant (Quartermaster) in 1919.

From that date until his retirement, on reaching the age limit, in December 1935 he was Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion. To quote from the Editorial of this magazine thirty years ago—"As Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion since 1919 he commanded the respect of all ranks, not only for his work, but for the keen interest he displayed in every Battalion activity. His coaching of the bayonet fencing, tug-of-war and boxing teams was most excellent and his running of many entertainments for men of the Battalion in isolated stations was but one of his many contributions to our welfare. His cheery personality will indeed be missed and one would cite him as being the ideal which all Quartermasters should strive to attain."

On retirement he was appointed Manager of the Regimental Club in Aberdeen at which he worked unsparingly and with marked success until 1950, when he resigned.

Shortly afterwards he left Aberdeen to live in the South and eventually made his home in London. Mrs. Sutherland, whose hospitality in the 2nd Battalion will long be remembered, died in 1964. We offer our deepest sympathy to his four daughters.

The late Colin J. McQueen, MBE

A very well-respected Gordon Highlander passed on in the person of Mr. Colin J. McQueen, MBE, at Rainham, Kent, on the 20th February 1965, aged 71.

An Ellon loon, he was a member of the 5th (Buchan and Formartine) Bn. The Gordon Highlanders, TF, prior to emigrating to Canada. He took up an appointment with a bank in Toronto, and was involved in an armed hold-up of the bank, in which he received a bullet in the head, which remained there till his death. He returned home in August 1914, re-enlisting in his old Battalion at Ellon on 4th August 1914, and spent his entire service with this Battalion. As a CSM, he had his left arm shattered by a blast of machine-gun fire at the battle of St. Quentin, on 21st March 1918. His severe wounds led to his medical discharge in September 1918. Subsequently, he joined the (late) Record Office, Perth, in 1918, in a clerical capacity. In 1922, he was posted to the Old Recruiting Office at Castlehill Barracks as Recruiting Clerk, later serving in the Castlegate Office. On promotion, he was re-posted to the Infantry Record Office, Perth, in Nov. 1939. He was promoted to Executive Grade in April 1944, and in 1946, was awarded the MBE for War Services. He retired from

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the Civil Service in his 66th year in August 1959. For a time, his wife and he lived at the Cross Keys Hotel, Upwood, Huntingdonshire, where his son was manager. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Tanner, in Rainham, from the effects of a stroke.

During his long association with the Recruiting and Record Offices, he became very well known to generations of Gordon Highlanders. In Perth, he took an active and leading part in the affairs of the Perth Gordon Highlanders Association, and none guarded more jealously the reputation and welfare of the Regiment, of which he was very proud. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family in their loss.

"Mandora"

Mr. J. M. MacDonald, OBE

Alderman J. M. Macdonald—known as "Matabele Mac"—passed away in Bulawayo on 10th April 1965 in his 66th year.

Born in Stornoway, he arrived in Rhodesia in 1922, two years after emigrating to South Africa. He was elected to the City Council in 1945 and was Mayor from 1953 to 1955. During this period he was a Member of Parliament for the United Rhodesia Party and later a Federal M.P. for Athlone Constituency.

When appointed an Alderman he was described as a "man's man"—with two outstanding qualities—"the depth of his humanity and his inimitable wit and humour which often eased a trying situation in Council."

In World War I he served with the Gordon Highlanders. He was Orderly Room Sergeant at King Street for a time and was later commissioned in France.



Mr. J. M. Macdonald, OBE

Mr. Macdonald was awarded the OBE in 1956 for outstanding service to the community. Closely associated with the Caledonian Society and as Pipe Major of the Bulawayo Pipe Band he led the band to victory on many occasions. He was the only Piper ever

to have won the London Gold Medal Piping award in Southern Africa.

Mr. Macdonald was managing director of the Matabele Steam Laundry up until the time of his death and a director of numerous other companies.

Mr. Charles Glennie

The death took place at his home, 33 Anton Street, Buckpool on May 30th of Buckie postman Mr. Charles Glennie.

Mr. Glennie, who was 62, joined the Post Office at Buckie in 1944 as a postman after nineteen years' service in the Regular Army with the Gordon Highlanders. He was an accomplished piper and his services were much sought after in that capacity at numerous functions in the area. He was one of the leading figures in the former Buckie Pipe Band, which has been defunct now for many years, and for a number of years he had been playing with Banff Pipe Band.

Mr. Glennie is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Mr. William M. Masson, DCM

At New York on September 22nd, 1965, William Mitchell Masson, DCM, beloved husband of Flora A. Masson, 115 Havemeyer Place, New York, USA, formerly RQMS Gordon Highlanders (1914-1918).

Major H. A. Gordon, MC

Harry Gordon, whose death was announced in our last issue, joined the Regiment at the outbreak of the war, and became a platoon commander of 'C' Company The 1st Battalion.

At Alamein, after the devastating first night, he found himself the only surviving officer in command of his Company. Undeterred by this experience he mustered his men into a defensive position until reinforcements arrived many hours later. For this he was most deservedly awarded the Military Cross.

From Alamein onwards until the end of the Sicilian Campaign he commanded his Company with unusual courage. Ever critical of inefficiency from superiors or subordinates alike he was always loyal in the end to both.

He was wounded while on the staff of 153 Brigade shortly after the landings in Normandy.

After the war, he was for a time Private Secretary to Lord Monckton, and then went into business.

It is difficult to describe the many conflicting facets to his character. He could be downright rude to a person and the next moment give him his last penny if he was in trouble. Above all his sense of humour reigned supreme. No one could tell a story better than Harry. His love of people shone out from him wherever he went. Such people must inevitably have their critics but it was a small man indeed who could not admire him.

Because of this love for his friends and his Regiment, he will always be fondly remembered for the unstinting service he gave to the London Association and to the "Hyde Park" Dinner, and he who was responsible for them will never forget all the loyal comradeship of those years.

He died at the age of 44. It was perhaps fortunate that the end came so quickly for he would have been an armchair invalid had he lived, and his life would have been a misery to anyone so active. But it is hard for those of us who were his friends, to know that we will not see him again.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Joanie, who was such an inspiration and help to him, and to his daughters.

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India 1858—Another letter from Angus Kennedy

Bombay, June 17, 1858

Dear Mary i take the opportunity of writting you on the Subject of my Likness it afords me a Great pleasure that i am Able to Grant your wish But at the same time if you was sen me in the present Condition that i am you would never look me in the face again for we have all Beards here as long Gues But never mind that the panter can draw the Likness without the Beard there a panter in the company with me that will Draw very well so content yourself that i will send it hom with the next male i had a sad time of it this 3 month Back wth maching and counter-maching Up and Down the Country But after all it was only Like a Like a Life of romanse Considering the Life we Led here the and away tomorru it is a Butful Country this if it having Ben So infarnael hot But for farther Particulars read my father Letter i have to my uncal Ewen At the same time as i am writting this Give Best respects to All my old aquantanse i supse that they will Be forging me But if they Dont send the Redgement somewhere out of here i will Getting marid with a Black negro But i am very Glad that my father and mother is kepping both so well thats the grand point you ned not tell them so that you Got this apistel unless you like By the way you was asking if theres any prests i this Country tneer Plenty there no quarter of the world you can go to But will them But the most of them thats here all etilans so you cant understand them so was all the english prests along with head quarters of the British army in Bengall i supose you never herd anything of

the native religion in this Country every town go through you will see uncouth looking Gods made out of a Block of wood some of them without nose or mouth on them And the People all worship this pese of stick there another Clase of them the worship a Bull there wat they call Bramins i will leat you no all the Particulars about them in my next letter i have no more to say at present But remanes Your effectionate Brother Angus Kennedy writ as soon as Pasable.

Address to Angus Kennedy
Ne3182 N4 Company
92 Highlanders
Bombay
Calaba Barracks
East India

★

Aberdeen 1892

Mr. Fred Taylor, now living at 11 Falconer Place, Inverurie, joined the Regiment and served for 13 years. He was with the 1st Battalion at the Battle of Dargai in 1897 and the 2nd Battalion throughout the siege of Ladysmith.

Now aged 93 the clock was turned back 65 years for Mr. Taylor when he was visited in June by Captain E. F. Gordon and some former Gordon Highlanders from the Highland Brigade Depot. They studied photographs taken recently at Ladysmith while Mr. Taylor chatted of his experiences on the N.W. Frontier of India during the Boer War.

BORNEO

The following article has been contributed by Mr. K. J. Peters, Managing Director of Aberdeen Journals

NIGHT IN THE JUNGLE

Far from the North-East of Scotland—several hundred young men from Aberdeen and the North-east of Scotland are living in dense Borneo jungle, amid tropical heat, patrolling a tough border between Sabah and Indonesia.

On behalf of 'The Press and Journal' and the 'Evening Express' I made a round trip of nearly 20,000 miles recently to visit our kinsmen in the jungle. They were all Gordon Highlanders, soldiers of the 1st Battalion.

I led their life. I ate their food. I travelled the way they moved; on foot in the jungle, by helicopter in the air, by hovercraft and assault boat over the jungle rivers, and even by frigate and minesweeper in the wide estuaries of this curious theatre of operations. I was far from the business life of Aberdeen, and my fortnight in the Far East was a wonderful experience, reminding me of the hard life lived by young soldiers in what is called Confrontation.

For those with relatives who served in the jungles of the Far East during World War II, there may well be many memories of what it was like. I never thought I would return to those jungles, and I thought I had said goodbye to mosquito nets, jungle boots, lashing monsoon rain and olive-green uniforms.

But 1965 almost became 1945 again for me. I was back once more in the jungle—at night.

and is part of a series written by him for 'The Press and Journal.' It is felt that it will be of special interest to readers who do not see that paper.

What does it conjure up for the average person?

Glamour? Excitement? The Hollywood image of soft lights, sweet music, dusky maidens, and iced drinks?

If such is the case, then the laughter you hear is coming from sunburnt Gordon Highlanders.

Not for them the popular misconception. They know what the jungle is like at night. They know what 10 hours of darkness mean—darkness which descends with the speed of a quarter of an hour.

They have been hot and sweating by day. They are going to be warm and clammy by night.

They roll down their olive-green shirt sleeves. They file quietly into their stand-to positions.

Eyes narrow. Shoulders are hunched. Sweaty hands are rubbed together to try to dry them. Perspiration, dried on one's brow, feels like dirt.

At a platoon post in the jungle, I accompany a young subaltern, silently, on his rounds of dug-outs, sand-bag posts, and perimeter wire.

Our rubber-soled jungle boots made no sound.

As darkness comes on us, he checks the pass-words, notes where his Jocks are, confers with his NCO's.

Comes the sound of a bird. Then there is tenseness in the silence which follows the first squawking.

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Darker still. Trees are now shadows. Shadows are ominous. Nerves just that bit tauter.

In the command post, a signaller fiddles with radio controls.

Of course, it is tense. Eyes are strained, sure hands are gripping rifles. Safety catches are ready to be eased forward.

Now it is pitch dark. The young platoon commander has finished his rounds, the men are stood down—apart from the guards.

There is no unnecessary movement. There is no light to be seen.

Because this is an extremely well-built, thoughtfully constructed camp (the work largely of Gordon Highlanders), candles may be permitted in the dug-outs. But no chink of light escapes towards the Indonesian border.

Two candles burn on a log 'desk'. The young platoon commander summons his NCO's.

For about half-an-hour, I listen to his orders, his briefing, their discussions about what has happened that day, what may happen at night, and the plans for the following day.

In the quiet of night, nerves play tricks. The guards keep watch. To help them is a barrier of perimeter wire and barbed bamboo spikes at an angle into the ground.

Trip over one of these, and down you go to fall, usually in a fleshy part of your body, on the next spike.

Fields of fire have been cut round the position. The jungle has been cleared, hacked; defences have been strengthened by equipment manhandled by Gordon Highlanders.

There is a watch tower commanding a view of the surrounding jungle. There's a young Gordon in the shadows on it, always watching, watching, watching.

Then comes the rain. At first, there's a great rushing sound.

Lightning stabs at the sky—savage, jagged, startling. Nearer the nearer comes the rushing noise. Closer comes the rain. Then it hits us. And it comes in all the fury of a tropical monsoon. It lashes bunkers, dug-outs, log roofs.

I step out, I am soaked instantly. I see a white sheet of rain churning the earth into a swamp, lashing at logs, making the helicopter landing strip glisten.

For four hours of that long night, the rain of the East attacks as hard as any enemy would.

When it eases, there are reports of machine-gun fire. Whose? That is the question.

Captain Ian Fleming, second in command of 'D' Company, and I sleep at the command post with a signaller near us. A sentry tugs my big toe to indicate the dawn stand-to!

We wake, stiff and cold. Following the dawn stand-to, a Jock shins up a tall tree, seeking a better place for his radio aerial.

After stand-down, people wash and shower—yes, shower. A most creditable stab has been made at a 'constant' supply of water.

What have the Jocks done? Converted a jungle stream into a continuous showerbath of cold water. There they bath, wash, shave.

I am picked up from this jungle post by helicopter. I am whisked to a small clearing, on to which it seems impossible that I can be landed.

Down I plummet. I have just time to scuttle out before the helicopter rises again like a bird.

I join a jungle patrol under Major John Durbin, and we are to 'walk' through the green hell of trees where tracks are avoided like a terrible plague.

In sight and sound of the border, the patrol have nothing to do with a track—always a potential ambush trap.

A quick sign. The entire patrol freeze. There has been a suspicious sound, a sign or apparently a move.

A native tracker, proud colleague of the Gordons, checks...

Huge ants move on the jungle's floor. Some crawl over the Jocks, seeking sweat on body, hair or face.

A sign—and the patrol move on. You don't march through the jungle, you walk—carefully.

Naturally, a patrol cannot move fast. They must progress quietly; they must not disturb the birds.

They may brush an Indonesian patrol. They may glide by an enemy patrol, without either side knowing the other is there.

But every now and again, it is necessary to hack one's way through the jungle. Then there is noise. Then men must wait, must stop more often, must listen.

And all the time, despite the fact that the sun's rays are not reaching you, you perspire. Your hands are clammy, your clothes may be damp, you must always concentrate.

Progress is slow. It may take an hour to do half a mile.

Our scouts and trackers check the jungle's floor for signs. Frequently, we all freeze to listen.

There is a crump in the distance, muffled by the trees.

'Mortars' comes the terse and whispered information in my ear. 'Whose?' I ask.

'Theirs!' comes the terse reply.

As we move on, I look at my companions. All young men. Each one dressed in green. Not a badge of rank to be seen. Not a cap badge. Nothing distinctive.

As we await a signal from a scout, I watch giant ants scurry away. An Iban tracker looks for signs of Indonesians.

On... on... on we carefully pick our way—to a steep, muddy escarpment which goes down... down... down.

You cannot walk. You slither. You go down several hundred feet beside a rushing waterfall to a fast-flowing, tidal, muddy-brown river.

Progress thereafter is by assault boat.

When we are in the company position, men relax, tongues wag, people introduce themselves. But I have been long enough on patrol to realise the strains and difficulties when lads go out for two, three, five or 10-day 'walks' in the toughest terrain known to mankind.

They carry all their own food. It must be light-weight. There's nothing funny about carrying 10 days' rations—i.e. it's all made up of heavy-weight stuff.

That is the jungle, 1965. The heroes of the Gordon Highlanders—but they would never admit to such a flattering description!

'We are just doing a job,' was what they told me. We at home have every right to be proud of them. It's some job they are doing, I can tell you...

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REGIMENTAL DINNER

REGIMENTAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Gordon Highlanders' Dinner Club was held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London, on Tuesday 22nd June.

Brigadier J. M. Hamilton presided at the Dinner, at which the following members were present—

General Sir Horatius Murray, Major Generals E. C. Colville, K. C. Davidson, The Lord Thurlow; Brigadier J. M. Hamilton; Colonels W. J. Graham, G. MacDonald, R. T. S. Macpherson, R. A. G. Murphy, D. G. H. H. Smith; Lieut. Colonels C. N. Barker, M. H. H. Du Boulay, H. I. Bradshaw, J. D. Chalmers, R. C. B. Chancellor, J. Clark, P. W. Forbes of Corse, R. G. Lees, F. G. Maxwell, R. M. Neilson, H. W. B. Saunders, J. H. Stitt; Majors A. T. C. Brown, D. H. W. Brown, V. A. H. Denne, J. I. R. Dunlop, R. G. Findlay-Shirras, L. E. Grose, M. P. Henderson, G. H. Hutchinson, J. F. Johnston-Watson, W. Leslie, T. R. S. Lyon, L. I. G. G. M. Maclean, J. Neish, A. D. Spark, J. P. P. Taylor, R. Warlow, I. W. Webster, A. T. Wilson; Captains M. A. Avery, A. E. Balfour,

C. T. M. Booth, D. C. K. Brown, M. M. Cruickshank, J. Q. P. Curzon, R. D. Findlay, W. G. Lewis, R. A. C. Linzee, Sir Francis Low, D. J. MacMillan, P. E. L. A. Myers, J. W. P. Rhodes, A. J. R. Walter; Esquires J. C. Ashton, D. W. S. Buchan of Auchmacoy, D. J. Ewart, J. W. Gordon, A. M. Graham, K. J. Irvine, I. H. Macauley, H. G. A. Ross, J. A. S. Russell, R. G. Trotter.

Note—A few members who attended the Dinner did not give their names to Glyn Mills & Co's representatives at the entrance to the Regimental rooms at the Hyde Park Hotel. If, for this reason, the name of anyone who attended the Dinner is not included in the above list, the omission is regretted.

The usual Regimental Cocktail Party followed by a Buffet Lunch was held at the Naval and Military Club at midday on the same date.

REUNION DINNER

The date of the 1966 Dinner is Friday 18th March at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh.

HEADQUARTER COLUMN

There are several reasons for the satisfactory brevity of the Column on this occasion.

One, already mentioned elsewhere, is that this and the five preceding issues of the Journal have been so over-contributed that payments for material in excess of contract now present a serious financial problem. We are naturally as reluctant to curb contributors as we are to raise the price of the Journal to subscribers, but the situation is now such that adjustments of some sort must shortly be made.

Again on this occasion it fortunately so happens that a good deal of material which might have appeared here is equally appropriately included under 'Persons and Places'.

Finally, our attention has been drawn to the type of material that has been apt to appear in a Column intended to be devoted to the sober relation of matters of regimental interest. Opinions have been expressed, with which we are bound to agree, that even when intelligible it is frequently irrelevant. To avoid any suggestion of official condonation it is felt that this Column should be dissociated from items which have been variously described as irreverent, insubordinate and subversive. The Author has accordingly been invited to contribute, if contribute he must, elsewhere than under the cover of this formal heading. This, we regret to say, he has elected to do.

HINDQUARTER COMMENT

(Note—Any views expressed, implied or suspected in the following Articles are not necessarily those of the Army Board or of the Editor.—Ed.)

'... BREAD OF BANISHMENT ...'

Naive, ingenious, unsophisticated and suspicious to such a degree that we are never quite sure whether we are being insulted or complimented, we felt we should consult someone more Worldly-Wise about the implications of our 'release' from the austere confines of the Leading Article.

Although not bearded like the pard, in fact rarely bearded at all very much so long as Bella Bandonle's Beauty Boutique off Back Wynd remains unraided. Jeannie MacPhairson is certainly full of very strange oaths. This is probably an inheritance, together with a relaxed, usually prone, attitude and flat feet, from her great-grandmother who was in charge of the Regimental 'Baggage' Train—many of whom were probably well known to your Grandfather—in the Peninsular War.

When we showed her the Editorial Note above, her reaction was violent. 'Well, Dilate my Cervix!' she cried indignantly, 'That old Foggas Iscariot. Let's

spike his Museum Piece!' Whereupon she proceeded to patter niner and yon, all a-jiggle with righteous wrath and practically bursting out of her Benzie's Clean Fatigue, apparently in search of an instrument with which to put her proposal into practice.

Appalled by the prospect of such drastic and quite unmerited Surgical Intervention, we were obliged to quieten her with a bottle, there being insufficient weight in the half size, and went ourselves to seek audience with the Editor.

He greeted us with his usual affability and a courteous wave of the stick with which he had just finished beating into powder a small clay image of either a Charity Commissioner or a relative by marriage. We could not by then tell which.

He listened with ill-assumed patience to our tremulous enquiry. 'My dear chap', he then said with all the suave insincerity of a Deputy Military Secretary, 'it is merely that your talent should not be inhibited by the confining necessity for factual reporting in the Headquarter Column. We felt that, given the responsibility of a column of your own, and', he added inconsequentially '—a briefing on the Laws of Libel and Official Secrets Acts, you would really feel free to



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write—or, preferably, *not*. But I must not detain you prematurely. Good afternoon.'

Well, there you are, you see. After all this painful preamble right back at para. 1.

'... THEY'LL ALL BE MADE OF TICKY TACKY ...'

'There'll be Green Ones and Anglian Ones and Lowland Ones and Highland Ones and they'll ALL be made of Ticky Tacky and they'll ALL look just the same.'

Well don't say your Old Uncle Sinister hasn't repeatedly warned you of the Impious Hopes of the Perfidious Ministerium. What has brought this on again, is a recent 'think-piece' in the Express by a Cnapman called Pincher, a burgher much given to giving-off to some tune—in this instance, no doubt 'The Flowers o' the Forest'. It was, as you know, followed by a series of inspired discussions in other papers including the National Press.

Knowing that you would not be content with the usual Misinformation from an Ununiformed Source and professing in any case, and for good reasons, no views of our own on anything, we sought the opinion of our Military Acquaintance.

He was lying down when we entered his Office, having lunched, we gathered, with a Liberal ex-Military Acquaintance. We helped him up and put our point.

'I've been through all this with you before,' he said, rather peevishly we thought. 'In fact you reported or misrepresented what I said fully, too fully, in your ghastly Journal in July last year. Including my remarks about the Cavalry.' Here he glanced nervously over his shoulder at a photograph on the bookcase, which up till then we had thought to be of the Coxswain of the Clapmaddockie Lifeboat. 'My wife rides,' he added, absently fingering a dung-fork scar dotted across his cranium.

'I can only amplify what I said before. There is Safety in numbers. If you could get every Battalion up to strength you could not only resist this Insidious Attrition, but you would be forever spared the intolerable fatigue of service in a Home Command, because They couldn't do it without billeting you in the Corporation 'Buses.'

'We all know who's really behind all this. Its that chap Finkenstein in the Treasury. Never got over having to pay for his OBE. So there was more than frivolity in my previous remarks on uniform. A little *apparent* conformity would go a long way. Say we had a truly common uniform, with the exception of three inexpensive and easily interchangeable items—Cap Badge, Mess Waistcoat and Kamerband. This would please Finkenstein. He could flog the old lots and mass-produce the new. But once every chap had got himself a complete set of the interchangeable items he'd never be able to find out if cross-postings had been carried out or not.'

'Meantime its no good going on trying to sell the Army with a pound of tea, "3d. Off for every week's service" and all that. The young man has never been persuaded that he wants it. Not as much as he does Hair-do's, Hondas and Hipsters—all of which he can pay for—and leisure too. It must be something he has to *try* to get into, like a University. I have PLANS.'

'It's still a pity, of course, that *all* politicians frighten themselves into a state of infantile incontinence at the very thought of the real solution. Just mention Service to the Nation—to give it a better name—at Question Time and you wouldn't see the Speaker for steam. Yet think of the support it would get from Parents, Employers, Police, Residents of

Summer Resorts, Casualty Officers, Psychiatrists and the lot. How sick I am of Political Images. On reflection, how sick I am of Images. We must strive for Reality.'

He mused a while and then abruptly drew towards him a paper headed 'Application to Resign Commission' and starting 'Sir, I have the...' 'By the way,' he said, 'before you go, how do you spell "honour"?'

'... THIS'LL BE AN AWFA DISAPINTMINT TAE TH' VOLUNTEERS ...'

This remark, on what he considered the 'slovenly gait' of the Militia, was originally attributed to a Spectator at the funeral of King Edward VII, seeing for the first time the Slow March.

Out of context it would make, perhaps, a typically restrained North East comment on the current plans for dismemberment of the Territorial Army.

However, what with the current Tra-La about Security in the Services, Matters Sub-Judice and all that jazz we had better loyally leave it there for the time being. Except possibly to add that, should they come to fruition a suitable epitaph for their Author, whoever he may be, might be that pronounced by a farmer on an apparently affluent colleague who, in the event, left a legacy of nothing but debt. 'Weel, he wis aye a terrible man for th' drink and th' weamin' an' Ah doot he maun jist hae squanderet th' rest.'

To be continued in our next, perhaps.

'... UNTO THE MAN OF YEARNING THOUGHT AND ASPIRATION ...'

We were somewhat discouraged recently by finding ourselves described, fortunately anonymously, under some cartoons contributed to the local Press, as a 'prominent Gordon Highlander.' Whether with reference to Beak or Belly, this, we felt was gratuitously offensive and damaging to our 'Upright-and-Sprightly-Late - Middle - Aged - But - Looking - Twenty - Years - Younger' Image.

Nevertheless, we were gratified to think that we had, by dogged perseverance and sheer merit, achieved publication in our lifetime and must remember to get the chap round for another drink.

Since many others, though posthumously also famous, were yet denied this early success, we were momentarily inspired to resuscitate an ancient aspiration to burst into print and picture with 'Recollections of Joining the Ninety-Second' or some equally swingingly-titled reminiscence.

We would paint for the Reader the picture of our first hesitating entry into the Anteroom, smiling ingratiatingly as a Formation Dancer at the unbroken line of moustaches across the fireplace. We would evoke for him the sound of the continuous drumming of canes on butcher-booted calves; the smell of smouldering kilts and slightly-sweated tartan pantaloons; the coldly-appraising gaze of X pairs of X eyes magnified a thousand times when seen through the bottoms of glasses of Gin-and-Angostura-Bitters; the otherwise utter silence, so far as we were concerned, for the ensuing three months; the anonymous Captain whose sole remark to us was, 'Don't call me, Sir! In the Mess we address our brother Officers, apart, of course, from the Colonel, by their Christian names,' and who left two weeks later before we had even discovered his *surname*.

All this, we felt, would be good stuff for the nowadays pampered young. But fortunately perhaps, a recent chance meeting with the Left Flank Mantle-piece Moustache reminded us that these are yet early days and such memoirs might not only provoke persons, of whom it seems there are many, still in a posi-



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tion to retaliate, but also materialize a Shower of Indignant Shades of those who have 'gone before'. We are sufficiently haunted as it is, so propose to shelve the project. Furthermore we were recently reminded of the comment of a not-all-that-long-departed Senior Officer on recalling the *only* three newly-commissioned Officers to join, years previously, during his time as Senior Subaltern: 'Oh yes, I remember well. Adam, Forbes and Findlay-Shirras. The *worst* of a *bad* bunch.'

Ah well—to complete, no doubt gratuitously, the heading provided by Brother Rosetti, D.G.,—'to do nought, is in itself almost an act.'

'... ESAU MY BROTHER ...'

In the hopes that it may reach some of our Acquaintances in time, particularly a Brother affec-

tionately known as 'The Hairless Mexican', we republish the following recent and unexpurgated Press Extract:—

'BABOON CASE—WOMAN FREED'

An African woman, who killed her husband with an axe, after waking from a deep sleep, in the belief he was a baboon, has been acquitted on a charge of murder.

Mr. Justice Theron, in the Pretoria Supreme Court, found it clear that Mrs. Lena Baloy was semi-conscious, and not being aware fully of what was going on in the darkness took fright and acted violently.

Better get that Claymore locked up too, while you're at it.

SUNRAY SINISTER

EDITORIAL NOTICES

GEORGE KNIGHT CLOWES MEMORIAL PRIZE ESSAY 1966

Prizes: 1st Prize £35
2nd Prize £15

Subject:

'The problem of the married soldier is not a serious one in a mainly short service army, such as those of most Continental countries and our own in the days of National Service. With a long-service professional Army it creates very real problems of accommodation, movement, finance and morale.

Discuss the Military problems created by early marriage amongst officers and other ranks of the present day British Army.'

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1965 competition and can be found in DCI(Army) No. 94 of 24th June 1964, except that the address of the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal shown in paragraph 7 is now: 43 Cardington Street, London, NW1.

BOOKS

'The St Valery Story'

Written by Ernest Reoch, a member of General Fortune's Divisional Headquarters Staff at that time, this book deals with the operations at St Valery in June 1940.

'The St Valery Story' is printed by Highland Printers Ltd., Inverness, and is on sale to the public at 12s. On writing to the Author at 4 Brunstane Crescent, Edinburgh 15, members of Regiments or Associations may obtain it, post free, for 10/6d.

SALE OF SILVER

As a result of the Notices and Photographs in the July issue a number of enquiries have been received.

The names of those interested have been noted and a further announcement will be made after the return of the 1st Battalion to UK.

THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Building Appeal

The object of the Appeal is to raise funds to provide and equip a new National Army Museum.

The Army's achievements are a national heritage. The treasures and records, which derive from the Army's long service to the Crown and the people, deserve to be displayed for the nation in surroundings worthy of their historical, educational and cultural importance.

We hope to establish the new Museum in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Commissioners of which are prepared to grant a lease, for 999 years, of a uniquely appropriate site. Plans for a building are being submitted to the Royal Fine Art Commission, and planning permission is being sought.

The Government has agreed to meet the cost of maintaining and staffing the new Museum, but for the acquisition of the site and the cost of the building and equipment we must rely on private generosity. We have already received promises exceeding £253,000. Our target is to raise a further £750,000.

We are making a special appeal to serving and retired members of the Army, as well as to the public. All money will be used to establish a National Army Museum worthy of the nation.

Please help us as much as you can.

The National Army Museum is a registered charity.

Address—National Army Museum Building Appeal,
Lansdowne House,
Berkeley Square, London, W1.

THE OFFICERS' PENSIONS SOCIETY

Attention is invited to this Society, whose President is Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing, and Chairman is General The Lord Bourne. Its objects are to procure improvements and increases in the retired pay and pensions of officers and widows of the three Armed Services, and to promote their interests in every way.

The Society has influenced the award of many improvements and increases in retired pay and pensions, and still has a long way to go.

There are now over 26,000 members, which number is increasing every day. The annual subscription is only £1 for retired officers and serving officers' wives, and 5s. for widows. So many useful concessions are available to members that they can save far more than the cost of subscriptions. Full details can be obtained from the General Secretary of the Society at 137 Victoria Street, SW1.

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OFFICERS' LOCATIONS

AS AT 1st NOVEMBER, 1965

REGULAR OFFICERS**Rank, Initials, Name and Decorations**

Lieutenant Colonel C. N. BARKER, MBE, MC
 Lieutenant Colonel R. W. SMITH
 Lieutenant Colonel J. NEISH
 Lieutenant Colonel E. E. TOMS
 Major R. F. DAVIES
 Major J. D. S. YOUNG

Major (T/Lieutenant Colonel) I. C. S. MUNRO
 Major M. A. C. STEPHEN
 Major A. J. C. RICHARDSON
 Major R. A. NICKSON, MC
 Major J. A. G. TINDALL
 Major M. H. BURGE
 Major A. T. C. BROWN
 Major D. H. W. BROWN, MC
 Major I. McK. ROBERTSON
 L/Lieutenant Colonel R. C. B. CHANCELLOR, MBE
 L/Lieutenant Colonel J. J. H. SIMPSON
 Major M. M. MAKGILL CRICHTON MAITLAND
 Major J. T. D. DURBIN
 Major R. D. L. SMART
 Major I. D. MARTINEAU

Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS
 Major C. J. D. GORDON-STEWARD
 Major R. W. C. MURISON
 Captain M. M. CRUICKSHANK
 Captain E. F. GORDON
 Captain W. D. R. WEST
 Captain B. G. PATON
 Captain R. J. MACLAGAN
 Captain P. W. GRAHAM
 T/Captain A. N. M. SCOTT
 Captain K. I. H. LUMSDEN
 Captain R. G. D. BRUCE
 Captain N. F. M. OXLEY
 Captain I. Fleming, MA
 Captain T. H. G. DUKE
 T/Captain C. H. VAN DER NOOT
 Lieutenant R. S. FAWCUS
 Lieutenant D. M. H. DU BOULAY
 Lieutenant A. M. CUMMING
 Lieutenant D. H. WHITE
 Lieutenant G. H. PEEBLES
 Lieutenant R. M. KINGHORN
 Lieutenant J. R. URQUHART
 Lieutenant I. G. H. WALLACE
 Lieutenant R. S. HUNTER-BLAIR
 2/Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN
 2/Lieutenant D. M. NAPIER
 2/Lieutenant R. D. ORD
 2/Lieutenant M. N. B. N. ROSS
 2/Lieutenant M. P. TAITT
 2/Lieutenant F. D. H. IRVINE
 Lieutenant Colonel (QM) F. KERNOHAN
 Major (QM) R. B. WILKINSON
 Major (QM) C. MICHIE, MBE
 Captain (QM) G. DUNN
 Captain (QM) W. J. R. DAWSON

Present Location

Ministry of Defence
 HQ 51 (Highland) Division/District
 Commanding, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Commanding, 3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA)
 Camp Commandant, Scottish Command
 Camp Commandant, Allied Land Forces Central Europe
 Exercise Planning Staff HQ BAOR
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Armament Research and Development Establishment
 British Military Mission, Libya
 DAQMG (Movements) HQ BAOR
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Army Air Corps
 Brigade Major, 125 Infantry Brigade (TA)
 Aberdeen University OTC
 Staff College, Camberley
 Staff College, Camberley
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 HQ Ministry of Defence Malaysia
 DAAG Highland Brigade
 Training Major/Adjutant, 1st Bn The London Scottish (TA)
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Ministry of Defence
 Adjutant, Highland Brigade Depot
 Malaysia Rangers
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Attached RAOC
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 G III SD HQ 51 Brigade
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Malaysia Rangers
 HQ Edinburgh Area
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Highland Brigade Depot
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 82 Army Youth Team
 Highland Brigade Depot
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Allied Land Forces Central Europe
 1st Bn The London Scottish (TA)
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA)

SHORT SERVICE & EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

T/Lieutenant Colonel C. D. A. PROVO
 Major G. DUNCAN
 Lieutenant R. J. GERRARD
 Lieutenant C. LYON
 2/Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN

Ministry of Defence
 HQ 1 (BR) Corps
 Malaysia Rangers
 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 Highland Brigade Depot HS (RTM 1 Gordons)

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GAZETTE

REGULAR ARMY

The undermentioned O/Cdts from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2/Lieuts, 30th July 1965:

Francis David Howard Irvine (479262)

Michael Pilgrim Taitt (479363)

Major J. Carmichael (349524) retires on retired pay, 1st July 1965.

Lt T. H. G. Duke (461412) to be Capt, 25th July 1965.

Capt R. W. C. Murison (424414) to be Maj, 1st August 1965, with precedence in the Highland Bde. next below G. D'A. Anderson (424248), QO Hldrs.

Lt-Gen Sir George Gordon Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO, is appointed Colonel, The Gordon Highlanders, 1st September 1965, in an existing vacancy.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major A. T. Wilson, MC (149544), having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Officers, 14th July 1965.

Major L. I. G. G. M. Maclean, MC (64641), having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Res. of Officers, 10th July 1965.

Maj-Gen E. C. Colville, CB, DSO, DL (33638) late Infantry, having attained the age limit for liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Officers on 1st September 1965.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Capt J. A. Leith (455385) is granted the acting rank of Major, 1st July 1965.

2nd Lt. G. J. Stroud (476045) (on probation) relinquishes his commission 4th August 1965.

2nd Lt M. R. Hewitt (475064) (on probation) is confirmed in his appointment as 2nd Lt, 24th September 1963, with seniority 24th September 1962. To be Lt, 24th September 1964.

Lt. J. B. Peddie (453181) to be Capt, 22nd July 1965.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt (Hon Maj) J. G. Forsyth (69931) having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the TA Res. of Officers 17th June 1965, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

Capt (Hon. Maj) T. Hogg, TD (75280) having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the TA Res. of Officers 22nd August 1965, retaining the hon. rank of Major.

Lt J. Allen (457363) from Active List, to be Lt, 8th July 1965.

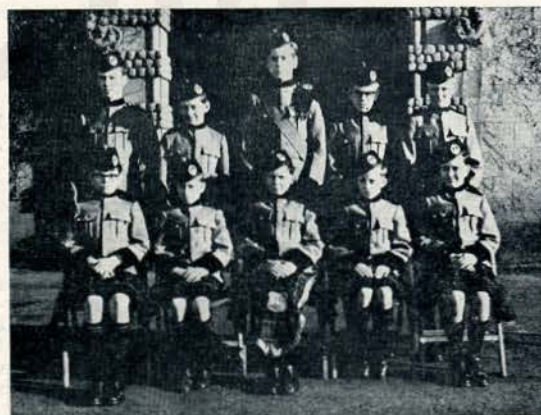
CANCELLATIONS

Efficiency Medal (Territorial)—Lt (now Capt) D. A. M. Grimwood (285239) (now REME, TA).

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, DUNBLANE

Correction

In the March issue it was stated that John Learmonth's father was killed in action in Korea. Writing from Ipoh, Malaysia, RQMS J. Stacey points out that he was in fact killed whilst serving with the Regiment in Malaya, following service in Korea with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



Sons of the Regiment

Standing, l. to r.: S. Robertson, J. Learmonth, G. Warwood, J. McPhail, I. Collie. Seated, l. to r.: G. Mackenzie, G. Kent, R. West, E. Mackay, R. Kent.

1st BATTALION

EDITORIAL

At the time of writing we are half way through our Borneo tour. The last issue of the Regimental magazine told how we trained; this one deals with the first of our operational tours. Although our area, in East Brigade, was a quiet one, it was a useful testing ground where we could put our ideas into practice and experiment fully whilst still aware of the enemy around us. Our confidence was fully boosted, and the reward came at the end when we had a success against an enemy patrol.

At Kota Belud again, we have unwound, seen a little of the Far East and spent some money. Now we have started to wind up again, and have said farewell, many thanks and good luck to Lt Col R. W. Smith on his departure. At the same time we have welcomed Lt Col J. Neish. We wish him every success as our Commanding Officer. Now we look forward to the last and most testing part of our tour.

This issue, therefore can offer no action packed drama of the popular war story type, but plenty of action and plenty of drama in many different ways. We had, for the first time, our own Air Platoon with its two Sioux helicopters. We took to the water as well as the land, some became observers and trackers, and many others continued to supply, serve and maintain—often in exacting and difficult circumstances, the remainder of the Battalion.

As we were the only British Battalion in a Malaysian Brigade it was inevitable that we were visited by a remarkable number of people. Study teams, Planning teams and Experimenters from all three Services looked at us. Malaysian politicians, Press correspondents and cameramen talked to us. To list them all would take up far too much space. However, mention must be made of the visits by the Commander in Chief Far East and His Excellency The British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Lord Head.

It was a new and exciting experience for us all, but the most satisfactory aspect of all was the magnificent spirit and high morale of everyone after weeks and weeks, miles and miles of vigilant patrolling, nearly always with "Nothing to Report".

VISIT OF Mr. KEN PETERS

On Friday 16th July a long and eagerly awaited visitor arrived in the shape of Mr. Kenneth Peters, JP, managing director of the Aberdeen Journals Group. Although he likes to be referred to as a "Newspaper Correspondent" he is of course a Press Mogul of some calibre and a very well established friend of the Regiment.

Regrettably his journey out was chaotic. He was shunted all over Singapore, Brunei and Sarawak before we were able to extract him from the crazy orbit into which Public Relations Far East had allowed him to become embroiled. From the evening civilian flight into Tawau he was bundled into a Battalion Sioux and within minutes was airborne for Kalabakan before more harm could come to him. He decanted from the Sioux onto our airstrip here just as dusk was falling—a very red, a very tired and rumbled but a remarkably cheerful and enthusiastic guest. He

brought with him a kind and thoughtful message from our Lord Provost in Aberdeen and two delightful presents for the Officers Mess—a handsome table lighter set in Peterhead Granite from the staff of the Press and Journal and a most amusing cartoon—from the same source—of what he was likely to meet on arrival here. This treasured picture will surely hang among our Old Masters on our return to UK!

The details of his visit and what he saw has been more than adequately covered in print and by pictures in his excellent series of articles in the Press and Journal and it would be impertinent for us to try to match his journalistic flair. However, what was not so apparent was that he was a man well on the wrong side of 40, completely unacclimatised, straight from an office life in cold Aberdeen who for a week undertook a killing programme by day and by night in order to justify completely his long journey and to gain every impression of our life out here for those at home. He visited every jungle position and stayed a night at most of them. He went out on patrol, stood to at dawn and dusk—travelled miles by air (in every type of fixed wing aircraft and by helicopter) by Assault Boat and by Hovercraft. Over a week later when he left he was still smiling, still enthusiastic, still patient and inquiring and above all still there! To his wife we apologise for handing him back minus many pounds and many inches, much redder and much browner and with an awakened interest in the joys of Military Celibacy after a gap of 25 years! His visit was a great tonic to us all and his coverage of our activity truly magnificent.

* * *



Officers of the Battalion, Kota Belud—April 1965

Back Row: 2/Lt D. M. Napier, Lt C. Lyon, 2/Lts P. M. Mahon, M. N. B. N. Ross, R. D. Ord. Third Row: Lts C. H. Van Der Noot, I. G. H. Wallace, G. H. Peebles, R. S. Hunter Blair, J. R. Urquhart, R. S. Fawcus, 2/Lt P. D. Gordon, SWB, Lt A. M. Cumming. Second Row: Capts I. Fleming, G. H. Dunn, R. G. D. Bruce, R. W. C. Murison, B. G. Paton, N. F. M. Oxley, R. J. Stewart, RAMC, A. N. M. Scott, Lt A. A. Bull, R. APC. Seated: Rev. W. G. A. Wright, MBE, RACHD, Majors D. G. B. Saunders, J. T. D. Durbin, J. J. H. Simpson, M. H. Burge, Lt Col R. W. Smith, Capt P. W. Graham, Majors M. M. Makgill-Crichton-Maitland, I. D. Martineau, C. Michie, MBE, C. J. D. Gordon Stewart

OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS AS AT 14th SEPTEMBER 1965

Battalion Headquarters

Commanding Officer
Second in Command
Adjutant
Intelligence Officer
Medical Officer
Padre

Lieutenant Colonel R. W. SMITH
Major M. H. BURGE
Captain P. W. GRAHAM
Lieutenant J. R. URQUHART
Captain R. J. STEWART, RAMC
Reverend W. G. A. WRIGHT, MBE, RChD.

Headquarter Company

Officer Commanding
Regimental Signal Officer
Combat Tracker Teams Commander
Quartermaster
Motor Transport Officer
Unit Paymaster
Administrative Officer/PRI

Major M. M. MAKGILL-CRICHTON-MAITLAND
Captain R. G. D. BRUCE
Lieutenant R. S. FAWCUS
Major (QM) C. MICHIE, MBE
Captain (QM) G. H. DUNN
Lieutenant A. A. BULL, RAPC
Major R. W. C. MURISON

'A' Company

Officer Commanding
Second in Command
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander

Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS
Captain A. N. M. SCOTT
Lieutenant A. M. CUMMING
Lieutenant R. S. HUNTER BLAIR
Second Lieutenant M. N. B. N. ROSS

'B' Company

Officer Commanding
Second in Command
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander

Major C. J. D. GORDON STEWARD
Captain N. F. M. OXLEY
Lieutenant I. G. H. WALLACE
Lieutenant C. LYON
Second Lieutenant D. M. NAPIER

'D' Company

Officer Commanding
Second in Command
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander

Major J. T. D. DURBIN
Captain I. FLEMING
Lieutenant R. M. KINGHORN
Second Lieutenant R. D. ORD

Air Platoon

Platoon Commander
Second in Command

Captain A. B. BOWER, PWO
Lieutenant S. W. St. J. LYTLE, R IR F

Caretaker Party, Edinburgh

Officer Commanding

Captain B. G. PATON



A Patrol from 'D' Company making its way up the Serudong River in Assault Boats



L/Cpl Hossack, Pte Rust, Pte Hastings and Pte Johnston enjoy a quiet game of dominoes after dark in their company location



Aerial view of Kalabakan Airport



A typical "Home in the Jungle"



Sgt Boyd of 'D' Company watches his men climb from an assault boat and set off into the jungle on patrol



The Director of Borneo Operations visits the Battalion at Kalabakan. Left to right: Maj Gen G. H. Lea, CB, DSO, MBE; Brig Mohd Sany, Commander 5 Federal Brigade, The Commanding Officer



Aboard HMS Albion returning 1st Gordon Highlanders have their weapons checked "empty" while 1st Scots Guards wait to emplane for Shore



HMS Albion off Tawau during the relief of the Battalion by 1st Bn Scots Guards



A typical "Cook House in a Platoon location

'A' COMPANY

Company Commander: Major D. G. B. Saunders
 Company 2IC: Captain A. N. M. Scott
 Company Sergeant Major: WO II R. D. Strachan
 Company Quarter Master Sergeant: S/Sgt D. Postill

1 Platoon

Platoon Commander: Lt R. S. Hunter Blair
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt W. Joss

2 Platoon

Platoon Commander: 2Lt M. N. B. N. Ross
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt P. McKenzie

3 Platoon

Platoon Commander: Lt A. M. Cumming
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt P. L. Young

4 Platoon (1 SWB)

Platoon Commander: 2Lt P. D. Gordon
 Platoon Sergeant: Sgt G. Hancock

It has been an eventful four months. The first time on active service for many, and a new, demanding role has brought out the best in everybody. Small parties, in boats, or on land, have been well led by junior leaders who have undoubtedly developed more drive, imagination and initiative with the additional responsibility. This has been encouraging and should soon pay dividends when we move to Central Brigade. It has been a little disappointing, in so far as

we have not had a contact, and have been keyed up for the whole period; nevertheless, morale has remained high, despite this factor, but we do want to see more action in Central Brigade! I feel sure we shall.

I would like also to say that Coy HQ have taken their fair share of patrolling! Clerks, storemen, orderlies (medical and otherwise), signallers and mortar men have all been out and have shown up well in the company of the platoons. It is sometimes more irksome to remain in camp and do duties than to be free to patrol all day—platoons please remember this.

It was a blow to lose our Company Commander so early on when, shortly after reaching Kalabakan, he had to return to hospital in Singapore for two months. Fortunately, he returned in July in excellent health and, after his return from TAG force, we look forward to having him back with us for our Central Bde tour. During his absence, in hospital and as SOTAG, Captain Norman Scott has been commanding the company.

We say goodbye to our Welsh platoon. They came to us at Kota Belud and departed on 5th September for Hong Kong. Their fine leadership and high sense of humour has made them fit in very well with the company. Their Platoon Commander, 2Lt Paddy Gordon, and Platoon Sgt, Sgt G. Hancock have been very helpful and co-operation has been at its best. We wish 2Lt Gordon the best of luck in his recent visit to the RCB in UK; and to Sgt Hancock, and all the Taffs, all the very best of luck in the future. We hope they have enjoyed being with us and have learnt, as we have done, that no difficulty is insurmountable when one uses tact and maintains a sense of humour! There is one final episode to take place: at "Arms Park" (by kind permission of Dai Rees) some time before 5th September, a rugby match will take place between 4 Platoon 1 SWB and the remainder of Kalabakan city. It should be a memorable match. You are warned seating capacity of the "Park" is 300, so be there early!

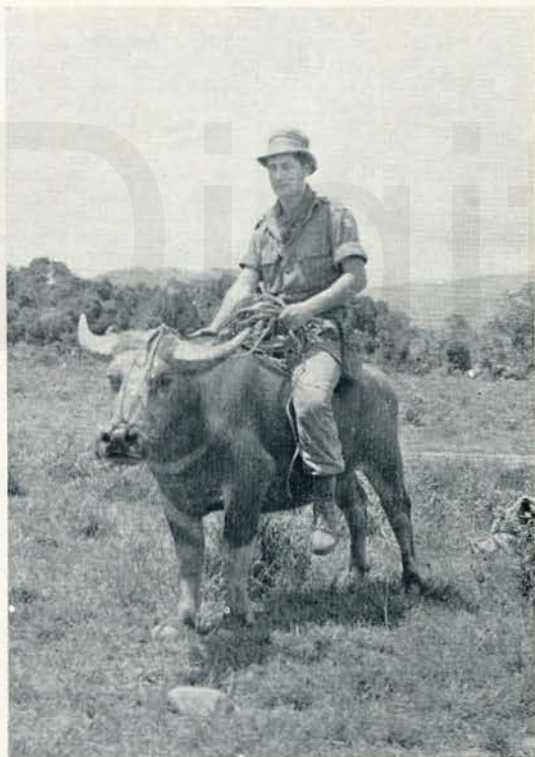
We would like to mention how grateful we are to Mr Dai Rees for all his help and support, especially to our company, in so many things. Wood, craftsmen, carpenters, rugby posts and even a Welsh mascot—"Paddy the Goat"! He has shown interest in everyone and relations have been excellent. We all hope he and his wife are enjoying their leave in UK with their family.

We all look forward now to being on company detachment in October for our second tour. We are all fit, well and rainin' to go!

Lt Reggie Hunter-Blair now takes up the story and tells what has been going on in the company during the past 4 months.

At the end of April an all familiar sight was to be seen around Paradise Camp—preparations for moving to pastures new. Boxes hurried and scurried almost of their own free will, as if they knew of their destination without being told. Jocks, bent double, leapt about, ran hither and thither, practising for the impending move in HMS Albion to Tawau and the operational theatre. The Advance Party, consisting of some very high powered personnel, left Jesselton on April 30th in a Beverly. Some chaos ensued at Tawau, amidst pouring rain, in the despatch of personnel to their various locations. Some went by helicopter, some by boat, others by road and two were fortunate enough to be ferried to their destination in a Hovercraft.

The remainder of the Battalion sailed to Tawau, after a hectic but brilliantly executed transfer, in HMS Albion. HMS Albion is a Commando carrier of



Pte Rutherford tries his hand at riding a water buffalo at Kota Belud

some 20,000 tons with a ship's company of 1,000 men. All who were responsible for making the move go so smoothly are to be congratulated.

On a one for one basis 42 Royal Marine Commando were exchanged for Gordons—like taking in old socks and issuing new ones! Some of us were entrenched in Kalabakan. Here, amidst an air of calm activity, one could see bustling log workers, raftsmen, gentle washerwomen, raucous hooters and screaming timber lorries. "Kalabakan Raid?" "That was years ago".

The first priority within the camp was to improve the defences and Jocks were soon filling sandbags, digging earth and building sangars and taking them down again in some cases!

Patrols went out searching, seeking, exploring, guarding Engineers on landing sites and mapping the surrounding countryside. No Indonesians were ever seen; but still—no news is good news.

Meanwhile, at 281, or Fort Scott or TAG South or whatever people like to call it, 3 Platoon battled amidst a social whirl and border flaps. The ladies underwear that one enterprising Indonesian gunboat displayed at the masthead for the benefit of the Observation Boat 'Papa Charlie 3', who were standing on their heads in a heavy swell, lining up the ladder sight of the 3.5 RL, did much to lighten the tension of the situation. We secretly believe that Pte F. Angus from Edinburgh has some strong acquaintances in enemy territory! Outboard motors, the bane of our lives to start with, but with devotion from Bluebell, who deserves greater praise than he gets, served us faithfully. The Royal Navy and their Australian counterparts gave some of the more tired members of the

platoon a break on the ocean wave. Sgt Wullie Joss from Banff and Pte Nick Greening of Huntly came back very bleary eyed after one such occasion. But we hear that they had been the only ones manning action stations of a destroyer all night. That's their story and let 'em stick by it!

There had been a small section of 97 Bty RA, less their gun, with them for almost a month but after their departure we saw how thin we were on the ground. Like those indestructible cowboys, a Jock had to multiply himself five times to cover his arc on the perimeter.

2 Platoon ensconced themselves at Fort Scott on the 3rd July and, by a variety of means from the Britannia of the Celebes to LST and Allouette, 3 Platoon bade farewell to the mangrove.

When 3 Platoon returned to Kalabakan, they were full of tales of the deep blue sea and other unlikely stories but were hardly given time to find their land legs before they were shoved unmercifully into the steaming interior. 2 Platoon, under 2Lt M. Ross and Sgt P. McKenzie, took over from 3 Platoon and has continued to build up the defences. It looks now like a miniature edition of Fort Knox, impossible to get into and almost as difficult to get out of unless one knows the path between the forests of panjis and other secret weapons which have been planted round the perimeter to ward off any Indonesians or visitors.

In case the reader is beginning to believe that it was all work and no play, we did manage to play quite a bit of sport whilst at Kalabakan. When we first arrived there was but one football pitch; but, due to the enterprise of certain members, especially CSM Strachan, we soon had a volleyball pitch and a badminton court. One of the highlights was a game of rugby between the Welsh platoon and a scratch side picked from the rest of the personnel at Kalabakan. Mr. Dai Rees had some rugby posts put up especially for the occasion and the grass had been cut. It was a most enjoyable game to both watch and to play in. The play was of a very high standard and the match was firmly but fairly refereed by Major Collins (97 Bty Comd) who was unable to play due to an injured ankle. The final score of 16-3 to the scratch side does not do strict justice to the Welsh team who played manfully and came near to scoring again on several occasions.

Later on in July Major D. G. B. Saunders, our Company Commander, left us to take over the TAG Empire vacated by Major "The Admiral" Simpson. Captain A. N. M. Scott took over as Company Commander and will continue to command us until we take Kota Belud again by storm!

It is hard to realise that we have been here almost four months and that we will soon be on our way to Kota Belud and thence to Central Brigade for our next tour. It can safely be said that this part of our tour has been rather too quiet for some. There are those who are beginning to believe that these Indonesians can't really exist and are merely a figment of the imagination. Perhaps next time will bring more reward for all our efforts. That, however, will be another story.

Arrivals, Despatches and Promotions

We welcome to the Company: Cpl Cadger, Ptes Bowman, Bruce, Christie, Coyle, Farmer, Gall 03, Gordon 44, Low 56, Middleton, Milne, McGeary, McPherson 58, McQueen, O'Reilly, Paterson, Thompson 66, Walker.

Despatches

We bid farewell to: Cpl Webster and Pte Cavanagh on demob; Ptes Park 88 and Ewen to the Officers

Mess; Pte Lawrence 22 to the MT Platoon; Pte Duncan 96 to the Signal Platoon.

Hatches

We congratulate Pte Greening and Pte Webster on additions to their family. To the former a girl. To the latter a boy.

Promotions

We congratulate the following on their promotions: Sgts McKenzie and Young; Cpls Grant, Mackie, McGuire; L/Cpls Cheape, Conn, Fraser, Hunter Blair, Martin 89, Martin 30, and Adams.

'B' COMPANY

Company Commander:

Major C. J. D. Gordon-Steward

2IC: Captain N. F. M. Oxley

CSM: WO II R. W. Freeman

C/Sgt: C/Sgt J. Ashley

5 Platoon Commander: Lt C. Lyon

Sergeant: Sgt J. B. Will

6 Platoon Commander: Lt I. G. H. Wallace

Sergeant: Sgt. A. A. Strathdee

7 Platoon Commander: 2Lt D. M. Napier

Sergeant: Sgt W. Fraser

The move from Kota Belud to Tawau in the East Brigade area took place with little, or no, fuss. Firstly our Advance Party under the Company Commander left Jesselton in an KAF Beverley to arrive the same afternoon in Bombalai just as 42 Commando RM were killing one of the last known Indonesian terrorist in the area. On 3rd May the Main Body, under Lt Wallace, were picked up by helicopter from Kota Belud and flown on to HMS Albion. On board they had a very comfortable stay in air-conditioned cabins and mess decks eating excellent food.

On the 5th May the Company was once more complete and had a chance to look at Bombalai. The village itself was the heart of the BAL (Borneo Abaca Limi.ed) Estates; there were factories and workshops in the centre of the large rubber, abaca and oil palm plantations. Our camp was an old rubber factory on the banks of the river. For defence 42 Commando RM, our predecessors, had surrounded the camp with wire and built an effective system of bunkers.

Patrols were soon sent out to search for the last known terrorist who had escaped a Marine cordon. This man had in fact come across the border to take part in the Kalabakan raid of December 1963 and had for some time been living near the sawmills only half a mile from our camp. All this we found out when he surrendered two weeks after our arrival. While patrols scoured the jungle the rest of us rebuilt the defences and got rid of some of the huge puddles lying about the camp. The Military Band who were with us made music while we dug.

Our operational programme besides the daily patrols included rehearsals on Tiger Hill of contact drills and in the afternoons either swimming in the Bal Pool in Kampong Pisang or playing football against one of the estate teams. After a month or so it became obvious that except for isolated cases of sabotage little was going to happen; so the Company Commander, taking part of the Company, flew into LS 302 where we had been told to build a base.

For the next two months LS 302 was to become our main attraction. The troops, doing three weeks stays there building and digging, transformed the spur into what is undoubtedly one of the best camp sites in the Brigade area. The party under Lt Lyon and Sgt

Will spent most time there and were largely responsible for the change.

Meanwhile back at Bombalai operations carried on. One platoon remained at half an hour's notice as a reserve; the remainder were free, with the Military Band, to relax. Football started with a game against Merotai Estate but opposition, mostly Indonesian rubber tappers, proved too fast for us and they won 3-2. Next came Tiger and Imam Estates who also narrowly beat us. In our last game against a strong Bal side we managed to force a 6-6 draw. Our main goal scorers were Bdsn Nichols of the Military Band and Ptes Cardno and Cole. In hockey we were more fortunate. In the two matches arranged the first, against Bal Estates, we won with Sgt Owen playing a strong game. The second was a six-a-side competition at Tawau in which we won the Plate after an exciting final. Once again Sgt Owen saved the day by winning the deciding Centre bully.

Other activities at the rubber factory were Sgt Slade's training of the Very Special Constables, who were a local police force 24 strong, raised to guard essential buildings of the Estates and patrol the jungle. Before we left, Band Master Harper conducted a concert for the Company and the local Estate executives.

In the last week of July the whole Company moved. This time into the Serudong Valley area which had previously been occupied by part of 'D' Company. We bid farewell to Bombalai and were very grateful to the members of Borneo Abaca Limited for the excellent goodbye party they gave us and all the facilities they put at our disposal.

By 30 July most of the Company, with Company TAC HQ were in our new location and starting the construction of the camp that had to be completed in the five weeks we expected to be there. Beginning with new bunkers and the Command Post we set to work as engineers once more. Stores poured in and holes and poles appeared everywhere. Patrolling being top priority, we had to work like beavers to have the site ready for the 1st Scots Guards who were to relieve us. L/Cpl Bruce, Cpl Riach and Cpl Lindsay made full use of the power saws to prune the jungle.

The Company were now distributed between LS 302, the Serudong Valley area and Company Main HQ with TacHQ where the 2IC, C/Sgt Ashley and Cpl James concentrated on re-supply.

It was the middle of August that a small three man patrol from one of the Combat Tracker Teams from Tac HQ on their way to the Serudong area with 48 hours' rations, lost radio contact and didn't arrive on



Pte Low in one of the Company positions

time. The Tracker Teams and Lt Cumming's platoon from 'A' Company arrived to start the search. Helicopters flew everywhere until the patrol was on its third day without rations when it was spotted from the air and was finally found by a patrol from 'A' Company. They weren't without excitement at LS 302 either. Around midnight one night Pte Low heard noises below No 4 bunker. He set up lights followed by bursts from his GPMG only to discover a couple of elephants playing hanky panky on the landing site.

With only two more weeks in East Brigade, patrolling is nearing its climax. Our kit is packed, our Advance Party about to move, and we are ready for a months rest at Kota Belud.

Throughout this tour we have received a constant flow of visitors including Mr Peters from the Aberdeen 'P & J' who shattered the locals with his polaroid camera. Miss Susan Young from the Westminster Press, and Frankie Howard who put on a most amusing show supported ably by Shirley Abicare and Mary Murphy. It was Mary who got the greatest laugh when her stiletto heels kept going through a sandbagged floor by saying "I must take 'em off".

Comings and goings and promotions have changed the Company and it would take pages to list them all, but we must congratulate Ptes Adams and Nelson on attaining their first stripes and L/Cpl Riach and L/Cpl Reid who are now Cpls. Of the comings we welcome C/Sgt Ashley replacing C/Sgt Williams who after two years with us has gone to HQ Company. Sgt Fraser returned to us from the Depot and Cpl Scratcher, L/Cpl Grant, L/Cpl Bruce and L/Cpl Murray appeared from various jobs to add to our strength. As new recruits we welcome Ptes Burston, Buchanan and Hay and Ptes Murray 61 and West as re-enlistments. Sgt Will was a great loss when he left for the TA and we can find no better way of closing these notes than by thanking Pte Murdoch, RAMC, for his amusing and valuable services.

'D' COMPANY

The Company

Officer Commanding: Major J. T. D. Durbin
 Second-in-Command: Captain I. Fleming
 Company Sergeant Major: WO II R. Carruthers
 Company QMS: C/Sgt C. Campbell
 13 Platoon: 2Lt R. D. Ord
 14 Platoon: 2Lt P. M. Mahon
 15 Platoon: Lt G. H. Peebles
 16 (Mortars): Sgt S. C. Warden

Training

The climax to the Training Exercise "Tartan Breeks", mentioned in the last notes, was from our point of view a very successful and enjoyable exercise. We outdid the Scarlet Pimpernel, being able to roam and wander at will, and living almost continuously behind enemy lines. 13 Platoon under Lt Urquhart, on loan as Platoon Commander, in the absence through injury of 2Lt Ord, had a controversial clash with 'B' Company; and Private R. Simpson, 14 Platoon's radio operator, was set upon by the hounds of the Recce Platoon. The criterion of our training was complete failure of the opposing forces to detect or catch us, at anytime, unawares.

Having kept the pace hard for over two months, and being at the peak of our form, we were wisely given the chance to unwind a little before the move to our operational area. While the Company Second in Command and the Quartermaster Sergeant strove to get the bodies ready for the move and the kit packed in time, the Advance Party managed to do



'D' Company staff seen against Mount Kinabalu (the highest in South East Asia)

Standing (l. to r.): Sgts Shiro and Boyd, 2/Lt R. D. Ord, Sgt Warder, 2 Lt P. M. Mahon, Sgt Baldwin. Seated (l. to r.): Capt I. Fleming, CSM R. Carruthers, Major J. T. D. Durbin, CQMS Campbell, Lt G. H. Peebles

some shopping down in Jesselton. Ptes McIvor and Spears, nearly caused the Company Commander to have heart failure when Spears, feebly supporting McIvor, hailed him in the early hours of the morning — by which time they should have taken over the boats in our new location. All was explained with the help of sign language and Chinese interpreters, and they still arrived at the other end first. (Editor—we do know what J.T.D. was doing out at that time of the morning).

Leaving Kota Belud at an unmentionable hour on the morning of the 30th April, and leaving 2/Lts Ord and Mahon stranded at Jesselton due to a lame plane, the Advance Party travelled by 3-tonner, Beverley, and Hovercraft to reach their new location in time for tea. They were met by the 3rd Commando Brigade band playing "A Gordon for me", and a few other scores, about being relieved and pains in the eyes.

The following morning saw Lt Peebles, and Pte R. Hanratty finish their journey, this time by helicopter to an outpost in the jungle which would be their home for the next . . . (or sometime).

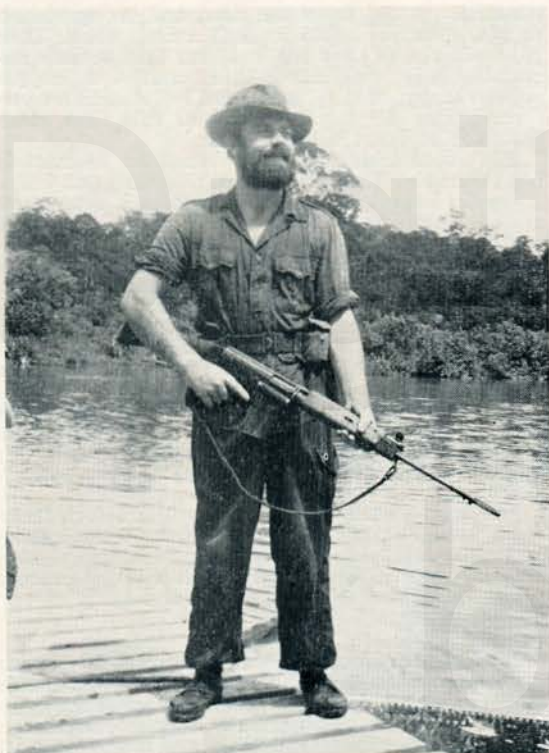
Meanwhile, back at headquarters, Bond supervised, with customary elan, the move of the main body.

The move survived all setbacks except the latest game of "dropping loads into the sea". All was explained when a member of an itinerant bevy of visitors touring our goldfish bowl—a regular event in the heat of the day—some days later, explained that the electrically locked suspension hook "always did have a fault that we couldn't trace". We might have said something appropriate about the kit we did not recover! Still, we are sure it is a Staff problem.

Of course you will say the experience of hopping aboard a chopper and taxi-ing out to the aircraft carrier is so easy; but the seating inside may be limited . . . Now, do the seat numbers run clockwise or anti? Well we **did** enjoy our sail under the auspices of the Royal Navy who catered for our every need on board HMS Albion and whom we look forward to seeing, again and again if rumour is correct.

Serudong

Our border positions in the Serudong Valley, both quite close to the border, were primitive and there was accommodation in the form of kennels, or "Grots" with a certain amount of overhead protection, for nearly one hundred men. At HQ the jungle came fairly close-in to the camp on the home bank,



Cpl Pratt—a "Fighting Figure"

but we built a jungle Range, about 150 yards outside the wire. The opposite bank was well cleared where the Kampong had been.

Our Outstation, however, was a dry land position on a steep sided spur which ran through the camp to the river. It was an old Gurkha built camp for one platoon, with two helicopter pads, and a newly built gun position. The camp itself was shaded by the jungle canopy but the pads were completely exposed to the sun.

Living conditions were by no means pleasant to begin with, in either position. Accommodation was dank and rotten, hygiene was hit-and-miss; in one location the only source of drinking water was the sky, and the other duplication a stream below the camp, all the water had to be lifted 150 yards up a steep path in jerricans. There was plenty of space for improvement.

Life sorted itself out into a pattern (not regular or proportionate) of events, the ingredients of which were operations + administration, sub-divided into planning, patrols and ambushes, visitors, helicopters, boats, leave, hygiene, demolition and re-building, canteen and food to name but a few.

The patrolling pattern was basically the same with one half out on patrol at any one time and the other half in camp providing the labour. Patrols got to know the ground, confirmed or corrected Royal Marine maps, and laid innumerable ambushes. The country was generally easier than at Kota Belud, but the prelude of any outing was a river crossing. In some places this was a simple matter in assault boats, but often after some shaky incidents on a 'Burma' bridge left by the Royal Marine Commando, they had

to swim across the river, until a friendly chopper brought some oil drums and the "Queen Mary" was built.

After Kota Belud, the absence of the locals was noticeable, but the Ibans acquired from the Royal Marine Commando were something new. They proved excellent little men, very informative about old tracks or markings, and a great asset in improving our knowledge of jungle techniques. One interesting marking in the area was the yellow metal plaque nailed to the trees on the border and warning those who crossed into Malaysia carrying arms that they would be caught and shot!

Other routine patrols carried out were the escort patrols for the Detachments of Royal Engineers whose task was to cut the Forward Helicopter Landing Sites.

A feature of some patrols was that the Gunners who provided several volunteers for patrols, did more than their share of Infantry Work (amongst them Bdr Gillespie was the leading light).

14 Platoon, in a small patrol led by 2Lt Mahon were the first to see and fire at the enemy who stumbled away into the undergrowth almost certainly wounded. Subsequent follow-up operations did not reveal anything, although it was the first physical appearance of our enemy.

Our first Company operation "Blue Bonnet" brought 15 Platoon from their splendid isolation and despite no actual clash, encouraging evidence of enemy activity was traced in the form of old ambush areas and tracks. Again it was 14 Platoon who had the luck to see the enemy, the Ibans and leading scouts seeing three men as they disappeared over a ridge before



CSM R. Carruthers

they could be followed. There is still time before we leave to register a successful contact.

In the camps the sub-units coming off patrol had a chance to wash shave and dry out, and get a change of clean clothing, and a change of diet in the form of fresh rations. Mornings in camp were occupied by work parties rebuilding or maintaining camp, whilst the afternoons provided an escape from the heat in sleep or time to write letters. The canteen provided almost anything demanded, eventually (including Inter Flora) and remained open all day for cold drinks.

As mentioned earlier on there was room for improvement, in addition to maintenance, in the camps. Two new camps were built, one on the old site, the other on a new position around the gun. At HQ the Company Commander, Major Durbin, supported enthusiastically by Company Sergeant Major Carruthers, were responsible for the ideas, planning and execution of the immense task.

Defence stores were scarce and improvisation was the watchword of the supervisors who included Cpl Gillies, L/Cpl (later Cpl) Hossack, Ptes Henry, 13 Platoon; Forsyth, 14 Platoon; and Johnstone (Assault Pioneers). The fruit of their labours was a secure camp with improved defences, new gun-pits and Mortar pits, improved accommodation, a canteen, new cookhouse, and dining hall, new sentry towers, a protected signal centre, ops room and company office, stand to positions with overhead cover, new lavatories and a high standard of hygiene. The inside area of the camp was levelled off with tons of sandy gravel, transported by boat from a convenient gravel pit. Bougainvillea, Morning Glory, Hibiscus and Roses were brought in from their wild state and installed in gardens for the enjoyment of all.

Proof of the professional standard of workmanship was given when visiting senior officers of the Malaysian Engineers would not believe that in the three and a half months that we had been at HQ that the work had not been done by "Supporting Arms" or civilians, but the Jocks themselves!

At our other location, the story was the same, though on a smaller scale, but the amount of digging-in and carrying on foot logs was probably greater. Improvements were made on existing ideas in the old camp and basha-accommodation certainly did improve. These bashas were almost entirely jungle made since 6in. pickets and wire to bind them were the only available defence stores at that time.

The Mortar Platoon bore the brunt of the day-to-day hygiene chores which they performed with unflagging thoroughness during the whole tour. This was reflected in an absence of any form of ill-health which could be pinned down to camp facilities.

Pte Pollard (RAMC) and "Kildare" Easson provided medical attention most commendably. Treatment became hazardous when 15 Platoon moved in to HQ for the medicine men held fixed and opposite points of view. Melvor bears witness to this on his chest (Editor—what chest?), and Murphy 54 was said to have been seen with two brightly coloured legs, one blue and the other green, after reporting for tinea treatment.

Food was of a high standard, and on detachment, Pte J. Reid, did an excellent job of work day in and day out cooking, helped at first by Pte Thompson 57. At HQ the food was equally well prepared, by L/Cpl Gourley and Pte Urquhart.

Another pair of hard worked men were our coxswains, Melvor and Spears, also orderlies to the Company Commander and the Second-in-Command respectively. They spent long days transporting men and

materials up and down the river, and taking visitors to places further afield in their assault boats. Their road was not an easy one and their skill became respected. They maintained their craft and engines professionally, holding the record for continuous performance in the Battalion, and to date have many hundreds of hours between them.

The Jocks themselves have benefitted enormously from this tour. Their standard of patrolling and jungle living has improved and self confidence is everywhere evident. Individuals have grown more responsible and promotions have been merited and made substantive. There has been excellent opportunity to save money without the temptation of shops or beer-bar, and most people have a pleasant sum of money in POSB, or the bank. The amount of work done by every man in the two positions has been quite magnificent, a solid foundation of the very high morale and company spirit which is only too evident.

Although cut off from the main stream of Battalion activities, our spiritual welfare was not neglected. Our flying padre, Bill Wright, in addition to delivering halo(?), mail, each Sunday in a Sioux, made periodic visits.

The scene usually the inner court yard fort, forming a hollow square. Since there was no musical instruments available a band of "volunteers" was usually found in advance and with a bit of practice greatly magnified the volume of our singing.

To Summarise

We have been lucky in being the forward company of the battalion throughout the entire present tour and this has enabled us to gain a vast amount of patrolling experience which gives us a distinct advantage. Platoons having spent between 70 and 80 days actually out on patrol in the past 134 days.

Our reconstruction of the camp enabled us to spend an entire tour here rather than the 6 weeks, considered previously to be the limit in this outpost.

We will however be more than happy to return to the mundane life (as experienced by those at Tawau and Kalabakan) of rising at a decent hour (not 0500 for four long continuous months), a pleasant sufficiency of beer and electric lights, films and the other adjuncts of life.

PS. We also filled 12.883 Sandbags (1 split).

Morale is splendidly high and everybody is looking forward to the next location and perhaps it would be of interest to mention that one of the tenets of company policy has been that everybody patrols be he cook, clerk, pioneer or coxswain and then everybody fully appreciates the jungle at first hand and so removes any chance of misunderstanding or lack of appreciation of problems of the rifle platoons, thus welding together into one united team.

The leave plans, as promised in the UK, have been sending people away to a welcome two weeks break in Singapore, and a chance to see the Far East in one of its most colourful cities. By the end of the tour every man in the company will have had the opportunity of taking his Rest and Recuperation leave.

MIRANDA'S MERRIER MOMENTS

The summer season at Serudong is again under way (or should it be weigh?) and our social correspondent was there to report on the annual contact between the local team and the visitors from across the border. Among those watching the climax of a thrilling firefight in which Corporal McNamara, down from Scotland for the season, opened the batting with a Sub Machine Gun (obtainable at Lillywhite's and other leading sports stores), Mr. Peter Mahon

sporting a 'Hats Green Jungle' which we gather is quite the rage this year, was also there enjoying a joke. Our correspondent approached him between contacts in the lunch marquee, this year based on a contemporary poncho design, and asked how relations were with the away team. Mr Mahon, after a searching look which obviously implied "do you really need to know?" blandly replied "but my dear fellow, you know the sort of form".

We understand that the match ended in a draw.

TAWAU ASSAULT GROUP

Senior Officer Tawau Assault Group (SOTAG):

Major J. J. H. Simpson (May-July 65)

Major D. G. B. Saunders (July-Sept 65)

Deputy Officer Tawau Assault Group (DOTAG):

Lt J. R. Urquhart

Sergeant Major: WO II J. Donald

Quartermaster Sergeant: CQMS J. Dryburgh

The Outline

One of the Battalion's commitments in East Brigade was to provide a headquarters and one platoon for the Tawau Assault Group, or TAG as it was known locally. This was neither based in Tawau nor was it used in its assault role, but had a main task of observation and another of patrolling. It consisted of a joint Army and Naval Headquarters and two main sub-units, which in turn manned and administered a number of small river craft. The naval element included the HQ ship, KD Petrel, which had been the Governor of Sabah's yacht, a coastal minesweeper or fast patrol boat always on station, and a number of seaward defence motor launches which guarded likely approaches to the complex.

Security prohibits too graphic a description of the forces deployed, but basically the area of responsibility was a mangrove swamp of about 150 square miles containing only two worthwhile patches of dry land. On these the firm bases were sited.

TAG HQ operated from a longhouse in Wallace Bay on Sebatik Island, which is divided almost exactly in half. The southern half is part of Indonesia and the northern of Malaysia. This added a bit of excitement to our lives, as the whole island is only about 20 miles long.

The group itself was operationally independent and as an amphibious screen with capabilities of observation and of delaying tactics could be likened in some ways to a waterborne armoured car squadron! Although it came directly under the command of Brigade and not of its parent battalion, it worked closely with the Navy. For its battalion it was simply another administrative problem with peculiar needs, but the Quartermaster did his best to get what we wanted even when asked for things like 60lb. anchors which, it is understood, are not usually part of an infantry battalion's stores.

The commander, known as SOTAG, or the Senior Officer TAG, had to acquire new diplomatic skills when dealing with the navies of three different nations as well as exercising an iron control over certain minesweeper and FPB captains whose sole aim in life appeared to be to sail into Nunukan with all guns blazing.

The army side of the Headquarters consisted basically of 'C' Coy skeleton HQ with the addition of a signals detachment, some coxswains from the MT, and administrative elements. The navy was represented by the captain and crew of Petrel, and the Senior Naval Officer TAG when we arrived, Lt Cdr D. Gore of Kuala Lumpur, worked in an advisory and assistant capacity to SOTAG, who was then Major J. J. H. Simpson.

One of the main sub-units already referred to was an element of 'A' Coy, originally commanded by Lt A. M. Cumming, whose sergeant was Sgt W. Joss. After two months they were relieved by a force under 2Lt M. N. B. N. Ross and Sgt P. Mackenzie.

The other sub-unit started by being a hand-picked team from 'A' Battery 1 Malaysian Artillery. They were commanded by Capt. A. Morel and we always found them all a delight to work with. After their return to Malaya we had a brief spell with Capt Westell, RA, and a detachment from 97 Lt Bty RA and finally another very successful liaison with our allies, this time from 'A' Sqn, 2 Recce. Being trained observers and used to manning OPs this multiracial force set new high standards in log keeping, and was commanded by Capt "Oto" Ong Hoon Teck.

One of the tasks of each of these detachments was to man "Lima" boats, old harbour launches, and patrol from them in assault boats. Sections of five under a Corporal or Lance Corporal lived on the boats for a week at a time, and this required them to gain new skills of both soldiering and sailing. All were trained to be able to call down and direct artillery fire and fire all their weapons accurately from a moving boat. In addition, apart from defending and patrolling from these bases, each sub-unit was responsible for one "Poppa Charlie" boat, a police patrol craft which was positioned on the border to observe the enemy action in Nunukan, some 2000 yards away. For this task they were equipped with a pile of log sheets and a pair of powerful binoculars, and could distinguish the berets, dress and even, on calm days, the Kodam flashes and badges of rank of the enemy troops. In addition they were to keep notes of all boat movement to and from Nunukan.

This was generally found to be fascinating work, flavoured with the spice of living so close to the enemy and even of occasional investigation by Indonesian Naval patrol vessels, as well as actually seeing Indonesian women!

Sometimes the Indonesian submarine chasers came too close for comfort. On one occasion the crew of the Eastern boat, manned by Malaysian gunners with visiting Intelligence Section member L/Cpl Simpson aboard, were thinking very hard about what to do with a 600-odd ton subchaser bearing down 300 yards away at 15 knots, when suddenly she turned hard a port, ran a pair of pink panties up the masthead and departed at speed with her crew cheering and waving at our boat. PC3 was nearly swamped, but at least it indicated a sense of humour on the other side.

Another lighter moment in the usually tense border game of bluff and double bluff is illustrated by the story of our psychological warfare teams effort to float leaflets into Nunukan. On a favourable tide some plastic bags full of suitable advices and including some Indonesian currency notes, were duly dispatched. These were eagerly fielded by the opposition and there was no immediate reaction, but on the next tide in our direction came the answer: "Thank you for the money, but please don't write on it in future as some of the shops don't like it."

Apart from the few occasions like these the task was one of constant observation and alertness. Again, this was a specialist role unfamiliar to us, but most got the idea of it quite quickly. The enemy forces consisted of two battalions of the Korps Kommando Operasi, the Indonesian marine corps, which were based on South Sebatik and Nunukan Island. They gave us the impression of being alert and steady troops, and the wide variety of their arms and equipment made the observation very interesting.

The Men

TAG HQ was to have remained a constant factor throughout the tour, but the inevitable changes took place almost continuously. Towards the end of July Major D. G. B. Saunders took over as SOTAG, and about a month later Lt J. R. Urquhart handed over the job of Deputy Officer to Lt R. S. Fawcus, Lt Cdr Gore went in late July and his relief was Lt Choong Gan Son, who had been the Gunnery Officer in Kd Hang Tuah, the Malaysian flagship.

It will be no surprise to those who know him to be told that WO II J. Donald took to the job of Sergeant Major like a duck to water, and his command of all the necessary words of the Malay language won him a place in the hearts and minds of the Federation troops. It was especially gratifying to hear his version of Malay/Doric booming out across a few cables of water at a coxswain mishandling his engine! CQMS J. Dryburgh having heard soon after our arrival that something had "slipped from the jetty" was all set to rush our calm and phlegmatic medical orderly, Pte D. Partington to the scene of what he thought to be the accident, only to find a ship steaming slowly away.

Sgt J. Wilson ran the administration when WO II Donald returned to the Highland Brigade Depot, and Sgt R. Harman looked after the communications side, assisted by L/Cpl R. Thorpe, Pte R. Knox and Pte K. Don. The signallers had to use both army and joint service procedure, use morse and aldis lamp to ships and were responsible for five different sets in HQ. The coxswains too, achieved a high standard of performance and were frequently complimented on their boat-handling by naval visitors. But the casualty rate in coxswains was high and at the time of writing only Pte H. Donald (60) remained from the original trainees. Pte W. Clevely departed to get married, and we wish him and his wife every happiness.

Although it is not possible to mention everyone by name, special credit must go to our REME outboard motor mechanic, Cpl M. Ployman, who worked tirelessly and patiently to keep the b— things on the water, and to his assistant Cfn J. Ramsay.

The Experience

Soldiering in TAG was an enjoyable experience for us all, as it was totally different from anything we had hitherto met. We all had to learn new skills and absorb new ideas. Our liaison with the Navy was a very happy one and the soldier/sailor swaps done with most of the ships that we encountered were very popular at all levels, and were reported in the columns of papers throughout the world. Sometimes one of the hosts of visitors that descended on us during our stay would look hard and wonder at a "soldier", heavily bearded, then shake his head as if to agree that things were not quite the same nowadays. The Officers particularly enjoyed boundless generous hospitality from the local timber company, Wallace Bay Ltd., and we managed to see the odd film occasionally which was borrowed from the company or Petrel.

The Result?

So, if in years to come you discover a bearded ex-Gordon Highlander on the quay at Aberdeen gazing wistfully out to sea and muttering "Steer Green Four Zero, slow ahead both" at a trawler in difficulties, ask him what it was like in East Malaysia Naval Area One wayback in '65. . . .

The following note was sent by a Junior "Signalman" to the Yeoman of HMS Carysfort before departing under pressure for a few days "exchange" with the TAG:

Dear Yeoman.

If, perchance, an Indonesian bullet rips an ugly hole in my valuable head and my life blood and brain ooze out onto the cold jungle deck I would like you to know that, as I lie there with the creepy crawlies and weirdies already yomping my young innocent body, I will always remember my happy days on the bridge of my beloved Carysfort. Oh many a happy hour I spent up there, on top of the world, breathing the fresh exhilarating beauty of the sea air and dreaming of the day when I would pass my "two's" and, I tremble with the thought, go through for (T). Who knows, I might have made a TCI.

Well Yeoman, Goodbye, or is it Au Revoir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

PS—I would like, as my last wish, to be buried with the 10in. fronts if possible.

Note—Some explanations for Army personnel!

- (i) "Two's" refers to the examination for Radio Operator 2nd Class (RO2).
- (ii) (T) is for Tactical—a specialisation within the Radio branch, this being the modern term for the former "Signalman".
- (iii) TCI is for Tactical Communications Instructor—the "elite" (?) of the Department.
- (iv) 10in. are Signalling projectors and have brass front pieces, polished most regularly by "Juniors". (This probably accounts for his wish that they be buried with him!)

QUIZ FOR "JOINT" MINDED READERS

Most of the Battalion has had two trips on board HMS Albion. Some have lived close to the Navy and taken part in exchange visits. What are the meanings of the following naval nicknames?

1. Oggin	6 Blue Liners
2 Banyang	7 Chippy
3 Jimmy	8 Ki
4 Captain of the heads	9 Turkey
5 Goffers	10 Limers

Answers at end of Battalion Notes.

ORDERLY ROOM

Adjutant: Captain P. W. Graham

Orderly Room Colour Sergeant: S/Sgt A. G. West

Since the production of our last notes we have had yet another move and we are now in Tawau, oddly enough preparing for our move back to Kota Belud. It is perhaps a coincidence but with every move the Orderly Room appears to get smaller and smaller. Should it get any smaller we shall have to start selling "bumff" instead of producing it. Perhaps we should say "nobody here but us chickens".

For some reason or other the Orderly Room Staff have burst forth into the world of sports and extra mural activities. Corporal J. Jordan and Private K. Addison have become ardent anglers but so far have yet to land anything worth recording; perhaps the ample supply of beer which they always take on their fishing trips has something to do with this.

The Orderly Room Staff were also brave enough to enter the Volley Ball League and after 10 games had a wonderful record of being beaten 10 times. The team captain, Staff Sergeant A. G. West, played just like the veteran he is; Private J. Gibson always managed to use his height to a great disadvantage and the others assisted generally to cause confusion to both sides.

We have seen nothing of Sergeant R. Dowding who has been firmly ensconced, at TAC HQ, into the hubs of Sioux Aircraft, Elephants and Political Candidates. It is believed the Chief Clerk visited him once or twice to renew his acquaintance.

Unfortunately we have lost Privates J. Stalker and D. Falconer under sad circumstances; the former on compassionate grounds and the latter on medical grounds. It is hoped that their respective problems have now been resolved.

During the last month Staff Sergeant West has been surprising some of the outstations with lightening week-end visits, swooping out of the sky in a Whirlwind helicopter onto his favourite prey, the Company Sergeant Majors and in one instance leaving the clerks behind to explain to a rather puzzled Adjutant. It appears he has quite a reputation for playing darts away from home. The more refreshment, the better he plays.

During this period we have been joined by two new Clerks from the Depot, namely Privates R. Winton from Huntly and R. Middleton from Peterhead. We have also been joined once again by Private M. Rapley who left us early in April for the Signals Platoon but he decided that after all the Orderly Room deserved him most, hence his quick return.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Intelligence Officer: Lt C. H. Van Der Noot
Intelligence Sergeant: Sgt P. Cameron

"Great oaks from little acorns grow", is an old saying and as the period since our last notes has proved, a true one. Our training and activities have always seemed rather nutty to the rest of the Battalion. The section themselves have been mystified from time to time too. However after nearly four months "in the line" the Intelligence Section has, thanks to patient Acorns, become the efficient unit it should be.

As with the rest of the Battalion, the first two months were hectic. All honour to the previous unit, but their methods were not ours, and much work had to be done before the Operations Room conformed to our standards. Our advance party, Colour Sergeant P. G. Cameron and Pte B. Moir, had taken over the Operations Centre, and had the place running, by the time the rest of the section arrived fresh from their holiday/move by sea. At the time I remember we were all rather dismayed by the task ahead of us, but we managed, as anyone entering the Operations Room can see.

At this point the comings and goings must be mentioned. First we congratulate Sgt Cameron on his promotion to Colour Sergeant. L/Cpl Simpson has left us for the peril of civilian life, although bets have been made that he will be back. To fill the gap we welcome L/Cpl Manson from 'B' Company. His greatest gift seems to be his sense of humour. Even while these notes are being penned Lt C. H. Van der Noot is packing his bags, and though suffering from a bad attack of UK happiness, is ready to hand over to his successor, Lt Urquhart. Lt Urquhart, due any day now, was last reported to be heading up river from the Tawau Assault Group in a fast galley, with the articles of war pinned to the yard arm.

Although we try to be "genned up" on each other's jobs, we each have a task for which we are responsible. Pte Moir is our chief clerk, his system of filing is a wonder to behold. During a recent trip of his away from this location, the combined Intelligence Section and Orderly Room failed to crack the system. On his return he was greeted by a demoralised Operations Staff. L/Cpl W. Manson whilst still learning the tricks of the trade, helps Cpl T. Lindley with incoming patrol reports. From these is extracted Operational and Topographical information. Some of this has resulted in the famed "Moir Map"—more about that later. Cpl Lindley's main job has been the Battalion Air Photo Library. The task of making it into a useful aid has taken most of our period here. He is probably the only man in the unit who has seen all the Landing Sites and rivers in the Battalion area without leaving this location. Between annoying Sgt R. Dowding and drinking his twice daily cup of tea, Colour Sergeant P. G. Cameron still manages to devote time to his flock, and guides them along gently. We only get chased around the Operations Centre once a day now.

To our many talents we have added yet another, Cartography (Map making to you). After a short period here it became evident that the maps of our area were inaccurate. Now thanks to the latest 1:250,000 map, air photos, patrol reports and Pte Moir's steady hand we have the "Moir Map". The map is already in its third edition, amendments are worked out almost daily. Were it not for our impending move, a 4th edition would no doubt be on its way. In early June 1912 Mr. H. W. L. Bunbury and Mr G. St V. Keddell of the British North Borneo Civil Service together with J. H. G. Shepers of the Triangulation Brigade Netherland India and Second Lieutenant E. A. Vreeds of the Royal Netherland's Navy, marked out the border between North Borneo and the Netherlands Possessions, finishing in January 1913. Unfortunately the white line they painted to mark it has washed off, the result is that confusion reigns on the subject of borders. One bright individual suggested that we send our friends in Djarkarta a map, and politely ask them to mark on the border. We have it on authority that we have the right one now however.

As a change of air we each spent a week on one of the Border Observation Boats. We all came back with a good tan (Pte Moir prefers the deep fry method) and enough war stories to toss around in future conversations. L/Cpl Simpson's stay was highlighted by a nosey enemy gunboat, which came near, and Cpl Lindley had an early reveille by a trio of Fieldgun, Mortar and Machine gun.

Our next move is almost upon us, between painting boxes and thinking of subtle quips for the next Sergeant's Mess evening, we are preparing to hand over to the next unit. The word "packed" has almost become the standard answer for most questions, "No" being the answer for the rest.

Pte Moir now believes us when we tell him that HMS Albion is slightly bigger than A Papa Charlie Boat and has decided to travel back to Kota Belud with the rest of the Battalion.

Our next notes will be written . . . Well your guess is as good as mine, but wherever it is, this is one group that will be gathering no moss.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Regimental Signal Officer: Captain R. G. D. Bruce
Signal Staff Sergeant: Staff Sergeant I. Mitchell
Signal Sergeant: Sergeant R. Harman

The move of the Battalion from Kota Belud to

Tawau on board HMS Albion was an event that will be remembered for some time. At the time of writing we look forward to HMS Albion arriving again, this time to take us back for a month's break at Kota Belud. The move itself went very smoothly. After only four hours of the first helicopter arriving at the airfield at Kota Belud, the entire Battalion and their kit were aboard HMS Albion.

For embarkation, the Signal Platoon provided communication from the Control Point to the helicopter pads, where marshallers were warned which helicopter was coming to their pad. At one stage the Signal Officer could not achieve communications at a range of 200 yards, while the Royal Navy representative sitting next to him, was working 8,000 miles back to England. However the Signal Officer did get his own back when the Navy could not get their 62 set to work by connecting the headset to the socket!

The move off HMS Albion again went well though some of our equipment is now communicating with tropical fish at the bottom of the sea.

After disembarkation the platoon split up and since then, many of them have not seen each other, though of course we heard them—or sometimes we do!

Being so spread out in the operation area voices which we never knew existed suddenly became part of our daily life. For instance: "Hello Zero Alpha



Sgt R. Harman, Radio Sgt

Acorn speaking Windmill bids over" is now classified as a household phrase. Life will become very boring when the Intelligence Officer disappears from the net in September to take up residence in Edinburgh. Rumour has it he is to work part time with Cooks Travel Agency.

We have discovered that the Chief Clerk (Manhole in Signal jargon) has really missed his vocation, and would have made an excellent operator instead of pushing a pen. Let us hope after a "mention" in our notes the platoon will get at least two pencils, a re-supply of Banda fluid and message pads next month.

Strongbox, our erstwhile Unit Paymaster, after an initial bad start when he refused to speak on the air because of his previous Appointment Title, has been heard on a number of occasions now that he has his new one!

The only person we have not enticed on to our medium is Halo, who assures the Signal Officer that his "communications" do not require machinery to get through. How often the Signal Officer has wished he could get through as easily! However we hope one Sunday when "Halo" is in "Holy Orbit" in a Sioux helicopter visiting each location he will come up on our net.

There is no doubt that life has been very varied in the Signal Platoon. Initially we had Hovercraft on our net, not to mention the Air Platoon whom we still have and whom we have found are incredibly useful people. It is amazing what pilots learn at Middle Wallop. Everything from changing antenna by helicopter, and repairing charging engines to playing a useful game of German Whist. Regrettably the Signal Platoon has not always been so useful to the Air Platoon, but in future he will endeavour not to send their signals for spare parts to the Queen Alexandras Royal Army Nursing Corps and 2 War Dog Training Unit!

Probably the signallers with the most varied life of all have been Sgt R. Harman, L/Cpl R. Thorpe, Pte K. Don and Pte J. Knox who are with the Tawau Assault Group. Their life has had a truly nautical flavour. They never sent signals, but "made them", so we are assured. They also came ashore, went aboard, made fast and other such watery terms. However, they have played a very important role and have done extremely well despite the Signal Officer's remarks about their "funny little net". Ptes G. Leys and Allan have also been part time matelots attached to the Tawau Assault Group and still sometimes talk about "Radio Checks".

The hermit of the platoon, Pte J. Christie, languishing at LS 302, in the remote GAP area for the past four months has been his detachment's only contact with the outside world. Still it is one way to become a proficient Morse operator.

L/Cpl J. Grant having returned from Hythe with a 'B' grading, which he is to be congratulated on, lost a stone and a half in weight after his arrival with 'B' Company. Either the cooking at Hythe was excellent or the re-supply to 'B' Company has been overlooked.

Regrettably L/Cpl J. Adam, after some excellent service with the Signal Detachment of 'B' Company, damaged his cartilage and had to be medically evacuated to the UK. We all wish him a quick recovery.

The platoon also lost Cpl. K. Rennie who slipped a disc and also returned to the UK. The loss of two such experienced signallers was indeed a blow.

The signallers of "Fort Dubs" where 'D' Company languished also had a varied and sometimes dangerous existence. We commiserate with L/Cpl G. Reid who

went on orders to be promoted only to find it was the wrong Reid. Still, every dog has his day.

Pte J. Gordon obviously had not forgotten his training in rock climbing at Oswestry, and took to climbing trees to put up antenna like an Iban, even though he did forget on one occasion which tree the antenna was up. This explains why the QM was confronted with a 27 foot mast resembling a snake.

'D' Company's Starlight, Pte Easson, became a budding Pronto and was often heard "Loud and Clear". Perhaps this is why 'D' Company were always shouting for Starlight.

Ptes Campbell and Simpson, both from 'D' Company, also qualified for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in the jungle. Of course they hadn't seen civilization for the last four months. However, no doubt Jesselton and Singapore will have the pleasure of their company in the near future.

At the nerve centre, TAC HQ, a host of Prontos hovered about like bees round a hive. Cpl Innes acted as general factotum ably assisted by L/Cpl Anderson and Cpl Elliott of the Royal Corps of Signals. At the time of writing "Niners" time is just about up. After serving the Signal Platoon so well for the past six years he has decided to become a "Bobby". We wish him luck on the beat and hope he will not run too many of us in when we get back next year.

In the Signal Centre, Ptes C. McGruer, J. Morrison and K. Nicol took over as platoon humourists. Their cartoons, which appeared on the platoon notice board were indeed revealing and no event went unnoticed. Quite apart from making out numerous signals on the various distribution lists they were heard on the Battalion net from time to time. It would not surprise us if they became fully fledged Prontos, if we can persuade the Battalion Orderly Room of this.

We were sorry to lose the ubiquitous Pte M. Rapley to the Orderly Room. We hear he is doing invaluable work both by day and night. We hope one of these days we will see him back in the Signal Platoon.

Pte T. Bottrell, also at TAC HQ, was the main stay of the Control Station and worked so hard at his job that he even lost some weight!

Also residing nearby were 'A' Company, presided over by Cpl J. Cadger fresh from Hythe with a good result. We were delighted to have Pte Uliniyau of the 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers from Fiji attached to the platoon. We would have dearly liked to have converted him to the kilt. His cheerful personality and great determination will be remembered by the platoon for a long time. We wish him all success and hope we will come across him again.

The big question in 'A' Company at present is when will Pte J. McInnes get his new top set. For months he has been seen going about looking like Dracula, but even so he still appears to be able to get through.

At time of writing, Ptes Sim and Allen are in direct communication with Singapore on R and R.

At Tawau itself the Signal Platoon Colour Sergeant, S/Sgt I. Mitchell, held the fort. We wonder whether he will be totally bald by the time we return. However he keeps murmuring about the Advance Party in early January and hopes someone will spark on it. You never know! The others at Tawau were Pte Duncan who finds the local rum and coke very powerful at times, L/Cpl Ewen who feels he could now organise Pickfords with all the packing up he has had to do recently. Pte C. McInnes, with a full set of teeth, who also has been heard at times murmuring about the Advance Party, Pte J. White who after his visit to Singapore can both see and hear;

L/Cpl Lavelle, Sig Mooney, Sgt McMillan of the Signals Troop and their two boffins Cpl Cook and L/Cpl Harfield who were to be seen hiding every time a party from TAG appears! We are glad that Sgt McMillan has at last acquired some sun tan lotion and has not repeated his painful performance at Kota Belud.

As a finale to our notes we would like to congratulate Lt A. M. Cumming on his excellent forward air controlling with Mission 777. As a result of it the Signal Platoon would like to present him with a Bird Spotters Book and the Intelligence Section with an Aircraft Recognition Pamphlet.

PRONTO'S LAMENT

I wish I were a HAWKEYE whose aircraft always work

Whose radio never fails them, whose job is done by dark,

And oft I sit and ponder in OPS ROOM full of woe, I'll pack my bags, forget those sets, to WALLOP I will go.

"The set won't work its gone US, I think it has blown up"

"My windmill tasks," young ACORN said, "I really must have passed."

There's resupply at ULU, there's sandbags for the LAUT.

I simply can't face DURBIN, "Oh pull your finger out!"

"This copy of a signal does not belong to me Make the Signal Centre choose the proper addressee, Forget those HYTHE bound teachings, they're alright back at home—"

The 2IC was furious and that was plainly shown.

The phone it rang an ominous note, oh grief what's happened now,

The sangar lines—no not again, oh not another row, "The GSL has not turned up—it's one hour overdue, And you must send a signal," said a reddened Martineau.

Hardly had it finished ringing out its gloomy note, When GALLACHER from the airport picked it up and spoke,

"My A 43 will not transmit, I've traffic on the air, Old OBOE'S jumping up and down with MISSIONS everywhere".

What's that I hear? It can't be so! A station loud and clear,

Give me the set, we're through at last, "Pronto speaking here,"

"Three", he spoke, in voice so grim, "My breakfast has been spoiled

By news of sets returned from base which worked then overboiled."

"Hallo, Hallo it's PLAYTIME here, just listen to the news,

We've just received some anti-freeze which I've despatched to you,

It really is important on nights so cold and wet, To fill my trucks with anti-freeze and please do not forget."

"Its WINDMILL time," a PRONTO said, "They're waiting down at MAIN,"

"Hallo" a voice said dryly—"Its SLIPSTREAM here again,

Mission THREE TWO ONE a CRAB at LS THREE O TWO,

Pick up STARLIGHT plus a dog and drop them off at TWO."

"Pick up SUNRAY, PRONTO rep, ration man and SCOUT,
And when you get to TWO EIGHT FIVE, drop all, return to LAUT,
Pick up ACORN plus his maps look out for Callsign eight,"
(They tried to scale a mountain face and now are two days late).

"And are you coming PRONTO now? I've finished for the day,
A bit of kip, a swim then cards," spoke SIMON E. ST. J.
But here I sit in silence with my list of grief and woe
Become a HAWKEYE, that I must, to WALLOP I will go!

RECCE PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Lieutenant R. S. Fawcus
No. 1 Combat Tracker Team Commander: Sergeant R. Leslie
No. 2 Combat Tracker Team Commander: Sergeant M. Flinn

Since the Recce Platoon arrived in Borneo, many and varied have been the roles which it has had to play in the war of confrontation. It has been necessary to change the structure and appointments within the platoon to cater for these new tasks and many a new face now graces the ranks of those venerable old machine gun warriors.

The main task the platoon has had to carry out has been the formation of two Combat Tracker Teams. As their name implies, these teams have the capability of following the tracks of an enemy, and at the same time being able to defend themselves should the need arise. In order to learn this gentle art, the whole platoon moved to the Jungle Warfare School near Johore Bahru, Malaya one week after arriving in Borneo. During that first memorable week at Kota Belud a serious attempt was made to make everybody fit and to acclimatise them to the humid atmosphere of the jungle. Surprisingly nobody fell by the wayside, in spite of the ferociousness with which Sgt Flinn and Sgt Waters applied themselves to this task. Many a pound was melted away, and many a waistline was reduced in this one solitary week of a savage beauty treatment. By the time we finally arrived at the JWS, everybody was confident that they would be able to stand the pace, and this was delightfully confirmed when we succeeded in losing two of the directing staff on the first tracking exercise.

At the JWS we met up with our dog handlers who had already been training with their dogs for several weeks. All of them are well known personalities in the Battalion—L/Cpl Bruce, L/Cpl Moir, Pte Wiseman and Pte McArthur. The course was enjoyed by all, particularly the frequent forays to Singapore, which came close to outnumbering the frequent forays into the jungle.

After a brief spell in Kota Belud on the completion of the course we found ourselves at TAC HQ in the new operational area. There we were given the task of running the scout cars as well as providing two Combat Tracker Teams. L/Cpl Reid was given the responsibility of supervising the scout car crews, and with the valuable assistance of L/Cpl Phillips not only succeeded in getting these cars in a road-worthy condition, but managed to keep them that way. All this was done in spite of the fact that there were no spares or any qualified mechanic to take them to pieces and put them together again when strange noises were heard from somewhere under the bonnet. The one man who was always ready and



Left to right: Pte McArthur, two Iban Trackers, L/Cpl Bruce and Sgt Flynn

indeed anticipating with eagerness the opportunity that would surely arise when he would be called upon to delve into the obscure world of crankshafts, fluid flywheels and piston rings was Pte Scott of New Aberdour. Unhappily for the Recce Platoon, but happily for the Air Platoon, "Rab" was transferred from the one to the other shortly after arriving in Borneo. We are always grateful for the assistance he gives us, and look forward to the day that he returns to the Recce Platoon. The scout car crews who were responsible for maintaining the delicate machines and for nursing them back to base after many an arduous patrol, and for retaining a cheerful outlook in spite of adversity were: Ptes Ewing, Hight (a staunch supporter of the Beatles with all the trappings including the screaming), Mayer and L/Cpls Rea and Phillip. The latter had, in addition, the job of running the store cum office which he designed and built with several others. The local contractor never did discover where his wood, cement, tools and wheelbarrow went to.

After several weeks we were called upon to man the assault boats for a period of time, and a very eventful week ensued while training the coxswains. Most of the budding coxswains succeeded in mastering the finer points of maritime manoeuvres despite appalling drawbacks such as when an outboard motor unclamped itself from the stern of the assault boat and hurled itself to the bottom of the river with one Sergeant hanging on to the throttle. The Sergeant was subsequently recovered but not the engine. That week turned out to be a disastrous one financially for this particular Sergeant, since one of his tracker dogs decided to disappear one day, presumably in search of a female companion. It would not do to say that the Sergeant was unduly worried about this, but the goat owned by the platoon of the South Wales Borderers attached to the Bn is now a goat which is able to follow a ground scent. Happily for this resourceful Sergeant, the dog decided to return three days later after its "Absence without Leave".

For a short period of time, both combat tracker teams occupied a nearby platoon position. This was a controversial piece of ground defended from surprise attack with every conceivable item of defence stores. Nobody could say what the tactical value of the ground would be to the enemy should they have decided to capture it, but it did provide a convenient, rugged, thoroughly military tactical position where pressmen and high ranking officers were taken just

before lunch. Its proximity to TAC HQ enabled those worthies to get back in time for a cocktail before lunch. Sgt Waters and Sgt "Danny" Flinn, together with their Combat Tracker Teams, took over this position from the Royal Artillery and put in many a hard day's work to improve the defences and living conditions.

Tragedy befell Sergeant Flinn while working on the position. In his zeal to meet up with the ration boat, he had the misfortune to fall heavily on his posterior; the which being damaged beyond local repair, he was backloaded to BMH, Singapore, for a long stay. Fortunately he is now once again back with us.

Some members of the platoon were fortunate enough to be singled out for a patrol of the river estuaries near TAC HQ. The operation was appropriately called "Neptune", since it entailed living in a small cabin cruiser for seven days. It was not unlike one of these holidays one is forever hearing about but which one can never afford. The lucky individuals were firstly the platoon commander who was ably backed up by Cpl Leslie, Cpl Duncan, who now that he has grown a moustache looks not unlike a walrus, Pte Simpson, a pillar of strength as far as signalling goes within the platoon; Ptes Brooks, Robinson and Mathers (commonly known as "Poopie" due to a mispronunciation by one of the Iban trackers). Poopie did a grand job on the patrol—not only was he one of the radio operators, but in addition he was given the thankless task of acting as chief Chef and dish washer. Only once did he batter anyone over the head with a frying pan. The operation was a success as well as enjoyable, twenty-two people being apprehended by us for contravening the law.

One of the ways the Combat Tracker Team keeps itself up to scratch is by following a track which is laid by a small number of men from TAC HQ to one of the forward Company areas. On one such occasion a track laying party arrived several days after the trackers had arrived at the destination. Let it be pointed out that nobody ever gets lost in the jungle; some just take longer than others.

Lastly, let us look at the various characters that go to make up this versatile organisation, the Recce Platoon. We have lost Sgt Melville on his promotion to Sergeant; we wish him the best of luck in 'D' Company; we have gained Sgt R. Hepburn, RAVC, who has already done much good to our tracker dogs who have had the misfortune to be troubled with heart worm from time to time. Incidentally, Sgt Hepburn is an ex-member of the Battalion from our previous tour in Malaya. Number one Combat Tracker Team is commanded by Sgt Waters, one of the old hands in the platoon; Cpl Leslie is his staunch second-in-command; Pte Simpson is the signal maestro; Pte Robinson and Pte Brooks are the two covermen; L/Cpl Bruce is the first dog handler and Pte McArthur is the second handler. The visual trackers consist of three very good Ibans, their names being Jamo, Lutal and Jungai.

Number two Combat Tracker Team is commanded by Sgt Flinn who was brought into the platoon for this particular task. Apart from the unfortunate incident concerning his nether regions, he has taken to the job like a certain outboard motor took to the bottom of the river, and is ably backed up by Cpl Duncan, his second-in-command; Pte Robertson as the signaller; Pte Aitken and Pte Mathers are the two covermen. The two dog handlers are L/Cpl Moir and Pte Wiseman who has recently been replaced by Pte Sim. The visual trackers consist of three first-rate Ibans whose names are Unding, Rabar and Jarau.

We have dealt with the scout car crews, and it only remains to speak of two more people. Firstly L/Cpl Aitken who has had a variety of employments, his current one being the supervisor of the civil labour gangs at Kalabakan. Not a glamorous job but nevertheless an essential one. Secondly Pte A. Harper who has been employed as the Platoon Commander's Orderly, which has entailed a wide variety of work, from jungle bashing to draft training. Lastly the Platoon Commander has changed yet again, and it is now Lieutenant R. S. Fawcus.

Let us conclude by saying that on the whole we are enjoying life in Borneo, and are looking forward to our next area, where we hope to have a more active time. We are of course always thinking of our return to the UK, and we expect a large fan club to welcome us at the airport when we get there. Dates and timings to follow.

M.T. PLATOON

MTO: Captain G. H. Dunn
MT Tech S/Sgt: Staff Sergeant J. Leggat
MT Sgt: Sergeant G. MacDonald

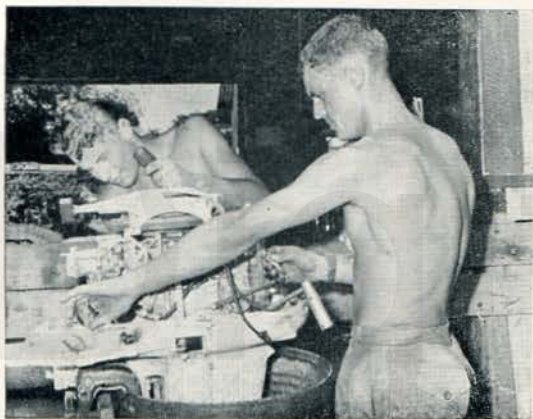
When the Battalion move from Kota Belud to our present operational area took place the MT Platoon moved in three phases. First the Advance Party went by air. Soon to follow were our vehicles, stores and drivers—those journeyed from Jesselton aboard LST Empire Kittiwake. The remainder of our staff travelled in HMS Albion. Those of us on board the LST took the opportunity of enjoying two days complete relaxation. The weather was good, the sea calm and so the cruise was much appreciated. Our arrival at Tawau Jetty meant the end of our period of inactivity. Unloading operations began and vehicles and stores were soon dispatched to some of the forward locations by means of a raft type contraption known as a "Uniflote".

The "Control Room" of the MTO, who can now add to his titles (mentioned in our last notes) that of Managing Director, was situated at Main Headquarters. Apart from transport problems he has had to make decisions which have included power and light, water supply and "shipping". Throughout the platoon we have found ourselves involved with generators supplying power, light and water refrigerators, outboard motors, water pumps, charging sets, assault boats, helicopters, mechanical saws and occasionally transport. We have flatly refused to accept the Dhobi Contract.

Our Mail Order Service, situated in the Technical Stores, has been kept busy supplying items requested by our representatives in the many areas that they have operated. Urgently required components, not held by us, have been signalled for by the Managing Director from our warehouse, commonly known as 97 OMP. These spares have then been sent to us by the fastest possible means and so forward to those in need. Every endeavour has been made to keep the wheels rolling, the pumps pumping and the "Gennys" generating.

Practically every kind of vehicle repair from an engine change to renewing a fuse has been carried out by us. Sergeant Sanderson, REME, and Craftsman Cowles, REME, have been constantly employed repairing outboard motors. Sergeant Sanderson is soon to leave us for the hazards of civilian life. We wish him every success and for his efforts here we feel he richly deserves the award of OBM (to the uninitiated, Outboard Motor).

At TAC HQ "the firm" were responsible for the installation of a new four ton 27½ KVA Diesel



Repairing Outboard Motor Engines at Tawau.

Left to right: Cfn Cowles REME, and Sgt Sanderson REME

Generator. This solved all the power and lighting problems there which had become a constant source of irritation. It also saved Corporal Sanders from premature old age. Corporal Douglas was in charge of our small MT section there and coped well.

Corporal Garden had another section with 'B' Company for a time but later joined us at Main HQ where he assisted with the POL accounting. Corporal Begg and Corporal Gibbon kept an eye on the transport at Main HQ. Some of the comments and remarks of Corporal Begg, a very experienced MT NCO, about maintenance, inspection and repair of vehicles—plus the work he was capable of undertaking, are worthy of a qualified vehicle mechanic.

Of the few recent changes within the platoon the principle one involved Sgt Fryers. He is now Mr. Fryers of Aberdeen. We wish him and his family all the very best. Best wishes also to Private Morrison (the man who tamed "the Pig"). May he also find success in civilian life. To fill the vacancy left by Sergeant Fryers we now have Staff Sergeant Leggat. We also congratulate Staff Sergeant McDonald on his promotion to Company Sergeant Major. He has been with us since November 1962 and is, at the time of writing, enjoying a spell in the UK on a KAPE tour. Our congratulations also go to Lance Corporal Simmers on his promotion. Finally a welcome to Craftsman Wood who was posted to us recently.

We are now preparing our vehicles for inspection prior to our move from Tawau. This will be carried out by the REME Inspectorate who will assess the battleworthy state of each vehicle. Also in progress is the packing of stores which will soon be returning to Kota Belud.

Stop Press

Our hearty congratulations go to Sergeant Bell, our long serving REME Sgt—wait for it, folks. There are very few left in the Sergeants Mess and they will be one short in March 1966, that is of course referring to bachelors. Sergeant Bell, we hear, is engaged to be married.

QUARTERMASERS DEPARTMENT

Quartermaster: Major C. Michie, MBE
RQMS: WO II R. S. Hay, BEM

It would appear that recently every time notes for the 'Tiger and Sphinx' are due they are written in a new location; this edition's notes are no exception. I

don't think security will be broken when it is said the following two editions will also probably be written yet again in different locations. As in all moves of the Battalion the Quartermaster's Department has had its fair share of work and then after a few hectic weeks life has returned to a steady throb, however it is doubtful whether the same can be said of Tawau. Here a supply organisation exists which needs the backing and co-operation of every person in the Department to ensure that supplies of normal and abnormal nature get to the forward locations by boat or helicopter. To enable this system to function some changes of employment were made and here we saw just how adaptable some of the staff were. Sergeant W. Dack, our Master Tailor, was given the job of Forward Supply Sergeant and was responsible for the collecting in of all stores etcetera for forward delivery. He was assisted by another member of the Tailoring Staff, Corporal D. Laffey, who is Tactical Headquarters representative and who has travelled the rivers so much that on the rare occasions when he is seen ashore it is with the rolling gait of a veteran matelot. Sergeant Dack unfortunately had to go home to the United Kingdom on compassionate leave and his hustling and bustling of the Port Staff is missed. This harrassing job was taken over by Colour Sergeant A. Williams, whose main aim in life meanwhile is to see if all the boats promised for conveying his stores ever exist!

Whilst the Forward Supply Organisation is the prominent job meanwhile behind the scenes there has been good support. The Ration Staff normally consisting of Corporal J. Sutherland and Private J. McMillan, the two old stagers, have been reinforced by Private E. Lawrence, who attacks the job with gusto and gives the "old 'uns" the chance of a breather.

Due to the temporary and then permanent absence of the dreaded Sned, Private W. Sneddon, this noble employment (Hygiene Orderly), was taken over by Private R. Taylor. Though reluctant, he performed well and the whiteness of the water shows that he must now be considered one of Borneo's leading authorities on Water Purification and all bi-products thereof. Private Sneddon meanwhile after a forced stay in hospital is assisting the Regimental Policemen. Private J. Forbes has now taken over as Hygiene expert?

Further sights such as Private E. Selkirk, another one of our RAOC Tailors, painting, and Private G. Lemon, normally deputy clerk, doing a bit of carpentry were and are not unusual—such talent. The two old 'uns (not including Corporal T. Cossar), still plod along. To achieve what we thought competition our Clerk of many years was knighted and succumbed to temptation and was duly promoted to Lance Corporal, of course, none other than J. Craig. The only noticeable difference so far is that his typewriter has become a shade better at spelling. Actually he can double, it was noted at a stand-to the other evening. Lance Corporal W. Clark is also still with us, we would miss him without a doubt for if he is not treading on somebody's toes trying to help out, he is giving us his latest rendering of some foreign tunes, and they are quite entertaining.

The Pioneer Section is still much the same, however, in their new abode which is caged, they look very well. Sergeant T. McGilvray had rather an unpleasant moment when one of his bright staff locked him in, only to be released by the RQMS. Privates A. Goodali and A. Grant are meanwhile hoping to keep the local children happy when they leave here with swings and see-saws which they are now busy

producing. Private Grant is now fed up trying to convince us that he forgot to sign off—he seems quite content to bide with us for another three years. Private T. Beattie—an artist did I say—he is so colourful these days that 'D' Company want to know where all the red paint is coming from. Corporal H. MacConnell and Private G. Lillie have been giving the Section a good name at TAC Headquarters by building and doing all kind of renovations; no wonder the Contractor wonders where all his stores go.

These notes have in general dealt with the personalities of the staff, it would be wrong and no doubt detrimental not to mention the staunch REME members, our Armourers, headed by AQMS C. Munro who hails from Keith, and ably assisted by Lance Corporal G. Lory. We must not forget Craftsman G. Pilling, he is one of these chaps who if anything goes wrong you look for, not to repair but to blame. The AQMS disappears from time to time visiting the various locations—we feel that he has a competition in hand to see if he can get in more flying hours than the Pay Team! Readers might like to know we have an ancient member, one Sergeant R. Swinnoock, still at it in the Accommodation Stores—in fact he is as fit as ever, playing all types of sports but it's beginning to show, he is now a bit hard of hearing—or is it that his office is too handy for the Regimental Sergeant Major to call him.

During our stay in Tawau certain members of the Staff have managed to slip off to Singapore for two weeks Rest and Recuperation Leave—from the look of some of them they could do with a rest when they came back.

Unusual as it may seem we haven't heard any fantastic tales of the mystic East, even those that were there before are amazingly quiet—has Singapore changed that much?

AIR PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Captain A. B. Bower, PWO
2IC: Lieutenant S. W. St. J. Lytle, R I R F
NCO i/c Servicing: S/Sgt H. R. Sheather, REME

AC Technicians A & E:

Cpl F. W. Baird, REME
Cpl R. S. Kelly, REME
Cpl W. A. D. Kennedy, REME

Observers/Crewman:

Pte A. Henderson, 1 Gordons
Pte R. B. Scott, 1 Gordons

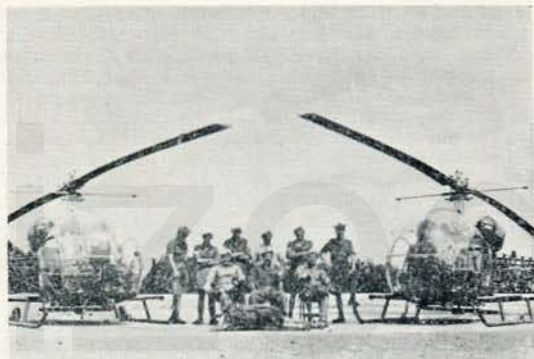
Attached

Airport Manager: L/Cpl G. M. Gallagher, 1 Gordons

The Air Platoon of 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders was formed in April 1965 at Kluang, Johore, Malaysia. It will be of interest to readers before reporting about the Platoon itself, to discover how this event came about.

The Ministry of Defence decided some time ago that certain units of the British Army would have, and be responsible for, their own helicopters. This decision came into effect in late 1964. A committee had been appointed to evaluate the most suitable helicopter for this purpose. The final choice was the Agusta-Bell 47G-3B-1, now known as the Sioux AH Mk. 1. Each unit was established to hold three such helicopters, but only two being issued in the initial stages of "integration".

Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop was responsible for supplying personnel and equipment to each of the selected units. In this way the members of the Battalion Air Platoon came together at Kluang early in 1965. The aircraft duly arrived in crates and



THE AIR PLATOON

Back Row (l. to r.): Pte Henderson, Cpl Kennedy, REME, Cpl Kelly, REME, S/Sgt Sheather, REME, Cpl Baird, REME, Pte Scott. (Seated (l. to r.): Capt A. Bower, PWO, Lt Col R. W. Smith, Lt S. Lytle, R I R F. In front: L/Cpl Gallagher

all was hustle and bustle as they were assembled, and test flown prior to being handed to the Training Flight at Kluang for pilot theatre training.

Whilst all this was going on at Kluang, far away in Kota Belud the Bn was busy training and working up for operations in Borneo. It was heard that the MTO was going hairless over the unannounced arrival of some 30 bone domes which he seriously considered issuing to all Platoon Commanders and Company Sergeant Majors to protect them from the paper bombardment that was taking place at the time. Privates Scott and Henderson arrived at Kluang in early March to undergo a 5-day crewman course, where they were promptly informed that they were staying at Kluang, probably until May when the Air Platoon was scheduled to join the Bn (cries of joy in a foreign language were heard emanating from their room throughout their first night at Kluang). It was not until late April that the Air Platoon finally received their two Sioux. This had its problems as the Platoon was due to sail from Singapore on HMS Albion early on 1st May. However, the Platoon managed to board on time. The heavy stores, mainly consisting of a/c spares and equipment "looted" from Kluang, plus Corporal Kelly, Privates Scott and Henderson boarding on 31st May. Captain Bower, Lieutenant Lytle and Staff Sergeant Sheather flew on to HMS Albion at 0900 1st May whilst the ship was steaming along the Johore Straits.

The Air Platoon's first real contact with the Bn was when the Bn boarded Albion by Wessex helicopter at Kota Belud. There was very little time to get acquainted but some progress was made.

It had been decided that the Air Platoon would operate from TAC HQ. An airstrip is located there and from the flying point of view it is a good location. On arrival on 5th May, it was found to be devoid of any accommodation for personnel and aircraft. Now, some seven weeks later, there are two very fine garages complete with strip lighting, a reasonably comfortable office, and tented accommodation for personnel and technical stores. A great deal of hard work and planning has taken place which has resulted in comfortable accommodation and a reasonably functional platoon. A vote of thanks must be given to 2 Troop of 9 Independent Para Squadron for all their hard work and assistance.

Operationally the platoon has undertaken a number of tasks including Air OP for 97 Battery ('Lawsons Company) 4 Light Regiment RA, visiting naval

ships and to make things absolutely inter-Service both pilots have undertaken airborne Forward Air Controlling with the RAF. A good deal of reconnaissance and liaison sorties have been flown. If communications ever failed, which in spite of what many people say, is not very often, the aircraft has acted as a radio relay. But only once has it taken off to do this as a specific task. On one occasion the fresh rations for TAC HQ were sent in error to 'D' Company. To overcome the inconvenience the Sioux did two underslung load sorties and produced two days fresh rations for TAC HQ before 'D' Company could make a start into them. In addition to this we have had some very interesting underslung loads, one of which was of particular interest to "Pronto".

The occasional "aeromedevac" has been carried out both sitting and in the litter on the side of the aircraft. The casualties have often been local workers hurt in tree felling accidents, so that many of these sorties have been good for the "Hearts and Minds" campaign.

On the technical and flying side the Air Platoon have been very pleased with the performance of the Sioux. Even allowing for an engine and transmission change on XT 115 the aircraft have always managed to fulfil the hours required each month.

These notes are perhaps an ideal opportunity to thank all members of the Bn for making our attachment so happy right from the beginning. Socially we find you all "jolly decent chaps" even though you are difficult to understand at times. Particular thanks to Captain George Dunn who has obviously taken a great deal of trouble to look after us from the embryo stage. He must also be congratulated for his unselfish choice of two crewmen. Privates Scott and Henderson have proved their excellence as ground handlers and at the same time qualified as rear observers, a detailed course including map reading, voice procedure, landing field and landing site selection and other aviation mystery. The Adjutant also showed good form and gave us a very good first impression of the Battalion.

We hope that we have satisfied our customers but like the many commercial firms we will strive to give better service in the future.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Editor's Note

When the Air Platoon joined the Battalion it was found necessary to issue the following precis to those serving in the Platoon from the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire, Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Precis No. 1

General

It is felt that certain personnel at present serving with the Regiment from "Overseas Establishments" may be experiencing a language problem. To help them in their day to day tasks a guide has been produced giving some useful day to day expressions and phrases. This has been produced in conjunction with JSP 9, Communications with Foreign Arms and Services—Allied Procedure.

Examples

- 1 a Aye Aye min, foo ye daein?
b Good Morning Sir, How are you today?
c **Answer**
Nae bad, chavvin awa.
d **Translation**
I am frightfully well and going about my business

- 2 a Far wis ye astreen min?
b Where were you last night my dear fellow?
c I wis oot wi ma quine fir a goupin fae a skirlie.
d Actually I was entertaining a young lady to dinner at an extremely fashionable restaurant.
- 3 a Dis yon beastie flee?
b Does that extraordinary contraption take to the air?
c Whiles it dis and whiles it disnae.
d Sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't.
- 4 a Is the billie that minds yon the same as a vet?
b Does the man that looks after that contraption do the same sort of job as a Veterinary Surgeon?
c Whiles aye and whiles nae.
d In some ways yes and in others no.
- 5 a Fit wye dis yon beastie flee?
b Can you please explain the mechanical process which results in the machine taking to the air?
c The same wye as a spinner digger that whirls roon and roon diggin tatties?
d It operates roughly the same way as a mechanical potato lifter which revolves at many revolutions per minute and in the process lifts the potatoes into the air.
- 6 a Dis yer beastie ate muckle stuff in a yokin?
b Does your helicopter use much fuel in a mornings flying?
c It his a muckle drouth and drinks a fair suppie o stuffie.
d From a technical point of view this is hard to answer but generally speaking the fuel consumption is fairly high.
- 7 a Is the mannie that huds the reins o yer beastie first or second orraman?
b Is the pilot of the aircraft a Captain or Lieutenant?
c Whiles first orraman and whiles second orraman.
d Sometimes a Captain does and sometimes a Lieutenant pilots it.
- 8 a Dis it tak ye lang till yer in full set o yer beastie?
b Did it take you a long time to learn how to fly a helicopter?
c Gawd min fin a learnt it took me fae a finished the plootil a started again fir the next crop.
d To become a helicopter pilot you must possess extraordinary qualities, KEEN APTITUDE, NERVES OF STEEL, CAT LIKE EYES AND THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. From the time you are first accepted until the time you finish, if you are good enough to survive the course, which takes close on a year.
- 9 a Div ye ken ony ither thing bar huddin on tae the reins o the beastie?
b Are you qualified to do anything else except fly helicopters?
c We dae oanything fae huddin the reins o the beastie tae speeling oor muckle
d We are extremely versatile in our profession and can not only fly but talk on a great diversity of subjects of which we have much knowledge.
- 10 a Wid ye be mash by ony chance?
b Do you happen to come from South of the Border?
c I div and a fair sculter it is.
d I regret that I do live South of the Border but I must confess that I do not care for it.
- 11 a A've taen yer sheen tae the cobbler tae be soutered.

- b Your shoes were in a state of distain so I took them to the Shoemaker to be repaired.
- 12 a Fit about a wee tap?
b I regret I am financially embarrassed. Could you possibly lend me some for an indefinite period.
c I hae muckle. Foo muckle dae ye want?
d Actually I am well cared for in my profession. How much do you want?
- 13 a A'h sair peched wi yokin tae ye.
b I am physically and mentally fatigued after spending a complete day trying to repair your helicopter.
- 14 a Hiv ye ever couped yer beastie?
b Have you ever had the misfortune to make a forced landing in your helicopter?
- 15 a Wid ye gie me a hurl in yer beastie?
b I would be grateful if you would have me tasked by Sioux.
- 16 a Dae ye ken far yer gaun min?
b Can you give me an exact grid reference of your present location?

Footnote

If any overseas personnel still have any problems over the language, the Battalion Information Room will be only too pleased to give assistance and if required will run evening classes up to Preliminary Interpretship Level. Members are to give the Hearts and Minds campaign the fullest co-operation and it is essential YOU SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.

CHURCH NOTES

Those at Tac HQ over the past four months had the privilege of worshipping in a new and nicely constructed Church built by Wallace Bay Limited and our predecessors. Nothing is real, says G. K. Chesterton, until it becomes local, and visions of one Universal Church against all barriers of race and language became somewhat of a reality in Kalabakan, where we joined in a Service every Sunday evening with other members of the Christian community, including the fine Karen Choir, who led the singing and usually gave an anthem during the Service.

The Padre's parish included, of course, the several Company positions, to which on Sundays he was swiftly, comfortably and efficiently conveyed by one or the other of our pilots in a Sioux helicopter. Would that the singing at every Service was like that at 'D' Company's gatherings for worship, led by an able and practised Choir under the leadership of 2Lt Peter Mahon, or the unrehearsed volume of sound from many throats in 'B' Company when met together for the same purpose! By way of contrast, too, there was the quiet atmosphere of a little Church beside the airfield at Wallace Bay, which from time to time members of TAG gathered for a Service. These occasions will long be memories of a place in which strife amongst nations had an all too prominent part, and the Padre is grateful to the Commanding Officer and the others who made possible for him what was known in the Battalion variously as the "halo-mail run" and the "holy orbit" or the "purple flight".

One or two special Services deserve recording: the Battalion assembled on the airfield at Kota Belud for a Drumhead Service before we left for our operational area in early May. The setting of the Service with Mount Kinabalu for background, was quite memorable, and it was good to have the Military Band to lead the singing. Another occasion was a sad



Drumhead Service at Kota Belud, Mount Kinabalu in the background

one—the Memorial Service for Brigadier The Earl of Caithness, Colonel of the Regiment, at which a token number of members of the Battalion gathered to remember before God his life and service in this capacity. Thus we added to the tributes that were more fully paid at the Memorial Service in St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

BIRTHS

- 23863542 Pte Anderson, L., HQ, Son Leonard, born at Aberdeen on 28 June 65.
23096449 Pte Angus, W., 'D', Son Iain, born at Edinburgh on 16 February 65.
23783994 Pte Clarke, I., HQ, Son Murray Grant, born at Edinburgh on 21 July 65.
23930023 Pte Flett, D., "D", Daughter Michele, born at Aberdeen on 7 May, 65.
23930021 L/Cpl Grant, J., 'B', Daughter Denise Margaret, born at Peterhead on 27 April 65.
23547977 L/Cpl Murray, A., 'D', Son Anthony, born at Inverurie on 3 March 65.
23549268 L/Cpl McDonald, J., 'B', Son Robert Leigh, born at Edinburgh on 13 July 65.
23525579 Cpl Paterson, J., 'B', Son Alan born at Edinburgh on 28 July 65.
23734777 L/Cpl Ritchie, B., 'B', Daughter Lindsey Anne, born at Plimpton on 9 August 65.
23904227 Pte Webster, L., 'A', Son Leslie, born at Edinburgh on 11 August 65.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In the dawn of a new day we cast a glance over our shoulder and bade silent adieu to the formidable sentinel, Mount Kinabalu.

We were off! The Advance Party rumbled out on transport to Jesselton and thence by plane and boat to the border area. The main party followed up a few days later in the Commando ship, HMS Albion. Mess life was quickly established and the Tawau and Kalabakan Messes were in business in record time, firstly to prime the Royal Marine Commandos on their departure and second to mellow us slightly for the work ahead. Other less fortunate members 'roughing it in the ulu' have had no opportunity to share in the social joys of HQ Mess life but perhaps, in a few days as we foregather in HMS Albion to return to Kota Belud, we will give them a welcome with Dimple Haig and remove the last vestige of native living and leeches and cultivate them once again into "Ye Civilised Worthies of Old".

Tawau Mess

Mess life in Tawau has undergone a great transformation in the field of sports and amenities. Volley ball has become a "must" for any member wishing to be included in our sporting fraternity. It has become a regular evening ritual for the enthusiasts to don their sporting togs, i.e. SQMS Greaves, the ration storeman—his droopy drawers; Sergeant Artingstall, the mobile dispensary—his bikini briefs, and Colour Sergeant West, the reception clerk—his army issue, sexy, PT type pants, then to turn the volley ball pitch into what would appear to be a cross between a Buffalo Wallow and a Roman Orgy. It is with sad regret that I must report the team's failure to win the league cup which is currently held by our Naval Gunfire Support Officers Detachment—commonly called NGFSO. Our team deserved some sort of recognition even if only for having the audacity to enter the competition.

Our indoor entertainments have had their changes as well. The ancient and traditional game of Euchre has given way to the more modern "twelve card". Amazing though it is that such a fine old (Antedeluvian at least) game should succumb to the modern trend it must be quite in order, as the Regimental Sergeant Major has been noticed looking frantically through the "Yellow Peril" repeatedly, and obviously can't find any instructions. The dart board has not been exempt from any radical change either, the orthodox game being replaced by a "new to us" game "Micky Mouse" for which we have a doubles trophy. It has been played for twice and has been won both occasions by attached personnel. AQMS Munro and Sergeant Bell, both REME, having the honour of first possession, Staff Sergeant Clifton, RAPC, with Sergeant Bates, our Ordnance Detachment Sergeant, who has now returned to his own unit, winning the second competition.

The next competition is scheduled to be held when most of our attached members are out in Company locations. In that way we may be lucky enough to ensure that the name of at least one Gordon Highlander is inscribed on the trophy.

In the very near future we shall be losing our Outboard Motor Specialist, Sergeant Sanderson, REME. "Cheers" Sandy, and all the best in Civvy Street. I don't suppose we'll ever find out if the handbag you were always looking for was really for Mrs. Sanderson.

The departure of 9 Independent Para Squadron Royal Engineers left the Regimental Sergeant Major the proud owner of an umbrella presented to him by Sergeant Joe Brine. It may well stand up to the occasional cloudburst that the Regimental Sergeant Major has experienced here, but somehow I don't visualise him finding much use for it at Bridge of Don or Montrose. While on the subject, we take the opportunity of Bon Voyage sir, no doubt we'll all be seeing you in Edinburgh before you finally go "all civvy" on us.

We were invited and duly entertained by the crew on board LST Empire Kittiwake on Saturday, 7th August. It was a most enjoyable evening and "visitor" Sergeant Joss left the crew rather puzzled as to his nationality by his rendering of "Nicky Tams", which he sang in his usual versatile way. I heard of one of the crew mumbling something about his voice being like that of a bird. We'll give Wullie the benefit of the doubt and take it that he meant a Kittiwake and not a Corncrake.

Another visitor, who I am sure would like to be left nameless, made a very impressionable job of wetting his new tapes whilst here.

Finally we are wondering who was referred to when it was overheard that a certain member of the mess has his wallet so permanently closed that when he had occasion to open it once, the Queen's eyes on the banknotes were seen to blink with the sudden light (should make a good treasurer).



WO II "Les" Dunn, BEM (RSM designate) in his office at Kalabakan

Kalabakan Mess

Kalabakan is less accessible than Tawau, nevertheless we lead a fairly active Mess life and always enjoy a visit from one of our far flung brothers whenever they drop in from Tawau, or any other Sangar location.

We had a very entertaining evening on Saturday, 21st August at which the Commanding Officer and Officers joined us in force. Entertainment ranged from "blow tennis" to horse racing and a variety of other "money making" games including a ten cent peep at what the soldier orderly saw! A most enlightening experience and a very popular side show if the queue of Officers, who shall remain nameless, and the accumulation of ten cent pieces is anything to go by. An excellent barbeque and buffet supper, prepared by Sergeant Roberts, was devoured with relish and fortified everyone for the long night ahead.

The highlight of the evening was a rip-roaring programme transmitted on Channel 2 of Kalabakan

Television, called "This is Your Life". The show was compered by Colour Sergeant Cameron. The subject was our well known Padre, Major W. G. A. Wright, MBE, BD, CF, who responded admirably and clearly recognised the motley collection of friends of early days. We are pleased you took the path of righteousness Padre, leaving your erstwhile "friends" to stumble along their crooked paths obviously too far gone to redeem themselves. Congratulations to all Mess members who made the evening so thoroughly enjoyable and imaginative.

The usual traffic of new faces joining us and the departure of others, legitimate and otherwise, still continues and whether you be coming or going you have our best wishes for whatever lies ahead.

As all visitors to Kalabakan know, there is a steep hill between the Mess and the Offices and Stores. After many a weary trudge up the hill Colour Sergeant Heffren has had a seat built for himself half way up. Needless to say the seat has been christened the "Rest and be Thankful".

The Mess itself has had a structural alteration by the addition of "Mustapha" which was declared officially open by Mr. Ken Peters during his short stay here. We must say it is a very modern innovation for Kalabakan.

We will all miss, when we leave here, the nightly argument between Colour Sergeant Cameron and Sergeant Dowding about whose turn it is to buy the Coca Cola's. Probably they hope that somebody will get fed up and buy one for them. We are quite confident that this is the only Mess with two straws to every bottle.

Finally we would all like to take this opportunity to say "Cheerio" to Sergeant Hancock of 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers, who is now about to leave us and return to his own Battalion in Hong Kong. Good luck, Taff, we hope you enjoyed your stay with us as much as we enjoyed having you.

MILITARY BAND NOTES

Band President: Major M. H. Burge
Bandmaster: WO 1 C. A. Harper, ARCM
Band Sergeant: Staff Sergeant J. Thomson

Kota Belud

The main function of the Band at Kota Belud was to win the hearts and minds of the population. We played at almost every Kampong in our area, and performed frequently in Jesselton, where the Dance Band were resident Band at the Gardenia Club on Saturday nights.

The highlight of our stay in Kota Belud was undoubtedly the Battalion Concert. This was very well produced by the Bandmaster.

Sergeant R. Lochrie obliged by singing "Bless this House" and "My Ain Folk". The audience giving a hearty applause, were treated to an encore.

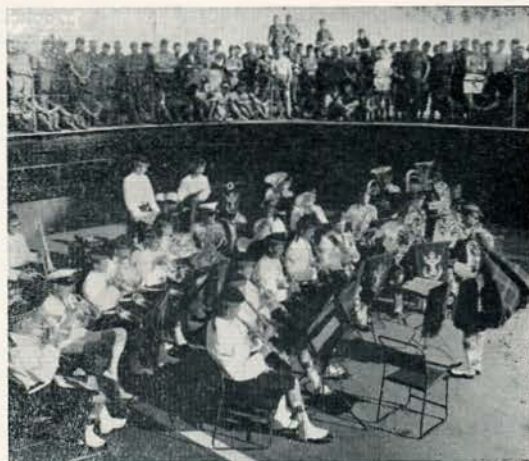
The duty Piper and Drummer sketch was well put over by Privates Murphy and Piper I. Mortimer, albeit they had a few before they went on.

The star of the show was Staff Sergeant A. Clifton, Royal Army Pay Corps. His performance as the guest conductor was little short of a riot.

Our stay at Kota Belud was coming to an end, and so began preparations for the move to East Brigade.

Move to East Brigade

We were flown out from Kota Belud by helicopters on 3 May to the Marine Carrier HMS Albion. During the voyage the Band gave a concert which was enjoyed by all.



The Military Band performing on HMS Albion

May 5th found us anchored off Tawau, and once again we were transported by helicopters to "B" Company Camp at Bombali.

First impressions of Bombali were favourable, even though we were allotted a tented area. The weather was glorious, and we set to work digging drains and making general camp improvements, for the expected rains, which came the next day. A most amusing incident happened. All the drains that had been dug led to Lance Corporal R. Williams' tent, and when the rains came one could see Lance Corporal R. Williams with bucket and spade working overtime to divert the torrents from flooding him out.

After a few days of settling in we got down to some hard work, practice, and engagements when possible, in an area where transport problems are numerous.

Between times we supplied Camp Guards and Escorts to Kalabakan and Serundong. Bandsman S. Coventry joined us at Bombali from the Highland Brigade Training Depot, and Sergeant J. McCulloch left on compassionate leave to the United Kingdom.

There will probably be lots of stories told about Bombali. Bandsman D. McIntosh killing a 15 foot python. Bandsman D. Brown serenading the natives on the river banks on the way to Kalabakan, and a host of others.

Our stay at Bombali was shortlived. We started packing for our return to the United Kingdom, and on June 9th flew from Tawau to Singapore on the first stage of the journey home.

June 26th was the day we had been waiting for so eagerly, all but four of the Band emplaned for the United Kingdom, the rest followed a week after.

Although we were naturally very happy about going home, we would not have missed the trip at any price. We gained a lot of valuable experience and brought back a lot of happy memories.

United Kingdom

Our first engagements on returning from leave were, Dunbar and Princess Street Gardens.

Anstruther

We supplied the music for the Royal Air Force Guard of Honour at Anstruther on the occasion of naming the new Lifeboat by the Duchess of Gloucester.

The Bandmaster was presented to the Duchess, who was extremely interested in the Band and spent several minutes chatting about the Regiment and their role in Borneo.

These were followed by visits to the Regimental areas where we played at Keith, Buckie, Alford, Stonehaven, Tomintoul and various agricultural shows in the area.

We would like to thank Company Sergeant Major G. Rose (an old friend of ours) for organising refreshments at some of the towns.

During our visit to Aberdeen we welcomed back Sergeant J. McCulloch who reported "all well at home".

Arrivals

We welcome Bandsmen S. Coventry and W. Innes from the Highland Brigade Boys Unit and hope their stay with us will be happy and interesting.

Births and Marriages

Congratulations to Lance Corporal and Mrs. D. Greig on the birth of a son, and to Bandsman I. McPherson on joining the marriage ranks.

Promotions

Congratulations on the following promotions:

Sergeant J. Thomson to Staff Sergeant.
Corporal R. Forsyth to Sergeant.
Bandsmen D. Greig and A. Bannerman to
Lance Corporals.

We have not had the opportunity of competitive sport but hope to claim a few scalps by the next issue.

Finally, we are now in the depths of the Edinburgh Tattoo, with the Liverpool Tattoo in September, of which we will mention in greater detail next quarter.

We apologise for depriving the Band President of his clarinet practice by taking his instrument home with us, but hope he resumes practice next year.

Oh well, better get an electric fire, the days are getting colder.

Jock the Glock

FAMILIES CLUB

Whilst sorely missing our menfolk, we believe that the companionship, consolation and coffee offered by the Families' Club has helped along the last eight months for all of us who have been able to attend the weekly meetings.

Of course, we have not entirely idled away our time either. We have had speakers on many subjects who, on the whole, have managed to hold their own against the children. Typing and dressmaking classes have been held and were well attended. There have been several outings starting with a Saturday afternoon tour of Edinburgh and a drive round King Arthur's seat. In the Easter holidays we had a very successful visit to the Zoo and were lucky to have a fine morning. Shortly after this, thirty of us set off one evening for Glasgow where, through the kindness of Mr. George Runcey, we watched a telerecording of 'The White Heather Club'. A visit to an excellent fish and chip establishment rounded off a very pleasant evening. At the end of June, just before the school holidays, we had our much looked forward to visit to Butlin's at Ayr. Forty wives and ninety children were able to make the trip and we were delighted to see some of the families from Stirling as well.

Looking back on the year our main regret is that



Families at Butlins, Ayr

there have not been more families in quarters in Edinburgh to swell the members at the club meetings and take advantage of the outings which have been arranged. We hope the new quarters will soon be completed so that more of the families will be together during the Battalion's stay in Edinburgh.

Over the winter months, meetings will be on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 10-30 a.m. New members are always welcome.

★ ★

HQ/Q 230
'D' Coy

HQ Coy (Tac HQ)
16 July 65

DEFENCES

Reference A: Your Logreq No 2 dated 30 June.
B: QM/29/1 dated 15 July.

1. For your information, we will indent for many man traps, each one to be fitted with "ARS" (attachments rectangular Serudong) for catching out 'D' Coy when they ask for something outrageous.

2. Please submit, in detail, the action to be taken by all ranks if your man trap catches a woman.

(I. D. Martineau)

Copy to:
2IC.

Major, Camp Commandant.

★ ★

Answers

1. Sea. 2. Picnic. 3. First Lieutenant. 4. Sanitary Orderly. 5. Bottled soft drinks. 6. Naval issue cigarettes. 7. Chief ERA. 8. Naval cocoa. 9. Royal Marine. 10. Jungle juice (Lemonade powder).

HIGHLAND BRIGADE DEPOT

Commanding Officer:

Lt Colonel J. Davie, MBE, MC, QO Hldrs.

Adjutant: Captain E. F. Gordon, Gordons.

OC HQ Company:

Major R. Ritchie, MBE, MC, A & SH.

OC Training Company: Major O. R. Tweedy, B.W.

OC Junior Soldiers Company:

Captain N. J. C. Sutherland, QO Hldrs.

2IC Junior Soldiers Company:

Lieutenant D. C. Munro, QO Hldrs.

Training Subalterns:

Lieutenant D. M. H. Du Boulay, Gordons.

Lieutenant N. J. Ridley, QO Hldrs.

Lieutenant E. N. de B. de B. de Broe Ferguson, B.W.

Lieutenant S. F. Sloane, A & SH

Lieutenant G. H. Peebles, Gordons.

Depot Notes

It is a great pity that the Gulf Stream never reached Aberdeen in this so called summer season. Fog and intermittent tropical rain have given way to Hurricane Betsy who is doing her best to break windows with fallen leaves.

On one of the few fine days the Depot held the annual open day. It took the form of a passing-out parade by Tobruk Squad followed by a selection of demonstrations and displays by the various departments in the Depot. The highlight of the displays was a stand known as "Recruit's Progress" which depicted the life of recruits from the moment they joined the Depot to their initiation into their Battalions. Dunkirk Squad stood guard over this stand and succeeded in preventing the poachers from removing any desirable articles of equipment. In the Kitchens, the 'mums' were shown many of Mrs. Beaton's recipes and how they should be served, whilst the Education Centre impressed everyone with its variety of superb displays of Depot academic life. We are glad to relate that the science instructors and spectators survived the unpremeditated explosion that took place.

OFFICERS MESS

The social season is just leaving Aberdeenshire and Stevenson Laundry is just beginning to catch up with the backlog of evening shirts. The Mess held a very successful private dance for which Edward de Broe-Ferguson designed and built a superb night club. It was fortunate for aesthetic reasons only that we couldn't see the Bistro decor as it was so dark—so dark that one officer embraced another in error!

Earlier in the quarter the Officers Mess challenged the Sergeants Mess to a game of cricket. It is unlikely that the MCC would have recognised what took place as cricket and by some flaw in the rules the Officers won the game.

We have again been very generously asked out to shoot and fish en masse. When will David White learn not to go deeper into the river than his waders allow?

Roddy Kinghorn left, finally, to be replaced by Gavin Peebles who complained of feeling "Jungly" after he had spent his first week at the Depot, not being allowed to see his bed for parties for more than eight hours. There was a certain amount in what he said.

The Mess is very quiet now with its inhabitants catching up with lost sleep and contemplating the long dark evenings ahead.

SERGEANTS MESS

The Mess continues to function well, and we have now reached the stage of introducing the improvements without causing any embarrassment to those directly concerned with the building of a new Mess. Carpets have suddenly appeared on floors, and windows heretofore bare, have suddenly sprouted curtains overnight, and at long last, a light has been provided for the dart board. This is to say nothing of a few fences here and there, and despite the poor summer our rose garden was as good as any in the area.

One of the highlights of the quarter was a cricket match against the Officers of the Depot, to which wives and children were invited; tea and cakes were served to the players and adult spectators, whilst the children gorged themselves on ice cream and lemonade. They saw the Sergeant Major's boxer "Bitch" parading round the Pavilion with an empty ice cream can stuck on her head.

There have been a few changes to the Staff since our last issue, the most eminent being the arrival of Sergeant Major Jock Donald to take over the helm of Training Company. They tell me he is not so hard on telephones as his predecessor was, but just wait.



Gordon Highlanders—Goch Squad

Standing (l. to r.): Pte Gerry Breen, Bridgend, Brig O' Balgownie, Old Aberdeen. Pte Breen's elder brother is Cpl James Breen at present serving with 1 Gordons in Borneo. Pte Albert Seiwright, 4 Easterton Cottages, Arradoul, Buckie. His elder brother ex-J/Bdsm John Seiwright is at present serving with 1 Gordons in Borneo. Seated (l. to r.): Pte Douglas Porter, 2 Logie Place, Smithfield, Aberdeen; Pte Alexander Cooper, 78 Provost Rust Drive, Middlefield, Aberdeen; Pte Daniel Boyle, 56A Stapleton Road, Tottings Bae, London, SW7; Pte Dennis Davis, 17 Smallpage, Queensbury, Bradford.

TRAINING COMPANY

Since the last notes Italy, Keren, Goch, Tobruk and Sangro squads have completed their training. In all these squads there were only 19 Gordon Highlanders Sangro squad contained no Gordons at all. This is no reflection on the efforts of the recruiting staff who are doing much more than their fair share of fostering the interests of the regiment.

It is interesting to note that of these nineteen recruits five have been prizewinners. Of these Pte Low (Maud) and Pte Sievwright (Buckie) have won the prize for the best recruit in Keren and Goch squads respectively. Sievwright also won the PT prize in his squad. Pte Walker (Keith) won the PT prize in Italy



Pte Albert Seivwright, Buckie



Pte George Low, Maud

squad and Pte Devlin won the prize for the most improved recruit in Keren Squad. This can but reflect the high standard of recruit that is joining the regiment.

The Depot was represented at Bisley this year by a very enthusiastic band of amateurs. The team came 6th in the Minor Units Championships and gathered a number of individual prizes. Cpl Robertson came 5th in the SMG XXX which was a very fine effort indeed. He was left behind to train with the Army team but unfortunately for him and fortunately for the Depot he had hit top form during the Army meeting. It was also a great pleasure to see the Queens Own Highlanders team win so many prizes without resorting to gamesmanship.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS COMPANY

Our summer term started on 7th May and turned out to be one of the most varied and busiest that we have had. We jumped from Cricket to Tattoo preparations and from a dance to a fortnight's camp. Let us, however, start at the beginning by "getting with it" and "into the swing of things" by introducing Mr. Beat, our new Bandmaster.

The Bandmaster took over the Band Platoon from Mr. Henderson. He came to us from the 1st Battalion The Black Watch during the Spring holidays, and has at the time of writing—late August—imposed his personality and will on the Company. We wish the Bandmaster, his wife and family a happy tour at Gordon Barracks. Sergeant Cameron has also joined us temporarily as CQMS until the Battalion return from Borneo.

The whole company less the Recruit platoon and the Bandmaster and Pipe Major who went on Recruiting, spent 12 days at Gairloch, camping on Brigadier Bill McKenzie of Gairloch's estate. On the whole it was an excellent camp and we all came back very much fitter and in some cases—Drummie and Staff Allcock—considerably lighter! We swam, sometimes unintentionally, but "never on Sundays", we canoed, fished, climbed, and we walked and walked!

We held a dance in the Church room on the 27th May which was a great success. The usual Sunday morning activities of the room had no restraining effect on that Thursday night's revels!

Our sporting efforts had a disappointing start when we played cricket against the Yorkshire Brigade on 25th May in Arctic conditions. We were well and truly beaten. On the track and at field events we were much more successful. After a slightly shaky start to our training, Captains Sutherland and Gordon moulded us into an effective team by the 16th June, when we won the Minor Units Junior Championship at Scottish Command.

There were some excellent performances, the most spectacular being the 4 x 110 relay which we won in 48.9 seconds. This team consisted of two QO Hldrs, J/L/Cpls N. McLay and W. Gardiner, and two Gordons, J/Cpl R. Henderson and J/Ppr J. Campbell.

We had three other matches. A three-cornered one versus Ellon and Inverurie; a three cornered one versus Gordon's School Huntly and RNAS Lossiemouth; and one against the Don Valley Athletic Club.

The match versus Inverurie and Ellon was great fun, ending in a very close finish between Inverurie and ourselves. The scores were: Inverurie 89, Junior Solders 84, Ellon 44.

The same Relay team again won—this time in 48.1 seconds, a truly magnificent time. Gordons in the team were:

J/Cpl R. Henderson, at 200yds, Long Jump and Relay

J/Cpl J. Schroder, at High Jump

J/Ppr J. Campbell, at 440yds, Javelin and Relay

J/Bdsm A. Rae, at Shot.

Music and Ceremonial played a major part in our activities this term. This was to the detriment of our education and our SEO, Capt Donald Robinson, has been given a guarantee for the coming term! Both bands have played at all the Passing Out Parades and are now just about complete in No 1 Dress.

The Drums and Pipes have travelled far and wide and gained in experience and stature. They were on BBC radio on the evening of the 3rd April and from then never looked back. They gave two charity performances at Morningfield Hospital for old people and at the Aberdeen Royal Sick Childrens Hospital on 19th June and 17th July respectively. They played twice at Peterhead Scottish week on 20th July at Sheep Dog trials and at the Massed Bands Display on 25th July. They played at the Dingwall Highland Gathering and later Beat Retreat at Dingwall and "The Strath" the same evening. Pipy Rodden, and Cpl Harrop entered the Adult piping competition at the Gathering—Pipy won a prize; and J/Cpl R. Henderson and J/Ppr M. McGillivray (A & SH) entered the Under 18 competition. Both played very well, with Henderson gaining 2nd place. The Pipes and Drums played through Aberdeen six times during the Bon Accord Fortnight and also at the 'Come and Try' Sports Gathering on 7th August. They also visited Orkney from 22nd-25th June.

We have had visits from the Pipes and Drums of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, The Gordon's Military Band and the Fjji Bandsmen, all of whom we were glad to see and interested in hearing. We can but hope they gained something from seeing and listening to us!

The latter part of term has been very busy with preparation and rehearsal for the "Open and Parents Day" which was held on the 14th August, and for the Edinburgh Tattoo Dancing. At the Open Day both

bands played for the passing out parade of Tobruk Squad, we then put on a dancing display aided and abetted by Mr. Oliver, late A & SH, with the Junior Soldiers from the Lowland Brigade who have been staying with us in preparation for the Thirtytwosome Reel and Argyll Broadwords which we are jointly putting on at the Edinburgh Tattoo. We then ended the day with a Combined Beating Retreat which, though we say it ourselves, was really first class. Captain Sutherland and his instructors are to be very warmly congratulated on all the hard work they put into perfecting this, to say nothing of the hard work put in by the boys themselves.

At the end of the passing out parade, Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, GOC-in-C Scottish Command presented prizes to the Junior Soldier prize-winners. In the Military Band Platoon J/Cpl J. Schroder won the prize for the junior bandsman who showed the most progress, and J*Bdsm A. Rae won the "Best at Theory" (Intermediate) prize.

In the Pipe Platoon J/Cpl R. Henderson won the prize for the "Best All Round Piper" which this year was a practice chanter bought from money presented by the Royal Celtic Society and was suitably inscribed. J/Ppr D. Mellay won the "Best at Theory" (Senior) prize.

Captain Gordon gave a chanter for the Piper who shows the most progress. This is to be competed for annually and can be won by a piper of any standard so long as he has shown the "most progress" over the year. This year it was won by J-Ppr J. Mair, BW, who also won the "Best at Theory" (Intermediate) prize.

Now late August, half the company is on leave and half at the Tattoo. We can look back on a good term, but this means hard work in the future to improve our record.

We close by congratulating Junior Corporal Schroder on his promotion to Junior Sergeant and wish him success; and also by welcoming J/Ppr Tulley and J/Dmr Taylor to the fold. They joined the Junior Soldiers Company on 29th June last.

3rd BATTALION (TA)

Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel E. E. Toms
Second in Command: Major R. Bannerman, TD
Adjutant: Capt. H. Foster, MBE
Quartermaster: Capt. (QM) W. J. R. Dawson
RMOs:

Major D. E. Fraser, RAMC

Capt. J. R. Skene, RAMC

Chaplain: Rev. C. C. R. MacPherson, RACHD

RSM: WO I. F. Tayles

EDITORIAL

The doubts about the future of the Territorial Army hangs over our heads. Despite this, morale is high and our training programme full and exciting. The Commanding Officer has written to every Officer and man in the Battalion asking us to make the next year or so the happiest and most fruitful of our TA life. We all fully support him in this. Nothing would be more disastrous than to die miserably and slowly. We intend living our Battalion life fully and with renewed vigour to the end.

In fact, we have just launched a recruiting drive and our numbers are once again on the increase. Of course, we have one or two faint hearts and "moaning minnies" but these are well known and can therefore be discounted.

All companies are to be congratulated on the excellent way they worked at Camp.

Morale was exceedingly high, particularly among the real workers of the Battalion who dug themselves underground with tremendous speed and efficiency.

Congratulations are also due to both our bands for the magnificent way they have fulfilled a very heavy programme. The Drums and Pipes have won two major Scottish trophies. At the Cowal Games in Argyll, they won the newly presented Bannerman Trophy (by a happy coincidence presented by an uncle of our 2IC, who had no idea we would be among the 69 bands competing for it). This trophy is now awarded to the best band on parade. As the world's top bands were there, this was a tremendous achievement. They also at Cowal won the best TA Band Trophy. Then their crowning glory came at Braemar, where for the first time after eleven years' effort, they took the Shield as can be seen in the happy photographs of Her Majesty The Queen with Pipe-Major Gordon Morrison.

The Commanding Officer has presented him with a framed enlargement of this photograph which will be a treasured memento in the Pipe-Major's home.

The bands have achieved their successes despite the loss of the very valuable services of two notable



Braemar Gathering Pipe Band Shield
Her Majesty The Queen presents the Trophy to Pipe
Major Gordon Morrison

leaders. First of all, Drum Major Wilson has handed over his mace to Sgt Manson after training him well in his duties and after having carried it smartly and proudly and with great credit to the Regiment for 25 years. We cannot pay sufficient tribute to the marvellous service given by Drum Major Wilson. All of us in the Regiment owe him a deep debt of gratitude. Then C/Sgt Thow, who as a Regular Army Recruiter in Aberdeen has helped lead the Military Band in recent years, suddenly found he could no longer do two very demanding jobs. As a regular soldier, we could hardly expect him to give up the Army Recruiting one. We will miss him. We wish both these excellent men the very best of fortune in the years ahead.

Farewells are endless in Service life and are always a sad occasion. Just as these notes go to press RSM Coggle has handed over to RSM Tayles. They are swapping appointments after completing their three year tours. We wish the Coggle family every success and welcome RSM and Mrs. Tayles. We will miss the Coggle family serving hot pies and tea from the Battalion Canteen Vehicle at most Bn events. Our good wishes also go with Sgts Robb and Pattillo, already sweltering in Borneo and we welcome in their place PSI Sgts Baldwin and Will. Finally C/Sgt Somers is welcomed to the Bn as an early replacement for WO II Ogg who is entering on his last six



Devizes, July 1965—
Digging the Battalion Command Post

months of military service prior to, we hope, setting up in the licensing trade somewhere in the Battalion area—but we hardly need another TA Centre.

The entire Battalion were delighted at the news that the tenure of appointment of our Honorary Colonel, Tony Bruce, had been extended. Now, as we finish these notes we have heard of the appointment of the new Colonel of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer has sent him the congratulations of all ranks and the assurance of our loyal support.

The Silver Bugle Competition for the overall championship in Sports and Training for the year 1964/65 culminated at Camp and was won by 'B' Coy. Congratulations. The 1965/66 competitions have already started with Cross-Country at Turriff on 18th September (won by HQ Coy) and Orienteering at Inverurie on 19th September (won by C/D Coy—combined for training and sport under one Coy. Comd.). 'B' Coy were second in both events and therefore are again leading the field but the signs are that competitions will be very keenly fought.

We now set ourselves the task of building up our Infantry training to the climax of Exercise "Red Fox" in Argyll next July.

This will take place during the second week of Camp and will consist of a Bn landing from Royal Navy ships in the Loch Fyne area. The enemy will be parachuted in by the Royal Air Force and will consist of patrols of the 23rd Special Air Service Regiment. We also hope that by then the 1st Bn might be able to participate in the exercise.

The Recce Platoon are becoming involved in Mountain Rescue Work and have had a number of interesting training week-ends with the local civilian rescue team at Braemar and Ballater. This will give them a lead over the rest of the Battalion when we all go out on 4/5 December for Ex "Grey Ghost II". Whatever the weather is like by then it cannot be worse than last October for Ex "Grey Ghost I". We not only survived that but now appear to have so enjoyed it that we have asked for more!

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Company Commander: Major R. M. Bruce, TD
 2IC: Captain A. D. M. Hendry
 CSM: WO II A. Burnett
 CMS: C/Sgt J. Watt
 PSI: WO II R. Kent
 Sigs Officer: Lieutenant D. A. Young
 Recce Pl Comd: Lieutenant A. D. Simpson

Prior to Annual Camp this year, the Aberdeen Wapinschaw was held at Blackdog on 11th and 13th June. Our crack shots all did their part but mention must be made of Lt Simpson who was the King's Cup winner, and Sgt Kerr who won the Ladies Gold Cross, the Fintray Cup, the City Brooch and the Lumsden Cup. Well done and congratulations to the Coy team which won the Bren competition.

The annual camp this year at Devizes was, as usual, a pretty hectic training period. Accommodation and food at camp were of a very high standard. The weather could have been kinder. The Drums and Pipes and the Military Band were, as is normal, kept extremely busy with practice, rehearsals, kit cleaning and engagements. The Communication Group, which consists of the Sigs and Recce Platoons, while keeping to a separate programme of work for the first few days, proceeded to Hythe for two days on "radio" at this well-known Army School. This Group, during the second week, were heavily committed along with the rest of the Bn in Exercise "Big Dig". They now know all about a Command Post in depth!

The Coy did fairly well at the Bn Sports Meeting in spite of the difficulty of finding men not on duty, and came a close second in the Inter-Coy Silver Bugle Competition.

During Camp, Major Bannerman relinquished command of the Company to become full-time second-in-command of the Bn. Fortunately, he has not left us—just moved along to another department. He will be a great support to the Commanding Officer who has lacked the assurance essential of a 2IC for so long.

Congratulations to the following recruits who passed out at camp: Ptes Sweze, Fraser, Johnstone, Beagrie and Innes. May they all have many happy camps with us. We also welcome to the company the following recruits: Ptes Kid, Still, Benzie, Wood and Boy de Bell.

Congratulations to Capt and Mrs Buchan on the birth of a bouncing baby boy weighing over 9 lbs. and on his promotion to Captain (was this a prize for the baby).

At camp, we officially said "good-bye" to two of the "hard core", viz Drum Major Wilson and Sgt Jimmy Milne. Both these NCOs were highly thought of by all ranks and there is no doubt that both will be greatly missed.

From Sp. Coy We welcome Sgt Dearie as MT Sgt. At camp, he seemed harrassed but happy in his work. Keep it up!

Sports, Orienteering, Shooting and Mountain Rescue Training has been carried on throughout the "leave" spell, but the month of September sees a start to regular drill evenings. So off we go again in good heart to another training year.

In the Cross-Country Championships held at Turriff on 18th September, the Company did extremely well in winning the Cup against the elite of the other companies. The following day we could only manage 4th in the Orienteering meeting

'A' COMPANY (BANFFSHIRE)

Company Commander: Major N. V. R. Simpson

2IC: Captain J. Lobban

CSM: WO II J. Watson

No. 1 Pl (Buckie):

Lieutenant A. T. Bruce

Sgt Milne

No. 2 Pl (Keith):

2/Lieutenant J. Fowlie

Sgt Burgess

No. 3 Pl (Aberlour): Sgt. Christie

PSI's:

Sgt Fraser

Sgt Baldwin

CQMS: C/Sgt Milne

"Tiger & Sphinx" time again. This is the issue for which no-one enjoys writing, because there is always a break after Camp and past events seem to have receded from memory. Camp itself, however, provides material, and this year's fortnight in the Army was a great deal different from the ordinary.

The Gordon Highlanders descended on Devizes after a train journey which caused one of our Jocks to comment that "Sir Thomas Beecham" wasn't worth his £20,000 a year. On being told that Sir Thomas Beecham had been a famous Conductor, he replied:

"Well, I wish he'd been working on **this** — train!"

We all arrived safely, however, and soon settled down to Camp life.

There was not so much inter-Company competition as there had been last year, owing, of course, to the nature of the Camp, and indeed it was not until the



The Commanding Officer congratulates Pte Lippe on winning the Young Soldiers Cup

second week of Camp that the officers came into real contact with their men.

'A' Company won the lines competition this year, and this was in due course celebrated in typical Company manner. The lines cup evaded us last year (on recollection it was about the only Cup that did evade us) so that our Company Commander was especially delighted with the result.

The big talking point after Camp was, of course, "the big dig", where we all removed our shirts and dug a fall out shelter. There was a tremendous spirit in all Companies during this dig, and one could dictate reams of comments heard in the "stygian caves". We would like to say a special thank you to those men of Support Company who joined us on our particular dig. You worked very hard and blended very well with 'A' Company, and it is hoped that this dig may be the forerunner of yet more get-togethers—perhaps in somewhat more entertaining circumstances.

All the training seemed to be on the basis of a 48-hour warning. One Jock's comment on what to do if there were a 4 minute warning is worthy of note:

"Right chaps. You've got a 4 minute warning. You're at home. The first thing you do is find the biggest sideboard in the house, fill it full of sand and place it behind your main door. Then you lock all doors, shutter all the windows, collect 2,000 sandbags and fill them full of sand, using these to strengthen the walls inside the house. Meanwhile, your wife's digging a 6ft by 2ft by 20ft trench under the floor-



**Black Dog—Inter Company Felling Plates
Lieutenant Bruce, CSM Sim, Captain Lobban**

boards, then when you have made sure the house is secure, you're under the floor, there's no possible way in or out, you discover you've left the kids playing in the garden outside."

Congratulations to Sgt Milne, Buckie, on his marriage; also to L/Cpl Coull on his engagement.

Sgt Christie of Dufftown has begot himself a third son. Congratulations to you and your wife and may it be a daughter next time.

Sgt Robb who has served 'A' Company well as PSI for two years, has gone to Borneo. We wish him good luck and welcome our new man, Sgt Baldwin. Sgt Robb was presented with a pewter tankard at a smoker in Keith before he left and will no doubt use it well to wash the Borneo dust from his mouth.

We said goodbye to Sgt "Monty" McDonald of Dufftown. He has gone to Div HQ. However, we shall still be seeing him at our weekends, where his experience on Army matters has always proved invaluable.

Congratulations to the following on their promotion: Sgt Milne to Colour Sergeant; Cpl Milne, Buckie to Sergeant; Cpl Christie Dufftown to Sergeant; Cpl Henderson, Keith to Sergeant; L/Cpl Wilson, Buckie to Cpl; L/Cpl Stewart, Aberlour to Cpl; L/Cpl Newlands, Dufftown to Cpl; Ptes Kelman, Reid, Stewart, Simpson, Lippe, Coull, Guthrie, Ligertwood, all to L/Cpl.

A special welcome to John Fowle, our newly commissioned Platoon Commander at Keith. John has been with us a short time as an Officer Cadet and he has recently passed his board. You will soon see 'A' Company the fittest Company (if they weren't already that before) in the Battalion, since John, a PE teacher at Keith Academy, is exerting his influence.

Four of 'A' Company tug of war teams were selected to pull for the Battalion team along with four others from 'D' Company at Braemar. They had no success but having now been on the same side as 'D' Company perhaps will beat them at the next Battalion pull.

A Sports Weekend, the first since Camp, was held at Fort George recently. We had a smallish turnout—invariably so, this being the first weekend of the new "season". Nevertheless, we had some good orienteering practice. Cpl Gilles, who has been winning various marathon walks and runs during the TA close season, has the stamina of a Kutz. Unfortunately, his map reading was somewhat suspect at the Fort George weekend, and we understand that he passed MacMillan three times during our 5-mile orienteering course. The last time, Macmillan swears he was on his way back from Nairn!

A very pleasant Social Evening was held at Buckie recently, when wives and sweethearts were brought along. It was felt at the end of the evening that this could become a regular feature and that indeed it might prove valuable as a recruit gambit (the recruiting of men, not the wives and sweethearts).

At the time of writing these notes, Sgt Henderson, Cpl Williams, L/Cpl Jeffries, Ptes Johnston, Murray and Rennie are on a fortnight's exercise with the Queens Own Highlanders in Germany and Norway. If they can learn as much as the previous 'A' Company men who went to Germany recently at this particular exercise then 'A' Company will benefit as a whole from this.

To end on a less serious note, I would like to mention an incident which happened recently at Woolmanhill Drill Hall in Aberdeen. Some of the lads were in there one evening and it so happened that at this particular time various market gardeners and gardeners were preparing tables on which was displayed magnificent examples of cultivated vegetables. One old gardener had in front of him on a table in the corner of the room six beautiful onions, each approximating to the size of a football. This man, of thinning hair with a pipe belching smoke, was titivating, polishing, and garnishing these onions until from the corner emanated a gloss comparable to the glow from burnished gold. One of the Jocks casually sidled up to the table, and looked nonchalantly over the gardener's shoulder said:

"Aye, aye, man, that's nae bad looking shallots you have there!"

'B' COMPANY (BUCHAN)

Company Commander: Major J. M. Gray

2IC: Lieutenant J. C. Hutchison

RSM: WO II A. Sim

No. 1 Pl:

2/Lieutenant D. Third

Sgt A. Gerrie

No. 2 Pl:

2/Lieutenant I. Hardie

Sgt E. McKen

No. 3 Pl:

O/Cdt P. Barclay

Sgt W. Hadden

PSI's:

C/Sgt Somers

Sgt Will

CQMS: C/Sgt McWilliam

No file, no book and no sheet of paper have been left unturned in compiling these notes, but try as we might it always reverts to the gathering of information by listening to conversations in the canteens, drill halls and the experiences of various members of the company.

Since our successful social period before the Annual Camp, we have seen many changes in the Company. We have said goodbye to our own TA members, some because of age, others because of fortune. To find better conditions in the far south, but no matter, wherever they may have gone they leave us with our best wishes for their future.

Camp this year was held at Waller Camp, Devizes, Wiltshire. Camp conditions were very good and no complaints were voiced on learning that HOT water was available for shaving. The situation of the camp in fact proved very handy for one member of the Coy, whose social hours were spent in admiring the local scenery at a well known club in Chippenham.

Although the company had only one first placing in the Company competition, we are this year's possessors of the Inter-Company Silver Bugle. All this is



Black Dog—The Commanding Officer presents prizes to 'B' Company Falling Plates team

mainly thanks to the hard work put into each competition by the company competitors. Pte Leel by showing the remainder of the Bn a clean pair of heels on the long jump, must be congratulated on his fine achievement. The company spirit which was very high, gave vent to a great roar when the Company Commander, Major Gray, was presented with the Silver Bugle by the Commanding Officer. At a social evening held after the presentation, all members of the company proudly inspected the Silver Bugle. Drinks for this social was paid for by the Officers and Senior NCOs of the company, to show their appreciation for the work done by their respective platoons. This event was further honoured by a visit of the Commanding Officer for a "wee one".

On returning from camp the Company Commander was approached by the Peterhead Scottish Week Committee to arrange a military display to be held during the Scottish Week. A display was arranged showing the public how the Army deals in dispersing rioters. The unruly mob who entered the field was ably led by Sheik Abdul Pattillo and the nomads of Support Company. However, 2/Lt Third and 3 Platoon proved too much for Sheik Abdul who was last seen being carried from the arena.

Arrivals and departures. It is with pleasure that we welcome C/Sgt Somers and Sgt Will from the 1st Battalion, both having been PSIs with the 4/7 Gordons TA and 5/6 Gordons TA respectively in previous years.

We say farewell to (Sheikh) Sgt A. Pattillo and wish him a happy tour in the 1st Gordons.

Marriages. Congratulations to L/Cpl R. Rhynd and L/Cpl McKen on their marriages to local lassies. We wish them and their wives many long and happy years together.

Finally, we say a sad farewell to our long and trusted PSI, CSM Ogg, who leaves us to go to Bn HQ to work directly under the Commanding Officer on the production of training aids and the running of Bn training events.

'C' COMPANY (DEESIDE)

Company Commander: Major J. A. Leith

CSM: WO II J. Clifford

No. 1 Pl:

Lieutenant M. A. Gill
Sgt Shepherd

No. 2 Pl:

2/Lieutenant T. G. Macrae
Sgt Davidson

No. 3 Pl: Sgt Strachan

PSI: Sgt Girling

CQMS: C/Sgt Gallow

The Coy shooting team takes first place in these notes, for although they came 5th in the Inter Coy Rifle Meeting they won the TA Small Bore Rifle Meeting beating the Aberdeen University OTC by 130 points. This puts them 17th in Great Britain. The result of the final shoot has not yet come through. Well done to: Major Leith, Sgts Davidson, Shepherd, Strachan, Cpls Sutherland, Dawson, L/Cpl Singer and Cfn Truscott.

The Indoor Sports came next. The Coy came 3rd at this event, thanks to L/Cpl Singer, Ptes Aitken, Hardie, Rivard (Basket Ball Team); L/Cpl Bruce, Dfn Truscott (Table Tennis); Sgt Davidson and Cpl Cfn Truscott (Table Tennis); Sgt Davidson and Cpl Dawson (Badminton). Congratulations go to HQ Coy on winning the "Orkney and Shetlands Cup".

The Civil Defence training went very well before and after camp. At this point we would like to thank Mr. W. Burnett of the Bucksburn Police, CD Dept, for his valuable talks on Radiac Instruments. We wonder if he will ever get over the shock he had when he found himself full of radiation, and he was so sure he had locked away the "5 sources". During May the RAMC gave a very good lecture and demo on Battle Casualties. Quite a number of the Coy went home that night quiet and white faced.

At camp the Coy was split up slightly for the first week, but the second made up for it by having us very close together and under ground. This writer wishes he could make jokes about "Moles" and "rides on a certain bath" but everyone in the Coy should have his own thoughts about these subjects.

Apart from Civil Defence training the Coy was involved in Mountain Rescue and climbing. In May we had an exercise with the Deeside Mountain Rescue Team in the Ballater area. The Coy helped out with one rescue team and radio check points. In June along with 'D' Coy we climbed "Lochnagar (at least some of us did). The exercise was organised by Major Skene who unfortunately half way up was called away (with a party of men) to rescue a "sweet damsel in distress". After treatment by Major Skene the girl was brought down by stretcher, and last reports were all was well.

Four of the Coy, namely Ptes Hardie, Kelman, Hood and Aitken were lucky enough to be picked to go to Norway on "Ex Viking Ship". This lasted over the same period as camp. Reports coming in are few and far between but roughly the training was hard but good and the entertainment was little but good. They all want to go back next year so it wasn't all that bad.

The training for 1965/66 starts soon and we are combining with 'D' Coy for the main week-end training periods. This should be quite good and we look forward to some happy times.

'D' COMPANY (MEARNS)

Company Commander: Major J. A. Leith
(Commanding both 'C' and 'D' Coys in a 'caretaker' role)

CSM: WO II J. Taylor

No. 1 Pl:

2/Lieutenant D. M. Dickie
Sgt Beadie

No. 2 Pl: 2/Lieutenant D. P. J. McCarthy

Sgt Cooper

No. 3 Pl: Sgt Murray

PSI: C/Sgt Skene

CQMS: C/Sgt Cahill

The first date in our diary appears to be week-end 24/25 April, and on close inspection of the back copies of BROs we find that the reason we forgot the date was intentional after all, as this was the Bn Weapon Training Weekend held at Black Dog. 'D' Coy did very badly indeed; in fact we came 6th and last. This was largely due to the fact that most of our recognised good shots appeared to be otherwise engaged that weekend. However, we WILL do better next time.

On the 1st May the Inter Coy Sports were held at Woolmanhill and our team, after much training, in the art of throwing a dart, etc. in the clubs and bars around town, sallied forth under the guidance of our CSM, J. Taylor, to do battle. Overall we did not do so well as we would have expected, but we were delighted with the fact that our CMS, J. Cahill, won the Bn Championship at table tennis, and in the face of fierce opposition we hear, and thus disproved the Commanding Officer's theory that our CQMS's athletic activities were confined to 'Bingo'!

Most of our training this year has had a civil defence flavour, so on 11th May the RAMC team from Aberdeen paid us a visit at Stonehaven, to give us a demo of casualty faking and to explain the kind of injuries we were likely to find in this type of warfare. The casualty faking was very real indeed, and it was very hard at times to decide whether in their enthusiasm they had really done the poor chap an injury. However, it would appear that they were all present in the canteen afterwards when the Coy Commander very kindly paid out our much deserved T.E.A. But there were those among us who decided that particular evening to go home from the Drill Hall entirely sober, much to the astonishment of our wives. This was due, I feel sure, to the fact that at the very end they showed a film of very real wounds compiled I believe by their Commanding Officer from medical cases during the last war. Now our PSI and CQMS had both been on the Civil Defence course earlier in the year, therefore they declined the invitation to attend, but they were available to administer first aid to those who decided to leave the show early. No names no pack drill but one well known Corporal of our Coy was heard to remark that this was the first film show he had ever "seen" with his eyes tightly closed.

The Wapinschaw was held this year before Camp, which seemed to suit most people who have memories of previous years, having to re-arrange holidays to attend.

Our success this year was that Sgt Murray won the individual LMG prize and C/Sgt Cahill came second to Lt Simpson in the King George V Cup; very well done indeed. We would also like here to congratulate Lt Simpson of HQ Coy on his very fine shooting and claim just a little of the glory as for many years Lt Simpson has been a member of the Mearns and only recently left us for the easier life of HQ Coy. However, he can still be found most Sunday evenings at Laurencekirk usually in very charming company which seems to change with amazing regularity.

On the 19th June, this being the weekend nearest to midsummer, Major Skene decided that just what we wanted was to see the sun rise from the top of Lochnagar. Immediately we consulted maps, calendars, diaries etc., and found to our astonishment that Lochnagar was a very high mountain indeed and that the sun, it would appear, rose there at the unearthly hour of 4 a.m. Now as most of us had never in our lives been out of bed early enough to see the sun rise anywhere, let alone Lochnagar, we thought it was not a bad idea to go along.

We invited 'C' Coy to go along with us, entirely due to the fact that we were told that if we did not invite them we would be denied the use of their Drill Hall at Ballater as a base camp. Lt Simpson and a few of the Recce Pl also somehow or other happened to be there. What attracted you chaps? Was it the smell of the C/Sgt's stew pot? So, at approx 2200 hrs we set out with Major Skene in the lead and Major Leith bringing up the rear; at 2204 hrs and one mile later some of us had already lost interest in the sun. However, this fast and furious pace came to a halt only when Major Skene accompanied by Lt Simpson and the Recce Pl had to leave us and go to the assistance of a young lady who was suffering from exposure (!) on the other side of the mountain. We hear that she was brought safely down by them. Well done.

Our climb continued at a much more leisurely pace now, led by Major Leith with C/Sgt Skene this time at the front determined that things would be done more at his usual pace. But with the loss of two officers it was found that the party was far too large to control and it was decided that rather than have men lost on the hill it would be better for some to turn back. Some went back willingly, some not so willingly and some had to be detailed, but a fair few, surprisingly even to themselves, reached the top.

Annual Camp is always a big event in our year. This year was no exception. We were, due to lack of numbers, united with 'C' Coy under Major Leith, who now commands both companies.

There are many tales of camp, including the Big Dig and rescue from great heights, far too numerous to mention here. However, we cannot let this pass without mentioning, "The Leith-constructed, Dickie-operated, Fully-automatic, 3 Ton Winch-Driver, Earth Removing-Bath-Tub. Sir, it was a masterpiece and we wish you luck with the patent we hear you have applied for.

Camp will no doubt be fully reported elsewhere so we will say no more than that we were very pleased with the results of the sports meeting. Special mention goes to our tug o' war team who again this year beat all comers. Who said we were on the decline? Special note from camp: a certain person of this Coy who shall remain nameless has in his possession a "signing in" book for a certain club in Trowbridge, individual pages are available at a price (please telephone Laurencekirk 421 during working hours (1030 to 1330 hrs, with the usual 2 hour dinner break).

We are now officially 'C/D' Coy and as this we won the Bn Orienteering championship held at Inverurie on 19th September 1965. Pte Truscot of Banchoy being first and Major Leith, our Coy Cmdr, being second—very well done indeed. We disgraced ourselves the previous day in the Cross Country when only two men were prepared to run instead of six. We therefore came last.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Company Commander: Captain G. Thom
CSM: WO II Main

Pl Commanders:
2/Lieutenant A. Simmers
2/Lieutenant I. Forbes

PSIs:
C/Sgt Ross
Sgt Dooley

3in Mortar Platoon

We can look back on a successful Annual Camp where our highly skilled Civil Defence instructors



**Action by Sp Company Team
2/Lieut Nicholson and Sgt Hay in the lead**

imparted their knowledge during the first week. During the second week we sampled the comradeship of the Rifle Companies amongst whom we were divided all in order to give us an opportunity to grovel in the bowels of England.

Congratulations are due to Sgt Warden on obtaining his "third" and also for his contribution in training the recruit squad at camp.

Up till time of going to press we have held three successful training weekends at Inverurie resulting in our Mortar numbers passing their tests of Elementary Mortar Drills. Well done, lads. We are now looking forward to our live shoot at Barry/Buddon in mid-October.

During one of our Inverurie weekends I believe that the residents of Kintore and district were startled in their beds by the strains of bagpipe music issuing from a vehicle wending its way home to Inverurie. Probably these mystified inhabitants are sitting up every Saturday night waiting to hear the strains of the phan(Thom) Piper!!

Anti-Tank Platoon

Our Annual Camp at Devizes was most enjoyable, but we consider that Civil Defence Training, although necessary and interesting, robbed us of the opportunity to do some very valuable Anti-tank training. We cannot get enough of this considering that our recruiting goes quite well and we have always got new men to train. It was, at least, a pleasant change from "Camp Typhoid" at Bucksburn last year.

The climax of the camp was exercise "Big Dig" which brought out new and unplumbed depths of ingenuity when the platoon, in its new role of tunnelling engineers, invented a "bath/ropeway" with the aid of a 3 ton truck which removed prodigious amounts of earth and almost removed the toilers at times. Mr. Robens would do well to examine this subterranean jugernaut in the light of his flagging production figures. It was primitive but effective and relieved our human moles of a considerable amount of bucket carrying.

Since our return from camp we have been training "flat out" for our forthcoming live shoot at Barry/Buddon in October where we are determined to give a good account of ourselves. It will no doubt provide us with some hair-raising escapades with which we may regail you in our next notes.

We welcome Pte Masson to the platoon and we are very pleased to note that he is showing such great interest. He has already represented the Company in the Bn Cross-Country and Orienteering competitions

before the ink was dry on his attestation papers. He did quite well in both events and will be a most valuable addition to our numbers.

Assault Pioneers

The first week of our camp was good in both weather and training and it consisted mainly in practical rescues from bombed buildings. Most of the laughs appeared to be at the expense of the poor individuals who were nominated to act as casualties and they soon became known as the "victim". Lashed to a door or stretcher and lowered from fairly high places in the ruins by the rest of their squad who were anything but expert, their position was not to be envied at times. There were one or two near shaves but fortune smiled and no-one was decanted into the basement. The only casualties were from sleeping sickness whenever we had to attend the indoor lectures, probably as a result of too much fresh air and exercise. The variety of expressions on the faces of people trying to stay awake was wonderful and the expressions on those who were trying to look intelligent was even more wonderful. Whenever films were used it was a different story and it was difficult to keep them in their seats when they saw the kiss of life method of resuscitation being demonstrated by gorgeous bikini clad females who found it difficult to stay inside their costumes.

The second week was spent mainly on "The Big Dig" which meant getting underground quickly and securely. This was done in good style and the lads worked at it as though there was a bonus at stake.

The Cpls and L/Cpls were entertained by the Sgts Mess and enjoyed a very good evening where all the old songs and jokes were dusted off and used once again and this gave the junior NCOs of "Sp" Company the idea of entertaining our own Sgts which we did in the "Clock Inn" just outside Devizes. This turned out to be an excellent evening and at the close of the festivities the Sgts presented us with a bottle of the "crater". Auld Airchie (Cpl Reid) who had taken charge of the bottle, paraded all the merry-makers on our return to camp and dolled out our portions of the barley brew. Tee Tee Bo (Tam Morrison) was just in from a wild night in the NAAFI and somehow he got included in the share-out. On top of his previous intake this did not seem to do him any good because for the remainder of the night we were treated at intervals to a view of a certain part of his anatomy as he hung out of the window making the most peculiar noises. We don't know why because there were no passers-by at that time of the morning.

Congratulations to Pte Patterson who won the award for the Best Recruit and also to Auld Airchie who proved to be the best (and only) postie at camp. Sgt Beasty Hey is now back in the ranks of the bare-faced brigade and looks most peculiar without his facial adornments.

At Inverurie recently Wee Willie Brown was out in front of the Pl with Cpl Charlie Riddell's jacket on, giving his version of how to instruct when 2/Lt Forbes popped his head in the door, and then apologising for the intrusion he asked Willie if he would be much longer in the lecture room. It is very hard to convince Willie now that he shouldn't have two stripes on his own jacket.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Intelligence Officer: Captain R. D. Buchan
Intelligence Sgt: Sgt. S. McDonald

The Section welcomes to the Insectarium our new Intelligent Officer, Capt R. D. Buchan and a graduate

from the Recruit Squad, Pte D. Innes. The Section now numbers five, the strongest it has ever been.

Congratulations to Capt Buchan and Sgt McDonald on the recent additions to their families—both sons. There must be something in this Intelligence work after all.

Camp gave us a chance to indulge in plotting fall-out areas and of driving our 1-tonner. The Command Post shelter was beautifully dug by Lt Simpson's team of sappers and miners and furnished in late primitive style. It was occupied for a Nuclear Exercise by the Commanding Officer and Staff and this went off well.

L/Cpl Mike Thomson missed Camp by attending an attachment in BAOR with 1st QO Hldrs and came back spouting military knowledge and some curious German expressions. There is a rumour that he is contemplating matrimony (not as a result of his visit to Germany).

Cpl Leslie finds himself in charge of the section for the Autumn months when Capt Buchan is busy with the harvest and Sgt McDonald is studying hard at evening classes in expectation of redundancy. Much power to his elbow.

PIPE BAND

Another season of Pipe Band engagements and contests has come and gone and has left us with some handsome trophies and more than a few proud memories.

There is no doubt that the fortnight's camp at Devizes provided us with a great opportunity for improvement in both drill and performance and it must be said that the members of the Band seized that opportunity with enthusiasm. By the fifteenth day of camp the Wiltshire air was filled with the music of the pipes and our footprints were plainly visible in the concrete parade grounds of the camp.

It was most encouraging to note the ease with which our youngsters adapted themselves to Army routine. No doubt they gained much under the watchful supervision of Pte Geddes and "The Mole". In any case, it is evident that the Band will continue to prosper as long as we have such keen spirit amongst the younger hands.

The Brigade massed bands provided us with the chance of meeting friends in the Seaforth and Camerons and it took no time at all for Cpl Ross and his Buchan men to borrow our old friend L/Cpl Purdie from the Seaforth and bring his "section" up to strength once more. One of the highlights of the camp was a tour of Wiltshire which we undertook one rainy day in search of Marlborough College by courtesy of "Foster's Tours Unlimited". The scenery was wonderful despite the weather and we were all impressed with the smartness of an Army Camp which we passed (having travelled some 30 miles) sporting the Regimental Flag of the 3rd Gordons. We had left this camp an hour before, led by the Adjutant—CO please note for map reading lessons.

Since camp we have played at many successful engagements and our appearances with our Military Band on combined retreats have provided some of the highlights in the City Parks.

We shall never forget 1965 at the Gowal Gathering at Dunoon where we were judged the "Best Band on Parade" out of a field of 69 bands and also "Best Dressed Army Band". It was indeed a thrill and an honour to return to Aberdeen with two handsome shields. One of these, "The Bannerman Shield", was presented to the Cowal Society by a relative of our own Major Ronnie Bannerman. Coincidence indeed that it should come to Woolmanhill on its first time of award.

The season ended with the Band being awarded the Braemar Pipe Band Shield at the Royal Gathering on 9th September—an honour which has eluded us for eleven years. Perhaps in the future issue we shall be able to print a picture of the Band complete with silverware.

Yes, 1965 has been a happy and successful year, and we can only hope that next year gives further cause for celebration.

MILITARY BAND

This year has been our fullest for engagements and fortunately we have always been able to put forward maximum numbers. Overall, they were a great success.

Camp started busily, arriving at two o'clock Sunday and playing at the Drumhead Service at 3-15. We were without cornets but the RSM remarked to Sgt McDonald "Who will be any the wiser?" I wonder what he really meant?

To alleviate the shortage of cornet players, Sgt Jimmy McCulloch, 1 Gordons, arrived on the second day. He really enjoyed his Camp and was heard to say while enjoying his three course dinner after "Officers Mess": "The Regulars were never like this". The Band thanks him for his timely aid and especially for the rendering of "Goodbye Dolly" after the Band social. The social was held in a local boozer and proved to be a great success, even if the barman was surprised when the "Sim file" asked for a £7 carry out.

This year we have entertained at Fyvie, Ellon, Peterhead, New Deer and several park engagements in the town. We shall consolidate our gains with good practice during the winter months.

Congratulations are extended to the following on their recent promotions: L/Cpl Galbraith to Cpl; Bandsmen Bruce and Gerrie to L/Cpls.

C/Sgt "Dougie" Thow has now retired after many years as Bandmaster to the TA and we thank him for his patient tuition and much leisure time expended.

By the time these notes are published we will have lost Bandsman Mike Henderson to 1 Gordons. A severe blow to the Band but our loss is the Regular's gain. All success to you in the future, Mike.

We welcome to the brass foundry a nephew of Archie McBain's, John Benzie, and hope he settles down fine on the 1st Cornet stand.

Congratulations to the following:

Best all-round recruit in the Band—Bandsman Mike Henderson.

For story-telling at Band Social—tie between the Commanding Officer and Bandsman Alfie Nicol.

OFFICERS MESS

On Saturday, 22nd May, a most successful social evening was held in the Mess. The younger officers were in good "fettle" and the not so young were also in good form too (who said "Come to the Blue Chip?") Mrs. Ewen's coffee and small eats were greatly appreciated, along with the soft music in the background from the tape-recorder which took the Commanding Officer many hours to produce.

The usual Sunday evening Wapinschaw cocktail party took place on 13th June 1965, to celebrate, once more, our many wins. It must have been a great night for Lt Allan Simpson, who was the winner of the King's Cup. It was a proud night for all members of the Mess, as the occasions have been few when an officer is the winner. Welcome guests to the party were Capt Price and Lieuts Anderson and Holliday, all from London Scottish. We hope they enjoyed their brief visit before dashing for the London train.

Thanks to many willing hands the Mess at Camp took shape in no time at all, with Jock Ewen operating efficiently behind the bar. The success of our Guest Nights was due, once more, to a hard working and willing staff. Cpl Rhind, in the absence of the Mess Sgt, Sgt Chesser, was a very capable deputy. At the first Guest Night the guests were Major I. L. Nicol (ex-HQ Coy Commander), Mr. J. Doeg (an ex-Gordon now living in Laycock near Devizes), Mr. Derek Finlay (ex-4/7th—who shamed us all by performing a very fine foursome!), Major Leslie, Capt MacMillan, Capt Avery and Lt Graham (all Gordons from Brigade HQ).

The second Guest Night was a great success despite a night exercise and there was a large number of guests, viz Brigadier The Earl Cathcart, Major I. Leslie, Lt-Col K. Denniston, CO Seaforth, Lt-Col Walker-Brown, Commandant of the Army Home Defence Centre; Majors Ewea, Harper and Price of the School Staff; Col Fleming and Lt-Col Duke from our local TA Association; Lt Holliday of the London Scottish, and Col Burnett, Deputy Brigade Commander. Our sympathies are with the Commanding Officer who had to make the painful decision to order all officers back into the field immediately after the Guest Night.

Despite the gloomy forecast, the Brigade cocktail party (almost like a POW party) was a success. For our share again we were proud of our efficient staff, the cooks who made the "eats" and the "effervescent" Capt Hendry, who, as a co-opted member, did a power of work, not only for this party but throughout the whole camp period.

Congratulations to Bill Dawson, our QM, who won the Officers' Golf Cup. In handing over the cup to Bill, it was noticed that the PMC first asked him to sign for it and secondly asked him to sign his "chit" book so that the cup could be filled!

On the Bn Sports Day, Major-General and Mrs. Victor Campbell came all the way up from Devon to be with us. Col "Tony" Bruce came down from Aberdeen (The IO is saying little about which train

he helped the Honorary Colonel to miss on the journey back).

Lt General Sir George C. Gordon-Lennox, GOC-in-C Scottish Command (now Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, but we did not know this honour awaited him then) came to lunch in the Mess during his visit.

It is interesting to note that our Adjutant was once RSM to a Bn of the Grenadier Guards, commanded by General Gordon-Lennox and was also RSM to 1st Gordons when commanded by General Campbell.

SERGEANTS MESS

There is little to be said that will not be covered elsewhere in the Battalion notes. Nevertheless, comment must be made of our main Mess social events in the period under review.

First of all there was the excellent evening at Camp when we entertained the Battalion Corporals to a Games night in the Mess. Needless to say both sides won.

Next came the other great Camp event—the entertainment of the Battalion officers. This time the Brigade Commander also came. This was most appropriate as we had the Brigade HQ WO's and Sgts in Mess with us and a good lot they were too. The evening went on with songs, stories and competitions. We were all delighted to see the Commanding Officer defeat the RSM in a beer-drink race (you never can tell!)

Sad note of the evening was our having to say goodbye to the RSM, WO I Coggle, to the Drum Major, Alexander Wilson, and to our MT Sgt, James Milne. All going after giving the Battalion very full service. Sadness was relieved for them with the presentation of handsome silver cigarette boxes to all three. We wish them all the very best of good fortune.

As we go to press we are all looking forward to being dined in the Officers Mess at a full scale Guest Night on 9th October, for the second year running.

CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS

Training has continued mainly on a Company basis. Several Companies have done practical schemes on training ground at Cape East. These have been in the main very successful but we are still not receiving all the training stores required. Also at times schemes have fallen below standard because of lack of detailed planning and reconnaissance.

During the final weeks of August, training was organised by battalion, the object being to serve as a revision and brush up before going to continuous training camp in October.

The main topic of conversation these days is the continuous training camp to be held at Bloemfontein. Various reports have filtered back via the "Dukes" who recently returned from there, but the general opinion seems to be on of wait and see.

During July a function was held by W.P. Command in the Lady Anne Barnard ballroom to bid farewell to Comdt-General Grobbelaar who is due to retire shortly. Needless to say it was a big function and the Mess was honoured to be represented by several senior officers. The General was presented with a painting by a well known South African artist.

On 24th July the Currie Cup, presented by Sir Donald Currie for inter company rifle shooting, was competed for. HQ Company carried off the trophy

as it has done so many times in the past. The members of the winning team were Maj C. Albertyn, Fd Ct R. Goveia, A Fd Ct B. Ventrin, WO II J. Steyn, Rfn K. Breach, Rfn A. J. Dolby, Rfn P. S. Field and Rfn A. E. van As. At the same time the Mackie Cup was competed for by the Sergeants Mess, the winner this year being WO II Wally Cox.

During August we suffered a grievous loss in the passing of two old famous ex-members of the Regiment. Lt Col "Sam" Sumner, MC, MM, VD, and WO I "Charlie" Windrum dying within days of each other. Both were accorded military funerals at which, apart from the serving members, many ex-Highlanders and friends of the Regiment were present. One cannot but be proud to serve in a Regiment in which such men have gone before.

OBITUARY

Lt Col H. L. Sumner, MC, MM, VD

The death occurred on 16th August after a short illness of Colonel Sumner at the age of 81.

Born in Kent in 1884 he first came to South Africa with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the 1899-1902 South African War. After the war he went home but returned to settle in Johannesburg in 1903.



Lieut Colonel H. L. Sumner, MC, MM, VD

In World War I he joined the SA Scottish and served in the Middle East and Flanders, where he was one of the few survivors of the battle of Delville Wood. He was awarded the MM and later, after commission, the MC; he was one of only three South Africans to hold both these decorations.

In 1918 he fought with the British Expeditionary Force against the Bolsheviks in Russia.

During 1920 he came to Cape Town and joined the Cape Town Highlanders. He capped a long and illustrious period of service with them by commanding the Regiment from 1937 until 1941, seeing active service in North Africa.

WO I C. F. Windrum, MBE

The death occurred on 13th August of former RSM Windrum at the age of 83.

He joined the Cape Town Highlanders in 1896 as a drummer and saw service in three wars—the South African War and World Wars I and II. He gained numerous awards and decorations including the Kings Medal, the Jubilee Medal, Coronation Medal, Colonial Long Service Medal, MBE, 1939-43 Star, Africa Star and the Efficiency Medal with two Bars. He retired from the Army in 1946—he was then garrison

sergeant-major at Garrison Headquarters Pretoria, to become the rifle range warden at Woltemade. Thereafter he joined the Cape Times until his retirement in 1960.

OFFICERS' MESS

By comparison with the early part of the year, the period under review has been relatively quiet for the Mess. At the July Guest Night, Lt Col K. G. Harvey, DSO, who until recently commanded the 2nd Battalion Royal Rhodesia Regiment, gave a talk on the Defence Force in Rhodesia and how it is constituted and operated. It was interesting to hear how our counterparts operate in other parts of Africa and what their problems are.

Towards the end of April our Adjutant, A/Fd Ct Donald Fraser-Buchanan, succumbed and was wed to Miss Elizabeth Lamb. Ignore the facetious way that announcement was couched, Donald and Elizabeth, and accept our most sincere best wishes for your future happiness.

During May, A/Fd Ct's Quentin Bagshaw-Smith and Barry Ventris attended their Promotion course at the School of Infantry in Oudtshoorn. The results show that they both acquitted themselves extremely well and we offer our congratulations for this and their subsequently announced promotions to Field Cornet. At the same time, we offer our congratulations to Field Cornets Carl Scheppening, John Bone and Bill Tooley on their promotions. While on the subject, we also officially welcome A/Fd Ct Tony Bedford into the Mess now that his commission has come through. We trust your sojourn will be long and fruitful, Tony.

Two other officers attended courses recently, namely Capt "Budd" O'Brien and Fd Ct Colin Rowe. They attended respectively the Captains to Majors and Field Cornet to Captains' qualifying courses. Although we are still awaiting the results of these courses, we are convinced they will have done well. From all accounts the courses were very comprehensive and thorough. It was heartening to hear the latest news regarding organizational progress and equipment.

During August the Regiment suffered two very great losses. On Friday the 13th ex-RSM "Charlie" Windrum passed away, and was followed on Monday the 16th by Lt Col "Sam" Sumner, MC, MM, VD. RSM Windrum must surely have set a record for service. He became a legend and will always be remembered by those connected with our Regiment. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Lt Col Sumner, throughout the years of his retirement, had been vitally involved in the Regiment, its association and activities. His wonderful nature and personality has been a source of inspiration to all who knew him and he has carved himself a niche in the life and history of the Regiment that no other could fill. Those who knew him, loved him. We mourn him deeply but, at the same time, rejoice at having known him.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The largest set-back to the functioning of our Mess is, and always has been, business transfers. During the last quarter we have, for this very reason, lost the services of WO II C. de Reuck and Sgt Kirsten. We are, however, hopeful that they will soon be returning to our area.

Illness is another factor which upsets our Mess routine. Our Pipe Major, WO II Marwick, has had to spend a short while in bed. Sgts van der Westhuizen,

Stoch and Castle have all had a short spell in hospital and WOII Steyn has had the misfortune to injure his back. We are, however, very pleased to report that they have all fully recovered, and have, once again, rejoined our ranks.

Each year the pressure of business claims a number of our members, and this quarter has been no exception. Our medic—Sgt King—has found the pressure too great and has to take his leave of us. We are very sorry to lose him but wish him the best of luck and hope that he may one day rejoin us.

We take this opportunity of congratulating Sgt van Rlerk and Jean on the occasion of their engagement. We wish them both the best of luck and hope that their great day is not too distant.

We welcome back into our Mess, Sgt Walklett who has, after a few years' absence, re-enlisted. Welcome back, Sergeant, nice to have you aboard.

Congratulations go to WOII Cox who, this year, won the annual Mackie Cup Shoot competition. Further congratulations to WOII Feldman upon the occasion of his Company HQ winning the annual Gold Cup Shoot competition.

The Mess has started a small library and we are pleased to report that a number of books have found their way on to our shelves.

Congratulations to Sgt and Mrs. Castle who have recently become very proud parents.

CORPORALS' MESS

The inaugural meeting of the Corporals' Mess was held on the 6th May 1965. During this meeting, we elected a committee under the chairmanship of Corporal R. Solomon.

The increasing number of corporals and lance-corporals in the expanding Regiment, has indicated that a Corporals' Mess should be reinstated for the benefit of all junior NCO's. Since that date we have had four meetings with a fifth due shortly.

During the third meeting, we decided to invite Col M. L. Sumner, MC, MM, VD, to be our president. He accepted enthusiastically and his letter of reply was one in which he obviously took a great deal of pleasure in writing. We are proud to have received it and the encouragements from the "Old Warrior". However, it is with the greatest sorrow that we record his very recent passing. The Corporals' Mess conveys its sincere sympathy to his relatives.

During our last meeting we were lucky to hear Mr. Whittam from England, speaking on the workings of the Field Security organization in which he played an initial, leading role in the last world war. We would like to thank Mr. Whittam for a very informative talk.

So far our meetings have been most successful—almost as successful, perhaps, as the "Snooker and Darts" sessions before and afterwards! Thanks to these meetings Cpl Tommy Gillham's "Sticks" is improving by leaps and bounds. We're also waiting patiently for the time when Cpl Robert Solomon's jaws stick together while he is speaking. What would the chewing-gum companies do without him?

However, the spirit of cheerfulness that we find at our meetings shows that the revival of the Corporals' Mess was an excellent idea.

'B' COMPANY

The first few months, unfortunately, have not been particularly eventful in the life of the Company; also the few events that have taken place have been a mixed blessing.

It is with pleasure that we welcome Sgt Walklett back to the fold after his sojourn in distant corners of the country.

On the 10th July we held a scheme combining the more important aspects of internal security with conventional warfare. The morning of internal security warfare went off extremely well, the troops applying themselves with zest. The afternoon, however, was a different story. This was due mainly to the unusual terrain and inexperience in handling troops in very thick bush. It was definitely a day well spent as all concerned gleaned considerable knowledge through-out.

The 24th July was a black day in our history as it was the date of the annual Currie Cup shooting competition. Our team all experienced an off day, resulting in our having to part with the cup in favour of HQ Company. Nevertheless good luck to HQ on their achievement, but they should bear in mind that it will not be so easy next time.

'C' COMPANY

Although Capt Forsyth has returned from Johannesburg, it seems your Scribe was somewhat premature in his view that "things were looking up" in that we would now have more than two officers on the active list in the Company. Things have returned to "normal" with A/Fd Ct Eric Feist taking up employment in the Golden City. Here's hoping he has more luck with the gold than Capt Forsyth.

Sgt Kirsten, having briefly returned to the active list has now had to be posted permanently to 'D' Company as a country member. Who says there's no chance of promotion this side of the ocean?

The period under review has been very active for the Company, but mainly from the point of view of Officers and NCOs. Phase I of the Company course that started early in March was completed towards the end of July. Parade ground and weapon instruction and map reading have been dealt with and the enthusiasm of the course members and the results obtained have been most gratifying to all concerned. The examination results have revealed the top three places being filled by 'C' Company men. The top four positions were as follows:

- 1st—L/Cpl K. B. Wahl
- 2nd—T/Sgt R. C. van de Westhuizen
- 3rd—T/Sgt R. R. Castle
- 4th—Cpl Malan (Lions Head Commando)

Congratulations to these men on their excellent results. The other men need feel no embarrassment as the standard was high generally and the first six places all gained more than 70 per cent. The success of this course in many aspects, has been largely attributable to the RSM. Many thanks, Mr. Lowton, for all the time you have devoted to helping on this programme. We also thank CSM Vinello-Lippert, late of 'A' Company, and CSM Ted Gillespie of Lions Head Commando for the interest they have shown.

On the 10th July 'B' Company held an all-day exercise at Cape East. The morning was devoted to internal security, which obviously called for "subversive elements". These were provided by the 'C' Company members of our course together with our Officers. Several imaginative ambushes were laid and proved highly successful. Although the "guerillas" were finally captured, the exercise brought home to all of us just how difficult such operations can be. More exercises of a similar nature are indicated and we thank 'B' Company for inviting us and showing the way.

On the 10th August, an "interest" lecture was laid on for the Company on a voluntary basis. We were fortunate in being able to obtain the services of Mr Peter Lloyd-Lister, late of 5 Commando of the Congolese Army. He spoke on the Congo with particular reference to the types of operations, degree of training, most successful methods, and weapons met with. The talk proved extremely enlightening and the photographs interesting.

During the latter half of August, the Battalion NCOs and Specialists course was conducted. It was attended by a large number of 'C' Company personnel, who, we feel sure, will have benefited considerably thereby.

Preparation for the continuous training camp during October is now in full swing. It should be rather interesting this year in Bloemfontein with our numbers considerably increased since last year and with all company Officers and the CSM attending at least part of the camp. During the course of the camp we hope to be able to complete the inter-platoon competition for this year.

The last few months have brought to light the fact that we have an up-and-coming Stirling Moss in our ranks. L/Cpl von Hage has been doing very well in the Western Province Car Club's "Clubman's Championship" in the saloon car field. He was leading in points at one stage in his much-modified and very fast Anglia, until, at a recent meeting, he "blew it up". Once again, however, he is racing and we shall follow his progress with interest. Best of luck, Brian!

Talking of good wishes, we now offer them with our congratulations to L/Cpl K. E. van der Merwe on his marriage. We trust you and your good lady will have a long and happy life together, Cpl.

PIPE BAND

During the past months the Pipe Band has been fairly active and has played at a number of engagements, the proceeds from which are turned over to the "Kilt Fund".

The band was represented at the funerals of Col H. Sumner and ex-RSM C. Windrum by the Pipe Major, WO II J. Marwick and S/Sgt A. Meeser.

GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

London Branch

Since our last notes we are very sorry to announce the death of ex-QM Jimmy Sutherland, who was very popular as Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion and also for his work with the Gordon's Club in Aberdeen. He will be sadly missed by us all.

The following functions have been arranged for the coming season:

Annual Re-union to be held at The London Scottish HQ, 59 Buckingham Gate, SW1, at 6-45 for 7-15 p.m. on Saturday 6th November.

Assembly at the Regimental Plot at Westminster Abbey at 3 p.m. on Sunday 14th November. All Association members will be welcome at this short ceremony.

Children's Party to be held at the London Scottish HQ on Saturday 18th December at 3 p.m.

The Hon. Sec. with wife, attended the "At Home" at the Gordon Barracks and were greatly impressed

The pipe band has been depleted of late, but the number of learner pipers and drummers are rapidly making up this deficit.

Congratulations to Dmr N. Breetveld and Dmr N. Drummer on the occasion of their marriages, and to Drummers A. Kushner and E. Smith on their engagements.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

It is with extreme regret that we have to record the loss of three stalwarts of the Association, namely Lt Col Sumner, RSM Windrum and Tommy Speirs. Each of them will be remembered in their different ways.

Col Sam, probably the Regiment's greatest character of all times will be fondly recalled for many years to come as a great humanitarian and one who in a few words could bring tears or laughter to any audience. He was a wonderful chap.

Then Charlie Windrum's voice will always be remembered by generations during the early training days.

Tommy Speirs was a quiet little bloke, but a lovable character, whose presence we shall miss at our annual dinners—bar profits will suffer too!

Now we hear the news that our venerable, aged and lovable Secretary is due to depart for pastures new on promotion to Port Elizabeth.

About 30 fellows attended a meeting held on 5th July and saw a very excellent showing of slides.

Soon we shall be having our Annual Alamein Dinner and for the October meeting we have an Air Force officer who was taken prisoner by the Communists in Korea and he will be telling us about his adventures in the hands of the Communists.

As this will be possibly the last issue of the "Tiger and Sphinx" before Christmas, may we take this opportunity of sending greetings to all others who are associated with the Gordon.

Lang may your lum reek!

with the displays given by the recruits and Junior Leaders. The Band and Depot contingent are also to be congratulated on their performance at the Edinburgh Tattoo. These displays reflect great credit on our organisers and instructors.

One word in closing. It would help if Association branches were warned early of forthcoming events as many Old Comrades spend their holidays in Aberdeen and would like to attend if they could arrange holidays to suit.

Nottingham and Midlands Branch

The holiday and camping season comes once more to a close and with it the usual prod from our secretary that the Notes are due again. I mention camping because at least two of our members still hanker after the wearing of the khaki and have been to camp. Our secretary, Eddie Matthews, was at Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, with the AER, and Dave Shore was at Ripon with the ACF; both, I understand, survived the ordeal with the assistance of sticking plasters and assorted liniments.



**Mr. Runcie, Colonel Burnett, Lieut Colonel Lees,
Mr. Howlett**

Our Annual Dinner has once more come and gone but seems to be better each year. Our guest of honour was Colonel K. M. Burnett, ably supported by Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Lees. Other guests were Mrs. F. Martell and Mr. & Mrs. A. McLean from the Edinburgh Club. An excellent meal was served by the staff of the Elizabethan Rooms during which toasts were proposed by Mr. A. McLean, Lt Col R. G. Lees, MBE, and our Chairman, Mr. S. A. Marshall. Col. K. M. Burnett replied on behalf of the guests.

This was followed by an excellent evening's entertainment which included the Derby Draw. The music was supplied as usual by our two stalwarts, Messrs. Runcie and Howlett. MC for the evening was Dave Shore. Our thanks for a grand evening go to the organisers, Messrs. Matthew, Marshall and Howlett.

During the summer we were delighted by a visit from Mr. A. Fairgrieve, Chairman of the Edinburgh Club, and his good lady. Despite short notice and holidays we were able to round up quite a few members to meet them which resulted in a very pleasant evening yarning round the table of Alberts Local. A net result of the evening was a proposal that a party of our members should visit the Edinburgh Club, and as I write these notes such a visit is being planned and will probably be the subject of a report in the next issue. At the same time, of course, the 51st Highland Division reunion at Aberdeen is a main topic of discussion but, "It's an awfu lang wye ta Abairdeen frae Nottingham Mairs the peity"! Best wishes to all who make it.

The winter season's activities are absorbing a lot of time now—Football Sweeps, Social Evenings, Hogmanay Dinner, Burns Supper. By the time these notes appear in print some of these will be past, but from the enthusiasm being displayed by the organisers I am sure they will have been a great success thus ensuring plenty of copy for the next issue.

NOTICE

The delays in production of this Issue are regretted. They were due initially to awaiting material of Regimental Interest, which it was felt Readers would wish to see in this Number, and finally to loss of the original proofs in the post to the publishers.

On account of operational moves it is probable that material for the March issue may also be behind schedule.

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